1 [The testimony opened at 0805, 4 November 2009.]

2 **LtGen Natonski:** I am Lieutenant General Richard Natonski,
3 United States Marine Corps. I have been appointed by
4 the Commander of the U.S. Central Command to conduct
5 an 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 Beta (b)(3), (b)(6)
10 Sigma and Lieutenant Colonel (b)(3), (b)(6) are the judge
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?

19 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

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

22 [The witness was sworn.]

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

24 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Full name is Purple (b)(3), (b)(6)

25 **LtCol** (b)(3), (b)(6) Beta And what is your current unit and that unit's
26 location, sir?

27 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Currently working for the U.S. Army North, G4,
28 Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

29 **LtCol** (b)(3), (b)(6) Beta You are a major in the U.S. Army?

30 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

31 **LtCol** (b)(3), (b)(6) Beta And your occupation field is?

32 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Logistics.

Beta

1 **LtCol** (b)(3), (b)(6): In July of 2008, what was your unit and unit's
2 location?

3 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) I was the Forward Support Company Commander for
4 the 2d of the 503d and I was located--I was dispersed
5 all over our locations in Kunar Province.

6 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(3) And were you co-located with the Battalion
7 Headquarters, itself?

8 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Roger, based out of Camp Blessing.

9 **LtGen Natonski:** Were you part of the Battalion?

10 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, yes, sir.

11 **LtGen Natonski:** So, you were the company commander----

12 **MAJ** I was the Forward Support Company Commander but
13 Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) we had the blue guidon and everything else, I was F
14 Company, 2d of the 503d. Even though technically it
15 is the 173d BSB, it is kind of strange, but I was----

16 **MG Perkins:** You had some brigade assets of what the company
17 was then allocated at the time.

18 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Diamond (b)(3), (b)(6) was my rater.

19 **LtGen Natonski:** Was it direct support or was it----

20 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) I was direct support to that battalion.

21 **LtGen Natonski:** Were you AdCon to that battalion also?

22 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) I was actually assigned to that battalion.

23 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Diamond (b)(3), (b)(6) was his rater, sir.

24 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) He was my battalion commander.

25 **MG Perkins:** So were you attached then?

26 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir, I think so for all intents and
27 purposes.

28 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) What are the duties of the Forward Support
29 Commander?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) You are the senior logistician for the battalion. You are not the planner, you are the executer basically. You report with the S4 but in that contentious environment, we are the ones getting everything to the boys that are in places like Wanat and Bella and it was a very interesting 15 months. And it would not matter if you were a support guy or an infantry guy, we were everywhere.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Tell us about the process, you said that you get stuff out to the Soldiers, how does that process work?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) What I would do is base everything out of Jalalabad and I would load up trucks, jingle trucks that we would get in mixed in with regular military trucks that I had, load up the supplies and I would send out basically convoys ring routes that I had set up that went out every 2 or 3 days. No schedule so that the enemy would be tipped off, but roughly every 2 or 3 days we would go out and make the rounds and then you got the helicopter supply routes that would hit places that I could not hit with the trucks. Heck, we even used donkeys in some cases to get stuff to the guys who were in the highland--mountainous areas.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) How did a company's requirement get to you? One of the--you know Chosen Company needed something, how did that requirement actually get to you?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) We will do a LogStat but for me, it was easier for me to go direct with everyone of the company commanders and actually get a feel for the battle space and then I had to anticipate what they were going to need because the big thing there was mortar rounds, I mean, they were going through things like they would not believe. And I am trying to get places to the Korengal Valley where Captain Chi (b)(3), (b)(6) was and to Chi Oscar Bella where Captain (b)(3), (b)(6) was. Those were my biggest problems. But I would go direct with those guys and try to anticipate what they had coming up, it was easier if we knew that they had an operation planned, but most of it was anticipation and going direct with the company commanders.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Would they send you--is there any documentation--you know, I need X pallets of mortar, this amount of food and water, anything? Were there documents that came in to you?

1 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Certainly, certainly. I got all of that--I mean,
2 I still have all of that stuff on file.

3 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) And how would those--those documents, you said,
4 dealing directly with the company commander, would it
5 go through the S4 to you or?

6 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) : Not with ammunition. Ammunition was--we were
7 going through it so quickly that it was easier for me
8 to personally take that one on and then everything
9 else went S4 to my--all of my XOs, through the S4, to
10 my XO, which my XO was kind of my support operations
11 officer for the Battalion. And that is how all of
12 that stuff went. I controlled ammo myself just
13 because we were going through it too much or so
14 quickly but the process was all of the company XOs
15 would work together with my XO and the S4.

16 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) And once you receive the requirement, we need a
17 pallet of mortar rounds and then who moves them out to
18 that particular unit? Is that on your company to do
19 that?

20 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

21 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Does the S4 assist you in that regard?

22 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) No, sir.

23 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) And what assets did you have organic to your unit
24 to do that?

25 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) I had a lot of theater provided equipment----

26 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) What does that mean?

27 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) It is the stuff that is actually in theater that
28 is not necessarily indigenous to your own unit, so
29 you don't deploy with a whole lot of truck assets so
30 that we can alleviate the going and coming of all of
31 that money and all involved.

32 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) U.S. Army assets?

