

# OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

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Walter Francis Cohee, III

Staff Sergeant, United States Marine Corps



Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361, Marine Aircraft Group 16,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, California

Marine Staff Sergeant, “Trae” Cohee entered the Service from Mardela Springs, Maryland, 3 August 1993. Cohee was killed when a Marine CH-53E, deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, crashed 19 January 2002, at approximately 10 PM EST in a remote mountainous region 60 kilometers south of Bagram in Northern Afghanistan. SSgt Cohee was 26 years old at the time of his death.

Trae was a communications navigations systems technician and assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361 (HMH-361), the “Flying Tigers” of Marine Aircraft Group 16 (MAG 16). The CH-53E Super Stallion is a heavy-lift helicopter designed for the transportation of material, supplies, and personnel.

Marine Staff Sergeant Dwight J. Morgan, from Mendocino, California, was also killed in the crash. The following Marines were injured: Cpl. David J. Lynne, Mecklenburg, NC; Cpl. Ivan A. Montanez, Hayes, Texas; Cpl. Stephen A. Sullivan, Pickens, South Carolina; Capt. William J. Cody, Middlesex, New Jersey; and Capt. Douglas V. Glasgow, Wayne, Ohio.

Trae was born 17 April 1975. His mother, Jeannie Cohee, described Trae as an active young man, “He enjoyed all sports, but excelled in soccer at Mardela High School.” On weekends, Trae could be found playing football and baseball with other kids from the Mardela Springs area. He enjoyed going to the beach, reading and exploring new things. Trae graduated from high school in June 1993 under the delayed enlistment program offered by the Marine Corps. Trae’s father, Walt, an Air Force veteran, is an active, associate member of the SSgt Cohee Detachment, Marine Corps League in Salisbury, MD. Walt Cohee has never met a charity that he did not support. Formerly the Delmarva Detachment, the name was changed 7 May 2009, in honor and memory of SSgt Walter Francis Cohee, III, the first serviceman from Maryland to give his life in Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In addition to his parents, Trae is survived by his brother Chris, his wife, and their daughter.

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Wardell B. Turner

Sergeant Major, United States Army

Combined Security Transition Command



Wardell B. Turner, 48, of Nanticoke, MD had served in the United States Army for 21 years when he and a fellow soldier died during an attack in Kabul, Afghanistan on 24 November 2014.

A Military Police Officer, Turner was serving in the Combined Security Transition Command to train the local security forces. Over the past two decades he had served in South Korea, Germany and various other locations. A highly decorated soldier, Turner received the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, three Meritorious Service awards, three Army Commendation medals and four Army Achievement medals.

Turner's son, Devin Turner, 21, was serving in the U.S. Army and was in Afghanistan when he learned of his father's death. Young Turner accompanied his father's flag-draped casket back to the United States.

SGM Wardell Turner was buried in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery in January, 2015.