

the size and aggressiveness of the crowd increased (exhibits 53, 56, 77). (TEXT REDACTED) tasked Echo Company to assume operation of the inner corridor to facilitate Golf Company's need to allocate more platoons for crowd control in the outer corridor (exhibits 53, 56, 77). At the time of the blast, approximately seven platoons were operating Abbey Gate. This consisted of three from Golf Company, two from Fox Company, and two from Echo Company (exhibits 53, 56, 77, 81). Steady state manning was generally five to six platoons (exhibits 53, 56, 77).

(b) Rest Cycle. Companies rotated between Abbey Gate, QRF, rest, and evacuee security for those waiting for processing or flights (exhibits 53, 56, 57, 77). While establishing the gate, rest cycles were initially by opportunity only, resulting in infrequent and short periods for Marines to sleep during 72-hour periods at the gate (exhibits 53, 56, 57, 77). After gate operations normalized, the companies were able to establish a sustainable rest cycle, with one platoon rotating to a rest shift for six or eight hours (exhibits 53, 56, 77, 81). Because of the tempo of operations, all units at HKIA experienced challenges establishing rest cycles (exhibits 13, 15, 53, 57, 76).

(c) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Marines at Abbey Gate consistently maintained full PPE while working in the outer corridor and canal areas (exhibits 54, 89, 98). PPE included plate carrier, small arms protective inserts (SAPI), eye protection, ballistic helmet, and issued combat gloves (exhibit 55, 89, 98). Marines could remove PPE during rest periods. In the inner corridor, behind protective cover (exhibits 83, 89). Marines occasionally removed their helmets to humanize themselves and deescalate confrontations with civilian evacuees (exhibits 83, 89). Marines affected by the blast were universally wearing their PPE, as evidenced by statements, autopsy results, and JTAPIC analysis (exhibits 77, 83, 89, 138, 145). The one known exception was (TEXT REDACTED) 1st Platoon (TEXT REDACTED). At the time of the blast, he removed his helmet to engage with a civilian evacuee at the canal wall (exhibit 83, 92). JTAPIC analysis demonstrated helmets and SAPIs were effective in stopping all fragmentation (exhibit 138).

(d) Crowd Control Measures. The most effective method of crowd control was physical presence and interaction by Marines with the crowds (exhibits 56, 77, 80, 129). Professional actions, verbal commands, physical force, and riot control shields prevented crowds from breaching the gate (exhibits 56, 77, 80, 89). Forces utilized warning shots with varying degrees of success at HKIA (exhibits 53, 54, 100, 117, 118). 2/1 Marines did not use warning shots and only used flash bang grenades infrequently (exhibits 53, 54, 77, 80, 83). The employment of riot control agents (RCAs), such as tear gas, required 0-6 approval for use in defensive situations (exhibit 116, 117). 2/1 Marines employed cross cultural engagement and de-escalation with the civilian population to establish calm and decrease aggressiveness (exhibits 57, 77). The employment of PSYOP capabilities served to enhance the 2/1 Marines' techniques by communicating threat warnings, document requirements, and advisements for safety and temporary closures (exhibits 105, 129).

(e) Force Protection Measures. Abbey Gate Corridor provided some natural force protection and required additional effort by 2/1 Marines to enhance survivability.

(i) The canal running southwest to northeast initially served as a natural obstacle. The canal was approximately three meters wide and two-three meters deep, and held approximately a foot of water throughout the NEO (exhibits 172, 176-178, 192). The wall and fence of Abbey Gate bordered the canal on

the northwest, or nearside, and a wall and fence on the opposite side divided the area from private property, which created a long alley (exhibits 167, 172, 176-178, 192). The canal walls rose approximately three feet above the ground on each side, providing protection to Marines on one side, and creating an obstacle for the crowd on the other side (exhibits 167, 172, 173, 175, 177, 178, 192). Jersey barriers were located at the base of the sniper tower to impede the flow of civilians from approaching the gate on the nearside of the canal (exhibits 167, 172, 177, 178, 180, 182, 185, 192). The terrain limited the crowd from massing and overwhelming Marine formations (exhibits 167, 172, 175-178, 192).

(ii) 2/1 Marines made a significant improvement to force protection when they emplaced the shipping containers, known as the Chevron (exhibit 83, 89). This obstacle blocked the road leading to Abbey Gate from the South, reducing risk of VBIEDs and controlling the in-flow of crowds (exhibits 15, 18, 53, 77, 89). Another improvement was installation of concertina wire across the nearside canal wall to prevent civilians from climbing out of the canal (exhibits 167, 172, 176-178, 192). Snipers continuously operated from the tower to provide overwatch of Marines executing screening and to observe the crowd for potential risks to force (exhibit 62). The SPMAGTF EOD section installed two ECM devices at Abbey Gate to prevent the use of remote control detonated IEDs and inhibit the cell phone communications of potential attackers (exhibit 62, 65). When threat streams indicated an impending attack, commanders regularly stopped processing evacuees, pulled Marines back to cover, and reduced posture (exhibits 19, 77, 80, 89). Leaders utilized UAVs and RAID cameras to observe avenues of approach and maintain situational awareness to employ QRF for emergencies (exhibits 13, 15, 18, 54, 102, 125).

