

TSgt Peter Kraines KILOD 8Oct19 Climbing Accident

## Idaho Statesman

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### Elite Air Force rescuer died at Boise's Black Cliffs during mountain rescue training

By [Ruth Brown](#) October 10, 2019 10:24 AM, Updated October 10, 2019 04:11 PM

A 33-year-old Air Force special tactics pararescueman died Tuesday when he sustained injuries in a fall while performing mountain rescue techniques in Boise.

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Peter Kraines was with the 24th Special Operations Wing. The incident is under investigation, according to the Air Force.

Kraines, of North Carolina, was pronounced dead at around 5:40 p.m. on Tuesday [after falling an estimated 40 feet](#) at the Black Cliffs climbing area between Boise and Lucky Peak, according to information posted by the Ada County Sheriff's Office.

An initial story about the accident and Kraines' death at Black Cliffs was reported by the Idaho Statesman on Tuesday, Oct. 8. At that time, the connection to the Air Force training was unknown. An Air Force press release on Thursday, Oct. 10, clarified the matter.

Kraines enlisted in the Air Force in March 2011. He immediately entered the two-year pararescue training program after he completed his training and he was assigned to the 347th Rescue Group at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia, according to a news release from the Air Force.

In March 2017, Kraines joined the ranks within Special Tactics and was assigned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Kraines was a military static-line jumper, free-fall jumper, an Air Force combat scuba diver and was certified as an emergency medical technician. As a Special Tactics pararescueman, Kraines was specially trained and equipped for immediate deployment into combat operations to conduct search-and-rescue and personnel recovery operations.

"This is a tragic loss to the Special Tactics community," said U.S. Air Force Col. Matthew Allen, commander of the 24th SOW in a news release. "We are grateful for the support from our community and our (Air Force Special Operations Command) teammates. Our thoughts are with his family, friends, and teammates at this time."

Kraines' awards and decorations include an Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Longevity Service Award, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border, Small Arms Expert Ribbon, Air Force BMT Honor Graduate Ribbon, Air Force Training Ribbon and NATO Medal.

## **Man who died at Black Cliffs was Special Tactics pararescuman partaking in training**

- [By EMILY LOWE elowe@idahopress.com](mailto:elowe@idahopress.com)
- Oct 10, 2019

BOISE — The 33-year-old man who died Tuesday (8Oct19) at the Black Cliffs outside of Boise was a Special Tactics pararescueman taking part in a training for mountain rescue techniques.

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Peter Kraines died Tuesday from injuries sustained during the training, the 24th Special Operations Wing announced in a press release. The incident is under investigation, but the Ada County Sheriff's Office investigators believe an equipment error caused the fall of about 40 feet.

Kraines was a pararescueman with the 24th Special Operations Wings. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in March 2011 and in 2017, joined the ranks within Special Tactics and was assigned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

“This is a tragic loss to the Special Tactics community,” U.S. Air Force Col. Matthew Allen, commander of the 24th SOW, said in the release. “We are grateful for the support from our community and our (Air Force Special Operations Command) teammates. Our thoughts are with his family, friends, and teammates at this time.”

After enlisting almost nine years ago, Kraines entered the two-year pararescue training program and was assigned to the 347th Rescue Group in Moody Air Force Base, Georgia.

He was a military static-line jumper, free fall jumper, an Air Force combat scuba diver, and certified as an emergency medical technician.

# Special Tactics Pararescue Airman Dies in Mountain Training Accident

From [military.com](http://military.com)



Air Force Tech. Sgt. Peter Kraines (U.S. Air Force)

10 Oct 2019

Military.com | By [Oriana Pawlyk](#)

A U.S. Air Force Special Tactics airman died Tuesday during mountain rescue training, officials said.

Tech. Sgt. Peter Kraines, 33, a pararescueman with the 24th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Florida, died "from injuries sustained in an incident while performing mountain rescue techniques in Boise, Idaho," Air Force Special Operations Command said Thursday in a release. Officials are investigating the incident.

According to the Idaho Press, citing the local county coroner's office, Kraines died from blunt force trauma sustained after he fell roughly 40 feet in the Black Cliffs area. The climbing area is roughly 20 miles from Boise.

