(b)(3), (b)(6) **ETT, 2-8, FOB Joyce, Afghanistan, wanted to make this statement under oath:**

I am (b)(3), (b)(6) and ETT-8 for Weapons Company. The initial concept of the mission for 8 September was from the Afghans. We were talking to village elders and they wanted us to come to their town for security, they are not Taliban, and the Taliban is real and present. I was involved in the initial planning of the operation. They wanted the ANA to support and that's how we got involved with the ANA. We went there and it was a good plan. It was a cordon and search. The initial mission was conducted in Dam Dara. ANA was in a simplistic term (inaudible). Which is good. So just to be outside the police went in to the town. They searched the town, they talked to the leaders, we had a Key Leader engagement, it was all quiet, and it was time for us to leave. We were getting into our trucks, and RPG fire came, machine gun fire came from Dam Dara. We could actually find the last (inaudible) for that area. At the same time we were done the elders came and talked to the ABP. They said, "thank you for coming to the town, we appreciate how professional you were in searching the town, they were not pushing people around or doing stuff like that." It was a success in that valley just going in there to protect regular citizens, that's how it all starts.

As far as the date of the mission, I am bad with dates here I can get the dates for you later. This is the initial mission, this is before the mission, and this is what started this entire process. This was the original Dam Dara, this was the dancing goat one, that one was "Mortar Man." That is what started this thing, they did not wanted us to come in there and show up a few months later. They wanted us to start coming into Ganjgal because there is no point going there and then going back six months later because you have done absolutely nothing. The agreement was that every ABP and ANA would walk together to provide security with coalition support to provide security for the country. That's what we are here to do, that's what we were here to facilitate. Everybody was motivated on that fact that we pulled the leadership of the Ganjgal who invited us in. At the risk of their own life, if that's what they were doing I would find out other wise. At the risk of their own life, talking to coalition.

On the police side they agreed on the next mission that the ANA would take the lead and provide most of the forces. ABP would go with them and then coalition would do in support again. The planning process started right after that mission. How many forces and that kind of stuff. We didn't stop at that because we know it's not a military action, that's not what we are here for. The State Department, at the same time, was talking with the elders of Ganjgal. They had two Shuras that I am aware of, that the Ganjgal elders support the sub-governor; they do not want to be part of Taliban, they wanted the people to come in. We have pictures, I am sure you saw some of the images. It was kind of falling into place. About two nights before we did the operation one of the elders was supposedly attacked with an RPG but he made it out alive. This brought evidence of the need to provide security for the people at that time. Now they are taking that risk to come and talk with us. The KANDAK commander which is a I KANDAK over there. The KANDAK, really wanted to make this town a safe place. It is in our back yard it is two clicks away. His goal is to set up a permanent Op presence inside Ganjgal. So he can facilitate ABP or ABP patrols or even ANA into that town. Once again that was the Commander's intent for this country. So we went to the plan, Ok talk to the village that we are going to come into Ganjgal and do a Dam Dara. Talk to you and do a search and make sure there are no illegal weapons and stuff like that. Roger. That's what they wanted. I remember seeing some of the guys coming into camp Joyce. Actually it's a transmit on the radio station; I think that they did it a few days prior and then they did it again. Transmit on the radio saying I can use this map to explain to you positions. This is a little different.

Basically me, three ANA, (b)(2)High, (b)(3), (b)(6) and others like me, we were included in the same planning process that was included in the last one. Which is what the scheme of maneuver, what (b)(2)High all of the things you are supposed to do before going out on mission. We came out with the enemy most dangerous course of action. We kind of knew the (b)(2)High

(b)(2)High This is what happened. At the same time we thought about that, this might happen. (b)(2)High

(b)(2)High

(b)(2)High

(b)(2)High

(b)(2)High (b)(2)High had the (b)(2)High 81mm Mortars. Joyce had (b)(2)High and I think they have (b)(2)High also. They have (b)(2)High and (b)(2)High in range (b)(2)High is in ASADABAD that's not on Joyce its on ASADABAD. We are still well in range. The plan went forward. How much forces do we need from (b)(2)High by fire and also some what of a blocking position to not allow enemy to interfere with the valley. That is what (b)(2)High is doing over here. (b)(2)High (b)(2)High You have (b)(2)High platoon that was here covering the back side the mountain and also make sure no one was coming up. You have ANA over here, you have ANA in the middle over here, more ORP was right here, (b)(2)High We have another vehicle patrol base with ABP over here. With also a MEDVAC platform was there. The HLZ was just a LZ that was determined where the bird is going to land, it was not preplanned LZ. They ended up using it later on, because we used it, this is a later on mission. After we got out of the fight, when the US had to go in there with all of the forces. We have another OP on top of this mountain right here. This is the intersection of Dam Dara and Ganjgal was right here on top of this mountain some where. This is about (b)(2)High click about (b)(2)High meters or so, which is within the PKM and 240B range to support us in the town. CPT (b)(2)High and CPL (b)(2)High were in this one. We were going to set up another one on the back side of the town, just to let you know, to have another support, with Gunny Johnson and SSgt Keneflick. They are supposed to be occupying this OP with another black satellite system. This is where we suspected the PKM to be from Intel. We were going to send up a platoon so they can search the area first before they set up that over watch of the town.

