[The investigation opened at 1223, 29 October 2009.]

LtGen Natonski: I'm Lieutenant General Richard F. Natonski, United States Marine Corps. I have been appointed by the Commander of US Central Command to conduct an investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding a combat action at Wanat, Afghanistan in July 2008. Major General David Perkins, United States Army has been assigned as the Deputy Investigating Officer, and Lieutenant Colonel (b)(3)(b)(6) Gamma and Lieutenant Colonel (b)(3)(b)(6) are Judge Advocates assigned to the investigation team.

Beta Sigma

The testimony you provide today will be recorded, transcribed and included in a report of the investigation. Based on your testimony we may also prepare a separate written statement for your review and signature. Prior to coming on the record today you signed a privacy act statement. Is that correct?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6)**:** Yes, sir.

LtGen Natonski: Okay. Your testimony will be made under oath and you will now be sworn.

[The witness was sworn.]

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) Please state your name, spelling your last.

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6)**:** (b)(3)(b)(6).

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) What is your current unit and that unit's location?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6)**:** I'm assigned here at the Maneuver Captain's Career Course here at Fort Benning.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) And you're currently a captain in the U.S. Army?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6)**:** Yes, I am.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) In July of 2008 what was your unit and that unit's location?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6)**:** I was in Chosen Company, 2/503 and it was in Camp Blessing, Afghanistan.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) In July 2008 what was your rank and duty assignment?

Papa 1 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I had just made captain and I was the Company
2 Executive Officer.

Beta 3 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Are you an infantry officer?

Papa 4 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta 5 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Now prior to coming on the record today did you
6 have an opportunity to review a six-page transcript of
7 an interview that took place on 15 October 2008 with
Rutgers (b)(3)(b)(6) at the Combat Studies Institute or (b)(3)(b)(6)
Date 9 (b)(3)(b)(6) at----

Papa 10 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta 1 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Do you have any changes you care to make to that
12 do?

Papa 3 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Just some spellings. The Top's name was (b)(3)(b)(6). Predator

Beta 4 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you have a chance to make those changes?

Papa 5 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta 6 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you sign the first page?

Papa 7 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta 8 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And do you adopt that transcript as part of your
19 sworn testimony today?

Papa 0 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta 1 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): As the XO for Chosen Company what were some of
22 your duties?

Papa 3 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) The main part of my job was resupplying—
24 coordinating resupply both on air and on the ground to
25 different Combat Outpost that we had at the time.

Beta 6 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): What did Chosen have, what Combat Outpost?

Papa 7 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): At which point in the deployment, sir.

Beta 8 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): In----

Papa 9 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): In July?

Beta 0 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): In June-July '08?

Papa 1 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): In July, we had just broken down COP Bella and we
32 were opening up Wanat, and then we also had the

platoon there at Camp Blessing, and the motorized platoon that was at Fire Base----

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And how would you coordinate resupplies? How would the request come to you?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I would get it from the platoons either platoon leader, platoon sergeant, and then I would send up a LOGSTAT, and any request we had especially for coordinating air and tactical setup. And then also on the COPs our mission was primarily by ground, so coordinating the COPs. But I would just get the request from the platoons and then push those up, prioritize them.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And you'd push those to whom?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): The S4.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): To Task Force Rock's S4?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And then how would those supplies eventually get out the units?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Either through air or through ground. The COP we also had a private contract setup with some local nations because one of the problems we ran into is when the weather was bad the rotary wing didn't fly for a while there was no way to get supplies to Bella and Ranch House, so we had a Hilux truck contract to push you know Class I---- [coughing] on the back of pickups.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Excuse me. You said contracted the Hilux trucks. Did your company have those or was that a battalion asset?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): It was for our company. Basically we went through the contracting process to get it approved, and it was local nationals who actually drove the trucks up to Wanat and Bella.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): In June - July timeframe how many of those Hilux trucks did you have?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): We had contracted five. It was based on—they could have as many trucks as they wanted, but we had so many truckloads that we could send per week, and

that was all worked up in contract. I can't remember exactly how many, but basically the local national had five trucks that he would get together from his family or whoever.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): So if a platoon requested ten boxes of widgets you could go—where would you draw that supply from? Would you go to battalion and----

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, I would request it from the Battalion S4 and some stuff we had stockpiled on Camp Blessing and it was just a matter of going down and loading it up, getting it put together in slings or if it was Class I and depending on where it was going we could put it in the back of these Hiluxes, bring them on the camp, load them up and send them on their way. It all depends on what it was.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): If it was Class I you could—some of your Soldiers could literally carry the five boxes over there, put them into a truck and then they would drive off?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): You could task that truck to deliver----

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. We would call them the day before. The way we kept in contact with them was with a Terp, and he had a cell phone or a SAT phone, or sometimes he would just know where it was down in Nangalam Village there, and he would send word to him.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Were there ever times when those Hilux trucks weren't available to you?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, as long as we gave them a day or two they were available. One of the problems we did run into with the Hilux trucks though is the enemy, the AAF started setting up TCPs or that was the reports that we got. So sometimes they would try and drive up there, say that there was enemy and they would turn around and come back, or sometimes they would keep our supplies and we threatened them in their contracts a couple of times because they would keep the water or whatever we had given them. They wouldn't bring it back, but it wouldn't get the other end. Eventually it would show up. But the unit before us had actually tried to do the same thing and one of their drivers had gotten his ear cut off allegedly, that's what was

reported us. So there was some risk involved for those guys because we didn't have the entire route guarded. But that was part of the contract and that's why they got paid what they got paid to deliver.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you have to tuck them inside one of your military convoys?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No. We never did military convoys all the way to Bella. The road was washed out in places so we couldn't get the—the Hiluxes are narrow enough so they can make it, but the route to Bella was always washing out, and the locals would just stack rocks to fix it enough to where they could drive across it, but up on the HMMWV was too heavy and too wide to make it.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Were you involved at all with going up to Wanat before the Operation Rock move in the site selection?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I didn't go up f Papa e site selection or anything like that. When I was a platoon leader I patrolled up there quite a few times, so I was familiar with the area, and----

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): You were the Platoon Leader for 2nd Platoon?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, that was my old platoon and then I got moved up to XO and Tim Goscha took over.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): In Wanat when you went through there what were you impressions of that area?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): As far as what, sir?

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): The terrain.

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): The terrain was like the rest of Waygal Valley; it was very mountainous. A lot of it is terraced is down around Wanat itself for the farmland. All the farmland is right next to the river because it has to have irrigation, to have it terraced off. The houses are kind of spread around. The district center is right down there, right beside the river. And then the Benzarian Hotel is kind of up probably 150 meters away from the district center, the Benzar Area.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you interact with—during your patrol up there for--did you interact with the locals and the elders?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, we would operate—whenever I went up there it was primarily dealing with the District Governor or Sub-Governor and the Police Chief up there, and then also the Shura Leader was Haji Juma Magul, so quite a few times I would sit down with all of those. And I remember when—because we had talked about opening Wanat for a quite a while, so when we were asking you know who owned the land here and there I think back when I was still a platoon leader, Dr. (b)(6) he said he would get all of the landowners together, and those were primarily from a different village. They owned the land there, but they actually lived in a village Qalayehgal in Kaqulay, which I think was about 6 or 7 kilometers away to the east.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): So when you were platoon—when did you become the XO; do you recall what month?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I think it was in October.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): October 7th?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): While you were platoon leader you were talking about land up at Wanat?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, roger, sir. Just finding out who was a-- who owned different pieces of land and things like that, but we weren't actually planning a vehicle patrol base at that time. I think that was a couple of months later, but you know the idea was there I guess.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did someone task you to go up and look at the land? I'm curious as to why you would ask who owned a particular part?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, I don't think that we ever got tasked. It was just one of those things where the idea had been thrown out there, and so in order to--that's one of the first steps, I guess.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Do you recall where--are you familiar with where the COP was initially--the emplacement was to be?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, Roger, sir.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Is that one of the parcels you asked who owned?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, yes, sir.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Who made the decision that that was the place that the emplacement should go?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I honestly don't know, sir. As far as—I don't know if that was Captain Myer or Colonel (b)(3)(b)(6) but I think the company put together a plan and we sent it up to battalion, and you know they signed off on it. But as far as that particular place—because I remember they went up to do a recon to see exactly which—where in Wanat, whenever the decision "Hey, yeah, we're going to do this" they went up there and they did a site survey to see if that piece or anywhere around where we could still affect the district, sir.

Diamond

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): When you learned of the location as to having been up there before what were your thoughts?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Initially, I mean that was the only place that I could see it being just because you have to have an HLZ, that and then slightly up the—there's a spur line that runs kind of to the east, up in that area on the terraces. I didn't see us taking over people's houses just because that would obviously anger the locals, and that's something we were trying to avoid. So in order to stay away from that and using the terraces and things like that—but to have an HLZ that was really the only place to do that. We could have had the HLZ outside of the COP and have you known just whenever a resupply came in we had to go down there and secure it. But initially I thought it was a legitimate area. The (b)(6)—his compound is right there. He was generally pretty supportive, and he seemed to be pretty good with it, and we thought if we were right there with the locals we could interact with more, and also whenever the—if they did start shooting at us, shooting rockets and stuff like that and it started hitting you know civilians then obviously the civilian population is going to turn against them. So if we're cohabitated with the population it kind of brings them to our side against whoever the enemy is.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Once the decision to go to Wanat was made, were you involved with any deliberate planning?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. Primarily all of the Class IV supplies, how it was going to get built up and things like that. I worked with the S4 who had done it in a previous deployment. He gave me some shells of what he had done and then we basically tailored it here is where the B-huts are going to be, here's where the fuel point is going to be and kind of setting it up as far as that goes.

Beta LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): The S4 being?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Captain (b)(3)(b)(6). Virginia

Beta LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you get any help from any engineers?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): The engineers----

Beta LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): With the planning--the planning piece?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, roger, sir. I believe it was all passed to me through Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) and then if I remember correctly there was some Adobe Breeze meetings. But as far as sitting down side-by-side with an engineer or anything like that I had no face-to-face with any engineers.

