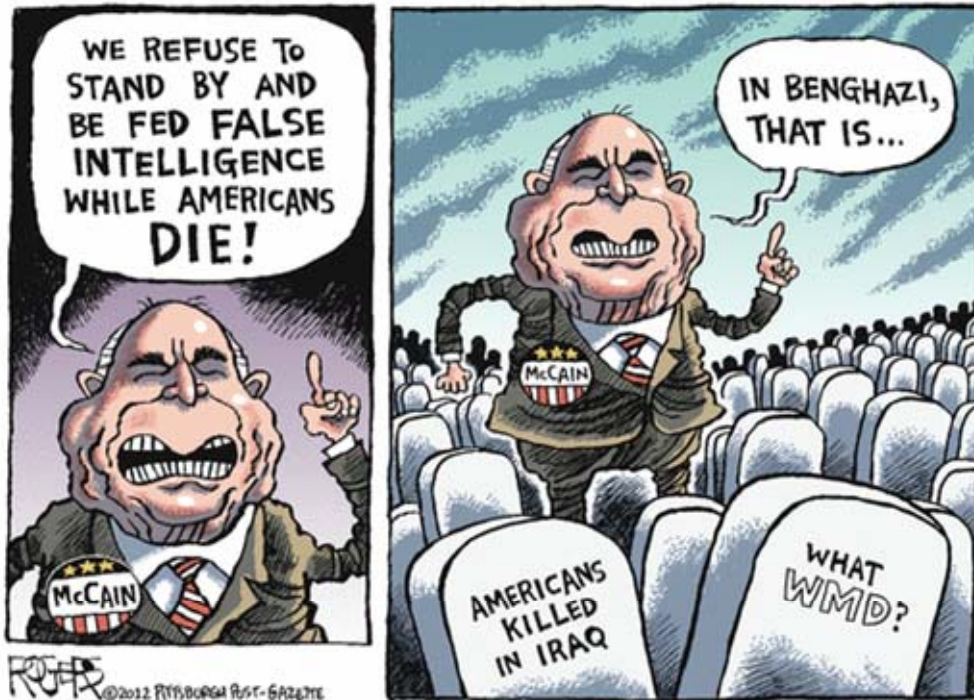


Military Resistance 10L3



“During The 20 Years I Served, I Slowly Lost Respect For The Officer Corps”

“During The Time I Served, I Was Taught That The Uniform Code Of Military Justice Was Unbiased Toward Soldiers”

“As I Gained Rank, I Began To See That It Was, And That Officers Were Benefiting From It”

Army Times
Letters To The Editor
12.10.12

Having read "Corrosive conduct" (Nov. 26), it appears the system is finally working.

For years, higher-ranking officers have been slapped on the wrist and allowed to get away with transgressions.

We all know that there has, and always will be the "officers club," where they take care of their own.

During the 20 years I served, I slowly lost respect for the officer corps because of some of the same stuff the accused have been found guilty of doing.

As long as there are women and money in this world, there is a man somewhere who will succumb to them. This time, the men happened to be high-ranking officers. These men abused their positions and power for personal gain, and for this, they should be punished.

They sometimes lose a rank and are made to retire with their benefits intact but are still able to live comfortably.

When this happens on the enlisted side, the results are like night and day.

The enlisted soldier is usually stripped of all rank, sometimes serves time in confinement and is chaptered out of the Army with a bad-conduct discharge regardless of whether he or she has a family to provide for.

During the time I served, I was taught that the Uniform Code of Military Justice was unbiased toward soldiers.

As I gained rank, I began to see that it was, and that officers were benefiting from it.

I lost all faith when this scenario went down at one of my duty stations:

An E-7 and an O-4 both get pinched for Basic Allowance for Housing fraud.

The enlisted soldier is busted to E-4, confined for a few months, pays the money back and is put out of the military, while the officer pays the money back and continues his career.

I am pretty sure he was reprimanded by his superior officer and that may have cut his career short, but was that the correct thing to do?

Should the NCO have gotten the same chance to continue his/her career?

I thought so. But what I thought didn't matter.

The truth is, both did wrong and were punished for it with different outcomes.

These generals earned the positions they held, but somewhere along the way, they forgot who they were and felt they were entitled to do whatever they pleased.

Whether it be extramarital affairs, forcing a subordinate to perform sexual acts or using taxpayer money as your personal piggy bank, they all were wrong.

Will the punishment fit the crimes?

Time will tell.

Staff Sgt. Eugene H. Russell (ret.)
Clarksville, Tenn.

MORE:

**“As Several Soldiers Sprawled
On Nearby Cots, Playing Cards,
The Calm Collapsed
Catastrophically At 9:27 P.M.”**

**“An Exploding Grenade Shattered
The Stillness, Followed In
Seconds By Bursts Of Gunfire”**

**“This Is The First Published Account
Of The Attack And Is Based On
Internal Army Records And
Interviews In The U.S. And
Afghanistan”**

**Maj. Gen. James L. Huggins Kills Report
Finding Himself And Other Commanders
Responsible For Lax Security “And Has**

Been Selected For Promotion To Lieutenant General”

He [the military investigator] recommended action be taken against those leaders, but Huggins rejected the advice, saying he believed they had taken reasonable precautions, given that there was "no known insider threat at the time."

Of the 16 insider attacks that preceded this one in 2011, none had occurred in Kandahar province, but two took place in adjacent provinces within Huggins' area of responsibility, according to U.S. records.

