

SECRET

Interview of the 1/B (PL, PSG, JTAC, RECCE) and TF (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c
at FOB (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c

PERSONS PRESENT

INVESTIGATION TEAM LEAD:	BG Jeffrey N. Colt, US Army
MH-47 ADVISOR	SME-MH-47
GROUND FORCE ARMY ADVISOR:	SME-GFA
INTELLIGENCE ADVISOR:	SME-INTEL
ASDAT ADVISOR:	ASDAT4
LEGAL ADVISOR:	LA
COURT REPORTER:	CR2

Derived from: (b)(3), (b)(6)

Declassified on: 7 September 2036

SECRET

SECRET

BG Colt: What I would like you to do is begin with mission planning, what did you think you were going to do and then tell me? If you have injects into mission planning we will address those questions appropriate to that and then we will turn to how did the plan actually get executed. All right?

RECCE TL: (b)(3), (b)(6), Sniper Team leader, my job is HLZ's and routes to the objective. When we get a mission I get a grid and start planning from there. We got a mission for LEFTY GROVE. I had probably four--- first I make a phone call, I have the pilots come down and then start planning with them - two pilots come down. I had two main HLZs that we were looking at, my infil was 2 K to the east in the green zone and then my exfil was about 700 or 800 meters southeast - that was my exfil plan. When we landed I get out, I get my bearing - we walked on the, we skirted the main road all the way to the ORP and right before the ORP we got a call six men with weapons - we heard AWT and that's when JTAC and them started doing their thing, once we hit ORP, we hit the objective. Where do you want me to go from there, sir?

BG Colt: What were the planning criteria for HLZ selection?

RECCE TL: First thing I look for is - are we coming in on

SECRET

SECRET

a Y?, are we doing an offset? Terrain analysis and the best from that location was because of terrain analysis I figured a 2K because.... an offset because the terrain was horrible we had time limits, we had coming in on the Y we never like to do unless it's the last resort. So 2k to the east is what I went with.

SME-GFN2: What would you call it? Was it a Y or offset?

RECCE TL: Negative, a Y is 300 meters; it was an offset. Typical offset we like to do 3 to 5 kilometers somewhere around there, but a 2K was an offset - that was the best location we could find.

SME-GFN2: Let me finish real quick, so based on you know this terrain pretty good, what's the audible distance to the helicopter to the enemy would you estimate? What is the audible distance the enemy can hear the helicopter?

RECCE TL: It depends if I have terrain in between us or not between us. Can, when I was 2k from the objective, could they hear us? Most likely they could have, but we had the standoff---instead of coming in on the Y we did get 2k so we had a standoff so they can't do anything. RPG range I'm quoting 700 meters that is why I like to push everything back off of that.

SME-GFN2: OK.

SME-MH47: To start off, you have a flight crew -- you said two flight crew?

RECCE TL: Yes.

SME-MH47: And then you -- Was there S-2 imagery with you or when you do---ok that is it, so you are looking at imagery--
-

The IE shook his head, indicating a negative response.

SME-MH47: Does anybody supply you with imagery?

RECCE TL: I have the pilots there they obviously, pilots are good at looking at imagery. So when we choose HLZs I'm looking at how far I'm going to go with this, there is multiple things that go into it. I pick one - the pilots say yeah I can

SECRET

SECRET

do that I'm willing to do that we and then we send it up to their leadership and their leadership I think sends up to the brigade or a battalion size who approves it. They have imagery that - they have layovers saying that a bird can land in there, a bird can't land in there, and higher ups from their chain of command approves it and we get the word to go.

BG Colt: From the time that your element started preparing for this mission to the time you sat down with the pilots - would you say that was pretty much a normal timing planning time line?

RECCE TL: Yes.

BG Colt: Yes. And you actually got the mission and started sitting down with them---how long prior to infil? Same day as the mission correct?

RECCE TL: I don't know the exact timeline, but on a normal day I come into the TOC we get our brief at 1300 in this area and then I go over there and I make my first phone call soon after that and say hey we got a mission we are looking at this can you send pilots down. That's a normal day. I don't know the exact the exact time line --

BG Colt: Had you planned with these planners before?

RECCE TL: Yes, it's been the same pilots since we got here that has always came down and talked to us.

SME-GFA: Approximately how many missions have you done with these pilots?

RECCE TL: Ten missions.

ASDAT: Do you know who the name of the lead planner is where the pilot you see on a regular basis?

RECCE TL: The pilot sometimes change it's always a Warrant Officer 3 and a Warrant Officer 4, but I always call a guy name ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ - we're on a first name basis, up there he's their main planner. He's the one that does the grids and then sends it up to higher.

ASDAT: Are the pilots that come down to do the planning with you, are they the pilots who typically fly the mission?

SECRET

SECRET

RECCE TL: Yes, they are the pilots that were flying.

SME-MH47: Was one of the pilots named (b)(3), (b)(6)

Background: That's (b)(3), (b)(6)

SME-INTEL: When you are playing with the imagery is it CIB that you are playing with?

