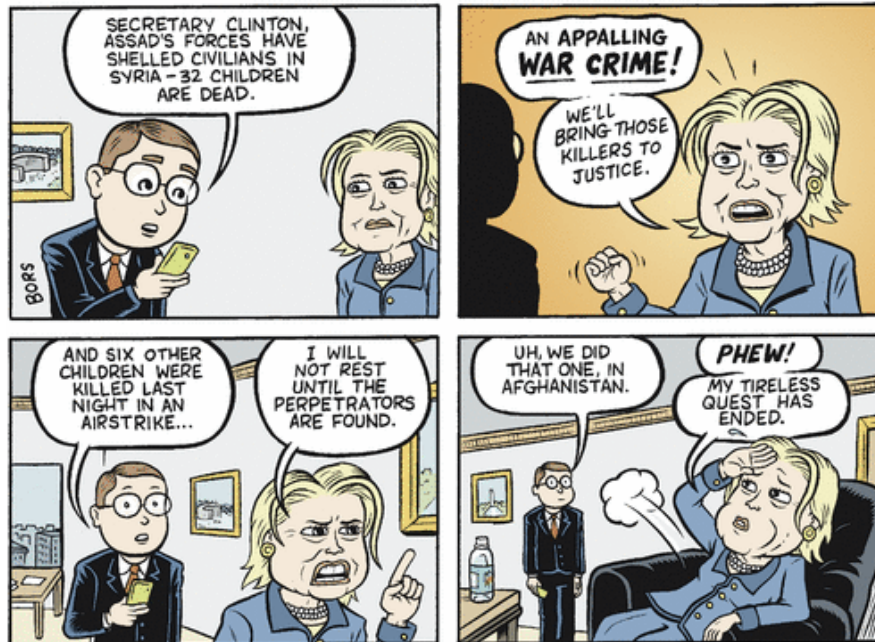


Military Resistance 10F6

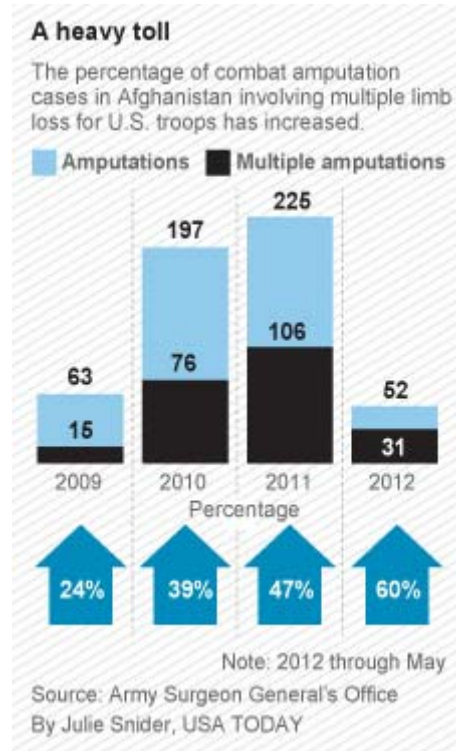


**American Troops Are Losing
More Arms And Legs To IEDs
Than Ever Before:**

**“In 2009, About One In Four
Combat Amputations Involved
Multiple Limb-Loss”**

**“That Increased To Nearly One In
Two Last Year, When There Were A
Record 225 Amputation Cases In
Afghanistan”**

“Any Time You Take A Step Out There, It’s Like, ‘Oh My God, Am I About To Step On A Pressure Plate Or Something?’ Just Because It’s So Packed With IEDs”



6.5.12 By Gregg Zoroya, USA TODAY [Excerpts]

BETHESDA, Md. –

American troops are suffering more extensive physical damage — measured in lost arms and legs — to buried explosives in Afghanistan than ever before, according to data collected by the Army Surgeon General's office.

This year through May, 60% of all combat amputation casualties in Afghanistan — 31 of 52 cases — were troops who lost two, three or four limbs, according to statistics.

The vast majority are caused by makeshift bombs known as improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, the Army says.

In 2009, about one in four combat amputations involved multiple limb-loss.

That increased to one in three in 2010 and nearly one in two last year, when there were a record 225 amputation cases in Afghanistan.

Half of the six American troops left quadruple amputees during 10 years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan, suffered their wounds this year, data show.

Two lethal trends in Taliban bombmaking are larger explosives targeting U.S. foot patrols and bombs that have less metal and are more difficult to find with detection devices, says the Army and the Joint IED Defeat Organization, or JIEDDO, the Pentagon's lead agency for combating makeshift bombs.

"The blast is so devastating. You definitely see the more complex wounding," says Army Maj. Gen. Richard Thomas, who served as surgeon general to U.S. Forces in Afghanistan for several months ending in February.

Marine Lance Cpl. Sean Adams, 19, of Gainesville, Ga., lost both legs, and his right arm and both hands were maimed in a blast Feb. 10 in Helmand Province. A combat engineer who was leading a patrol with a metal detector, he walked onto an IED buried in a narrow goat path without realizing it.

"(It's) not even a split-second. You got a pressure hitting your body. It's just crazy," says Adams, recuperating here at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

"Any time you take a step out there, it's like, 'Oh my God, am I about to step on a pressure plate or something?' just because it's so packed with IEDs."