In a brief encounter last week, Huggins told the AP he could not remember enough about the case to discuss it.

December 4, 2012 By ROBERT BURNS, Associated Press. [Excerpts] Associated Press writer Rahim Faiez in Kabul contributed to this report.

It was a sneak attack, but not by the enemy they feared.

U.S. Army Capt. Joshua Lawrence and Drew Russell were inside a small command post on an Afghan army base, wrapping up a long day of coordinating the safe arrival of nearly 100 Afghan religious and tribal leaders for a peace conference at a nearby palace.

Darkness had fallen.

Some of their fellow soldiers had retired for the evening. Two stood guard.

All seemed well.

But as several soldiers sprawled on nearby cots, playing cards, the calm collapsed catastrophically at 9:27 p.m.

An exploding grenade shattered the stillness, followed in seconds by bursts of gunfire.

Before any of the Americans could raise a hand to defend themselves, Lawrence was dead from a bullet to the head, and Russell was dying, shot three times in the back.

They were not killed by the Taliban, as the U.S.-led military coalition indicated the day after the Oct. 8, 2011, assault.

Lawrence, 29, of Nashville, Tenn., and Russell, 25, of Scotts, Mich., were killed in what U.S. investigators later called a "calculated and coordinated" attack by Afghan soldiers entrusted to work alongside their U.S. partners.

This is the first published account of the attack and is based on internal Army records and interviews in the U.S. and Afghanistan.

For Russell's family, the anguish is still fresh. His father, Jim, said the loss was even harder to accept after learning from the Army's investigation report early this year that it was a supposed ally, not the Taliban, who killed his son.

"It wasn't like a battle, you know. He pretty much got ambushed," he said, pausing at length to settle his emotions. "That makes it difficult."

On that moonlit Saturday evening, Russell was the designated "battle captain," or duty officer, in the command center. Lawrence worked beside him as a plans officer. Both were members of the 4th Infantry Division's 2nd "Warhorse" Brigade.

They deployed to Afghanistan in June 2011. Lawrence had married just one week before leaving; the honeymoon was to wait until he returned home.

“Security At The U.S.-Afghan Command Post Was So Relaxed That Guards Were Not Told To Check Anyone Entering”

The Associated Press learned details of the attack from formerly secret Army investigation records obtained through the Freedom of Information Act.

The Army removed substantial portions of the documents to protect what it called properly classified information as well as the identities of most people involved. The AP established some identities on its own.

The investigation — a standard process in a war zone — found that security at the U.S.-Afghan command post was so relaxed that guards were not told to check anyone entering.

Potential Afghan thievery, not treachery, was judged the chief threat. Thus the killers had unfettered access and moved about without arousing suspicion.

Only 10 designated Afghan security personnel were supposed to be in the compound, but U.S. guards were given no access roster.

Unknown numbers "freely entered and exited the compound unchecked," an Army investigator found.

The Americans had been told to treat the Afghans as if they were mingling in Iron Horse Park, a recreation area on their home base, Fort Carson, Colo., according to a staff sergeant who was present but whose name is blacked out on his sworn statement to investigators.

The Americans had convinced themselves, 10 years into a war whose successful outcome depended on empowering local security forces, that they could trust their Afghan colleagues.

That was a deadly miscalculation in this instance and dozens more in the months that followed as growing numbers of Afghan troops turned their guns on their coalition partners.

As the attacks mounted this year, U.S. officials in Kabul and Washington insisted these were "isolated incidents." They routinely withheld details and, until pressed by the AP, did not publicly disclose attacks in which coalition troops were wounded but not killed.

At least 63 coalition troops — mostly Americans — have been killed, by the AP's count, and more than 85 wounded in at least 46 insider attacks so far this year.

That's an average of nearly one attack a week. In 2011, 21 insider attacks killed 35.

The attack that killed Lawrence and Russell in the southern city of Kandahar was the 17th of 2011.

Breaking it down in detail shows how easily it can be done.

"I Had A Gut Feeling That Something Was Out Of Place"

The two officers and five other U.S. soldiers were inside a soft-skinned, tan-colored tent that served as a temporary "tactical command post" on an Afghan army base known as Old Corps Headquarters. Their task was to coordinate a security plan for the three-day peace conference at nearby Mandigak Palace. Their body armor was stacked in one corner, their weapons in another.

Their partners that day included liaison officers from Afghan security services, including the national intelligence agency and the army. The four liaisons excused themselves for the night and left the compound shortly before the attack. They had been working inside the tent and would have been in the line of fire had they stayed.

The Army investigator called this circumstance "worth noting," but he established no proof of complicity by the Afghan security officers.

An Afghan investigation concluded that only one soldier, a sergeant identified as Enayut (Afghans often use just one name) fired on the Americans, according to a summary of the probe, while the U.S. Army concluded there were two shooters.

Several U.S. soldiers recalled noticing two, possibly three, Afghans enter the compound about 9 p.m.

They stood out because they were armed with one rocket-propelled grenade and at least one M16 rifle. At least one was wearing an Afghan army uniform, the report said.

No one questioned them, since there was no screening requirement in place.

"They just walked in like they owned the place," a U.S. sentry at the compound's barricaded entrance told investigators afterward. Like others, his name was blacked out of the report.

In the moments that followed, hints of trouble were obscured by the appearance of normalcy.

At 9:02 p.m., just a few minutes after taking up his guard position at the front entrance of the command post tent, Spc. Paul A. LeVan was told he was being repositioned to a guard tower overlooking the compound. He was not replaced at the tent. There was no explanation as to why.

