



Captain Jonathan (Jon) Sutherland Snyder

Captain Snyder was killed on active service in Zharey District, Kandahar, Afghanistan on 7 June 2008. He was serving as a mentor with the Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team and was conducting combined operations with a platoon from the Afghan National Army when he accidentally fell into an karez (irrigation well) and drowned. The incident occurred at night under conditions of very limited visibility. Captain Snyder was working with a guide from the Afghan National Police when this accident occurred. The patrol tried desperately to rescue Captain Snyder and an emergency team including engineer, search and rescue and medical personnel was sent to assist them. Captain Snyder was recovered from the well and pronounced dead at the accident site.

Captain Snyder was born on 20 December 1981 in Penticton, BC. He enrolled in the Canadian Forces in September 2001. He graduated from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2003 and was posted to the First Battalion on completion of his Basic Infantry Officer training in August 2003. Captain Snyder was an exemplary junior officer who was an exceptional leader. He will be remembered as a soldier's soldier who always led from the front, regardless of the risks or hazards involved. Captain Snyder's compassion and care for his soldiers - whether they were Canadian or Afghan - endeared him to all who worked with him. This was his second tour in Afghanistan in the past two years. He believed in what he was doing and was fully committed to the mission. Captain Snyder will be sorely missed by his fiancée Megan, his parents David and Anne and his brother Adam. The Regiment and his friends across the Canadian Forces share their sadness and sense of loss. We will work together to provide the support the family requires to deal with this tragedy.