

Military Resistance 10F13



**“June 1 Attack On A U.S. Outpost Near The Afghanistan-Pakistan Border Was Much Worse Than Originally Disclosed By The Military”
Two Americans Were Killed And 36 Seriously Wounded;
100 More U.S. Troops Treated For Injuries:**

“Insurgents Pounded The Base With A Truck Bomb”



Private First Class Vincent J. Ellis, 22, of Tokyo, Japan

The scale of the attack and the extent of the U.S. casualties contrast with the official description presented by coalition forces on the day of the assault.

In a clipped, one-paragraph news release on June 1, the military said U.S. and Afghan forces “successfully repelled the attack and secured the base.” The statement did not report any casualties, nor that there was a truck bomb.

June 17th, 2012 By JOSHUA PARTLOW AND CRAIG WHITLOCK, The Washington Post [Excerpts]

KABUL — A June 1 attack on a U.S. outpost near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border was much worse than originally disclosed by the military as insurgents pounded the base with a truck bomb, killing two Americans and seriously wounding about three dozen troops, officials acknowledged Saturday.

The blast flattened the dining hall and post exchange at Forward Operating Base Salerno in Khost province, a frequent target of insurgents in the past.

Five Afghan civilians were killed and more than 100 other U.S. troops were treated for minor injuries.

U.S. officials estimated that the truck was carrying 1,500 pounds of explosives.

U.S. and Afghan military officials said they killed 14 insurgents, many of whom were wearing explosive vests.

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“It was a very huge explosion,” said Daoud Khan Makeen, head of the provincial council in Khost.

He said that houses as far as two miles away were damaged in the blast and that 20 Afghans were wounded, many of them by collapsed buildings.

U.S. military officials said they did not try to play down the severity of the attack on the Salerno base. They said it is their long-standing policy to withhold information about wounded or injured troops. At Salerno, many of the service members listed as casualties went to the base clinic as a precaution to be tested for traumatic brain injury, the officials said.

“When you do look at the number of wounded . . . it looks like ‘oh my goodness,’” said a senior NATO official who spoke on the condition of anonymity, citing the policy against discussing non-lethal casualties. “It’s not a coverup. It is what it is.”

The official said most of the 100 service members who suffered minor injuries returned to duty that same day.

The Defense Department did later identify a soldier who died three days after the attack as Pfc. Vincent J. Ellis, 22, a member of the 4th Airborne Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

U.S. officials said Saturday that an American contractor also later died of wounds suffered in the attack, but they declined to provide an identification.

U.S. officials said they were assessing security at Salerno in the aftermath of the truck bombing.

Salerno is a relatively large base in the mountains near the Pakistani border, named after the town where Allied troops made amphibious landings during their 1943 invasion of the Italian mainland during World War II.

The Haqqanis have repeatedly tried to overrun the Salerno base in recent years, and it is a frequent target of rocket attacks. In August 2008, insurgents were beaten back during an assault on the camp’s perimeter that lasted two days.

Two years later, about three dozen Haqqani fighters were killed during a similar attack on Salerno and a nearby installation, Forward Operating Base Chapman.

Chapman is a military base also used by the CIA.

It was the target of a December 2009 suicide bombing by an al-Qaeda triple agent who killed seven CIA operatives, the deadliest attack against the agency in 26 years.

MORE

As Afghan Snipers Rule Day, U.S. Troops Take Night Shift: Soldiers “Use The Exposed Latrines And Showers At Their Own Risk” “If You Have To Go, We Recommend You Wait Until Night” “If You Must Move In The Open, Do It At A Run”

June 10, 2012 By Rob Taylor, Reuters [Excerpts]

COMBAT OUTPOST PIRTLE-KING, Afghanistan –

Staff Sgt. Joshua Danison cranes his neck to survey the jagged ridges on the eastern edge of Afghanistan, then reels off the rules here for survival.

“Welcome to Combat Outpost Pirtle-King. Here we only move around at night. If you must move in daytime, make sure you stay close in against the northern walls, as most attacks come from there,” he says.

“If you must move in the open, do it at a run.”

[T]he insurgent threat is so potent that U.S. soldiers can barely move.

COP Pirtle-King, or PK, is a low collection of rock-fill walls, trenches and camouflage net, built to help secure the sole road running through the strategic Kunar River Valley and intersect insurgent supply routes from Pakistan.