LeVan's sergeant led him to the empty guard tower, where, as a standard precaution, they discussed the locations of friendly forces in LeVan's line of fire. He was armed with an M249 light machine gun.

Soon, two of the Afghans who had entered the compound at 9 p.m. joined them in the tower. One was in military garb and, rather curiously, armed with a grenade launcher and one grenade. The other was unarmed and spoke English.

LeVan's sergeant then left the tower and, upon entering the command tent, mentioned the grenade launcher to those inside, including an enlisted soldier who recalled later that the weapon seemed "out of the ordinary."

"But since (Afghan soldiers) were allowed to carry RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades), we did not give it much thought," the enlisted soldier, whose name was blacked out of the report, told investigators.

Another unidentified soldier said in the report that he, too, noticed the RPG and thought it "seemed reckless" to permit it inside the compound.

In his final report, the Army investigator found it curious that neither LeVan nor his sergeant challenged or questioned the two Afghans about "why a tower guard would have an RPG and no rifle."

LeVan, 21 at the time and a member of the 209th Military Police Company, said he assumed the Afghans were a properly assigned guard and his interpreter, although he noticed that the armed Afghan was avoiding eye contact and closely tracking movements inside the compound. LeVan shook hands with both men, but the veneer of friendliness soon vanished.

"I had a gut feeling that something was out of place," he told the AP in a telephone interview. He was the only American to witness the attack from start to finish.

Suddenly and without explanation the Afghans descended from the tower.

"I got nervous, so I kept a very close eye on the two men," LeVan told an Army investigator two days later.

“The Afghan Armed His Grenade Launcher And Took Aim At Several Army Medics”

LeVan said he watched through his night vision goggles as the Afghan armed his grenade launcher and took aim at several Army medics playing cards on cots they had set up at the rear of their armored ambulance. A medic recalled spotting the gunman pointing the RPG at them from point blank range.

"I stood up and shouted, 'Hey! What the fuck are you doing?'" she told investigators.

His rocket missed the soldiers and slammed into a nearby concrete barrier. Shrapnel wounded the medic in her stomach and back. A piece of shrapnel also penetrated the nearby command tent, wounding the U.S. sergeant who had just left LeVan in the guard tower.

By several accounts, bullets began flying about five seconds after the grenade exploded.

"The timing was perfect," LeVan recalled. He watched from the tower as another gunman — not the one who launched the rocket, and not the English-speaking Afghan, either — advanced swiftly on the command tent, firing bursts from an M16 semi-automatic rifle.

Inside the tent, which was ringed with sandbags but filled with dust from the grenade blast, Lawrence and Russell hit the ground and began low-crawling side-by-side toward their body armor.

Neither would get back to his feet. The M16 shooter fired a total of 14 bullets into the tent, the last few from the front entrance. None of the Americans inside saw their attacker well enough to identify him.

"I saw someone standing in the entrance to the tent shooting at all of us," said the sergeant who had been hit in the leg by shrapnel. "I put my head down. I believe I heard five or six rounds fired, and then the shooting stopped."

Maj. Keith Walters, who was in the tent and suffered a severe leg wound from the M16 fire, said that by the time the gunman vanished it was too late.

"As the firing stopped, I remember yelling out to hold fire as I knew we had friendly U.S. and Afghan forces somewhere in the compound and that by then they would probably be approaching the tent. We did not return a single shot," Walters wrote in an email to investigators three weeks later from his hospital bed in Washington, where he underwent surgery.

Walters' unit, the Army's 4th Infantry Division, denied an AP request to interview Walters, saying the matter was too sensitive; later it said Walters had decided on his own not to be interviewed.

Lawrence apparently died instantly of his head wound. Russell was declared dead a short time later at a nearby helicopter landing zone as colleagues prepared to evacuate him and three seriously wounded soldiers to medical facilities at Kandahar Air Field.

Four other soldiers were wounded less severely.

“The Killers Escaped — Apparently With Inside Help. They Remain At Large”

The killers escaped — apparently with inside help. They remain at large.

Gen. Jallaad Rahimi, who was the chief military prosecutor in Kandahar at the time, told the AP in a recent interview that the father and brother of Sgt. Enayut, plus three of his fellow soldiers, are in detention.

The three soldiers are not accused of shooting anyone but are charged with neglecting their duties or assisting Enayut, Rahimi said. For example, the rocket-propelled grenade fired by Enayut was assigned to a member of his unit who told investigators that Enayut had taken it from him that evening when he was not looking, Rahimi said.

Rahimi said two of the detained soldiers are accused of helping Enayut escape the compound.

Enayut's father and brother were arrested after authorities found evidence at their home that Enayut had been in contact with insurgents, Rahimi said. The brother and the father knew about this contact, Rahimi said, but didn't tell authorities and may have covered up for Enayut. The U.S. investigation found no links to insurgents.

Enayut, 23 at the time of the shooting, joined the Afghan army in 2006. An expert in disarming bombs, he had a history of going AWOL and receiving no punishment for it. U.S. investigators found that he had slipped away for an unauthorized visit to Pakistan just weeks before the attack.

Investigators were unable to pin down identifying information about the other shooter, although it appeared he also was a soldier and was probably a member of Enayut's unit, the 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 205th Corps. LeVan said both wore Afghan army uniforms in the attack.

In a two-sentence statement the next day, the U.S.-led military command in Kabul said two service members had been killed in an "insurgent attack." A day later, in identifying Lawrence and Russell as the casualties, the Pentagon reported that "enemy forces" killed them.

