

~~SECRET//REL TO USA, GBR~~

Major General Votel: This will sound a little bit legalistic and administrative but I would just ask you to bear with me as I kind of go through this, okay?

WIT: Yes, sir.

Major General Votel: During the course of the interview I will ask you for some information about yourself. The Privacy Request of 1974 requires that I inform you of the authority for this requirement. The statement that I am putting in front of you right now is a Privacy Act Statement. You have probably seen one in your military experience there and basically what it says is that I have the authority to ask questions about you, about your duties and responsibilities and things that you did pertinent to this investigation and that, that information will become part of a - which may contain some information about you will become part of a larger record that other people may see if they have a need to see this report. So, this is kind of acknowledging that some of that information may be contained within the report. So, I ask you to review that and then please print and sign and date, today being the 21st of October.

[The witness did as follows.]

Major General Votel: Okay. Very good. Thanks ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ Your testimony today is being recorded on this machine. It will pick up everything we say and then we will transcribe it into a written statement. That will become part of the whole record. I would ask you to, as we ask you questions to give all your answers verbally and don't point or anything else because the recorder won't pick that up.

WIT: Roger, sir.

Major General Votel: One of us may pipe in to just clarify something for the record, like, he's pointing at this or ----

WIT: Okay.

Major General Votel: ---- looking at this particular item right here just to make sure it is clear on the record as we go on there. So, just don't be alarmed by that. Everything you say here is on the record.

WIT: Roger, sir.

Major General Votel: That's all part of this right here. Before we do continue I am obliged to remind you how important it is to give truthful testimony. It is a violation of Federal Law to knowingly make a false statement under oath. This will constitute a sworn statement.

[The witness was sworn.]

Major General Votel: The time is now 1910 Zulu, on 21 October 2010, and we are located at Bagram Airfield. (b)(3), (b)(6) if I could ask you to please state your full name, spell your last name, and indicate your position.

WIT: [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6) [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6) I was an ITC, ISR Tactical Coordinator.

Major General Votel: ITC stands for?

WIT: Intelligence Tactical Coordinator.

Major General Votel: Okay. Thanks. And can I have you state the military organization and the company that you contract through? Can I have you state that, please?

WIT: Yeah, I work with [redacted] 1.4(a), (b)(2) High [redacted]

Major General Votel: Okay. Thanks very much, (b)(3), (b)(6) You are, as I mentioned to you in the beginning, you are not suspected of any offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Federal or local law; therefore you are not authorized to have a legal counsel here and I'm not advising you of your legal rights that suspects would normally be advised of.

WIT: Roger, sir.

Major General Votel: As an employee here, you are required to answer all the questions that we ask unless you make a determination that one of those questions will incriminate you.

WIT: Roger, sir.

Major General Votel: If that is the case then you so state and we'll stop.

WIT: Okay.

Major General Votel: I should not be asking any questions of that nature here.

WIT: Yes, sir.

Major General Votel: We don't suspect that. Very good. (b)(3), (b)(6) I wonder if you might first of all talk a little bit about your responsibilities as an Intelligence Tactical Control, what that means?

WIT: Basically, sir, I'm the middle man between our J2 and the assets that we control. Whatever they want us to do, I relay that information to the assets and they do the rest, really.

Major General Votel:

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

WIT: Roger, sir.

Major General Votel: ---- to execute in support of the force.

WIT: Via radio and MIRC Chat.

Major General Votel: By radio and MIRC Chat?

WIT: Roger, sir.

Major General Votel: Now, if I could bring you along here to the (b)(2) of October and do you recall all this with respect to this particular mission; the recovery of Ms. Norgrove?

WIT: From my shift, sir, yes.

Major General Votel: How long was your shift and what general periods did that cover?

WIT: From (a), (b)(2) High, (b)(2) High sir.

Major General Votel: So, you came on at ----

WIT: At (a), (b)(2) High

Major General Votel: On the (b)(2) High

WIT: Yes, sir.

Major General Votel: And then you were on - were you on as the ITC during the execution of the operation?

WIT: Negative, sir.