But the mountains on both sides provide perfect cover for the insurgents, including a persistent sniper whose aim has been steadily getting closer to the U.S. and Afghan troops here.

Faced with that threat, soldiers have adjusted routines to carry out most tasks at night, apart from sporadic daytime patrols and manning three guard towers.

When not filling sandbags or doing vehicle maintenance in darkness, they sleep through the daytime or just read books and talk, waiting to repel the next attack.

“PK is kinda like the childhood fortress that we never got when we were kids,” says Danison, 31.

In a guard post along the northern wall, two bullet holes through the plywood remind soldiers here of the threat posed by a sniper they know as “dushman,” which is Dari for “enemy.”

Written beside the splintered holes is a defiant challenge: an expletive, followed by “you missed me twice.”

Dushman shoots from somewhere on a green spur known as “the finger,” above curved hills. Sometimes fire comes from both sides of the valley, from the south and north.

“That kind of crossfire is usually a sign it’s not Taliban, but more likely Hezb-i-Islami Gulbuddin. They’re a bit more together,” Danison says. “We have pushed them back into the hills, though. They used to fire from pretty much right in front.”

Troops in full body armor run across the central vehicle park and any open area to reach their rooms or shift between fortified positions, and use the exposed latrines and showers at their own risk.

“If you have to go, we recommend you wait until night,” Danison says. In a cluster of small rooms, as many as 15 soldiers sleep in bunks against a plywood wall marked outside by a target drawn where a Taliban rocket grenade hit but did not detonate.

“Bet you can’t do it again,” reads a sign spray-painted in black.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

June 18, 2012 AP

A foreign servicemember died of wounds following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan today.

Lewis Soldier Killed By IED In Kandahar

Jun 14, 2012 Army Times

A Washington state-based soldier was killed earlier this week in Afghanistan, the Defense Department announced Thursday.

Sgt. 1st Class Barrett W. McNabb, no age given, of Chino Valley, Ariz., died Tuesday in Khakrez, in Kandahar province, of wounds suffered when he was attacked by an enemy improvised explosive device.

McNabb was assigned to the 562nd Engineer Company, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

The Associated Press reported that officials said McNabb enlisted in the Army in November 1999. He was deployed to Afghanistan in April after three deployments to Kuwait from 2001 to 2007.

Just-Wed Andover Marine Dies In Afghanistan

June 14, 2012 by PAUL WALSH , Star Tribune

Three months ago, Taylor Baune married his high school sweetheart shortly before his first deployment to Afghanistan with the Marines.

On Wednesday, the 21-year-old Andover man became the 2,000th American killed in combat in Afghanistan, during operations in Helmand Province, the Defense Department said Thursday.

Baune, an Andover High School graduate who had joined the Marines in September 2008, was based out of Twentynine Palms, Calif. His unit is leading operations this summer in Sangin, a part of Helmand that has been seen the heaviest casualties of the war in Afghanistan.

The military released no further information on the circumstances of his death.

Baune and his wife, Colleen, also from Anoka County, were married in Las Vegas in March and called the San Diego area home.

At his father's home in Andover, an American flag flapped in Thursday's intermittent rain. Neighbors said Taylor and his father moved into the house about six years ago, part of a close-knit suburban neighborhood where residents often look out for each other and chat in the street.

"I only saw Taylor a few times. I wish I had gotten to know him better now. He seemed like a good guy," said Tom Dooher, who moved in across the street about a year ago.

Cpl. Baune is the second Minnesota fatality in Afghanistan this year and the 28th from the state to die there in the current U.S. military campaign.

His current commitment was up late this year, said his father-in-law, Randy Crooker, and he was not intending to make the military a career. "He was a happy-go-lucky guy," Crooker said.

Taylor and Colleen attended Anoka High School together; Taylor was there through 10th grade and participated in golf and football.

Anoka Principal Michael Farley described him as a bright student. "Just a good young man. I'm a former military person myself so I'm very proud that he served, but very saddened by this," said Farley, a Navy veteran. School officials sent out an e-mail Thursday about the death.

Baune's decorations included the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and the NATO Medal-ISAF Afghanistan.