The Army's investigation records show that U.S. officials in Afghanistan were told immediately after the assault that it was perpetrated by one or more Afghan soldiers — not insurgents.

"Yes, we know the shooter," the Afghan army liaison officer told Lt. Col. John Cook, the commander of Lawrence's and Russell's unit, after being summoned back to the compound just moments after the killings. The Afghan officer named Enayut without hesitation.

Asked why its Oct. 9 report was never corrected, the international military command in Kabul said it knew that at least one of the shooters was wearing an Afghan army uniform, "but as that information was unconfirmed, a correction to the original (press) release was not appropriate."

In April the AP was alerted to the attack's true circumstances by an American soldier who knew the real story.

The U.S. military in Kabul acknowledged to the AP in May that it had added the incident to its 2011 list of insider attacks. But it refused to provide any details of what happened.

The story of the killing of Lawrence and Russell raises hard questions about the insider attack problem, starting with this: How can it happen to arguably the world's best-trained, best-equipped army? The answer, in this case, is that the Americans designed their security with external threats in mind — known Taliban tactics like suicide car bombings, for example — rather than threats from their Afghan allies.

Was that reasonable?

Yes, says Maj. Gen. James L. Huggins, who ordered the internal Army investigation in his capacity as the senior U.S. commander in southern Afghanistan at the time. In rejecting the investigation's central finding — that U.S. officers had failed to take necessary security precautions — Huggins wrote that the security arrangements were "appropriate responses" to available intelligence.

"Only (in) hindsight do we now understand the insider threat present at the time of the attack," he wrote on Dec. 17, 2011.

In making that judgment, Huggins overruled the colonel who conducted the investigation.

The colonel, whose name was removed from the copy of the report provided to the AP, wrote in his account that the U.S. chain of command in Kandahar "failed to use the appropriate security and force protection measures to secure the compound and safeguard their soldiers."

The colonel faulted the Kandahar commanders for "unchecked reliance" on the Afghans to "police their own ranks."

He recommended action be taken against those leaders, but Huggins rejected the advice, saying he believed they had taken reasonable precautions, given that there was "no known insider threat at the time."

Of the 16 insider attacks that preceded this one in 2011, none had occurred in Kandahar province, but two took place in adjacent provinces within Huggins' area of responsibility, according to U.S. records.

Huggins, who now works for the director of the Army staff at the Pentagon and has been selected for promotion to lieutenant general, declined through a spokesman to be interviewed for this story.

In a brief encounter last week, Huggins told the AP he could not remember enough about the case to discuss it.

The U.S. military never established a clear motive for the attack in Kandahar. In its aftermath numerous Afghans told U.S. officers they felt shamed by the killings and were sorry for any mistrust it created. But that sentiment apparently was not universal.

LeVan told investigators that the day after the attack he and other soldiers encountered an Afghan soldier who "gave us a vibe that he wished we were killed."

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

AFGHANISTAN THEATER: US Fighters Suffered 84 Combat Casualties In The 14 Days Ending Nov. 28 Raising The Total To 36,421 “This Includes 19,777 (3 Pending) Dead And Wounded From What The Pentagon Classifies As ‘Hostile’ Causes And 16,644 Dead Or Medically Evacuated (As Of May 7!) From What It Calls ‘Non- Hostile’ Causes”

Nov 30, 2012 michaelmunk.com [Excerpts]

NOTE: For the first time since Nov 14, the Pentagon updated its AfPak war casualty figures today.

US foreign fighters in Afghanistan under Commander-in-Chief Obama suffered 86 casualties in the 14 days ending Nov. 28, as the official casualty total for the Iraq and AfPak wars rose to 115,882.

The total includes 79,461 casualties since the US invaded Iraq in March, 2003 (Operations "Iraqi Freedom" and "New Dawn"), and 36,421 since the US invaded Afghanistan in November, 2001 (Operation "Enduring Freedom")

AFGHANISTAN THEATER: US foreign fighters suffered 84 combat casualties in the 14 days ending Nov. 28 raising the total to 36,421. This includes 19,777 (3 pending) dead and wounded from what the Pentagon classifies as "hostile" causes and 16,644 dead or medically evacuated (as of May 7!) from what it calls "non-hostile" causes.

US media divert attention from the actual cost in American life and limb by reporting regularly only the total killed (6,641: 4,488 in Iraq, 2,153 in Afghanistan) but rarely mentioning those wounded in action (50,291: 32,220 in Iraq; 18,071 in Afghanistan).

They ignore the 58,950 (42,751 in Iraq; 16,199 in AfPak (as of May 7!)) military casualties injured and ill seriously enough to be medevac'd out of theater, even though the 6,635 total dead include 1,405 (961 in Iraq, 444 in Afghanistan) who died from those same "non hostile" causes, including 314 suicides (as of May 7) and at least 18 in Iraq from faulty KBR electrical work.

NOTE: The Pentagon has stopped its monthly reports on "non hostile" injured and ill.

2 N.D. National Guardsmen Killed In Afghanistan



Sgt. 1st Class Darren M. Linde. North Dakota National Guard via AP

Dec 5, 2012 The Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — Two North Dakota Army National Guard soldiers died in a roadside bomb attack in Afghanistan, the state Guard's first casualties in the war on terror in six years.

A third soldier was wounded.

Sgt. 1st Class Darren Linde, 41, of Devils Lake, and Spc. Tyler Orgaard, 20, of Bismarck, died Monday when an improvised explosive device struck their vehicle, the Guard said.