Major General Votel: Is there another person who was?

WIT: Yes, sir, he's ~~at~~ (a), (b)(2) High

Major General Votel: Did you have any particular responsibilities in disseminating information related to how assets would be used over - so you're basically on duty before the operation takes place and after the operation is concluded?

WIT: Yes, sir. I'm basically doing all the development work.

Major General Votel: Okay. So, did you disseminate any instructions for assets that would be flying over the objective that evening or was that your other partner?

WIT: For the ops specifically, sir?

Major General Votel: Yes.

WIT: Negative, sir.

Major General Votel: That would have been the other ITC?

WIT: That would have been the other ITC for night shift, roger.

Major General Votel: Do we think he's still relevant to what we are talking about here?

US SOF SME: Not at this point, sir, unless you can just talk us through and just give us an understanding of what kind of guidance he would normally provide, what his role is in the JOC so we can evaluate whether it is relevant to talk to him as well as his name or her name?

WIT: Basically after the assault force gets on the ground, ~~he~~ (a), (b)(2) ~~High~~ takes over. So, he no longer has control of the assets. He no longer talks on the radio unless for some specific reason Radio operator can't get a hold of somebody; then the ITC would contact the assets. Otherwise, he pretty much keeps his mouth shut and they control everything once they get on the ground.

US SOF SME: What kind of guidance dose the ITC give the aircraft, typically prior to the launch of the mission as their coming in before he's on the ground? How does that work?

WIT: They are going to send out the COF and they are going to send out the GRGs to the assets and other than that they are going to let them know what they are going to be looking at, what their focus is, they are going to tell the asset if they are going to be specifically looking at a compound or if they are going to be following personnel Leaving the Objective, give them general guidance like that. But otherwise it is the ground guys that control them after the ops take off.

Major General Votel: In this specific example (b)(3), (b)(6) did you provide any direct guidance to any translating any direct guidance to any of the assets that were flying over the objective during execution of the operation?

WIT: During the execution, no, sir.

Major General Votel: Okay. Just those that were developing situation, pattern of light, all that kind of stuff beforehand?

WIT: Yes, sir.

Major General Votel: Do you recall, you know, did it occur to you at least in the instructions that were given to you by the nce Officer or other staff up th 1.4(a), (b)(2)High that this operation, Objective 1.4(a), (b)(2)High, so you would have been on during a period when they were kind of getting ready to do that, that this operation was any more significant than any other operation? I mean did you perceive a higher level of significance because there was a hostage on this objective and was that translated to the aircraft that were conducting ISR during the periods that you were on?

WIT: Absolutely, sir.

Major General Votel: How was that conveyed to you?

WIT: I mean we let everyone know beforehand, this is a PR event. We suspect that this is where, you know, they are at so it's very important this is exactly what we need you to do. You can't take eyes off of this area, things like that.

Major General Votel:

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

WIT: Yes, sir.

Major General Votel: Or for females or can you talk a little bit more about that?

WIT: Yes, the slant is very important. We try to get as accurate as possible, how many people are down there.

Major General Votel: Can you describe what the slant means?

WIT:

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

Major General Votel: Okay. Go ahead.

WIT: Specifically daily activities. We saw any century activities, what they were doing on a day-to-day basis. So, just, yeah, we were looking for something out of the ordinary.

Major General Votel: Gentlemen?

Brigadier Nitsch: And it might have just been your shift, did you give any - obviously you were looking for patterns of life at that state?

WIT: Yes, sir.

Brigadier Nitsch: Was there any instruction given related to the actual kidnappee, herself, at all? Were you asked to look out for her or, you know, anything that would have triggered someone to look specifically for her as opposed to general activity around the compound?

WIT: Yeah, with the capabilities or assets we wouldn't be able to specifically see her so it would just be a general pattern of life.

Major General Votel: So where people are moving on the objective.

Brigadier Nitsch: Now if you had seen, I think you can make out full images of people, can't you, or is that much?

