

1 [The testimony began at 1655, 15 October 2009.]

2 **LtGen Natonski:** I'm Lieutenant General Richard F. Natonski,
3 United States Marine Corps. I have been appointed by
4 the commander of U.S. Central Command to conduct an
5 investigation into the facts and circumstances
6 surrounding the combat action at Wanat, Afghanistan
7 during July 2008. Major General David Perkins, United
8 States Army, has been assigned as the deputy
9 investigating officer. Lieutenant Colonel (b)(3)(b)(6) **Beta**
10 and Lieutenant Colonel (b)(3)(b)(6) are judge **Sigma**
11 advocates assigned to the investigation team.

12 The testimony you provide today will be recorded,
13 transcribed, and included in our report of the
14 investigation. Based on your testimony, we may also
15 prepare a separate written statement for your review
16 and signature.

17 Prior to coming on the record today, you signed a
18 Privacy Act Statement; is that correct?

Silver 19 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

20 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. Your testimony will be made under
21 oath. You will now be sworn.

22 [The witness was sworn.]

Beta 23 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Please state your full name, spelling your last?

Silver 24 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Captain (b)(3)(b)(6), last name is spelled (b)(3)(b)(6) **Silver**
25 (b)(3)(b)(6).

Beta 26 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): What is your current unit and that unit's
27 location?

Silver 28 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I'm currently BCO, 2/503rd Company Commander,
29 located here on Caserma, Italy.

Beta 30 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And you are currently a Captain in the U.S. Army?

Silver 31 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta 32 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And in July of 2008, what was your rank and duty
33 assignment?

Silver 1 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : I was a Captain assigned to 2/503rd as the
2 Assistant Operations Officer.

Beta 3 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : And what is your occupation field?

Silver 4 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Infantry, sir.

Beta 5 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : And in July of 2008--when did you come to the
6 2/503rd?

Silver 7 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : I arrived to the 2/503rd in March of 2008 and
8 instantly assumed duties as the Assistant Operations
9 Officer. I arrived late. I was originally assigned
10 to Fort Polk, Louisiana where I served as an
11 observer/controller for seven months before being told
12 that the 173rd was looking for career course qualified
13 Captains. I put my name in to go. I was selected by
14 Colonel (b)(3)(b)(6) who was the DCOG of JRTC at the time and
15 I arrived to Caserma, Italy on February and I was
16 deployed in March and arrived to Camp Blessing,
17 Afghanistan around March time frame.

Beta 18 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Of 2008?

Silver 19 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : 2008, yes, sir.

Beta 20 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : What were your duties inside the S3 shop?

Silver 21 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : I was responsible for current and future
22 operations, all battalion CONOPs that occurred from
23 March to August were--I was responsible for planning
24 and coordinating any of the air assets that were
25 required for them, sir.

Beta 26 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : And how many operations or CONOPs did you prepare
27 during your time?

Silver 28 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : I prepared five CONOPs while I was there, sir.

Beta 29 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Do you recall any particular CONOP's names?

Silver 30 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : The first one was Operation Rock Thrust which
31 occurred in April. We then did Operation Rock Nitro
32 in the Korengal Valley and we did Operation Rock
33 Penetrator which occurred in the May time frame. And

1 I cannot recall what the last one was, sir. I'm
2 sorry. It was Rock Security which we did in June.

Beta 3 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Do you remember Rock Move?

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

Beta 5 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Do you recall what that was?

Silver 6 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): We were closing Bella down and we were
7 establishing a patrol base at Wanat which was located
8 in the Waygal Valley. I coordinated for the air
9 assets to move the equipment and Soldiers from Bella
10 to Wanat and Camp Blessing in order to close Bella
11 down and establish Wanat and then move equipment and
12 other PAX into Camp Blessing.

Beta 13 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): When you say you coordinated the air, what does
14 that mean?

Silver 15 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I worked with the 101st, Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) -- he
16 was the liaison I worked with to----

Beta 17 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Was he on your battalion staff?

Silver 18 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): He was a part of the 101st, sir. He was an
19 aviator. He was basically the assistant S3 on their
20 side, the Assistant Operations Officer similar to my
21 job. We worked hand in hand to coordinate how many
22 CH47's it would take to move the equipment, how many
23 turns, we also coordinated the air assets, the CCA
24 that would be on station to support the move, and we
25 worked out the timeline, and basically built the slide
26 decks that were briefed to Colonel (b)(3)(b)(6) and (b)(2)High
27 (b)(2)High at the time, sir. **Delta**

Beta 28 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): How do you determine the number of aircraft
29 needed to do a move?

Silver 30 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): We worked with--I can't recall his name from--
31 one of the sergeants from Chosen Company who was at
32 Bella told us what he needed to sling out of Bella
33 into Wanat and then into Camp Blessing and I also
34 worked with Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) who was the Chosen Company **Oscar**
35 Commander at the time. I had figured out how many

1 CH47's it would take to do it at one time. We were
2 told that we would only be able to get two CH47's, so
3 I worked out the math and the sling loads between
4 myself, Staff Sergeant (b)(3)(b)(6) Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) and Oscar
5 the sergeant that was located at Bella on how many
6 turns it would take of two CH47's to sling both
7 equipment out and PAX.

Beta 8 LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): So the amount of material and personnel you had
9 to move, that requirement came up to you from the
10 company?

Silver 11 CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta 12 LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): And you were told you would have two CH47's for
13 what period of time?

Silver 14 CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): We were told that we would have them for one
15 night. They didn't want to go through the Waygal
16 Valley during the daytime because they had been shot
17 at a few times before so they wouldn't go without AH64
18 support. So we agreed we could do it at night and it
19 would take--I can't remember the number of turns two
20 CH47's to move all that equipment out in one night and
21 close Bella down and establish Wanat.

Beta 22 LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): So when you were planning, you were planning to
23 do in a single night the movement of all assets out of
24 Bella--was that the Bella to Wanat or Bella to
25 Blessing piece?