The military has responded by placing more highly skilled medical personnel on helicopters that retrieve wounded servicemembers from the battlefield, including critical care nurses from the Army and doctors and nurse anesthetists from the Air Force.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

2nd SBCT Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

A Joint Base Lewis-McChord soldier was killed in battle in Afghanistan on Saturday, the Defense Department has announced.

Spc. Gerardo Campos, 23, died in Maiwand, Afghanistan, when enemy forces attacked his unit with small-arms fire, according to a DoD release.

Campos, a native of Miami, Fla., was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division at Lewis-McChord in Washington.

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

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

Official Says Schools In Taliban-Held District Remain Open: “The Militants Are Cooperating With The Authorities In Promoting Education, According To The Director”

Jun 3, 2012 by Khan Wali Salarzaion, PAN

ASADABAD (PAN): More than 30 schools across a Taliban-controlled district in eastern Nuristan province remain open, benefitting thousands of boys and girls, an official said on Sunday.

The remote Want Waigal district, located east of the provincial capital Paron, has been under Taliban's control for a year.

Schools in the town are operating pretty well, the education director acknowledged.

Dr. Hussain told Pajhwok Afghan News that about 10,000 students, including 4,000 girls, were being taught at 31 schools, a Quran memorisation centre and a religious seminary in the district.

The militants are cooperating with the authorities in promoting education, according to the director, who said: “We thank the Taliban for helping keep the schools open in Want Waigal.”

Dr. Hussain said there was only one female teacher at the girls'school. The rest of teachers are males. Of the 31 schools, 15 have proper buildings, with the rest operating in mosques and under tents.

“The biggest problem is that Nuristan is yet to receive textbooks,” said the official. Millions of school books, printed in the UAE, have long been stuck in neighbouring Pakistan.

Fazlullah, the principal of a girls' middle school in Want Waigal, said the students were taught at his residence. “Previously, the school was housed in a rented building.

“Since the number of students is fast increasing, they could not be accommodated there. I have vacated some rooms of my house for the girls,” added the principal, who also deplored the lack of textbooks.

Provincial council member Qazi Inayatullah Mazhabyar, echoing the director’s views, called for the early delivery of textbooks to students. The guerrillas posed no threat to schools, teachers and students, he continued. Parveen Nuristani, a lawmaker from the backward province, confirmed schools in the district were operational.

The Wolesi Jirga, lower house of parliament, member assailed the government for paying no heed to the education sector in Nuristan.

Of the 109,000 candidates from the province, only four boys and a girl had been able to qualify the university entry test this year, the parliamentarian said.

Last week, the Taliban vowed to punish those involved in arson attacks on schools or poisoning girl students. A statement from the insurgent movement said their strategy for education would emphasise on greater attention to schools.

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

MILITARY NEWS

**“The Brigade Commander Seemed
Born To One Day Wear Stars On His
Shoulder Boards”**

**“His Next Battle Will Come At Court-
Martial June 11, When He Will Fight
Charges That He Defrauded The Army
Out Of Tens Of Thousands Of Dollars To
'Frolic' With An Iraqi Mistress, Whom He
Allegedly Made His Wife Even Though
He Already Was Married”**

Jun 5, 2012 By Joe Gould - Staff writer; Army Times [Excerpts

The brigade commander seemed born to one day wear stars on his shoulder boards.

The son of a distinguished Army general, his own career — including war-zone command of the esteemed 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team — had soared impressively toward flag rank.

Now it's all in tatters. Fired from command, his next battle will come at court-martial June 11, when he will fight charges that he defrauded the Army out of tens of thousands of dollars to “frolic” with an Iraqi mistress, whom he allegedly made his wife even though he already was married.

If charges prove true, Col. James H. Johnson III is a cheat and a bigamist.

In all he is charged with six counts of violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and 27 specifications. Among them: forgery, fraud, lying and bigamy.

The woman who was his sweetheart while he was a cadet at West Point — and then his wife and mother to his two children — said she was sure her husband was unfaithful but had no clue he had wed his alleged mistress.

Kristina Johnson, 47, said she was shocked to learn about the second marriage, finding out only after being denied Tricare health coverage.

She said it was then that she discovered a divorce certificate she suspects was doctored in the process of transferring benefits to the Iraqi woman.

She said Army investigators informed her that her husband had married again.

“If I wasn't living this, I would think it's all made up,” Mrs. Johnson told Army Times in a telephone call from her home in upstate New York.

The bigamy charge was the latest the Army filed against Col. Johnson, already facing fraud charges resulting from an Army investigation that began in February 2011.

He has pleaded not guilty to all charges and his attorney has declined comment in an email to Army Times.

A Flathead County, Mont., official confirmed to Army Times that Col. Johnson married a woman named Haveen All Adin Al Atar on Nov. 9, 2011, by double proxy, meaning neither party was present. Montana is the only state that allows double proxy marriages.

Army Times has been able to identify — through several sources — that Al Atar is the daughter of Col. Johnson's cultural adviser in Iraq. She has not been charged with any wrongdoing.

Mrs. Johnson told Army Times she has been called to testify about the alleged bigamy at her husband's court-martial in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

She said Col. Johnson provided a phony “certificate of divorce” to the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System to have her removed from his Tricare benefit. She provided the document to Army Times, and said her signature was forged on it.

Court officials in Florida and New York, where the Johnsons have divorce filings, told Army Times the marriage has not been dissolved and the matter is not concluded.