33 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir, so it is U.S. Army theater provided
34 equipment but I have probably 30 trucks and regular 5
35 ton trucks and then some PLS's which are Himmets, 10
36 ton trucks, and that is how we would move the majority

of it. Places that I could not get to by truck we would do via helicopter.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Did you have issues with the Waygal Valley and ground transportation?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6): I never--I was never--there was one road to get to Waygal to get to Bella and there was no--it was just, maybe a Humvee could get across there occasionally or dependent upon the road, I think they tried two or three times over the course, but I never went up there by truck, no, sir.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) When you were pushing out the supplies, and I am assuming you saw route clearance packages to go out with your convoys?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) I provided my own, sir.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) And those were organic to you; the route clearance packets?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) I made them--I made them, yes, sir.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) With what assets?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Are you talking about the route clearance packages with the engineers?

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes.

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Oh, I would--I did not have those, those were--that was provided--they were actually attached to the battalion and I would make my--make sure my movements were synched with theirs as far as route clearance and a lot of times we would be right behind those guys.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Would you ever go to the Battalion 3 and say, "We need to move these supplies, I need some assistance"?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Definitely, definitely, he was the one that we would go through as far as schedule--the 3 and actually the XO, the XO pretty much handled the usage of the route clearance package when it came to synching up with my movements.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) When was the first time you were aware of the Chosen Company's plan to do an emplacement at Wanat?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Probably, it has been a while, sir, but the talk was to get out of Bella as soon as possible because it was a contentious point, it was not well placed, it was a base that we fell in on, so I would say sometime in the spring, if not a little bit earlier, so February / March timeframe, as far as--now this is my memory, I can't say 100 percent for sure, but the main thing was try to get out of Bella and get something better established at Wanat.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) From your perspective as the Forward Support Commander, what action did you take regarding that move--pending move?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Pending move, the biggest thing was getting enough--because everything had to go by air, was getting enough sling nets and cargo nets to be able to move everything from Bella to Wanat and then trying to synch the air assets to support that move was the biggest thing and then to try to get the infrastructure set up at Wanat to be able make it at least comparable to Bella.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) The building supplies needed to establish an emplacement at Wanat; did you participate in acquiring those?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) How so?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Well, most of that actually went through the contracts so I did not actually acquire it, but I moved a lot of it to get it into place. So, acquire no, but as far as moving it to get it to Blessing so that it could be slung loaded out to Wanat as my part of that, too.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) What do you mean "via contracts"? That the supplies were acquired via contracts.

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) You have to get contracts if they wanted--all of the new bases had to go through an approval process. You just could not go out obviously set bases at Willie-Nillie, so you go through to get approval for a new base and then once they did that, they would have to go through a contract to be able to set up the requisite Class IV to be able to set that up and then

other infrastructure, generators, power, and then find the right local contractor to do that with at least 3 bids.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Did someone hand you a list and say, "hey, we need these supplies." Go get them for us?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Maybe generally through the S4, nothing specific from any commander elsewhere.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Do you recall--did you have any issues getting the supplies that they wanted to build their COP?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) From what I recall, it took the--I don't remember Wanat ever being officially approved as a base until late in June, I think. And then it was, try to get it done before we get out there so that the next unit is not falling in on something that was ill-placed as Bella was. That is my recollection of that.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) As far as moving supplies up to Blessing, did you have any issues getting supplies up to Blessing?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) No, sir.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) And was there any item that you can recall that you could not obtain?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) As far as Class IV goes?

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) As far as Class IV? Your HESCOs? Were C-barriers requested?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Barriers were almost impossible to get and most of the barriers that we got--are you talking about New Jersey--the Jersey Barriers, the Texas Barriers, just the ones that you see on the highway, the big--you know, the Texas barriers were really, really tall and most of those I took up to the Korengal to reinforce there. Those were hard to get and that was also a contractual thing. So, that stuff had to be laid out before they could actually officially set up Wanat and I know that Colonel Diamond (b)(3), (b)(6) was not going to put the boys in there until we had the requisite barriers. I don't remember how many they got in there, but I don't recall there being a huge issue with Class IV, but the base had just been opened not long before this happened.

1 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) What the----

2 **MAJ** So the building--it takes awhile to get those
3 Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) places and the fortifications at bases like that is--
4 it never stops, was it perfect there? I mean, there
5 is no way that it was perfect, it just never stops,
6 the whole time I--probably a quarter of the things
7 that I moved to all of the locations that we have,
8 sir, was continuing improvements of all of the
9 locations and that never stops.

10 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) At some point in late June or early July, did you
11 attend a meeting with the battalion commander or the 3
12 or the 4, the XO, perhaps all were there, where you
13 discussed the Operation Rock Move?

14 **MAJ** With the XO and I changed commands on the 26th of
15 Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) June, so it was right--it was probably within the last
16 few days that I was in command. And then they were
17 lining up air assets to move the stuff from Bella to
18 Wanat. That was the biggest issues.

19 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) At that point, were supplies marshaled in up at
20 Blessing to actually establish Wanat?

21 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Certainly, certainly.

22 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) And did anyone ask you or did you report to
23 anyone that, "Sir, we have all of the Class IV that we
24 need to establish Wanat"?