Silver 26 CPT (b)(3)(b)(6): It was simultaneous, sir. We were simultaneously
27 moving equipment out of Bella into Wanat and we were
28 moving PAX out of Bella into Wanat and we were moving
29 equipment from Bella to Camp Blessing at the same
30 time. So the helicopters would go to Bella and they
31 would move stuff into Wanat. They would go back up to
32 Bella. They would come back down to Camp Blessing and
33 drop equipment off and PAX and then go back up to
34 Bella until we had finally pulled everybody out.

Beta 35 LtCol (b)(3)(b)(6): Were you planning to move any personnel or
36 supplies or equipment from Blessing to Wanat?

Silver 1 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : No, sir, that was not in our plan.

Beta 2 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Do you recall what you were planning to move from
3 Bella down to Wanat?

Silver 4 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : I don't, sir. It was various equipment, ISU's,
5 MILVANS, nets containing ammo so we didn't have to do
6 ammo resupply, we could bring the ammo from Bella into
7 Wanat, any equipment that was related to a FOB was
8 pulled out of there.

Beta 9 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : And did you prepare--you said you prepared the
10 air portion of a CONOP or did you prepare the entire
11 CONOP that was briefed to----

Silver 12 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : I prepared the air portion of it and coordinated
13 with the 101st and their air assets.

Beta 14 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Who else in the S3 shop would put the CONOP
15 together?

Silver 16 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : This CONOP was air centric, sir, so I was the
17 main planner for it. I coordinated for the moving
18 pieces talking to our battalion S3 and then Captain
19 (b)(3)(b)(6) **Oscar**

Beta 20 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : So I've got a copy of--CONOP for Rock Move dated
21 8 to 10 July. Is this the product you put together?

Silver 22 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Can I flip through this?

Beta 23 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : You sure can.

Silver 24 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir. This is a combination of the S2 shop
25 providing the intel slides, the FECC-cell providing
26 the fire support slides and the 101st aviation
27 providing their slides and I put it all together and
28 made it into the presentation.

Beta 29 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : And then did you brief this particular CONOP
30 package to the 3 or to your Battalion Commander?

Silver 31 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : I briefed to the Battalion S3 and then the
32 Battalion Commander would brief a combination of
33 2/503rd Battalion Commander and Task Force Out Front's

1 Battalion Commander would do a code briefing to
2 **Delta** Colonel (b)(3)(b)(6) and (b)(2)High sir.

Beta 3 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): When you were trying to determine the number of
4 aircraft you needed or number of slings, did you just
5 tell Captain (b)(3)(b)(6), was that his name?

Silver 6 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : (b)(3)(b)(6)

Beta 7 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you tell him here's what I have to move, and
8 he would tell you this is the number of aircraft you
9 need or did you tell him I need X number of aircraft?

Silver 10 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : I would tell him how many aircraft I would need
11 and what I was moving.

Beta 12 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): How did you determine the number of aircraft you
13 needed?

Silver 14 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : It was--we wanted to do it in one--we didn't want
15 to do turns in and out of the valley to reduce the
16 risk to the aircraft, so I sat down with Sergeant
17 **Astro** (b)(3)(b)(6) who was basically my assistant. He was our
18 PZ controller. He ran our PZ on Camp Blessing.

Beta 19 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And what is PZ?

Silver 20 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Pick-up zone. And we worked together to figure
21 out how many aircraft it would take based on what the
22 company came back saying they had to move.

Beta 23 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Okay. There are a couple of slides in the CONOPs
24 that relate to aviation. If you could just stand up
25 and explain the slide. The Out Front task
26 organization slide to the best of your knowledge, did
27 that come to you from the 101st?

Silver 28 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir, this was provided by Captain (b)(3)(b)(6)--he
29 gave me his task-org slide and it basically was 2
30 AH64's to provide escort for the two CH47's and then
31 we had 2 UH60's that would lift the pathfinders out in
32 case an aircraft went down on stand-by. The main work
33 horses were the two CH47's for the Rock Move, sir.

Beta 1 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And those assets were going to be in direct
2 support of your Battalion?

Silver 3 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir, they were in direct support of 2/503rd.

Beta 4 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): We're now looking at 8 July, Chosen Movement
5 table. Could you explain please starting all the way
6 from the legend and down through the pick-up and----

Silver 7 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. This is actually one of the slides
8 that I built for the Rock Move. It was our--what we
9 call our "tadpole" diagram. It started off with your
10 air package which was given to me by the 101st. They
11 said they would give up two CH47's and two AH64's to
12 support the move. I then broke it down into the lift,
13 serial, and chalk for that CH47s. And then the PZ,
14 which was the pick-up zone, so the PZ being Bella for
15 first lift, serial 1, chalk 1. The time they were
16 leaving was 1545Zulu. (b)(2)High

(b)(2)High And this would be the CH47 and below I
17 would put, it would be carrying three slings, what the
18 slings would have--in this particular diagram it was
19 electrical equipment, CHUS, A-BAGS, and a thousand
20 pounds of--and then the weight was below it, so a
21 thousand pounds and then 2500 pounds. And then
22 following along the diagram, we go to the LZ which was
23 a landing zone which would be Camp Blessing. And 10
24 PAX would be on this bird and they would be getting
25 off at Camp Blessing and these slings would be dropped
26 at Camp Blessing.
27

Beta 28 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): The picture of a CH47 here, does that represent
29 one aircraft?

Silver 30 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. One CH47 is what lift 1, serial 1,
31 chalk 1 was. And on this particular bird, we had 10
32 PAX which we annotated as being dropped off at Camp
33 Blessing and then the time, 1600zulu was the time that
34 the bird would touch down at Camp Blessing so it was
35 approximately a 15-minute flight from Bella to Camp
36 Blessing. As you continue down, we go to lift 1,
37 serial 1, chalk 2. This would be the second bird that
38 was in the chalk also leaving from Bella. This bird

1 leaving at 1605, one CH47 with three slings, the SPOP
2 which they used for their communications, more
3 electrical equipment, and then the total weight was
4 6000 pounds. And the P--the LZ, the landing zone, for
5 this bird was also Camp Blessing, arriving at
6 approximately 1620Zulu. If we continue down, this is
7 lift 2. It's the same two birds, but they're going
8 back up to Bella. So we had two birds come out of
9 Bella and then those same two birds landed at
10 Blessing. From Blessing, they went back up to Bella.
11 That's why it's lift 2, serial 1, chalk 1, pick-up
12 zone being Bella, arriving at Bella's PZ at
13 approximately 1620Zulu. One CH47 was carrying a
14 generator and a silver bullet which is--I can't recall
15 what the silver bullet was. And that CH47 landing
16 zone was Blessing--arriving at Blessing at
17 approximately 1635Zulu. The second bird in that
18 chalk--in that serial, lift 2, serial 1, chalk 2,
19 pick-up zone was Bella landing at 1635Zulu. There was
20 one CH47 with three slings, 120 millimeter ammo, and
21 weighing approximately 4000 pounds, 2000 pounds and
22 then 2000 pounds per sling. And that bird was coming
23 into landing zone Camp Blessing at approximately
24 1650Zulu.

