



In Remembrance

A1C Roberto N. D'Amato

22nd Security Police Squadron, McConnell AFB, KS

(TDY)

**Prince Sultan AB, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,
Line of Duty**

Oct 4, 1996

From: **Beckmann Scott TSgt 375th SFS/SFTC**

Mr. Poss,

First I would like to commend you on remembering so many fallen heroes in my current career field.

I would like to introduce myself, I am TSgt Scott V. Beckmann and I am currently stationed at Scott AFB, IL. Several years ago I was deployed to **Khobar Towers** in Saudi Arabia in support of the terrorist bombing. I was the squad leader for the first 13 person relief team that was dispatched during the aftermath of the incident. We arrived in country the evening after the bombing and my unit was dispatched to augment threatcon posting and assist in recovery of evidence with the FBI.

One of the members of my squad was an individual who was on his first deployment since enlisting. His name was **A1C Roberto N. D'Amato**. A1C D'Amato was an Italian immigrant that had (only recently) received his green card and was able to deploy. A1C D'Amato performed in an outstanding fashion during the deployment and was lauded by senior staff personnel on his drive and dedication to the mission. He was a true hard charger who set the standard for others to follow.

When Khobar Towers was vacated and the AF staff re-deployed to other regions in Saudi Arabia. My team worked the last full 12 hour mid shift with redeployment orders coming early in the morning. This left us only enough time to gather personal effects and head for the C-130's. My team was sent to **Prince Sultan AB** to await transport to McConnell AFB, KS where we were currently stationed. Upon arrival at Prince Sultan, we were marshaled and held in a collection area until a decision was made as to our future in Saudi Arabia (we had already been gone in excess of our original 90 day window).

After and estimated 36 hours without sleep, my team was given an order to place all our baggage on two, two and a half ton trucks and all personnel mount up in buses which were going to take us to "tent city." As the command was given to roll out, nobody noticed A1C D'Amato on the baggage truck still securing baggage. As the baggage truck made a low speed turn onto the access road, the load of the vehicle shifted hurtling luggage and A1C D'Amato over 20 feet to the tarmac. A1C Roberto D'Amato struck the ground roughly around the base of his skull and instantly went into convulsions. Myself and SSgt Jay Nelson (also from my team) were the first to arrive on scene and rendered first aid.

D'Amato was awake but distant. We could tell his injuries were severe but neither myself or Nelson had the training to recognize all his symptoms. Para Rescue arrived on-scene and took

over the CPR. Roberto D'Amato later lapsed into a coma and was later disconnected from life support in the presence of his father a few short days later. Roberto's last words to me were, "I am tired and I want to go home."

I have had a hard time giving this closure. I still talk to members of his family and exchange stories of this fine soldier.

Could you please honor him and his family by listing his name on your site?

A1C Roberto N. D'Amato
10 Mar 74 - 4 Oct 96
Age 22, Single, Italian Male
Prince Sultan AB, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (location of death)
Head Trauma resulting from a vehicle accident
Stationed at 22 Security Police Squadron, McConnell AFB, KS

Thank you for your consideration.

V/R

SCOTT V. BECKMANN, TSgt, USAF
NCOIC, Security Forces Armory
Scott AFB, IL

We Take Care of Our Own

[Click to Report BROKEN LINKS or Photos, or Comment](#)