RECCE TL: I mostly usually use Google Earth because it gives from my experience the best elevation of mountains, hills, everything... roads---the military version of Google Earth is---

BG Colt: Can you get him to bring the image up that had (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c and so forth, it's probably on that same one?

SME-MH47: You had an exfil HLZ, do you remember the name of that or who that was?

RECCE TL: If we could bring the route up on the CONOP I can show you.

[talking in background - discussing where CONOP is located on computer]

BG Colt: Did you plan for alternates of both primary and exfil LZ or was it a single point? I understand (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c I understand (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c Did you plan for any others?

RECCE TL: We have (b)(3), (b)(6) the recce team leader for (b)(3), (b)(6) he has planned, because I would go work -- I would go in their hooch all the time. He had like six I want to say approved and more that weren't approved...HLZs for this area. So when we planned this, this was obviously what we came in on, that was our plan to exfil. And if anything, let's say we are taking contact from there, we are like hey we got to exfil, I can send it up to my leadership we can call on the ground and hey that type of stuff. But, no it wasn't in the CONOP because this was exactly what we were planning for.

BG Colt: In your ten previous missions with these guys talking about exfils, did you ever exfil from an on call LZ where you did spinning chemlights or IR strobes or something in order, because you were not where you planned to be?

SECRET

SECRET

RECCE TL: We did a combined mission with (b)(3), (b)(6) where they did do that, we went to their planned one because we were off in two objectives and they said they weren't going to make the time so they did do that with these pilots, yes.

SEA: To the best of my knowledge sir, that's been the only one that I can remember from here from the (b)(1), (b)(1.4a), (b)(1) HLZ. Not a preferred method for the 47s here. That's why (b)(3), (b)(6) just pre-planned as many as he could in all the AOs.

Unknown Invest Tm : And that alternate was passed up by AWT that night correct?

RECCE TL: It came from one of the assets in the sky saying it was do-able.

BG Colt: Of the ten approximate ten infils you have done with this set of crews have you had a hot infil yet?

RECCE TL: No.

SME-GFA: Were any of those ten missions in this general AO?

RECCE TL: No, those were from Chark [district] [answering another question in background?]. This was the first Tangi mission; this was the first Tangi mission.

SME-GFA: OK. Are these infil and exfil HLZs two ship HLZs?

RECCE TL: This was our infil (b)(1), (b)(1.4a), (b)(1) 4c that I told you that was 2k to the east and then that was our planned exfil.

[multiple voices in background asking about two ship HLZs]

RECCE TL: Yeah, two ships came in on (b)(1), (b)(1.4a), (b)(1) 4c

BG Colt: And was the intent to do a simultaneous exfil from two ships out of (b)(1), (b)(1.4a), (b)(1) 4c also?

RECCE TL: Yes, that's what we have been doing.

BG Colt: Any other questions for the planner at this point?

SECRET

SECRET

Negative response by all members.

BG Colt: Okay. Do you want to talk through sensor planning and sensor execution?

JTAC: If we pull up a COF I can show you exactly what we did.

JTAC: All right, with a COF, usually what happens is when we infil to a HLZ or objective particularly this night, we will have AWT that follows us with the 47's and we will usually have an asset on station that already has ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ lock on the target building. This night it was ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ and they had both the sensors on the target building. We usually leave them there so that way in case we have a squirter they can cue us. Primary squirter control, so when we chase them and lase them for the AWT's as well as ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ lock on the target building. We also have when AWT checks on we usually put them because we are in 2k we usually put them little closer around E-5 that way they can scan the target area and see if there's any hostiles in the area. On this night we actually had three farmers that we located on the HLZ, however, AWT determined they were a normal pattern of life and they really just were more scared for their lives than anything.

Once we landed the AWT was scanning the area and they were able to find eight personnel all PID weapons and two MAMs that were co-located with them, that said they were originally from around the target building. They originally stated the MAMs were 100 meters to the west, but that turned out they were 500 meters and they said they were moving in a military type formation. Once that we heard that there were PID weapons moving in military formation, we work it through ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~, we brought them in closer overhead to optimal orbit and they were able to actually identify and PID full of weapons and chest racks on all eight PAX. We checked with the BSO to make sure it was not any ANA in the local area if there any checkpoints nearby and based off that they were moving to a position of advantage possibly setting up an ambush and there were PID weapons so we engaged with 30MM due to CDE level---.

BG Colt: Who was the weapons clearance authority then?

JTAC: Weapons clearance authority always comes from the ground commander ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~. Any direct fire weapons under our ROE which is 40MM and 25MM for AC-130, or 30MM from Apaches

SECRET

SECRET

is approved with the on scene ground commander.

BG Colt: Okay. What is (b)(3), (b)(6) looking at now?