Brown

Beta LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6) So when you were determining what you needed for the COP what were you relying on the shells that the S4 gave you?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Primarily and then just what we already had, you know, at Bella and different places. I was digging into different resources basically based on people's past experiences with building up COPs because Battle Company had built up some while we were there, and so we had already built up out post.

Beta LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): How were you getting that information before you planned?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Primarily through SIPR email and Adobe.

Beta LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you reach out to Battle XO; how did you do it? How many HESCOS did you need?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. Primarily the S4 had done that and then kind of--and I was co-located with him and so we kind of worked hand-in-hand to develop what we were going to do there as far as like the resupplying and what Class IV requirements were so on and so forth. As far

as the actual tactical piece that was more of Lieutenant Brostrom and Captain (b)(3)(b)(6)

White

Beta

LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6) Do you recall how you determined how many HESCOs that you needed? Was there a chart you followed?

Papa

CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): I can't remember if it was a chart like an Excel sheet that was already made up, you know, for this many feet of perimeter you need this many HESCOS. But it was in--I got a whole folder from the S4 I remember that had that sort of stuff in it.

Beta

LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): Did it have in there for this number of feet you need this much concertina?

Papa

CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): I honestly can't remember what exactly was in there, sir.

Beta

LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): In this planning effort what--who had the lead; was it Chosen? Was Chosen leading the planning?

Papa

CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, I would say that we were developing the plans and then pushing them up to battalion to--you know this was our recommended course of action.

Beta

LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): What was your plan; you talked about for resupply or supply of—or the move up there? Do you recall what factors you considered?

Papa

CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. I mean you obviously securing the route on the way up there. If I remember correctly—well, the platoon went up there during the night. They were going to secure the area. Then the RCP was moving up there the next day. They were going to clear the area, make sure that there were no IEDs along the route and the actual site that the COP was going to be because they knew that we were coming up there, so we were worried that they were going to place IEDs in the actual site. That was one of Captain (b)(3)(b)(6), as I remember concerns. So they were supposed to go up there. We had jingle trucks, local national basically 5 ton trucks that had Class IV and Class I and I believe Class III also on them that were going to follow the RCP up, and I coordinated—talked with the RCP "Hey, these local national trucks are just going to follow you guys up there." Then we also had the air movement piece both supplies moving from Blessing up to Wanat and then those birds going onto Bella and backhauling things both back to Wanat and

Whit

then also all the way back to Blessing. So we had a detail planned for the air movement because there was a lot of moving pieces from Blessing to Wanat to Bella, to Bella to Wanat.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): The jingle trucks you mentioned that were loaded to follow up a route clearance package.

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did they ever go?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): They did not unless it was after the attack. They did not go before the attack. The RCP never cleared the route up there before the attack.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Why is that?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I remember they had a disabled vehicle. One time they tried two—I believe two times, maybe three times to get up there. I remember one time it was a disabled vehicle. The other time I can't remember why they didn't make it up there.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): In that--those five vehicles of supply were supposed to move up on the 9th?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, it was the day—the platoon went up there either the night of the 8th or 9th, I can't remember which one, but—and then the next day the RCP was going to clear, clear up there, clear the site and those jingle trucks were supposed to move right behind them.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Do you recall what was on those vehicles beside--you know what was on those trucks?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Class IV, Class I and I believe there was a little bit of Class III for the bobcat that was up there.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): So there would have been water and food perhaps?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Food, water and mostly HESCOS, concertina wire, and pickets.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): When the ground supply didn't move on the 9th what steps did you take?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): We tried to push up Class I using the Hilux trucks I remember, and then we also worked to get extra air to push up additional supplies, additional

slings that we made up. The Hilux trucks, I think, a couple of them made it through, but it was the same thing. They said the enemy was in the area and they couldn't get through, so they kept coming back. I tried to push them as much as I could, and then it was battalion where can you get us extra, extra turns in air, and just trying to get the RCP up there to get the trucks up there.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): The supplies that were on the back of those five vehicles would it be able to move them all up via air?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, we weren't, sir.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Do you recall what you didn't get to move up?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I believe most of the stuff on the--the trucks stayed loaded because we were still planning on the RCP to get up there, and those supplies to get pushed up there. When we requested the additional air we made up additional slings separate from those.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Was the platoon requesting particular supplies to come up after they got up there?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I can't remember, sir.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Do you recall any request for water?

Yankee

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I remember Sergeant (b)(3)(b)(6) saying that they were getting low on water, and that's primarily what we tried to push up in the Hilux trucks.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): You were not able to get air to move any up?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): When the air went up to Bella, when that air movement piece to break down Bella's going on I believe we did get additional turns. I don't know if it was Class IV or if it was water or what it was to get up there.

Yankee

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you ever hear Sergeant (b)(3)(b)(6) say that they were black on water?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I don't remember him saying that they were black on water. I remember him saying that they were red or getting low on water. But at the same time there's a well about 20 meters from where the COP was being built at that have water filters and stuff like that

that they can resupply on water. We had done it before when I was a platoon leader up there.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Do you know what--when they left out of Blessing what water filters they had?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I have no idea what ones they had, sir. I mean we had gotten through RFI, we had gotten issued I believe they were like the Khy-a-den pump filters, and then I had bought one before we had went over, and I think a few guys had done the same thing.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): To use that particular piece of equipment you use iodine?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): The one I personally used didn't, sir. It was a purifier that you didn't have to use chemicals with. The ones they issued I don't believe it was iodine. There was a chemical in order to--they would fill it up first and then there was like a clear liquid that they put in there as well.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): If it's part of an SOP for the company, was that what a platoon leave out with that equipment?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): When I was a platoon leader, yes, sir, we always carried at least—usually we did squad patrols there would be one or two per squad.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Were you aware of 2nd Platoon having to reduce their work on their site preparation due to water issues?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I didn't hear that until after they got back, sir. When they were up there the only reports earlier they were low on water, but they weren't reporting that they were reducing work or anything like that. After the fact, yeah, I heard that.

Yankee

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): You spoke to Sergeant (b)(3)(b)(6); did you ever speak with Lieutenant Brostrom on a regular basis?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, I--not when they were up at Wanat; no, sir.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): You never spoke with him?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, I didn't.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you hear any issues regarding the bobcat?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, a couple of issues with the bobcat. 1) I think it ran out of fuel; and then 2) it could only fill the 4 foot HESCOS. It didn't reach up high enough to fill the 8-footers or whatever the tallest ones are. So they filled them half full or filled the smaller ones that they had up there.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Was there an issue with civilian construction or heavy equipment?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. The civilian construction was also supposed to go up there behind the RCP, and or was supposed to make it up there on their own. I can't remember which it was, but either way they never showed up. I think they eventually showed up after the battle was over, and started like a bulldozer or end-loader or something like that, started building some more, but by that time they made a decision not to keep it open and pull them back.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): When was your understanding they were supposed to be up there, on the 9th? You said they could have gone up with the convoy, the route clearance package?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, roger, sir. Everything was supposed to begin work on the 9th. The platoon was going up during that night. They were securing it and basically the work was supposed to start the next day. After the RCP cleared the site they were going to start leveling the terraces and filling HESCOS.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): So that route clearance package would have led up the supplies and the equipment necessary to establish the position?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Who did you communicate within the battalion that things didn't move on the 9th?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I don't know that I communicated with anybody, sir. I think that was probably Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) saying Oscar that the RCP didn't go. But I don't know how that worked out through battalion.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) at that point move back to Osca Blessing?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Honestly I can't remember when he moved back. I know that at one point because there was a lot of

threat reporting that they were going to try to do the same thing to Bella that they did at Ranch House while we were getting ready to pull out, a mass attack. So he went up there—I can't remember when he went up there to kind of see to the breakdown. I do remember they moved directly from Bella to Wanat. At what point that was I don't know.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And so Captain Myer didn't come back to Blessing from Bella?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, the last turn of birds out of Bella went to Wanat. First they dropped off like the 120 tube and then some PAX, primarily Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) and some of the Oscar headquarter guys, I believe some of the mortar guys, too, got dropped off there, and then the birds came back to Blessing.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you talk to Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) when he was up in Oscar Wanat?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, I did. I talked to--I remember talking to him over TACSAT or maybe FM through the retrains.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you talk about supplying--LOGSTAT?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, roger, sir. I remember him sending basically giving an assessment.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): One second, let's investigate that beep.

[Handheld recorder making sounds.]

Please continue.

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. As soon as he got on the ground and conducted his assessment I do remember talking to him on the radio and he told me some of the supplies they needed and things that we needed to try to push to him. I can't remember exactly what they were, but then we talked to battalion and tried to get additional air to get it up there.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Were the issues with Log, were you working that all day long? After the platoon got up there, did you have other things going on back at the company CP?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, I mean that was the primary focus. There were other things going on. We were working our redeployment piece. We had already sent guys back to

Bagram. I believe you know one of the ADVONs or one of the first main bodies or whatever it was; it had already went back. So yeah, we were working out load and stuff at the same time, but that was our primary focus was setting up Wanat and getting the—doing our right seat/left seat rides with the incoming unit.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And was your replacement on deck?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, he was.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Do you recall when he showed up?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): He was on their ADVON, so he was there, you know, I want to say a week or 2 before everybody else----

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Took part in Operation Rock Move?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, he was up when they were moving.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): You said you didn't--during the time between the platoon was up in Wanat and the battle; you didn't speak with Lieutenant Brostrom at all?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Not that I recall.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Nothing regarding Intelligence, indicators or warnings?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I heard through I believe I remember reading something and in talking to Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) and other Oscar people that yeah there were reports that they were going to get attacked up there; sitting in on the nightly BUB, the Adobe Breeze meeting.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): How often would you talk to Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) Oscar especially during that timeframe? You mentioned you had some other duties and you had some other things going on.

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): When he was in Wanat or when we were back at Blessing?

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Both.

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): When we were at Blessing together we sat right next to each other and talked all day long. Then he was at Wanat the only specific time I remember talking to him is on the radio once or twice.

Beta 1 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Would the platoon leaders in Chosen communicate
2 directly with him, with Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) or would they go
3 through you as the XO?

Oscar

Papa 4 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): For what, sir?

