



# PRESS RELEASE

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

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**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas** – Today, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command released the findings from the Ground Accident Investigation Board report from the swimming fatality that occurred March 19, 2020, at the Air Force Combat Dive School at Naval Support Activity Panama City, Florida.

Airman First Class Keigan Baker, 24 years old, was assigned to the Special Tactics Training Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Florida, and died while participating in a 2,000-yard surface swim as part of the Air Force Combat Dive Course - Open Circuit. An autopsy determined the cause of death was accidental drowning. There is no evidence in the medical history to suggest that the Airman's physical or mental health had any bearing on the mishap.

Baker, along with 37 other Air Force trainees, began a 2,000-yard surface swim under favorable weather conditions at about 10:15 a.m. in St. Andrews Bay.

At about 11 a.m., after the last swimmer finished, instructors noticed that one swimmer failed to record a finish time and immediately began a search for Baker. His body was found 15 feet underwater at about 4 p.m. that day. All of Baker's equipment was intact, fully functional, and there was no indication he attempted to actuate his personal flotation device.

Baker was taking part in the Air Force Combat Dive Course, which is part of the Special Warfare Training Wing, headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Before attending Air Force Combat Dive Course, students must successfully complete the Special Warfare Preparatory Course, Special Tactics/Guardian Angel Initial Entry Course, and Air Force Pre-dive Course, all at JBSA-Lackland.

The Air Force Combat Dive Course teaches students diving fundamentals through open circuit self-contained underwater breathing apparatus training and closed circuit underwater breathing apparatus training. Students learn basic diving, advanced rescue diving principles and advanced combat diving fundamentals. Upon completion of the course, students are certified Special Operations Command combatant divers.

Baker was a Longview, Washington, native and graduate of Mark Morris High School. He then received his bachelor of arts degree in business administration from Eastern Washington University. His awards and decorations include: Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Basic Military Training Honor Graduate Ribbon, The Air Force Training Ribbon and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.