JTAC: (b)(3), (b)(6) was not on station at this time, they ended up checking on, I believe directly after the first engagement. Once (b)(3), (b)(6) checked on we actually did have two squirters that came from around the 280 series they were the original two PAX that were with the 8 pax. When AWT originally saw the eight PAX it actually looked like they were in an open ranks formation the two PAX that squirted looking each one up and down and walked off after they sent them on patrol. (b)(3), (b)(6) immediately followed those two squirters to the northwest as they were running off and was willing to engage them with containment fires, but we held off on containment fires and have them just keep going and track them. One of the (b)(3), (b)(6) sensors was on the original engagement site of the six PAX, correction the eight PAX. Once we engaged the eight PAX, we had six EKIA and two WIA and the two WIA from the engagement ran off to the west into a tree line. One of the (b)(3), (b)(6) sensors had eyes on the two PAX, but AWT was having a hard time getting eyes on and (b)(3), (b)(6)'s sensor was also there, but we also had one of (b)(3), (b)(6) sensors still on the 10-series compound because that was our original objective. After the engagement we wanted to go to conduct BDA on the six PAX and try and find the other two wounded in action. So we maintained one (b)(3), (b)(6) sensor on the PAX that squirted from 280 - at this time I labeled them squirters 280 Alpha and Bravo. (b)(3), (b)(6) throughout the entire mission reported that they were bounding to the northwest and knocking on doors of several compounds trying to gain access possibly for safe haven. Eventually, (b)(3), (b)(6) reported that they were around 2.8K to the northwest and at this time I found it was best that we put one of (b)(3), (b)(6) sensors on them and pull (b)(3), (b)(6) sensors back over so they could help the BDA team with security for the two wounded in action that were still possibly out there. So now we had both (b)(3), (b)(6) sensors over in the original engagement area looking for the two wounded in action and helping provide security for the BDA team moving to the six engaged PAX. Once the BDA team came to the six engaged PAX it turned out one was actually wounded in action and rolled over and reached for an AK-47 - the BDA team engaged that single PAX resulting in the sixth EKIA. Once the BDA team engaged that sixth PAX the two wounded in action squirted to the west further into a tree line and (b)(3), (b)(6) and AWT had eyes on and followed him into the tree line, but once they were in that tree line they lost lock on

SECRET

SECRET

them they were not able to find them anymore. They burned and lased the area and squirted, correction, sparkled the area for the BDA team and the BDA team conducted clearances through the area but wasn't able to find anything. They found a couple of bed down locations and a motorcycle. We brought everyone back to the 10-series compound once the BDA was complete on the engagement site and at that time I heard over - it was relayed to me through (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c that there was going to be a QRF team that was going after the PAX - squirters 280 Alpha and Bravo. At this time also (b)(3), (b)(6) reported to me that the PAX 280 Alpha and Bravo had met up with several other MAMs that were around seven MAMs total. They had gone into a building and pretty much stopped in that building. (b)(3), (b)(6) told me that they were going to have the QRF (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c come in and land and interdict the squirters in the target building, assault the target building. (b)(3), (b)(6), however, informed me that they were going to need suppressive fire on the HLZ due to the high threat in the area, we had already engaged the six PAX before and it was really not a very clear area so they were really pushing for pre-assault fires on there. I originally said since we were on the scene ground commander was (b)(3), (b)(6) that we controlled the pre-assault fires from our location with accurate timing and accurate targeting data basically for the HLZ - controlled through AWT. At this time I also pushed one of (b)(3), (b)(6) sensors over to the HLZ site as well to start doing clearance. So (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c and (b)(3), (b)(6) sensors were over onto the HLZ, one of (b)(3), (b)(6) sensors was on us and (b)(3), (b)(6) sensors was on the 60 series because at this time the eagles had already cleared and secured the 10 series. Once AWT had cleared the HLZ and (b)(3), (b)(6) --

BG Colt: When you say the HLZ, are you talking about (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c or are you talking about (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c

JTAC: I'm talking the HLZ for the (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c QRF site.

BG Colt: All right.

JTAC: So talking to (b)(3), (b)(6)] they talked to Golf Uniform 2 who was the JTAC in the air on EXTORTION 17 and they said they wanted to control the pre-assault fires for the HLZ. I passed --- both (b)(3), (b)(6) over to control to GU2 through EXTORTION through their comms and at that point that (b)(3), (b)(6) said they were one minute out and after the one minute out call, they said EXTORTION was down.

SECRET

SECRET

BG Colt: Did you get any feedback throughout this mission from Pred?

JTAC: ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~, the biggest problem with them is we are having a lot of really big comms issues with them either they cannot hear us or we cannot hear them. They press the microphone and they are either half way talking or the talking escalates. So what I do I usually pass them to ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ and any comms that goes through them is going to go through their MIRC and I believe they were doing a perimeter scan up to 500 meter of the 60 series building for us---

BG Colt: Who's directing that?

JTAC: I'm in control of the sensors through ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~.

BG Colt: How about any of the -- you also had a ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ asset on station right?

JTAC: Yes I did sir.

BG Colt: When did they come on?

JTAC: ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ came on to RIP ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ so basically replaced ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~, so ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ went home and ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ checked on, so that way we were only able to have a single sensor on the 60 series.

BG Colt: Did you get any kind of voice -- do they pass any voice intercept or anything like that to you?