Beta 5 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): As a normal course regarding the operations?

Papa 6 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): It just depends. Usually I talk to the platoon
7 sergeants because we dealt primarily with logistics
8 and air resupply and stuff like that. Yeah, he talked
9 more of the tactical side of the house, you know,
10 what's going on, who they conducted the key leader
11 engagements with and still on. Yeah, they talked
Oscar directly to Captain (b)(3)(b)(6). And a lot of that was sent
13 up through both MERC and email, and then also you know
14 SIPR phones. So I mean there were a lot of different
15 means of communication to talk with.

Beta 16 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): When you were talking to Sergeant Dzwik you
17 mentioned that you got some extra lift to move some of
18 the assets up or some of the supplies. How were you
19 deciding what was going to move up?

Papa 20 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Basically what they already had on the ground and
21 what they were requesting and what we had prioritized
22 for the plan before they went up.

Beta 23 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): So if you had, let's say, those five trucks which
24 were still loaded with those supplies, did you draw
25 duplicate supplies and move them up by air or?

Papa 26 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, roger, sir. Basically the HLZ there on
27 Camp Blessing had like stockpile Class IV and Class I
28 kind of ringing the outside HLZ. So whenever we
29 requested stuff like that basically we would pull from
30 those stockpiles. We would build the slings, and then
31 battalion would request from brigade and the VSP
32 ground--you know, they do CLPs ever so often and then
33 they would backfill from the stockpiles that we have
34 taken from.

Beta 35 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Do you recall an issue--you spoke about being
36 able to refuel for the bobcat?

Papa 37 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta 38 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Do you recall how you solved that issue?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I don't know if we tried to put it on the Hiluxes going up there or if it was part of the slings, and I don't know that we ever got the fuel up there after they ran out. I can't remember when they ran out, sir, if it was the day before or when.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): If you were going send a blivot of fuel up would that just be an asset from the battalion?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, roger, sir. They had fuel blivots on the HLZ. The fuelers would fill them up and then the riggers would get them ready to go.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Who would then put the blivot in any hoses or pumps required to operate that thing; would that be down at the HLZ?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): As far as the slings like actually putting the equipment in the slings?

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Sure.

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I mean the riggers, and then we also had our supply guy at the time it was Sergeant (b)(3)(b)(6). He would primarily be down at HLZ working with the riggers and making sure that "Hey, if the slings got cut then this is what we want cut," and stuff like that. I would tell them beforehand which sling, you know what had priority. But he was the one actually down there making sure that what our company needed to happen happened.

Wisconsin

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you recall any issue with--ever getting contacted by 2nd Platoon stating that they couldn't transfer the fuel they received?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I vaguely remember that, sir. I can't remember the details or what it was, but yeah, I remember that.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Would a solution to that issue be right there at Blessing down at the HLZ?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I can't remember what the problem was, sir. I mean it depends on what it was, but I can't remember.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): After 2nd Platoon--during the planning for Operation Rock Move, did you work with the S2 at all?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Not that I can remember. I didn't really deal with operations as far how we were going to maneuver

or anything like that. I was primarily focused on the logistical side, how we were going to resupply these guys and that kind of thing.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you listen into commander updates?

CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, every evening, sir.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Do you ever recall any issues regarding the ISR coverage or lack of ISR coverage up at Wanat?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): The only thing in Intelligence specific that I remember is just that there were reports that there were enemy that wanted to attack Bella and once Bella moved and they didn't attack that they were thinking about moving and attacking somewhere else, Wanat.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you learn that from the update----

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, primarily, yeah. I mean I would—I knew who the S2 was obviously, but I would never go down to his office and ask for Intel updates or anything like that.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): After the S2 briefed that, do you recall any discussions during the commander's update brief of actions that should be taken or what members?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I honestly can't remember, sir.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): In your planning for Operation Rock Move did you work with the S-3 at all at least in part of the planning?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I worked with the S-3 air primarily just on coordinating air movement; you know how we were going to sling and what needed to be slinged or slung from Bella to Wanat, from Bella to Blessing, and from Blessing to Wanat.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you participate in any discussions on risks and risk mitigation to the operation?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): At the Battalion level?

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Or at the Company, either way.

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Like I said, me and the first sergeant and Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) all sat right next to each other and talked all day long, so yeah, I mean we told them that at this point in this game that maybe we should let

the next unit do it since we were already RIPing out instead of trying to build it up I believe is what me and the first sergeant were pitching to Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) but I don't know what happened at battalion level as far as----

Oscar

Beta

LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you see the RIP as being a risk to conducting the operation during a RIP as a risk?

Papa

CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, I mean I think so, sir. I mean you have guys that don't know the area that are coming in. You have guys that are getting ready to leave that you know have already packed up some of their stuff, they're kind of ready to go. They've been there 15 months already--14 months, and so I see that as a risk. I mean it can be mitigated, but I would say there is additional risk, sir.

Beta

LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): What was 2nd Platoon going up to Wanat to do?

Papa

CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Basically we were moving from Bella to Wanat in order to work with the district government. At Bella the district sub-governor and police force and everybody was down in Wanat, and Bella was up near--there was a little bazaar area of there where we weren't really influencing; we weren't—couldn't train the local police or work through the local government at all from Bella, so co-locating them there then we're hand-in-hand with those guys and can kind of help build them up. And it was easier logistically. Bella was only air resupplied; we could ground resupply Wanat at the time because the road had improved. So that was another----

Beta

LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): What could you get up that road to Wanat?

Papa

CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): In July we could get you know HMMWVs and—I can't remember if the Buffalos could make it up there with the RCP or if they just had the husky, and then the local national jingle trucks could make it up there as well.

Beta

LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): How about in the winter time is that road passable?

Papa

CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): It just depends on when washes out. The biggest problem is the draws—the water coming down from the draws washes out different parts of the road and again the local national solution is to stack—literally

stack rocks—flat rocks up until it's—they've got the washout wide enough to fix. But they have been steadily improving the road. There was a contract to build the road; they were widening it; they were blasting and they were also building a retaining wall as I remember to help improve the road. So it was steadily getting better especially the southern portion of it.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Until that road is improved though in the winter time were the--would the COP not have been air only through supply?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): The local nationals were always going to be able to drive on that road because as soon as it would wash out they would fix it. I remember when there were times when I was still platoon leader and we would try and patrol up there we would come to a wash out and we would turn around or have to dismount and walk the rest of the way up to Wanat. So there were times when it was washed out, whether that winter or whenever I don't know. Again they were making a big push to improve the roads, so.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): I take you back to the planning and the company was planning to establish a COP at Wanat; was that the plan?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): To build a COP and you had the lead on the planning for supplies necessary to build that COP?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, pretty much, yes, sir.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): You did or didn't get any assistance from the brigade or battalion engineer?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, he— Falcon (b)(3)(b)(6), He worked primarily—him and the S4 worked primarily together and then I worked primarily with the S4, but I actually do remember going down there when I was talking to the S4 talking to Lieutenant (b)(3)(b)(6). Falcon

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): When you saw the CONOP for Operation Rock Move did you participate in the preparation for that CONOP?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta 1 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): It was just a 3 day CONOP from 8 to 10 July 2008,
2 what was the plan after the 10th of July? What was
3 going to happen at Wanat?

Papa 4 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I mean it would continue to be built up from what
5 I understand, sir. We would continue to build it up
6 until we passed it off to 1/26.

Beta 7 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Was there a plan for the buildup of the actual
8 replacement?

Papa 9 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): As far as the CONOP?

Beta 10 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Or if anywhere?

Papa 11 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, I mean we had—there was a HESCO perimeter,
12 guard towers----

Beta 13 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Like a written order or the CONOP for the actual
14 buildup itself?

Papa 15 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I don't remember, sir.

Beta 16 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you have the lead for the logistics for
17 Chosen?

Papa 18 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, roger, for Chosen, sir.

Beta 19 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): What was the plan on the 11th as far as moving
20 supplies up the build or on the 12th, or on the 13th, or
21 on the 14th? Did you have a matrix of any kind, you
22 know, day 1 these supplies need to go up; on day 2
23 these supplies need to go up?

Papa 24 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I believe that was part of the CONOP, sir, and
25 the planning—the initial plans we had. I don't have
26 the products anymore; I can't remember what we----

Beta 27 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): You mean for the ConOp for Operation Rock Move?

Papa 28 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta 29 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Take a moment and review that, if you will.

30 [The witness did as directed.]

Beta 31 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): What else did you first provide to that CONOP?

Papa 32 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): The one thing that sticks out in my mind, sir, is
33 the actual layout of the COP and the movement piece,
34 working with the air.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Do you recall who you worked with in the S3 Air?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I believe I worked primarily with Sergeant (b)(3)(b)(6) and I can't remember who the actual S3 Air was, but I worked primarily with Sergeant (b)(3)(b)(6). I'm trying to think. I think it was Van Etten at the time and that was it, AS3.

Marquett

Marquett

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Based on your planning did you go to battalion and say "I need 'x' amount of supplies moved up to Wanat," and they in turn worked the air piece for you?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): There was a combination of "hey, what can we get," like how much lift we can get because I mean if we could have lifted everything we wanted to lift in one day if we had the resources I mean we would have done that, and then kind of prioritizing what we needed to get up there based on the resources we had. So it was a push pull, "Here's what we need;" they tell me here's what they got, and then we kind of work it both ways.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): When you submitted your request up for supplies to build the COP did anyone in battalion ever come back to you and say "You probably ought to think about getting some of this particular item or that particular item or you have too much of this or too little of that"?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I mean the S4 and the Battalion XO as well we all kind of talked about it and I can't remember any particular conversations, but I'm sure it happened. You know obviously they've got more experience than I had, so I was going to listen to what they have to say.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Do you ever recall ever changing specifically to this Operation Rock Move changing the supplies that you requested?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): It was constantly changing as we got new information and as we worked on and developed a plan. It was a working document.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Who made those changes, you?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) [No response.]

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): On a certain day you said submitted a request for items. When you sent that list up the first time was that in the consultation with the battalion?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) Yeah, I would physically walk down to the S4 and face-to-face say "Hey, here's what we need; here's what we're looking at."

