

## **MILITARY RESISTANCE GUARD ISSUE:** **[10B7]**

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**American And Other Foreign  
Troops “Are Being Killed In  
Increasing Numbers” By Afghan  
Soldiers:  
“Deep-Seated Animosity Between  
The Supposedly Allied Forces”**

# **“The Sense Of Hatred Is Growing Rapidly”**

## **The Americans “Voiced Suspicions About The Afghans Being In League With The Taliban, A Problem Well Documented Among The Afghan Police”**

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Veteran & Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

**“Lethal altercations are clearly not rare or isolated; they reflect a rapidly growing systemic homicide threat (a magnitude of which may be unprecedented between ‘allies’ in modern military history),” it said.**

**Official NATO pronouncements to the contrary “seem disingenuous, if not profoundly intellectually dishonest,” said the report, and it played down the role of Taliban infiltrators in the killings.**

20 January 2012 by: Matthew Rosenberg, The New York Times News Service Report; The New York Times [Excerpts]

Kabul - American and other coalition forces here are being killed in increasing numbers by the very Afghan soldiers they fight alongside and train, in attacks motivated by deep-seated animosity between the supposedly allied forces, according to American and Afghan officers and a classified coalition report.

**A decade into the war in Afghanistan, the report makes clear that these killings have become the most visible symptom of a far deeper ailment plaguing the war effort: the contempt each side holds for the other, never mind the Taliban.**

**The ill will and mistrust run deep among civilians and militaries on both sides, raising questions about what future role the United States and its allies can expect to play in Afghanistan.**

Underscoring the danger, a gunman in an Afghan Army uniform killed four French service members and wounded several others on Friday, according to an Afghan police official in Kapisa Province in eastern Afghanistan, prompting the French president to suspend his country’s operations here.

The violence, and the failure by coalition commanders to address it, casts a harsh spotlight on the shortcomings of American efforts to build a functional Afghan Army, a pillar of the Obama administration’s strategy for extricating the United States from the war in Afghanistan, said the officers and experts who helped shape the strategy.

One instance of the general level of antipathy in the war exploded into uncomfortable view last week when video emerged of American Marines urinating on dead Taliban fighters. Although American commanders quickly took action and condemned the act, chat-room and Facebook posts by Marines and their supporters were full of praise for the desecration.

**But the most troubling fallout has been the mounting number of Westerners killed by their Afghan allies, events that have been routinely dismissed by American and NATO officials as isolated episodes that are the work of disturbed individual soldiers or Taliban infiltrators, and not indicative of a larger pattern.**

**The unusually blunt report, which was prepared for a subordinate American command in eastern Afghanistan, takes a decidedly different view.**

The Wall Street Journal reported on details of the investigation last year. A copy was obtained by The New York Times.

**“Lethal altercations are clearly not rare or isolated; they reflect a rapidly growing systemic homicide threat (a magnitude of which may be unprecedented between ‘allies’ in modern military history),” it said.**

**Official NATO pronouncements to the contrary “seem disingenuous, if not profoundly intellectually dishonest,” said the report, and it played down the role of Taliban infiltrators in the killings.**

The coalition [translation: U.S. military command in Afghanistan] refused to comment on the classified report.

But “incidents in the recent past where Afghan soldiers have wounded or killed I.S.A.F. members are isolated cases and are not occurring on a routine basis,” said Lt. Col. Jimmie E. Cummings Jr. of the U.S. Army, a spokesman for the American-led International Security Assistance Force. “We train and are partnered with Afghan personnel every day and we are not seeing any issues or concerns with our relationships.”

The numbers appear to tell a different story.

Although NATO does not release a complete tally of its forces’ deaths at the hands of Afghan soldiers and the police, the classified report and coalition news releases indicate that Afghan forces have attacked American and allied service members nearly three dozen times since 2007.

Two members of the French Foreign Legion and one American soldier were killed in separate episodes in the past month, according to statements by NATO.

**The classified report found that between May 2007 and May 2011, when it was completed, at least 58 Western service members were killed in 26 separate attacks by Afghan soldiers and the police nationwide. Most of those attacks have occurred since October 2009.**

This toll represented 6 percent of all hostile coalition deaths during that period, the report said.