Beta 25 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Now you said 8 July p.m. So the local time when
26 the sun went down on the 8th, you started this air
27 movement out of Bella?

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

Beta 29 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): We're now looking at 9 July in the morning. So
30 at some point after midnight on the 9th of July, this
31 was your air movement into Wanat?

Silver 32 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta 33 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Can you explain this please?

Silver 34 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. Starting at the top, the legend, for
35 this air package, we were given two CH47's and two
36 AH64's. It consisted of three lifts for this
37 particular operation. Lift 1 consisted of two CH47's

1 broken down into chalk 1, which was one CH47 and chalk
2 2 was the second CH47. The pick-up zone being Camp
3 Blessing, the time was to be determined. We hadn't
4 worked that out yet. The first bird would pick up
5 ANA, 15 PAX, the Chosen 2/6 element which was Chosen
6 second platoon, 14 PAX, the 120 millimeter mortar tube
7 from Camp Blessing and it would be going to the
8 landing zone which was Wanat and a total of 29 PAX
9 would be landing at Wanat. The second bird, lift 1,
10 chalk 2 also landing at the pick-up zone of Blessing
11 was one CH47 with three slings. It contained HESCO's
12 wires, and pickets for defensive measures. This first
13 sling was 4000 pounds. The second one 2000 and the
14 third one 2000, and they would be going to the landing
15 zone of Wanat to drop that equipment off. The second
16 lift consisting of two CH47's, the first chalk coming
17 out of the pick-up zone of Camp Blessing, one CH47 was
18 slinging a Bobcat in order to fill the HESCO's and six
19 engineer PAX to run the Bobcat and they would be going
20 to the landing zone of Wanat. Again, lift 2, chalk 2,
21 the second CH47 would be slinging a quadcon with 6
22 engineer PAX and then landing at Wanat, the landing
23 zone with a total of ten PAX. Lift 3, which was one
24 CH47 in order to complete this mission was two slings
25 with class IV, one weighing 4000 and the other also
26 weighing 4000 landing zone being at Wanat. I noted
27 down here at the bottom that this was going to be five
28 turns of one CH47 from Blessing to Wanat. So the
29 CH47's were--they weren't simultaneous, they were
30 sequential as they moved out of Blessing up to Wanat.

Beta 31 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): So at the landing zone at Wanat, an aircraft
32 should have sat down five times?

Silver 33 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta 34 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): To the best of your knowledge, did the aircraft
35 get in five times?

Silver 36 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. We had no incidents with small arms
37 fire during this operation--during the air movement to
38 move the PAX in.

Beta 1 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And on the 9th of July, did you receive any
2 reports that any of the equipment that was supposed to
3 have been moved up wasn't moved up?

Silver 4 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, sir.

Beta 5 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): On the slings, let's say for the lift 1, chalk 2,
6 it has HESCO's 4000 pounds. Who determined the number
7 of HESCO's that would go up there?

Silver 8 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): That was determined from the company on what they
9 would need and then our S4 determined--they--this is
10 how many HESCO's they're carrying, this is the
11 approximate weight. He gave them an approximate
12 weight that was 4000 pounds.

Beta 13 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): So the company would say I needed--I need 20
14 HESCO's?

Silver 15 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. I'm not sure how many they told us.
16 We just--they said they needed HESCO's and we pushed
17 them up there.

Beta 18 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And then the wire, by "wire," I'm assuming you
19 mean concertina wire?

Silver 20 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir, concertina wire.

Beta 21 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And that was a requirement that came up from the
22 company?

Silver 23 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta 24 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And then the same with the pickets?

Silver 25 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta 26 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And some of the amount of Class IV that was going
27 up there was all based on a company requirement?

Silver 28 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Roger, sir. It was all to support building up
29 defensive positions up there.

Beta 30 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And your role was to facilitate meeting their
31 requirement?

Silver 1 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir.

Beta 2 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Did you look at their requirements and provide
3 any analysis, or was that not your role?

Silver 4 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : I didn't provide analysis, sir. They told me
5 what they needed. A lot of the Class IV requests went
6 through the S4 and he would come to me and say this is
7 what they're going to have on these slings and this is
8 what the approximate weight's going to be. I did not
9 sit down and analyze what the commander's requirements
10 were going to be up there.

Beta 11 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : After the 9th, were you ever approached about
12 having additional lifts into Wanat?

Silver 13 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : I don't recall, sir, being approached for
14 additional lifts.

Beta 15 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Do you recall any aircraft going to Wanat with
16 resupply after the 9th?

Silver 17 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir, there were aircraft going in with
18 resupply.

Beta 19 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Was that part of a normal resupply?

Silver 20 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : No, sir.

Beta 21 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Do you recall what was on those aircraft and--

Silver 22 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Some of it was ammo and some of it was water and
23 food.

Beta 24 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : And how did those aircraft come to be, I mean,
25 the resupply aspect?

Silver 26 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : It was--I would call Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) or the
27 operations of the 101st and ask if we could get some
28 aircrafts either a Pesh resupply which would come in
29 to Camp Blessing if they could go to Wanat.

Beta 30 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6) : And that's the resupply package that comes with
31 two 47's and some AH?

Silver 32 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir.

Beta 1 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): At some point after the 9th, is it fair to say
2 that a requirement came up from the company for a
3 resupply?

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

Beta 5 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And then would the S4 come to you, or how would
6 you get that information that aircraft were needed?