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did that engineer ever QC your request, quality control--you're asking for too many HESCOS or too few HESCOS?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Not that I can recall. I mean he was obviously part of it and the more I think about it the more I realize how much he worked on it. Yes, I wasn't primarily face-to-face with him, and I think that was more with the S4, but I do remember going down there.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Do you recall ever communicating to battalion S4 regarding any supplies issues up at Wanat?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) Obviously when the RCP didn't roll up there and requesting additional air he was aware of that. I talked to him constantly like I said we were 100 meters from each other, so I would walk down there multiple times a day.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Based on the CONOPs here there's an outline of a certain number of lifts or turns that were to go into Wanat on the 9th. To the best of your recollection did the plan for slings—air movement slings did they go up on the 9th?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes. From what I recall, yeah. They----

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you go over the turns you had planned for on the 9th?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I honestly can't remember, sir. I remember the pilots or the aviation wanting to cut some, and I

Diamond remember Colonel (b)(3)(b)(6) fighting to make sure we got what we needed, but I can't remember if we got everything that we had requested or not, to be honest, sir, if that was later.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you get air on the 10th?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): [No response.]

Beta 1 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): You'd mentioned that because of the ground issues
2 with the route clearance package that assets still
3 moved via air.

Papa 4 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I can't remember which days were which honestly,
5 sir, but I remember there was the initial plan, and
6 then I believe we had additional—whether it was the
7 10th or 11th or maybe even the 12th. I know there was
8 more on the 12th because I believe that's when Captain
White (b)(3)(b)(6) moved from Bella to Wanat. I remember whenever
10 that happened I think we got extra turns with that. I
11 honestly can't remember the details of which birds
12 went where or anything like that, sir.

Beta 13 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) And at the company level you were critically
14 short on water or supplies? Was the company ever
15 black on water?

Papa 16 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): At Camp Blessing, no.

Beta 17 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And you had supplies you could have pushed out?

Papa 18 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): From Camp Blessing, yes, sir, absolutely.

Beta 19 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Now, once--what was your role once Operation Rock
20 Move was underway, what was your role regarding the
21 building of the COP? Chosen Company's role, you moved
22 your platoon up there to establish security, what role
23 did you play in that capacity at Chosen?

Papa 24 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): At Chosen I was back at Camp Blessing and
25 coordinating, like I said, all of the moving pieces up
26 there. So making sure the--what was supposed to get
27 sent up there so on and so forth, I was just
28 coordinating all of that.

Beta 29 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): There was to be some sort of building going on,
30 was there any way that you or the company were
31 tracking what had been built or what was being built
32 the next day?

Papa 33 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): At Wanat, sir? Like as far as----

Beta 34 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Check.

Papa 35 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) ----the HESCOS being filled and concertina? I
36 mean just the reports that the platoon was sending up
37 through the company. I think most of that went to
White Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) through Lieutenant Brostrom what their
39 security posture was and what was going on.

Beta 1 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Who was responsible for building the structure
2 and calling for the next supply load to come up to
3 build the next part of the COP?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Well, the structure wasn't going to be built for
5 a while. Primarily when they got up there the local
6 nationals and the engineers were supposed to build the
7 HESCO perimeter and a lot of force protection
8 measures. So the engineers were up there and they
9 were kind of overall in charge of building the basic
10 force protection. Once that was established then we
11 had contracts for local nationals to come in and build
12 the, I believe, whether it was brick and mortars or B-
13 huts; I can't remember, but that went back and forth
14 as to what the buildings were actually going to be
15 constructed of.

Papa 16 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): So the engineers were up there and they were in
17 charge of the overall building of the basic force
18 protection. Once that was established, we had
19 contracts for local nationals coming to build--I
20 believe it was brick and mortars. I can't remember if
21 that went back and forth as to what the buildings were
22 actually going to be constructed of.

Beta 23 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): The U.S. Army engineers that were up there, who
24 did they work for? Were you tasking them?

Papa 25 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No. I wasn't on the ground, sir. Lieutenant
26 Brostrom--whatever needed to be done--we hand the
27 CONOP, but the overall commander on the ground,
28 Lieutenant Brostrom was directing those guys.

Beta 29 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Based on what?

Papa 30 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Based on--

Beta 31 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): How did he know what was going to come next?

Papa 32 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Because he knew--he was part of the planning with
33 this, sir.

Beta 34 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): He was part of the CONOP for Rock Move?

Papa 35 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes. Roger, sir.

Beta 36 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Okay. Was he also part of the engineer plan that
37 said on day five, you are going to have this much
38 done; you are going to need this piece of equipment
39 up?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): I don't know exactly what knowledge Lieutenant Brostrom had. Like I said, it was kind of the company commander talking to the platoon leaders. I wasn't involved with that. So I don't know what he knew.

Beta LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): Was this an engineer CONOP that Chosen Company was providing security for?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Uh, I don't know there was an engineer CONOP. Obviously, our battalion had developed a CONOP. But we had engineer assets and we had local national contractors as well.

Beta LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): What reflects any detailed planning regarding the engineer efforts that would take place at Wanat? Is there documentation anywhere?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): I honestly don't know, sir.

Beta LTC (b)(3)(b)(6): Because, reviewing the CONOP, it's very clear how you planned to get the people there, and how you planned to get certain supplies there. It's not clear what takes place on the 11th of July or on the 12th or on the 13th. Is there anything anywhere that says by the 12th of July, we're going to be at this phase?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): I don't know what the engineers had, sir. But, yes, we had contracts for the entire build up of the COP. We had the contracts already lined up. If I remember correctly, we were in the process of having B-Huts built; here is the contract for the sewage out here as far as that goes. I am not sure exactly what you are asking, sir.

Beta LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): So at the time--at the start of that, it was your understanding that all the required contracts were in place?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): From what I remember, yes, sir.

Beta LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): Lieutenant Colonel (b)(3)(b)(6)? Sigma

Sigma LTC (b)(3)(b)(6): What was your sense of how long it was going to take to be at mission complete, regarding the building of the COP in Wanat?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): I mean--I don't know that they're ever completely finished, sir. I mean, we were building on Bella until we shut it down basically. You are constantly trying to improve what you have.

As far as when the "b" huts were built and all that, we weren't going to be around, sir. I mean, we were primarily focused on getting it set up as far as the perimeter started and getting a level of force protection where we could RIP in the new guys. And they were going to complete the build-up.

Sigma White

LTC (b)(3)(b)(6): And had you discussed with your counterpart--how that RIP was going to take place or was that more Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) thing?

Papa

CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): It was both, sir. They had who they wanted to left seat/right seat ride with. And, basically, I coordinate for how many seats we could get on the Pesh resupply because that was primarily how those guys were going to get RIP'd out. When they dropped off their guys, some of ours would back-fall on the same birds.

Sigma White

LTC (b)(3)(b)(6): Once 2nd Platoon moved up to Wanat, do you remember why Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) went forward when he did?

Papa

CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Uh, he just wanted to see to--if they were going to get attacked, he obviously wants to be there so he can help coordinate the resources.

Sigma

LTC (b)(3)(b)(6): So do you remember was it a question of a threat or was it just kind of the company's main effort so he wanted to be on the ground? Directing?

Papa

CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): I would say both, sir.

Sigma

LTC (b)(3)(b)(6): Combination of both?

(b)(3)(b)(6)

Papa

CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. That obviously was our main effort, so--

Sigma

LTC (b)(3)(b)(6): And, at platoon level, were you getting any type of pull from battalion with regard to SITREPs on how things were going, what's complete, etc., for Wanat; with Wanat built? Or would that have been traffic between Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) and Rock 6?

White

Papa

CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. That was primarily through--when he was on the ground, it was primarily his show. He was reporting directly to battalion because we were co-located with battalion.

Sigma

LTC (b)(3)(b)(6): You may have covered this. I apologize. But what was your daily reporting requirement to battalion? Was it

1 just a LOGSTAT in the evening, or did you have other
2 ongoing reports that you had to provide of?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): It was mainly the LOGSTATs, sir; which was, I
4 believe, in the afternoon every day. But, again, I
5 was fortunate. I was right there with the S4. So,
6 again, I would walk down to his office multiple times
7 a day.

Sigma LTC(b)(3)(b)(6): All the company XOs at some point in the day had a
9 time hack----

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. We had a LOGSTAT due every day.

Sigma LTC(b)(3)(b)(6): And was that done via electrons or was it----

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): If I remember correctly, it was an excel sheet
13 and you sent it up through email.

Sigma LTC(b)(3)(b)(6): And you don't ever recall sending anything up that was
15 black or red at any point in your tenure as the XO?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. Roger, sir. I remember once we were--I
17 believe it was Bella or Ranch House--they were
18 reporting red on water. Basically, they had not
19 counted the water, and the platoon was sending up that
20 they had more water than what they actually had. And
21 then when they actually went out and physically
22 counted it, they had--they still had two-months supply
23 of water, but that was kind of the winter stockpiling.

Sigma LTC(b)(3)(b)(6): Kind of a different subject, you mentioned that there
25 was a plan in place for the RCP to go first, supplies,
26 and then the civilian construction equipment; all that
27 stuff to convoy together on the 9th up to Wanat.

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Sigma LTC(b)(3)(b)(6): Who was in charge of pushing that convoy forward? In
30 other words, who decided this is going to be the
31 scheme of maneuver, this is when it's going to SP,
32 here is how we are going to track the progress, et
33 cetera? Was that your role, or was that somebody
34 else?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Uh, I mean it was part of the CONOP from what I
Oscar understand. Captain(b)(3)(b)(6) had talked with HHC company
37 commander to get the RCP to do all that clearing. And
38 then I coordinated with him to say; hey, we have
39 supplies that we need to move up. You guys are

(b)(3)(b)(6)

1 clearing up there. We are going to have these guys
2 follow behind you.

Sigma LTC (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you guys do a company order, Op order, for this
4 particular operation or do you remember for the move
5 to Wanat and the construction of the COP or any of
6 that stuff?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. I mean, Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) (White) briefed us all on how
8 things were.

Sigma LTC (b)(3)(b)(6): Was it a written order or was it just an oral Op
10 order?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Umm, I don't remember; Other than the CONOP?