WIT: You can tell it is a person and you can tell the difference between, you know, women and adult males just from the fact of activity or sometimes if it's light outside you can, you know, see EO, which is like a regular image taking a picture. And you can make out their clothing but other than it's not ---

Major General Votel: EO being an Electrical Optical?

WIT: Roger, sir. Other than that it's not a clear.

Brigadier Nitsch: Had anybody perhaps thought of the contingency of Ms. Norgrove being escorted, you know, small female being escorted by males to be taken to the toilets or moved from one building to another or even maybe moved off the sites to somewhere else at a sort of direction related to that type - the specific direction related to that type of activities been issued?

WIT: Yes, roger, sir. Groups of people, more than three or four traveling together. It looked like they were escorting anybody like you mentioned we were looking for. If they had any pack animals. It mentioned that she was injured and couldn't walk very well so we said anybody riding on a donkey, activities such as that. They were on the lookout for.

Major General Votel: None of those activities were reported during the time that you were on duty?

WIT: No, sir.

Major General Votel: But you feel very confident that those kind of characteristics or indicators were clearly conveyed to the various ISR platforms that came on and went off during the period that you were on duty?

WIT: Yes, sir.

Major General Votel: What kind of changeover do you and the other ITC operator do to make sure that that information is kind of conveyed and we have some continuity in terms?

WIT: Well, we have some specific

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

Major General Votel: Okay. I'd like to make a note here and see if we can find copies of the EIs and the SSIs, is that it?

WIT: The SIs.

Major General Votel: So, these would be very specific directions or specific indicators to be looking for on the objectives.

WIT:

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

and try to find it.

Major General Votel: But in this particular situation with a PR event looking for Ms. Norgrove, do you recall how specific those (b)(2)High might have been?

WIT: I mean as much as we said before. Looking for groups of people, anybody walking on pas, escorts, she was on a donkey, century activity.

Major General Votel: Okay.

Brigadier Nitsch: Just so I get this rightly, you'll have to excuse me because it might be my ignorance for which I apologize. But at this stage when you were on shift, the description that you've given there describes, to me, as creating an image of people moving around the AO as opposed to a specific view of the objective that we were interested in doing the operation on. I think when you were on shift we were looking at the - on your final shift, we were looking at the objective as opposed to trying to find her on route, weren't we?

WIT: The day that we were there, the 8th, we had all these assets looking at that specific compound.

Brigadier Nitsch: And at that stage you were still looking for groups of people moving with donkeys.

Major General Votel: I think what you are saying is you are, you've got constant stare on that compound and you are looking for things like people coming in on donkeys, departing on donkeys, or people moving around within the confines of the area that you are looking at, which is essentially that compound area.

WIT: Yes, sir.

Major General Votel: So you are looking at the objective.

WIT: And we had three different [redacted] that constantly

[redacted] 1.4(a), (b)(2)High

[redacted] 1.4(a), (b)(2)High

Major General Votel: So, the total number of sensors, you know, during your shift, I mean the maximum number of sensors that were looking at this during your shift would have been what?

WIT: Uhm, at [redacted] 1.4(a), (b)(2)High
[redacted] 1.4(a), (b)(2)High

Major General Votel: What about, can you tell from that chart what it would have looked at a total number of sensors at H hour, around [redacted] 1.4(a), (b)(2)High

WIT: At [redacted] 1.4(a), (b)(2)High also had [redacted] 1.4(a), (b)(2)High sensors as well.

Major General Votel: Same then.

WIT: Yes, sir.

US SOF SME: With [redacted] 1.4(a), (b)(2)High there would be one more.

Major General Votel: Yeah. Okay. I'm sorry [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6) do you have anything?

Brigadier Nitsch: No, I've got nothing else, gentlemen.

Major General Votel: UK SME?

UK SME: No thanks, General.

WIT: I can try to explain better.

Major General Votel: Actually you've done a pretty good job here what you have laid out here it has been actually pretty helpful.

WIT: Roger, sir.

Major General Votel: Is there anything else that you can think of [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6) that you think might be helpful to us here? What we are trying to get an understanding of and we'll probably talk to your counterpart or to, who is it, [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6) that is out there?