The services said Kraines enlisted in the service in March 2011. Upon completing the two-year pararescue training program, he was assigned to the 347th Rescue Group, Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. Kraines was selected in 2017 to join the ranks within Special Tactics and was assigned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

"This is a tragic loss to the Special Tactics community," said U.S. Air Force Col. Matthew Allen, commander of the 24th SOW. "We are grateful for the support from our community and our [Air Force Special Operations Command] teammates. Our thoughts are with his family, friends, and teammates at this time."

As a Special Tactics pararescueman, Kraines was "specially trained and equipped for immediate deployment into combat operations to conduct combat search and rescue and personnel recovery operations," the release said.

His experience included military static-line jumping, free-fall jumping, combat scuba diving and was certified as an emergency medical technician.

Kraines was awarded various service medals, to include the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Special Tactics airmen are airmen that are assigned to special tactics careers at

the 24th SOW, which includes combat controllers, Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) members, special operations weather technicians, and pararescuemen; combat rescue officers, Special Tactics Officers (STO), and Air Liaison Officers (ALO) are additionally officer career fields within Special Tactics community.

Both AFSOC and Air Combat Command utilize pararescue and TACP airmen, according to 1st Lt. Jaclyn Pienkowski, a spokeswoman for the Wing.

However, if assigned to Special Tactics at AFSOC, "individuals in these career fields would require additional training," Pienkowski told Military.com last year.

"Pararescuemen can be assigned to a [Special Tactics Squadron] without an assessment; however, they require additional training through Special Tactics Training Squadron before they go to an STS," she said.

## Pararescueman killed in mountain rescue training accident

By: [Stephen Losey](#) 3 days ago

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**Tech. Sgt. Peter Kraines, a special tactics pararescueman with the 24th Special Operations Wing, died Tuesday from injuries sustained during a training exercise in Boise, Idaho.**

Tech. Sgt. Peter Kraines, a special tactics pararescueman with the 24th Special Operations Wing, died Tuesday from injuries sustained while practicing mountain rescue techniques, Air Force Special Operations Command said Thursday.

Kraines, 33, was taking part in a training exercise in Boise, Idaho, AFSOC said. His death is now under investigation.

“This is a tragic loss to the special tactics community,” 24th SOW commander Col. Matthew Allen said in the release. “We are grateful for the support from our community and our [AFSOC] teammates. Our thoughts are with his family, friends and teammates at this time.

Kraines, who was from Albany, New York, enlisted in the Air Force in March 2011 and immediately began training to become a pararescueman. After completing training two years later, he was assigned to the 347th Rescue Group at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia. In 2017, he joined special tactics and the 24th SOW, which is located at Hurlburt Field, Florida.

Kraines was a military static-line jumper, a free fall jumper, a combat scuba diver, and was certified as an emergency medical technician, the release said. When he joined special tactics, he was trained to immediately deploy into combat operations to conduct combat search-and-rescue and personnel recovery operations.

Among his awards and decorations were an Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster, an Aerial Achievement Medal, an Air Force Commendation Medal, an Air Force Achievement Medal, an Air Force Good Conduct Medal, a National Defense Service Medal, an Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Stack Rock's peak is just under 5,900 feet, and the out and back hike is a little more than 8 miles. Going higher is not for the inexperienced. Getting to the top takes moderate climbing skills, a good head for heights and a good partner. By Sean Collins The Ada County Coroner's Office has identified the 33-year-old man who died after falling from the Black Cliffs east of Boise on Tuesday afternoon. Peter A. Kraines, of North Carolina, was pronounced dead around 5:40 p.m. on Tuesday after falling an estimated 40 feet, according to information posted by the Ada County Sheriff's Office on Twitter. He died of blunt force trauma. The coroner's office has not declared a manner of death pending results of a toxicology test.

Emergency personnel were called to the popular rock climbing area at about 4 p.m. Tuesday. Initial reports were that the man fell due to some sort of an equipment failure. Other climbers in the area called 911.

Coroner identifies man who died rock climbing at Black Cliffs near Boise By Katy Moeller and Nicole Blanchard Updated October 09, 2019 3:50 PM



Stack Rock Peak, Black Cliffs, near Boise Idaho