Col. Johnson’s legal troubles began in January 2011, when Mrs. Johnson emailed Army authorities detailing her suspicions about her husband’s activities. Two months later, following a 15-6 investigation, the Army stripped him of command of the “Sky Soldiers” brigade, based in Vicenza, Italy, and Germany.

Col. Johnson allegedly spent more than \$23,000 over more than two years to visit and travel with his alleged mistress, as detailed in travel vouchers appended to the Army 15-6.

Army investigators have probed Col. Johnson’s role in the brigade cultural adviser’s contract, as well as contracts for windmills, bottled water and an ice factory in Afghanistan, Army sources said.

Although Al Atar’s father was under contract as a cultural adviser while the unit was in Afghanistan, several brigade staff members told investigators that the cultural adviser did not provide any information products, the investigation found.

The investigation also found:

- Col. Johnson conducted an “inappropriate relationship” with an Iraqi woman —who Army Times independently identified as Haveen Al Atar — and he misused government resources “for his frolic and detour into the Netherlands” with her.
- Eighteen of 26 travel vouchers he submitted between September 2008 and January 2011 were fraudulent. He took Al Atar on trips to Germany, France, Belgium and Jordan, the report says.
- Col. Johnson misused government resources to provide her family in the Netherlands with rides to job interviews, trips to the Middle East and a government cellphone with a bill estimated at \$45,000.
- He signed travel orders that falsely indicated the woman held a secret clearance to enable her to travel with him.

In all, Col. Johnson is charged with 27 violations of the UCMJ.

According to a U.S. Army Europe spokesman, Johnson was charged with:

- Four violations of Article 92, or failure to obey orders.
- Four violations of Article 107, or making false official statements.
- One violation of Article 123, or forgery.

- Eight violations of Article 132, or fraud against the United States.
- Six violations of Article 133, or conduct unbecoming an officer.
- Four violations of Article 134, a general article, which in this case covers the alleged bigamy and adultery, according to an Army source.

“It’s An Inglorious Predicament For Any Soldier, Particularly For One Of Col. Johnson’s Pedigree”

It’s an inglorious predicament for any soldier, particularly for one of Col. Johnson’s pedigree. A 1986 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, he is the son of retired Lt. Gen. James H. Johnson Jr., who led the 82nd Airborne Division during the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Col. Johnson has deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Panama, Korea and Honduras. He commanded the 173rd from October 2008 until his dismissal in Europe 30 months later.

Col. Johnson’s alleged second wife, Al Atar, could be reached only through Facebook. After she was asked for comment, she posted a status update that read: “My answer is dont believe anything they told u.”

After learning her husband had moved Al Atar into their former home in Vicenza, Mrs. Johnson turned him in to Army authorities. Two months earlier, Col. Johnson had revoked her command sponsorship, forcing Mrs. Johnson to leave Vicenza and return to the U.S., according to the Army’s investigation.

She reported him not as “a woman scorned” but because it was the right thing to do, she said.

“It took me a very long time to make that decision,” said Mrs. Johnson. “I knew the wrongdoing he had done — the fraud, the waste, the abuse — and was he just going to keep doing it more? Who else was going to turn him in?”

Yet if her husband is convicted, she and their two children — ages 16 and 20 — may lose medical and retirement benefits accumulated over his 26-year career.

With his rank and time in service, Col. Johnson’s retirement pay would be worth about \$4 million over an average life span.

Mrs. Johnson says whatever the cost, she would not hesitate to make the same decision again. “Is that what we want from an Army leader, that the government pays his gas bills while he sees his mistress and pays for their hotel bills?” she said. “I had to turn him in. No one else was going to do it.”

For the man she had met as a cadet at West Point, who she knew as consistently honest, moral and disdainful of rule-breakers, the thought of his alleged mistress coming and going from his home was alarming, she said.

"I realized he had spun out of control," she said. "It wasn't, 'Our marriage is over, and I'm going to get back at you.' I had tried my best to get him back on the moral high ground, and I wasn't able to do it."

The marriage began to grow rocky after he returned from a 2006 deployment to Iraq as a battalion commander, during which he met the Al Atar family.

He had become secretive, short-tempered and emotionally withdrawn, she said.

"I look back and wonder what the hell happened," she said. "I look back and see a marked difference."

Mrs. Johnson said her suspicions her husband was unfaithful were confirmed in late 2008. Her husband visited the Al Atar family in Europe over the holidays, despite her objections. Then he brought the Al Atars to visit them, and she became convinced that Haveen Al Atar and Col. Johnson were having an affair.

"That weekend, it all came to light," Mrs. Johnson said. "He wouldn't hug me or kiss me or show affection toward me in front of her. He was freaked out."

Over the next year or so, she said she learned that her husband was visiting Al Atar in the Netherlands and the two were traveling together. Al Atar had access to his government credit card, and the two had been exchanging affectionate emails, she said. The 15-6 investigation confirms the travel and the credit card charges.

"You Could Be A Big Hero For My Family"

After Mrs. Johnson came forward, investigators in February 2011 backtracked through court records, photographs, personal emails, pages from Col. Johnson's planner and travel records that dated back through 2008. All are included in the investigative report, which was completed by an investigating officer assigned to U.S. Army Africa. The 15-6 report was provided to Army Times last year.