Georgia Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



Jun 11, 2012 Written by Duffie Dixon, WXIA-TV

MCDONOUGH, Ga. -- The parents of Pfc. Brandon D. Goodine, 20, are in the process of bringing his body back to his hometown for burial.

According to the Department of Defense, Goodine died June 7 in Maiwand, Afghanistan of wounds sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

He was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

11Alive's Duffie Dixon met with some of Goodine's family members in McDonough Saturday afternoon.

His aunt, Denise Goodine Hock, said Brandon joined the Army so his life would have a greater purpose.

“He had his daughter Katie at a young age,” Hock said. “She is 3 now and he wanted to make sure he made something of his life and of himself. He has. He is a hero.”

Pfc. Goodine’s older brother, Christopher, enlisted with him. He has been serving in Texas and said he talked to his brother just about a month ago.

“It was so good to hear his voice,” Christopher Goodine said. “I was scared when he got sent over the Afghanistan, but also so proud of him. I will miss him for the rest of my days.”

Among others, Goodine leaves behind a wife and his daughter.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WAR**

Resistance Action

June 18, 2012 DPA

Four policemen were killed in a bombing on Monday in north-eastern Afghanistan, an official said.

“A remote-controlled bomb exploded in a crowded bazaar in Tagab district of Kapisa province, in which an Afghan Local Police chief along with three colleagues and one civilian were killed and 15 others were injured,” provincial Governor Mehrabuddin Safi told dpa.

The incidents took place while Minister of Energy Mohammad Ismael and the French ambassador were in the province, planning to visit Tagab district.

The minister and ambassador left the province for Kabul soon after the incident, the governor said.

**“A Defiant Stand That Could
Imperil A Project At The Center**

Of Afghanistan's Effort To Tap Its Mineral Riches"

**"The People Imprisoned In
Guantanamo Bay Have More
Facilities Than We Do"**

**"We've Been Betrayed By Our
Government"**

**Insurgency Is "Strong In The Area" &
"Attacks Are Already A Threat"**



Gulzar, a 90-year-old villager has lived at a temporary house since moving in '09 to make way for the mine. Dion Nissenbaum/The Wall Street Journal

June 12, 2012 By DION NISSENBAUM, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts] Kersten Zhang, Junting Yolanda Zhang and Habib Khan Totakhil contributed to this article.

MES AYNAK, Afghanistan — Mullah Mira Jan, a tribal elder in the dry hills south of Kabul, was an early supporter of Afghanistan's push to develop its mining industry and bring new wealth to one of the world's poorest countries.

He and his extended family accepted \$10,000 in 2009 to move and make way for a sprawling copper mine here.

Three years later, the family still lives in a mud-walled temporary home without running water or regular electricity, within sight of a fenced-off hilltop where the government promised villagers they could build a new community.

“The people imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay have more facilities than we do,” Mr. Jan said one morning inside his crumbling home.

His feeling of betrayal runs so deep that he is urging other villagers to reject government attempts to move them, a defiant stand that could imperil a project at the center of Afghanistan’s effort to tap its mineral riches.

Besides the copper deposit at Mes Aynak, which a Chinese consortium has pledged to invest \$3.5 billion to develop, Afghanistan has awarded rights to extract iron ore, gold and oil, to companies from India, Canada, the U.S. and Britain.

The Mes Aynak project offers a warning of how difficult it is likely to be for Afghanistan to cash in on its mineral wealth.

International experts have warned the government that neglecting to provide new communities to relocated villagers like Mr. Jan could not only jeopardize the Mes Aynak mine but undercut projects elsewhere and possibly provoke violent opposition, fueling the insurgency that is already strong in the area.

“This mine is not going to thrive if these communities fail,” said Michael Stanley, the lead mining specialist at the World Bank.

“The No. 1 risk is the social license to operate.”

Insurgent attacks are already a threat.

Afghan officials said last month they had thwarted a likely attack on the Chinese project when an informant told them of a stash of artillery shells and launchers hidden near the site.

Mes Aynak contains \$40 billion worth of untapped minerals, by some estimates. Afghanistan’s finance minister, Omar Zakhilwal, says he expects the project to be generating at least \$300 million in annual royalties for the government in Kabul by 2016. That would account for some 15% of its civilian budget.

The project, however, has been plagued by delays and controversies from the start.

