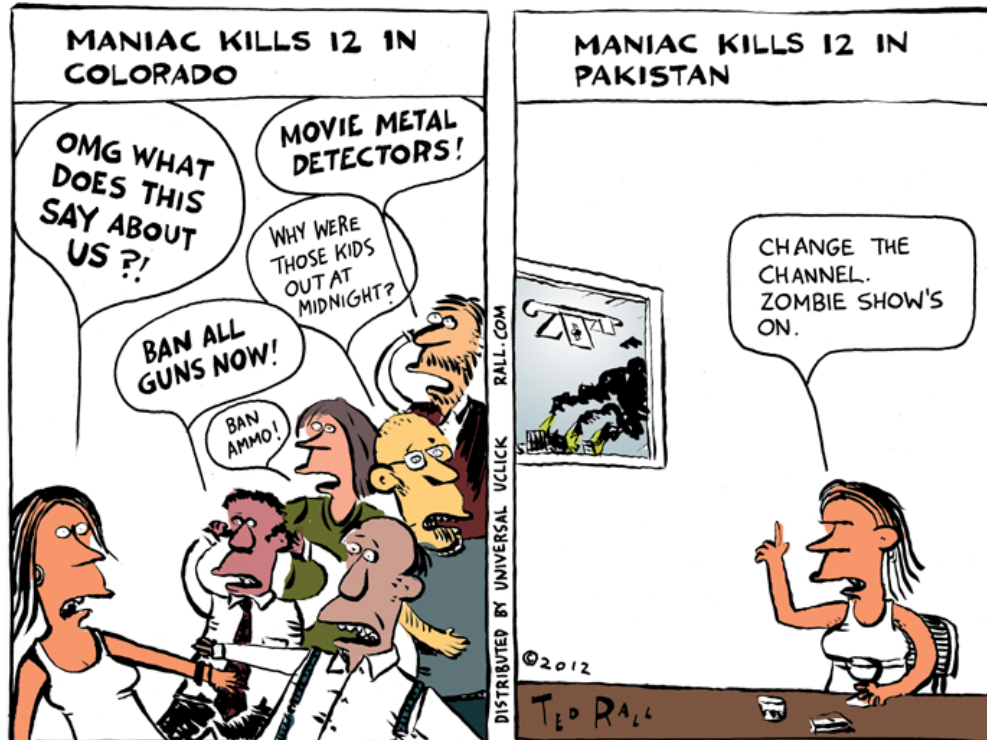


## Military Resistance 10H1



### **Kingsley Mourns Loss Of One Of Their Own:**

**“Hansen Eventually Became Disillusioned With The Afghanistan War”**

**“He Thought It Was More About Politics And Power Than Doing Good, And Didn't Plan To Go Back Once He Returned Home”**

KINGSLEY — American flag banners hang from light posts and greet motorists who head into Kingsley's downtown.

A larger banner, perhaps 25 feet long, stretches across a building at the village's main crossroads. It's hard to miss:

"Welcome to Kingsley. We Love The U.S.A."

That patriotic embrace was in full display well before residents learned one of their own died in combat in Afghanistan. The red, white and blue surely won't come down any time soon.

A permanent memorial of some sort likely will be erected for Justin Hansen, 26, a United States Marine and 2003 Kingsley High School graduate who died Tuesday, shot to death on duty.

A marker might rise near the football field where Hansen starred, or somewhere in the downtown area. But location won't matter much.

"He's one of those guys where you won't have to put up a monument," said Jon Walton, 27, a Kingsley resident and Hansen's lifelong friend. "They'll always remember him."

Plenty in this southern Grand Traverse County village knew Hansen. Some didn't. But no one is more than a few connections away.

"We are still a small community. Everybody knows everybody," said Amanda Herrick, who graduated a year before Hansen. "Even if you didn't know the person, you know somebody affected by it."

Cathy Harrigan, who owns Kingsley Floral & Gifts, heard the news early Wednesday. She didn't know Hansen, but that mattered little.

"It's still heartbreaking," she said.

Micki Davis owns Bright Side Cafe, across from Kingsley's post office. She and several others discussed the sad news in the cafe. A local's death always brings war into sharper focus, she said.

"I think it feels more personal; it's so close to home," he said. "You can't help but think: What if that was my son?"

Several remembered Hansen, a standout football player in high school, for his good attitude.

"He was always full of energy, always up for something new, no matter what it was," Walton said. "And he was the most committed person I've ever met. Whatever he did, he did 110 percent."

Walton's mother, Diane Walton, runs a youth center in Kingsley.

She knew Hansen since he was a child, and remembers an incident in which Hansen, her son and a few other students came home from school at lunch to raid her kitchen when she was away.

A pile of money was left behind, intended to help her buy replacement food. That showed responsibility, she said.

Diane Walton, who couldn't hold back tears as she spoke of Hansen, said those who knew him took pride in his dedication and service.

"So many of us, I think, are worried about the younger generation because they don't seem to have commitment," she said. "For someone to step up to the plate like that and serve their country, it takes a lot of integrity. It takes a lot of selflessness, knowing you could be in harm's way."

Jon Walton said Hansen became interested in military service in high school when he spoke to a friend's father, who served in the military.

"He knew he wanted to do something important with his life," he said.

Hansen regularly visited friends in Kingsley while on leave. Local residents always seemed appreciative, Jon Walton said.