Spc. Ian Placek, 23, of Bismarck, was wounded. He was in stable condition at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, according to the Guard.

"Our hearts and prayers are with their families as they grieve the loss of their loved ones," Gov. Jack Dalrymple said in a statement late Tuesday. "Our thoughts are also with Spc. Placek as he recovers from his injuries. We will never forget these heroes or the last full measure of devotion they gave in defense of our homeland and our way of life." Dalrymple, who spoke Wednesday during an organizational session of the North Dakota Legislature, asked the lawmakers to observe a moment of silence to honor the soldiers.

The soldiers were serving with the 818th Engineer Company. The unit is headquartered in Williston with a detachment in Hazen.

About 100 members of the unit deployed in April for a year of duty overseas, arriving in Afghanistan in June after undergoing final training at Fort Bliss in Texas. The unit focuses on combat engineer missions, such as construction, demolition and route clearance — the duty they were handling when the attack occurred at about 6:30 p.m. Monday Afghanistan time, which is about 8 a.m. in North Dakota.

"We are extremely saddened by the loss of two of our soldiers and extend our most sincere condolences and prayers to their family and friends during this time of sorrow," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, the state Guard commander. "We also wish Spc. Placek a speedy recovery. We will always remember our brave Soldiers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty."

Fourteen North Dakota guardsmen have now died in action in Iraq and Afghanistan. The last casualty was in November 2006.

Capt. Dan Murphy, a Guard spokesman, said the bodies of the soldiers killed Monday were expected to arrive at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware early Wednesday afternoon.

Linde is survived by his wife, Adrienne, of Devils Lake, and four children. He also deployed to Iraq with the Guard's 164th Engineer Battalion from August 2007 to April 2008.

Murphy said Linde's widow and three of his children were en route to Dover Air Force Base on Wednesday. Murphy said Orgaard's family was not travelling to the Delaware base.

Orgaard is survived by his parents, Josephine and Jesse Orgaard, of Bismarck. He joined the North Dakota Guard shortly before his graduation from Bismarck Century High School in 2011.

Afghanistan was his first overseas deployment.

Linde originally enlisted in the North Dakota Guard in 1990. He served in the U.S. Army and Montana Army National Guard before returning to the North Dakota Guard in 2006.

Since 2009, he served as a full-time instructor with the Guard's 164th Regional Training Institute, at the Camp Grafton Training Center near Devils Lake.

Funeral arrangements were not immediately announced.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

Bomb Maims Newly Appointed Afghan Intelligence Chief

12/06/2012 By AMIR SHAH Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan—A Taliban bomber posing as a messenger of peace blew himself up near Afghanistan's newly appointed intelligence chief on Thursday, seriously wounding him, officials said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack on Asadullah Khalid — the fifth such assassination attempt on his life in as many years, the officials added.

Khalid, in his early 40s, suffered serious injuries to his stomach and lower part of the body when the bomb exploded at his guest house as he was receiving a visitor, a senior Afghan official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to disclose the information.

The intelligence chief had used the house for private meetings he preferred not to hold at his agency's official compound, he added.

"Thank God, he's OK. It's positive," President Hamid Karzai told reporters outside a medical facility run by the National Directorate of Security where Khalid had surgery. "Now there is hope that he'll get healthy again."

The attempted assassination of the nation's top intelligence official came just as the president described the U.S.-led military coalition as partly responsible for instability in Afghanistan.

"Part of the insecurity is coming to us from the structures that NATO and America created in Afghanistan," Karzai told NBC News in an interview broadcast on Thursday. Terrorism will not be defeated "by attacking Afghan villages and Afghan homes," he said.

Shafiqullah Tahiri, a spokesman for the intelligence service, said that the bomber had used the false peace offer as a ruse to close in on the intelligence chief.

The bomber passed through at least one check without the explosives being discovered, the official said. The house was not as heavily guarded as the agency's compound, he added.

Shuja Momuzai, 31, who manages a house a couple doors from Khalid's guest house, said he heard an explosion shortly after 3 p.m., after which he saw Khalid being evacuated.

He said that people in the neighborhood knew Khalid used the house, which had at least two perimeter walls.

Karzai said Khalid would be sent elsewhere for further treatment, implying that he could be transferred outside the country.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said the intelligence chief was the target of a bombing carried out by an attacker named Hafez Mohammad.

Khalid, who was appointed to head the intelligence service in September, comes from the Pashtun ethnic group and has served as governor of restive Ghazni province in the east and Kandahar province in the south. He is also Afghanistan's former minister of tribal and border affairs.

He says he first eluded an assassin in 2006, and bombers had targeted him 3 times since, before Thursday's attack.

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

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Attack Convoy Of Government Officials Traveling To Assess “Security Developments”

Dec 3, 2012 GAROWE ONLINE

MOGADISHU, Somalia

A delegation of Somalia's Federal Government ministers and security officials were ambushed by Al Shabaab fighters on Monday as they were returning to Mogadishu from a visit to the city of Marka, Garowe Online reports.

The delegation led by Minister of Interior Abdikarim Hussein Guled included Minister of Defense Abdikarim Mohamud Haji Fiqi, Minister of Justice Abdullahi Ayan Nuur and Chief of Police Gen. Sharif Sheikhuna Maye visited the city of Marka which had been liberated by Somali and African Union mandated troops late August of this year.