The maneuver element was basically moving up to the town first. ANA and ABP were doing this. A platoon from ANA and a platoon minors from ABP moving up. We were separate but some what together, but we were separated in a tactical column or formation but moving up. Some of us were on the side and ABP were a little more to this side. The towers divide into two sectors when we get there. ANA were going to take the bigger element because they have the bigger element. ABP was going to take the other

side. (b)(2)High

(b)(2)High The Key Leader

Engagement was going up in the middle of the town. We thought that's were the PKM was because that's where snipers observed before. We wanted to search that area first. They were supposed to go look for the PKM and establish a support by fire over watch position. They were going out with a section of Weapons Company of ANA of weapons platoon. The element with Gunnery Sergeant and Staff Sergeant was around 12 people about a section. They went up there with PKM, 240, RPG, Kalshkinoff. When they were moving we didn't even get into this part. Once the over watch was established the snipers were in there position, these people where possibly in there position, but we already moved past them. There point is to make sure no one came behind us and put IED or anything. These people over watch the town and see anything going on in the town. The sniper can see the backside of these guys over here and also watch what's going on in the top side of Ganjgal. We have coverage, visual and also cover by fire. We have another OP here with PKM with RPG, 240 and effective Dagger for controlling fires. We have effective over watch all the time. I was in that OP in that last mission and I can see everything, I can shift fire and see if anybody is on the top of the ridge and stuff like that. You see these (b)(2)High in these locations and there is another (b)(2)High right here. We look at the enemy most dangerous course of action; of course we know that enemy is going to be here, because this is a walking trail (b)(2)High

(b)(2)High So that's one of the exit routes. So we know that enemies are probably going to be in this area.

One thing that we plan on doing initially (b)(2)High

(b)(2)High We were not going to do that. We were not going in to fight. We were going in to be polite to the people, but going some what aggressive, because we know what happened to us last time. We were planning on if we receive any contact. Which we received contact right here. Our first initial contact came from this area; I think it was an RPG followed by some PKM. So we fire (b)(2)High which is close back and we shifted down. That was the plan we were tracking. That didn't happen for awhile. What happened was basically I was calling fire (b)(2)High that took a little awhile to take a step back a little bit. We were patrolling in the first element hit this area. I can mark when the

first shots were fired what elements were where. The ANA platoon was in this whole area here. The front element was this house right here. I think we were a little farther. We had good dispersion because we didn't want to get caught up. So they were a little forward; are moving in this area, And some of them where here. Because they were spread out, we were a little bit at the bank coming up. We were with the group over here because our purpose is to build a key leader engagement. My group was myself, (b)(3), (b)(6) (b)(3), (b)(6) 1SG, ANA operation Officer (ANA S3), and an interpreter. This was a platoon sized element so they were going to be spread out. There is also another section in front them, I mean right there with them that was going to this location later on. You have a (b)(2)High you have a rifle platoon also. Behind us you have (b)(2)High minor. I can mark where they are. As far as having eyes on its hard because of the terrain you don't really see us. This is a section, a weapons section. Spread out to right and left, you can see maybe these squads. 3 squads of ANA, we were right here. Behind us is the (b)(2)High That will be to our corner coming off the bend also. The image is to close to the town. This is the front some guys were here, we were around here and the ANB were around here. In the ABP element there was about 16, not really a squad. There platoon size is about 20 something. Another 10 of ABP where in a VIC reinforcing the hill. There were two HMMWVs, with 50 cal, and 2 LTVs for a MEDVAC platform. They can easily roll into the town, that's why they were there for. To reinforce that OP and also if we need MEDVAC. We know a (b)(2)High can it there but not easily. Nothing to the north because let us enter the town. We know that town is quite, but that is part of our plan. (b)(2)High We know that we are a dismounted patrol, because as much as they invited us in, we still have to use our brain. So we used the night as coverage. We planned that we are in front of town when the light comes up. So people wake up with us in front of their house. So once again we are going to wake them up and talk to the mom and all those guys. We weren't going to go in there like idiots without protecting ourselves. The sunrise around 0530 this is when we were in there. The sun comes up around 0430 to 0500. It was still early morning lights start coming on. We were at (b)(2)High if you want to use this as tactical control measure. We got there that's when first shot got into RPG machine gunfire. It wasn't effective but it's was sporadic. We know the best way to deal with it is

immediate suppression, so that the enemy know that we are not playing around, and they can scatter. We called for immediately suppression took (b)(2)High minutes to come. (b)(2)High Minutes. That was the first fire mission that I requested for (b)(2)High and (b)(2)High but the main was one (b)(2)High We wanted to fire (b)(2)High in sequence. If we can because we know that we warned them not to be able to come an effect was going to town. Normally when you fire (b)(2)High or at the ridge line they scatter and egress back to where they need to go to. It took us at least (b)(2)High to fire, but it was effective on that hill. So fire I think it was (b)(2)High if I can remember so we can shift on to them. By that time we were starting to get effective fire from other angles, just not from one location. It was still manageable. The ANA was suppressing with the machine gun, the OP was suppressing with machine gun. They are hidden on the side of the mountain, so it was hard to get because you can't see muzzle flashes. It has always taking a long time for Chosin. (b)(2)High

(b)(2)High It is a little different then Marine Corps is used to. I think it's the (b)(2)High

(b)(2)High I didn't expect it to take (b)(2)High minutes for immediate suppression. It is not the first time this has happened while we have been attacked on FOB Joyce. It would take (b)(2)High minutes to respond to rockets and things like that or longer. (b)(2)High

(b)(2)High Once someone got killed is when we started firing back (b)(2)High hours. This is irrelevant to the situation at hand. The Coms were good. This is the issue because of the terrain. Last time we set up a retrans on top of the hill. (b)(2)High

(b)(2)High

(b)(2)High We thought we got the fire mission. They came back and asked us a few questions. We do not fire (b)(2)High where they ask us distance and direction. It (b)(2)High for a reason you don't need distance and direction. So it was irritating but we like (b)(2)High that's why we have (b)(2)High Don't ask me twenty-one questions. They finally fired, but then they realized that we were not getting effective fire. They started expanding; we started getting fire from the left and right now. We told them to fire at (b)(2)High They weren't getting there.

(b)(3), (b)(6) went to do a solo mission. We sent a solo mission to get distance and direction. Ok this is not going to work so we are going to have to (b)(2)High We went to (b)(2)High we put (b)(2)High in front of the element. They were like that's to close, that's to close to the town, because they didn't want to (b)(2)High on the town.