Sigma LTC (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes.

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Umm, I don't remember an actual written order.

Sigma LTC (b)(3)(b)(6): You keep saying the CONOP. Which CONOP are you
15 talking about? This particular one?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Rock Move, roger, sir.

Sigma LTC (b)(3)(b)(6): Okay. And then was there any type of a company
18 rehearsal or ROC drill or walk through or any of that
19 stuff that you remember?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): On my level, no. Not that I recall as far as --

Sigma LTC (b)(3)(b)(6): For the move and then anything after that. All the
22 moving pieces of: okay 2nd Platoon goes up and
23 establishes security, etc. I don't know if you guys
24 as a matter of course, or for this operation, would
25 sit down and walk through things, have a ROC drill, or
26 reversal?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Well, I am sure that Captain--well, I am not
28 going to assume anything. But I would imagine that
White Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) would have sat down with Lieutenant
Yankee Brostrom and Sergeant (b)(3)(b)(6) and said; hey, here is
31 what we're looking at.

Sigma LTC (b)(3)(b)(6): Nothing at the company level involving all the other
33 assets that you are aware of?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): No, sir. I mean, the other platoons were spread
35 out. There was a company headquarters and that
36 platoon that were there to actual conduct it.

Sigma LTC (b)(3)(b)(6): Okay. Sir?

2 **LtGen Natonski:** When you worked your LOGSTATS, you worked
3 with an individual in each of the platoons?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Roger, the platoon sergeant, sir.

5 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. So at Wanat, who did you work with?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Primarily it was Sergeant Dzwik.

Yankee **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. Sergeant First Class (b)(3)(b)(6) was your
8 point of contact with respect to supplies. And you
9 never got anything from him with respect to status on
10 water, fuel, or anything in the black?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I believe it came up through the RTOs. I don't
12 know that I was ever personally on the radios with
Yankee Sergeant (b)(3)(b)(6). But I did get the reports that hey,
14 we are low on water. Push us more water.

15 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. You did get indications?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes. Roger, sir.

17 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. Did you push those to the battalion?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Uh, yeah. Honestly, I can't remember, sir. We
19 requested additional air to get water up there----

20 **LtGen Natonski:** You had water staged right there----

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): We had water on the back of the trucks that were
22 supposed to go there----

23 **LtGen Natonski:** ----so as far as you were concerned, you
24 didn't need to tell the battalion you needed water
25 because you had the water yourself and could push it
26 up. Is that ----

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Roger, sir. But in order to get the air to get
28 it up there and different things like that--I remember
29 trying to push it out on the Hiluxes, and I probably
30 told--like I said, I can't remember exactly what
31 happened as far as what I said or when I reported
32 what. But putting water on the Hiluxes that was kind
33 of my level. But as far as getting air and stuff like
34 that to get the water up there, I would have
35 coordinated with the S4.

36 **LtGen Natonski:** Was air a tough proposition at that time?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, Roger, sir.

LtGen Natonski: Why is that?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): There is just never enough aircraft, sir.

LtGen Natonski: Was it worse at that point? Did the RIP TOA have anything to do with it?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Uh, I can't remember if that really took any air away from us. But that would obviously put additional --take away additional resources----

LtGen Natonski: I think this CONOP laid out the lift for supplies up at Wanat by a CH-47. Do you recall if that was fully executed or whether you got all the sorties required to bring all the gear up there?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): As I was saying before, sir, I can't remember exactly what went up and when. If the Pesh resupply-- if all those turns made it or not. Um, I remember there being a point in time--I can't remember if it was the 9th or if it was the 11th or later on when the birds didn't want to fly. I remember Colonel (b)(3)(b)(6) working with the pilots and telling them; hey, we need these.

Diamond

LtGen Natonski: Why didn't they want to fly?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Umm, I honestly can't remember, sir, if it was the weather or what it was.

LtGen Natonski: I think on the 9th there was a weather issue; the night of the 8th or----

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I honestly can't remember exactly, sir.

LtGen Natonski: Umm, COP Wanat; whose idea was it to put the COP there? Was it the company? Was it the battalion? Who ultimately said, this is what we want to do? We want to close Bella down because it is out there; it's air-centric, and we want to establish a base camp or a COP at Wanat. Who made that decision?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I don't know who made the--I imagine the brigade commander would be the final, but as far as----

LtGen Natonski: Well, the brigade commander is not going to look at a map and decide; well, let's put----

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No. Right. Roger.

1 **LtGen Natonski:** Someone--who is responsible for Waygal
2 Valley?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Chosen Company.

4 **LtGen Natonski:** Chosen Company?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. I mean, that was our AO.

6 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. So did Chosen Company make the
7 decision to place COP Wanat there?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. We recommended that we move Bella to --

9 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. You made the recommendation to the
10 battalion?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. Probably, sir.

12 **LtGen Natonski:** The--we keep asking you about the plan for
13 Wanat after the CONOP there which ends on the 10th of
14 July, as you can see on the front page. You did
15 mention, I think it was the diagram or the plan for
16 the COP. I never saw it in there?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Right, sir. I don't think everything that we
18 developed got put into this.

19 **LtGen Natonski:** Do you know where all that material is that
20 you developed?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I remember on my desktop I had a folder for all
22 the logistics stuff.

23 **LtGen Natonski:** Was it a formal plan--you know, I am a
24 grunt. We usually do things in phases that to me is
25 phase one. That gets everything to the sight. Well,
26 what about phase two; maybe the construction of the
27 COP. What about phase three, continuing operations,
28 interface with the population at Wanat, interface with
29 the AMP; where did that come from, the RIP with I
30 think it was 1st of the 62nd or----

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): 1-26.

32 **LtGen Natonski:** ----1-26. Where was that laid out?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): It was in documents similar to this from what I
34 remember. I had power point slides of the layout; the
35 COP. This is what it was going to look like.

1 **LtGen Natonski:** Do you still have any of those?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, sir. That was all on SIPR.

3 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. Was that a company plan or company
4 order? Was that briefed to anyone?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I never briefed the battalion anything, sir. I
6 would go down and talk to the S4 and everybody, but I
7 would never physically pitch anything to the
8 battalion.

9 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. Battlefield circulation; did you get
10 up to Wanat after you were a platoon commander? Or as
11 an XO, did you do battlefield circulation? Did you go
12 out and visit the platoons to see what they needed or
13 whatever?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yup, roger, sir. After I was a platoon leader, I
15 think it was once or twice that I was up at Wanat
16 again on patrols. But there was nothing established
17 there.

18 **LtGen Natonski:** So you're--as the XO, you were primarily
19 working----

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I was primarily working from Blessing.

21 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay.

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I went on some of the--when we did the bigger air
23 assaults, I would go. When people were on leave, I
24 would fill in for the FSO on a couple air assaults;
25 and when the commander was gone. I went to Fire Base
26 Michigan which we could drive to. I went down there.

27 **LtGen Natonski:** Who was there at Fire Base Michigan?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) That was the attached Destined Company Platoon.

29 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. So you had a platoon from Destined
30 Company?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Attached to us the second half.

32 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. And what did they do?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): They were out at Fire Base Michigan there. They
34 were primarily responsible for the mouth of the
35 Korengal and the----

1 **LtGen Natonski:** Was there artillery there?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): We had one 60 there, one 60 millimeter mortar.

3 **LtGen Natonski:** One 60?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. It was----

5 **LtGen Natonski:** It was more of a fire base?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): What's that, sir?

7 **LtGen Natonski:** You called it a fire base?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): That's--when it got handed over to us from 10th
9 Mountain, they had called it a fire base because I
10 believe they had more there.

11 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay.

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): But it was within 155, so----

White **LtGen Natonski:** And the company commander, Captain (b)(3)(b)(6), he
14 got up to Wanat, I guess, on the 12th of July?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I believe so. Whenever the--whatever day that
16 Bella broke down, I remember he flew directly from
17 Bella to Wanat.

18 **LtGen Natonski:** Are you sure about that? I don't think
19 Wanat--I don't think the movement to Wanat started
20 until Bella was broken down? At least that's what
21 we've heard that Bella was gone, and that the platoon
22 that was at Bella went into Wanat. Is that correct?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No. No, sir. 1st Platoon was up at Bella. 2nd
24 Platoon was back at Blessing. 1st Platoon came back
25 from Bella to Blessing. And----

26 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. 2nd Platoon had already went up----

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Went up to Wanat.

28 **LtGen Natonski:** So there were two COPs; one being torn down
29 and one being built up at the same time?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

31 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay.

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): And--yeah. Because I remember the 120s--one of
33 the 120 tubes that was at Bella was moved to Wanat on

1 those birds. That was one of the last lifts out of
2 Bella.

3 **LtGen Natonski:** So Sergeant First Class (b)(3)(b)(6) was up at
4 Bella and moved directly to Wanat?

Papa 5 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I can't remember if he went up with 2nd Platoon
6 or if he moved from--I believe he did move from Bella.

7 **LtGen Natonski:** Well, he was with the mortar at Wanat.

Papa 8 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes. He was with--but I can't remember when he
9 went up and from where because we had a 120 tube at
10 Blessing and a 120 tube out at Wanat.

11 **LtGen Natonski:** You just said that the 120----

Papa 12 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Or at Bella. I'm sorry.

13 **LtGen Natonski:** I thought the 120 from Bella came out of
14 Bella and went into Wanat?

Papa 15 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. And then we also had one at Blessing.

16 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. Well, the 120 that ended up at Wanat
17 came out of Blessing on the morning of the 9th of July
18 on a CH-47 lift.

Papa 19 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Okay, sir?

20 **LtGen Natonski:** I am pretty sure. Is that the way you read
21 it.

Beta **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Sir, Sergeant First Class Romeo (b)(3)(b)(6) had stated
23 that.

24 **LtGen Natonski:** Well, I know that's not something you can
25 track of--you were a platoon commander. You had never
26 established a COP have you?

Papa 27 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, sir.

28 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. But you were familiar with Wanat?

Papa 29 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. Roger.

