

Former Phillips County resident killed in action



Danny P. Dietz

Navy Seal Danny P. Dietz, part of an elite four member command team, was killed in the mountains of Afghanistan during a firefight with Al-

Qaeda guerrillas on June 28, 2005. His body was recovered July 4.

Navy Seals live by a simple code: team first, team

always. Dietz, a Gunner's Mate, Second Class, was honored as a hero who fought to the end, defending himself and his three team mates.

Dietz and his family lived in the Logan and Phillipsburg area during his early childhood years.

Funeral services for Dietz were held on July 14 at the First Christian Reformed Church, Denver, Colo. Burial, with full military honors, was at the Fort Logan Cemetery, Littleton, Colo.

Danny Phillip Dietz was born Jan. 26, 1980 in Aurora, Colo. He graduated from Heritage High School, Littleton, Colo., and entered the United States Navy on Aug. 31, 1999.

After graduating from Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill., on Nov. 27, 1999, he completed a Gunner's Mate "A" school at NATTC, Pensacola, Fla. Upon completion, Dietz transferred to Basic Underwater Demolition/Seal Training and graduated in BUD/S class 232. After graduation, he attended Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Ga., SEAL Qualification Training, and SEAL Delivery Vehicle Training. He reported for duty at SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team TWO on Nov. 8, 2001.

Dietz was assigned to Task Unit BRAVO as the secondary SEAL Delivery Vehicle Pilot and Ordnance and Engineering Department Head. During a rigorous pre-deployment work-up, he

honed his skills, becoming one of the best pilots at the command. He leveraged his skills during the following six month deployment to EUCOM as the lead pilot in multiple proof of concept full mission rehearsals, which ultimately paved the way for the first successful SDV and Dry Dock Shelter combat operations.

Upon his return from EUCOM, Dietz was assigned to Task Unit CHARLIE as a primary Special Reconnaissance Team member and the Communications Department Head. He focused his time during pre-deployment training on perfecting his SEAL sniper, reconnaissance, and field skills. He put his abilities to test during a CNO directed exercise off the coast of Southern California and during a fly-away exercise

with the United Arab Emirates.

In April 2005, Dietz deployed with his special reconnaissance element to Afghanistan to support NSWRON TEN and the Naval Special Warfare community's prosecution of the Global War on Terror.

During his service, Dietz was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Award, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Expert Pistol and Expert Rifle Medal.

Dietz is survived by: his wife, Maria Paz Leveque Dietz; his parents, Cynthia Dietz and Danny Dietz, Sr.; his sister Tiffany, his brother

Eric; and his grandmother, Delores Gilmore.

Maria Dietz, Danny's wife, said in a written statement: "The same day he left for Afghanistan, as tears rolled down my cheeks, he told me with sparkles in his eyes, 'All the training I have underwent for years is going to pay off with this trip, and I am going to do something special for this country and for my team.'"

Attending his funeral from the Phillips County area were: Lawrence and Karen Dietz, Steve Dietz, Brad Dietz (Olathe), and Jerry and Phyllis Patterson.

Condolences may be sent to the family at: 5013 So. Newton, Littleton, Colo. 80123.

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