(b)(2)High

us that they didn't (b)(2)High What about (b)(2)High You know that they are not going to (b)(2)High (b)(2)High on the town. That's just not what we do. We try to put it in a place were we would be able to be covered. (b)(2)High

(b)(2)High That was to much and we were getting effective fire again. When we realized that wasn't going to work we had to request for air. Once again this will scatter the enemy, because they have the high ground. They have fired like four or five rounds of (b)(2)High if I can remember. We fired (b)(2)High and started moving back. By that time Me (b)(3), (b)(6) and the (b)(3), (b)(6) were getting effective accurate machine gun fire. We were like Hey (b)(3), (b)(6) you guys have to move back. Me and (b)(3), (b)(6) provide suppressive fire, So they move back to a better position. It was close to 40 min to an hour after the first contact. Time was something that was compressed at that time. To give you accurate time is very difficult. About (b)(2)High we started to request fire mission (b)(2)High has been dropped in, and still receiving effective fire. When we dropped the (b)(2)High when we said it was not effective. We already request air, the first night they told (b)(2)High ics. We are still waiting (b)(2)High ics, and we are beating up (b)(3), (b)(6) (b)(2)High because he is relaying information to (b)(2)High We were like were is air that's coming in (b)(2)High ics He was like oh we are not getting any. This was dishearting. Because that was not what the plan was. They told us us that the plan is going to be in (b)(2)High Its going to be (b)(2)High ics away. IF you were in a Tick they would be able to pull from that location to assist. They really didn't tell us what the delay was. They just said it was unavailable and we were not getting it. We were sitting there stunned and surprise because we were not getting effective fire support and were not getting air. We need to get this air over here. I don't think they understand how much fire we are getting. They are probably sitting in the TOC thinking this is some; I don't want to use the wrong

words. I don't know what they are thinking, they think maybe we are making it up, I don't know. We told them that we are in a fire fight and getting effective fire from almost three sides. How much information do you need. Other then that we are getting shoot by machine guns, we need suppression. That should be all that you need to know. We were relaying this to CPT (b)(2)High, (b)(3), (b)(6) and (b)(2)High I think at one time that they were relaying that(b)(2)Highor somebody was not at the TOC. That was just crazy thing, there is a major operation going on. Its not like we are just leaving the base. We told them exactly when we are leaving the base and that we are going to Ganjgal valley. They knew that there was an operation going on that day. For them not to have the right people, once again that's what I am hearing. I think CPT(b)(3), (b)(6)mentioned that saying that JTAC to make the dissension about fires was not in the TOC. Maybe that's what caused the slow down. At this time our situation was a getting a little more grif. At this time we were shifting ABP into a position so they can suppress the enemy, so they can assist in a tactical withdrawal of the element that's in front. So these guys are getting effective machine. Me and (b)(3), (b)(6) are suppressing so that the ABP can move, basically using almost all of our ammo, because we have M4. Almost all of our ammo, suppressing for this element to a better position so they can assist the platoon in front. Mind you not that we are just not getting machine gun, we are getting RPG, all that. Gunny and SSG were all together in the lead with heavy weapons, they were suppressing too. Everyone was firing, no one was not firing. LT Johnson was with this element, with the platoon, with the ANA Company commander, LT(b)(3), (b)(6)he got shot. The Corpsman was there, we put the Corpsman was with the platoon, because its one of the biggest element, and they were in the front. If they need any medical support it was immediate. The Gunny was in that mix, because visual range was not there because we were behind were steps. We were back here with these guys. The step are not little, they are not what they look like in the image. Some of them taller than me and you some of them are smaller. We were moving up the steps and the side. People disperse to get cover. They were in the same area, at the mouth of the town. We were using the steps as covers. I don't have visual description of this area, so I can't make it all for you. They were providing fire support that was necessary for these guys to move and then for them to move. By this time they were getting shot from here, from here, from here. They were getting shot from three

directions now. One thing that we noticed was the fires started to shift. The enemy starting to notice that we were not getting any support, so they shifted fires. Me and the MAJ just keep on suppressing, when we got the ABP to shift to this direction. They were getting effective fire. They were suppressing over here and suppressing this hill. The OP was suppressing all of this hill in front of them. It was just a high volume of fire. The people trying to suppress were getting attacked as well, with RPG, Mortars. I don't know how many RPG landed that day. RPG on them. They started to attack the OP also. They were shifting as time goes. Our far ambush became a close ambush. They start to maneuver around us, while we tried to withdrawal. Every time we shift positions the machine guns will fall. It was almost like we firing at the United States. It was not something that was an amateur that they just shooting machine guns. It was effective fire, that they know how to shift fire effectively. Also supporting guns, because once one side stops firing, the other side start firing. It was not something that was a bunch of amateurs, at least they knew what they were doing. We start moving slowly enough so they cant come from behind. Me and the MAJ and them were moving back. Our guys were moving back slowly. It was hard to move back because the people suppressing them were getting effective fires also. The 50 cal and the VIC were shooting the hill to, but once again it was hard because there is no flash on the weapon. I think after abo(b)(2)High minutes so waiting on air, air showed up. Even with air on top it didn't matter because these guy are getting the momentum. What happened when air showed up, when they move to one side, they moved to the other side. Then the fires started from the town. Once you give you a no ITTP they know that we are not going to shot the town. They started shooting us from the town. Before this time we really weren't getting fire from the town manly from the hills. That's why the fire support the fire support would be helpful from the beginning of the fight. They didn't know what assets we are coming with. If air would of showed up if we would have got indirect support it would have stop the fight. Then the people would have been like ok today is not the day to fight. They noticed that basically these guys are being successful at what they were doing, motivating people inside the town. Which was a prepared position that we found out later on, to start attacking us. It was surprising to see, it starting from this town and then starting firing from other town, a little bit to the right. Towards Dam Dari they starting shooting at the OP. You see woman and children

