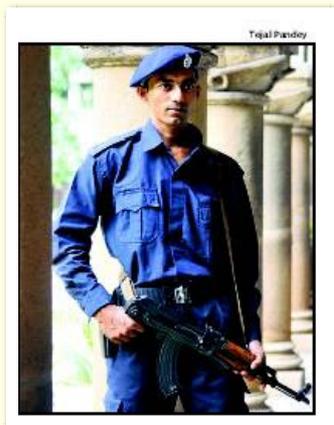


This blog is more of an archives. It could provide you an in depth information about a crime and its status in India; especially in Mumbai

Monday, August 10, 2009

8 months on, 26/11 hero awaits credit for courage



BRAVEHEART: Quick Response Team commando Sachin Patil helped rescue 115 people from Hotel Trident

Mateen Hafeez | TNN

Mumbai: He was the hero who rescued 115 people from Hotel Trident during the 26\11 terror attack. But eight months later, the Quick Response Team (QRT) commando Sachin Patil is still waiting for his role to be recognised by the state government.

Over 15 city police personnel, who were posted outside the Trident, Hotel Taj, Nariman House or Cama Hospital, were selected for the President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG). However, 27-year-old Patil's name did not appear in any reward list. A letter recommending Patil for the PPMG was also compiled by the ATS but never sent to the higher-ups.

Patil is the only policeman whose service was appreciated by the National Security Guard (NSG). In a letter, NSG's Lt Col R K Sharma, operation in charge at Trident, termed Patil a brave cop for his outstanding performance during the 26/11.

On the night of November 26, 2008, Patil along with six others reached CST. "We were trying to open a motorman's cabin in a local train thinking that terrorists could be inside. However, we found two motormen instead. We searched all the trains, looking for terrorists. It took 20 minutes, by which time, Kasab and Ismail Dera Khan had run off to Cama Hospital. When we entered Cama, it was too late. They had fled in a police jeep towards Mantralaya. Chasing them, we went to Hotel Trident and came to know about another terrorists' team hiding there," said Patil, an arts graduate.

With the help of Trident's staff, Patil and six other commandos entered the building through a staircase to rescue people. The next morning, NSG commandos also took position and the QRT commandos were briefed on handling the operation. Patil accompanied NSG's senior officers to the terrace. He brought hotel occupants in one room on each floor and then guide them to the ground floor.

"It was dark as all the lights were switched off. Using a torch would have been risky as it could alert the terrorists. I would first talk to the NSG through a walkie-talkie and then climb the staircase holding my AK-47 and a Glock pistol," said Patil adding that it was difficult to convince the scared guests to come out of their rooms.

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Patil also carried seven to eight victims on his shoulder and brought them on the ground floor. "Some victims have now become good friends and call me up frequently. I joined the police to serve the nation. By saving several lives, I have achieved my goal," said Patil who hails from Pen taluka in Raigarh. Patil was busy in the rescue operation for over 40 hours. Once the Trident operation was over, he joined other commandos at Hotel Taj the same day.

Residents of Pen taluka organised several functions to felicitate Patil. Minister of state for home, Naseem Khan, said, "I don't know about Patil. I will ask the police officers about his performance and adequate steps will be taken to reward him."

The Times of India, August 10, 2009

Posted by [Mateen Hafeez](#) at 7:36 AM

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Mateen Hafeez

An Assistant Editor with The Times of India, I cover organised crimes, white collar crime, terrorism and anti-terrorism cases. After spending more than a decade in journalism, I realised it's a challenging, blood-sucking, frustrating industry that also provides you opportunities to help downtrodden, deserving and needy in the society. mateenhafeez@gmail.com

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