JTAC: We would have, however because the QRF team was coming in we also had ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ on station, so based on ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ SOP they always go PTT buzzer on 10-minutes prior to infil, and throughout infil. So they were buzzer on throughout this time so ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ wasn't able to collect.

SME-INTEL: Quick question on ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~, two sensors that are on ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ is that it?

JTAC: ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ is a single sensor sir.

SME-INTEL: Single FMV?

JTAC: It's a full motion video [inaudible], it's a single sensor, sir.

SECRET

SECRET

ASDAT4: Did you have communications with ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~?

JTAC: I had very limited communication with them as well because they are a jamming aircraft. Usually when they come buzzer off or music off I can usually have communication with them, but if not, then I usually relay through ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ because they are able to contact via MIRC.

ASDAT4: After the incident at the crash site did they try to communicate with you?

JTAC: The crash site themselves or Good Deal themselves?

ASDAT4: Good Deal.

JTAC: Good Deal I had them maintain buzzer on usually they'll try and directly contact me via communication, they will either go through ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ or ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ and ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ or ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ would relay a "Striker, ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ is wondering do they need to go back and buzzer on or go buzzer off".

BG Colt: So what did we do in this case?

JTAC: In this case you keep, I kept buzzer on for them for the entire mission. Even though we had a ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ asset because we haven't been in this area in a while, I think it's best to have PTT ~~(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c~~.

SME-GFA: You have guys had Good Deal on LEFTY GROVE infil buzzer on---

JTAC: Good Deal is able to cover the whole area, usually they will hold around echo 15 which is basically they are giving a 15 nautical mile wheel inside the area, so they are able to jam pretty much that entire area, so they'll be able to---

(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c

SECRET

SECRET

JTAC: We had infil and then ---

PLT LDR: Which they did collect for a little bit---

JTAC: We did but because the QRF was coming in, they went buzzer back on.

SME-GFA: QRF comes in several hours later as I understand - so just for context - Good Deal buzzer on during your infi, then buzzer goes off, they start collecting -

JTAC: Yes.

SME-GFA: At some point (b)(3), (b)(6) replaces (b)(3), (b)(6) and (b)(3), (b)(6) collects, correct?

JTAC: (b)(3), (b)(6) can collect but I believe we were buzzer on by the time (b)(3), (b)(6) checked on station.

JTAC: Then (b)(3), (b)(6) checked on very close to the time that the RIP'd (b)(3), (b)(6) very close to the time the QRF package was coming in.

SME-GFA: Is (b)(3), (b)(6) - are they translating back down here and the TOC is pushing to you guys?

JTAC: As far as translating the communications?

SME-GFA: Yes.

JTAC: (b)(3), (b)(6) does not have - like have a translator on board.

SME-GFA: Right, did they pipe it down to somebody down here?

PSG: We went----the BDA team for the 6 EKIA, they had two PTT on them and we had ICOM scanner with the terp. They weren't damaged during the 30MM strike, so I made the recommendation to 16 we go buzzer off, I gave the frequency to the terp to plug into his scanner so we could hear what was going in the area and what was moving around.

BG Colt: Did you get anything?

PSG: I don't know sir, because that was probably 10 to 15

SECRET

SECRET

minutes before they were going to go buzzer back on for 21's infil.

SME-GFA: I'm just curious on their ~~(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c~~ - are you getting anything significant on enemy posture or preparing for another helo infil?

JTAC: Sir I didn't hear anything regarding any sort of communication. There was no DF finding from ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ themselves and there was no chatter at that point [inaudible].

SME-GFA: Just to back up a little bit during part of your execution of ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ sensor on the building - primary sensor for the squinters, correct? ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ was looking at what?

JTAC: (b)(3), (b)(6) was doing 500-meters scans around the target sir.

SME-GFA: They're 500 meters around---you have (b)(3), (b)(6) --- AC-130, they come on station after you guys are on target, or during your infil?

JTAC: During our infil.

(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c

SME-GFA: (b)(3), (b)(6) is doing what?

JTAC: (b)(3), (b)(6) is, usually I have them initial scan. AWT is pretty proactive when they are out on target so they're really looking for something to try and engage in the security of the PAX, so I put them in initial posture, free scan around the area for the trails found around the target, around the -- around the target and the Eagles.

SME-GFA: (b)(3), (b)(6) replaces (b)(3), (b)(6), so (b)(3), (b)(6) goes away. ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ is primary on?

JTAC: On the 60 series.

SECRET

SECRET

SME-GFA: The 60 series.

JTAC: The next objective after the 10 series was the 60 series and so because we were through clearing the 10 series we pushed the sensor to the 60 series.

BG Colt: How long prior to the IRF infil did you push the Apaches away from you to go look at HLZ (b)(1), (b)(4), (b)(7)(c)

JTAC: It was --

BG Colt: -- Now were you still controlling that asset then or did at some point it passed to the IRF element lead?

JTAC: What happened, is as soon as they said that they were going to have a QRF infil I sent (b)(3), (b)(6) to go check out the HLZ.