Around the end of 2009, an Afghan mining official left his post shortly after an allegation surfaced in the U.S. press that he had accepted a bribe in connection with the awarding of the contract, an accusation that he and the alleged giver both denied.

According to a 2010 cable from the U.S. embassy in Beijing released by WikiLeaks, the organization that releases previously private documents and cables online, a commercial attaché at Afghanistan’s embassy in Beijing told U.S. diplomats that Afghan officials viewed the Chinese investors as “a cow to milk” for bribes.

Transparency hasn't been a salient feature of the nascent Afghan mining industry. Details of the contract for the Mes Aynak project, among others, remain shrouded in secrecy.

Early on, Afghan officials said the Chinese consortium developing it had pledged to build a railway network linking the area to neighboring countries such as Pakistan and Uzbekistan. That could be an economic boon to Afghanistan, which now has just 60 miles of railroads.

An Afghan mining minister called the railway commitment a “nonnegotiable” part of the deal with the Chinese, according to a 2010 U.S. diplomatic cable released by WikiLeaks.

But Afghan officials now say the Chinese aren't contractually obligated to build a railroad. They are expected to study the rail project but can shelve it if they conclude it isn't worth the investment, Mr. Shahrani, the mining minister, said in an interview.

Other plans envisioned when the contract was let in 2007 also have yet to materialize, among them a 400-megawatt power plant and a coal mine.

So far, the site 25 miles southeast of Kabul consists of little more than bare scrubland plus a complex of two-story, blue-topped housing units for Chinese workers. This is guarded by 1,500 members of a special mine-protection force, paid by the Chinese. Besides them, the Chinese consortium employs about 300 other Afghans, out of a total of 3,000 Afghans it is expected eventually to hire for the project in addition to the guards.

One cause of the delays was the discovery of ancient Buddhist monasteries at Mes Aynak, long-buried by the shifting sands. These have required a salvage effort, led by French archeologists, that remains ongoing.

Also still under way is an effort to clear the area of land mines laid during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s.

The Chinese companies don't have to pay the Afghan government any significant royalties until they actually start mining, said an adviser working on the project.

Besides potentially straining the government's finances after the U.S. pullout, the delays could directly affect the security situation in the local province, Logar, one where the Taliban are active.

“If we get to 2014 and they haven't put a shovel in the ground, you are going to see it become a bigger point of contention because someone got moved out of their home for nothing,” said one of the international advisers working on the project.

Some of the advisers privately wonder whether the Chinese companies might be looking to delay their work until they can see how stable Afghanistan is once most Western troops head home over the next two years.

“The security situation in Afghan is indeed worrisome,” the group said in a written response to questions.

The Chinese companies say they are still assessing what it will take to make the site profitable.

China Metallurgical, also known as MCC, said it is impossible to say when it will start mining.

Afghan officials are alarmed by the prospect of more delay. “We are applying pressure” on the consortium, said Mr. Zakhilwal, the finance minister. “We don’t want the companies to come and sit on our resources and wait it out.”

The biggest mineral extraction contracts so far have gone to state-run companies from China and a government-led consortium from India, which last fall won rights to develop the largest iron-ore deposit.

Companies from the U.S., which has spent tens of billions of dollars and suffered thousands of military casualties in Afghanistan over the past decade, have by and large remained spectators.

The biggest U.S. mining involvement is in a consortium of Western companies, organized by a unit of J.P. Morgan Chase JPM +1.10%& Co., that is investing \$50 million to develop a northern Afghanistan gold mine.

Some American companies have complained that the bidding process was tilted toward government-controlled companies.

The argument is that Afghanistan’s emphasis on receiving the highest possible royalties, rather than on other issues such as the environment, favors state-owned companies that may have less need than purely commercial ones to worry about profits.

“It’s been difficult to get U.S. firms and Western firms interested in Afghanistan,” said Alexander Benard, managing director of Gryphon Partners, a Washington-based firm run by his father, Zalmay Khalilzad, a former U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan.

“There are huge issues around political stability, huge issues around infrastructure and major question marks about what’s going to happen in Afghanistan as the United States continues to draw down.”

Mr. Benard lashed out at the contracting process last fall after Western companies represented by his firm lost to Chinese state-run companies for drilling rights to an oil field in the north called Amu Darya that is said to hold 87 million barrels. A Pentagon-backed review board has since examined the Amu Darya tender and concluded the process was fair.