"There wasn't a single time when we were out that someone didn't stop him and say 'Thank you for what you're doing,'" he said.

Hansen eventually became disillusioned with the Afghanistan war, Jon Walton said, and struggled with America's continued presence there.

He thought it was more about politics and power than doing good, and didn't plan to go back once he returned home. But those concerns didn't undermine his dedication.

"He loved serving his country," he said.

**MORE:**

**Private First Class Julian Colvin  
Killed By An IED Sunday:  
"Our Babies Are Getting Killed Over  
There For A War That People Don't  
Comprehend"  
"We Need Our Soldiers In The U.S."**



Private First Class Julian Colvin

Jul 25, 2012 By Sherrie Evans, WBMA [Alabama]

A local woman is heartbroken over the loss of her son in Afghanistan. Private First Class Julian Colvin was one of two soldiers killed by an IED Sunday.

Colvin was a Para-trooper with the 82nd Airborne Division. He had already served one year of a three year deployment. He was in the ROTC in High school and was excited about joining the army. His mother, showed a lot of strength just talking about him. Not only did he love serving his country, he loved his family, his community in Birmingham and life itself.

Beryl Carrington remembers her nephew. "He felt it was something he was born to do, he was born to serve his country."

"My baby had two months."

Carla Colvin could not wait for her son Julian to come home from Afghanistan. "He called me about a week ago and said mom, I just want you to talk to me."

They had a bond so strong, this mom couldn't get mad at his tattoo with her name. But Monday, came heartbreak from a Chaplain. "It was one of these visits, you're never prepared for them. It was extra hard, my family was present in numbers."

Private First Class Julian Colvin, just 21, was a combat engineer. His job was to detect and detonate bombs. "I'm very proud of my son, he developed very strong leadership skills, he understood the role." And the danger. Colvin and another paratrooper were killed by an IED.

"Our babies are getting killed over there for a war that people don't comprehend." Carla says her son's casket was among three others Tuesday. It was a moment of grief shared

with other families. "Charity begins in the home first then it spreads abroad, We need our soldiers in the U.S."

Carla Colvin says her son will be receiving the Purple Heart and some other medals for his service. Funeral arrangements have not been made at this time.

### COMMENTS BY LOCAL READERS: EXCERPTS

**"Our freedoms aren't in jeopardy from Afghanistan, our freedoms are being taken from us by our own govt."**

Guest  
3 days ago

I agree with most of what you said but we can and should leave before more lives are lost.

This soldier is just a grim reminder of not just financial waste but the needless waste of human life. Just think of this one soldier and how his death has affected all of his loved ones, friends, family and so forth.

**There isn't a 'reason' that justifies his death.**

**Our freedoms aren't in jeopardy from Afghanistan, our freedoms are being taken from us by our own govt. but no one wants to talk about that...might make us sound unpatriotic...**

This is the forgotten war...no one cares unless it's they're son or daughter killed!

\*\*\*\*\*

**"bush and obama will have to answer for this someday...it won't be a pretty picture then!"**

craig  
4 days ago

Sad to think the main reason for us still being there is to protect the OPIUM fields.

Osama is dead, Hussein is dead why are we hanging around? Our 'objectives' have been met...

**The only solice I find in all this war is that bush and obama will have to answer for this someday...it won't be a pretty picture then!**

**God Bless our Troops, they are in harms way because of a couple of idiots that should be there themselves.**

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?**

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly.

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 wars and economic injustice, inside the armed services and at home.

Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Two Foreign Occupation “Servicemembers” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Thursday: Nationality Not Announced**

August 2, 2012 AP

Two foreign servicemembers died following an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan today.

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### **Two Foreign Occupation “Servicemembers” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Wednesday: Nationality Not Announced**

August 1, 2012 AP

Two foreign servicemembers died following an improvised explosive device attack in eastern Afghanistan today.

A local Afghan interpreter, contracted by ISAF, also died following the IED attack.

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

August 1, 2012 AP

A foreign servicemember died following an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan today.

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## **Another Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Wednesday: Nationality Not Announced**

August 1, 2012 AP

A foreign servicemember died following an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan today.

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## **Scottsdale Soldier Killed In Roadside Bombing In Afghanistan**



Army Staff Sgt. Richard L. Berry, 27, of Scottsdale was killed by a roadside bomb while on patrol Sunday in Afghanistan’s Kandahar Province, the second Arizona soldier to die in that country in a little more than a week. Photo by U.S. Army

July 25, 2012 By Meghan McCarthy, Cronkite News

WASHINGTON – A Scottsdale soldier who was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan over the weekend was remembered Tuesday by his commanding officer as an “incredibly talented paratrooper, engineer and husband.”

Army Staff Sgt. Richard L. Berry, 27, was on patrol Sunday in the Zharay District of the Kandahar Province when an improvised explosive device was detonated. Berry and Pfc. Julian L. Colvin, 21, of Birmingham, Ala., were killed by the blast, the Army announced Tuesday.

Berry was the second Arizonan killed in Afghanistan in a little more than a week.

Army Staff Sgt. Carl Eric Hammar, 24, of Lake Havasu City, died from wounds he received when his patrol came under attack July 14 in the eastern province of Khost.

Berry was on his third combat deployment – his second in Afghanistan – when he was killed. His most recent tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom began in March.