Silver 7 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I would usually get it via Major (b)(3)(b)(6) via **Gray**
8 Battalion S3 who would tell me this is what they need
9 or it would be a phone call from the Chosen TOC which
10 was located at Chosen CP which was located on Camp
11 Blessing saying, hey, we need this stuff up at Wanat.
12 When can you guys get an aircraft or when can you get
13 an aircraft up there?

Beta 14 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And were you able to get the aircraft to move the
15 supplies they requested?

Silver 16 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): It was fairly difficult, sir. In July we were--
17 1-26 was coming into the AO so a lot of the air assets
18 were in direct support of them to get their Soldiers
19 into the AO and then we were also pulling our Soldiers
20 out. So it was hard to get aircraft cut directly for
21 this to support it.

Beta 22 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Were you working the aircraft bit to get the
23 Soldiers in and out?

Silver 24 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta 25 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): How much----

Silver 26 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Actually, sir, for the redeployment, Captain
27 **Gold** (b)(3)(b)(6) he was working in the 3-shop as well. He
28 became the redeployment project officer while I
29 continued to work--basically this was my last
30 operation.

Beta 31 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): With regard to your operation and his operation?
32 Were you competing for the same assets?

Silver 33 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir, it was difficult.

Beta 1 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Was there a priority assigned within the
2 battalion, like, if you needed an aircraft, did you
3 get it before the redeployment aircraft?

Silver 4 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Sir, the priority was deploying 1-26 into AO Rock
5 and redeploying our Soldiers out.

Beta 6 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And so the RIP/TOA?

Silver 7 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): The RIP/TOA was given the priority.

Beta 8 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And that was within the battalion?

Silver 9 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir, that was from the battalion.

Beta 10 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): So would you have to--you said it was difficult.
11 Would you have to fight to get aircraft to move the
12 resupply up?

Silver 13 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. I would have to coordinate it through
14 a Pesh resupply or Sergeant (b)(3)(b)(6) knew some of the **Astro**
15 pilots and he--as 1-26 was coming in and getting off
16 the bird we could say, hey, we got to get some water
17 or we got to get some ammo up there, can you guys fly
18 it up there because it's only about a five minute
19 flight from Blessing into Wanat. And they pilot would
20 say, yeah, roger, we got the support. We got AH64's.
21 We can do that.

Beta 22 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Were you ever aware of any critical shortage of
23 supplies up at Wanat?

Silver 24 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): There was a critical water shortage at Wanat,
25 sir.

Beta 26 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And when did you hear of that, the best you can
27 recall.

Silver 28 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): The best of my knowledge, sir, I heard about it
29 around July 13th that they were short on water up
30 there, sir.

Beta 31 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Was it before or after the battle?

Silver 32 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): It was after the battle.

Beta 1 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): So before the battle you had not heard of them
2 being short on anything?

Silver 3 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, sir. The only thing I heard they were short
4 was the Bobcat was broken. It broke the same day they
5 tried to use it so they were down the Bobcat which was
6 used to fill the HESCO's so they were unable to fill
7 all the HESCO's for protection.

Beta 8 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): What actions did you have to take?

Silver 9 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): There was nothing that we could do. They had the
10 engineers up there that were trying to fix it and they
11 couldn't fix it.

Beta 12 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Were you asked to move any parts or equipment up
13 to help them?

Silver 14 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, sir.

Beta 15 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): On that water resupply, what action did you take?

Silver 16 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): After the battle, sir?

Beta 17 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Correct. The battle took place on the 13th --

Silver 18 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta 19 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): So your understanding there was not one before
20 hand, no request for water?

Silver 21 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, sir. We had not received a request for water
22 prior to that, sir.

Beta 23 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): How would you have known----

Silver 24 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I would have found out either from Major (b)(3)(b)(6) or **Gray**
25 the Chosen CP would have called us and told us.

Beta 26 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Would they have you or would they have told the
27 S4?

Silver 28 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): They probably would have told--they would have
29 told the S4. He would have been able to get water for
30 them.

Beta 1 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): When were you first assigned to start working
2 this CONOP?

Silver 3 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Sir, I believe I started working this CONOP in
4 June. We completed Rock Security in June and when
5 that was over, I got wind of the Rock Move CONOP and
6 that's when I started working the assets. It wasn't
7 looked at as a tactical CONOP. It was more of a
8 logistical, we're closing Bella down, we're moving to
9 Wanat. It was a logistical CONOP.

Beta 10 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And what was your understanding of what was going
11 to take place at Wanat? What was going to happen at
12 Wanat?

Silver 13 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): We were going to establish a vehicle patrol base
14 at Wanat and that's really--that's all I knew about
15 it, sir.

Beta 16 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): What's a vehicle patrol base?

Silver 17 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): They had vehicles that they'd move into position
18 in a style similar to a light infantry patrol base.
19 There's just vehicles that have a 360 degrees security
20 perimeter around the Soldiers.

Beta 21 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Did you have an understanding of whether or not
22 there were plans to enhance that position?

Silver 23 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): As far as I understood, sir, there were plans to
24 make it a permanent structure, but there was a--there
25 was a land owner issue with the Wanat villagers on
26 trying to secure the land, so we had moved into a
27 temporary position first to work out the land
28 ownership. And then once we had gotten the land
29 ownership and worked it out with the villagers, we
30 were looking at permanent positions.

Beta 31 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): So to your understanding when you were working
32 the plan of the CONOPs, you were just moving personnel
33 and equipment up for a vehicle patrol base?

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

Beta 1 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): If you were--if you'd been assigned to establish
2 a COP, how would your planning have been different?

Silver 3 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): If I had been assigned that task, sir, there
4 would have been more logistical moves to reinforce the
5 HESCO's that were already up there to start
6 construction on living quarters for the Soldiers and
7 guard towers. So there would have been more of a
8 Class IV push than what we originally had.

Beta 9 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Would you have worked that, or would the S4?

Silver 10 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): The S4 would have worked resourcing the Class IV.
11 I would have worked the aircraft to move it out there,
12 sir.