**“The sense of hatred is growing rapidly,” said an Afghan Army colonel. He described his troops as “thieves, liars and drug addicts,” but also said that the Americans were “rude, arrogant bullies who use foul language.”**

Senior commanders largely manage to keep their feelings in check, said the officer, who asked not to be named so he could speak openly.

But the officer said, “I am afraid it will turn into a major problem in the near future in the lower ranks of both armies.”

There have been successes, especially among the elite Afghan commandos and coalition Special Operations forces, most of whom have undergone in-depth cultural training and speak at least some Dari and Pashto, the two main languages spoken in Afghanistan.

But, as highlighted by the classified report, familiarity in most cases appears to have mainly bred contempt — and that, in turn, has undercut the benefits of pairing up the forces.

**The problem has also featured in classified reports tracking progress in the war effort, most of which are far more negative than the public declarations of progress, said an American officer, who asked not to be identified because he was discussing secret information.**

The United States soldier was killed this month when an Afghan soldier opened fire on Americans playing volleyball at a base in the southern province of Zabul. The assailant was quickly gunned down. The deadliest single incident came last April when an Afghan Air Force colonel, Ahmed Gul, killed eight unsuspecting American officers and a contractor with shots to the head inside their headquarters.

He then killed himself after writing “God in your name” and “God is one” in blood on the walls of the base, according to an Air Force investigation of the incident released this week.

**In a 436-page report, the Air Force investigators said the initial coalition explanation for the attack — stress brought on by financial problems — was only a small part of Colonel Gul’s motivation.**

**His primary motive was hatred of the United States, and he planned the attack to kill as many Americans as possible, the investigators said.**

There have been no reported instances of Americans’ killing Afghan soldiers, although a rogue group of United States soldiers killed three Afghan civilians for sport in 2010. Yet there is ample evidence of American disregard for Afghans. After the urination video circulated, a number of those who had served in Afghanistan took to Facebook and other Web sites to cheer on their compatriots, describing Afghans of all stripes in harsh terms.

Many messages were posted on public forums, others in private message strings.

One private exchange was provided to The Times by a participant in the conversation; the names of those posting matched those on record as having served in the Marine Corps. In that conversation, a former Marine said he thought the video was “pretty awesome.” Another said he hoped it would happen more often.

The 70-page classified coalition report, titled “A Crisis of Trust and Cultural Incompatibility,” goes far beyond anecdotes.

It was conducted by a behavioral scientist who surveyed 613 Afghan soldiers and police officers, 215 American soldiers and 30 Afghan interpreters who worked for the Americans.

While the report focused on three areas of eastern Afghanistan, many of the Afghan soldiers interviewed had served elsewhere in Afghanistan and the author believed that they constituted a sample representative of the entire country.

**“There are pervasive feelings of animosity and distrust A.N.S.F. personnel have towards U.S. forces,” the report said, using military’s abbreviation for Afghan security forces. The list of Afghan complaints against the Americans ran the gamut from the killing of civilians to urinating in public and cursing.**

**“U.S. soldiers don’t listen, they are too arrogant,” said one of the Afghan soldiers surveyed, according to the report.**

**“They get upset due to their casualties, so they take it out on civilians during their searches,” said another.**

The Americans were equally as scathing.

“U.S. soldiers’ perceptions of A.N.A. members were extremely negative across categories,” the report found, using the initials for the Afghan National Army.

Those categories included “trustworthiness on patrol,” “honesty and integrity,” and “drug abuse.”

**The Americans also voiced suspicions about the Afghans being in league with the Taliban, a problem well documented among the Afghan police.**

“They are stoned all the time; some even while on patrol with us,” one soldier was quoted as saying. Another said, “They are pretty much gutless in combat; we do most of the fighting.”

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# **Wisconsin National Guards Still Cheated Out Of Combat Pay**

**Years Later:**

**“And It’s Not Just Wisconsin  
Soldiers. There Are Soldiers  
Throughout The Nation Who Have  
Not Received Their Benefits”  
“Military Records Has Acknowledged  
He Earned The Days But Says He Can  
Use Them Only For Future Military  
Deployments”  
“Trouble Is He Retired From The Guard  
In 2009. There Won’t Be Any Future  
Deployments”**

Jan 29, 2012 By Patricia Wolff - The (Oshkosh, Wis.) Northwestern [Excerpts]

OSHKOSH, Wis. — Members of the Wisconsin National Guard 1157th Transportation Co. spent much of 2006 and 2007 on duty in Iraq carefully planning and executing nighttime fuel transports and securing the perimeter of their large base.