During the deployment to Iraq, Col. Johnson developed a "strong bond" with the family and helped relocate them from Iraq to the Netherlands, the report says.

Al Atar's father, a Kurdish Shiite and high school math teacher, had warned soldiers of impending attacks, which allowed them to be pre-empted, according to a statement in the report. Her mother headed a women's organization supported by Army operations.

As commander of the Italy- and Germany-based 173rd Airborne Division, Col. Johnson had no business in the Netherlands but visited there every few weeks from fall 2008 to January 2011, the report states. His alleged mistress and her family lived in The Hague, in the Netherlands.

Investigators found that although Col. Johnson's travel vouchers indicated he was on official business, the receipts from gas stations in the Netherlands or the route there gave him away.

On Dec. 28, 2008, Col. Johnson brought the family from the Netherlands to the 173rd's brigade ball in Bamberg, Germany, using a government vehicle, the report states. The investigation found that he "improperly" used a government vehicle to ferry them to and from the event.

In the report is a series of December 2009 emails, allegedly between Col. Johnson and an individual whose name is redacted, but Mrs. Johnson identified as Al Atar. One reads, "This is my new email address for work in Afghanistan," and it closes with the words, "I love you."

Among other trips, Johnson drove the woman and her mother to job interviews in October 2008 and February 2009, according to the report. On the latter date, he left a family vacation in Paris to drive the woman and her mother from the Netherlands to Heidelberg, Germany. He allegedly filed for reimbursement for the use of a rental car on the trip, the report says.

On a November 2009 visit with the Jordanian military in Amman, the woman accompanied Col. Johnson using travel orders he signed, the report states.

He went to The Hague to get her, the investigation found, and the hotel bills indicate the two shared a room; her bill "appears to be an altered version" of Johnson's.

Their bills, submitted to the Army for payment, are identical, except that hers indicates she stayed in Room 105 and Col. Johnson's indicates he stayed in Room 104. Yet a single credit card receipt appears to have been used twice for both —Col. Johnson's.

In all, Col. Johnson submitted a total of \$3,616.04 in hotel, car, flight and per diem expenses for the nine-day trip from Vicenza to Brussels and Amman, and then back.

Al Atar submitted a total of \$2,671 in expenses, including the duplicate hotel bill.

Though the couple spent government funds, they did not appear to travel extravagantly. For example, they spent four nights at Le Meridien hotel in Amman at a cost of \$732, and had dinner one night at the hotel for about \$26.

In April 2010, Col. Johnson booked a trip to Sulaymaniyah, Iraq, for the woman and her mother, where they had a job interview with an Iraqi government official. Included in the investigation is Col. Johnson's personal letter of recommendation, written on brigade stationary.

When he booked the two-room hotel suite in Sulaymaniyah, he said in an email to the person arranging travel that it was not for business: "You could be a big hero for my family," he said.

Mrs. Johnson said she ultimately confronted her husband about the alleged affair in September 2009, he confessed to it, and the two underwent marital counseling. For many months, she said, she had faith that he would stop and the marriage would recover.

"I was desperate to keep my family together," she said. "I didn't want my marriage to end. I always loved my husband and couldn't understand what was going on."

Their marriage never recovered. In January 2011, the same month Mrs. Johnson reported her husband's relationship and activities to authorities, their domestic strife made headlines in the New York Post.

In papers filed in a New York federal court, Col. Johnson accused her of improper behavior as a leader of the Family Readiness Group, and that her taking the couple's son to the U.S. had amounted to kidnapping.

By Mrs. Johnson's account, her husband used his rank and position to orchestrate her removal from their home on post and to force her return to the U.S.

He did this, she claims, in an attempt to gain custody of their then-14-year-old son, while freeing Col. Johnson to move his alleged mistress onto the post.

Mrs. Johnson said the latest shock came in December 2011, after she underwent a medical procedure and was told her husband's insurance no longer covered her.

She said her husband submitted a "certificate of divorce" to have her removed and she learned from Army investigators that he had married Al Atar in November 2011 to provide Al Atar with benefits.

She provided the certificate to Army Times, which she said appears to be a heavily doctored version of their 1987 marriage license from the town of Monroe, N.Y.

She also showed Army Times a document from the New York court that indicates the divorce is still not final.

“Coombs Renews His Long-Standing Efforts To Compel The US Government To Hand Over Information That Could Prove Crucial In Preparing Manning’s Defence”
“He Accuses The Army Of Continuing To Resist Its Legal Obligations To Disclose Anything That Could Help Manning Prove His Innocence Or Achieve A Lighter Sentence”



www.bradleymanning

6.5.12 By Ed Pilkington, Guardian UK

The US government is in possession of 250,000 pages of documents relating to the transmission of state secrets to whistleblower website WikiLeaks, which it is refusing to disclose to defence lawyers representing the alleged source of the leaks, Bradley Manning.

Manning's civilian lawyer, David Coombs, has lodged a motion with the military court that is hearing the court-martial of the US soldier.

Coombs writes in the motion that the government has revealed to him in a throwaway footnote that there are 250,000 pages in its possession that relate to Manning, WikiLeaks and secret official assessments of the damage that the massive leak caused to US interests around the world.

Yet none of these pages have been made available to the defence. "If so, this is very disconcerting to the defence," Coombs says.