The convoy was attacked after they left the city of Marka on Monday and were heading to Mogadishu. They were ambushed near Shalanbood by Al Shabaab fighters.

"One of the cars that was carrying Chief Maye was hit with an explosive and the Al Shabaab fighters began exchanging fire with the armed security," said Governor of Lower Shabelle region Abdiqadir Mohamed Siidi who spoke to Somali media after the incident.

According to the governor the clashes lasted for "minutes", and at least 4 police officers were injured in the skirmish. The governor alleges that many Al Shabaab fighters were killed.

Some reports indicate there were government forces' casualties, although independent sources cannot verify the total casualties in Monday's attack.

Al Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attacks on the delegation of officials on Monday claiming to have killed many Somali police officers and AMISOM [foreign occupation] forces.

The attack on the delegation comes after the officials visited Marka the capital of the Lower Shebelle region in which they assessed security developments since the capture of city from Al Shabaab.

This is the second attack in 2 weeks in the Lower Shabelle region by Al Shabaab on government delegations visiting the region.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon have both stressed the top priority for their government is improving security in the country.

On November 24th, Al Shabaab fighters attacked a delegation - accompanied by AMISOM forces - of members of parliament and regional officials reportedly killing at least 3 armed guards.

Marka before being captured by Somali and AMISOM forces had been an Al Shabaab stronghold for 4 years and according to security analysts had quietly become a residence for the families of many top Al Shabaab commanders and leaders.

MILITARY NEWS

**“Syria’s Vaunted War Machine
Is Showing Serious Cracks”
“Army Commanders Have Been
Unable Or Unwilling To Challenge
Rebel Assaults On Large Military
Bases On The Capital’s Outskirts”
“The Regime Isn’t Intervening To
Defend Its Positions And When It
Does Try To Counterattack, It Often
Fails”
“The Government’s Troops Are Being
Worn Down”**

December 4 By Joby Warrick and Babak Dehghanpisheh, The Washington Post
[Excerpts]

After nearly two years of fighting, Syria’s vaunted war machine is showing serious cracks as emboldened rebels snap up more bases and airfields and force army units to retrench behind defensive lines in major cities, Western officials and military analysts say.

Powerful antitank and anti-aircraft weapons have helped level what was once a lopsided contest, the officials say, so much so that army commanders have been unable or unwilling to challenge rebel assaults on large military bases on the capital’s outskirts.

“The regime isn’t intervening to defend its positions,” said Jeffrey White, a former Middle East military analyst with the Pentagon’s Defense Intelligence Agency. “And when it does try to counterattack, it often fails.”

Several independent military experts have pointed to a perceptible shift in the rebels’ fortunes beginning in mid-November, around the time reports began to surface of Syrian helicopters and planes being shot down by shoulder-fired missiles. Western and Middle Eastern intelligence officials say up to 40 of the portable anti-aircraft missile systems have been smuggled into rebel-held parts of Syria since late summer.

But analysts say the opposition's successes also reflect the degraded state of the Syrian army, which appears to be running low on supplies and morale.

White, the former DIA analyst, said the rebels "are getting better, with better equipment and more of it, but it's also true that the government's troops are being worn down."

Holliday [Joseph Holliday, a former U.S. Army officer and senior researcher at the Institute for the Study of War] said rebel squads have shown increasing tactical skills and deployed momentum-changing weapons, including roadside bombs and anti-aircraft missiles.

The bombs have limited the movement of Syrian troops and the anti-aircraft guns have forced Syrian pilots to fly at higher altitudes, he said.

The net result is that the Syrian military has surrendered critical territory and appears to lack the resources to regain ground.

"What we're seeing is a contraction from the regime," Holliday said. "The rebels have been successful in forcing the regime to give up on outlying outposts."

In the Turkish border town of Reyhanli, where many wounded rebels go to recover, a 21-year-old man who gave only his first name, Ammar, arrived 11 days ago after a sniper's bullet sliced through his shin during fighting near Aleppo.

He said he had just one rocket remaining in his grenade launcher when he tried to take out the sniper. When the sniper fired back, Ammar was hit in the leg.

"We lack many things," said Ammar, who defected from the army seven months ago. Now he shares a room with two rebels who worked at an electronics store and a potato chip factory before the war.

"We had no machine guns," he said. "No anti-aircraft weapons. We didn't have enough ammunition. Just Kalashnikovs" and rocket-propelled grenades.

Down the hall, Mustafa Akush lay in a bed, paralyzed from the waist down since a bullet struck his spine during fighting three months ago in Aleppo.

He was a lieutenant in the army, and before he defected early this year, he smuggled ammunition out to resupply the rebels. He said he fled the army officially when he was ordered to report to investigators about the missing bullets.

"There's a big gap between the weapons the army has and what we have," Akush said as his brother rewound the bandages covering both his legs below the knees.

He offered only one explanation for the rebels' success despite being outnumbered and outgunned.

"It's because we are defending what we feel is righteous," Akush said.

**“Former Navy Corpsman Grese,
37, Swallowed An Unknown
Quantity Of The Antipsychotic
Seroquel — Her Fourth Suicide
Attempt In Eight Months Using
The Same Drug”**

**“Her Death Is The Subject Of A \$5
Million Lawsuit Filed Against The
Veterans Affairs Department”**

**“I Don’t Understand How A Physician
Can Write A Prescription For 450 Pills
And Two Months Later Write Another
Prescription For 450”**

12.10.12 By Patricia Kime, Army Times

On Veterans Day 2010, former Navy corpsman Kelli Marie Grese, 37, swallowed an unknown quantity of the antipsychotic Seroquel — her fourth suicide attempt in eight months using the same drug.