Beta 13 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Lieutenant Colonel (b)(3)(b)(6) **Sigma**

Sigma 14 **LTC** (b)(3)(b)(6): So your understanding was that with respect to air
15 support, once the element was in place at Wanat, then
16 that was the end of this, what was covered by this
17 CONOP?

Silver 18 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Sigma 19 **LTC** (b)(3)(b)(6): So there was nothing beyond getting the PAX and the
20 equipment in there with the 47's that you have laid
21 out here----

Silver 22 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, sir. Once we had moved everyone out of Bella
23 and had established Wanat with what they needed which
24 came from the company, then the CONOP was over. There
25 was no other coordination for aircraft unless they
26 came up with any more requirements, sir.

Sigma 27 **LTC** (b)(3)(b)(6): And had you in the past been part of a CONOP for
28 setting up any type of a similar type position or was
29 this something that was kind of--something you had not
30 done before?

Silver 31 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): This was not something we'd done before, sir.
32 All of our CONOPs were offensive in nature. This was
33 the first CONOP with intent to establish a vehicle
34 patrol base.

Sigma 1 **LTC** (b)(3)(b)(6) Okay. So resupply after they were set in place at
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Silver **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : In this particular case, sir, because they were
up there. They weren't part of a resupply route.

Sigma **LTC** (b)(3)(b)(6) Right.

Silver **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : They would call our TOC, the battalion TOC with
whatever requirements they need. It was the S4 who
would resource and I would work to get aircraft up
there.

Sigma **LTC** (b)(3)(b)(6) And it was just kind of ad hoc to try to utilize the
(b)(2)High route?

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

Sigma **LTC** (b)(3)(b)(6) Okay.

Silver **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : The worst case scenario or the second course of
action would be to coordinate for trucks to move up
along the route.

Sigma **LTC** (b)(3)(b)(6) But that was probably an S4 function, or did you get
involved in the ground resupply at all?

Silver **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : I wasn't involved in ground resupply.

Sigma **LTC** (b)(3)(b)(6) Was there any type of a battalion SOP for emergency
resupply? In other words, troops in contact they need
ammo and they need----

Silver **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir. All the companies had what we call
"speed balls" which are basically body bags filled
with either--they were filled with ammo or water and
each company had them. They were located on the
various FOBS and COPS that we had throughout AO Rock.
So if aircraft were available, they could come in,
pick up the speed ball, and could get kicked out to
the company as an emergency resupply.

Sigma 1 **LTC** (b)(3)(b)(6): Do you remember if there was any discussion during the
2 planning of Rock Move with regard to emergency
3 resupply?

Silver 4 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): There wasn't any discussion, sir. It was an SOP.
5 We knew we had them on hand if we had to use them.

Sigma 6 **LTC** (b)(3)(b)(6): And there wasn't a Rock drill or a combined arms
7 rehearsal or anything for this particular operation
8 that you remember?

Silver 9 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, sir.

Sigma 10 **LTC** (b)(3)(b)(6): Okay. I think that's it, sir.

11 **LtGen Natonski:** The CONOPs covers a period 8 to 10 July
12 which is the period to set up the base?

Silver 13 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

14 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. You talk about a vehicle patrol base.
15 If you look through that OORDER, the intent is to
16 establish a COP. I think I saw one reference to a
17 vehicle patrol base in there but if you look at the
18 intent page, about the mission, the intent.

Silver 19 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. I see establish COP Wanat.

20 **LtGen Natonski:** Yes.

Silver 21 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): OP's, fighting positions, forward protection
22 walls and bunkers.

23 **LtGen Natonski:** Which lends a little more permanence in my
24 mind than just a vehicle patrol base if you're
25 bringing in HESCO's and it was also scheduled as--not
26 part of that but an Afghan construction company to
27 come in. But your understanding, it was a vehicle
28 patrol base?

Silver 29 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. I was under the impression it was
30 going to be temporary because of these land issues
31 they were working out with the villagers.

32 **LtGen Natonski:** Why would it be temporary if they're leaving
33 in two weeks?

Silver 1 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : We were still working with 1-26, sir, on whether
2 they were going to take over Wanat when we were
3 originally set in. We weren't sure if they were going
4 to fall in on COP--or what was going to be COP Wanat,
5 so we originally went up to establish a temporary
6 vehicle patrol base until more equipment could be
7 coming in, like as you said, the Afghan construction
8 company. We were still working, the S4 and
9 contracting officer, were working the contracting
10 issues with them and Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) was working the land
11 owner issues with the Wanat villagers, sir. **Oscar**

12 **LtGen Natonski:** I thought those had been solved. Otherwise,
13 you wouldn't have been in there in the first place?

Silver 14 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : I--the impression I was under was that they were
15 still working through those issues, sir.

16 **LtGen Natonski:** See, what you're bringing up to me makes no
17 sense at all. If you're in the middle of a RIP and
18 you're going up there, you don't know the next unit
19 isn't coming, and you're putting all these Soldiers up
20 there for a week and then you're moving all of this
21 stuff up there with these airlifts. Did you have a
22 full understanding of what was going on there?

Silver 23 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Sir, I didn't have a full understanding. I knew--
24 ---

25 **LtGen Natonski:** Whose decision was it to move up there? Was
26 it the brigade? Was it the battalion?

Silver 27 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : I recall it was at the brigade level, sir.

28 **LtGen Natonski:** Brigade directed you to establish a COP?

Silver 29 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir. We were going to move in and establish
30 a COP on that area.

31 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. And this CONOP was briefed by the
32 battalion to the brigade and ultimately I guess to the
33 division?

Silver 34 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir. All CONOPs were briefed up to
35 division, sir.

1 **LtGen Natonski:** The AH64--when the 47 went up there, it had
2 an escort of an Apache.

Silver 3 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): What happened, sir, was the AH64 stayed in the
4 air both on the eastern and western side of the
5 valley. So as the CH47's came up, they were already
6 under----

7 **LtGen Natonski:** So they went up two 47's with an armed
8 escort?

Silver 9 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

10 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. So while one was landing, the other
11 one was holding somewhere?

Silver 12 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

13 **LtGen Natonski:** In the valley?

Silver 14 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): It was on the PZ. So as one came up off of--say
15 they start at Blessing, one went from Blessing to
16 Bella to pick up, as that one, as that aircraft on
17 Bella picked up, the CH47 on Blessing would pick up.