Just as with the Mes Aynak copper project, exactly what the oil-drilling contract provides remains clouded in secrecy.

Despite government pledges to disclose details of agreements, only one major contract has been released to the public so far. A recent report by Global Witness, an independent advocacy group that focuses on natural resource exploitation, said there

was a “major gap” between the government’s promises of transparency and its follow-through.

As for the villagers who were moved out of their houses at Mes Aynak and still don’t have a new community, Mr. Shahrani, the mining minister, says that because of education and jobs they are better off now than before they moved.

Villagers stuck for three years in temporary mud-wall compounds don’t see it this way.

“We were told everything would be fine, but here we are,” said Mr. Jan’s 90-year-old father, Gulzar, as he leaned on a cane outside the crumbling family home with a “Welcome” sign in English on the wooden door.

“We’ve been betrayed by our government.”

**IF YOU DON’T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Attack Government Military Base In Afgoye

Jun 16, 2012 Garowe Online

AFGOYE, Somalia Jun 16 2012 (Garowe Online) – A car full of explosives was smashed into a base used by Somali forces in the town of Afgoye, by an Al Shabaab agent on Saturday , Radio Garowe reports.

The attack Saturday afternoon was claimed by Al Shabaab, who said that they had killed over dozens of people in the attack in the Afgoye corridor, which is located 30 kms from Mogadishu.

According to local sources, the car was packed full with explosives and the blast could be heard in neighboring districts.

Although the number of casualties has not been independently verified, authorities say that there were no casualties but forces stationed at the base sustained injuries in the suicide attack.

The town of Afgoye had been a strategic location for the insurgent organization that fled after allied forces entered the city. This is the first attack in the Afgoye corridor which was recently captured by Somali and African Union forces.

Earlier this week the town was visited by Transitional Federal Government (TFG) President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, who had been attacked on an earlier visit to Afgoye earlier this month.

President Sharif had visited the town after there were reports of civilian abuses committed by Somali forces.

The president met with elders and community leaders in the town and promised to resolve the abuse cases.

MILITARY NEWS

Oops: Navy Loses Giant Drone In Maryland Marsh



Navy personnel in Southwest Asia tend to a Global Hawk drone, 2009. Photo: U.S. Air Force

June 11, 2012 By Spencer Ackerman, Wired.com

The Navy was all set to roll out its upgraded spy drone, a 44-foot behemoth. Then one of its Global Hawks crashed into an eastern Maryland marsh on Monday. It's the latest setback for the Navy's robotic aircraft.

An unarmed RQ-4A Global Hawk went down during a training exercise near the Naval aviation base at Patuxent River, Maryland on Monday, CNN reports. Local news has footage of the wreckage.

No one was hurt except the Navy's pride. But ouch, that pride.

As AOL Defense reports, Thursday marks the debut of a new pimped-out Global Hawk at Pax River, as part of the Navy's newest iteration of its Broad Area Maritime Surveillance Program.

BAMS, as it's known, uses a Global Hawk outfitted with Navy-specific sensors to spy on a whole lot of ocean and beach. In this case, the Navy was set to debut two new, powerful 360-degree radars aboard its Global Hawks, with range in the hundreds of miles, as part of a \$1.16 billion contract signed in 2008.

It's unclear if the Global Hawk that crashed was actually carrying the new radars. Even if it wasn't, the drone programs run by Naval aviation look increasingly star-crossed.

In April, technical glitches forced the Navy to ground its robotic Fire Scout helicopters despite praising their performance in counternarcotics operations to the high heavens. Then the Navy decided to spend another quarter billion dollars on an upgrade.

A more ambitious Navy drone program would, for the first time, allow an armed drone to take off and land from the deck of an aircraft carrier. But the so-called X-47B won't be ready until 2018 at the earliest. For now, the stealthy, batwing-shaped robot makes people who see it fear an alien invasion. Don't ask about drone submarines, since they're an immature technology.

Drones crash, and however embarrassing this current crash is, the Global Hawk is a robotic workhorse.

But it didn't take long for the Twitter-borne drone watcher @drunkenpredator to rechristen BAMS "Bits of Aircraft in Maryland Soil."

