

## **Military Resistance 12A7**



## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **AFGHANISTAN THEATER: “US Foreign Fighters Suffered 15 Combat Casualties During The Five Days Ending Jan. 8 As The Total Rose To 40,331”**

Jan 8, 2014 [www.michaelmunk.com](http://www.michaelmunk.com) [Excerpts]

AFGHANISTAN THEATER: US foreign fighters suffered 15 combat casualties during the five days ending Jan. 8 as the total rose to 40,331.

The total includes 21,373 dead and wounded (six pending) from what the Pentagon classifies as “hostile” causes and 18,958 dead or medically evacuated (as of Dec. 3, 2012) 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 (6,791: 4,489 in Iraq, 2,302 in Afghanistan) but rarely mentioning those wounded in action (51,809: 32,237 in Iraq; 19,572 in Afghanistan).

They ignore the 59,908 (44,607 in Iraq, 18,463 in AfPak (as of Dec 3, 2012) military casualties injured and ill seriously enough to be medevac'd out of theater, even though the 6,790 total dead include 1,456 (961 in Iraq, 495 in Afghanistan) who died from those same "non hostile" causes, of whom almost 25% (332) were suicides (as of Jan 9, 2013) and at least 18 in Iraq from faulty KBR electrical work.

NOTE: It's unclear whether the AfPak number for WIAs at some point started to include medical evacuations for non hostile injuries and disease.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

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

### **MILITARY NEWS**

**Top Military Brass Will Keep  
Their Specially Boosted  
Pensions:  
December Budget Deal Trimmed  
Pension Rates For Other Military  
Retirees:  
Four-Star Admirals And Generals  
"Make More In Retirement Than They  
Did On Active Duty"**

# **“Pentagon Officials Have Acknowledged That The Military Is Top Heavy With Brass And Senior Officials”**

Jan. 8, 2014 By Tom Vanden Brook, USA Today

**WASHINGTON — Top military brass will keep their specially boosted pensions despite the December budget deal that trimmed pension rates for other military retirees, Pentagon officials said Tuesday.**

**In 2007, Congress passed a Pentagon-sponsored proposal that boosted retirement benefits for three- and four-star admirals and generals, allowing them to make more in retirement than they did on active duty.**

The Pentagon had requested the change in 2003 to help retain senior officers as the military was fighting wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and wanted to entice officers to remain on active duty.

That means a four-star officer retiring with 40 years of experience would receive a pension of \$237,144, according to the Pentagon. Base pay for active-duty top officers is \$181,501, according to Navy Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen, a Pentagon spokesman. Housing and other allowances can boost their compensation an additional third.

**Last month’s budget deal reduces cost-of-living adjustments, COLAs, by 1 percentage point a year until retirees reach age 62. At 62, the full COLA will return and pensions will bounce back to their full value. The plan is estimated to save \$6 billion.**

**Currently, after 20 years of service, regardless of age, a military retiree qualifies for a pension amounting to 50 percent of final pay with an additional 2.5 percentage points for each year of service beyond 20.**

**But the deal does not affect the 2007 enhancement for top pension, which has allowed pension rates for those officers to spike.**

Figures for 2011 show that a four-star officer retiring with 38 years’ experience received a yearly pension of about \$219,600, a jump of \$84,000, or 63 percent beyond what was previously allowed. A three-star officer with 35 years’ experience would get about \$169,200 a year, up about \$39,000, or 30 percent. Before the law was changed, the typical pension for a retired four-star officer was \$134,400.

A few officers top 40 years of service in part because the years spent at military academies is counted toward their pension. In 2011, the Pentagon noted that the highest pension, \$272,892, was paid to a retired four-star officer with 43 years of service.

Since 2011, however, Pentagon officials have acknowledged that the military is top heavy with brass and senior officials.

Then-Defense secretary Robert Gates announced a plan to eliminate positions for 102 generals and admirals. Since then 70 have been cut, others will leave when their combat assignments end and some jobs have been re-assigned to lower ranks, according to the Pentagon.

Reasons for keeping pensions high for top brass is diminishing, said Loren Thompson, a military analyst at the Lexington Institute, and a defense industry consultant.

“Elevating pension benefits to retain generals in wartime might make sense, but the next time we go to war most of the senior officers in the force today will be retired,” Thompson said.