18 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. So it wasn't holding in the valley
19 while one was----

Silver 20 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, sir, they would pass each other.

21 **LtGen Natonski:** Yeah. Because it seems to me from a force
22 protection perspective just hovering in a valley while
23 you're waiting to land----

Silver 24 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, sir.

25 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. And the Apaches, one Apache is
26 assigned to each 47, or were they in a section of two?

Silver 27 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): They stayed in the air, sir, as protection. They
28 didn't move up and down with the CH47's. They stayed
29 in the air conducting reconnaissance----

30 **LtGen Natonski:** ISR?

Silver 31 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): ISR, nonstandard ISR.

1 **LtGen Natonski:** And were they ever used exclusively for ISR,
2 do you know? Did you ever schedule Apache's for ISR
3 if you didn't have a (b)(2)High? You say, hey, let's--I
4 need you to look up Waygal Valley----

Silver 5 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. We would use them in that role.

6 **LtGen Natonski:** Did you specifically task them or request
7 them for that?

Silver 8 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): It wasn't one of our taskings. On all of our
9 CONOPs, all CCA was tasked with non-standardized arms
10 in support of operations.

11 **LtGen Natonski:** Did you ever request them outside an
12 operation. Said, hey, we just lost (b)(2)High or we
13 need an (b)(2)High?

Silver 14 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. There were instances, not during this
15 move, but there were instances.

16 **LtGen Natonski:** Do you recall whether you asked for (b)(2)High
17 after Rock Move was complete in the neighborhood of
18 say 12 July?

Silver 19 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, sir, I don't recall that.

20 **LtGen Natonski:** And as you said, there was--after this move
21 had taken place, because that CONOP only covered those
22 three days. After that was done, it was by request
23 for resupply.

Silver 24 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. Once we got the equipment that the
25 company requested up there, the company was going
26 through filling HESCO's, putting out the concertina
27 wire, basically establishing a defensive position at
28 Wanat.

29 **LtGen Natonski:** And that was driven by SOP?

Silver 30 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. That was all at the Company Level.

31 **LtGen Natonski:** Because a CONOPs is pretty extensive in
32 terms of ISR, the intel, most likely, most dangerous.

1 But after the 10th, it kind of leaves you hanging.
2 That's where the SOP takes over----

Silver 3 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir. But the commander had his own
4 internal----

5 **LtGen Natonski:** How about CAS, if you needed CAS, what
6 happens by virtue of the SOP?

Silver 7 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : We had what was called a watchful eye, which CAS
8 would always be in the air. Not necessarily our AO --

9 **LtGen Natonski:** But it could be diverted?

Silver 10 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : It could be easily diverted if there are troops
11 in contact, yes, sir.

12 **LtGen Natonski:** And if you needed supply, you had the
13 mechanism to request for resupply?

Silver 14 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir.

15 **LtGen Natonski:** And MEDEVAC?

Silver 16 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : MEDEVAC was always on call. They--the 101st
17 always had UA60's that were solely designated to
18 MEDIVAC. So if there was a "troops in contact" or an
19 emergency, they would be on station, sir.

20 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. The timing of this, it was during a
21 RIP?

Silver 22 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir.

23 **LtGen Natonski:** And yet this was not the main effort, Rock
24 Move?

Silver 25 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : No, sir.

26 **LtGen Natonski:** The RIP was the main effort?

Silver 27 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir.

28 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. Who designated the main effort for--
29 was it the battalion that designated the RIP as the
30 main effort in terms of----

Silver 1 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : That was driven from brigade, sir.

2 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay.

Silver 3 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : It was RIP'ing the Soldiers out.

4 **LtGen Natonski:** Originally, were there more CH47 assets
5 available, or would there have been more if the
6 RIP/TOA wasn't going on? Were you competing for
7 assets because of the RIP/TOA?

Silver 8 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir.

9 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay.

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

11 **LtGen Natonski:** For the Rock Move itself or in subsequent
12 days when you----

Silver 13 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : We were competing for the Rock Move itself, sir,
14 because we were running into issues of the intricacies
15 of the aviation was crew rest, they had certain hours
16 that they didn't want to fly the hour before BMNT or
17 the hour before EENT because it was a safety risk
18 because they would have to shift down to NODS during
19 EENT or shift out of NODS for BMNT.

20 **LtGen Natonski:** They didn't want to fly an hour before those
21 or----

Silver 22 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir.

23 **LtGen Natonski:** So when was the most likely time of attacks
24 in your AO?

Silver 25 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Concerning aircrafts, sir, or just in general?

26 **LtGen Natonski:** Attacks on positions.

Silver 27 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Attacks on our positions, they would occur
28 usually at the BMNT or EEMT, sir.

29 **LtGen Natonski:** But the pilots didn't want to fly then?

Silver 30 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : No, sir. From my understanding talking with the
31 101st operation cell was the pilots that were flying

1 at night weren't geared to fly during the day. So if
2 they were flying into BMNT going into the day, it was
3 a safety hazard for the pilots. They would have to
4 return back to Jalalabad airfield.

5 **LtGen Natonski:** On the morning of the 13th, the attack
6 began, I think, at sometime after 0400 in the morning-
7 ---

Silver 8 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir.

9 **LtGen Natonski:** ----and (b)(2)High responded. Do you recall
10 the instance there?

Silver 11 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : I don't recall the exact time that (b)(2)High came
12 on station.

13 **LtGen Natonski:** Were they in a shift change at that time?

Silver 14 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : I don't believe they were in a shift change, sir.
15 I don't recall if they were in a shift change.

16 **LtGen Natonski:** When did the--I mean, we were talking the
17 beginning of morning, nautical twilight, I think,
18 which is, what you said, the night crews didn't want
19 to fly at that period.

Silver 20 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : No, sir. That was the support pilots--the CH47
21 pilots.

22 **LtGen Natonski:** Oh, okay.

Silver 23 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : But the AH64s were good about flying through. I
24 can't recall if we had--we didn't have 24 hour AH64s
25 flying over Wanat----

26 **LtGen Natonski:** No, but the change in lighting conditions
27 didn't affect (b)(2)High then?