He was a combat engineer assigned to the 508th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division based at Fort Bragg, N.C. Berry joined the Army on Feb. 23, 2006, as a combat engineer and joined the 82nd Airborne Division in May 2009.

He served in Iraq from September 2006 to November 2007 and was later deployed to Afghanistan from August 2009 to February 2010.

Berry was injured on a mission in his previous deployment and spent time recovering before returning to Afghanistan, said Lt. Col. Peter S. Levola, commander of the 508th Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

“Berry was a tremendous team leader, paratrooper and man,” said Levola in a statement. He added that Berry’s fellow soldiers would “never forget all that he went through to overcome his injuries and experiences from the last deployment – just to join the team and deploy again.” “He is an unforgettable hero,” Levola said.

Berry was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart with one oak-leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with four oak-leaf clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal with two knots and the National Defense Service Medal. He also received the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal with Bronze Star, the Combat Action Badge and the Basic Parachutist Badge, the Army said.

Berry leaves behind a wife.

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer ordered that all state flags be lowered to half-staff Tuesday and again on the day of his burial. “On this somber day, I encourage all Arizonans to take a moment to reflect upon the daily sacrifice of men and women in uniform such as Staff Sgt. Berry,” Brewer said in a prepared statement Tuesday.



The Department of Defense reported that 1,931 members of the U.S. military had died serving in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan as of Tuesday.

**Berry was the 44th Arizonan to die in support of the operation and the sixth this year, according to iCasualties.org.**

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## **Michael J. Brodsky, Tamarac Sailor Killed In Afghanistan Trained Military K9s**



Michael J. Brodsky, 33, Tamarac sailor killed in Afghanistan.  
Photographer: Facebook

07/24/2012 By: Ihosvani Rodriguez, South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Friends and family members of a U.S. Navy sailor from Tamarac are in mourning after learning the 33-year-old died from injuries he sustained earlier this month in Afghanistan.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael J. Brodsky, 33, died from the injuries caused by a blast from a dismounted improvised explosive device in Kandahar Province, the Department of Defense announced Tuesday.

Family members said he had lost both legs and was struggling to stay alive.

“He died a true hero,” said his grandfather, Stanley Brodsky, of Pembroke Pines.

Brodsky’s parents, Steven and Debra, and his brother Corey were in Germany when the sailor died. The grandfather said the parents were asking for privacy.

Brodsky trained bomb-sniffing dogs for the Navy and had recently re-enlisted with the military branch for another six years, the grandfather said.

Brodsky had been assigned to the San Diego-based Navy Region Southwest Security Detachment since December 2010. He enlisted in 2001 and served overseas in Sasebo, Japan and Bahrain, according to military officials.

According to family and friends, Brodsky was on patrol in an undisclosed area when his unit came under fire on July 7. Brodsky reportedly rushed to a nearby truck to shelter his K9 partner, Jackson.

As he returned to the fire fight, Brodsky stepped on a mine, his grandfather said.

"I can picture him doing this. Going back to fight is something he would definitely do," Stanley Brodsky said.

Since the explosion, dozens of friends and family members kept updates on Brodsky's conditions through a Facebook support page set up by Nicole Arbelo, who runs a group called K9 Heroes.

One of Brodsky's friend, who kept in touch with the family in Germany and who provided Arbelo with most of the updates, broke the sad news on Saturday.

"There is no easy way to say this: we have lost MA2 Mike Brodsky," wrote the friend, Chuck Person.

A second Facebook page, which now serves as a memorial, was quickly filled with pictures, remembrances and prayers for Brodsky.

Arbelo, who has written a book about military dogs and their handlers who have been killed in action, met Brodsky through Facebook in recent years. She put together a moving video of her Facebook friend.

"With all the videos I made with pictures that included Michael, I never dreamed I'd be making a memorial tribute for you, hero," she wrote.

Stanley Brodsky said memorial services, which will be held in California, were still being planned.

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## **Army Soldier With Maryland Ties Killed Serving In Afghanistan: "Slowly But Surely, He Was Losing Who He Was Because Of All That Happened During These Deployments"**

July 20 By Mihir Zaveri, The Washington Post

A 28-year-old Army soldier with Maryland ties who drove heavy vehicles was killed Wednesday in eastern Afghanistan when his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.

Sgt. Daniel Rodriguez, a father of three, was in the midst of what was to be his last deployment, said his wife, Tiffanie Rodriguez.

He had previously served in Afghanistan for a year beginning in October 2003, and twice was deployed to Iraq.

Two months ago, Rodriguez's truck was hit by a roadside bomb, the seventh time he had fallen victim to such a weapon riddling the streets, Tiffanie Rodriguez said.

"The doctor wanted him to come home right away," she said. "But he didn't want to leave yet."

Her husband, Tiffanie Rodriguez said, wanted to complete one more mission.

"He was just too young for this," she said. "He was too young to go, that's another soldier dead."

The explosion also killed another soldier, Sgt. Jose J. Reyes, 24, of San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico.

Daniel Rodriguez was born in the Bronx in December 1983, his wife said. He grew up bouncing between his mother's house in New York and his uncle's house in the Crofton area, she said.

"He was a great guy," said Rich Buckey, Tiffanie Rodriguez's brother and a childhood friend of Daniel Rodriguez.

Tiffanie Rodriguez, who now lives at Fort Drum in New York, said she met her future husband in Maryland. When he was a senior in high school, she said, she became pregnant. Soon after, the two were married.