That time, she succeeded. She never regained consciousness.

Her death is the subject of a \$5 million lawsuit filed against the Veterans Affairs Department in the U.S. District Court in New-port News, Va., alleging VA physicians failed to monitor her medications and prescribed them excessively.

Her twin sister, Darla Grese, also a former Navy corpsman, filed the suit, saying physicians at Hampton VA Medical Center, Va., ignored her pleas to quit doling out prescriptions to her sister, a known addict deemed at “moderate risk for suicide.”

“I’m hoping better attention will be placed on how many pills are being written and quantities,” said Darla Grese.

She traces her twin's mental health problems to 1996, when she was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder after a break-in at the sisters' off-base housing in Naples, Italy.

Although migraine headaches and anxiety followed the burglary, Kelli Grese continued to succeed in her job, earning a promotion to petty officer second class and nomination as junior sailor of the quarter.

But her separation from the Navy in 1997 appeared to spark a downward spiral in her mental health. She sought VA treatment for symptoms including anxiety, depression and insomnia.

Darla Grese said her sister was prescribed clonazepam, a highly addictive benzodiazepine meant for short-term treatment of anxiety, and later the stimulant Adderall, even though she had no record of attention deficit disorder, for which that drug is prescribed.

The Adderall triggered a cascade of mental symptoms, including auditory and visual hallucinations, paranoia and full-blown psychoses.

"She thought the CIA was after her," Darla Grese said. "At one point, she shaved half her head because she thought she had something implanted in it."

Medical records later noted that her psychosis was induced by the Adderall, a rare but known side effect.

In 2002, she was prescribed Seroquel to treat the psychotic episodes and hallucinations. Bouncing from VA doctor to VA doctor and civilian physicians, as well, Kelli Grese became adept at acquiring medications.

By 2009, she started having suicidal thoughts. The overdoses on Seroquel began in 2010.

Days before she died, she renewed her prescription, which was to be mailed to her house. She then persuaded a VA doctor to give her a second prescription, which she filled at a pharmacy.

She then took mass quantities of Seroquel. "We don't know how many," Darla Grese said. "It was paste in her stomach, the medical examiner told me."

During her decade of VA care, Kelli Grese was prescribed at least 25 medications, some simultaneously.

Darla Grese said she filed the lawsuit because she would like to see VA doctors communicate better and pay closer attention to their own patients' records.

"I don't understand how a physician can write a prescription for 450 pills and two months later write another prescription for 450," she said.

"Something's broken. The system is broken."

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**Nothing has more revolutionary effect, and nothing undermines more the foundations of all state power, than the continuation of that wretched and brainless régime, which has the strength merely to cling to its positions but no longer the slightest power to rule or to steer the state ship on a definite course.
-- Karl Kautsky; ‘The Consequences of the Japanese Victory and Social Democracy’**

SMA Chandler: Putting Your Hands In Your Pockets Will Get You Killed



Nov 30, 2012 by SGT B, The Duffle Blog

The following is an opinion piece by Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III.

Listen up troops. Listen really closely. You want to put your hands in your pockets?

Too friggin' bad. It's right there in AR 670-1. I helped write that piece of beautiful literature.

I know the cost that comes with putting your hands in your pockets: the lives of soldiers.

You think I'm jerkin you around? You think that putting your hands in your pockets doesn't hurt anyone?

Tell that to all the troops we lost in Iraq and Afghanistan. I can only imagine that someone around them had their hands in their pockets instead of manning a .50 or applying pressure to a sucking chest wound.

I'm going to tell it to you straight. Those fools that started a petition to allow members of the military to put their hands in their pockets are putting your lives at risk.

Not only that, but they jumped the chain of command. I'll personally rain down an unwordly heck upon them myself, those friggin' idiots. You put your hands in your pockets and *poof* there goes all good discipline and military bearing.

These things save lives, soldiers.

We don't enforce these rules simply because it looks good on our Non-commissioned Officer Evaluation Reports. Nope, this is about saving troop lives, saving YOUR lives. You jump the chain of command and you've gone and screwed the pooch.

Everyone who signs this petition is stating that they value their individuality over their battle buddies' lives.

You think I got the "III" put in my name because of my birth? I earned that stuff. The Bronze Star Medal I've got will swear to that. It doesn't have a "V" device you say? Apparently you've never been deployed as a Sergeant Major.

You can't comprehend the level of responsibility that comes with chewing out company First Sergeants because their Humvee's aren't aligned perfectly.

The day you slack and park one Humvee slightly off-line is the day that insurgents of unknown national origins decide to launch an attack on your FOB. You'd be ready to respond, with efficiency and force if it weren't for that one truck being off-line most likely due to an oversight by a non-commissioned officer.

Really, if I had to guess, an NCO like that has probably never been to the Warrior Leader's Course. Any NCO that can stand the sight of troops with their hands in their pockets obviously hasn't been through WLC.

You know what I've instructed Training and Doctrine Command to stress there? Drill and Ceremony. That's right, it all comes back to D&C. You take the time to learn D&C, you'll know why it's so important to keep your dang hands out of your pockets. It all comes down to discipline.

If you can't march troops you surely can't teach them to do a 9-line MEDEVAC or any of their basic battle drills. Heck, D&C is what's won us the Iraq war and the Afghan war. Without this small unit level of discipline, we would have been in another Vietnam.