Manning, an intelligence analyst who was working outside Baghdad when he was arrested two years ago, is charged with 22 counts connected to the largest leak of state secrets in US history.

In the motion, published in redacted form on his website, Coombs renews his long-standing efforts to compel the US government to hand over information that could prove crucial in preparing Manning's defence.

He accuses the army of continuing to resist its legal obligations to disclose anything that could help Manning prove his innocence or achieve a lighter sentence.

The motion is one of several defence motions that have been submitted to the court and that will be the subject of a pre-trial hearing at Fort Meade in Maryland. Manning himself is likely to attend the hearing, which comes three months before a full trial, which is scheduled for 21 September.

The language of Coombs's legal submission suggests that the lawyer, who himself has a military background, is growing increasingly frustrated by the obfuscations and alleged sleights of hand played by the prosecution.

In recent motions, the lawyer has accused the US government of preventing Manning from having a fair trial.

Coombs paints an almost Kafkaesque world in which the military authorities play word games in order to keep deflecting his requests for disclosure.

Sometimes the government says that the defense is being "too narrow" in its requests, at other times "too broad".

Coombs comments sarcastically: "The defence believes that no defence discovery request would ever be 'just right' to satisfy Goldilocks."

When the defence asked to see "damage assessments" or "investigations" that the government had carried out into the likely impact of WikiLeaks, he was told none existed.

After much effort was expended, Coombs managed to get the government to admit that what he should have asked for – according to its vocabulary – was "working papers".

"By morphing, distorting and constantly changing definitions, the government is trying to 'define' itself out of producing relevant discovery," Coombs complains. "It cannot be permitted to do this."

Judging from the motions which Coombs has filed, this week's pre-trial hearing promises to be quite feisty.

Other motions before the court include a demand for the dismissal of 10 of the 22 counts against the private.

Though Manning faces very severe charges, including "aiding the enemy", that carry a possible sentence of life in military custody, he draws comfort from having such a robust defence team.

His aunt, speaking to the Guardian last week, said that Manning had "tremendous confidence in David Coombs".

Ariz. Vets Demand The Government Allow Medical Marijuana For PTSD:

**“My Doctors Shunned Me And Didn’t
Approve Of Me Doing It”
“But I Did It Legally. And I Know For A
Fact — I’m A Walking Testimonial —
That It Works”**



Michael Krawitz, executive director of Veterans for Medical Cannabis Access in Virginia, said veterans are “mercilessly being denied treatment” because they cannot access medical marijuana in all 50 states.

**“Veterans found cannabis long before states started passing these laws,” he said
“By a long shot, it’s better than the drugs they get at the VA.”**

Jun 5, 2012 By Yvonne Wingett Sanchez - The (Phoenix) Arizona Republic [Excerpts]

PHOENIX — Emanuel Herrera returned from war addicted to painkillers and barely able to tolerate his children’s voices.

The former staff sergeant had enlisted in the Arizona National Guard after 9/11, wanting to help his country.

In 2006, while providing security for a convoy near Camp Anaconda in Iraq, his truck hit an improvised bomb. The blast turned the night into day, nearly destroyed his neck, damaged the discs in his back and left him with brain injuries and post-traumatic stress.

Last year, despite warnings from medical staff at the local veterans hospital, he began to smoke pot legally under the state's new medical-marijuana program to cope with the physical and mental pains of combat.

"My doctors shunned me and didn't approve of me doing it," said Herrera, a Purple Heart recipient.

"One doctor said I could get some repercussions for doing it. But I did it legally. And I know for a fact — I'm a walking testimonial — that it works."

No one collects data on the number of veterans participating in medical-marijuana programs in the 17 states where it is legal. But veterans and program advocates say those who have served are turning to cannabis more and more to deal with the disabling symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries and chronic physical pain.

In Arizona, veterans are leading the push for health officials to add PTSD as a qualifying condition for the medical-marijuana program.

Currently, only individuals with diagnoses such as chronic pain, cancer and other debilitating conditions qualify. Two other states include PTSD as a qualifying condition.

But the federal government has sent mixed messages about its stance on the issue, with law enforcement opposing states' programs and VA medical staff allowing participation.

The Department of Veterans Affairs in 2010 formally began to allow patients treated at its medical facilities to use medical marijuana in states where it is legal. But because the drug remains illegal under federal law, VA doctors themselves cannot recommend it.

The directive put to rest concerns among some veterans and their families that they could lose benefits if they tested positive for marijuana.

But distrust of the government still prevents some veterans from signing up with state medical-marijuana programs, instead opting to buy the drug — and ingest it — illegally.

The VA asks patients to tell physicians if they are using marijuana because it almost always affects their care. Typically, Deering said, physicians will alter patients' care until it is clear how the marijuana interacts with narcotics. He said marijuana is shown to help with certain medical conditions, but there is not a lot of scientific research on how it interacts with prescription drugs.

Paula Pedene, a spokeswoman with the VA hospital, said medical staffers urge patients to first try intense therapy to treat PTSD instead of self-medicating with marijuana, herbal remedies and other methods.

"They live in a place that has passed this law, and it's their choice to use it," Pedene said. "The question is: How can we co-manage their care?"

She said the VA does not keep track of the number of patients who say they participate in the medical-marijuana program, nor do they report them to federal

agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Justice or the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Both agencies oppose medicinal use of pot.