25 **MAJ** I don't recall that, sir. I would say that we
26 Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) never had enough Class IV, but that was not from lack
27 of requesting it, there just wasn't any and those
28 would go back--those requests would go back--those
29 requests would go through the BSB, you know, sometimes
30 through contracts, but a shortage of Class IV for
31 every base that we had was always a problem. I mean,
32 we could get by with, you know, the minimums based on
33 what we fell in on and the differences from what we
34 fell in on in May of 07 to what it looked like in 08,
35 across the board, is amazing. Like I said, it was
36 constant because of the lack of flow of Class IV; I
37 think that is a problem Army-wide, especially in
38 Afghanistan.

39 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) For the Wanat piece specifically, back at
40 Blessing, what do recall having built up, supply-wise

ready to move forward up to Wanat? Do you recall what was there?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Lots of--lots of wood, bricks, concertina wire, there were a few barriers, I can't recall how many.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) By "barriers", what do you mean?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Texas Barriers and Jersey Barriers, I don't know if those ever made it up there in time because of the--I can't remember how many there were. But that stuff was marshaled--everything was marshaled at Blessing that wasn't being taken from Bella. But the bulk of the supplies to initially setup Wanat to initial operating capability was stuff that came from Bella.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) How about HESCOs? HESCO barriers?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) : HESCOs were never really an issue to get. So HESCOs, we had plenty of those, sir.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) At Blessing?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) At Blessing, yes, sir.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Do you recall any planning efforts for the movement of the items from Blessing up to Wanat? I know you mentioned the issue--some of the supplies would come from Bella down to Wanat. How about the items that were marshaled at Blessing, how were they to get up to Wanat?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) A helicopter. Everything was helicopter, the only way that you could do anything with Wanat or Bella was helicopter.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) So no ground based transportation of those supplies?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) If--no, sir.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) You said that you changed command toward the end of June?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) 26 June, yes, sir.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Then what did you do after you changed command?

1 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) I was not in--I left probably 2 or 3 days before
2 Wanat happened.

3 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Before the battle happened?

4 **MAJ** Before the battle happened. I was out of country
5 Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) because I had--I got this--I was in command for 2 ½
6 years so it was time for me to come out. But that
7 was--I left and I was hanging out at Jalalabad just
8 waiting to move out of country.

9 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) And then who took over for you?

10 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) A guy named Apple (b)(3), (b)(6) , he took over for me.

11 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) And the XO, your XO?

12 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) My XO, Grape (b)(3), (b)(6) , he is now the company
13 commander for the other Forward Support for the other
14 infantry battalion, they are now--he certainly would
15 have had a lot of involvement in setting up Wanat.

16 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Who within the 2d of the 503d, last year, if you
17 are doing a deliberate ConOp and say, establishing a
18 new COP, who is responsible for moving the supplies
19 that are marshaled at Blessing to Wanat? Is that
20 something that the Forward Support Company does or is
21 that the line company? Is it their responsibility?

22 **MAJ** No, it is--well, doctrinally, certainly--I mean,
23 Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) doctrinally the Forward Support Company pushes it out
24 to the companies and the company pulls it forward but
25 that is based on a linear battlefield...just no longer
26 exists. So, I would pretty much take everything
27 directly to the companies and in the case of Wanat or
28 Bella, it would go directly via helicopter. They
29 would never have to come back for supplies; I took it
30 directly to them.

31 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) It would be you working the helicopter piece or
32 is that the company working the helicopter piece?

33 **MAJ** No, that would be the 4, the S4 and my XO worked
34 Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) the helicopter piece.

35 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) If a movement did not take place, a resupply, or
36 any supply movement did not take place as scheduled,

1 what was the norm within the 2d of the 503d, was there
2 a reporting requirement if something did not move?

3 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Try to put in an emergency--I mean, the biggest
4 thing for something that did not move to Bella or
5 Wanat or any other place that we could only supply via
6 helicopter, then it would become an emergency request.
7 I went through the Brigade trying to get something to
8 move that out and they would have birds on standby but
9 that was a constant problem.

10 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) After you changed command, did you stay at
11 Blessing for awhile?

12 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) A few days, sir.

13 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Do you recall when you left Blessing?

14 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Probably the first week in July.

15 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Were you present for a ConOp brief, the Battalion
16 briefed the Brigade on Rock Move?

17 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) No, sir.

18 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Did you participate in the preparation of the
19 ConOp brief?

20 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Preparation for my piece of the ConOp in the
21 early stages, yes, but not in the brief, no, sir.

22 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) And then what was your piece, specifically?

23 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Just to be able to move whatever supplies would
24 come from Jalalabad, as far as Class IV that we could
25 obtain to Blessing so they could be marshaled and sent
26 up to Wanat via bird.

27 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Did the Company Commander or Battalion Engineer
28 or the S4 ever come to you and say, "We are missing
29 items, we need these items"?

30 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Certainly, like I told you, Class IV, sir was
31 always on short supply. I mean, we never had enough
32 of it at any of the places that we operated. It was a
33 constant issue.

34 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) And your relationship with the Company
35 Commanders, was it one that of first name basis, they

could call you on the radio or come speak to you personally if they had an issue with supplies?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Absolutely, that is how I worked it with each and every one of them, to include Oscar (b)(3), (b)(6).