It was work fraught with the danger of roadside bombs and sniper fire. The convoys became routine over time, but the soldiers never let their guard down.

“You were always on edge watching for what was waiting around the next corner,” said Richard Vander Sande, one of the roughly 170 guardsmen in the unit.

The soldiers were in Iraq for just less than a year.

**When they returned they were due extra pay or leave days for serving multiple deployments, but due to a glitch in the way the Army computed and dispersed those benefits, some of the soldiers never received them.**

**Soldiers accrue 30 leave days per year but obviously while deployed they are unable to use them. They can take them once they come home or they can be paid \$200 for each day of leave not taken.**

**The error regarding Post Deployment Mobilization Respite Absence payments was discovered in February 2010.**

Some 78 Wisconsin National Guard soldiers in the 1157th are affected, said Lt. Col. Jackie Guthrie of the National Guard.

About half are currently in the military and half are out.

Vander Sande was paid for 14 days when he had 41 coming to him. He failed to receive pay for 27 days of leave he was never able to take because he retired from the National Guard after the Iraq deployment and resumed his work as a police officer. He works for Plymouth police as a patrol lieutenant. His wife works in the cafeteria at the local public school. The Vander Sandes have a 13-year-old child.

Based on the \$200 per day rate, Vander Sande, 42, is owed \$5,400. If he ever sees the money he'll use it to take a vacation with his family in Hawaii, he said.

"It's frustrating. For some it's the issue of the money. For some it's the principle. If soldiers are owed something, they should be paid," Vander Sande said.

"It's annoying to have to go through this struggle."

Guthrie agreed.

"This needs to be corrected. These soldiers did what was asked of them," she said. "And it's not just Wisconsin soldiers. There are soldiers throughout the nation who have not received their benefits."

William Butzlaff, 31, is owed pay for 22 days. If he ever sees the \$4,400, he'll use it to pay some bills. Butzlaff loves his job as a technician at Oshkosh Corp., but he doesn't expect to get rich there. The back pay from the Army would make a difference to him.

"It would definitely help," Butzlaff said as he relaxed in his Oshkosh apartment after work.

His apartment, though clean and comfortable, is not plush. He drives a 10-year-old car and has pretty simple tastes.

He has served 14 years in the guard and expects to deploy to Kuwait in less than three weeks where he'll serve in a security mission providing base and convoy protection as equipment returns to the U.S. after the Iraq war.

He'll also accrue more leave days.

**The most frustrating part for Butzlaff is the confusion. He's received several official letters since 2010 telling him he will get his pay. But, still, he has seen no trace of it.**

**“I would not be shocked if I never saw that money,” he said.**

Vander Sande has been working for a year and a half contacting National Guard officials, active Army officials and elected representatives in an effort to make the situation right.

The Defense Department established the PDMRA program by law in January 2007 to provide the benefits to service members deployed beyond established rotation cycles.

To qualify, members must have been deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan or as a part of a certain unit in Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates or Kyrgyzstan with a departure date from the area of responsibility on or after Jan. 19, 2007.

However, the delay between the announcement of the program by DoD and the implementation of the program by the individual services prevented troops from receiving the respite leave benefits they earned.

“It was passed, authorized by law in January of 2007 but the wheels grind exceedingly fine. It was not implemented until August of 2007,” Petri said.

The soldiers in the 1157th returned from Iraq at the end of August 2007.

After returning from Iraq members of the 1157th went through demobilization at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

**They received PDMRA days added to their leaves but because of the new implementation of the program, those days were calculated incorrectly for many soldiers, resulting in shorting many of them thousands of dollars each, Vander Sande said.**

Because they were unfamiliar with the program they didn't learn of the error until years later.