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Israeli Interior Minister Yishai Says Israel Belongs To 'The White Man'

Jun. 03, 2012 By Dana Weiler-Polak, Haaretz [Israel]

A law granting Israeli authorities the power to detain illegal migrants for up to three years came into effect on Sunday, in the wake of widening public controversy over the influx of African migrants who cross into Israel along its border with Egypt.

The law makes illegal migrants and asylum seekers liable to jail, without trial or deportation, if caught staying in Israel for long periods. In addition, anyone helping migrants or providing them with shelter could face prison sentences of between five and 15 years.

The law is expanded to address migrant workers or asylum seekers who enter Israel without posing a threat to Israel's security.

According to the law, migrant workers already here could be jailed for the most minor offense such as spraying graffiti or stealing a bicycle - infractions for which they would not have been detained before.

So far, all migrants who have been caught by the Israel Defense Forces on the Israel-Egypt border have been transferred to the Saharonim detention facility which holds 2,000 spaces.

The facility is currently being expanded to 5,400. The Interior Ministry has reported that they are implementing the amendment and will fill up Saharonim, where they will be held until the ministry "finds other solutions."

All those detained go through an identification process and a medical examination. Those who file for asylum receive a temporary visa to remain in Israel. Sudanese and Eritreans, however, are not allowed to file for asylum, although they are automatically eligible for temporary shelter and a one-way ticket to Tel Aviv. Some migrants continue independently to Arad or Eilat where they often have acquaintances.

In a statement, the Israel Prison Services said that it was ready to "take in as many illegal residents as come to its facilities, with the required detainment authority and according to time of detention."

"For this purpose, several wards outside Saharonim have been converted, and we will prepare according to need," the statement added.

Meanwhile on Sunday, Israeli daily Maariv published an interview with Interior Minister Eli Yishai, in which he stated that most of the "Muslims that arrive here do not even believe that this country belongs to us, to the white man."

"I will continue the struggle until the end of my term, with no compromises," Yishai continued, stating that he would use "all the tools to expel the foreigners, until not one infiltrator remains."

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Going To The Movies? Be Afraid. Be Very Very Afraid: Department Of Homeland Security Warns That Terrorists Are Coming Soon To A Theater Near You: Watch Out For "Suspicious" Or Illegally Parked Cars!

June 16, 2012 By Madison Ruppert, theintelhub.com [Excerpts]

Another day, another fear mongering report from the megalithic Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and this time it is almost more absurd than the previous laughable reports, if you can believe it.

While this isn't as insane as the bulletins which actually stated that many common bodily movements and behaviors are indicators of terrorism, it is close.

The report, which is designated “UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY” (U//FOUO), originally published on May 17, 2012, cites a suicide bombing in Somalia in early April 2012 which targeted a theater as an indicator that the United States could experience similar attacks.

Note that U//FOUO means that some information “may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act” and is “to be controlled, stored, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with DHS policy relating to FOUO information and is not to be released to the public, the media, or other personnel who do not have a valid need to know without prior approval of an authorized DHS official.”

The report cites an alleged “violent extremist communication advocating attacks on US theaters” which supposedly indicates “terrorists’ continued interest in attacking such venues.”

That being said, the report does admit that they “have no specific or credible information indicating that terrorists plan to attack theaters in the United States.”

Yet they still manage to claim that “terrorists may seek to emulate overseas attacks on theaters here in the United States because they have the potential to inflict mass casualties and cause local economic damage.”

Unfortunately it has become quite routine for the government to claim that terrorists may attack certain targets based on absolutely no credible or specific information whatsoever.

For those who have a memory greater than that of a goldfish, it becomes clear that all of these claims are unfounded and thankfully fail to materialize.

We saw this with Hillary Clinton’s nonsensical fear mongering on the 10th anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001 even when she admitted that there was no specific or credible threat.

The basis for this report is an incident on April 4, 2012 when a female suicide bomber, allegedly affiliated with the designated terrorist organization al-Shabaab, attacked the National Theater in Mogadishu, Somalia.

The speech featured the Prime Minister of Somalia and multiple Somali cabinet members were also in attendance. The attacker managed to blend in with the rest of the audience and her attack targeted the numerous individuals in attendance who some might regard as “high-value targets.”