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) And the XO--your XO, what was his relationship with the company XOs?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6): Excellent, I mean, absolutely perfect. I mean, I would leave him in Jalalabad so he was constantly there to build a fuel Denny and all of the requests that came down and I was always on the road to that I could see of the company commanders and see all of the bases and then run all convoys. But it worked out very, very, very well but we were, in essences, the sixth movement company for that battalion and every time we were out, I think that we were running 40 something firefights over the course of that year. So, definitely first name basis, many of these were my brothers.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) During your time of the 2d of the 503d, did you ever receive a report that a unit was black on any supplies?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) And if you did, what were the steps that you took?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) If it--usually it was ammo and usually it was mortar round, but it could be barriers when we are setting up, I think that the biggest one, if that is what you are getting at as far as that is when we set up Dallas in the Korengal Valley. We went black on barriers and did an emergency push up to those guys and I made five turns up to the Korengal valley which does not sound bad, but that is like death. And that was the biggest one that I can remember but I could not do that for a place like Wanat or Bella because I could not drive there. So, if I could drive there, I could fix it, but when you are reliant--I hate relying strictly on helicopters, I could not control anything if it went black like that.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) You mentioned that you have used local national contracted vehicles at times?

1 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) All of the time, every convoy, sir.

2 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) What was the reliability of those?

3 **MAJ** Absolutely wonderful. But we contracted them--
4 Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) this is a contract that I fell in on, we contracted
5 them and worked very closely with the gentleman who
6 owned the company and these guys were in all of the
7 fire fights that we were. And one of them was killed
8 when we hit 90 in the Korengal and excellent,
9 excellent is all that I can say.

10 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) And were those trucks permanently at Blessing?
11 When you needed to move something----

12 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) No, they came out of A-bad--Asadabad.

13 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) So if you had a request that, let's say that one
14 of the units was black on a particular item, how long
15 before you could have a truck ready to roll out of
16 Blessing?

17 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) I put the trucks at Asadabad because it was
18 centrally located between all of the bases that I
19 supported. So, if it was not dangerous, I could have
20 a truck there in a couple hours; one of the local
21 national trucks. If it was dangerous, some of those
22 places were and they would not roll without us.

23 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) And could they get those supplies right at
24 Asadabad and then take them out or to Blessing?

25 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Sometimes, sir, sometimes. A-bad was one of the
26 places that you could fly stuff out of as well. So,
27 we would do a lot of supplies via helicopter from A-
28 bad to Blessing. I did not do as many from Jalalabad
29 because the turns were too long so it was easier to me
30 to send all of the stuff to Blessing that way I could
31 get more turns of the helicopter to places like Bella
32 and Wanat and all of the places in the Korengal.

33 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Your Company was, along with the Battalion, was
34 getting ready to RIP out at some point during July.

35 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

36 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) What role did you play in the RIP planning?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Just getting the left-seat / right-seat ride schedule set and then making absolutely sure that the new commander was going to get out to all of these locations and physically see them. A lot of supporters, you know, like to sit behind the desk and do the computer thing, there is no way you can support that location without going out and seeing these locations, so my planning was getting that commander out to all of the locations and trying to get up, plus you had to do that for inventory process for theater provided equipment that was there.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Had he arrived before you left?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) No.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) And when was the majority of your unit slated to rotate out?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Late July. But most were gone by probably the 3d week in July when the Company XO that replaced us was there when I left. He had gotten in maybe 2 - 3 weeks before the change of command.

LtCol Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) Thank you. Colonel Sigma (b)(3), (b)(6)?

LTC Sigma (b)(3), (b)(6) You mentioned, in regard to Wanat, that once the base was approved that the kind of the push was to try to get it done before we left--by "we", I obviously mean the Brigade.

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

LTC Sigma (b)(3), (b)(6) Did that have any effect, you think, on planning and the actual execution of the operation from your perspective as a logistics guy, did you feel that there was extra pressure to get things done quickly?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) It, it--I don't want to say extra pressure to happen--or to get things done quickly, obviously that is the case because that is what happened. But this is something that Colonel Diamond (b)(3), (b)(6) was trying to get approved for months and months and months prior to the actual setup because he knew Bella was a horrible location, I mean, you are down in the Valley, you have high ground all around you, but we fell in on that and it was just difficult to move to a better location. And then there was another incident with Chosen

1 Company near Bella, too, so was there pressure or was
2 it speeded up? Probably but not through anyone in my
3 direct chain of command, and I don't know, to be
4 honest with you, who the actual approval process was
5 for putting Wanat there, but I know it was not Colonel
6 Diamond (b)(3), (b)(6) because he wanted that setup way in advance,
7 but it just did not happen that way.

8 **LTC** Your impression of that operation, were you briefed or
9 Sigma (b)(3), (b)(6) did you have any insight into what the end state was
10 supposed to be at Wanat?

11 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) I mean, the end state was, I mean, a better
12 ground to support, easier to support, easier to
13 defend, there was Oscar (b)(3), (b)(6) had established better
14 contact with--I mean, things seem a little different
15 now, but had better contact with the local leadership
16 there and they actually wanted the base there.

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

18 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Because they would hire the workers from there
19 and there was a good report set up with the locals, as
20 far as I recall.

21 **LTC** I guess what I am saying is in terms of a physical
22 Sigma (b)(3), (b)(6) infrastructure plan, was it your sense that they were
23 going to put a full-up FOB there or was the intent to
24 build a combat out post or what did you envision as
25 being the end result?