US SOF SME: [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6) is the J2.

Major General Votel: Or to the J2 out there and we'll talk to the leadership as well about this in particular but what we're trying to get a sense of - you've already told us what are assets are looking at it so we know got 1.4(a), (b)(2) High sensors. There's a lot of sensors.

WIT: Yes, sir.

Major General Votel: To you 1.4(a), (b)(2) High sensors on an objective is more -

WIT: More than enough.

Major General Votel: By what magnitude do you think, twice as much, three times as much?

WIT: Probably three times as much. I mean for this type of event, I can see why they gave them to us but on the daily, day-to-day basis, it would have been a lot.

Major General Votel: So just like a routine and I don't know if there's such a thing as a routine capture or kill operation. How many sensors would you normally see just as an average?

WIT: We would have 1.4(a), (b)(2) High

Major General Votel: And that's -so that would be total of how many sensors then?

WIT: If it was a 1.4(a), (b)(2) High a different 1.4(a), (b)(2) High

Major General Votel: Okay. So 1.4(a), (b)(2) High sensors for kind of a normal capture kill operation.

WIT: Yes, sir.

Major General Votel: So it would be an accurate statement to say for this operation, we had approximately at least 1.4(a), (b)(2) High the amount of sensors?

WIT: Yes, sir.

Major General Votel: But what I was describing there is asking if there is anything else that you think might be useful to us?

1.4(a), (b)(2) High

let me ask you a question, based on your experience -

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

WIT:

Yes, sir.

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

Major General Votel:

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

WIT:

Yes, sir.

Major General Votel:

ess of whatever objective we're on, the
1.4(a), (b)(2)High

WIT:

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

Major General Votel:

In other words, that indicates really the most important part of the objective that the assault force is interested in because -

WIT:

Yes, sir. And, obviously, that can change any minute.

Major General Votel:

Sure.

WIT:

But that's the general - that's where they start.

Major General Votel:

Okay. Good. That's very useful. When a person

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

WIT:

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

Major General Votel:

Okay. Good. And can you talk about how 1.4(a), (b)(2)High

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

WIT:

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

Major General Votel:

Okay. And I just want to clarify one term

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

WIT:

Just 1.4(a), (b)(2)High sir.

Major General Votel:

Just 1.4(a), (b)(2)High

WIT:

Yes, sir.

Major General Votel:

So when you say there are 1.4(a), (b)(2)High looking
this, that means there is essentially ball 1.4(a), (b)(2)High
different views of the objective?

WIT: Yes, sir, for 1.4(a), (b)(2)High yes.

Major General Votel: Or the general area?

WIT: Yes, sir. And they all also have 1.4(a), (b)(2)High capabilities.

Major General Votel: I see. Okay. (b)(3), (b)(6)

Brigadier Nitsch: Given the separate 1.4(a), (b)(2)High ty, who coordinates the 1.4(a), (b)(2)High with the 1.4(a), (b)(2)High?

WIT: In what asset?

Brigadier Nitsch: You're only looking after visual aren't you?

WIT: No. We do 1.4(a), (b)(2)Highs well, sir.

Brigadier Nitsch: So the integration of 1.4(a), (b)(2)High and the 1.4(a), (b)(2)High comes to your desk, does it?

WIT: We have to get cleared through the SDO because they clear all the assets.

Major General Votel: The SDO would be the 1.4(a), (b)(2)High deconfliction officer.

WIT: Yes, sir. They clear all the assets.

Brigadier Nitsch: Okay. Great. Thank you.

WIT: No problem.

Major General Votel: UK SME?

UK SME: You may have answered this question before so I apologize but you've got 1.4(a), (b)(2)High.

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

WIT: I know on my shift, sir, 1.4(a), (b)(2)High.

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

UK SME: So it's a bit of an unfair question because you weren't on that night but that's a helpful answer anyway.

Major General Votel: Thank you. Anything else? US SOF SME?

US SOF SME: (b)(3), (b)(6) in your memory, were you also following a village 8 or 10 kilometers away as a potential place where a reaction force would come? I think we had sensors on another village that day.

