

SWORN STATEMENT

X-Ray My name is [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6) My current unit is Charlie Company, 2/29 Infantry, 197th Brigade, Ft. Benning, GA. I am currently a Sergeant in the United States Army.

In July 2008, I was assigned to 2nd platoon, Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, Wanat, Afghanistan. I was assigned as the 2nd platoon radio telephone operator.

As the 2nd platoon RTO, I primarily traveled with 1LT Brostrom. Since the beginning of our deployment, we had been to Wanat on multiple dates prior to the establishment of the VPB. On the night of the 8th of July 2008, I went with the platoon to Wanat to establish a vehicle patrol base. I felt the situation in the area was shady, very unnerving, tense, and seemed like we were not welcomed by the locals. Physically, the area was normal. There were people moving around the bazaar, some individuals seemed intrigued and were curious what we were doing there. I treated our arrival in Wanat as a normal mission at this point and we were there to establish the base the best we could. Regardless of our pending RIP shortly after we set-up the VPB, complacency was never an issue during this mission. We maintained a high level of security and discipline.

1LT Brostrom and I went outside the wire on multiple occasions. I accompanied 1Lt Brostrom outside the wire when we went down to the ANP post to maintain good relations and to talk with the police chief regarding any criminal/enemy activity in the area. We also traveled to [redacted] (b)(6) house for two shuuras and to the OP on several occasions. After these patrols, 1Lt Brostrom reported to Company what had taken place during each patrol.

Prior to the battle we observed suspicious individuals around our position. We saw personnel moving along the mountain-side to the West observing our position, but could not identify them as hostile. There were also suspicious individuals in the bazaar area outside the perimeter to the East that were observing us. In my opinion, I believe these individuals were gathering intel on us. 1LT Brostrom and his interpreter tried to talk to the personnel that were observing our location, but we were unable gain any useful information from them. We also

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noticed a former Afghan Security Guard (ASG) that we worked with from Bella Outpost and were concerned why he was in Wanat. Again, we couldn't obtain any useful information from him. Regardless, the locals were able to observe most of what we were doing there on a daily basis.

Yankee

We frequently relayed these concerns to higher. 1Lt Brostrom or (b)(3), (b)(6), instead of me, reported this information directly to the command to avoid confusion in relaying communications. When 1LT Brostrom was relaying this information to higher, I was usually nearby. Since 1LT Brostrom often personally relayed important information to higher, I cannot say for certain what information was specifically relayed and when.

The COMS between Wanat and Bella was mostly relayed through the Chosen Company frequency due to the TACSAT at Bella having been broken down in order to conduct the RIP out of Bella. Upon our arrival at Wanat, we had two FM radios hooked up to a static HUMVEE antenna set up on Chosen Company and Battalion net. We also had a TACSAT antenna setup, as well as an internal communication system for the different positions at Wanat.

On the morning of 9 July, when we arrived at Wanat, we received a number of sling loads of supplies, but it was not as much as we had expected. A few days after we arrived in Wanat our water started running low so we prepared iodine water. We requested additional water supply, but it took a few days to arrive. We received a water resupply from the hi-lux trucks which was not enough and then received water when air resupply came a few days later.

X-Ray

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

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AFFIDAVIT

X-Ray

(b)(3), (b)(6) HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATEMENT WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 1 AND ENDS ON PAGE 2. 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

X-Ray

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

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 29 day of Oct 09 at Ft Benning, GA

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

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

Augustine M. Lopez
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1712 17th Ave SW
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X-Ray

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