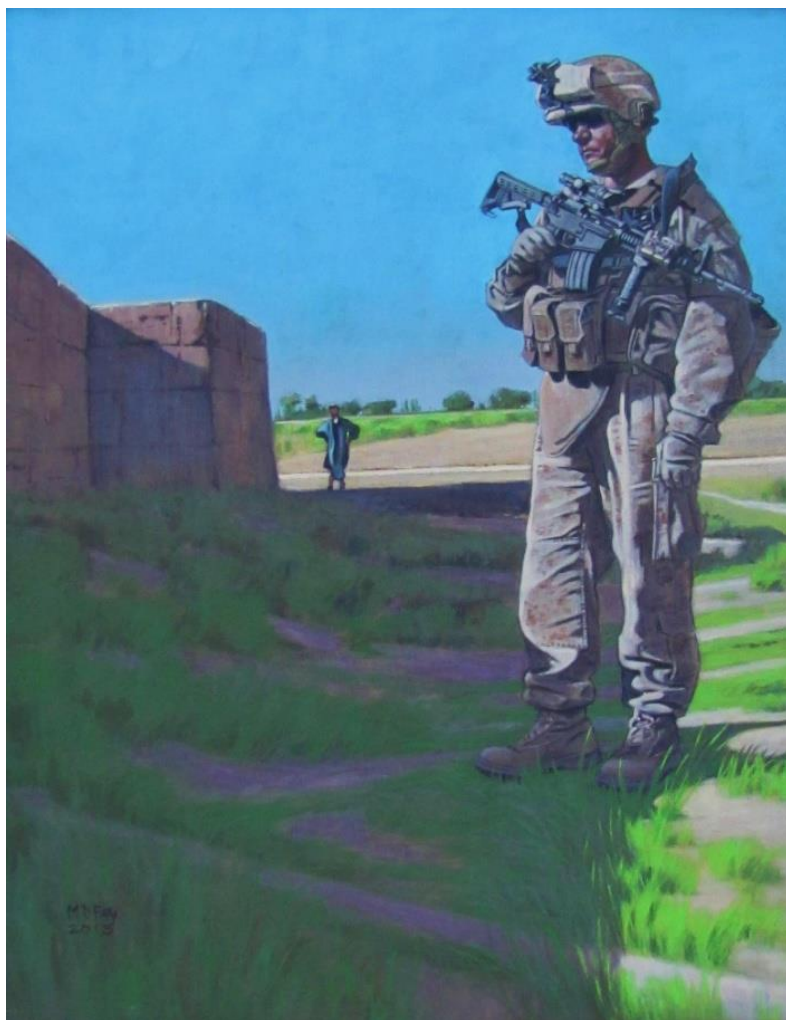


Maj. Robert Farrell, C.O. of Weapons Co., 3rd  
Battalion of the 3rd Marine Regiment

‡

CWO2 Michael D. Fay (U.S. Marine Corps, Retired)



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

## Description:

Major Robert B. Farrell, commanding officer of Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion of the 3rd Marine Regiment, listens intently as a local school teacher rejects all help. Farrell stood off to the side as Human Exploitation (HET) Marines and an interpreter attempted to get the teacher to accept simple school supplies. The teacher believed, probably correctly, that even accepting pencils and paper would get him assassinated by the local Taliban. The Garmsir District in May 2010 was the most violent part of Afghanistan's Helmand Province. As Farrell listened, a student stood at the edge of the road leading back up to Forward Operating Base Geronimo and watched Farrell intently. Farrell's battalion was stretched so thin over such a large area, that Weapons Company was assigned its own area of operation and a major made commanding officer. Like his Marines, Farrell probably hadn't been out of his uniform in weeks, giving it the look and feel of stiff paper mache.