WIT: Yes, sir. We had the 1.4(a), (b)(2)High at one point looking at that village and we were scanning up that ridge line.

US SOF SME: Roger.

WIT: There is a stream coming down. We were looking for paths and any activity.

US SOF SME: Roger. Also I think we've mentioned that what we give the aircraft is a COF and a CONOP. Can you talk about a COF, what that is, and what's inside it?

WIT: It basically lays out everything that's going to happen, all the assets.

Major General Votel: What does "COF" stand for?

US SOF SME: Concept of fires.

WIT: That's it, sir.

Major General Votel: Okay. Go ahead, please.

WIT:

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

Major General Votel:

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

 all that kind of business?

WIT: Yes, sir. All the

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

 as well.

Major General Votel: Okay.

US SOF SME: Great. Thanks. And then do you remember in watching during your shift where was the majority of the activity on the target? Obviously, they were interested in where they thought the majority of the activity was or where the hostage might be; where was that on your shift?

WIT: Do you have a GRG of that area?

US SOF SME: No, you could -

Brigadier Nitsch:

We could draw it quickly.

US SOF SME:

Yeah you just want to say it was the [1.4(a), (b)(2)High], it was 21 through 23 or -

WIT:

ere was moderate activity between [1.4(a), (b)(2)High] [1.4(a), (b)(2)High] as well as, I believe it was the [1.4(a), (b)(2)High] but I can't recall without the GRG.

US SOF SME:

Sure.

WIT:

And this is the [1.4(a), (b)(2)High]

US SOF SME:

[1.4(a), (b)(2)High]

WIT:

Yeah. [1.4(a), (b)(2)High]
[1.4(a), (b)(2)High]

it wasn't more personnel than we expected for this many compounds. It wasn't an overly bunch of activity or anything like that. It was normal daily activity that we noticed. There was a lot of sheep and goats in the area, a ton of them. They herded them out that morning, herded them back that evening, didn't seem like anything out of the ordinary, no sentry activity at all, just women, children, adult males walking back and forth between buildings.

Major General Votel:

Okay.

US SOF SME:

What's the balance of responsibilities between the ITC and the [1.4(a), (b)(2)High] FSO, Fire Support Officer, in the JOC during an event like this?

WIT:

I'm not sure, sir. I've never dealt with the FSO before.

US SOF SME:

So they're not really working - they're not getting into your role?

WIT:

No, sir.

US SOF SME:

And who is the individual who worked the shift after you?

WIT:

[1.4(a), (b)(3), (b)(6)].

US SOF SME: (b)(3), (b)(6), great. Thank you very much. Sir, that's all I have.

Major General Votel: (b)(3), (b)(6)

LTC (b)(3), (b)(6): My questions were somewhat related to US SOF SME's and it was really just boiling down to the analysis because I guess what I'm unsure of is when you're looking at patterns of life, are you're just providing hey, this is what we saw and someone else has the analysis, or do you provide some analysis along with that?

WIT: I mean, what do you mean, sir? Do I make products?

Major General Votel: How detailed, when we ask you guys to develop patterns of life on an objective and that includes people moving between buildings and what activities might be taking place; 1.4(a), (b)(2)High

WIT:

1.4(a), (b)(2)High

Major General Votel: Are you a trained or when you were in the Army, were you an analyst?

WIT: Yes, sir, I was an 1.4(a), (b)(2)High analyst.

Major General Votel: So you were an 1.4(a), (b)(2)High analyst trained in that specific piece then?

WIT: Yes, sir.

Major General Votel: Are there any other intelligence analysts active duty or contractor or government civilian besides you who are providing any analysis to what you are looking at?

WIT: We have an Intel guy who does all the Intel stuff.

Major General Votel: Okay. All the 1.4(a), (b)(2)High

WIT: Yes, sir, all the 1.4(a), (b)(2)High I mean, we do 1.4(a), (b)(2)Highs well but obviously, that's their expertis

Major General Votel: Okay. (b)(3), (b)(6) anything further?