The couple eventually had three children: Celeste, 9, Serenity, 8, and Daniel Jr., 6.

Rodriguez was always good with his hands and built video game systems and phones from parts that he bought online, his family said. They said he dreamed of starting a business either remodeling houses or rebuilding cars.

Rodriguez was also a talented artist, his wife said. She said he once drew a sketch of her while she was sleeping, a portrait that she still has.

Over time, Tiffanie Rodriguez said, war had taken a toll on her husband.

**A rocket struck near Rodriguez during his second tour in Iraq, and he was hit by chunks of concrete and knocked out, she said.**

**"When that happened, he kind of lost a little bit of that sense of creativity as drawing goes," Tiffanie Rodriguez said.**

Other explosions, which resulted in a bruising of his left temporal lobe, changed her husband's personality, she said. On some days, she added, Rodriguez would become very "hyper" and "out there."

"Slowly but surely, he was losing who he was because of all that happened during these deployments," Tiffanie Rodriguez said.

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## Fort Bragg Paratrooper, Member Of A Female Engagement Team, Killed In Afghanistan



07/21/2012 By Drew Brooks, Staff writer; The Fayetteville Observer

A Fort Bragg soldier was killed Tuesday when her base in southern Afghanistan came under attack.

Spc. Krystal M. Fitts, 26, of Houston, was assigned to Company E, 782nd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, according to the division.

Fitts served as a member of a Female Engagement Team attached to Company C, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team.

She died after being hit by indirect fire at a combat outpost in Kandahar province's Zharay district, officials said.

Company C's commander, Capt. Sam Perlik, said Fitts filled a critical role in the unit and took on an ever-increasing number of duties well beyond the scope of her experience and training.

"She was attached to the company six months before deploying and immediately impressed those around her with her motivation, tenacity and drive to learn," Perlik said.

The deployment was the first for Fitts, who volunteered to serve on a Female Engagement Team and learned the Pashtu language to help soldiers communicate with local Afghans.

The teams, typically made up of a few female soldiers attached to a larger, more traditional combat unit, go on patrols with U.S. troops and often participate in humanitarian projects aimed at women and children.

In April, The Fayetteville Observer traveled to Afghanistan and spoke with members of the Female Engagement Teams assigned to the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

They said their work had been well received by locals, especially the women, who were allowing U.S. troops to collect better information about community support and provide medical aid.

Officials in Afghanistan, including Lt. Col. Timothy Gilhool, described the teams as invaluable.

Gilhool is commander of the 782nd Brigade Support Battalion. His unit provides most of the team members because there are typically more women in support units.

He specifically praised Fitts' contributions in Afghanistan.

"These young paratroopers trained hard, from Fort Bragg to the National Training Center to Afghanistan. They have been the literal face of America to a host of Afghan women and children," Gilhool said. "Krystal was unafraid. Her presence made the difference."

Fitts' parents could not be reached Friday, but her stepfather, Gary Bailey, addressed her death on his Facebook page Wednesday.

"Yesterday, Deanna's daughter, my lovely stepdaughter was killed in action," he wrote. "Krystal touched many lives, she was tough like her mother and I'm sure she went down swinging. I ask that ALL my friends pray for our family in this time of loss."

Fitts moved to Houston in 2009, according to her own Facebook account. On the day of her death, she posted a photo of a soldier holding a helmet with a bullet hole in it.

The photo's caption asked people to be grateful. "Remember so many have given of their lives that we have the privilege and the duty to make the most of ours," the caption read. "Let us do our best to live worthy of this freedom they fought and gave their all for us to enjoy."

Fitts joined the Army in October 2009 as a chemical operations specialist.

She trained at Fort Jackson, S.C., Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Fort Benning, Ga., before coming to Fort Bragg in May 2010.

Her awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, the Combat Action Badge and the Parachutist Badge.

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## Friends Recall Staff Sgt. Brandon Robert Pepper



Brandon Pepper (SUBMITTED)

07/24/2012 By TERESA ANN BOECKEL, Daily Record/Sunday News

York, PA –

Grandmaster Chong Su Kim stared at a photo of the late Staff Sgt. Brandon Pepper and described him as being like a son.

Pepper took karate classes with Kim and his sons at Kim's Karate in Spring Garden Township. He attended karate tournaments and won many trophies, Kim said.

Pepper was the kind of man who would help Kim mow the lawn or clean the karate studio. He hung out with Kim's family and enjoyed when Kim's wife, Kathy, made rice and kimchi, a Korean hot cabbage dish.

"It's really sad," Kim said Tuesday afternoon.

Pepper died Saturday -- five days after his 31st birthday -- in an insurgent attack while on patrol in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan. He was a Special Forces communications sergeant, assigned to Company B, 4th Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C.

Pepper, who is from the Baltimore area, lived in York County for several years before he entered active duty in 2008. He came to York with Dustin Dohm, a friend and roommate from his days at Villa Julie College, now known as Stephenson University.

Dohm opened a lacrosse store along Mount Rose Avenue in Spring Garden Township, and Pepper lived in the front of the house for a period of time.

He kept his ties to York through the years -- even while he was away. His belongings are still here, Dohm said.

Pepper sent a short video last year with a text message saying that he loved his job, Dohm said. He was always super-amped about what he was doing. "He died loving what he was doing," Dohm said.