running between house, helping them carry ammo, things like that. Once again as the situation begins to get crazy again, we had to shift position. So we shift which forced us to jump, because if we didn't the machine gun would have went across his back. That's how effective his machine guns were. They know every time we move they knew were we are at. They were about 800 meters away. If you are talking about 800 meters to a click away, I don't know if they have optics on their guns, because you blend pretty much in when you go into that valley. So for them to see us, they have some pretty decent machine gunners. I am going into when 1SG (b)(3), (b)(6) and (b)(3), (b)(6) get hit next. We move into the other positions. When we were doing that I think the machine gun had a ricochet and hit the MAJ in the arm and the 1SG hit his face on the floor jumping. I ask the MAJ if he was ok and he said yeah I am ok. I then said the ANA jumping on the step by himself. He was shot in the stomach. So I low crawled to his position. I told someone else to take of my (b)(2)High and started to put a bandage on his stomach. He has an exit would, I know that he probably had some internal bleeding and stuff like that. He was bleeding all over his face. I was like calm down; I put my bag under his head. I put a bandage around him to stop the bleeding and everything like that. He wasn't bleed profusely. I told him to stay calm he didn't want to drink water; I was like you have to drink water so you don't go into shock. He was good over there but 1SG had another shot, the one in the front element. They were telling them to shift back so they were withdrawing. Our guys were providing machine gun cover and some of them were moving back. That's when the 1SG and that Soldier started to move back. They were able to withdraw back. He got shot in the groin and missing his arteries. So I ended up cutting his trousers open so I could see the wound. This is ANA 1SG. I ended up cutting his camies open seeing the wound that was close to his arteries. I told him to stay calm, and told him he wasn't bleeding profusely. He stayed calm because he is a 1SG.The machine gun fire was effective on the MAJ and them. I told them that they have to move again. So we provided cover fire. They moved to the lower steps. It was me, the ANA 1SG, and the injured Soldier, we were by ourselves. I think (b)(3), (b)(6) was around that area, he was them in the lower side. The fire started to come on us. To the point that we didn't have any place to hide any more. So I was like we got to go now. The ANA guys took off first. I was kind of by myself now. I threw my bag, I left all the rest of my (b)(2)High my knife,

and gloves left them behind over there. I basically picked up my bag and ran basically falling into thorns, and just sitting there with no cover, machine gun fire all around. Then I saw were I crawled into another position. That's when the ANA company commander that was with our guys, once again provided them fire support to start doing withdrawals. I think our group was supposed to running with them, but for some reason they stopped. Either they thought they were exposed or they to move to a better position. I am not exactly why because I wasn't in that front. We started separating moving to this side while some where on this side. These ABP guys were moving to this side, we were moving to this side right now. I do not know time any more. The only thing we worry about is now, because helo started to come on deck on this time. (b)(3), (b)(6) was talking with the helo, I am worried about the guys on the ground. (b)(3), (b)(6) once again providing effective over watch with effective (b)(2)High So we see something. Once

(b)(2)High

(b)(2)High It was basically (b)(3), (b)(6) whenever we get effective machine gun fire, you told him direction. At that time it really didn't matter, there weren't enough helicopters out there to do anything effective. They were trying there best, they were trying what they can, but there wasn't enough fire power out there to do slow this guy down. On the ground we were still getting machine gun fire. This is when they were hurt. I was still tending to the 1SG the ANA Soldier when he was around the second time he was shoot again he became the first KIA. He was the one who got shot in the stomach. After I treated him initially we displaced again and we ran again, even with an abominable wound. I think there was internal bleeding but the bullet came out and wasn't bleeding profusely. So when I put the bandage on it was ok, he was stable. There is a lot of things going on in the human body I cant explain. He got up and ran but a machine gun got him. So he became the first KIA. So now I focused on the LT and the 1LT and company commander from AZmar focused on him. Try make him stay calm. We also have combat pills that prevent infection when you get shot. I give him that. I have the rest of the water I gave him that. He didn't want to drink, but I was like you're a company commander, you have to. The ANA company commander and ANA 1SG both are injured. So our guy the (b)(3), (b)(6) is injured but is staying calm to make sure, because he is the senior guy on the ground. So everybody thought the (b)(3), (b)(6) is ok. The 1SG was quite is calling for QRF. I

don't know the time. Basically we called for QRF from (b)(2)High I remember saying that on the radio I don't know what time say we need QRF over here. We were not getting that for awhile. The MAJ called on a cell phone for ANA QRF. Which is on there way but QRF isn't always immediate. ANA QRF were coming on there way. We are still bounding and fixed on this area. These guys over here they were moving back to. Our guys were providing machine gun fire so that these guys can move back. They were doing what they were supposed to do. The ANA machine gunners were providing machine gun fire to facilitate the tactical withdraw of the platoon. They were trying to lay down suppressive fire, but you have fire from airplanes over on this time to stop them but it was not enough. At one time I heard radio traffic. I heard gunny said we are hold up in this house, we to take cover because these guys in this house might kill us. Basically saying that they are in the house for a little bit, but I don't know, I don't know. They didn't go deep into the village. They think they said in the first, around this area, we found them around here. So they have to be around this house, so maybe they move to this place, and fall to this place. Later on decided to get out of the house. We are thinking that they are in this house by now. That's when started losing radio transmission, I don't know what time though. Yeah they called and said they are taking fire from some of these houses. They are still (b)(2)High to facilitate them. We were not getting (b)(2)High and we know were (b)(2)High They can listen to the same transmission we are listening too, so they know. They can hear us asking (b)(2)High for them and everything like that. LT Johnson I think he was with the platoon. I don't know how they ended up together, but he was with the platoon, they were pretty close because they were moving together as one element. Later on they were going to detach from them to go to there position, if you remember. I think they ended up together after LT Johnson got shot; they left their position to help him out. SSG and Gunny left their position to help him out, because LT Johnson and the corpsmen were together. They ended up leaving there position to help them out. I think at this time the Mortar came and got 1SG when were sitting in that area. I was mostly focused in one direction. Something came up on the radio; the Tajuman for the ABP has an (b)(2)High radio. The Taliban leader got on his radio telling us to give up. Think it was an ABP radio. To me it didn't make sense to me because I was focused on something. (b)(3), (b)(6) was somehow with us. We get (b)(2)High