26 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Something very similar to what they had at Bella,
27 a combat outpost that would eventually turn into a
28 full up FOB depending upon how the Waygal progressed.
29 Because, I mean, we were so tight up in the Konar, to
30 the south of most of the units that Waygal kind of got
31 left out of the mix plus they were harder to support.
32 But the biggest thing was just to get out of Bella.

33 **LTC** Who would have the responsibility for the actual
34 Sigma (b)(3), (b)(6) construction, if you guys were to construct a combat
35 outpost?

36 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Both the Soldiers that were in the company to
37 some--they would supervise it, and they would probably
38 put up the initial HESCO barrier and concertina wire,
39 but the local nationals would be--that is what we
40 usually did, we hired local national companies to come

in and fill HESCOS and do all of the grunt work, plus they could bring in the heavy equipment and get the job done a lot faster.

LTC Sigma (b)(3), (b)(6) And who would supervise that overall effort? Would it be an engineer officer or ----

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Engineers would go out--engineers would plan that is who we would order the Class IV through, they would get a contract--that was the hardest thing, was to get the Class IVs, as I said before, that went through the engineers and the--I can't remember the man's name, he is a major at Brigade but he is the one that we had to go through for Class IV. But it was--almost every request that I put through was stamped, "negative, you can't have that."

LTC Sigma (b)(3), (b)(6) You mentioned that you could only get to Wanat by air; there was a ground lot that went to Wanat though.

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, and that is another reason that that was moved, but it wasn't sufficient for my kind of trucks to get there at the time, but they were going to look at expanding that road and they were doing a lot of work out that way so that would eventually be able to be--and that was another reason that we went to Wanat, was eventually that road would be able to sustain ground movement for resupply.

LTC Sigma (b)(3), (b)(6) During your tenure as commander, did you ever participate in the construction of a combat outpost from ground zero or everything you guys did was improving on stuff that you had already--that you were falling in on.

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) The only one that I participated in as far as help and setup was Hanaker-Miracle for Able Company. Everything else was improving what already existed.

LTC Sigma (b)(3), (b)(6) And do you remember with regard to Hanaker-Miracle, who was overall in charge that it was built to certain specification? Was there a guy who was walking around with a plan who said, "This goes here, this goes here"?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Well, certainly the company commander was Salt (b)(3), (b)(6) Salt (b)(3), (b)(6) but Jaguar (b)(3), (b)(6) was his XO Jaguar (b)(3), (b)(6) was instrumental in getting that set up and then all of

the NCOs, great NCOs were in there making sure that everything was set up so that you got interlocking fields of fire and all, but Class IV was still an issue for Hanaker-Miracle.

LTC Sigma (b)(3), (b)(6) Turning to that issue, you have mentioned several times that Class IV was an issue, specifically within Class IV, were there certain items that aware more difficult to get than others and what I mean by that is things like sandbags and HESCOs, etc, were they easy to get or were sandbags a problem. What was--kind of drilling down to the Class IV arena, what was, if anything the most difficult item or items that you guys have problems?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) HESCOs, it seems like it was feast or famine, you know, when we didn't need them, that is when they have tons of them and when we needed them for--we did a lot of expansion in the Korengal and then we did a lot of expansion in Able Company's AO but it was harder to do in Chosen Company's AO because of where they were, but HESCOs were hard to get, sandbags were never an issue, wood was constantly an issue and that was always something that was stamped "No" by the brigade engineer.

LTC Sigma (b)(3), (b)(6) Just because it was not available----

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) I am sure it was not just him saying, "No, you cannot have it." He was managing an asset that everybody wanted.

LTC Sigma (b)(3), (b)(6) And when something was going to be built, obviously the sequencing of the supply runs would have been part of the plan itself. So, for instance, if you are going to construct a COP at Wanat then part of the planning process would have, I am assuming and correct me if I am wrong, would have been the Loggies figuring out, okay, essentially in phases or whatever, this is when certain supplies need to go forward. Would that had been something that you would have been involved with or the FSC would have been involved in helping the line unit plan?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir, yes, sir. I mean, the S4--I remember seeing some of the plans for Wanat that were set up. Our S4, Brown (b)(3), (b)(6) but Brown (b)(3), (b)(6) would set up meetings with our battalion engineer who would go through the brigade

1 engineer and they would set up everything that they
2 were going to need. And then get what they could for
3 Class IV and then get the contracts set up so the
4 local nationals would come in there and do a lot of
5 the work to get that stuff set up and that was in
6 motion when I was still in command.

7 **LTC** And how would the process occur? In other words, how
8 Sigma (b)(3), (b)(6) would your guys know, okay, today is the day that I
9 need to push forward, fill in the blank, HESCO
10 Barriers----

11 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) HESCOs, wood, Jersey/Texas barriers--umm,
12 whenever it came in, I would--for something like that,
13 especially toward the end, it was getting to the point
14 that we needed to get that stuff set up quickly, it
15 would have been immediate. I mean, I would have set
16 up a convoy specifically for that and that was coming
17 out of Jalalabad, so it was a 6-hour drive for me just
18 to get to Blessing. But, like I said, I would marshal
19 all of that stuff there so that we could--then it is
20 there and then they can manage the air, which is a
21 heck of a lot harder to get than my trucks.

22 **LTC** Okay. Sir?
Sigma (b)(3), (b)(6)

23 **LtGen Natonski:** You mentioned that at the Brigade-level some
24 of the delays for the Class IV and you said that it
25 was partly because some of it just was not available.