30 **LtGen Natonski:** And the mission of the platoon, 2nd Platoon,
31 Chosen Company was to establish the COP and provide
32 security for the engineers to build a COP; and then do
33 a relief in place for the incoming battalion. What
34 was the weather like at that time? This was July.

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I honestly can't remember, sir. I remember it seemed like it was hotter--

LtGen Natonski: It was hot?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. Roger, sir.

LtGen Natonski: Well, you were involved in talking with the company commander about establishing the COP up there. You've been a platoon commander. Did you think that was a sufficient-sized force to go into Wanat to establish the base?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): At the time when we were planning, yes, sir. I was then.

LtGen Natonski: They had to conduct force protection measures. Then they also had to protect the base. And you think that was the sufficient number based on your experience?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): That's how we had been operating all deployment so --

LtGen Natonski: But you had never established a COP before, have you?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Personally? No, I haven't, sir.

LtGen Natonski: What was the climate in the Waygal Valley?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Well, at that time, it was fairly hostile. There was the Apaches that shot the Hilux truck coming down from Bella.

LtGen Natonski: Had that inflamed passions in the valley?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Uh, yeah. I believe so, sir. I wasn't up there, so I don't know. But from the reports that I heard---

LtGen Natonski: Did Captain Pry talk to you at all about what was going on in the valley?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): What's that, sir?

Magenta

LtGen Natonski: Did Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) talk to you about what was going on in the valley with respect to --

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. On the commander's updates and stuff like that, sir----

1 **LtGen Natonski:** But you knew that it was not a good
2 situation from on enemy's perspective. If you look at
3 the CONOPs, most likely, there was indirect fire into
4 the COP. The most dangerous was pretty much what
5 happened. Did you know that?

Papa 5 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

7 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. What was Charlie--Chosen Company's
8 feeling about having to set up this COP with two weeks
9 left in country?

Papa 10 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Not happy about it, sir.

11 **LtGen Natonski:** You were getting ready to leave, some of the
12 troops had already left, your relief was there, but
13 you wouldn't have wanted 1-26 to set it up either.
14 Did you reconcile that you guys were better off with
15 your experience setting it up or?

Papa 16 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Honestly, sir, I--me and the first sergeant had
17 talked. We said that it was probably best if these
18 guys got established, break down Bella, let them
19 consolidate at Blessing, get themselves established in
20 the area, figure out what they want to do, and then
21 push out and build Wanat if----

22 **LtGen Natonski:** If they wanted to?

Papa 23 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): If that's what their course of action was going
24 to be.

25 **LtGen Natonski:** Did you think that the RIP TOA would detract
26 from the establishment of the COP? I mean, the fact
27 that--you didn't seem to indicate there was any impact
28 on aircraft sorties, but there were troops being
29 moved. I mean, you don't do a RIP TOA without having
30 to move people in and out. So that must have been
31 factored in. I don't believe you got all the sorties
32 that you needed. You prioritized and it went up to
33 the COP. Did you know not?

Papa 34 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) Yes, sir.

35 **LtGen Natonski:** That was one of your functions?

Papa 36 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

37 **LtGen Natonski:** So you had a lot of stuff to get up there,
38 but you only had so many aircraft. So it was

1 important for you to send the stuff up that needed to
2 go up the most?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. That was the whole deployment.

4 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. Umm, so you didn't have sufficient
5 air assets to even implement the original concept of
6 operations there?

Papa 7 CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Are you talking about the Pesh resupply getting
8 cut and stuff like that, sir?

9 **LtGen Natonski:** To get everything up there that needed to
10 get up there for the establishment of the COP? Was
11 there stuff--on the morning on the 10th of July, when
12 that CONOP was finished, did everything that needed to
13 get up there--was it up there? Or were you still
14 having to prioritize the remainder of the time that
15 the COP was there?

Papa 16 CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): I mean, yeah. We were constantly prioritizing.
17 We prioritized for the COPs we already had
18 established. I mean, we never had enough air.
19 Sometimes the Pesh resupply wouldn't fly at all and it
20 was another four days.

21 **LtGen Natonski:** But you were a main effort for the
22 battalion?

Papa 23 CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Roger, sir.

24 **LtGen Natonski:** But there was a RIP going on, too?

Papa 25 CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Right, sir.

White

26 **LtGen Natonski:** What was Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) opinion of the
27 establishment? Did he think the timing was right or--
28 did you talk with him as well as the first sergeant?

Papa 29 CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. I mean, the three of us worked in a room
30 half this size together. So we were constantly
31 talking. And he seemed to be for it, again, me and
32 the first sergeant tried to talk to him and asked him
33 if he thought this was the right idea.

34 **LtGen Natonski:** Was he the one that was making the
35 recommendation to the battalion; that we ought to do
36 this before we leave because 1-26----

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I don't know if it was going up that way or if it was coming back down from the battalion; if the battalion thought, hey----

LtGen Natonski: I mean, Wanat, this was no last minute decision. You guys had been negotiating for the land. When was the first time you kind of walked down and looked around Wanat? You were still a platoon commander?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I mean, yeah. It was months.

LtGen Natonski: Okay.

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Umm, but, again, it was always this maybe might happen. It was never a "we are going to execute". Even right up until a few days before, the--it was actually said this is approved and we are going to do this on this date. I mean, it had gotten pushed back and it was----

LtGen Natonski: Why did it keep getting pushed back?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I don't know, sir, honestly. I mean, we were trying to close down Bella for a while. And with the closing down of Bella----

LtGen Natonski: You didn't have the forces, I guess, to do both Bella and Wanat?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, sir.

LtGen Natonski: Why was Bella then hard to close down?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I am not sure, sir, from my level. But I remember we were trying to get it closed down for a while. Because it was air centric; we weren't really affecting the population like we wanted to.

LtGen Natonski: I mean, the longer it got kicked down, it ended up running into the RIP TOA?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Right which wasn't supposed to happen that way, sir?

LtGen Natonski: Okay. Thanks.

MG Perkins: With regards to Intel, you said Waygal was renowned for enemy activity. Their recently had been a Hilux incident with the Apaches. Was there anything that you recall, say, in that last week before they

attacked 8th through the 13th that became sort of apparent or well known that things may have even become more dangerous?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Just--I mean, there was always reports that we were going to get attacked. It was every day; 200 fighters in the hills was almost like every day, sir. And a lot of times, I think a lot of the sources kind of exaggerate the times the number there were by ten. So you have 10 guys, and it's a hundred guys. So I think that happened quite a bit.

So sometimes it had to get filtered because, obviously, every day we are not going to get attacked by 200 guys; or we didn't at least.

MG Perkins: How did you guys normally get your Intel from battalion since you guys don't have an S2? Was there somebody anointed in the company to be the intel fusion person?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): At that company level or at the battalion level?

MG Perkins: At the company level?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. Primarily the FSO worked a lot of that. And I mean, everybody in the company headquarters read the INTSUM from the S2. And then all the platoon leaders and platoon sergeants --

MG Perkins: But if the Battalion S2 had--if you want to talk to somebody in the company to, sort of, do routine Intel stuff or get information back and forth; are you saying the FSO was sort of the official point of contact?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Sort of. They S2 usually talked directly to the Company Commander.

MG Perkins: Okay. Did you talk a lot to the S2?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No. When I was a platoon leader and I was co-located with the battalion headquarters, I would go talk to THT and the S2 as a platoon leader.

MG Perkins: Was that routine for most of the platoon leaders?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No. Because the only platoon leader co-located there was the one at Blessing.

MG Perkins: Oh, okay.

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Everybody else was spread----

MG Perkins: Do you happen to know, off hand, were you good friends with Lieutenant Brostrom at all or were you just acquaintances?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): He took over for my platoon.

MG Perkins: Right.

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): So--I mean, he spent a lot of time up in Bella and Wanat, but----

MG Perkins: I am just saying, off hand, would--did he go--before the mission, do you know if he went to the battalion S2 and got a read?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): I am not sure about any of that, sir.

MG Perkins: Do you recall, especially in the last couple of days, a major--you know there is never enough air or ISR--but do you remember the issue of ISR becoming a major issue, say, for the company commander to the battalion commander?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): I don't remember, sir. Like I said, I was more of the tactical--I was dealing with the other side of the house.

MG Perkins: Umm, you said you sort of, daily, would have this meeting with the Battalion XO or Battalion 4 reference log situation update?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. I set up a LOGSTAT every day, sir. But because I was co-located with the Battalion Headquarters, I would walk down there and face-to-face.

MG Perkins: Face-to-face with the S4 or the XO? Who did you ----

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): The S4.

MG Perkins: Mainly S4?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah.

MG Perkins: Did you speak often with the Battalion XO?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, fairly regularly, sir.

Brown **MG Perkins:** Umm, in your discussions with Captain (b)(3)(b)(6)
Red or Major, I guess, (b)(3)(b)(6) -I guess he was the----

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): XO.

MG Perkins: ----XO. As Rock Move was going on, moving out of Bella, and then something's not exactly going according to plan; we have a route clearance team didn't go--what was the nature of the conversation with the brigade S4, XO--as you were relating to them, was it we have a major crisis here; we have challenges that I'm working through. I mean, I don't need a specific--but how would you characterize the nature of the logistical picture you were painting at the battalion as to the criticality of where you are? Do you need battalion help? Can you handle it on your own, etc?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): We obviously requested additional turns of air and stuff like that. We needed battalion's help. Was I saying, "Oh my God, everybody is going to die if we don't get this stuff up there right away?" No, I wasn't saying that, sir. I said we need to get the RCP up there, and we need to get supplies up there.

MG Perkins: You became the XO in October you said?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, if I remember correctly, sir.

MG Perkins: More or less. So you had been the XO for a while; through the winter, etc. So I assume you've had, sort of, a series of logistical challenges?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

MG Perkins: In fact, was it more the case then not, that you were having to find a way to mitigate something that didn't go according to plan versus something going according to plan?

Papa **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, roger, sir. I mean, that's the whole reason we had the Hilux contract is because we had so much of a problem with air during the winter that we were like; well, how can we solve this. We are not going to get any more air. We can't drive up there. So we started--can we get donkeys up there, can we----

MG Perkins: So your experience in that of the company and the battalion is generally almost every day something is not going according to the plan. So we are being

1 resourceful, and we are trying to figure out how to
2 make something happen.