SME-MH47: Well, at some point (b)(3), (b)(6) had to get a bag of gas, right?

PSG: That was during the EKIA BDA, sir.

SME-MH47: Okay, so --

JTAC: While we were cleaning the BDA site, (b)(3), (b)(6) went to FARP, (b)(3), (b)(6) was maintaining eyes-on.

BG Colt: Okay, when you came back on station, how long after he was back on station, did you push him over t (b)(1), (b)(4), (b)(7)(c)

JTAC: It was after we finished going through the BDA site and they helped us try and find the squirters that were in the tree line and once we were back at the 10 series is when we got the call that QRF was going to be coming to the HLZ site. As soon as we got the call that QRF was coming in HLZ, to go over to them then I pushed them [inaudible] --

BG Colt: How long would you say when you say they were getting ready to come in there, were they airborne at that point?

JTAC: No, they were just about to go airborne. They were preparing to - I was trying to get a timeline through (b)(3), (b)(6), but I wasn't really getting the timeline and then all of a sudden at one point they were --

SECRET

SECRET

BG Colt: So ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ went out, looked at the HLZ, and at some point did they not go back and FARP a second time?

JTAC: No, they didn't go FARP until after the Fallen Angel incident.

TF~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~SEA: They went and refueled which held up the wheels up here of the ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ --

JTAC: I want to say, sir, that they went from 2115 to 2130 they went to FARP--

JTAC: -- They were gone for a while.

PSG:-- Right, because it was about 45 minutes [inaudible] before we got back to you to push to the 60 series, so probably 2115 you cut ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ to go check out ~~(b)(1), 4a, (b)(1), 4c~~

SME-GFA: Okay, you have the initial group of squirter leave the target, eight PAX, correct?

JTAC: The eight PAX were found, pretty much but we can't confirm if they were the squirter from the target building but two of the PAX that were with the eight PAX that we originally engaged --

SME-GFA: AWT engaged and kills six -- or AWT killed five and you guys killed one?

PSG: Yes.

SME-GFA: So there's two more, we think they are wounded so---

JTAC: They are separate from the 280 A and B. The two wounded in action that were with the engagement of the eight PAX were separate. They were in the tree line.

SME-GFA: They are the tree line folks. So, 280A is a separate set?

JTAC: 280 A and B are the two PAX that were originally with the eight PAX, so there's ten PAX total and those are the ones that squirted once they heard the AWT fire.

SECRET

SECRET

SME-GFA: Okay so the two wounded PAX are the original engagement [inaudible] more than 280?

JTAC: No. The two -- alright, the two -- there was ten PAX total, sir --

IO: [inaudible].

PLT LDR: Let me try real quick for you. So, at some point either two PAX from the 60 series went into the 10 and got those from the 10 - interaction between ten and 60, came out. That's where you got your eight PAX that were engaged right here on this road, sir. Additionally, we had two PAX from the 280 series that squirted and just moved northwest; so, no interaction with this initial set.

SME-GFA: So, from the 10 and 60, eight PAX, six are dead two are -- we think are wounded in the tree line --

PLT LDR: Correct; way off to the left.

SME-GFA: -- two more PAX from 280 are moving northwest.

PLT LDR: I want to say-- ~~(b)(1), (b)(4), (b)(1), (b)(4)~~ do these two squirt before we even had this interaction with 10 and 60?

JTAC: No, it was -- as soon as the AWT engaged, (b)(3), (b)(6) reported we had two squirters from the 280 series.

SME-GFA: So, rough timeline of squirting is during your infil?

PLT LDR: Yes, sir.

JTAC: That was -- we had not gone to the target building -- well, when we engaged with the AWT.

PLT LDR: And that was the thought process, not to chase the original two squirters from the 280 series, because we already had the 10 series to go and BDA and two more, so we just said let's just bite off what we can chew right now and if two guys without weapons get away from us tonight --

SME-GFA: So, you got a sensor on the two squirters moving northwest and a sensor on the other two in the tree line?

SECRET

SECRET

PLT LDR: Yes.

BG Colt: How long was the foot march from ~~(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c~~ up to the 10 series?

PLT LDR: Just over 2K, sir.

BG Colt: Time?

PLT LDR: About forty minutes, sir.

BG Colt: And you had information though that those original squirters out of the 10 series building, they moved off that while you were enroute to the 10 series from the HLZ, correct?

PLT LDR: Yes, sir.

BG Colt: Okay.

TF~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~**SEA:** The two squirters from the 280, it was about the time of the AWT engagement.

~~(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c~~

TF~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~**SEA:** And they took off. They were hauling ass, just like I mean, showing the pattern of what the Taliban does over here.

JTAC: ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ said they were bounding -- military bounding.

TF~~(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)~~**SEA:** They were moving and you can hear it kind of play out, you know, as fast as they were going in the terrain that they were not going to be able to catch those guys. That's what kind of drove everything to -- to ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ and especially when they hooked up with the other group.

BG Colt: And as I understood it again, the AWT after they made their engagement, the squirters from 280 -- you directed the sensor and the AWT after those two squirters - negative contact?