26 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

27 **LtGen Natonski:** What about the rest of it? Was it a
28 stopping block in terms of sourcing COPs that were
29 being constructed or continuous improvement to
30 existing COPs? Was it because there was a finite
31 amount of resources and they were trying to manage it?

32 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) I can only offer an opinion on this one, sir,
33 because I am not sure above--you know, as a company
34 commander what happened and who approved what at the
35 brigade-level. But what I think the problem was that
36 you could not do anything or order anything as far as
37 Class IV or contracts or anything else until the base
38 was officially approved and then once that process
39 finally got approved, you know, whoever that person
40 was that finally approved it and I don't know----

1 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay, they would not want to push supplies,
2 I guess, for something that might have been a fluff
3 process that had not been approved then, I guess. Was
4 that Major November (b)(3), (b)(6) the brigade engineer?

5 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) yes, yes, sir, Major November (b)(3), (b)(6) November (b)(3), (b)(6)

6 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay, so, you had mentioned that there were
7 some delays in establishing Wanat that the battalion
8 commander had been trying to push this, do you happen
9 to recall what those delays were?

10 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Just delays in getting Wanat approved as a Combat
11 Outpost.

12 **LtGen Natonski:** Where would that have taken place? At the
13 brigade or division level?

14 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) I don't know, sir.

15 **LtGen Natonski:** Do you recall anything about the procurement
16 of the land at Wanat being a part of that?

17 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Definitely remember Matt Myer going in and
18 meeting with the locals there and making sure that
19 this is something, one, that you can set up and make
20 sure you have the right effects as far as local
21 perception actually going in there and by all
22 accounts, the locals wanted it there--not initially, I
23 mean, you have to go in there and set those
24 relationships up that is always so important in
25 Afghanistan, but Colonel Diamond (b)(3), (b)(6) and Oscar (b)(3), (b)(6) made
26 many many runs out to Wanat prior to putting in the
27 official request to move in.

28 **LtGen Natonski:** It could have been just the procurement of
29 the land that delayed the process in moving?

30 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Certainly, certainly, Yes, sir.

31 **LtGen Natonski:** Because they were fast approaching the RIP
32 TOA when they finally got moving on disestablishing
33 Bella. Was that always tied, in your mind, the dis-
34 establishment of Bella with the establishment of
35 Wanat?

36 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

1 **LtGen Natonski:** So they could not really start on Bella
2 until Wanat had been approved?

3 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) We----

4 **LtGen Natonski:** Was it tied that way?

5 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) He wanted to get--definitely, he wanted to get
6 out of Bella because the location was horrible.

7 **LtGen Natonski:** What precluded him from getting out of Bella
8 sooner than?

9 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Wanat--getting Wanat approved.

10 **LtGen Natonski:** So they were tied?

11 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Definitely, yes, sir.

12 **LtGen Natonski:** So he could not start on Bella until Wanat
13 had been approved?

14 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Right, and I think that by the time Bella--Wanat,
15 when they finally occupied them, they would had
16 basically had initial operating capabilities as far as
17 defenses go. But all of the FOBs have to start out
18 that way, unfortunately. I mean, you can't just snap
19 your fingers and----

20 **LtGen Natonski:** Overhead protection----

21 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

22 **LtGen Natonski:** That is a key portion of every COP, FOB, or
23 whatever----

24 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

25 **LtGen Natonski:** What are the principle things that you use
26 for overhead protection?

27 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) We try to get the 6x6 boards, pieces of wood that
28 we would send out there and that was a big thing with
29 the engineers going out and approving--the big thing
30 that I remember, I mean, a lot of the HESCOs would be
31 set up and supervised by some of the NCOs and Officers
32 of the companies but the actual overhead protection
33 and the stability of the buildings would be approved
34 by the engineers.

1 **LtGen Natonski:** So the 6x6's would be used to hold--would
2 they just lay 6x6's over a position and then put
3 sandbags on top of it?

4 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) No, sir, initially, yes. I mean that is what we
5 did at Hanaker-Miracle until they could get brick and
6 mortar things in there. We did that at Blessing until
7 we got brick and mortar in but the biggest thing and
8 this was one of Colonel Delta (b)(3), (b)(6) things, Colonel
9 Diamond (b)(3), (b)(6) as well, was trying to get all of our bases
10 established with brick and mortar with, you know, very
11 thick overhead cover supported by 6x6's, concrete or
12 whatever else----

13 **LtGen Natonski:** So, it was not a 6x6 and a 6x6 with a
14 plywood board and sandbags on top?

15 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) No, no, I mean, not like an old----

16 **LtGen Natonski:** It was 6x6 next to 6x6 and then with
17 overhead----

18 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Sandbags.

19 **LtGen Natonski:** What about C-barriers then?

20 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Sir.

21 **LtGen Natonski:** Where did they play in terms of overhead
22 coverage?

23 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) I am not sure what you mean, sir.

24 **LtGen Natonski:** C-Barrier, a concrete----

25 **Maj** Zeta (b)(3), (b)(6) Scud bunker.

26 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Oh, oh, oh, definitely--those were hard to move,
27 they would break a lot when----

28 **LtGen Natonski:** By airlift?

29 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) No, when I trucked them they would crack a lot.
30 A lot up at--I don't know how many they had at Wanat,
31 I could not answer that question, but I sent plenty of
32 them up to Blessing and on to the Korengal Valley.