Van O'Banion, another college friend who now lives in Harrisburg, said Pepper always wanted to be a part of Special Operations, and "there was no stopping him."

O'Banion said he is proud of Pepper for fighting for the United States to keep everyone free.

Kim said Pepper would show him the patches and shared with him what he had accomplished during the trainings.

Kim, who was born during the Korean War, said he's always had a great respect for U.S. soldiers. It's hard for young kids to go to war.

Pepper always liked the military, but he also had dreams of working under Kim at the karate studio. Kim's son, Matt, remembered how proud Pepper was when he won first place against the Naval Academy.

Kim said he has received phone calls and emails from people who knew Pepper and wondered what could be done.

Kim said he and his family plan to present an honorary black belt to Pepper's loved ones during a ceremony next month. He was about a year away from achieving it.

Pepper is the first student for Kim who went to war but never came back.

"I believe he went to a better place to live," Kim said.

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## **Broughton Teachers Fondly Remember Grad Killed In Afghanistan**

July 23 By Renee Chou, Capitol Broadcasting Company, Inc.

Raleigh, N.C. — Teachers recalled a 2009 Broughton High School graduate who was killed in Afghanistan last week as a fun-loving go-getter.

Spc. Darrion T. Hicks, 21, of Raleigh, died Thursday in Ghanzi, Afghanistan, from injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device, officials said.

Hicks joined the Army immediately after graduating from Broughton High, and he was assigned to the 54th Engineer Battalion, 18th Engineer Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command in Bamberg, Germany.

“He’s a young man I wish all of my cadets were like,” Master Sgt. Richard Suggs, who was Hicks’ ROTC instructor in high school, said Monday.

Suggs said Hicks was a hard worker who participated in the drill team, color guard and Veterans Day parade units. He was voted Mr. Junior ROTC as a senior.

Ricky Brantley, who teaches automotive technology at Broughton High, said Hicks was one of his favorite students.

“He was a person who just wanted to learn,” Brantley said, recalling how passionate Hicks was about cars and how he would spend hours under the hood in class getting greasy.

“We always had a joke because I would call him my black son, and he would just, it would tickle him to death to hear me say that to him. That’s how much I loved him,” he said. “We’re not talking about a teacher that made an impact on a student. We’re talking about a student who made an impact on the teacher.”

Hicks always wanted to become a soldier, his teachers said.

“I know he was going to make a good one because, anytime I gave him a task to do, he carried it out – I mean to the fullest,” Brantley said. “You know what? He passed away fulfilling the goal he had set.”

Hicks is survived by his mother and younger brother.

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## **Murrieta Soldier Killed Days Before He Was Scheduled To Return Home**

July 27, 2012 CBS

MURRIETA (CBS) — A 27-year-old soldier from Murrieta died Monday, just days before he was scheduled to return home.



Sgt. Eric E. Williams was in transit from Afghanistan to the United States when he was killed by enemy fire, according to a news release issued by the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division on July 25.

Sgt. Williams had kept a blog since 2008. His most recent post was on July 17 titled, "Coming home".

"This deployment is coming to an end, in a few days we will be on a plane back to the United States to rejoin our family and friends and to try to readjust to a certain semblance of what we think life should be," he wrote. "There is no promise that any of us will return unchanged. But we collectively have been granted access to something few ever see, or choose to see for that matter."

Sgt. Williams was an 82nd Airborne Division flight medic who had been deployed to Afghanistan since October.

This was his second deployment since he entered the U.S. Army in 2007, after serving as a combat medic in 2008-2009 on a 14-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Andrew Wade Nunn was Williams' Senior Line Medic during his first deployment, according to Wade Nunn's site, Thoughts in Andrew's brain.

"My fellow Americans, yesterday, we lost a hero." Wade Nunn wrote in a post, which was reblogged by many.

"SGT Williams was inside a tent when a mortar round landed inside the tent, it failed to detonate on impact. Without hesitation and with no regard for his personal safety he threw himself upon the projectile as it detonated, shielding his brothers from the blast, and ultimately sacrificing himself. His actions saved the lives of 7 men around him."

"He was always on his game," Sgt. Cormac Chandler, a combat crew chief who served with Williams said in the news release. "Will always kept his cool, which in turn helped me to keep my cool. That is who he was."

In his July 17 post, Sgt. Williams expressed his gratitude for those he was fighting with.

"We collectively have risked it all and put everything on the line to save our fellow man, regardless of nationality, race, religion or sex," he wrote. "These people I work with are some of the most dedicated men and women I have ever met. They come from all walks of life and although different in so many aspects, all come together collectively to accomplish this mission. I'm proud to say that I work with some of the most professional people there are. But now we are going home.

"Were out of this god forsaken country, but we take with us the weight of a thousand missions. To try to dissect them as best we know how."

Sgt. Williams became an EMT in Murrieta after graduating from Murrieta High School in 2002.

“He was literally one of the best people I’ve ever met in my life,” a close family friend Christie Hemm said. “He was so proud, and really wanted to give a good name to this country. He wanted to go over there and show compassion and take care of people.”

Sgt. Williams’ wife, Wendi, and mother, Janet, will return home late Thursday with his remains. A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, August 3, in Wildomar.

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## PR Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



Sgt. José Joel Reyes Cruz

July 20, 2012 By CB Online Staff

A Puerto Rican soldier was killed when a roadside bomb exploded near his convoy in Afghanistan this week.