JTAC: No, not AWT. Just ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ sensors because we have the 6 PAX we were engaging AWT had both sensors on those two

SECRET

SECRET

PAX-- or six PAX.

BG Colt: Okay. At no time did the AWT go looking for those 280 PAX?

JTAC: No.

BG Colt: Okay.

SME-GFA: And the assessed wounded in the tree line - you never found those guys?

JTAC: Never found those guys. Those guys ended up fleeing the area.

SME-GFA: Did 280 link up with some more --

JTAC: 280 linked up with PAX [inaudible] -

SME-GFA: Were they pounding on the buildings to get in?

JTAC: The 280 A and B are the same PAX that went to the -
- The two PAX that went to the north - that's 280 A and B.

SME-GFA: Yeah?

JTAC: Those were the PAX. They linked up with six other PAX, actually.

SME-GFA: Where at?

JTAC: (b)(3), (b)(6) reported it was like 2K away.

SME-GFA: In a building? In an open area?

JTAC: In an open area. They were just kind of tracking them out there. Actually, it was --

SME-GFA: That group of folks is the one pounding on buildings trying to gain access and all that?

JTAC: Just the 280 A and B were pounding on doors and then eventually we dealt with PAX.

BG Colt: Are those the elements that the IRF was literally going to contain -- those [building] 280 PAX?

SECRET

SECRET

~~(S)~~ 1.4a, (b)(1) **SEA:** Yes. And then after they had linked up with the other six guys. And, if I remember correctly, it was -- he was -- what I was hearing was they had moved to -- they linked up with the other six PAX, there were eight total and had moved to a historical fighting position I think it was the way it came to me.

JTAC: The building that they described that they ended up going to was three rows of buildings oriented east to west with a guard tower on the eastern side -- the northeastern side.

SME-GFA: Which sensor again, which sensor is watching?

JTAC: (b)(3), (b)(6) -- One of (b)(3), (b)(6) sensors.

SME-INTEL: Was there ever an assessment made on the ground of who those two individuals were or what their intent was?

JTAC: Negative, sir. I mean, they were squirts from the 280. I mean, they squirted and ran off so we followed them.

SME-INTEL: Was there any -- did they demonstrate any hostile intent?

JTAC: Not directly towards the assault force but they were military bounding and ran away from and actively engaged in fire.

~~(S)~~ 1.4a, (b)(1) **SEA:** I would say no, sir, but I'll say again they were exhibiting the patterns that, you know, we historically see as what the bad guys do over here. The way they were moving and how they were acting. You know, it's not anything -- it is not how the civilians act. They were definitely showing the signs.

BG Colt: Do you know or believe that that was the judgment of the IRF commander; that was his trigger point that when it got to a mass of eight? Was that the reason why he determined that he was going to infil?

~~(S)~~ 1.4a, (b)(1) **SEA:** I do not know for fact. I was in Jbad at the time, but I would say 95 percent, that would be my guess from what I was hearing and my conversation with 01. Yes, sir, I believe that was.

SECRET

SECRET

PLT LDR: Had I been able to interdict those two with y elements, sir, I certainly would have. From when I heard ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ is coming in, I said, "good on them," [inaudible]. Certainly, I'm under the impression that good guys don't run away.

SME-GFA: Just for -- you guys are cleared and secured the 10 series?

IE: Yes, sir.

SME-GFA: You got into TQ, or -- the tactical questioning?

IE: The issues, sir, is -- I forget what the slant was, but it was like eight -- eight men in here and then running low on time so we had done an initial BIT / TQ in here just to identify who's who, who are these guys running, and we were looking to take down the 60 series as well as soon as we got the BDA element back because of the interaction between the 10 and 60 and the MAMs that we engaged coming from those, so we're look to just do a quick who's who and then probably pull military aged MAMs of the target compound and sort it back here, sir.

SME-GFA: Nothing from tactical questioning saying LEFTY GROVE was one of the squirters, correct?

PLT LDR: Correct, sir.

BG Colt: Was the exfil from ~~(b)(1), 1.4a, (b)(1)~~ on time or on call?

PLT LDR: No, it was no later than 2330, sir, and we were looking to push out right at 2330 just based off of -- We had the 60 series clear, conducting back clear when we have actually got the call about the EXTORTION flight, sir.

BG Colt: Okay. And the other element that was about to infil at 2209; correct?

PLT LDR: Yes, sir.

BG Colt: And at 2209 your actions then were what? What were you doing at infil -- the second infil?

PLT LDR: We had just pushed in our ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ counterparts into

SECRET

SECRET

the 60 series we were clearing -- we had done a callout so we had all the MAMs and feathers and chargers outside the b ding push them through just to conduct a quick clear with (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3) and our assault force in the 60 series, sir.

SME-GFA: Okay. Is your entire element consolidated as one---?

[UNIDENTIFIED]: [inaudible, two people speaking simultaneously] Roger, to the 10 and 60.

PSG: Right, half the element was in the 10 series, the other half was conducting callout and clearing to the 60 series.