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## **Internal Report Links Navy’s Unmet Safety Needs To Fatal Crashes: “Mishaps Killed Warfighters And Destroyed Platforms Worth Nearly \$300 Million” “None Had All Four Required Safety Systems” “Technologies And Devices That Would Prevent Deadly Accidents”**

**Auditors determined that five specific mishaps that killed 13 people, injured 11, destroyed seven aircraft and caused nearly \$300 million in damage between fiscal years 2007 to 2011 might have been prevented had the department installed airborne collision-avoidance systems on Super Hornets, Super Cobras and Venoms and terrain-avoidance systems on Seahawks.**

January 07, 2014 by Christopher J. Castelli, Inside Defense [Excerpts]

**The Navy has failed to meet longstanding safety requirements for fighter jets, rotorcraft, cargo planes and other aircraft, potentially contributing to mishaps that killed warfighters and destroyed platforms worth nearly \$300 million, a previously undisclosed internal review found.**

Of the 27 types of naval aircraft eyed in the assessment -- including F/A-18E/F Super Hornets, AH-1W Super Cobras, UH-1N Venoms, MH-60S Seahawks, MV-22 Ospreys, the White House’s Marine One helicopters and F-35 Joint Strike Fighters -- none had all four required safety systems, states an October 2012 Naval Audit Service report marked

“for official use only,” which InsideDefense.com obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request.

The four requirements -- terrain-avoidance systems, crash-survivable recorders, airborne collision-avoidance systems and quality-assurance systems for flight operations -- arose in response to the 1996 plane crash that killed then-Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and have been mandated by Navy and Pentagon leaders for years.

The first three were included in 1999 Navy policy guidance. In 2003, then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld pressed the military to eliminate preventable accidents. Two years later, his office issued a memo mandating quality-assurance systems, prompting related Navy guidance. In 2006, Rumsfeld issued another memo directing officials to fund -- as a top priority -- technologies and devices that would prevent deadly accidents.

**But auditors found the service did not always fully fund, implement and track the four required safety capabilities.**

**Eleven of the 27 aircraft types -- including EA-6B jammers and SH-60B helicopters -- were missing all four mandated systems. Six aircraft types met only one requirement, eight aircraft types met two requirements and two aircraft types met three requirements, the report states.**

Navy officials told auditors a number of programmatic, technological and scheduling issues hindered installation of the capabilities on specific aircraft. The service's two-star director of air warfare “places a high priority on funding operational safety capabilities and competes safety capabilities as a first priority,” Navy spokesman Lt. Robert Myers told InsideDefense.com.

“The Navy has many first priorities however, and in a time of austere financial resources, classification as a first priority is not a guarantee a capability will be funded in the final budget.”

**But beyond merely stating required safety equipment is important, auditors determined that five specific mishaps that killed 13 people, injured 11, destroyed seven aircraft and caused nearly \$300 million in damage between fiscal years 2007 to 2011 might have been prevented had the department installed airborne collision-avoidance systems on Super Hornets, Super Cobras and Venoms and terrain-avoidance systems on Seahawks.**

The five mishaps included four mid-air collisions: one involving AH-1W and UH-1N helicopters that killed four people and injured two; another involving an AH-1W and a Coast Guard aircraft that killed nine people; and two involving Super Hornets. The other potentially preventable mishap was an MH-60S collision with a mountain that injured nine people.

**Today, over a year after the report was issued internally, Navy pilots flying those aircraft still lack the safety systems that might have prevented the mishaps.**

Navy spokesman James O'Donnell confirmed AH-1W and UH-1N helicopters are not equipped with airborne collision-avoidance systems.

The plans and schedule to add such a capability are “determined by the Marine Corps requirements prioritization and the availability of funding,” he said.

Super Hornets also lack airborne collision-avoidance systems, said Navy spokeswoman Marcia Hart.

At press time, the command had not confirmed whether terrain-avoidance technology had been added to the MH-60S.

**Auditors also concluded 20 other hazard incidents involving an array of different kinds of naval aircraft might have been prevented had the Navy funded the installation of airborne collision-avoidance systems. These included nine hazard reports for T-45Cs, three for TH-57s, two for T-34Cs, two for P-3Cs, one for an MH-60S and three for MV-22s.**

Many other reported mishaps and hazards might have also been due at least in part to the failure to heed the four safety requirements, auditors found, but they put these aside because the reports did not specifically mention one of the four requirements and they wanted to avoid a subjective assessment.