Papa 3 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) Yeah. Roger, sir.

4 **MG Perkins:** So if you have a CONOP and something doesn't go
5 according to plan that in itself is not significantly
6 different than your prior 14-months in Afghanistan?

Papa 7 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) Roger, sir.

8 **MG Perkins:** So your first course of action is to--like you
9 have done the last 14 months--try to solve or work
10 through it. In other words, the bar in which it
11 becomes a crisis probably has continually gotten a
12 little higher as you become better adapted would you
13 say?

Papa 14 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, as far as being a crisis. You know what
15 you have to have and were to get more. You have more
16 experience.

17 **MG Perkins:** So, again, would it be accurate to say
18 throughout--in fact, you threw out this process,
19 routes clearance teams and a couple other things like
20 that--this is sort of in the realm of the average
21 amount of problems you deal with daily?

Papa 22 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. Roger, sir. I mean, it never goes away.

23 **MG Perkins:** So as you had discussions with battalion, you
24 weren't raising additional red flags at this point
25 beyond the normal; I have problems; I am working
26 through it?

Papa 27 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): With the RCP, I am trying to get the HHC, Company
28 Commander, the engineers, up there to push that RCP.

29 **MG Perkins:** HHC--Battalion HHC?

Papa 30 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. Roger.

31 **MG Perkins:** So you were working directly with HHC Company
32 Commander?

Papa 33 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) No, not me. But--yeah, cussing those guys; I
34 wasn't physically cussing, but that's what I was
35 thinking about getting those guys up there?

36 **MG Perkins:** Do those guys work for HHC, the route clearance
37 guys?

Papa 1 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Uh, yeah. I can't remember exactly what the
2 relationship----

3 **MG Perkins:** Were they engineers? Were they----

Papa 4 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): They were in an engineer platoon, the RCP was.
5 And, yeah, they worked--I believe they worked for----

6 **MG Perkins:** Did they live at Blessing?

Papa 7 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No. They worked----

8 **MG Perkins:** So they were giving DS to you for this mission?

Papa 9 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Roger.

10 **MG Perkins:** And they are different than the engineers that
11 were at Wanat?

Papa 12 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah.

13 **MG Perkins:** Are they from even a different battalion?

Papa 14 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Brigade.

15 **MG Perkins:** Brigade?

Papa 16 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. They were not our brigade engineers.

17 **MG Perkins:** Okay. Well----

Papa 18 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Our RCP was.

19 **MG Perkins:** Oh. The RCP, were they part of the Brigade
20 Company of engineers?

Papa 21 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, I believe so. Yes, sir.

22 **MG Perkins:** Okay. And the guys who were at Wanat were from
23 the GS brigade, the CJTF Engineer Brigade?

Papa 24 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. They were outside the Brigade. I am not
25 sure where.

26 **MG Perkins:** Okay. Umm, with regard to logistics, how did you
27 and the First Sergeant sort of hand off your duties.
28 I mean, you are both sort of--I mean, what things did
29 you do? What things did the First Sergeant do? How
30 did you guys delineate those responsibilities?

Papa 1 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I took primary responsibility for all the
2 logistics. So as far as the LOGSTATs, the request,
3 coordinating, and things like that; that was me.

4 **MG Perkins:** So, for instance, the RCP wasn't going for, etc.,
5 like that; did you have any conversations with the
6 first sergeant that you remember?

Papa 7 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I can't remember any in particular, sir.

8 **MG Perkins:** Okay. You said you don't recall specifically
Yankee talking to Sergeant First Class (b)(3)(b)(6) once he got up
10 to Wanat?

Papa 11 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Physically talking to him on the radio I don't
12 remember. But I do remember getting reports.

13 **MG Perkins:** Okay. So you're getting reports either from the
14 RTO or somebody. Did you talk with Brostrom? No?

Papa 15 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, not that I can remember.

16 **MG Perkins:** Okay. Anyways, you are getting reports that they
17 have a problem with water, you're working Hilux
18 trucks, your working trying to get additional sling-
19 loads; did you relay that back to Wanat; hey, okay.
20 Here is a problem. Here is what we are doing. We are
21 working Hilux; we're working----

Papa 22 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) Yeah. Roger, sir. We were trying to get Hiluxes
23 up there.

24 **MG Perkins:** So you were informing them what you were trying
25 to do. Did you then get subsequent feedback from them
26 that that's not good enough, or--okay, did you say it
27 looks like we'll get it there tomorrow morning or
28 something? I think some people have reported that
29 Hilux trucks did get up there.

Papa 30 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, I think a few made it through. But----

31 **MG Perkins:** I mean, did you--so after you told them what you
32 were doing--this is what I am doing about it, what was
33 there response?

Papa 34 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Well, I would always get--whenever I would send
35 Hilux trucks, I would always talk to the platoon and
36 tell them that they are coming. And then, also, what
37 actually made it up there so these guys aren't taking

1 it on their own or for their own use; and then seeing
2 what actually made it through.

3 **MG Perkins:** Did--when whatever amount of Hilux trucks made it
4 up there with water, did you get the feedback that
5 they had made it up there?

Papa 6 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. Roger, sir.

7 **MG Perkins:** And then did they say that it's not enough. It's
8 only half of what I need or anything like that?

Papa 9 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. Roger, sir. You can only push so much up
10 on Hiluxes, so not all the Hiluxes made it through.
11 So I knew that they still needed water.

12 **MG Perkins:** And so what were you doing after that when you
13 knew all the Hiluxes didn't make it or that they still
14 needed water?

Papa 15 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Continue trying to push up on Hilux and trying to
16 get it up there----

17 **MG Perkins:** Did you ever go back to Battalion and say; hey,
18 look, I got this much up, but we still have a problem;
19 etc. I mean was there a desire by Battalion to really
20 focus on the water where they wanted an hourly update
21 or anything like that? Or were they not necessarily
22 tracking it?

Papa 23 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): On the water?

24 **MG Perkins:** Yeah.

Papa 25 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No; the water specifically, no.

26 **MG Perkins:** So is it fair to say that--what would you say
27 Battalions view was at the water situation at Wanat?

Papa 28 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): They were low but we were trying to get it up
29 there. I mean--again, they had water. They had
30 filters and water was kind of the view. Obviously it
31 takes longer to pump water from the well and then
32 purify it but----

33 **MG Perkins:** Did you spend a lot of time with Lieutenant
Falcon (b)(3)(b)(6), the task force engineer?

Papa 35 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I spent, primarily, most of my time down there
36 with the S4. But I mean, he was down there, he worked
37 in the same building.

1 **MG Perkins:** I mean, specifically with regard to Wanat, was he
2 the guy working some of these detailed engineer plans,
3 class 4 list, etc.?

Papa 4 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. He was the battalion engineer, so that's
5 kind of what his task was from --

Falcon 7 **MG Perkins:** So (b)(3)(b)(6) probably sat down with some engineer
smart guys that put together this plan and Class IV
Falcon 9 list. Did (b)(3)(b)(6) then sort of give this plan to the
Battalion S4 or did he give it to you guys as a
10 company?

Papa 11 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Both. I mean, him and the S4 worked, like I
12 said, their desk were right across the hall.

13 **MG Perkins:** You said on your hard drive, you had a folder
14 that had all the Wanat stuff. Would it have the stuff
15 that Cromie had put together, this packet of plans?

Papa 16 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

17 **MG Perkins:** Umm, as you--you said you were discussing to the
18 First Sergeant and Company Commander; do we build
19 Wanat? Do we not? Do we let 1-26 do it? Etcetera.
20 like that? Was there ever any discussion that if we
21 go ahead with this, we need more people than a
22 platoon; we need more security? Was there ever a
23 discussion about additional resources specifically for
24 security for Wanat or a concern about that?

White

Papa 25 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I don't know if Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) ever brought that up
26 or not or through battalion.

27 **MG Perkins:** But as you guys were talking in the company?

Papa 28 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Not that I can remember. No, sir. I mean, we
29 never had enough people.

30 **MG Perkins:** No, I understand.

Papa 31 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): That's one of the reasons we wanted to break down
32 Bella. Because by the time we had force protection on
33 Bella and then sent out patrols, it was a squad-plus
34 patrol.

35 **MG Perkins:** Would it be accurate to say that as you guys went
36 into Rock Move, your main concern was an attack at
37 Bella?

Papa 1 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. When Bella was being closed down because
2 as they were breaking down----

3 **MG Perkins:** You thought you're most vulnerable as you tore
4 down Bella versus building Wanat?

Papa 5 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Uh--I mean, it's kind of 6 of one and a half
6 dozen of another, sir. I mean, the reporting that I
7 remember was for Bella. And then after Bella was
8 gone, then it became Wanat. They did the same thing
9 with the Ranch House. They knew Ranch House was
10 getting broken down. So they attacked it. That way
11 whenever we leave, they can video tape----

12 **MG Perkins:** So your experience was that generally you were
13 attacked as you were pulling out so theyu could get
14 the IO of "we droned them out?"

Papa 15 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Roger, sir.

16 **MG Perkins:** So there was a significant focus on Bella which
17 is probably why the Company Commander initially went
18 to Bella?

Papa 19 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Roger, sir.

20 **MG Perkins:** Because he thought that was probably the most
21 dangerous and most likely initial course of action?

Papa 22 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): That's correct, sir.

23 **MG Perkins:** Umm, as you had Ranch House and Bella, what was
24 the normal amount of enablers that were there? By
25 "enablers," I mean mortar, LRAS, TOWs, etc.

Papa 26 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I mean, they--Ranch House had the two 60-
27 millimeter mortars, and then --

28 **MG Perkins:** No 120s?

Papa 29 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, the 120s were at Bella which could range----

30 **MG Perkins:** Any TOW missiles at either place?

Papa 31 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, sir.

32 **MG Perkins:** LRAS?

Papa 33 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, sir.

1 **MG Perkins:** And then, is it true that between Ranch House and
2 Bella when they were both operational, it was one
3 platoon that had both?

Papa 4 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): At one point, yes, sir.