Silver 28 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : No, sir.

29 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. So it wouldn't have had an influence
30 on their response since a lot of the attacks took
31 place right during the window when the CH47 pilots
32 didn't want to fly?

Silver 1 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : No, sir. As I recall and I didn't find out--I
2 kind of came into the TOC in the middle of the attack,
3 but they already had CCA on station.

4 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay.

Silver 5 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : And they were using it.

6 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. And as you said the main effort, you
7 believe, was directed in terms of aircraft to the
8 RIP/TOA and the aircraft were at the division level;
9 is that right?

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

11 **LtGen Natonski:** The aviation brigade?

Silver 12 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir.

13 **LtGen Natonski:** Not at the 173rd Airborne Brigade, they had--
14 ---

Silver 15 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : No, sir. We--as far as Brigade, I don't know if
16 they had direct support from aviation but at battalion
17 level, we definitely did not have our own aircraft we
18 could use.

19 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. And you don't--you think it might
20 have been brigade's decision to execute the Rock Move?

Silver 21 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir.

22 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. Not the battalion?

Silver 23 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : No, sir.

24 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. Thanks.

25 **MG Perkins:** As you were pointing out the CONOP, you may have
26 stated, is the amount of aircraft that you were
27 allocating, that you planned for, to your knowledge,
28 was adequate to move all the supplies that the company
29 had asked for?

Silver 30 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Sir, it wasn't adequate as I put it on the
31 diagrams. And the reason I did this is because I

1 wanted to show for instance on 9 July we had a CH47
2 going into the Waygal Valley for five turns which
3 increased the risk of the CH47 taking contact. And I
4 had originally tried to request four CH47s and was
5 told I could only get two. And that was due to a
6 series of issues both with the RIP/TOA and mechanical
7 issues with the CH47s themselves, sir. So, two CH47s
8 to answer your question was not adequate to conduct
9 this move.

10 **MG Perkins:** So when you get two on the 10th, this thing goes
11 through the 10th, once you executed all of the turns
12 of the aircraft that you were allocated, were there
13 still supplies that the company had asked for that had
14 not been moved there?

Silver 15 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : No, sir. To my knowledge the company had all the
16 supplies that we had--they had requested.

17 **MG Perkins:** Okay. So by the end--if we say the CONOP ended
18 on the 10th by the end of the CONOP, all of the
19 supplies that the company had asked for got moved to
20 Wanat, correct?

Silver 21 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir.

22 **MG Perkins:** Okay. You had heard discussions or it got to you
23 after the fight on the 13th of water problems. So
24 that would have been above and beyond what the company
25 asked for as well as what's in the normal supply?

Silver 26 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir.

27 **MG Perkins:** Had you heard about any other shortages,
28 concertina for instance?

Silver 29 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : I didn't hear about a concertina shortage.

30 **MG Perkins:** And as you stated, your understanding was that
31 initially this was going to be a vehicle patrol base,
32 maybe land discussions would continue, in your mind
33 was there going to be another series of resupplies
34 that continued to improve the position there?

Silver 1 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Based on my analysis at my level, sir, I had
2 anticipated a further push of HESCO's and as they got
3 their defensive posture stabilized and even further
4 pushed to start building B-huts and make it a
5 permanent area.

6 **MG Perkins:** Was that in the works after this completed on the
7 10th and now we're at the 11th or the 12th, was there
8 an ongoing planning process to push more supplies
9 there or get more aircraft, etcetera like that?

Silver 10 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : No, sir. After the 10th when we initially got
11 what the company wanted up there, there was no further
12 planning at my level to do any more coordination for--
13 --

14 **MG Perkins:** So at your level, you were not getting requests
15 from the company to start generating more aircraft?

Silver 16 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : No, sir.

17 **MG Perkins:** So as far as you were tracking, after the 10th
18 you had met all of the company's current needs at
19 Wanat?

Silver 20 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir.

21 **MG Perkins:** Was there an automated process or some kind of
22 process where logic report would come up every day
23 that you guys would track, you know, green, amber,
24 red, black, or all the classes of supplies?

Silver 25 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir. That was tracked by both the S4 and
26 the battalion XO, but I didn't see the --

27 **MG Perkins:** What was the method that that was done? Was
28 there some kind of log?

Silver 29 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir, there was a log-sync meeting daily for
30 the XO's to brief the Battalion XO on what their
31 supply requests were. I never sat in on them.

32 **MG Perkins:** Were there formatted forms, log reps that were
33 sent forward everyday that someone could kind of go

1 back there and where were those maintained in the S4
2 shop?

Silver 3 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir. They were maintained in the S4.

4 **MG Perkins:** Would you think any of that archived material
5 exists today and if so, where?

Silver 6 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : I don't know where that would be, sir, unless it
7 was on someone's external hard drive. We turned all
8 those in when we came back.

9 **MG Perkins:** But there was a form you could kind of go through
10 you know----

Silver 11 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir.

12 **MG Perkins:** Requests you can take a look and red, amber,
13 green or three cases of water or something like that?

Silver 14 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir.

15 **MG Perkins:** And there was a daily sync meeting----

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

17 **MG Perkins:** --of that? Were there any 3 reps in there or
18 was it mainly 4-centric?

Silver 19 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : It was 4-centric, sir.

20 **MG Perkins:** And then if the 4 sat down and they compiled all
21 of these requests and it appeared that they could not
22 fulfill them through normal supply procedures either
23 ground LOCs or the normal sort of ring route there,
24 would they then ever sort of generate a request to you
25 to the 3 shop saying look we need to put together a
26 supply package. We need to get helicopters, etcetera
27 like that?

Silver 28 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : There was never an instance where I was contacted
29 by Company XO. It would be the four or the Battalion
30 XO would come into my office and say--one instance we
31 had was Fortress was low on mortar rounds, 120-
32 millimeter mortar rounds, we got an emergency resupply
33 of ammo that came from Jaffe, we had helicopter,

1 fortunately, that could sling it in and got it into
2 Jaffe but that came from the 4 shop to me.

3 **MG Perkins:** Okay. Right. So the requirement came to you as
4 the Ops guy to coordinate to make this happen?

