

LIMA VICTOR

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EXT. WOODED HILLSIDE - DAWN

CORPORAL NATHANIEL "NATE" HOLLINS and SPECIALIST CHRIS MENDES are a sniper team on assignment. Thru the sight of Nate's rifle, there are two men talking next to a large building. The view stays on these men as Nate and Chris set up.

NATE (V.O.)
We're up. Hand me the cable.

CHRIS (V.O.)
The relay is online...now.

The view from the scope has a brief interrupt constituted of static similar in form to bad television reception.

NATE (V.O.)
Whoa! Easy on the equipment!

CHRIS (V.O.)
My fault.

The static clears.

CHRIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
There.

Chris pulls a small device that resembles a PDA out of a pocket on her right sleeve. She strings a cable from the device to a single lens spotting scope on a small tripod in from of her.

NATE
How're we lookin'?

Chris fiddles with the PDA device until an overheard picture of a warehouse appears. Two blue dots are in the bottom center and seven red dots are miscellaneously placed around the warehouse.

CHRIS (V.O.)
Satellite's up.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Two tangos at the south wall. One on the north side of the southern silo and four inside the building.

Nate settles in and checks his sites as Chris adjusts her scope. A cable runs from the side of the Chris's scope to the side of the scope on top of Nate's rifle.

NATE
 (eyes in scope)
 Tango primary acquired.

Chris looks thru her scope for a moment, where a red box inside of her wider view denotes Nate's view, and presses a small button on the side. Her wide view is replaced by the view from Nate's scope. She turns to the small device and touches the screen two times.

CHRIS
 Tango ID confirmed.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
 (to radio)
 Lima victor to hotel alpha. Tango primary id confirmed and target acquired. Requesting permission to fire.

RADIO
 (preceeded by a click)
 Permission granted lima victor. Designate artillery targets then prep for strike. Hotel alpha standing by.

Chris pushes the button on her scope again, returning to the wider view, then she presses five points into the screen of the PDA.

CHRIS
 (to radio)
 Target designations uploaded.

RADIO
 Target designations confirmed lima victor. Mission is go. Repeat, mission is go. Permission to fire granted. Air strike inbound. Hotel alpha standing by.

CHRIS
 (to radio)
 Affirmative. Lima victor out.

NATE
 Here we go.

Nate settles into his rifle and begins breathing slowly as Chris focuses thru her scope.

NATE (CONT'D)

Ready.

Chris pushes the small button again as Nate's view returns.

CHRIS

Fire. Fire. Fire.

A loud snap fills the air around them as Nate fires one round. Chris quickly presses the small button again and when her wider view is available, she zooms in to see the body of one of the two men standing outside lying prone on the ground, a blood splatter on the wall behind. Chris presses another button on her scope and the screen reads "IMAGE STORED".

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Kill confirmed.

Just then, the roar of jet engines can be heard overhead as Nate adjusts his scope and Chris looks down at her PDA. A series of explosions can be heard and the faces of both Chris and Nate light up with orange and red tones. On Chris's PDA, the red dots disappear, leaving only the blue dots. They both wait a moment before speaking.

NATE

(picking head up)

Scope's clear.

CHRIS

Satellite's clean.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

(to radio)

Lima victor to hotel alpha. Tango primary kill confirmed. Artillery target destruction confirmed. Mission is Irene. Repeat, mission is Irene.

Nate flips the safety on his rifle, stands up and slings it on his back then begins to pack up their gear.

RADIO

Roger last lima victor. Mission complete. LZ alpha compromised. Insurgent movement has route blocked. Advise reroute via LZ Bravo.

CHRIS
(to radio)
Roger that hotel alpha. Reroute
via LZ bravo for extraction
confirmed. ETA 10:15.

RADIO
Roger lima victor. Com check at
09:30. Hotel alpha out.

Chris stands up and puts the rest of her equipment away as
Nate patiently waits next to her.

NATE
Gotta love the scenic routes.

Chris checks their heading on the satellite screen from her
PDA, places it back into her shoulder pocket, then swings
her assault rifle around into a ready position.

CHRIS
(walking away)
That's why I joined the Army.

Nate chuckles a little while swing his sniper rifle around
and into a ready position, then follows Chris.

EXT. FOREST - LATER

The leaves crunch and crumble underneath Nate's and Chris'
feet as they walk slowly thru a moderately thick forest.
Sunlight scatters from the canopy overhead, giving the
entire area a gray pallette like a cloudy day.

Nate taps Chris on the shoulder and motions to his canteen.
She nods and they both move toward a grouping of trees.
Slinging his rifle behind his back, Nate takes a drink from
his canteen. Chris crouches in front of him, rifle at the
ready. He wipes his mouth with his sleeve and puts the
canteen back on his belt, then taps Chris on the shoulder.
Chris steps back into the trees, slinging her rifle onto
her back, and takes out her canteen as Nate pulls his rifle
to the ready position and takes her place at the opening to
the trees. After Chris has her fill of her canteen, she
sets it down on the ground and checks her watch.

ECU WATCH FACE "09:30"

She reaches out to tap Nate on the shoulder but is slightly
too far away. So she touches the side of her helmet.

CHRIS (V.O.)

Nate!

Nate clutches his head and bumps against one of the trees.

NATE (V.O.)

Damn it! You could have warned me.
Jesus.

Nate shakes his head and looks back out over the forest.

CHRIS (V.O.)

You really hate the silentcoms
don't you?

NATE (V.O.)

No, they're a great idea but they
set my volume too high. Sounds
like you're screaming in my head.

CHRIS (V.O.)

