

SUMMARIZED TESTIMONY OF CAPTAIN ROBERT H. ADAMS

Capt Robert H. Adams appeared in person at the investigation, was sworn, and testified substantially as follows:

I have been in the military for approximately sixteen and one half years. I was prior enlisted for approximately eight years. I worked as a crew chief and had a list of other odd jobs until I commissioned in 2003. My promotion board is in December 2011. I am currently assigned to the 436 TRS at Dyess AFB, as a systems operator on the B-1. That was my unit of assignment during the time in question—the second week of Aug 10.

I first met 1st Lt Burke when he was working as the "duty dog" which is the person that gives us weather briefings and other important information before we board the aircraft.

On 9 Aug 10, I returned to the United States from a two week TDY to Al Udeid where the purpose of the TDY was to trade a broken bomber/jet for a working one. My crew consisted of Maj John Ferguson, Maj James Dykas, and 1st Lt Patrick Burke. My position in the aircraft is located directly behind 1st Lt Burke.

The flight from Al Udeid to Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, where we landed, was approximately 20 hours. By the time we landed at 1700, I had been awake for approximately 25-30 hours and I believe the entire crew, including 1st Lt Burke, had been awake approximately the same amount of time.

"Go pills" are pills that are issued to flight crews to help them stay awake during missions. I believe they are Dexedrine or amphetamines. I typically take one 10 mg pill six hours after takeoff and then take another one prior to any other significant event. I typically take a total of four "Go pills" during the course of a flight, approximately four hours apart. Taking this number of pills is typical and I suspect that is what the other members of the crew did, but I did not observe them taking "Go pills". I do not know the specific side effects, but I have heard stories about people having problems with sleeplessness, being slightly delirious, and having issues with sleep deprivation. I do not remember being briefed about any prohibition against consuming alcohol after having taken the pills.

After we arrived at Ellsworth AFB, we went to the squadron to unload gear, to get checked in, and to determine our plans to return to Dyess AFB. This process took a while because there were issues with lodging and with getting a commercial flight out the next day. The soonest we could get back to Dyess AFB was on 11 Aug 10, approximately a day and half later. We then went to the Base Exchange to buy civilian clothes so that we could go out to eat off base.

We were assigned a driver to drive us off base to dinner at the Firehouse, a local restaurant in Rapid City, South Dakota, about 15 minutes from the base. We arrived at the Firehouse sometime between 1800 and 1900. We ate dinner there for at least an hour. Everyone in the crew except the driver had a couple beers. I do not specifically remember an exact amount, but I believe we each had at least two beers in one pint glasses.

We left the Firehouse and walked across the street to a little bar that Maj Dykas suggested we visit. I do not remember the name of the bar. We all stayed there for approximately 30 minutes to an hour. While we were there, I probably had at least one beer and shot of hard liquor. I do not specifically remember what 1st Lt Burke had, but it was probably the same. I wanted to go to another location and check out some motorcycles that were in the area for Sturgis Week, large motorcycle event. Not everyone wanted to go, however, 1st Lt Burke agreed to accompany me to another bar down the block. Before 1st Lt Burke and I left, we discussed a rally plan with Maj Ferguson and Maj Dykas. Maj Dykas said that he would call me and 1st Lt Burke when they were ready to leave their location and coordinate a pick up for 1st Lt Burke and me.

1st Lt Burke and I then walked to another "hole in the wall bar" down the block. I do not remember the name of that bar. We were only there long enough to sit outside and have at least one beer and maybe a shot of liquor. We left that location and some time between 2200 and 2300 we stopped at a local bar named Teddy's. We had at least one beer at Teddy's. I remember that 1st Lt Burke seemed slightly buzzed, but he was handling himself fine. I felt about the same.

At Teddy's we met a female not long after we got there. I do not remember her name, but I do remember that she was medium height. We talked for about 10-15 minutes and I may have purchased a glass of beer for her. She said she would give us a ride back to Ellsworth AFB. I am not sure how we came to that agreement.

Around the same time that we met the female, we got a call from Maj Dykas and he told me that they (Maj Dykas, Maj Ferguson, and the driver) were ready to head back to Ellsworth AFB. I was not ready to go yet, so I told Maj Dykas that I would figure out a ride back to Ellsworth AFB for me and 1st Lt Burke.

The female, 1st Lt Burke and I stayed at Teddy's for around 30 minutes before the female suggested that we go to another local bar where she could meet up with some friends. We agreed, and she drove us to the bar. I do not remember the name of the bar. While there, we all played pool and had a few more drinks. I believe we each had at least two glasses of beer there, but I am a little fuzzy on the details. We were there for about 30 minutes to an hour. It may have been close to closing time when we left, but I am not sure.

