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376th Air Expeditionary Wing, Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan

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Manas checkpoint incident under investigation

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan – A 376th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Airman shot and killed the driver of a truck operated by a local fuel company Dec. 6 at approximately 3 p.m. local time.

The driver had stopped at the checkpoint for a routine inspection of his vehicle. The driver went into a security tent to wait for his vehicle to be inspected. As the Airman approached the tent, the driver physically threatened him with a knife which was discovered at the scene. The Airman drew his 9mm weapon and fired in self defense.

The driver was shot twice in the chest, which in accordance with Air Force Security Forces training is standard procedure. During close quarter engagements, and when armed with a hand gun, if a Security Force member's life is threatened, Security forces are trained to expend two shots to the upper torso, center mass to ensure the highest opportunity to neutralize the threat. Security Forces are taught to act immediately

and instinctively based on extensive training.

Air Force Medics from the 376th Expeditionary Medical Group arrived on the scene and began Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation on the driver and continued life-saving techniques while transporting him to the closest medical facility which was Manas Air Base hospital. The driver was brought to the emergency room where a team of doctors tried to revive him and he was later pronounced dead.

A Manas Airport ambulance arrived in the evening to take the driver's body to the morgue.

The Airman has been placed off duty and his weapon was turned in. This is standard procedure in any shooting incident while an investigation is in progress.

The OSI is investigating the incident, working jointly with Kyrgyz investigators. One goal of the investigation is to not only determine what happened, but why it happened.

The Airman remains on base.