

SSG Kenneth R. Hobson II, USA

**Defense Attaché Office, Nairobi
1 May 1971 – 7 August 1998**

Staff Sergeant Kenneth R. Hobson II was killed in the terrorist bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya on 7 August 1998. Terrorists detonated a truck bomb behind the embassy building, killing more than 250 people, 12 of whom were Americans. Embassy guards turned away the vehicle when it approached the front of the embassy, but it managed to gain access to an adjacent parking area behind the building where it detonated.

Staff Sergeant Hobson was born in Placerville, California and grew up in western Missouri. He was a career U.S. Army intelligence specialist and had been assigned to the U.S. Defense Attaché Office (USDAO) in Kenya since December 1997. This was his first USDAO assignment. Hobson joined the Army in 1989 and served tours in the United States, Germany, and the Persian Gulf during Operation DESERT STORM. He was a graduate of the Defense Language Institute in Arabic. He was married and had one daughter. His second daughter was born eight months after he was killed.