Iraq veteran Cory Woodstock believes the VA abandoned him after he began smoking marijuana illegally.

He suffers from a traumatic brain injury, PTSD, depression and physical pain.

While serving in the military, the security convoys he rode in were involved in three bomb attacks within 38 hours.

By the time the Purple Heart recipient returned home to Apache Junction, Ariz., he was on 23 prescriptions, taking 57 pills a day.

In 2009, he smoked marijuana for a short time after veteran friends told him it would help stop the voices in his head and the pain radiating through his body.

But once the pot showed up in his urine tests, he said, his VA doctor cut him off all prescriptions, which he still needed to manage his pain.

He stopped ingesting marijuana, afraid federal officials would strip him of his benefits because they still consider pot to be illegal.

He sought treatment outside the VA system but said it hasn't helped as much as the marijuana did.

"It was an experiment, and it worked," he said. "I was able to sleep. I wasn't so conscious about not being able to speak (well). I told the doctors I tried it and it helped. They said it voided my contract with the VA."

Woodstock wants to use pot again, but he will not sign up for the state's program unless federal law enforcement changes its stance.

"I'm leery of the federal government. I'm not going to take the chance," he said.

Doctors disagree on how effective medical marijuana is to treat symptoms such as PTSD.

Dr. Sue Sisley, an internist in private practice and assistant professor of psychiatry and internal medicine at the University of Arizona, said marijuana is extremely effective for veterans. She said she sees many veterans who turn to marijuana only after conventional medicine doesn't help.

"It's really uncharted territory for veterans and the VA," she said. "The VA has taken a position where they're not going to terminate patients if they have a card, but the truth is that a lot of doctors have a strong bias against it — they believe they are just drug addicts."

Across the nation, some veterans are urging the White House and Congress to legalize marijuana for veterans at the federal level.

Michael Krawitz, executive director of Veterans for Medical Cannabis Access in Virginia, said veterans are “mercilessly being denied treatment” because they cannot access medical marijuana in all 50 states.

“Veterans found cannabis long before states started passing these laws,” he said “By a long shot, it’s better than the drugs they get at the VA.”

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.

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.”

Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Heroic Zionist Occupation Armed Forces Go To War Against A Yogurt Factory, A Carpentry Shop And A Chicken Farm



The Dalloul dairy factory was destroyed in an overnight airstrike, causing losses of \$300,000, the owner said. (MaanImages/Maan TV/Reuters)

6.5.12: GAZA CITY (Ma'an) –

The owner of a dairy factory in the Gaza Strip, which was flattened by an Israeli airstrike before dawn Monday, called for an international committee to prove his business does not store weapons.

The Dalloul dairy factory, in the al-Sabra neighborhood of Gaza City, was destroyed in the third day of airstrikes on the coastal enclave, leaving one person moderately injured.

Israel's army said it had "targeted a weapon manufacturing facility and a terror tunnel in the northern Gaza Strip," in response to rocket fire on communities in southern Israel.

Factory owner Abu Haroun Dalloul told Ma'an the bombing was the fourth time his factory has been targeted in recent years. The facility was previously destroyed in Israel's war on Gaza in January 2009.

He called on Arab and Islamic nations, as well as the European Union, to form a committee to prove his factory does not store weapons.

The business sustained an estimated loss of \$300,000 after Sunday's strike, Dalloul said, noting he had just purchased a new processor at a cost of \$80,000.

"We call on the whole world to protect us.

“My factory makes food and yogurt. Why is it being bombed like this?” he said.

“If it stored or manufactured weapons, it would not have been placed in a residential neighborhood, where most of the houses nearby belong to my relatives,” he continued.

One neighbor, Um Basem al-Shanshiri, said Sunday’s bombing caused panic and terror amongst the sleeping children in the area.

“All our neighbors’ houses were destroyed in the Israeli bombings, we are living in the street now,” she told Ma’an.

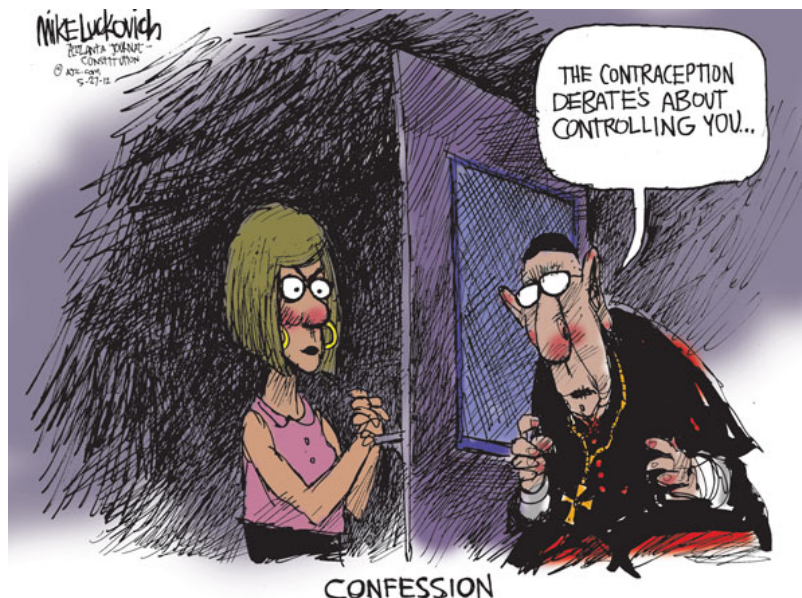
Three days of airstrikes on the Gaza Strip have injured 13 Palestinians, with two men later dying of their wounds.