The fallen soldier was identified as Army Sgt. José Joel Reyes Cruz, 24, of San Lorenzo. He was one of two soldiers serving with the New York-based 10th Mountain Division killed when their vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device in Ghanzi on Wednesday.

The other was identified as 28-year-old Sgt. Daniel Rodriguez of Baltimore.

Both soldiers were heavy vehicle drivers assigned to the 110th Transportation Co., 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade.

Rodriguez was a 10-year Army veteran. It was his second deployment to Afghanistan. He also did two tours in Iraq. He’s survived by his wife and three children.

Reyes joined the Army two years ago. He deployed to Afghanistan in April. He’s survived by his wife Neydie Gómez, 6-month-old daughter Dariannis Sofía and stepson Damián, 6.

“We in San Lorenzo are saddened by this news,” Mayor Joe Román Abreu said. “José Joel was a well-known member of the municipal band and an excellent citizen and student.”

Reyes is expected to be laid to rest at Bayamón National Cemetery.

The soldier's sister, Neysha Reyes Cruz, said her brother joined the National Guard out of high school and then enlisted in the Army. "José Joel gave his life in the line of duty in defense of democracy," Román Abreu said.

**More than 100 U.S. military members from Puerto Rico or with roots in the island have been killed in the ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.**

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## **Soldier, Wounded In Afghanistan, Died In Georgia**

July 29 Trend N. Kirtzkhalia

Georgian soldier, wounded in Afghanistan, died in a military hospital in Gori (Shida Kartli, eastern Georgia). According to the Georgian Defence Ministry, Corporal Givi Pantsulaia, who was born in 1984, died.

Corporal Pantsulaia was wounded in the Afghan province of Helmand in January 2012. After being wounded he was in a coma.

At first he was treated in America and Germany, and then placed in Gori hospital. However, despite treatment of doctors all efforts to save him failed. According to employees of the hospital, Pantsulaia died yesterday, and has already been taken home.

It is the 16th Georgian military, who died in Afghanistan.

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## **Two Italian Soldiers Wounded By Convoy Ambush**

03 AGO 2012 AGI

Herat (Afghanistan) - A Task Force North convoy supported by Italy's Caserta eighth regiment infantry soldiers was involved in a blast caused by two rudimental devices (ied) in the Bala Mourghab area, in Afghanistan.

The convoy was going to assist a US unit who had remained stranded because of an accident.

Two Italian soldiers have been wounded and a third one has been injured. The convoy was also hit by automatic gunshots. Italian infantry soldiers responded in a swift and firm way. The blast occurred last night at 11.30 pm local time, 9 pm in Italy . .

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## Condition Of Ypsilanti Soldier ‘Very Serious’ After Deadly Explosion In Afghanistan



William Andrew Barnett

Aug 3, 2012 By Amy Biolchini, AnnArbor.com

The condition of a 24-year-old Michigan Army National Guard soldier from Ypsilanti is described as “very serious” after he was injured while on foot patrol Wednesday in Afghanistan.

Spec. William Andrew Barnett was part of a group of soldiers from the Augusta-based 1433rd Engineer Company on patrol near Salim Aka about 4:50 p.m. Wednesday when an improvised explosive device detonated.

Barnett previously served a year-long tour in Iraq in 2010, and took classes in the fall semesters of 2007 and 2008 at Eastern Michigan University. He graduated from Lincoln High School in Ypsilanti in 2006.

**The explosion killed 25-year-old Spc. Kyle McClain of Shelby Township instantly. McClain was the 21st Michigan National Guard Soldier killed in action since Sept. 11, 2003.**

**Three other Michigan soldiers in the patrol unit were injured in the event.**

Staff Sgt. Robert Drebenstedt, 29, of Charlevoix and Spec. Steven Nelson, 26, of Dollar Bay were both listed in very serious condition Friday afternoon, said Michigan National Guard public affairs officer Capt. Aaron Jenkins.

Pvt. Joshua Colon, 20, of Grand Rapids was also injured but not in serious condition Friday, Jenkins said.

“It’s not a common thing but it has happened before,” Staff Sgt. Jason Boyd, a Michigan National Guard spokesman, said of the number of soldiers.

On Feb. 26, five members of the Guard were injured by an explosive in Kunduz Province, Afghanistan. They survived.

Boyd said the engineers’ job is to check routes for possible explosives. He didn’t know why they were on foot patrol.

“We mainly use vehicles that will detect the possibility of IEDs,” he said. “They don’t look under rocks. They look for wires sticking out of the ground and other warning signs. There may be disturbed concrete. There may be disturbed soil that wasn’t there the day before.”

The injured soldiers were transported to military medical facilities at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan.

If the soldiers’ injuries were deemed serious enough, they would be transported to the Army hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, Jenkins said.

As of Friday afternoon, none of the soldiers had been transported from Afghanistan.

The 1433rd Company has 90 soldiers and has been in Afghanistan for a full month, beginning in July. The company’s year-long tour started in May with training, Jenkins said. The Michigan Army National Guard has about 1,500 soldiers currently deployed in Afghanistan.

## **POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE BLOODSHED**

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

## **“Local Police Commander Murdered 17 Afghan Civilians In This Province”**

Aug 03 By Sajad, Khaama Press

According to local authorities in southern Uruzgan province of Afghanistan, an Afghan

Provincial council officials and local residents confirming the report said at least 17 Afghan civilians were shot dead by a local police commander in Khas district of southern Uruzgan province.