5 **MG Perkins:** So the force that was at Wanat, the Chosen Force,
6 was larger than what was at Bella or Ranch House?

Papa 7 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Roger, sir.

8 **MG Perkins:** Both in numbers of Soldiers and enablers because
9 they had TOW missiles and LRAS that the others didn't
10 have?

11 **LtGen Natonski:** However, neither one of those were building
12 a COP were they?

Papa 13 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No. They were established by 10th Mountain
14 whenever we----

15 **LtGen Natonski:** They weren't engaging the people either.
16 Were they?

Papa 17 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): What do you mean, sir?

18 **LtGen Natonski:** Up at Bella?

Papa 19 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): At Bella, not really.

20 **LtGen Natonski:** Was there interdictions with them?

Papa 21 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I mean, primarily yeah.

22 **LtGen Natonski:** They were not there to engage the district
23 center which was at Wanat?

Papa 24 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. I mean, I remember once or twice they made
25 it down to the district center. But that was
26 primarily the Platoon down at Blessing that would
27 drive up there.

Magenta

28 **LtGen Natonski:** And you were not aware of what Captain (b)(3)(b)(6)
29 was saying about a change in the direction of focus in
30 the enemy after Bella was closed down; to move forces
31 perhaps to attack Wanat. Did you talk to Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) Magenta

Papa 32 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I did not physically talk face-to-face with
33 Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) Magenta

34 **LtGen Natonski:** Did you talk to anyone in the Intel section?

Papa 1 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, sir. Just what they had given as the Intel
2 update at the Commander's update every evening.

3 **MG Perkins:** Have you been up to Ranch House and Bella before?

Papa 4 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I had been to Bella not Ranch House.

5 **MG Perkins:** Was this early when you guys first got there or
6 later on?

Papa 7 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Actually, when Ranch House got attacked, Captain
White (b)(3)(b)(6) moved me up there. My platoon stayed back at
9 Blessing, and I moved up to Bella to kind of see to
10 Bella with 1st Platoon's Soldiers while their PL and
11 Platoon Sergeant moved to Ranch House.

12 **MG Perkins:** When you guys inherited Ranch House and Bella
13 from 10th Mountain, what level of force protection
14 sort of described the physical status of those COBs?

Papa 15 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): What do you mean, sir? Like what kind of force
16 protection----

17 **MG Perkins:** I mean, did they have HESCOs going all the way
18 around, did they have towers, did they have overhead
19 cover, or what was it like when you guys did a TOA
20 with 10th Mountain?

Papa 21 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, they didn't have HESCOs all the way around.
22 Like I said, I was never physically on the ground at
23 Ranch House. But there was "c" wire around it. At---
24 -

25 **MG Perkins:** Do you know was it staked in, double or triple
26 strand?

Papa 27 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I just know that it had "c" wire, sir. I am not
28 sure what exactly it had. And then they had guard
29 towers as well. And then at Bella, one or two sides
30 had HESCOs. And then the other sides were "c" wire as
31 well.

32 **MG Perkins:** Did you guys make substantial improvements to
33 Ranch House and Bella after you took them over?

Papa 34 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Ranch House, again, I don't know about, sir. I
35 was down at Blessing that the time.

36 **MG Perkins:** How about Bella?

Papa 37 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Up at Bella, yes, constantly.

1 **MG Perkins:** Just give me examples of what you did to improve
2 them?

Papa 3 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): We built supplementary fighting positions. We
4 improved fighting positions that were there. We
5 moved, like, the heavy weapons. The fighting
6 positions we would make----

7 **MG Perkins:** Did you have any engineer support to do any of
8 that?

Papa 9 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): They sent up engineers to improve the B-Huts, I
10 believe at some point.

11 **MG Perkins:** Did you have any heavy equipment to do that?

Papa 12 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No. No, sir.

13 **MG Perkins:** So it was all E-tool?

Papa 14 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Roger, sir. We had contracted local nationals
15 that we would, basically, as we broke rocks or they
16 broke rocks, they would fill HESCOs with them. I
17 also--whenever I was there, I remember clearing some
18 of the dead space and stuff like that. I hired, with
19 the Foo money, I hired a local national to blast some
20 of the rocks and things like that. But, no, there was
21 not--they drilled a well.

22 **MG Perkins:** Do you know how long Ranch House and Bella had
23 been in existence when you guys took them over?

Papa 24 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I am not sure, sir. I am pretty sure that----

25 **MG Perkins:** Did 10th Mountain establish them?

Papa 26 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. I am pretty sure that 10th Mountain
27 established them. I am not positive on that, but I
28 believe so.

29 **MG Perkins:** So probably by the time you took Bella down, it
30 had been there a year and a half maybe?

Papa 31 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah, probably, sir.

32 **MG Perkins:** And I think you said earlier, that up until the
33 day you tore it down, you continued to improve and
34 work on it, etcetera, like that?

Papa 35 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

1 **MG Perkins:** So--that actually was a year and a half process
2 on that and you would still be working on it if it was
3 there; correct?

Papa 4 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6)**:** You are constantly trying to improve your force
5 protection, sir.

6 **MG Perkins:** Umm--and you might not know this--as you guys
7 were debating, post-battle, pulling out of Wanat one
8 way or the other, do you know what the views were from
9 Division all the way down? I mean, were you privy to
10 any of that discussion?

Papa 11 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) No, sir. I don't know who wanted to leave it
12 open or who wanted to pull out.

13 **MG Perkins:** Okay. All right. Thanks.

14 **LtGen Natonski:** Were you in the TOC the day of the attack?

Papa 15 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6)**:** Yes, sir, I was down at Blessing.

16 **LtGen Natonski:** Do you recall the Apaches coming in, were
17 they held or checked, while artillery was going down
18 there? Do you recall that?

Papa 19 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) I can't remember, sir, honestly. I remember
White 20 Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) calling up the TIC. If I believe
21 correctly, the first thing on station was a B-1 that
22 they tried to drop some bombs with; then the
23 artilleries, or the 155 shooting; then, yeah, the
24 Apaches----

25 **LtGen Natonski:** You wouldn't launch any helicopters up the
26 valley while Artillery was firing would you?

Papa 27 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6)**:** No, because that is right in the gun-target line.

28 **LtGen Natonski:** So it wouldn't be out of the ordinary to
29 hold the Apaches while artillery conditions were in
30 effect.

Papa 31 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6)**:** If the guns were actually firing, the birds
32 wouldn't fly up there. It is right in the gun-target
33 line. Now, whether you----

34 **LtGen Natonski:** But they would always hold until the mission
35 was done, and then they would be launched out?

Papa 1 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Oh yeah. Roger, sir. And whether you want it
2 CCA or 155s, I mean, maybe you don't shoot that
3 mission, you send the METT-T.

Beta 4 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Your replacement was in; what were you doing with
5 him?

Papa 6 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Left seat/right seat ride, sir. I mean, going
7 down, basically, a day to--trying to help him get set
8 up to integrate his guys as far as barracks space----

Sigma **LTC** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you sign for gear that you had to transfer to the
10 other unit?

Papa 11 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. Roger, sir. I mean everything that was on
12 the TPE books they were going to sign for. So, me and
13 him went through--he conducted the SI inventory; at
14 least the initial one until the Company Commander got
15 there so he knew where everything was and could work
16 with his Company Commander to sign the books.

Beta 17 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you go on a circulation with him at all?

Papa 18 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Roger, sir. We went out to Michigan. We didn't
19 go up to Bella--I don't think--to look at that stuff
20 because it was going to be coming back. But we went
21 out to Michigan, that stuff and then everything at
22 Blessing.

Beta 23 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Do you recall the timeframe that you went out on
24 that circulation with him in relation to Operation
25 Rock Move?

Papa 26 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Uh, a week or two before. He was there quite a
27 bit before the rest of his company. I can't remember
28 exactly how long it was, but it was a couple weeks.

Beta 29 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): The entire time of Rock Move, were you on
30 Blessing?

Papa 31 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. Roger, sir.

32 **LtGen Natonski:** Just one last question on the water. You
Yankee 33 mentioned that Sergeant First Class (b)(3)(b)(6) was the
34 conduit for status of supplies at Wanat. And it was
35 either you or the RTO that would take the incoming
36 calls. Could the RTO have gotten a call from Sergeant
Yankee 37 First Class (b)(3)(b)(6) that they were black for water and
38 not passed it to you?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): I would say it's unlikely, sir. I guess it is possible.

LtGen Natonski: But you knew they were short of water. Did you know they were black for water?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): I never got a report that they were black for water, sir.

LtGen Natonski: If you had gotten a black for water, would that have increased your urgency to go to Battalion and say; hey, sortie some aircraft now. They need the water?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yeah. I mean I would go to Battalion and say they're black. They're not red. They're black for water.

LtGen Natonski: But you never got that?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Not that I recall, sir.

Papa LtGen Natonski: Okay. Captain (b)(3)(b)(6), you are ordered not to discuss the testimony you provided today with anyone other than the members of the investigation team. You will not allow any witness in this investigation to talk to you about the testimony he has given or which he intends to give. If anyone should try to influence your testimony or try to discuss your testimony, you are instructed to notify Lieutenant Colonel (b)(3)(b)(6) and Lieutenant Colonel (b)(3)(b)(6)

Beta Sigma

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

LtGen Natonski: I just want to thank you for your service to our country, to the Army, and wish you luck. What's your next assignment? Do you know?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): I am going to the Q course, sir.

LtGen Natonski: That's what you are doing now isn't it?

Papa CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): No. I am at the Captains' Career Course. I have to do this before----

Sigma LTC (b)(3)(b)(6): Special Forces.

LtGen Natonski: Oh. You are going to Special Forces. Well, good luck to you.

[The investigation closed at 1410, 29 October 2009.]

CERTIFICATION OF VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT

Papa

Subj: TESTIMONY OF CAPTAIN (b)(3)(b)(6), USA, GIVEN ON 29 OCTOBER 2009, AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

In accordance with section 0214 of JAGINST 5800.7E, I certify that the subject transcript is an accurate verbatim transcript.

(b)(3)(b)(6) Sigma

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Judge Advocate

17 NOV 09
DATE