You know who put their hands in their pockets?

Troops in Vietnam. Just ask em'.

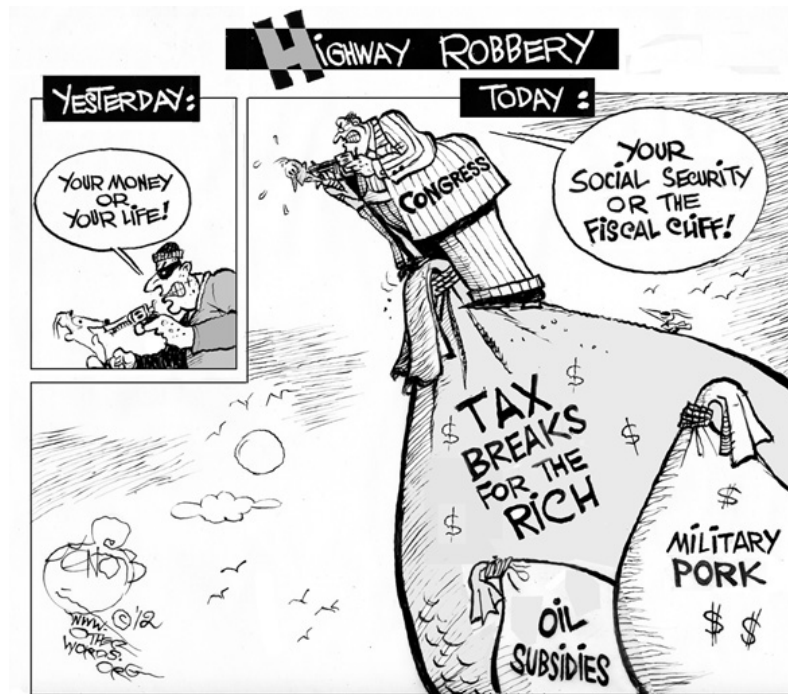
They'll tell you no Sergeant Major ever yelled at them for having their hands in their pockets. I see this as an obvious reason why we failed there.

It's my job as Sergeant Major of the Army to make sure our troops are receiving the best leadership possible from NCO's across the Army. We will not fail you soldiers. We will not let you fail yourselves.

Now take those sunglasses off your head, your hands out of your pockets, that 550 cord bracelet off, stop walking and talking on your cell phone, stop smoking while walking, and get back over to the drill field to practice your left-flank march.

Because darnit, marching in a formation designed for warfare before automatic weapons is going to save your lives.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



Massacre In Cleveland: “13 Police Officers, 12 Whites And One Hispanic, Fired 137 Bullets At A Black Man And Woman After A High- Speed Car Chase” “No Weapon Was Found On Their Bullet- Riddled Bodies”



12/05/2012 A Black Agenda Radio commentary by Glen Ford

In the year 1900, the great Black activist and journalist Ida B. Wells wrote an article called “Lynch Law in America.”

It began with these words:

“Our country's national crime is lynching. It is not the creature of an hour, the sudden outburst of uncontrolled fury, or the unspeakable brutality of an insane mob.

“It represents the cool, calculating deliberation of intelligent people who openly avow that there is an 'unwritten law' that justifies them in putting human beings to death without complaint under oath, without trial by jury, without opportunity to make defense, and without right of appeal.”

In Cleveland, this week, 13 police officers, 12 whites and one Hispanic, fired 137 bullets at a Black man and woman after a high-speed car chase. No weapon was found on their bullet-riddled bodies. Community members charged the victims were lynched.

Less than two weeks before, in Jacksonville, Florida, a white man who didn't like Black teenagers playing loud music at a gas station fired eight or nine shots at 17-year-old, unarmed, Jordan Davis, killing him.

The middle-aged shooter claimed he was justified by Florida's "stand your ground" law that allows white people to act out their fears, hatreds, or mood swings with impunity – the same claim made by another Florida gunman when he executed 17 year-old Trayvon Martin without trial or "right of appeal."

Young Trayvon drew his last breath in time to be listed among the 120 Black people known to have been extra-judicially executed in the first six months of this year – one killing every 36 hours.

The report, compiled by a handful of people for the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, had to be pieced together from news clippings and other sources. That's because there is no data base on the extrajudicial killing of African Americans, a practice that is not considered a crime, based on America's "unwritten law." In fact, it's treated even more casually than a sport – at least in sports they keep statistics.

Ida B. Wells kept statistics.

She and a few colleagues tallied 3,436 lynchings of Blacks in the 33 years between 1889 and 1922. Eighty-three of the victims were women. Lynching reached its high-water mark in 1892, when 160 African Americans were slaughtered because of their race.

That number will be far exceeded this year, at the rate the blood is flowing.

The Malcolm X Grassroots Movement had hoped to follow in Ida B. Wells' footsteps with their report; they reasoned that, armed with the facts, Black folks would get fired up enough to launch a modern day movement against lynching – just as Ms. Wells work propelled lynching to the center of the movement of her day.

But the 2012 report failed to reach many people, because it was largely ignored – not just by the corporate media, but by much of so-called progressive media outlets and "traditional" Black leadership.

That's because, in the early 21st century, only certain types and classes of Black folks are likely to be extra-judicially put to death, or consigned to the social death of America's Black Prison Gulag: poor people, like Malissa Williams and Timothy Russell, snuffed out like vermin in the Black-run City of Cleveland.

For them, lynching remains the "national crime" and the "unwritten law."

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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.

Troops Invited:

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