Another piece of information which they use to support their claims came just three days later on April 7 when an individual allegedly linked to al Qaeda called for terrorists to emulate the Moscow theater hostage attack in 2002.

The 2002 incident involved Chechen terrorists who took control of the Dubrovka Theater, holding more than 800 individuals hostage for more than three days, at which point Russian security forces gassed the theater.

The “violent extremist” alleged linked to al Qaeda – who goes unnamed in the report – called for people to seize crowded facilities like movie theaters in the United States, take hostages, and use them as a means to demand the release of other violent extremists.

Of course, most astute readers will realize that similar statements are made by alleged al Qaeda operatives on a regular basis, yet they never seem to come to fruition unless it is under the tutelage of the FBI.

“These recent instances demonstrate that mass gatherings such as those associated with theaters likely remain attractive terrorist targets,” the report concludes.

“We encourage facility owners and operators, security personnel, and first responders to remain vigilant and report suspicious activities and behaviors that may indicate a potential attack.”

The glaring problem here, which most of my readers have likely already picked up on, is that the incident in Somalia targeted a high-profile event with major officials. Here in the U.S. such events now have incredibly tight security already, which makes such attempted terrorist attacks unlikely at best.

The behaviors which the report classifies as “Potential Suspicious Activity Indicators” on top of the massive list of supposedly suspicious behaviors already outlined in various homeland security documents include:

- Persons in crowded areas wearing clothing that is unusually bulky or atypical for the season, possibly to conceal suicide explosives or weapons.
- Persons asking about theater security screening and evacuation procedures.
- Packages—possibly containing explosives—left unattended in open areas or hidden in trash receptacles, lockers, or similar containers.
- Suspicious or illegally parked vehicles near a theater or where crowds gather prior to or following performances and events.

However, I do not think it is at all reasonable for the DHS to continue to create fear where none should exist, especially when they readily admit that such fear mongering is based on “no specific or credible information.” Hopefully people will be able to see through these attempts as they never seem to relent in their frequency and ludicrousness.

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 email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



**Merchants In The Syrian Capital
Damascus “Began An
Unexpected Strike On 28 May In
Protest At The Excessive Force
That Has Been Used By The
Regime”**

**“The Strike Paralysed Most
Commercial And Semi-
Commercial Districts In The**

Capital, Including Key Markets And Commercial Areas” “Like Other Syrians, We Also Demand The Ouster Of The Regime” “The First Time That The Damascus Merchants Have Used Their Economic Muscle In Direct Opposition To The Regime”

7 - 13 June 2012 By Bassel Oudat in Damascus, AL-AHRAM

The 25 May massacre in the Syrian town of Hawla that led to the deaths of some 50 children under the age of 10 for which pro-regime militias are suspected of being responsible has re-energised the popular protest movement against the regime led by Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, leading some significant segments of the population to abandon it.

The armed opposition to the regime, led by the Free Syrian Army (FSA) made up of defectors from the regular armed forces, has pledged to escalate operations against the regime in the wake of the latter's use of violence against civilians.

Peaceful revolutionary forces and a large segment of the country's silent majority have also decided to step up demonstrations and civil disobedience.

Businessmen in the Syrian capital Damascus began an unexpected strike on 28 May in protest at the excessive force that has been used by the regime over the last 15 months to put down anti-regime demonstrations, culminating in the Hawla massacre.

The strike paralysed most commercial and semi-commercial districts in the capital, including key markets and commercial areas such as Al-Hamidiya, Al-Hariqa, Al-Maydan, Al-Saliheya and others.

The strike did not only affect shops, warehouses and workshops, but also affected transportation once the owners of transport vehicles stopped working, refusing to drive people to work.

The strikes coincided with others in several Syrian governorates, from Deraa in the south to Homs in the centre and Deir Al-Zur in the north.

The regime responded to the strikes by attacking merchants in Damascus, with security forces and militias smashing shop fronts and breaking the locks on shops in order to force their owners to open for business and end the strike.

Several merchants were arrested in the capital's old quarter after they had refused to open their doors, and the confrontations were worse in rural areas, with activists reporting that security and militia forces had ransacked shops whose owners were on strike, burning some of them.

Syrian activists said on social-networking sites that “Syria went on strike for 60 days during the French occupation, but even the colonialists did not dare to take such brutal action” as that carried out by the Al-Assad regime.