After leaving that bar, we went to a convenience store and purchased a 12-pack of Budweiser. I am not exactly sure who purchased the beer, but I believe it was me. After buying the beer, the female took us to her cousin's house. Her cousin came out of the house and we stood outside in the driveway for a while and talked. While we were standing outside, I had one of the Budweiser's I had just purchased from the convenience store. The female and 1st Lt Burke could have been drinking as well, but I am not sure. After a short time, the female's cousin said she was tired and went back inside her home and we left.



After leaving her cousin's house, the female asked us if we were interested in seeing Skyline Drive which is a high point that overlooks Rapid City, South Dakota. We said sure, and she drove us there. The drive seemed long and windy. Once we arrived, we all got out of the car and found a place to sit, talk, and drink some of the Budweiser that I purchased at the convenience store. I am pretty sure that I had a Budweiser, but I cannot be certain about the female and 1st Lt Burke.

Not long after we arrived, about five or so scary people showed up in a pickup truck. They were loud and boisterous, and at least one person in the group mentioned being a gang member. 1st Lt Burke began to speak to them in fluent Spanish which surprised me because I did not know he spoke Spanish. The whole situation became tense and uncomfortable, so the female and I got back into the car to leave. We had to convince 1st Lt Burke to stop talking with the group and get in the car. Once he did, we left. I didn't notice anything especially unusual about 1st Lt Burke at this point.

When we got into the car, the female was driving. I was in the passenger seat, and 1st Lt Burke was in the back seat. I am not sure what direction we were travelling when we left the scenic overlook. All of a sudden, 1st Lt Burke said excitedly, "Pull over! Pull over!" The female immediately pulled over into a soft shoulder and 1st Lt Burke got out of the vehicle. The female and I both got out of the car as well. At this point 1st Lt Burke's conversation and demeanor seemed irrational to me. At first I thought he was joking but then it got more serious. He accused both the female and me of being CIA agents and that Jack Bauer told him this was going to happen. He also said things were, "too perfect". I thought that he was really tired and sleep deprived, and that he needed to go to bed immediately. I convinced him to get back into the car and asked the female to take us directly to Ellsworth AFB. I perceived that he did not want to get back into the vehicle, but I did not give him an option about getting back into the car.

Jack Bauer is a character on the television series, "24". I believe 1st Lt Burke referenced Jack Bauer because he spent a great deal of time while we were deployed to Al Udeid for two weeks watching several seasons of "24".

I never saw the female drink alcohol while she was driving the car; and in my perception she was not drunk.

We all got back into the car and headed toward Ellsworth AFB. I was sitting in the passenger seat and was feeling very tired. All of a sudden, 1st Lt Burke came over the back of the passenger seat from the back seat and started hitting me with his hands on my face. I do not specifically remember being choked, nor do I have solid memories of his fingers being around my throat. 1st Lt Burke could have been hitting both of us, but I am not sure. I never saw him hitting the female. I think he may have been trying to get out of the car, but I am not sure.

When I realized what was happening, my first instinct was survival—fight or flight. Things here are a little sketchy, but I do remember the female stopping the car. I then remember jumping out of the car and running down the hill on the side of the road. I ran until I got into a "hold up position". I am

not sure how far I was down the hill. I stopped and listened to see if I could hear if 1st Lt Burke was chasing me. I did not hear anyone behind me, but I did hear what sounded like a car peeling around a corner. I did not hear anyone yelling and I didn't see any lights. I assumed that the screeching tire sound was the female leaving, but I have no knowledge of what happened up on that hill after I jumped out of the car.

I do not remember 1st Lt Burke using threatening language toward me or the female, but I do not remember if he was saying anything while he was hitting me. I also did not see him hit the female. I never saw him with the female's car keys in his hand. I never saw him drive her vehicle.

I thought about going back up the hill, but I thought it was best to get help instead. I have never been in a situation where someone was behaving that way, so I was confused about what to do. In the back of my mind I was afraid that he might hurt me. I did feel a sense of responsibility for his welfare, which is why I went to get help. But, I needed to get away for my own safety first. I did not want to involve the police, so once I got to the bottom of the hill and saw some lights, I made my way to a hotel to try and call Maj Dykas. I could not use my cell phone because it was dead. I just took a cab back to lodging on base where I made contact with Maj Ferguson. I told him everything that happened and that I did not know where 1st Lt Burke was. I was so exhausted I took a nap while Maj Ferguson went to secure a vehicle to look for 1st Lt Burke. After he borrowed a truck, Maj Ferguson came back and woke me up and we went to look for Lt Burke. While we were out looking for him, 1st Lt Burke came back to the Ellsworth AFB.

