



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES COMMAND
4700 KNOX STREET
FORT BRAGG, NC 28310-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFDC

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: (U) AR 15-6 Interview with Lieutenant General (LtGen) Robert B. Neller, Commander, Marine Corps Forces Central Command (MARCENT)

1. (U) The investigation team conducted an interview with LtGen Robert B. Neller, Commander MARCENT, via Secret Video Teleconference (SVTC) on 3 July 2013 as part of the AR 15-6 Investigation into the attack on the Camps Bastion-Leatherneck-Shorabak (BLS) Complex on 14-15 September 2012 in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. The following is a summary of the main points from the interview.

a. (U//~~FOUO~~) LtGen Neller assumed command of MARCENT on 7 September 2012, one week prior to the 14-15 September 2012 attack on the BLS Complex. LtGen Neller explained that MARCENT is the Marine Corps service/component command responsible for deploying and redeploying forces for the Geographic Combatant Commands. MARCENT is also concerned with the training and readiness of Marines and finally, MARCENT is responsible for the retrograde of equipment from theater. MARCENT has no tactical responsibilities or control over RC(SW) or other Marines serving in Afghanistan.

b. (U//~~FOUO~~) Due to the short period of time between LtGen Neller's assumption of command and the 14-15 September 2012 attack on the BLS Complex, he was only aware of the issues concerning RC(SW) that had been briefed to him prior to assuming command of MARCENT. One of the items LtGen Neller was aware of was MajGen Gurganus' request to the International Security Force (ISAF) for a Force Management List (FML) increase of 205 Marines to address a shortfall in the security force responsible for protecting the BLS Complex. ISAF had denied this request prior to the attack. LtGen Neller was generally aware that the threats to the BLS Complex included a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) threat and the insider threat, and he was briefed that RC(SW) was actively addressing those threats. The vulnerabilities on the BLS Complex, identified by the 10-14 June 2012 Joint Staff Integrated Vulnerability Assessment (JSIVA), had not been briefed to him as he took command of MARCENT.

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c. (U//~~FOUO~~) LtGen Neller was not aware of the 2011 Memorandum of Understanding between US Central Command (CENTCOM) and the UK Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) regarding command relationships on the BLS Complex. LtGen Neller remarked that anytime you don't have unity of command, it will likely effect readiness, but he acknowledged that unity of effort is the best that commanders can often strive for in coalition operations.

2. Point of contact for this memorandum is my legal advisor, at or



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Approved for Release