Gaza-based rights group Al-Mezan said nine houses were partially damaged, and one house was destroyed in the bombings. A poultry and cattle farm, a water well, a carpentry shop, and a storeroom were also damaged, it said.

The attacks started after a Palestinian gunman shot dead an Israeli soldier on the Gaza border on Friday. The Palestinian was also killed in the clash.

[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



CLASS WAR REPORTS

“Egyptians Poured Into Cairo’s Tahrir Square On Tuesday To Reclaim A Revolt They Say Has Been Hijacked”



Protesters gather during a demonstration at Tahrir square in Cairo June 5, 2012. Thousands of Egyptians poured into Cairo’s Tahrir Square on Tuesday to reclaim a revolt they say has been hijacked after Hosni Mubarak was jailed for life and his top security officials freed in a sign they say his old guard is still in charge.
REUTERS/Suhaib Salem

“Many Employees Aren’t Receiving Their Salaries— Certainly Not On Time And Sometimes Not At All”

“The Only Reason This Hospital Is Open Now Is Because The Unpaid Employees Are Keeping It Open”
“What Is Happening In This Hospital Is A Microcosm Of What Is Happening In Greece”
“Some Employees Have Defaulted On Mortgage Loans, While Others, Unable To Pay Their Rent, Have Moved Back In With Their Parents”

June 4, 2012 By MATTHEW DALTON, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

ATHENS—Henry Dunant Hospital, a gleaming, state-of-the-art facility in central Athens, is one of the best medical centers in Greece. But quality hasn't protected it from one of the most troubling trends of the country's economic crisis: a plague of late payments that threatens to drive Greeks deeper into an economic abyss.

The hospital's 1,150 employees, doctors included, have yet to be paid any of their 2012 salaries.

Employees just received the final payment of their 2011 salaries at the end of May. The hospital, which is owned by the Greek Red Cross, owes tens of millions of euros to its suppliers and banks. It, in turn, is owed at least €20 million (\$24.8 million) by the Greek government.

Henry Dunant is one of a sharply growing number of Greek institutions and companies that aren't paying because they haven't been paid. Many employees aren't receiving their salaries—certainly not on time and sometimes not at all. Businesses aren't paying each other. And the government isn't paying its suppliers or refunds owed to taxpayers.

“The only reason this hospital is open now is because the unpaid employees are keeping it open,” said Anthony Rapp, a former manager of U.S. Air Force hospitals who is part of a new executive team brought in to save it.

“What is happening in this hospital is a microcosm of what is happening in Greece.”

Late payments have soared in Greece since the crisis began in 2010 and have become endemic over the past six months.

Between 400,000 and 500,000 of the country's two million private-sector employees working under contract haven't been paid in three months or more, according to the Greek government's labor-market inspector. While the agency recently started collecting these statistics—a response to evidence that nonpayment was a widespread problem—officials said late payment of salaries is up sharply over the past year.

At Henry Dunant, the stress of working for months with little or no pay has been intense. Some employees have defaulted on mortgage loans, while others, unable to pay their rent, have moved back in with their parents.

"The last year was hell for us here," said Anastasia Koutsouri, an internist.

Buying crucial drugs and medical supplies from abroad has become increasingly dicey. Suppliers now demand to be paid in advance, in cash, a situation many Greek companies now face. The hospital is facing difficulty buying some of the most expensive drugs and medical supplies.

"We have tremendous issues with our vendors, who have been very, very supportive of us. But that can only last for so long," Mr. Rapp said.

Mr. Rapp came to Greece decades ago with the Air Force, married a Greek woman and became a citizen. After living through several national crises, he says now is the first time he fears for the country's future.

"It's very stressful," Mr. Rapp said. "I'm an easygoing guy. I find myself not sleeping at night."

“The Biggest Act Of Civil Disobedience By Damascus Merchants In Syria’s 15-Month-Old Uprising”

“Many Stores Have Been Closed For A Week In Protest Against The Massacre Of More Than 100 People In Houla On May 25”

“The Closures Have Affected Districts All Across The Capital”

More Than 70 Percent Of Shops Are On Strike In Sunni Opposition Districts Outside The Old City Such As Midan. Even Districts Of Damascus That Are Predominantly Christian, A Minority Group That Assad’s Supporters Say Will Stick By The Leader Against The Largely Sunni Revolt, Have Reported A Large Number Of Shop Closures.

06/06/2012 By Reuters

In the biggest act of civil disobedience by Damascus merchants in Syria’s 15-month-old uprising, many stores have been closed for a week in protest against the massacre of more than 100 people in Houla on May 25.

The closures have affected districts all across the capital, from the Old City market to opposition areas where 70 percent of stores appeared shut despite what shopkeepers said were attacks and threats by security forces to force them to reopen.

“We want to participate in the strike but at the same time we are afraid of the reaction of the security police,” said Mohammed, who owns a clothes shop in the traditional al-Hamidiya souk -- a long, covered walkway that cuts through the Old City.

Widespread closures in the capital, a stronghold of President Bashar Assad, represent a major challenge to the Syrian leader and Mohammed said security forces had broken open his locked shop door a few days ago to intimidate him.