I did not see or speak with 1st Lt Burke until the afternoon of 10 Aug 10 when all four of us (Maj Dykas, Maj Ferguson, 1st Lt Burke and I) met up for lunch. When I did see him again in the afternoon we spoke about what happened. 1st Lt Burke was very apologetic for his behavior, but had no recollection what happened. He never mentioned driving the female's car. 1st Lt Burke only remembered waking up on the hill and not being able to find his phone. 1st Lt Burke said that he walked down the hill and walked into a coffee shop where he met an Airman who gave him a ride back to Ellsworth AFB.

After lunch, we all returned to skyline drive to try and help 1st Lt Burke find his phone. We went back to the coffee shop where 1st Lt Burke found a ride to try and locate the phone but we were unsuccessful. The coffee shop was located in a different vicinity than the hotel from which I tried to call Maj Dykas.

The injuries I sustained consisted of a bump on my head, a sore neck, and pain in my feet. I had no other bruising the next day. I could have received that bump on my head while I was running down the steep hill away from 1st Lt Burke. I believe that my neck was sore due to 1st Lt Burke choking me; however I do not have an independent memory of 1st Lt Burke choking me. I believe my feet hurt because I was wearing flip flops while I was running down the hill away from 1st Lt Burke.

I have seen 1st Lt Burke a total of two to three times since this incident.



I believe I consumed at least 10 beers and at least two shots between 1900 and approximately 0200.  
I am six feet tall and I weigh approximately 195 pounds.

I DECLARE, ON THIS 22<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2011, UNDER THE PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE  
FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE SUMMARY OF THE TESTIMONY I GAVE AT THE ARTICLE 32  
INVESTIGATION HEARING HELD AT DYESS AFB ON 11 APR 11.



ROBERT H. ADAMS, Capt, USAF

Testifying Witness

SUMMARIZED TESTIMONY OF MAJOR JOHN F. FERGUSON

Maj John Ferguson appeared via telephone at the investigation, was sworn, and testified substantially as follows:

I gave a sworn statement on 20 Oct 10 regarding the incident in question and intend to adopt that statement as a part of my testimony here today.

I am stationed at Dyess AFB, but I am currently augmenting the 37 BS at Ellsworth AFB.

I know 1st Lt Burke because I worked with him when I was a B-1 instructor. I saw him on a daily basis and may have taught a few of his classes. In August of 2010 I went TDY with him to Al Udeid to trade out B-1 aircraft on a routine jet swap. On 9 Aug 10, we flew back to the United States and arrived at Ellsworth AFB at around 1600 local time. It took us a while to get settled in because we were having issues with lodging and with travel arrangements home.

We eventually got cleaned up and went to dinner at the Firehouse, a restaurant located in Rapid City, South Dakota. A junior officer assigned to us from the 34 BS drove us downtown. We stayed at the Firehouse for between 60 and 90 minutes. While we were there, everyone ate dinner and had a couple beers.

After we left the Firehouse, we went to an Irish bar about a block away from the Firehouse. While there, we all had a couple more alcoholic beverages, except for the 34 BS officer. After approximately an hour, Capt Adams and 1st Lt Burke decided they wanted to go to another bar. Maj Dykas and I decided to stay where we were. I did not actually see them leave. At about 2300, Maj Dykas and I tried to make contact and meet back with Capt Adams and 1st Lt Burke. We had bad cell phone reception and ended up driving around looking for them before we were able to make contact with them via cell phone. When we finally did talk to them, Capt Adams said that he and 1st Lt Burke were going to catch a cab in a little bit.

Maj Dykas and I decided to go back Ellsworth AFB. We arrived back at the base at around 0100 and I went to sleep. Sometime early in the morning of 10 Aug 10, I got a call from Capt Adams. He seemed upset and worried. When I saw him, his shirt was torn, he had a bruise on his forehead and he was limping.

Capt Adams' account was disorganized, broken, and difficult to follow. He told me that he had gone to sleep in a car and woke up to someone hitting him. He said he that he met a woman in a bar who offered them a ride. He said that she offered to take them to a scenic lookout point and while they were there, they were approached by what appeared to be a Mexican gang. He said that he was trying to get 1st Lt Burke out of the situation, so they got back into the car. Once in the car, Capt Adams reclined his seat, dozed off and woke up to someone hitting him. I did not smell any alcohol on Capt Adams, but I knew he had been drinking. I had seven to eight beers throughout the evening.