A local resident said the local police commander, Shujaie on Thursday pulled out 20 Afghan civilians from their houses and killed 17 people.

He said, he was a resident of eastern Ghazni province and was deployed to Uruzgan province. He kill 17 people including children and elder men after accusing of having links with the Taliban group.

This comes as anti-government militants assassinated two colleagues of the local police commander.

Provincial governor spokesman and provincial security chief confirmed the report however they did not disclose further information regarding the incident.

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## **“Hundreds Of Taliban Militants Launched Simultaneous Attacks On The Eastern Province Of Konar”**

August 3, 2012 By ALISSA J. RUBIN, The New York Times & RFE/RL, Inc [Excerpts]

Hundreds of Taliban militants launched simultaneous attacks on the eastern province of Konar, along the border with Pakistan.

Provincial officials said militants attacked five districts, including Shigal, Dangam, Marawara, Watapur, and Manogay, before dawn.

The Taliban made a show of force across a province of northeastern Afghanistan on Friday, Afghan officials said, attacking dozens of government installations but causing relatively few deaths or injuries.

The insurgent forces struck at least six districts of Kunar Province, attacking district governors' offices, police and army outposts, and other government buildings.

**The attacks began around 1 a.m. and lasted until 8 a.m., local officials said, suggesting that the Taliban sought to limit civilian casualties in an effort to avoid alienating potential supporters among the local population.**

**Using Kalashnikov rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars, the insurgents razed the governor's office in Dangam, where more Taliban were involved in the attack than in other districts, according to a security official who spoke anonymously because he was not authorized to be identified.**

He said that as some police officers struggled to put out the fires, others fought the insurgents, and that only support from the neighboring Asmar district prevented the compound from being overrun.

In a statement, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid called the attack the largest in Konar so far this year. "Today's attacks, which have caused panic among the enemy ranks, are the biggest attacks of their kind and shows the strength and abilities of mujahedeen."

The insurgents escaped into the mountains after Afghan security forces and foreign troops entered the area.

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## More Resistance Action

July 29 By Associated Press & August 01, 2012 By: ASSOCIATED PRESS & Aug 02 By Sajad, Khaama Press & 8.4.12 AP

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan officials say insurgents have shot and killed a government official in eastern Afghanistan.

The Wardak province governor's office says in a statement that the head of volatile Chak district was driving to his office Sunday when gunmen overtook his car. They shot both Mohammad Ismail Wafa and his adult son. The son was wounded.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack in a text message. The Taliban regularly target Afghan government officials, whom they label collaborators with international forces.

\*\*\*\*\*

An Afghan policeman was killed and another was wounded while attempting to defuse a roadside bomb in southern Uruzgan province on Wednesday, local officials said. The incident happened in the Charmestan area of Tarin Kot, Uruzgan's provincial capital of Uruzgan province, provincial police spokesman, Farid Hayel said.

\*\*\*\*\*

According to local authorities in eastern Logar province of Afghanistan, two Afghan national police officers were killed following an explosion in this province.

The officials further added the incident took place on Wednesday evening during the fast breaking period at Pul-e-Alam district.

Provincial governor spokesman Din Mohammad Darwish confirming the report said the incident took place after explosives planted near a water pipeline went off on Wednesday evening.

Mr. Darwish further added at least two more Afghan police officers were injured.

\*\*\*\*\*

Afghan police say a remote-controlled bomb in a busy market has killed two policemen in the country's northwest. Faryab provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Khaliq Asye said Saturday that the explosives were detonated remotely and appeared to target police, who had stopped at the market in Ghormach district about 500 kilometers (300 miles) northwest of Kabul, the capital. The blast came after 6 p.m. Friday, prime shopping hour for iftar, the meal marking the end of the daily fast.

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

## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

### **Somali Insurgents Attack Kenyan Occupation Military Bases**

August 3, 2012 Shabelle Media Network

NAIROBI — Kenyan troops, serving under the African Union (AU) Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) clashed on Friday with Al shabab militants in Southern Somalia, reports said.

Locals said the battle erupted after Al shabab fighters attacked Kenyan military bases located at Afmadow suburbs, 620 km south of the capital Mogadishu, with both sides used heavy artillery and mortar shells during the attack.

Figures of the casualties on both warring sides and civilians in the combat area could not be independently verified.

Afmadow is a key government controlled city in southern Somalia, located in the middle of the Juba region and sits Kenyan border.

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## **ANNIVERSARIES**

### **August 3, 1913: Horrible Anniversary The Wheatland Massacre**



Carl Bunin Peace History July 30-Aug 5

Four died in the Wheatland riots when police fired into a crowd of California Hop pickers trying to organize (with the help of the IWW, or Industrial Workers of the World) at the Durst Ranch in Wheatland, California.

Hundreds of workers — whites, Mexicans, and Filipinos — lay down their tools because of terrible working conditions, low wages, and an almost complete lack of sanitation and decent housing.

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## **August 4, 1964: Lying Lyndon Johnson Fakes The USA Into Escalation In Vietnam**

Carl Bunin Peace History July 30-Aug 5

**A second attack on U.S. naval ships in Vietnam's Gulf of Tonkin was reported by the Pentagon.**

**But there was no such activity reported by the task force commander in the Gulf, Captain John J. Herrick.**

One of the Navy pilots flying overhead that night was squadron commander James Stockdale, later held as a POW by the North Vietnamese for more than seven years, and Ross Perot's vice presidential candidate in 1992.

