

Counter Sniper Fire, Patrol Base Karma, 3rd
Battalion of the 1st Marine Regiment

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Acrylic on Canvas (2013), 20 X 16 in., from the art collection of the National
Museum of the Marine Corps, Quantico, VA

Description:

This image shows a Marine sniper team—Corporal King, his spotter, Staff Sergeant Diaz, and a crouching Lance Corporal Peterson—returning fire on a Taliban sniper at daybreak. The Patrol Base was receiving Taliban sniper fire from a mud compound approximately 300 meters south of their position. The team is on the roof of Patrol Base Karma, which in May 2010 was the southernmost Marine position in the restive Helmand Province and river valley. The patrol base was manned by a combined anti-armor team (CAAT) of Weapons Platoon of the Third Battalion of the 1st Marine Regiment. Sandwiched between two major irrigation channels and an easy target from other compounds, poppy fields, irrigation ditches, and tree lines, PB Karma was under constant fire from rocket-propelled grenades, rifle fire, and 102mm Chinese rockets. The enemy sniper was “walking” the rounds up Karma’s outside wall. The enemy’s “windage” was good, but the elevation off. The Marine sniper team maintained their cool as the rounds impacted just below them. While with the Marines there, the artist was missed by a Chinese rocket by one meter. The crouching Marine, LCpl Peterson, lost both legs two months later from an Improvised Explosive Device.