**Butzlaff said he still doesn't understand what went wrong and why he has not received his pay, despite promises from the Army that it is on its way.**

**He is perplexed that some of his fellow soldiers have been paid while others have not.**

**In November Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., offered an amendment to the annual Defense Authorization bill that would have granted soldiers the \$200 per leave day they were denied due to a government error. However, his amendment didn't make it out of the Senate Armed Services Committee.**

It was approved by Democrats as part of a group of items that are usually not in dispute and are passed by unanimous consent, but not by committee Republicans because one committee member objected, according to a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel story.



The bottom line, according to Vander Sande, is that he and the other soldiers are entitled to the benefits of leave which the Army did not allow them to take due to the Army's error.

Their PDMRA benefits were miscalculated at Atterbury. "No one chose not to take all earned PDMRA days; it was miscalculated," he said.

The National Guard Bureau directed the Wisconsin Army National Guard to submit payments for those not covered in what has been termed the shadow area between January and August of 2007.

**What is more frustrating to Vander Sande is that the Army Board of Correction of Military Records has acknowledged he earned the days but says he can use them only for future military deployments.**

**Trouble is he retired from the Guard in 2009. There won't be any future deployments.**

Military channels have failed to resolve the issue, so now Vander Sande is relying on lawmakers to step in.

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## **The Military Killed My Son With A Prescription Pad: "Money Talks. I Truly Believe AstraZeneca And Other Big Pharma Companies Have Control Over Congress"**

01/28/2012 By John Lasker - The Daily Caller

**A father who has lost two sons to war told The Daily Caller that the U.S. Central Command's policy of allowing troops to deploy with a 180-day supply of the antipsychotic Seroquel has contributed to the deaths of troops and veterans.**

**Seroquel, he said, has tragic side effects that military leaders have ignored in their quest to combat insomnia and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among fighting men and women.**

The father, West Virginia school principal Stan White, said there are better ways to treat troops and veterans who suffer from PTSD.

**But because the maker of Seroquel, London-based AstraZeneca, has so much influence over Congress and the military, he insisted, that peer counseling and other treatment options are being shoved aside in favor of low doses of the drug.**

**White's suspicions are slowly being validated by a series of studies, legal settlements, and military rulings — including a recommendation from the Department of Defense's own advisory body on pharmaceuticals.**

"I think AstraZeneca is so strong and has so much power that no one can speak out," said White, who has remained stoic despite his losses.

"Money talks. I truly believe AstraZeneca and other big pharma companies have control over Congress."

His first son, Army Sgt. Robert White, died in combat in Iraq. When Robert's younger brother Andrew returned from his own tour in the Middle Eastern country, a Veterans Administration doctor prescribed a combination of Seroquel and antidepressants for his PTSD.

Andrew died at home, and the state of West Virginia ruled that an accidental medication overdose was to blame.

But his father believes the "dangerous" pill cocktail killed him. And he told TheDC that he has identified 300 other soldiers and veterans who died from sudden cardiac arrest while taking Seroquel and antidepressants in combination.

**Evidence supporting his theory has continued to accumulate, including a September 2011 study from the European Society of Cardiology which linked the "combined use of antipsychotic and antidepressant drugs" with an increased risk of sudden heart attacks.**

Seroquel has been on the market since 1997, and in that time doctors have widely experimented with prescribing it for "off-label" purposes that the FDA has not approved.

The drug, a mood stabilizer, is approved to treat schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, but it has also been used to treat insomnia in Parkinson's disease patients, dementia in adults of all ages, and a variety of disorders in children.

Doctors have free rein to prescribe medications for off-label uses, and the FDA's ever-growing avalanche of advisories sometimes makes it difficult for physicians to know what has been approved and what has not.

**A 2009 University of Chicago national survey of physicians, for instance, found that one in eight doctors thought Seroquel was approved for treating dementia, even though the FDA had issued a specific warning against it.**

Drug marketers, however, are forbidden to promote their products for any purpose not approved by the FDA.

In April 2010 AstraZeneca conceded that it had crossed that line, agreeing to pay the U.S. government \$520 million to settle claims related to its illegal promotion of Seroquel for off-label uses.

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“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**Troops Invited:**

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication.

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT  
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WARS**

## DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Bejjia village Iraq, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

**Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.**

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