After telling me the story, Capt Adams was so tired, he said he needed to sleep immediately. I started calling around to Security Forces, Rapid City Police and the local hospitals trying to locate 1st Lt Burke with no result. I then borrowed a truck from someone in the 37 BS in an attempt to find 1st Lt Burke. I used Capt Adams' account of where they had been to determine that they were at Skyline Drive. I got out of the car and looked around trying to find 1st Lt Burke. While I was looking around, I got a call from Maj Dykas that 1st Lt Burke was back at Ellsworth AFB.

We all got together at around 1500 in the lobby to get something to eat. 1st Lt Burke did not remember anything about the night before after leaving the last bar. All he remembered was waking up on the side of a hill, walking down the hill, and then getting a ride back to Ellsworth AFB. After lunch we went back to the Skyline Drive area to try and locate 1st Lt Burke's phone and to see if we could jog his memory about what happened. We were unsuccessful in finding 1st Lt Burke's phone and jogging his memory.

I have known 1st Lt Burke for about 6-12 months and I have never known him to behave in the way Capt Adams described.

**I DECLARE, ON THIS 22ND OF APRIL 2011, UNDER THE PENALTY OF PERJURY, THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE SUMMARY OF THE TESTIMONY I GAVE AT THE ARTICLE 32 INVESTIGATION HEARING HELD AT DYESS AFB ON 11 APR 11.**



JOHN F. FERGUSON, Maj, USAF  
Testifying Witness



SUMMARIZED TESTIMONY OF MAJOR JAMES E. DYKAS

Major James E. Dykas appeared at the hearing via video teleconference, was sworn, and testified substantially as follows:

I gave a sworn statement on 19 Oct 10 regarding the incident in question and intend to adopt that statement as a part of my testimony here today.

I have been in the United States Air Force for approximately 11.5 years and I have been assigned to the 5 SOS at Hurlburt Field since December 2010. Prior to that assignment, I was stationed at Dyess AFB.

In August 2010, I went TDY to Al Udeid to trade a broken Bomber for a working one. My crew consisted of Maj John Ferguson, Capt Robert Adams, and 1st Lt Patrick Burke. The flight took approximately 20 hours. We were issued approximately four to eight "Go Pills" that we could use during the course of the flight. "Go Pills" are designed to help us stay alert during long flights. I do not remember receiving any specific warnings about mixing alcohol and "Go Pills".

We returned to Ellsworth AFB on 9 Aug between 1500 and 1600. After checking in, we went to dinner at the Firehouse, a local restaurant in Rapid City, South Dakota between 1700 and 1800.

While we were there, we all had several beers. After having dinner at the Firehouse, we all went to another bar within walking distance. We had few drinks there as well. Throughout the course of the evening I had about seven to eight beers. I believe that 1st Lt Burke had similar amounts. After we had been at the bar for about an hour or so, Capt Adams and 1st Lt Burke decided they wanted to go to a different bar, but Maj Ferguson and I opted to stay where we were. After about another hour or so, Maj Ferguson and I were ready to return to Ellsworth AFB. I tried to call Capt Adams to coordinate all of us getting back to the base. I placed multiple calls but was unable to make contact so we headed back to the base.

First thing the next morning, Maj Ferguson knocked on my door and told me that Capt Adams told him 1st Lt Burke had lost it, accused him of being a spy, and then attacked him.

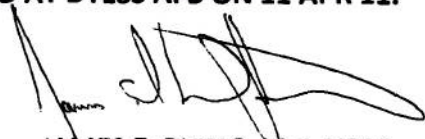
Maj Ferguson then went to look for 1st Lt Burke, but I did not accompany him. A few hours later I received a call from 1st Lt Burke from the front desk and he came by my room. When I saw him, 1st Lt Burke looked like a guy who had a very rough night. He did not remember anything from the incident. I told 1st Lt Burke to go to bed and we would figure things out after everyone had some rest.

That afternoon, all four of us all got together for lunch and to look for 1st Lt Burke's phone over near Skyline Drive where he lost it. Capt Adams did not seem upset at all and he helped look for 1st Lt Burke's phone. We talked all afternoon about what happened. It seemed like a dumb drunk incident. It did not seem that violent.

I had only been out socially with 1st Lt Burke one or two times before this incident. I have known Capt Adams since 2006 and I have good relationship with him.



I DECLARE, ON THIS 21 DAY OF APRIL, 2011 UNDER THE PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE SUMMARY OF THE TESTIMONY I GAVE AT THE ARTICLE 32 INVESTIGATION HEARING HELD AT DYESS AFB ON 11 APR 11.



JAMES E. DYKAS, Maj, USAF  
Testifying Witness