The strike coincided with the arrival of UN and Arab League envoy Kofi Anan in Damascus, who emerged from a meeting with Al-Assad looking glum about prospects for a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

This peaceful civil escalation had not been timed to coincide with Anan's visit, but was instead a spontaneous outburst expressing feelings that the businessmen had been suppressing for months. Meanwhile, the regime claimed that the revolutionaries, routinely described as “terrorists”, had forced the merchants to shutter their doors by threatening to burn down their businesses if they did not go on strike.

Sources in the popular movement said that the strike had been voluntary and unprompted and that it was a part of the protests against the regime's violent crackdown.

“Like other Syrians, we also demand the ouster of the regime. However, we were earlier worried about getting shot if we participated in the demonstrations,” one merchant told Al-Ahram Weekly. “The strike is our way of condemning the regime.”

Bassam Al-Malek, a member of the Damascus Chamber of Commerce (DCC), told the Weekly that “the strike by Damascus merchants was a spontaneous event, and it did not take place on the instructions of the political leadership. Instead, it was an unprompted response to the massacres for which the opposition blames the regime.”

Al-Malek, an opposition businessman, said that a senior official from the presidential palace had visited the DCC and asked board members to intervene to end the strike.

“The strike did not end, because the merchants do not trust the DCC board. The latter has little influence because the merchants, too, have broken through the fear barrier. People are angry, and the strike is an expression of this. This was a strong message to the regime.”

The majority of DCC board members are regime loyalists, having interests that tie them to the regime. They enjoy exclusive access to commercial deals making large profits, and the regime benefits from partnering up with such businessmen, who are not directly linked to the misappropriation of public funds.

Religious leaders in Damascus who reject the regime were also quick to join the strike, calling on the merchants to continue it for at least five days.

Meanwhile, the opposition inside and outside the country announced its support for the merchants and protesters, commending them for their courageous stance.

The merchants did not end the strike despite the huge cost it would have had for them, holding out for nearly five days as the strike spread across Damascus.

From the capital, it reached Aleppo, Syria's industrial capital, where shops closed their doors on Saturday and trading ground to a halt one day after a group of young men were killed in the city after security forces opened fire on peaceful protests demanding the ouster of the regime.

As an expression of their elation about the Damascus strike, media activists on social-networking sites called for a Facebook strike. "We should also go on strike on Facebook, by stopping writing and shutting down our pages for three days. This would frustrate security officials and the intelligence community, which monitors the sites to discover our plans."

Syrian merchants, especially in Damascus and Aleppo, have been suffering from huge losses as a result of the crisis in the country, no longer being able to import goods or raw materials or export their products to other countries because of sanctions prohibiting money transfers to and from Syria.

Many of them have had to downsize staff and slash wages as a result, and the country's stagnant economy has prevented them from making profits, causing them to dig into their capital to keep their businesses open.

Such problems are being compounded with each passing day, and if conditions remain the same many merchants and industries will be threatened with bankruptcy.

The Damascus strike was encouraging for the country's peaceful opposition forces, which believe that the peaceful escalation of protests, including strikes and civil disobedience, are more effective than military means in weakening the regime. The hope is that such tactics could result in the regime's downfall, removing it without the need for a single shot to be fired.

Ever since the late president Hafez Al-Assad, father of Bashar al-Assad, came to power in 1970 the regime has feared a strike by merchants, because they are the economic and social lifblood of the country.

As a result, Hafez Al-Assad gave in to the demands of the country's chambers of commerce and of industry at almost every step, delivering privileges to them and issuing laws favourable to commercial interests. Observers say that had the Damascus and Aleppo merchants gone on strike in 1980 after the events in the city of Hama that claimed tens of thousands of civilian lives, the regime would have faltered or even fallen.

Such considerations illuminate the significance of the present strikes, since they both signal the readiness of the country's middle classes to flex their muscles in opposition to the regime and to downplay the significance of the nouveaux riches as their representatives in the political arena.

Because of the cities' large markets, the strikes in Damascus and Aleppo have had a resounding effect in other cities.

They come as a painful moral blow to the regime, and they are the first time that the Damascus merchants have used their economic muscle in direct opposition to the regime.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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

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