

SWORN STATEMENT

My name is Captain Brown (b)(3), (b)(6). I am currently enrolled in the Captains Career Course, Fort Benning, Georgia and my occupation field is infantry.

In July 2008, I was assigned to 2nd Bn, 503d Airborne Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade at FOB Blessing, Afghanistan. I served as the battalion S-4. My duties consisted of maintaining the maintenance and logistical resupplies of all the companies in the battalion's area of operations. I worked closely with the forward support company and the line company executive officers. If a company needed supplies, they would submit a request through me. Each (b)(2)High the battalion executive officer would attend our logistics update meeting. Executive officers from the companies would attend the meetings via electronic means. We would forecast requirements up to (b)(2)High hours out and attempt to coordinate transportation of the supplies via (b)(2)High (b)(2)High in the area or (b)(2)High passing through. If critical shortages were identified, the battalion executive officer would adjust movement priorities to alleviate the critical shortages.

Prior to Operation Rock Move, the Chosen Company executive officer submitted a request for the supplies that would be required to establish a COP at Wanat. Prior to submitting the request, the company executive officer consulted with the battalion engineer. Once the battalion received the request for supplies, I did not analyze the request for sufficiency, but rather began working the sourcing solutions for the requested items. Prior to the start of Operation Rock Move, we had the requested supplies prepositioned at FOB Blessing that were rigged and ready for delivery (b)(2)High

I was unaware of any shortages of supplies from the platoon at Wanat. I reviewed the logistics statistics for 2-503d on a daily basis and would have known if a unit submitted reports indicating they were short on supplies. I am not aware of requests for additional water, concertina wire or other supplies from the platoon at Wanat. We maintained a significant level of supplies at COP Blessing that could have been sent to Wanat had we received a request.

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The battalion dedicated our re-supply aircraft to conduct Operation Rock Move. These aircraft were not connected to the relief-in-place (RIP) that was occurring in our AO. We were able to task additional aviation assets to support the movement of Class IV supplies, equipment, and ammunition to Wanat.

I first learned of a possible COP at Wanat while I was serving as the Chosen Company executive officer. Later as the S-4, I saw plans for a new COP. I believe the company sent patrols from 2d platoon to look for land in the vicinity of Wanat. I recall having discussions with the battalion executive officer regarding preliminary plans for construction. We intended for the perimeter wall to be a stone wall. We submitted our funding request for the new COP to the Joint Facilities Utilization Board (JFUB). I believe our request for a stone wall was initially disapproved and then approved for a (b)(2)High barrier. However, the battalion commander insisted on a stone wall. The contract for the stonewall was later re-submitted and approved

For any long term projects, we would submit a contracting request (b)(2)High in advance of the project. I attended a brigade resource meeting (b)(2)High where the brigade would list the progress status on the status of submitted contracts and their approval. Prior to Operation Rock Move, I received confirmation that the contract for heavy equipment had been approved and was to be executed. The contracted equipment was supposed to arrive in Wanat at some point around 9 July 2008. We experienced difficulties with the contractors not wanting to go into the Wanat area.

I went to Wanat two times prior to the move. The second trip we took was a week prior to the move. During this trip, we conducted our final assessment. We had a small shura and spoke with the local elders for a final time. I looked around the area to determine what might be needed on the ground. Once we returned from our final assessment, we submitted contracting plans to the brigade. The brigade would send some of the plans back to us with changes and recommendations they had. There were blueprints for a tower and a wall, which were developed by brigade engineering.

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Operation Rock Move was initially planned for May or June 2008. To clarify my interview, the dates moved several times due to some operational issues that I was unaware of.

The S-4 started planning for our RIP during January, 2008. By the time Operation Rock Move started, the RIP was underway. Non-essential equipment and individual property were already transported. As 2-503d was the last unit in the brigade to RIP, our focus was on Operation Rock Move.

AFFIDAVIT

Brown

I, (b)(3), (b)(6) HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATEMENT WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 1 AND ENDS ON PAGE 3. I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF THE ENTIRE STATEMENT MADE BY ME. THE STATEMENT IS TRUE. I HAVE INITIALED ALL CORRECTIONS AND HAVE INITIALED THE BOTTOM OF EACH PAGE CONTAINING THE STATEMENT. I HAVE MADE THIS STATEMENT FREELY WITHOUT HOPE OF BENEFIT OR REWARD, WITHOUT THREAT OF PUNISHMENT, AND WITHOUT COERCION, UNLAWFUL INFLUENCE, OR UNLAWFUL INDUCEMENT.

(b)(3), (b)(6)
(Signature of Person Making Statement)

Brown

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 20th day of October 2007 at Ft. Benning Ga

WITNESSES:

(b)(6)

(b)(3), (b)(6)
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

(b)(6)
(Signature of Person Administering Oath)

(b)(6)
(Typed Name of Person Administering Oath)

Judge Advocate
(Authority To Administer Oaths)

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (b)(3), (b)(6) Brown