traffic and the Taliban start talking all this crazy talk, I cant repeat exactly what they are saying. Basically at the end of the thing they wanted us to give up. I know wanted to look back at them for a sec and say what you are talking about. But I didn't want to worry about that because it's not my biggest worry. I tried to stay calm. We started to calling for MEDVAC, at this same time SFC Westbrook got shot. They said he has been hit, he has been hit. So I started to move back towards them. He ended up with us, we kind of mixed up after awhile and meet each other. So part of the LNO was over there. There was still about three or four guys over there. Trying to cross from one side of this is a killing zone. People were getting shot shifting positions. A lot of people were getting shot at this time. Some of them got trap about three or four; I think Westbrook was one of those guys. So they ended up with us when we were moving back we ended up meeting with them, because they were getting fixe. He gets shot in the cheek I don't know exactly. We called into MEDVAC and I set up my air panel in front of my position. When I say my position I was here, where this column is and then where the shelf is. It wasn't like we were far from each other. it was more of an L shape. So as I heard (b)(3), (b)(6) calling for MEDVAC I opened up my(b)(2)High So they can see our position. I think he ended up opening his (b)(2)High calling for MEDVAC. We put quick clot on SFC Westbrook, to stop the bleeding and keeping him calm. Then machine gun fire came, they were focusing on the OP at that time then suddenly they came back. The company commander wants to go, because we are going to get killed. I was like you got to stay calm you got to stay calm. If you get up, the guy next to us is dead, and its going to happen to you. You got to keep him calm. This time the machine gun came to close. We had to bolt again and provide cover fire. Moving to where the MAJ and them are at. Me and the guys that are injured ran over there. This Taliban started talking to them, from this distance to this distance we saw four heads with Kevlar coming up in this area. Basically at this time we were fixed, I think some of the people from the town started to maneuver. So we are getting fire from the ridge side, and fire from the little sides form the little wash. Mind you not the fight from the town is still going on and are still shooting at these guys. There are so elements that are coming out of the town. I think they are the ones that what ended up killing our guys. So they are coming to get us too. I believe that the guy had observation on us that's why he was

telling us to give up. So I am looking to my left side to my left at that time, I have this little mound, maybe as tall as this chair. This is not a lot of cover. The guy had a AK in his left hand and a Kevlar on, so he looked like an ANA Soldier. He was telling us to give up, we all thought he was an ANA Soldier. We were like get down get down. We were wondering why guy was in sight any way. We saw the beard and the cream color man jammies. Then he was wearing a Flak jacket. He looked like a pack mule uniform. You know how they have the man jammies and the vest on top of it. It was a green vest or something like that, it was a Flak jacket he has a Kevlar on. I realized that he wasn't a friendly, he come outside of the wall. So I shot at him, and there were like two or three guys left. (b)(3), (b)(6) needed to talk on the radio and throw a grenade at them because there were four of them. We had no cover so we had to do something. So me and the terp, we lost the reporter, because he didn't run and we told him to run. We had the reporter with our element too. So we were asking where is the reporter, where is the reporter., because he didn't run with the element. He ended up showing back up again. Me and the reporter kept our hand on SFC Westbrook trying to keeping him calm while (b)(3), (b)(6) (b)(3), (b)(6) was throwing a grenade at these guys. I think later on the airplane came and strafe the area. To make sure they are dead. It's not a fix wing it's the (b)(2)High I think I saw the fixed wing twice but it didn't do jack, it mostly was the rotary that was doing every thing. This is not the time the (b)(2)High come in. This time is time it was to getting the MEDVAC. This is the MEDVAC with the (b)(2)High scout weapon team escort. There were (b)(2)High boming on station. So we were not getting anything, where the hell is this MEDVAC. The machine gun was effective. So were like screw this were going to die in one place. We need to start moving. So we carried the two guys, the company commander, and SFC Westbrook. We just started walking. We shot back a few times once in awhile, but we started walking like we weren't in a battle zone any more. We have another ANA, 1SG (b)(6) ANA company commander, both of those guys were injured but we had them with us, a MAJ and a 1SG. We were just shooting back, we get down when ever we can. We are moving. By this time the some of the ANA QRF start showing up. So put but SFC Westbrook on the back LTMV I told (b)(3), (b)(6) that I am going take SFC Westbrook back to Joyce because we didn't think the Helo was not going to show up. To our previous location that was around 50 or 100 meters away. So we were like no. we

were trying to wave him off. They made another turn and they came and landed on the step. I don't how long it has been at least four hours of this process has gone by. So we put SFC Westbrook and the company commander on that helo I can't really remember. I know we put the SFC Westbrook on the plane. I think we put the other guys on the plane. The wounded guys we had with us was SFC Westbrook, ANA 1SG, ANA Commander, MAJ, 1SG (b)(3), (b)(6) The MAJ didn't go on the plane because he was like we aren't going. We kind of moved back in that area that we had enough cover. They started to lose there sensibility. At time we called out (b)(2)High to move up. That's when (b)(3), (b)(6) with the gun truck was moving up. We were loading a MEDVAC in the bend in the road, somewhere around there we loaded the MEDVAC. Basically at that time (b)(3), (b)(6) should up with the gun truck and started to help our guys. The ABP some of there truck were here. So me and (b)(3), (b)(6) jumped into LMTV. We started towards the village to get our guys. We had so many casualties, that before we can make it back to the town we were picking up guys like it was cool. I mean blood everywhere, guys shoot everywhere, it was turning into a mass causality situation. We just took another LMTV. We need space, the gun truck can fight the fire, but we needed space. Mind you that there is still effective machine gun fire going on through out the entire time. Vehicles were getting hit, I don't know how we didn't get hit. By that time it didn't matter, we were not going leave our guys behind, we are not leaving any Soldiers behind. They were doing there job, the thing that was promised was not delivered. We jump into our VIC by this time I couldn't fire back. Because I landed on a rock my weapon basically exploded, so my M4 was useless. I have no weapon. I grabbed another ANA E2. we jump into the vic we turn around. We ended up picking up so many people. I think we picked up four or 5 people and some people who were not injured that just need to be EVAC out of the area they jumped into the VIC. By this time we were driving them towards Joyce. Of course we are still in the valley. Let me look on the map. I think we were around this OP was. By this time the OP was being engaged and everybody in this town was getting engaged. We ran into the ANA QRF. We yelling go into Ganjgal go into Ganjgal. So the ANA started to go into Ganjgal. Another two helos showed up and started throwing bodies. We just told the ANA and grab the bodies and throw them into the bird. This is the second med bird. We at least loaded at least 5 guys into the bird. These are the same guys we had in the back of