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEHMAN CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I come forward today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Lehman Caves National Monument, the precursor to Great Basin National Park. Today, Great Basin National Park is a 77,000-acre expanse known for its natural beauty and wonderful trails. The Lehman Caves Monument has been managed by the National Park Service for more than half a century, prior to the creation of the larger park. Lehman Caves attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year, providing them with the opportunity to explore underground wonders.

The caves themselves were first used by Native Americans and later "rediscovered" by settlers in the late 1880s before President Warren Harding established Lehman Caves National Monument on January 24, 1922. This declaration provided for custodians of the caves to make improvements, including much-needed repairs and the creation of safer routes for tourists to explore the caves' beauty. In the 1930s, President Franklin Roosevelt transferred control of Lehman Caves to the National Park Service, enhancing work to repair and rehabilitate the caves. The caves were then added to the larger National Park legislation that officially created Great Basin National Park, which was passed by Congress

and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on October 27, 1986. As a part of Great Basin National Park, Lehman Caves remains accessible today through tours led by park rangers.

Further, the quarter-mile long cavern is filled with spectacular geological formations, including stalactites, stalagmites, popcorn, and a wavy rock pattern of colorful flowstone, commonly referred to as "cave bacon." The cavern is also home to a number of unique species. The Great Basin cave pseudoscorpion and the Lehman Caves millipede, for example, were first found in Lehman Caves and exist only in Great Basin National Park. From its geology to its ecosystem, Lehman Caves has provided visitors with an experience unlike any other in the world.

The joy that outdoor recreation brings Nevada's residents and visitors is invaluable, and the ongoing success of monuments and parks like Lehman Caves is yet another reason that we must work to keep our natural resources healthy and available for future generations. From Lehman Caves to Lake Tahoe, Nevada's public lands are treasured by visitors and locals alike.

I am pleased to recognize Lehman Caves' 100 years of official service to our great State, and I wish Great Basin National Park staff well in continuing their work to preserve and enhance the park for many years to come. Nevadans are fortunate to have this precious natural wonder in our State, and we will continue to protect it as a part of our home.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KIRKLEY THOMAS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Kirkley Thomas who is retiring as vice president of governmental affairs for Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation.

Kirkley is a devoted Arkansan who has proudly served the State for more than 30 years. As a graduate of Arkansas State University, he earned a bachelor of science in journalism and public relations, and he continued his education at the Economic Development Institute of the University of Oklahoma.

He began his career working as a professional staff member in the U.S. Senate for former Arkansas Senator David Pryor in 1991. He continued his service to Arkansas in positions at the University of Arkansas System and the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. Kirkley has been a reliable leader at the Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation since 1998 and assumed the role of vice president of governmental affairs in 2014.

My team and I have worked closely with Kirkley during his tenure on a number of initiatives to help support policies to make energy more affordable and broadband more accessible. He

is a champion for rural Arkansas, and it has been rewarding to partner with him to strengthen infrastructure in these communities.

Kirkley's commitment to the State of Arkansas is an example others should aspire to emulate. Throughout his career, he has earned many well deserved accolades for his professional and civic involvement. I applaud Kirkley for his accomplished career and the leadership and perseverance he has demonstrated. I know that in whatever he does, he will always continue working to build a better Arkansas.

Our State will be forever appreciative of the contributions made by Kirkley Thomas. He deserves our thanks for dedicating his career to bettering so many communities and our entire State. It is an honor to call him a friend, and I wish him the best in his retirement, where I know he will be happy to spend more time with his son Jack and daughter-in-law Hailey.●

TRIBUTE TO MORGAN EDMUND

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Morgan for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Morgan is a native of Nebraska. She attends the University of Wyoming, where she studies history. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Morgan for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.●

TRIBUTE TO ETHAN HILL

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Ethan for his hard work as an intern in the Senate Republican conference. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Ethan is a native of North Carolina. He attends Aurora University, where he studies political science and communications. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Ethan for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO KATIE KARAM

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Katie for her hard work as an intern in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Katie is a native of Virginia. She attends Mississippi State University, where she studies political science and international relations. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Katie for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.●

TRIBUTE TO RAGAN SMITH

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Ragan for her hard work as an intern in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Ragan is a native of Laramie. She attends Michigan State University, where she studies international relations. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Ragan for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.●

TRIBUTE TO CHILI TANNER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Chili for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Chili is a native of California. He attends the Merchant Marine Academy, where he studies maritime logistics and security. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Chili for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO RACHELLE TRUJILLO

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Rachelle for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Rachelle is a native of Casper. She attends the University of Wyoming, where she studies international relations, communications, and journalism. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Rachelle for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.●

TRIBUTE TO ELIJAH WHITE

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Elijah for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Elijah is a native of Sheridan. He attends Oklahoma Wesleyan University, where he studies history and political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Elijah for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. STEPHEN W. KRESS

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize the outstanding career of Dr. Stephen Kress and his contributions to the restoration of seabird colonies in Maine and around the globe. For over 50 years, Dr. Kress has dedicated his life to preserving and re-establishing seabird colonies that had previously been decimated by hunting. His perseverance has been a driving force in the repopulation of Maine puffin colonies and various other seabird species throughout the world.

Dr. Kress's restoration of seabird populations began in 1969 when he started with the National Audubon Society's Hog Island Education Camp on the coast of Maine. It was there that he learned of the devastation the Atlantic Puffin had experienced at the hands of hunters. In 1973 Dr. Kress launched Project Puffin, a novel approach to translocate puffin chicks from a colony at Great Island, Newfoundland, to