

P.O. DEON TAYLOR



Sergeant Deon Taylor, 30, died on October 22 in Bela Beluk, Farah Province, Afghanistan after his armored humvee struck an improvised explosive.

Sergeant Taylor, who joined the New York Army National Guard in 1997, was a member of Headquarters Company of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, based in Syracuse. In civilian life he was a member of the New York City Police Department.

Sergeant Taylor, a resident of the Bronx, is survived by his parents, son, DaRue, and fiancée, Caitlin Casey.

Sergeant Taylor had been awarded the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Overseas Service

Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, New York State Aid to Civil Authorities Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

He was awarded the Bronze Star, posthumously, along with the Purple Heart, Combat Action Badge and the New York State Conspicuous Service Medal.

DET. JOSEPH LEMM



On December 21, 2015, 45-year-old Det. Joseph Lemm, who doubled as a Technical Sergeant in the Air National Guard, was killed near the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. In the suburbs of West Harrison, New York, he lived with his wife Christine, their four-year-old son Ryan, and teenaged daughter Brooke. He was a member of the NYPD Bronx Warrants Squad, tracking down the most violent of wanted felons and safely removing them from the streets of the City.

After six years of active military duty with the United States Air Force, Joseph Lemm moved east, taking jobs managing shoe stores before being called up for the Police Academy. He entered the force on March 1, 2000, and after graduation was assigned to the 48th Precinct in The Bronx. A short time later, he found himself working the rescue and recovery from the profound

devastation of the World Trade Center attacks of September 11, 2001.

Consequently, during the resulting international "war on terror" and during his service with the NYPD, Lemm rejoined the military in 2008 with the Air National Guard. During his military career, he eventually saw three combat tours of duty: the first from March to December 2011 in Iraq; and later twice in Afghanistan.

Lemm's first tour of Afghanistan ran from October 2012 to 2013. Back in the States, on December 19, 2014, he was promoted to third grade Detective. Less than a year later, in August of 2015, Lemm returned to Afghanistan, where shortly before Christmas of 2015, when he was part of a joint NATO-Afghan patrol — the New York Air Guard's 105th Security Forces Squadron — he was moving through a village when a Taliban suicide bomber drove a motorcycle into his convoy comprised of American and Afghani troops. Six American soldiers, including Lemm, were killed.