the truck. Loaded 4 to 5 WIA, ANA WIA. One of the them to far gone so we just ended up putting him on the back of the truck. I don't know if he was the one with brain injury. After awhile we just try to get them out of a fire zone. We just loaded them up in the helicopter and it took off. Me and (b)(3), (b)(6) we are going back. We tried to go back to the town. We got to the front of the town with (b)(3), (b)(6) We couldn't find our guys, we are thinking did they patrol back already. By this time we lost communication. We are think there radio is damaged or something like that. I am calling like crazy (b)(2)High (b)(2)High calling every call sign on the radio but we weren't getting anything. I can't really say how many times I tried calling; I think I was semi crazy by that time. I was just calling so many times. Basically I had to get off the station because I was not focused on what I was supposed to do. We were like ok we are just going to go and get them. We didn't have any comms on them but still know their last transmission. So they had to be around that first house or they moved to another location. There were some ANA that still trying to shoot. They were fixed to. There people alive here, it wasn't like everybody was dead in that area. So there was another 5 or so teams of ANA that were fixed to the mountain around this area. When we went up there we saw them. Around this area there were ANA Like facing this direction there were 5 coming from this mountain. They were trying there best. They were still drawing fire from the house. We came in at this time we are getting shot at from the town everywhere. I don't know how me and (b)(3), (b)(6) were able to stay in the LTMV without being shot at. We say ANA by the town. ANA QRF started to come into the town with us. They tried to pick up, but they say so many guys, or guys that they just needed to get out of there. We got all the injured and pick up as many troops that need to be EVAC out there. I think we picked up 4 guys that weren't injured and put them in the vic. I tried to fire my rifle the one that I picked up. the second rifle was already damaged. I put it in the back and the butt stock ended up stoping that round from killing the passenger. Then we have some ANA guys, four our so in the back, that were not injured at this time. So we took them out of the fire fight. At theis time we came back (b)(3), (b)(6) jumped out of the VIC (b)(3), (b)(6) was talking to the CO. He said that the LMTV wasn't going to do this mission any more. So we got in a humvee. I got in there as a gunner (b)(3), (b)(6) was talking to the CO again and we realized that the gun was losing its timing. We got to go and get a truck and the ANA are in the area picking up people. So

we drove out to get a new truck, that's where we ran into (b)(2)High platoon around the ORP. We went to get a truck with a Mark 19 and a 240. We saw the (b)(2)High platoon we were like US QRF are here. We saw them one of there vehicles was rolled over. CPT (b)(3), (b)(6) jumped to the truck with the TOW and asked you have to come in here with us. We know that there is no IED on this road because we have been driving it all day. We were like come in with us and provide security because we have four American that are missing and we don't know where they are. (b)(3), (b)(6) went to do that. I jumped into the new truck to get the weapons ready to roll in. We turn around and start going in. this has to be the sadist thing of my life. No one followed us. We were sitting there and no one followed us. They said they were going to follow us. I cant rememeber who it was but it was (b)(2)High platoon commander. (b)(3), (b)(6) went to talk to us because I was getting the weapons ready. (b)(3), (b)(6) said Roger they would follow us. Apparently they called back (b)(2)High and said they are going in and they stoped them. There were 3 or so humvees capable of going into that town. With CREW SERV and TOW missiles. They had enough weapons. The purpose of it was to provide security. You have an armored vehicle and that's what we needed. That's why got out of the LMTV was becoming precarious to drive around over there. I am surprised we didn't get jacked up. So went in there by ourselves thank god that 2nd KANDAK ABP showed up and they followed us in with their Humvees. That time we parked in the middle of Ganjgal right around here. We know that our guys didn't go into the town. We stop around there and the Helo, (b)(3), (b)(6) said we would mark. They said that they saw four people. We were talking to OH to see if could find. They said they saw four guys four bodies. We didn't know if they were ANA or our guys, in your mind you are hoping not. They marked there location but because of the steps it's hard to see. We know the general area where they found the four bodies. We were there, ANA were there, and ABP set up a security position with some of the ANA guys. Then (b)(3), (b)(6) jumped out. We were right here on this road. I have my truck facing around here, ANA truck facing round here, and ABP truck, kind of like a herring bone. Keep in mind that helo are still flying over head and we are still getting shot at. It didn't stop, that's what surprising about it, these people were so bowed. They knew nobody was coming. they were still shooting at us. We ended up providing cover on the mountain. I think everybody just gave up on this.