33 **LtGen Natonski:** I assume then that they were not the
34 preferred method----

1 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) No, because they would crack a lot.

2 **LtGen Natonski:** So, when using a C-barrier for overhead
3 protection, they would put it over the hole and put
4 sandbags on top of it.

5 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

6 **LtGen Natonski:** Is that how they--okay, so you don't think
7 that there was a problem with C-barriers at Blessing
8 or Wanat? Which was harder to come by the 6x6 logs---
9 -

10 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Both. Well, the barriers, I would say were
11 harder to get simply because there were less of them,
12 but for some reason Class IV in Afghanistan was so
13 tightly managed that it was hard to get any of those
14 things. You have to request it well, well, in
15 advance.

16 **LtGen Natonski:** And you were in the model of pushing
17 supplies forward----

18 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

19 **LtGen Natonski:** In the construction of Wanat, you would push
20 them to Blessing so that they would be staged and
21 ready to move by either the Battalion or the Company
22 by helo up to the position.

23 **LtGen Natonski:** Did you ever see a schematic of Want--of the
24 plan?

25 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir, a brief one in the initial stages.

26 **LtGen Natonski:** Who put that together, do you know?

27 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) I think Oscar (b)(3), (b)(6) in conjunction with our
28 battalion engineer and I can't remember his name and
29 Walter, S4.

30 **LtGen Natonski:** So they put together some drawing and that
31 helped you in determining--did it help you or the
32 engineer determine what pipes----

33 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Engineer

1 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay, the engineer said, okay, in order to
2 meet this plan, we need so many HESCOs, we need so
3 many 6x6's, we need so many sandbags?

4 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

5 **LtGen Natonski:** Okay.

6 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) : And that was something that was so tightly
7 managed that we are doing other things that should
8 have been my job to request for the battalion but
9 totally taken out of our hands, it had to go through
10 the engineers.

11 **LtCol** Beta (b)(3), (b)(6) So, the engineers really played the big role
12 in the construction, design----

13 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Plans, yes sir.

14 **LtGen Natonski:** And also in the construction because it was
15 engineers that help to build houses.

16 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) And it would not have been approved until they
17 had a schematic done up that would have had
18 sufficient--and the schematic would have been the
19 envisioned final product.

20 **LtGen Natonski:** Do you have a schematic of----

21 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Of Wanat?

22 **LtGen Natonski:** Yes.

23 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) No, sir.

24 **LtGen Natonski:** You mentioned the road to Wanat and one of
25 the reasons that Wanat was selected because it was not
26 as isolated like Bella, like Bella was strictly an
27 aviation resupply. Wanat had a road which was
28 improved to about a mile south of Wanat. Did you ever
29 hear of any plans to improve----

30 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) That road?

31 **LtGen Natonski:** Yeah

32 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Exactly, sir, they wanted to get that ground LOC
33 established so that we could resupply it by ground

because ground resupply was--I mean, you could always rely on that.

LtGen Natonski: And who would have done that? Would that had been U.S. Army engineers or?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) It would have been a contract, sir.

LtGen Natonski: Contracts.

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) A local national contract.

LtGen Natonski: Okay, so they would have hired local Afghan. Do you recall if that was ever put in there?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) I don't know but yes there was definitely work on the roads out that way toward Wanat.

LtGen Natonski: Because they actually--I think, paved part way of the valley.

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir, yes, sir. And that whole road that went along--that went to Blessing was a dirt road and it was all paved by the time that I left.

LtGen Natonski: Taking it from Blessing up the Waygal, it had been partially, I think, not complete to Wanat.

LtGen Natonski: Not complete to Wanat, no, sir.

LtGen Natonski: Okay.

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) And there were still some places that washouts would occur and destroy some of the progress and that was the problem that they were having with that road.

LtGen Natonski: Even after they improved it? Did washouts still----

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) In some places, yeah, getting up toward Wanat. Yes, sir.

LtGen Natonski: How much involvement did you have with the Afghan contractors in your role as a Support Company Commander? Did you get involved with the contracting at all for Afghan contractors?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) I did, sir, but just for what I used them for. My involvement would have simply been the truck

1 company that I used. If I had contracted a crane or--
2 --

3 **LtGen Natonski:** Jingle trucks and how about Hilux, did you
4 have contractors that----

5 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) **:** I went through the same guy for Hilux actually
6 trying to get them up to Bella because there was a
7 road and we tried that once, we delivered just water
8 to see if we could get it through.

9 **LtGen Natonski:** Do you recall how that went?

10 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) The driver was killed.

11 **LtGen Natonski:** But the driver was killed; okay. Do you
12 recall anything about any coordination being done with
13 Afghan contractors for the construction at Wanat of
14 the COP that they had locked on to any?

15 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) I was not personally involved in it.

16 **LtGen Natonski:** So you were not involved in it----

17 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) **:** No, Oscar (b)(3), (b)(6) would had been, Colonel Diamond (b)(3), (b)(6)
18 would had been to some degree.

19 **LtGen Natonski:** But that is SOP for your unit?

20 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir, most of the--for the whatever the
21 Commander's Battle Space, that commander's XO would
22 usually work with local contractors, go through the
23 contracting process and then hire whoever could get
24 the job done, usually locals trying to pump some money
25 into the economy, you know.