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

6 **MG Perkins:** But from your recollection from after the 10th,
7 the 4 shop never brought to you as the S3 guys any
8 additional requests for any kind of additional support
9 up at Wanat?

Silver 10 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Not that I can recall.

11 **MG Perkins:** Any classes of supply or barrier material,
12 concertina, or pickets or anything?

Silver 13 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Not that I can recall, sir.

14 **MG Perkins:** Do you know, obviously, after the 13th, sometime
15 after that, the decision was made to pull out of
16 Wanat. Were you part of any of those discussions or--
17 --

Silver 18 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir. I was responsible for coordinating the
19 aircraft and myself and the contracting OIC and the S4
20 worked together. We couldn't get everything out via
21 air. We didn't have the air assets. They were--like
22 I said, cut to the RIP/TOA. For that operation, we
23 had aircraft to move PAX out and certain items like
24 the Quadcon, the Bobcat, and the HMMWV that was
25 destroyed in the attack. Everything else was moved
26 via ground in what we call jingle trucks which were
27 run by the Afghans and the Rock Contracting Officer
28 coordinated for those and that was a ground movement
29 moving them out, moving that equipment out back down
30 to Camp Blessing, sir.

31 **MG Perkins:** Do you know who made the final decision to pull
32 out of Wanat?

Silver 33 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : That was the Battalion Commander, sir.

1 **MG Perkins:** Was he given any guidance from Brigade or
2 Division? Do you know?

Silver 3 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Not that I recall at my level, sir. I was told
4 to put together the plan, the timeline, and coordinate
5 for the assets to start pulling those guys out.

6 **MG Perkins:** Did you get involved at all in contracting or was
7 that an S4----

Silver 8 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): That was--we had a separate----

9 **MG Perkins:** ----contracting cell?

Silver 10 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): ----officer who worked--he worked in the S4's
11 office so they kind of worked hand in hand, but there
12 was a separate person, sir.

13 **MG Perkins:** But the 3-shop wasn't really involved in that
14 then?

Silver 15 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, sir.

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

Beta 17 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Who was the contracting OIC?

18 **MG Perkins:** The contracting OIC was Captain (b)(3)(b)(6), sir. **Copper**

Beta 19 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): In June, who in the 3-shop came to you and said
20 put a CONOP together?

Silver 21 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): That was Major (b)(3)(b)(6), sir. **Gray**

Beta 22 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): At the S3?

Silver 23 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Beta 24 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And the guidance he gave you was what?

Silver 25 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): He said we're going to move in. I need you to
26 work with Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) the Chosen Company Commander, **Oscar**
27 to close Bella down and then move them into Wanat.

Beta 28 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): What was the target date to start the operation?

Silver 29 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): I can't recall the exact target date, sir?

Beta 1 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): Do you remember--the CONOP you prepared was for 8
2 to 10 July, were you ever planning for it to go
3 sooner?

Silver 4 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): No, sir, we weren't planning for sooner. I don't
5 recall planning it for sooner. I know from 8 to 10
6 July as far as I remember is that's when we could get
7 these aircrafts. There was a lull in the RIP/TOA
8 where we could get these aircraft to support this move
9 between 8 and 10 July and that came from the 101st.
10 But they basically dictated to us, I can give you two
11 CH47s on these days, so I said okay, I'll work with
12 those dates to start this move.

Beta 13 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): So in mid June, you think you started this. Is
14 that when you first went to the 101st and said I'm
15 going to need aircraft?

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

Beta 17 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And they came back to you and said the first time
18 we can give you two CH47s is 8 to 10 July?

Silver 19 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir. There was a lot of back and forth
20 dates that shifted. I don't recall dates shifted.
21 They shifted with 101st, the RIP/TOA, and then Captain
22 (b)(3)(b)(6) and I--Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) came to me and said I got
23 two CH47's open on these dates.

Beta 24 **LtCol** (b)(3)(b)(6): And did those dates fit within the intent you'd
25 been given by Major (b)(3)(b)(6)? **Gray**

Silver 26 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): Yes, sir.

Sigma 27 **LTC** (b)(3)(b)(6): One quick. You said that the resupply was going to be
28 ad hoc to the guys at Wanat. Was that a function of
29 the location or did that have anything to do with the
30 RIP/TOA and the aircraft being otherwise occupied?

Silver 31 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6): It was actually driven by the company that was up
32 there, sir. Whenever they needed a resupply they
33 would contact the four or --

Sigma 34 **LTC** (b)(3)(b)(6): But I mean you said you guys kind of had to wicker
35 using the (b)(3)(b)(6), was that because of the

1 location at Wanat or had they stayed there longer
2 would they have been part of a normal resupply you
3 think?

Silver 4 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : They would have been part--they would have become
5 part of the normal resupply just because of their
6 close proximity to Camp Wilson, sir.

Sigma 7 **LTC** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Okay. Thanks.

8 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. Captain (b)(3)(b)(6) **Silver**
9 you are ordered
10 not to discuss the testimony you provided today with
11 anyone other than members of the investigation team.
12 You will not allow any witness in this investigation
13 to talk to you about the testimony he has given or
14 which he intends to give. If anyone should try to
15 influence your testimony or attempt to discuss your
16 testimony, you are instructed to notify Lieutenant
Beta Colonel (b)(3)(b)(6) or Lieutenant Colonel (b)(3)(b)(6) **Sigma**

17 Do you understand that?

Silver 18 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir.

19 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. I just want to thank you for your
20 service to our country, to the Army, thank you for
21 what you did on your last tour, and I guess you're now
22 getting ready to go back again?

Silver 23 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Yes, sir.

24 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay. Well good luck and stay safe.

Silver 25 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Thank you, sir.

26 **LtGen Natonski:** Hooah.

Silver 27 **CPT** (b)(3)(b)(6) : Thank you, sir.

28 [The testimony began at 1753, 15 October 2009.]

CERTIFICATION OF VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT

Subj: TESTIMONY OF CPT Silver (b)(3)(b)(6), USA, GIVEN ON
15 OCTOBER 2009, AT VICENZA, ITALY

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

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

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Judge Advocate

12 NOV 2009
DATE