

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

Walter Francis Cohee, III

Staff Sergeant, United States Marine Corps



Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361, Marine Aircraft Group 16,
3rd 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.