They got out of the VIC to go search for the guys. (b)(3), (b)(6) jump out, (b)(3), (b)(6) and the Terp. The terp was amazing. This guy was helping us out, they took that kid from Azmar, helping us load weapons. He was amazing. He was a Soldier before. I think he was a Sergeant Major of ANA (b)(3), (b)(6) jumps out standing around this house. I told him not to go to far out. The last thing I wanted was another casualty. We were talking to the Helo and that's when (b)(2)High showed up. We were like where is this guy we cant see anybody. We saw the 4 ANA, if this was a rock wall, they were standing somewhere around here. The elevation of here is higher then this location. So we didn't want to throw any fire. So we are like don't shot just stay where you are. So when (b)(2)High was flying over they were able to withdraw and get with the ABP. I think at that time the ABP pointed out where are guys are (b)(2)High tried to land but they couldn't land because of the machine gun fire. If the landed they would have got shot. This was the air force para rescue jumpers. They wanted to recover our guys for us but they couldn't. They tried, they almost landed but the machine gun fire prevented them. So (b)(3), (b)(6) walked to the side saw and checked them with (b)(3), (b)(6) and noticed that they were done. Basically moving them into the back of the ANA VIC. By this time the fire picked up again. So they ended up running towards the truck. So they run towards the truck and we start moving out. While we were moving out they were shooting at us. There was no time in that battle that it was like oh it's done so that we could get our guys. We tried to pick up most of the weapons we could off of the guys that died. I think we recovered like 5 more ANA guys the guys from the rock wall. By that time the ANA QRF was picking up all of there guys. We were in the back just sweeping down. We were just making sure that we don't leave anyone behind. We are not leaving that battle with out picking everyone up. We ended up with everybody that was around that truck position. We ended up meeting with the rest of the ANA guys. We started moving up the valley we supported this guy. We stay here for a little while to make sure that they moved down. We covered down with CPT (b)(3), (b)(6) We ended up meeting with them at the intersection. Make sure we cover their movement. Once they moved down the helo was flying over head. They were still getting shot at on their way down. Once we were done with that we had guys on top of this hill. Another hill providing over watch, we know that was going take awhile. That took at least an hour to come down. It was close to 1400 when this happened. We got to the ORP around 14

something. We were around here around 1400, they started help these guys out. In (b)(2)High within we already made it to this location. Me and (b)(3), (b)(6) jumped out of the VIC and the guys coming from the top of the hill got in the VIC because they are little more tired. I was the Senior Marine officer now. Sorry I missed one part, while we went to go get the VIC (b)(3), (b)(6) put the (b)(3), (b)(6) and all the ANA guys on the helo, Because the (b)(3), (b)(6) and the ANA guys were getting unstable. So he told them they need to get on the MEDVAC bird. When we went to go get the VIC, on the way back we were listening on the radio and he already put him on the plane. We picked him up at that location and went back to Ganjgal. (b)(3), (b)(6) was the senior officer of this operation. So once he got MEDVAC out I became the senior officer for the Marine. This is a ANA mission, operational control we are there to advise the ANA. We are not supposed to take control of the patrol. CPT (b)(6) was the senior ANA officer that was there. Final dissentions come from him and his CANTAC Commander. We are there to advise them, don't do this, do this. That's what we are there for, it wasn't us leading the patrol, we are advisors. We are not supposed to lead the patrol. (b)(3), (b)(6) was going once again as the senior advisor on the ground, and also to see how the ANA conducted Key Leader Engagement. It was not us doing Key Leader Engagement, keep that in mind, it was the ANA and AVP. The senior guys were CPT (b)(6) AVP senior person was the one going to do the Key Leader Engagement, not US. CPT (b)(6) , CPT (b)(6) and AVP force commander; I think it was there S3/G3 or something like that. It was not us, we were not going to say one word, because we are there to be advisors. We are not supposed to overrun their missions. The only thing we are there for is Coalition effect, be able to cover fire for them, and advise them in tactical situations. We are not leading patrols, that's not our job, we advise them. Also make sure they are planning that they are supported by the Coalition. Before we executed this mission MAJ (b)(3), (b)(6) and (b)(3), (b)(6) (b)(3), (b)(6) went and talked about it, because they were supplying a platoon with a sniper team. So he had to talk between the same levels. I really can't task (b)(2)High it's not my job to task (b)(2)High wasn't tasking us. Our relation work is to support ANSF. That's in (b)(2)High best interest. Who dies in this rocket attack that we get from Ganjgal, it's not the ANA. I live in a bunker, if I wanted to stay there I would stay there. That's not what we do. It's (b)(2)High troops that are dying and getting wounded from these

mortars. On election one of their Soldier got killed by the Mortar, so it's in their best interest to support the ANSF. ANSF were planning on doing that mission, they were motivated to do that mission, there Soldier preformed their duties. They did not run away, I did not see any ANA Soldier run away or not fire. They were doing their job. I think as a Coalition we did not provide effective support for them to achieve their goal. That's the ultimate thing. I don't think it was because Coalition didn't want to it, I think it's because ROE that we have set in place. They didn't want to do it because we taught the same thing. Don't kill innocent civilians; they didn't want to shot into the town either. These guys were ridiculously disciplined. I think they were somewhat more disciplined more so then our guys. Even when with the EPW they were extremely professional. They didn't have weapons around them. They just stood there, they separated them, they talked to them; they collected all their bags and put in evidence bag. They put them in area they gave them food, the Kran, and called in the NSD. They did not touch this guy, they brought in some of their wounded soldiers in to identify some of them. Not one time did anyone raise their voice or push them around. They didn't even touch them. One of them told them to come, they took them to the XO, the XO ask them questions. We then tell him to go and the guy goes and walks quietly by himself. They are extremely professional. I am proud of them because some people don't respect them as a fighting force. They did what they were supposed to do. I think we are the ones that need to reevaluate our rules to better support them. (b)(3), (b)(6) thru a grenade to take out the three Taliban that were talking using radios. I don't really know how many I killed, the four are the only ones that came within 50 meter of us. After that, I don't know, we have the M4, was you know, we weren't shooting at the village, the village was the only thing that we could get effective. We would see woman running between villages carrying ammo, I think CPT(b)(3), (b)(6)saw a woman stacking rocks, which is a fighting position. Who would stack rocks in a fire fight, especially after 4 hours of it. No normal women, you would be hiding. This at the same day, the house that fired on us last time, I saw 2 woman/children fire two RPG at CPL(b)(3), (b)(6) It was the same house the same area. It's on the right side. That's the house that fired on us the first day. People thought I was crazy because when I said it the first time, because woman and children standing there looking at us. I told SSG to watch your back. We are friendly to kids. We were like watch