[inaudible]

PSG: We were done with BDA my element of I think ten PAX was back and I was leading the callout on the 60 series.

E-MH47: I've got a question. Earlier we were briefed by (b)(3), (b)(6) that the six enemy KIA were all shot by ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~, but you said it was your BDA killed one. Is that right?

PSG: We had -- there was one WIA left in the pile of six-

SME-MH47: Oh, and you finished?

PSG: Yeah, we finished him off as we were moving through.

SME-MH47: Okay, fair enough.

PSG: Still on the -- because it was on the way to pick up the two out in the field there.

LA: Just so we're clear, you finished him off because --

PSG: He was reaching for a weapon.

LA: Thank you.

SME-GFA: You didn't request the IRF to go and interdict. It was -- you were informed that was going to happen, correct?

PLT LDR: Yes, sir.

SECRET

SECRET

SME-GFA: [inaudible] "hey, we are now shifting fires from -- fires and ISR from you guys to support the IRF," was that transmitted to you guys?

JTAC: Yeah, once the call was made that EXTORTION was going to infil the IRF to interdict the squirters 280 A and B.

CRT RPT: Sir, can you speak up just a bit, please?

JTAC: Once the call was made that EXTORTION was going to drop off the IRF to interdict squirters 280 A and B. I sent ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ over to start looking around the HLZ and one of ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ sensors---

SME-GFA: Still under your control?

JTAC: Still under my control.

SME-GFN1: So, ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ was still reporting back to you when it was scanning ~~(b)(1), 1.4a, (b)(1), 1.4c~~

JTAC: Yes, because the JTAC was not on the ground and sensor on the EXTORTION birds only have one radio that they're able to monitor. We usually just have a person on the ground control or go through ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ through the EXTORTION flight.

SME-NGB: Didn't you say you believe that's 2115 is when ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ went up to ~~(b)(1), 1.4a, (b)(1), 1.4c~~ do that?

JTAC: They went as soon as I got the call. I don't know. I'm not sure.

SME-NGB: You don't know the time?

SME-MH47: But ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ was on site for about ten minutes roughly, a ~~(b)(1), 1.4a, (b)(1), 1.4c~~ before the aircraft came in with the lift air elements?

JTAC: They were looking over there for a little while, sir -- for quite some time. I believe it was -

TF ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ SEA: I don't remember, but they had to go refuel like you said, and that pushed back the departure here of 2 ~~(b)(1), 1.4a, (b)(1), 1.4c~~ don't know ---

BG Colt: They looked at the HLZ and then came to get gas

SECRET

SECRET

and then went back?

TF (b)(3), (b)(6) SEA: From my best understanding; yes, sir, and I don't know the timeline that they were -- you know, if they came in ahead and looked over the HLZ before the EXTORTION came in or if they just were aft the whole time. But, I know we did have sensors on the HLZ area and I don't remember any reporting of any movement of the HLZ area [inaudible].

JTAC: You know ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ was looking at the HLZ. I'm not sure of how long they were looking at the HLZ for before EXTORTION got there. I know it was at least over 6 minutes because at one point while they were looking at the HLZ, ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ had informed me that EXTORTION was at 6 minute hold waiting to infil at the HLZ and basically waiting for me to transfer control of ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ over to GU2 before they would infil for suppressive fire.

SME-GFA: At what point was that supposed to take place?

JTAC: At what point -- the transfer over?

SME-GFA: Yes.

JTAC: It wasn't really a designated time that we had to transfer, it was pretty much, they said, "Hey, GU2's on the ground,"-- [inaudible]

SME-GFA: On the ground or in mid-flight?

JTAC: Oh, no while they were still flying they transmitted to ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ ver EXTORTION's radio that they wanted control of ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ for the pre-assault fires and once they requested it, I sent up the [inaudible] --

SME-GFA: ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ or with sensors over - (b)(3), (b)(6) at least looks at the HLZ.

JTAC: (b)(3), (b)(6) and (b)(3), (b)(6) sensors are all looking at the HLZ.

SME-GFA: So, in support of the IRF, you've got (b)(3), (b)(6) and ~~(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c~~.

JTAC: Yes.

SME-GFA: (b)(3), (b)(6) is --

SECRET

SECRET

JTAC: I believe ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ is still looking at our 60 series.

IO: [inaudible]

~~(b)(1), (b)(1)~~ **SEA:** My best -- there may be six to ten minutes before infil, I think I remember the discussion going on about switching control [inaudible] --

JTAC: It was more than six, but I can't confirm it was more than that, I believe six to ten would be accurate [inaudible].

SME-GFA: Good comms with ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~? ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ still at this point?

JTAC: ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ still at this point.

SME-GFA: Good comms with ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~?

JTAC: Absolutely.

BG Colt: Okay, and after the aircraft went down, at that point, your actions with regard to the AWT were what?

JTAC: I kept the AWT in the area. AWT, as soon as the aircraft went down, engaged in where they thought the fire came from. It was a field on the side of a terrain feature. I kept the AWT through both the SLASHERs sensors over there and pretty much dedicated every sensor I could to that area except for ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~. I kept ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ on us and kept all those sensors on the Fallen Angel in case there was anyone coming up to it, and look for survivors.