26 **LtGen Natonski:** Gotcha, okay, thanks.

27 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

28 **MG Perkins:** Was there a daily log report that went forward?

29 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir, every day.

30 **MG Perkins:** Was that the Yellow 1 or whatever you guys call
31 them?

32 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, Yellow 1 was the report that we used but
33 basically that just kind of devolves into straight up

emails, whatever needed because it changed so darn much.

MG Perkins: And did this really originate down at the platoon level and they get sort of collated at the company and sent on the way up to the chain of command?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir. And but you know how that goes, a lot of times those platoon leaders are so busy--

MG Perkins: Yes.

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) That I just did not trust the Log Stats that were sent up. That is why I would go out and just find out what was going on. But the--what happened was that it ended up being just daily emails between all of the XOs and my XO and it worked out perfectly.

MG Perkins: You know at a Battalion and Brigade level, they have daily Battle Update Briefings or something like that and generally they will characterize logistics a lot of time, Red, Amber, Green, Black, et cetera, so I assume that that information is either coming up the emails or somebody is co-locating and correlating it into--

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir, I would generate that stuff from--for the brigade commander's update and obviously for my own Battalion Commander, you got a slide every day.

MG Perkins: In your experience with the 2d of the 503d, if something went black or critical Class of supply, was that sort of CCIR'd to Colonel Ostlund?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) That is huge, if something went red it was--if something went black, he was going to kill me. So, definitely, I would try to keep him abreast of anticipating that this was going to go red or black simply because we don't have X number of mortar rounds until this date.

MG Perkins: What if somebody reported that they were black on water?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Umm, I would have pushed it out to him. If we were black on water or mortar rounds, you would get an emergency bird, if it was a place that you could get to.

1 **MG Perkins:** That would be sort of like job 1 at that point in
2 time, I mean, it is not something that would sort of
3 get stacked in somebody's in-box.

4 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) No.

5 **MG Perkins:** Would you say that sort of within the 2d of the
6 503d that everyone was sensitized within the chain of
7 command again that would not necessarily be routine
8 reporting that if somebody at some level of
9 responsibility would had got a report of black in
10 water that would have sort of been--everyone would
11 have known about it----

12 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir, immediately. I mean it would have
13 just blown right out.

14 **MG Perkins:** It would not have been, "well, you know they will
15 get a truck next week"?

16 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) No, sir.

17 **MG Perkins:** Speaking of trucks, you said that you did use the
18 HiLux, the pickup trucks the entire time?

19 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

20 **MG Perkins:** Now did you coordinate that contract or did----

21 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

22 **MG Perkins:** You did?

23 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

24 **MG Perkins:** And you said that you used it to push water or
25 that was one of the examples?

26 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) : I tried the Hilux ones to Bella trying to get
27 that ground LOC established in some way shape or form.
28 Just as an emergency requirement for things like water
29 or ----

30 **MG Perkins:** But you used Hiluxes for other things?

31 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) No, I used the straight jingle trucks as HiLux, I
32 could not do much with them.

MG Perkins: If in the process of contracting a HILUX or somebody else and they are going to move something, how did you close a loop that that truck had gotten to its appointed destination and delivered it and you know----

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) **:** I would set the time up for the delivery, usually they were escorted by us, so there wasn't an issue. But if I sent a truck unescorted if the driver would go, we would coordinate a time for them to be there and have them expected and then we get an email or a phone call or whatever, or if I have radio coms with places like Bella, they would leave a little message for me.

MG Perkins: So you get sort of a confirmation from the COP that the contractor convoy got there and it delivered 5 pallets of whatever.

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir, exactly, sir, they would let either the I know or my XO know, or both.

MG Perkins: And what if a truck never showed up or showed up and it was supposed to have 10 pallets of sandbags and only had 5. Then what would you do?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) **:** That happened all of the time then I get with the contractor and which we called the Boss Man and that never happened. I mean it happens but it did not happen very very often but he would comp us some of the money that we would spend on the trucks. If something was missing, he would fire the drivers, but it did happen occasionally.

MG Perkins: But generally this process of contracting trucks to move supplies was done through your company versus the S4 shop?

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) **:** No, sir, I did it.

MG Perkins: You did it.

MAJ Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) **:** Yes, sir.

MG Perkins: And you are coordinating with the S4, he is passing requirements off to you?

1 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6): The S4 would pass the requirements off and then I
2 would take care of getting the jingle truck and we did
3 not lose much because I would not send anything
4 unescorted. And they would rip it off, no question.

5 **MG Perkins:** Okay, all right. Thanks.

6 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

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

17 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) Yes, sir.

18 **LtGen Natonski:** I just want to thank you for your service to
19 our country, to the Army, for all that you did during
20 your 15 months in Afghanistan and which you continue
21 to do down in San Antonio today, so good luck and
22 thanks for coming all of that way to see us this
23 morning.

24 **MAJ** Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) My pleasure, sir.

25 **LtGen Natonski:** Thanks.

26 [The testimony closed at 0854, 4 November 2009.]

CERTIFICATION OF VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT

Subj: TESTIMONY OF MAJOR Purple (b)(3), (b)(6) USA, GIVEN ON 4 NOVEMBER 2009, AT NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

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

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

Lieutenant Colonel
U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Judge Advocate

9 November 2009
DATE