Mohammed, who asked to only use his first name to avoid identification by police, said that the action was a piecemeal attempt that he and other merchants have tacitly agreed to in protest against the killing of 108 civilians in Houla in violence blamed by the United Nations on army shelling and pro-Assad militiamen.

“The strike does send a political message,” he said, although admitting that the opposition movement was still weak.

Since the attack, Mohammed has opened the shutters to give the impression that his shop is open, but the door is in fact closed while he sits outside in case the police return.

During a tour of the Hamidiya souk it appeared that around half of the shops remained shut.

Most Syrians to buy their goods from small local merchants, rather than modern supermarkets, and the dampening effect of the strike is tangible in Damascus’ lonely streets.

The Hamidiya souk, a centuries-old cobblestoned street linked to a maze of smaller alleyways winding through the capital, used to be a hive of activity where rich

businessmen would make deals and sell merchandise over sugared tea. Now it stands quiet, a backwater in the center of the capital.

Sunni Muslim merchants have traditionally formed the core of the business community in the Syrian capital and in the commercial hub Aleppo, Syria's most populous city.

Assad, and his late father -- from Syria's minority Alawite sect -- forged close ties with the Sunni merchant class, who helped prevent a collapse of the Syrian pound last year by keeping their cash in the bank while everyone rushed to exchange weak pounds for dollars.

However, Assad is losing support among merchants who are suffering from a stagnant business climate and Western sanctions imposed to put pressure on the defiant president.

And Assad's crackdown on the uprising by Syria's majority Sunnis has lost him many supporters who are enraged by the deaths of more than 10,000 fellow citizens at the hands of Assad loyalists.

More than 70 percent of shops are on strike in Sunni opposition districts outside the Old City such as Midan, where activists say government forces have shot and killed demonstrators at weekly protests.

"We open our shops for an hour a day so people can buy essentials," said Midan-based supermarket owner Amin, who also asked Reuters only to use his first name. Like Mohammed in Hamidiya, many shop owners in Midan sit in front of their businesses so they can open up quickly if security personnel arrive.

Markets in Damascus have been subject to a heavy security presence over the past week, with new checkpoints erected at their entrances, residents say.

Even districts of Damascus that are predominantly Christian, a minority group that Assad's supporters say will stick by the leader against the largely Sunni revolt, have reported a large number of shop closures.

And in towns on the Damascus outskirts, many of which have witnessed army raids and widespread arrests, residents say the markets have been empty for weeks.

Damascus residents, whether they support the strike or not, say the shop closures have compounded the already dire economic situation.

Prices have soared over the past 15 months and sanctions have cut vital trade links.

Many Syrians are unable to buy anything but the bare essentials. Syrian government figures put annual consumer price inflation at 31 percent in April, but residents say basic goods such as sugar, vegetable oil and eggs have doubled in price.

Not all are 100 percent behind the campaign of civil disobedience.

"I feel bad about what happened to the people of Houla," said a restaurant owner in the Kafr Souseh district, where most shops are on strike. "But I have three employees to pay and what use is a strike?" he said, echoing the sentiments of many frustrated businessmen.

For others, the loss in earnings is justified by the disruption they are causing to the heart of the capital where state security forces have been scrambling to give an impression of calm and control while the rest of the country crumbles.

"Strikes are less dangerous than open demonstrations," said a high school teacher from the capital. "We need strikes in shops, schools and universities. It's a safer way to express ourselves."

“A Syrian Activist Group Reported That At Least 80 Soldiers Were Killed Over The Weekend In Clashes With Rebels”

June 5, 2012 By RICK GLADSTONE, The New York Times

A Syrian activist group reported that at least 80 soldiers were killed over the weekend in clashes with rebels, which would be one of the largest losses for government forces since the uprising began in March 2011.

The report, by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, could not be independently confirmed.

The group also told Reuters that rebels had overrun army checkpoints in the northern town of Ariha, and a photo released by activists was said to show damaged army tanks in the town.

Heavy Fighting Erupts In Syria's Latakia Province

06/06/2012 (Reuters)

Syrian government forces backed by helicopters clashed on Tuesday with rebels in several towns in the coastal province of Latakia, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Rebels said at least eight of the fighters were killed.

"The clashes started seven hours ago. These are the heaviest clashes so far in the area since the beginning of the revolution (in March 2011)," Rami Abdelrahman, the head of the British-based Observatory, told Reuters.

He said at least five tanks and armored personnel carriers were destroyed.

Rebels have taken over police stations in the city of Haffeh in the countryside of Latakia, he added. He said "a lot of ambulances" were seen arriving in the city of Latakia carrying government forces casualties.

"Haffeh is totally surrounded right now," said an activist in the city. He said the clashes were in the villages of Bekas, Babna, Jankeel.

Latakia has been relatively calm in the uprising against the rule of President Bashar Assad, who is from minority Alawite sect. Anti-government demonstrations have been in the Sunni neighborhoods of Latakia, a majority Sunni area with a large Alawite population.

Bassel Salow, a spokesman of a brigade of the rebel group the Free Syrian Army in the area, said at least eight fighters were killed during the clashes which were continuing in Haffeh.

"They have shelled at least 60 villages using helicopters, we have 15 civilians wounded and we can not rescue any of them," he said by telephone.

Syria imposes restrictions on foreign journalists making it difficult to verify events.

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