

## SWORN STATEMENT

I am LtCol [redacted (b)(3), (b)(6), Zulu], USMC. I am an infantry officer with Marine Air Support Squadron 6, Chickapets Reserve Air Support Squadron, located.

On Jul 08, I was with Regional Corps Advisory Command (RCAC), East, located at Camp Blessing, Afghanistan with an Embedded Training Team (ETT). I was the OIC of ETT 5-3.

I arrived in Afghanistan on March 16, 2008 to be part of the RCAC at Camp Blessing. I had Marines at COP Michigan, COP Ablemain, COP Honacker Miracle, COP Vegas, COP Korengol, COP Vimoto, COP Bella. At Camp Blessing, ETT 5-3 was co-located with Headquarters for 2-503, and Chosen Company. I worked in the battalion command post at Camp Blessing.

I had been to various COPs in the Waygal Valley. The COP/base settings varied depending on the terrain. COP Bella was at the bottom of a ravine next to a river. The COP was embedded into the walls of the valley surrounded by Hesco and secured by OP's. The Army secured the west side OP and the ANA secured the east side OP along with my ETT's. COP Michigan like many COPs was a platoon-sized COP manned by an Army platoon and augmented by an ANA platoon and two ETT's to secure the mouth of the Korengal. Abelman was a larger COP and had 80 to 70 troops, which varied depending on the number of ANA. The ANA and Army was somewhat integrated. I had three ETT's there, a captain, a staff sergeant, and a corpsmen in addition to a motor platoon from the National Guard.

COP Bella was fortified by Hesco's, new brick and motor buildings, and sandbags. The LZ was tight on the river and required different flight routes in and out. They would come in sometimes from the north and sometimes from the south. COP Michigan had overhead protection and was all sandbagged with two layers of sandbags. ANA's were usually housed in wood huts. Michigan was fully Hesco'd 360 degrees around with 8x8's and 4x4's. There were sentry posts on top and various electronic listening devices and motion sensors.

The area of Wanat is a plateau surrounded by high ground. It is surrounded by a bazaar to the east, a hotel to the north next to the road, a mosque also to the north and buildings to the west. This layout is not uncommon for Afghanistan COP's. It is part of the counter-insurgency effort to be with the population and to build a COP within a village. The Wanat location was not the

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best tactical position, but to be in with the population without taking away the farmlands was the better option to utilize.

I know LTC (b)(3), (b)(6), Diamond wanted to make the move from Bella to Wanat during their rotation and not leave it for the next unit that was coming in. TF Rock knew the area, knew the situation, and had done the planning. They had everything in place to make the move happen prior to the RIP. Realistically there was a lot on their plate, but LTC (b)(3), (b)(6) did not want to leave this issue for the new battalion RIP'ing in because of the work and planning involved to do the mission later.

Diamond

The move from Bella to Wanat was a good course of action because the logistics or sustainment effort for Wanat would be much easier than sustaining Bella because by air and highlux. I didn't think Bella was sustainable. In addition, I think it was necessary to have a base there to have effects on the population there. I think Wanat was a suitable area. Bella was too far north with no tactical purpose what so ever.

In the planning phase around May-June, they started to plus up all class 5 items such as plywood, wood, generators, and water. All the construction material was staged at Camp Blessing because they wanted to get the material to Wanat and get the hesco's up and get immediate force protection as quick as possible to establish the COP at Wanat. The gear was to be ground transported or brought up by TT.

The CH-47's and Apaches would do scheduled logistics runs for water, food, necessities, ammo, every four days. These assets were being utilized but could be diverted at any time.

In addition, on 9 July, then Sgt (b)(3), (b)(6), Aqua and Cpl (b)(3), (b)(6), Burgundy brought 10 ANA soldiers down to Wanat. That evening and Cpl (b)(3), (b)(6), Elm brought about 14 more ANA soldiers.

Regarding the construction equipment, I was aware that Wanat was waiting for heavy equipment such as bulldozers and pay loaders and at that time, I was aware that a Bobcat was not able to fill the Hesco's. There were additional construction materials for Wanat staged at Blessing, but their delivery was delayed for some reason which I do not remember.

I was comfortable with the level of support that was planned to establish Wanat, from the planning fees, the hesco's, the water structure, the infrastructure and how they were going to support this and the reasons behind it. The plan was to get this base

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there, build roads to connect the local population and lines of communication, better fortification to show the Afghan that the central government has influence and can provide certain amenities to them to help them grow as a nation. The plan was solid in the planning process.

The planning for the move to Wanat had been ongoing since I arrived in Afghanistan. There were talks of moving from COP Bella to Wanat since May or June of 2008. I was not involved in all the planning for the move to Wanat, but was part of the plan because the ANA was providing security to the COP. LTC [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6), Diamond always ensured the ANA was part of planning COP Kahler. The planning for Wanat included where the structures were going to be for the ANA and where they were going to be at the site. I worked with CPT [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6), Saint as part of that planning process.

Although the battalion was due to rotate around July 30-31. I believe the battalion was fully focused on the move to Wanat and was not distracted with the RIP/TOA. I worked with the battalion 3, 3 Alpha and they were completely focused on the security up there. The RIP/TOA was going in phases and they were doing one COP at a time. They had eight other bases they were watching while the RIP/TOA was transpiring and other combat action in the AOR, but their eye was always on the mission.

After the attack on COP Bella on July 4, 2008 we closed Bella and moved to Wanat, the village people were upset as a result of the attack. I was not aware of any specific enemy activity, but heard intel of a pending attack. We heard threats of imminent attacks but it's the Korengal and it is not out of the ordinary. We had been dealing with the threats for 4 ½ months and were taking appropriate actions to ensure they had the means to handle whatever business came there way.

I was in and around the discussions regarding the future of Wanat on 13 and 14 July 2008. I was never directly involved in the discussions. They were trying to decide whether to keep Wanat, whether they were going to fortify it and stay there, or whether it was worth it. I heard at the battle update brief that they were going to close Wanat and move everybody back to Blessing and close it down. My thoughts at the time were that we put all this time into this and we got our nose bloodied. This was a huge IO win for the Taliban.

I heard the term Vehicle Control Base used inside the battalion CP as this is what we were going to set up initially in order to set up a full COP. At the time of the attack at Wanat, all they

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had established was a vehicle control base, but they were going to establish a COP there.

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, (b)(3), (b)(6), Zulu, HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATEMENT WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 1 AND ENDS ON PAGE 4. 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

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

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 9 day of NOVEMBER 09 at FT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

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

MARFORCOM NORFOLK, VA  
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

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

(b)(3), (b)(6), Owl  
(Typed Name of Person Administering Oath)

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

MARFORCOM NORFOLK, VA  
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

Judge Advocate  
(Authority To Administer Oaths)

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