LTC (b)(3), (b)(6): No, sir. And this is just probably my own ignorance, I'm just curious as to who gets that information and then makes the determination that we think so and so is in this particular area?

Major General Votel: Let's follow that up. I mean, the information that you develop during your shift, I mean, it sounds like from 0001 to 1200z, that's during a period when a good part of the leadership goes down and actually gets sleep. Since you're responsible intelligence officer, you then when (b)(3), (b)(6) comes on, you provide some kind of brief to her and her staff about what going on, right?

WIT: Yeah. There's always another person there who's basically in charge.

Major General Votel: Her deputy or whatever else is always there and seeing what you're doing, kind of a constant interaction and that kind of stuff and then building it into the overall intelligence picture.

WIT: Right, sir. The J2 is on the night shift and then his counterpart is on the day shift and he controls basically everything that I do and I relay what he wants to the assets.

LTC (b)(3), (b)(6): Okay. That was the piece I was missing is when is someone actually talking to the J2.

WIT: Oh, all day, sir.

LTC (b)(3), (b)(6): Okay.

WIT: No, I don't keep it to myself, sir. It's constant. I mean, he sits from here to him away from me so we're constantly talking to each other.

LTC (b)(3), (b)(6): Okay.

Brigadier Nitsch: (b)(3), (b)(6) can I just ask you a question about the atmospherics on the day in question?

WIT: Okay.

Brigadier Nitsch: Was there sort of building excitement and anticipation that this looked like a good target? What was the sense around the place? Was it of that building, we're in here, we're going in for it, this

is the job or was it a slightly dry hole type of feeling? Just relay a little bit about the atmospheric in the J2 area.

WIT: Yeah. I think it was pretty much everybody's assessment that that's where - that was our best shot. That's where we thought she was.

Major General Votel: Okay.

WIT: Based off reports and ~~our~~ (b)(3), (b)(6) that we got. 1.4 (a), (b)(2) that it didn't really seem like anything out of the ordinary so it was kind of questionable but based off of all the other reports, everybody thought that was our best shot.

Brigadier Nitsch: Nothing more, thank you, sir.

Major General Votel: (b)(3), (b)(6) is there anything else that we haven't asked you or anything else, any other information no matter how small or large that you think might be of interest to us that you can think of?

WIT: Not that I can think of, sir, unless you guys have any other questions?

Major General Votel: I don't think we do at this point. If once we get done here and you are traveling back home and something comes to your mind, please contact the leadership there and let them know that you talked to us about this and that you have some information and we will arrange to talk with you if something comes up.

WIT: Yes, sir.

Major General Votel: I want to remind that the discussion that we had here today is a private one.

WIT: Yes, sir.

Major General Votel: And you are not authorized to discuss anything we've talked about here with anybody other than a Chaplain or your attorney.

WIT: Yes, sir.

Major General Votel: Unless you clear it through me, okay?

WIT: Roger, sir.

Major General Votel: We won't be able to give you a copy of what you said here. You can request a copy of it through the Privacy Act Information or to the appointing officer. They'll evaluate their request and make a determination or what you should -

WIT: Yes, sir.

Major General Votel: Hey, listen, let me first of all thank you for your service to the country. I recognize you're a former Soldier who now continues to serve in another capacity so we certainly appreciate what you're doing and the important role that you play for us.

WIT: Thank you, sir.

Major General Votel: Thanks also for coming in and talking with us tonight. The last 40 minutes or so have been very good for us. We've got some other people we're going to talk to here but you've kind of set a good scene for us here.

WIT: Good, sir.

Major General Votel: And helped level some information so I greatly appreciate that. Let me then apologize to you keeping you around for an extra day or so. I think we have what we need from you right now so I'll direct US SOF SME to work with whomever here and you can proceed on your way back home.

WIT: Thank you, sir.

Major General Votel: So I apologize for that. Do you have any questions for us?

WIT: Not at this time, sir.

Major General Votel: Okay. Good. Well I note that the time now is 1942 and this interview is concluded.

[The witness exited the room.]