SME-GFN2: Did you say earlier you heard a one minute call?

JTAC: I heard a one minute call. I did.

SME-GFN2: From EXTORTION?

JTAC: Not from EXTORTION itself, but through PITCHBLACK.

ASDAT4: Did you have a second ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ on station at all that night?

SECRET

SECRET

JTAC: Later on that after the Fallen Angel, there was a second ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ that came in to RIP the original ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ almost, I think it was during daylight hours I had two ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ on station.

ASDAT4: So, with ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~, the only ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ on stat on up to that point, did ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ move over for the infil ~~(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c~~ and provide anything to those guys over there?

JTAC: Yes, ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ did look over at the ~~(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c~~ HLZ before the bird landed.

BG Colt: And at that point was he talking to ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~

JTAC: ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ I don't know if he was in direct comms with him, but I pretty much put them over for allocation for them for pre-assault fires ISO ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~.

SME-GFA: The ~~(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c~~ got -- still has the sensor on the follow-on target location - and sensor looking at HLZ. The primary task for ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ is clear HLZ and then anything following that or just focused on HLZ?

JTAC: Just focused on HLZ and any threat at the HLZ for ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~. And ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~, I think had eyes-on the 280 PAX and the HLZ.

ASDAT3: From where you guys were on the objective, did you see the IR spot light that ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ provided to HLZ
~~(b)(1)1.4a, (b)(1)1.4c~~

JTAC: I can see where it's coming from the aircraft, but there was an extremely large terrain feature between us and the HLZ site.

BG Colt: Do you think ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ glinted the LZ?

JTAC: I think they sparkled the HLZ.

SME-MH47: Do you know at what time? What time call?

JTAC: I'm not sure, sir.

SME-MH47: I'm sorry. For how long did they sparkle the HLZ?

SECRET

SECRET

JTAC: For how long they were sparkling the HLZ? I'm not sure. Usually the standard SOP is at the one minute out call, they'll sparkle on the HLZ.

SME-GFA: That's been the norm ever since you guys have been here working with the --?

JTAC: That's the norm ever since I have worked [inaudible].

BG Colt: But the AC was sparkling?

JTAC: That the aircraft was sparkling?

BG Colt: Yes. Not, that the AC - not the AWT - was doing it.

JTAC: Yeah, AWT has a -- kind of a problem with their sparkle capabilities because of the IR pointers on their gun and with them banking and turning their gyros actually make the IR pointer jitter quite a bit and so usually it's better to have a AC-130 or a fast moving aircraft to sparkle the HLZ.

BG Colt: After the aircraft went down and all the ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ element took off on a foot march how did you utilize the sensors available to you then? They were pretty much all staring at the Fallen Angel at that point.

JTAC: Because we were going to head towards the Fallen Angel site and I was determined -- I kept both the ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ sensors and he actually became the air mission commander for ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ mission at that point and kept one of the AWT sensors over there so ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ was there, ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ was on Eagles with ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ as well clearing the route and finding the best route possible for us to get to the Fallen Angel.

SME-MH47: How did they show that route to you? Did they just---

JTAC: They did a verbal description and I don't think they sparkled at all for us. I think they might have sparkled one [inaudible--someone speaking in the background]. They didn't sparkle at all for us. But basically a verbal description, "Follow this road, come around the bank, and you're going to enter a Wadi at this point." At this point I also pushed ~~(b)(3), (b)(6)~~ over to the Fallen Angel.

SECRET

SECRET

SME-GFA: Is (b)(3), (b)(6) still on station at this point, or is he---?

JTAC: I think so. I think he was still on station.

ASDAT3: Did (b)(3), (b)(6) report anything of significance in the area of these suppressive fires from (b)(3), (b)(6)?

JTAC: No. There was nothing significant in the area at all.

ASDAT3: What would the terminology 'registered in the area' would that pertain to? Why would (b)(1), 1.4a, (b)(1), 1.4b say something 'registered in the area'? What would that pertain to?

JTAC: Something registered in the area?

ASDAT3: Right.

JTAC: You said (b)(3), (b)(6) said that?

ASDAT3: Correct. I believe he said it to you.

JTAC: He said it to me? I don't remember (b)(3), (b)(6) saying ng registered in the area. Registered is usually a (b)(1), 1.4a, (b)(1), 1.4b term. It's used by most ISR aircraft. They were talking about that; I believe they didn't check on the HOBBIT that night, either. So, I don't think they said anything about registering comms. If that's what they were talking about.

BG Colt: And to your knowledge again, they were jamming the whole time. During the IRF infil as well?

JTAC: Standard SOP is for them to jam 10 minutes prior.

BG Colt: And was that by SOP or by direction?

JTAC: I believe it was by SOP and double checking directions [inaudible].

BG Colt: Okay.

BG Colt: Anybody else.

Negative response by all members of the investigative team.

SECRET

SECRET

BG Colt: Okay. Thank you.

SECRET