**"I had the best seat in the house to watch that event," recalled Stockdale, "and our destroyers were just shooting at phantom targets — there were no PT boats there.... There was nothing there but black water and American firepower."**

Nearly three decades later, during the Gulf War, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Sydney Schanberg warned journalists not to forget "our unquestioning chorus of agreeability when Lyndon Johnson bamboozled us with his fabrication of the Gulf of Tonkin incident

### **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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.**

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### **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



**Vermont Farmer, Angry Over Arrest  
On Charges Of Resisting Arrest And  
Marijuana Possession, "Used A  
Large Tractor Like A Monster Truck,  
Destroying Seven Police Cruisers"  
Police Say They Had No Way To Pursue  
The Man After He Drove Off**



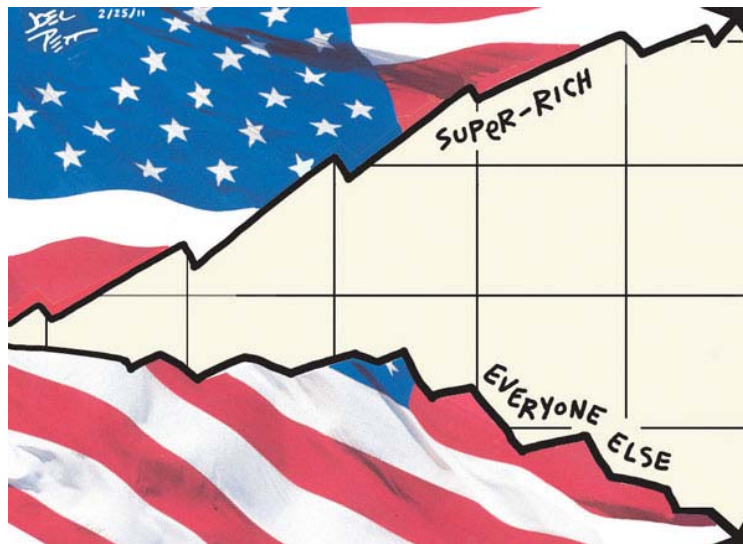
(AP Photo/Northland Journal, Scott Wheeler)

Sheriff officers walk past crushed cruisers at the Orleans County Sheriff's Department in Newport, Vt., Aug. 2, 2012. Authorities say 34-year old Vermont farmer Roger Pion, angry over a recent arrest last month on charges of resisting arrest and marijuana possession, used a large tractor like a monster truck, destroying seven police cruisers.

Police say they had no way to pursue the man after he drove off.

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



## GOT AN OPINION?

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

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# Battle Rages For Syria's Aleppo City: In Aleppo Province "Free Syrian Army Fighters Have Taken Control While The Syrian Army Has Largely Disappeared"



A destroyed Syrian Army tank in Azaz, 47 km (29 miles) north of Aleppo August 3, 2012.  
REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

Syrian government forces have launched a ground assault in the city of Aleppo, and are bombarding rebel-held areas with heavy artillery, activists and witnesses have said.

Rebel forces say they have beaten off the first wave of attacks that began on Saturday morning, but that the battle continues.

At least 29 people were killed in violence in Aleppo on Saturday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), a UK-based anti-government activist group, reported.

Battered and burnt-out tanks littered one of the main roads into the commercial capital, according to activists, who said the move marked the beginning of the expected government assault on the city.

Syrian army troops were focusing on the rebel-held neighbourhoods of Saleheddine and Sakhour, the SOHR said.

Colonel Abdel Jabbar al-Oqaidi, a member of the Free Syrian Army, said that the rebels had managed to repulse the government's attacks on Saturday, redirecting them towards the neighbourhood of Hamdaniyeh.

He said his forces had destroyed eight armoured vehicles, and that 100 government tanks were massed on the outskirts of Aleppo.

Abdel Rahman said the fact the soldiers had been stopped in Salaheddine "does not necessarily mean a withdrawal as their strategy is to bombard... to cause an exodus then launch an assault even more fierce".

Salaheddine has been a stronghold of rebel fighters since they seized large parts of Syria's second city on July 20.

Tanks, helicopter gunships and warplanes have poured into Aleppo over the last two days with troops firing on a string of rebel neighbourhoods in the battle to control the commercial hub of 2.5 million people.

**In the surrounding countryside, however, the balance of power is changing fast. In an exclusive report from Al-Bab in Aleppo province, Al Jazeera's Anita McNaught said Free Syrian Army fighters have taken control while the Syrian army has largely disappeared.**

Al Jazeera's Stephanie Dekker, reporting from Amman, in neighbouring Jordan, said that activists in Aleppo were reporting that the rebels were holding strong in neighbourhoods that they held, but that residents there were "terrified" of being killed if the army were to move in.

A medic in Aleppo, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Al Jazeera that parts of the city remained relatively calm, and that violence was only focused on Salaheddine and other areas held by the armed opposition.

In addition to Aleppo, rebels continued to battle with pro-government forces in the capital Damascus on Saturday.

Fresh fighting was also reported on Friday in Idlib and Deraa, activists said.



A destroyed Syrian Army compound in Azaz, 47 km (29 miles) north of Aleppo August 3, 2012. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

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BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



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