your back. You can never trust them. Gunny(b)(2)Highwas watch thru his Bino at these same kids and once we were. I was putting my back in the truck and dat,dat, dat from that house. No doubt it was kids or something. The location would be a one of the house in this area, because you get this hill and its flat, and there is a little hill and then you have an open part of Dam Dar. It's got to be one of the houses in this draw. After that we kind of got the ANA to the ORP and the KANDAK Commander shows up with another platoon with reinforcement from the Chow K from the 2nd company He also brought another platoon coming from(b)(3), (b)(6) I can't remember but he bought two platoons with him. He said that they were going to Ganjgal, I tried to give him advice not to. At this time they thought one of their Soldiers was missing. I don't blame the Battalion commander for going to want to go rescue of his Soldiers. At this time my goal is to get as many wounded and get my guys. Consolidate it, I mean we lost 25 percent of our guys we lost a whole team. I am trying to get all of our guys back safe, that's my biggest priority. I don't have any faith about going back into Ganjgal and getting support. So I was like I don't go back I don't know about the plan. I started hearing about some plan that they were going to send in some (b)(2)High and everything about that. I talked to the battalion commander to hang out around this ORP. I have to go back to (b)(2)High and see what the hell they are planning. I will come back and tell you the information or at least get you on the radio. So we ended up getting our guys across, we moved back to (b)(2)High we meet with COL(b)(3), (b)(6) We started to talk about what's going on, and that's when this plan came into play. At the time I was out of the loop. The(b)(2)High meet up the KANDAK commander, there was no more ETT in the valley. The MAJ was already gone by the time I got there. I think I got here around 1530 or 1600. All of our guys are gone, I didn't get to say goodbye to them they had already flown away. I was just sitting there like unbelievable, two clicks this is Joyce, its in garrison. We you see these stupid reports; we are in the far reaches of Afghanistan. We were two clicks away from a major US base. I don't care, (b)(2)High is dead, they do things for us but fire support has always been an issue. I am not blaming on the battalions its not about the blame game. Let's focus on ROE because there is no reason you can't level a house if they are shooting from it. When the(b)(2)High guys went in and came by and told us, they said there was brass all over the houses when they were searching. Painted brass. I have never heard of a rule on

that would not allow to fire on a house. They always teach you that you always have the right to defend yourself. You can blow up anything that you find Ops. I want us to look at rather the hourly that its convulsively. Let the commanders on the ground make dissensions. Which I was taught as a junior officer, Commanders on the ground were able to make the final call. If you make the wrong call then you pay the price for it or you have the right to stay alive, or keep your guys alive. That what we did, we failed them by not keeping them alive because we didn't provide them what they need to come out alive. In time of clearing process, even a day after ABP was getting attack two days ago. That night also they were getting guidance that we were going to get attacked by 75 guys. That night I went to the TOC, we were getting attacked in a has mall, the company commander had to call MAJ (b)(3), (b)(6) if he could fire (b)(2)High in support of a ANSF unit getting attack. Why should a company commander have to call back to fire (b)(2)High That's bad; you are a company commander, a captain in a position of responsibility you should be able to make a call. These people are receiving a call that they are getting attack, they don't have (b)(2)High they need (b)(2)High You shouldn't have to call back to (b)(2)High for a has mall to make a dissention because (b)(2)High is in a Sub Clonic, that's an hour away. Yesterday morning another issue, ANA senior officers came in for a memorial for their guys. ANA came to me once again and ask me to talk to (b)(2)High to get air coverage, because this is where we are getting rockets from. They are still in this village. (b)(2)High
They couldn't fire on them because of course they dropped their weapons and had to call their lawyers. We are using lawyers to make tactical decisions. That's what the MAJ said we have to call our lawyers, we have kid issues. As a troop on the ground or command on the ground when you hear that it makes you sick because they tell you have kid issues. ANA told them to fire, I woke MAJ (b)(3), (b)(6) I talked to him directly because I didn't trust any battle captain. I took the ANA S3 with us this is what we have senior ANA officials. This is what we do for our general s and that's why we need to provide security. Let's bump up security on this base. Also if you could do air patrols towards Nowa Pass because that were we get a lot of our rockets from. He said Roger that's easy. That's a US MAJ I should trust what he said. He left I never seen any airplanes, and guess what happened an hour later. A rocket attack. (b)(3), (b)(6) was actually with MAJ (b)(3), (b)(6) and he was like where the hells are those aircrafts. Now how can ANA trust us. We are

not going to be here one day. Those are them partner. They called them and ask them for a casualty report. ANA have an S1 and they have a casualty report just like we do. They have their wounded, their MIA. They don't go and talk to these guys. They don't have a relationship with them, they don't respect them as a fighting force. Why wouldn't you be able to talk to another unit. It's a KANDAK they have an S1,S2,S3 you should be able to talk to them directly. I am not there to run the battalion. I am an advisor for operations and things like that. It would be good to be in the loop. There is nothing keep (b)(2)High from talking to them. I doubt that during this event the two TOC where talking. Now its very hard as an advisor to say hey the Coalition is going to support you. I don't care about losing credibility, I don't want to lose any ANA or American life (b)(3), (b)(6) can tell you that there are many examples. I have only been here for 2 and half months. So it's not like I know this unit. We are here for war fighting I can care less about supply support. Everyone was wearing their PPE when we found the Marines. I give them EDL for everyone going, it has the blood type SSN the night before and they lost it the next day. This is the thing that facilitates MEDVAC. I went there in flip flops trouser and a regular undershirt. I gave it to him around 12 and we are leaving around 3. I said this is for tomorrow and this is all the guys that are riding with us. We just call it EDL, Equipment Density List, Just a roster basically. I don't think PPE really matter around there because everybody was getting shot. It had to be at least an hour since they were missing, since we lost them on the radio. For me to start breaking things in time is hard. Everything was soaked, my book was soaked In blood. Like my notepad that I was writing stuff on everything would fallout of my pockets. I had magazines in my cargo pocket, like empty magazines. I had to grab magazines for the MAJ so I could get more ammo. That's it Sir.