It's 09:30. Wanna deploy the
AIRSTAT?

NATE (V.O.)

Yeah.

Nate pulls a small gray device out of a pouch on the front of his vest and places it on the ground in front of him. He pushes a small button and a green LED lights up.

NATE (CONT'D)

Go for com check.

CHRIS

(to radio)

Lima victor to hotel alpha.

Chris and Nate wait a few moments.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

(to radio)

Lima victor to hotel alpha. How do
you copy? Over.

A few more moments pass. Nate turns his head and looks at Chris in concern.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

(to radio)

Hotel alpha, this is lima victor.
Do you copy? Over.

Even more moments pass and Nate turns his head back to the forest, flipping the safety on his rifle into the off position.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
 (to radio)
 Nothing. Not a damn thing.

NATE
 Bad reception?

Chris pulls her rifle around, flips the safety, and pulls out her PDA. The screen shows their current position with blue dots.

CHRIS
 No. The satellite is up. They should be there.

NATE
 Task it to check the LZ.

Chris presses the screen but nothing happens.

CHRIS
 Nothing, it's stuck in follow mode. I don't like this.

She puts the PDA back in its pocket and pulls her rifle into the ready position.

NATE
 (pointing to his 3
 o'clock)
 There's a ridge about 200 yards to the west. Let's try coms there to be sure.

Chris taps her helmet again.

CHRIS (V.O.)
 We should stick with silentcom for now.

Nate pushes the button on the AIRSTAT device and puts it back in his vest.

NATE (V.O.)
 Roger.

EXT. FOREST RIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

The two move in a slow two by two cover formation to the ridge. When they arrive, they both crouch and Chris tries the radio again after Nate sets the AIRSTAT out.

CHRIS
(to radio)
Lima victor to hotel al-

Before she can finish her sentence, a bang echos in the forest and Chris takes a round thru the left thigh.

NATE
Shit!

Chris falls over as Nate dives backward. They both slide down the ridge where Chris settles in a small clearing. Nate, however, pushes himself toward cover, narrowly missing another shot that impacts a tree as he passes it. Chris takes the opportunity afforded her by the sniper's distraction and pulls her PDA out. The screen is exactly the same as before they moved to the ridge. Nate finally settles into his cover.

NATE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Chris!? You okay?

CHRIS (V.O.)
No. He got me in the thigh. I'm bleeding bad. I didn't even see it coming.

NATE (V.O.)
Neither did I. I'm in the tree bank north of you. Fucker hacked our coms. Used it to bait us to the ridge. He's good. I'll give him that. Can you check the sat feed?

CHRIS (V.O.)
He hacked the satellite too. Put it in a geosynch orbit over the trees we used for cover earlier.

Nate takes his rifle and lines it up towards the southeast, and begins to look for the shooter.

CHRIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
(arching her arm)
I'll throw the satcom to you. Try to task another satellite.

Chris throws the PDA towards Nate but immediately after it leaves her hand, another shot fills the air and a bullet plows thru Chris's hand, shredding it.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Aaaaaaaaaahh!

The PDA lands 20 feet to the right of Nate.

NATE
Son of a bitch!

NATE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I can't see the shooter! You've got to give me a bearing Chris!

Chris pulls her bleeding hand up to her chest and calms her breathing.

CHRIS (V.O.)
From the angle...of...my hand.
He...he has to be...at your...10
o'clock-

Another shot rings out but Nate sees the shot and immediately returns fire.

EXT. OTHER SIDE OF FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Hundred of yards across the forest, Nate's round strikes a tree next to the ENEMY SNIPER's head. The bark explodes off the tree and the sniper dives away from the tree and into a gully as another round whizzes by.

EXT. FOREST RIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Back at his cover, Nate loses track of the sniper. He ponders for a brief moment before running out to the PDA. As he runs back from grabbing the PDA, he notices Chris lying immobile with her eyes open. Nate crashes back into his cover.

NATE (V.O.)
Chris? Can you hear me?

Nate pulls his rifle close to his chest, closes his eyes and grits his teeth.

ENEMY SNIPER (V.O.)
She's dead.

NATE (V.O.)
You've been listening all along.

ENEMY SNIPER (V.O.)
You're dead too.

NATE (V.O.)
Not yet I'm not.

Nate crawls away to the north, away from his cover and Chris.

EXT. OTHER SIDE OF FOREST - THE NEXT DAY

The enemy sniper lays next to a tree, still dressed in his ghillie suit, to the east of his earlier firing positions. Thru his scope, he looks at Chris' body and around the area of Nate's earlier cover but can't see Nate.

ENEMY SNIPER (V.O.)
Good morning corpse. Will you come out now or should I shoot your spotter again? You can't kill me. You can't even find me.

NATE (V.O.)
I've got you exactly where I want you and I'll prove it.

The enemy sniper sees a shot fire from the ridge where he first shot Chris and immediately returns fire with two shots.

ENEMY SNIPER (V.O.)
Dead.

NATE
Not quite. Take off the hood and slowly turn around.

Nate stands five feet from the sniper, his sidearm in his steady hands pointed at the sniper's back. The enemy sniper turns around, rifle in hand, and flips back the hood, revealing a striking brunette woman in her late 20's.

ENEMY SNIPER
How?

NATE
Wonders of technology. Air static inducer let me sneak up on you and the remote fire on my rifle.
(MORE)

NATE (Cont'd)

You're good but I'm better. And so
was she.

The enemy sniper dives sideways suddenly, bringing her rifle around and firing just over Nate as he dives in the opposite direction. Nate fires three rounds as he falls to the ground, instantly killing the sniper.