**The lack of an MV-22 collision-avoidance system is an example of the Navy’s failure to fund requirements, the report states.**

The safety system program for the MV-22 has acknowledged and identified mid-air collisions as a safety concern with a serious hazard risk.

“Fleet hazard reports have documented at least 10 near-mid-air collisions thus far involving MV-22s,” auditors write.

Further, the MV-22’s operational advisory group ranked the need for a mid-air collision avoidance system as the number-two priority each year for FY-09 to FY-11, the report states. (Auditors did not review more recent records.)

A program objective memorandum “issue sheet” was submitted as far back as FY-05 in an unsuccessful attempt to secure funding for the effort in the department’s long-term budget, the report adds.

“It is anticipated that all V-22s will be equipped with a TCAS capability, but the schedule to do so is determined by the Marine Corps requirements prioritization and the availability of funding,” O’Donnell said.

## **MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL**

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## 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**

**A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.  
-- Leon Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution**

**“Political Economy In Its Classical Period, Like The Bourgeoisie Itself In Its Parvenu Period, Adopted A**

**Severely Critical Attitude To The  
Machinery Of The State”  
State Officials, Military People “Are  
Regarded By The Industrial Capitalists  
And The Working Class As Incidental  
Expenses Of Production, Which Are  
Therefore To Be Cut Down To The Most  
Indispensable Minimum And Provided  
As Cheaply As Possible”**

Theories Of Surplus Value, Karl Marx, 1863 [Excerpt]

The polemics against Adam Smith’s distinction between productive and unproductive labour were for the most part confined to the *dii minorum gentium* [minor gods] (among whom moreover Storch was the most important); they are not to be found in the work of any economist of significance—of anyone of whom it can be said that he made some discovery in political economy.

They are, however, the hobby-horse of the second-rate fellows and especially of the schoolmasterish compilers and writers of compendia, as well as of *dilettanti* with facile pens and vulgarisers in this field.

What particularly aroused these polemics against Adam Smith was the following circumstance.

The great mass of so-called “higher grade” workers—such as state officials, military people, artists, doctors, priests, judges, lawyers, etc.—some of whom are not only not productive but in essence destructive, but who know how to appropriate to themselves a very great part of the “material” wealth partly through the sale of their “immaterial” commodities and partly by forcibly imposing the latter on other people — found it not at all pleasant to be relegated *economically* to the same class as clowns and menial servants and to appear merely as people partaking in the consumption, parasites on the actual producers (or rather agents of production).

This was a peculiar profanation precisely of those functions which had hitherto been surrounded with a halo and had enjoyed superstitious veneration.

Political economy in its classical period, like the bourgeoisie itself in its parvenu period, adopted a severely critical attitude to the machinery of the State, etc.



At a later stage it realised and — as was shown too in practice — learnt from experience that the necessity for the inherited social combination of all these classes, which in part were totally unproductive, arose from its own organisation.

**In so far as those “unproductive labourers” do not produce entertainment, so that their purchase entirely depends on how the agent of production cares to spend his wages or his profit — in so far on the contrary as they are necessary or make themselves necessary because of physical infirmities (like doctors), or spiritual weakness (like parsons), or because of the conflict between private interests and national interests (like statesmen, all lawyers, police and soldiers) — they are regarded by Adam Smith, as by the industrial capitalists themselves and the working class, as incidental expenses of production, which are therefore to be cut down to the most indispensable minimum and provided as cheaply as possible.**

Bourgeois society reproduces in its own form everything against which it had fought in feudal or absolutist form.

**In the first place therefore it becomes a principal task for the sycophants of this society, and especially of the upper classes, to restore in theoretical terms even the purely parasitic section of these “unproductive labourers”, or to justify the exaggerated claims of the section which is indispensable.**

The *dependence* of the ideological, etc., classes on the *capitalists* was in fact proclaimed.

*Secondly*, however, a section of the agents of production (of material production itself) were declared by one group of economists or another to be “unproductive”.

For example, the landowner, by those among the economists who represented industrial capital (Ricardo).

Others (for example Carey) declared that the merchant in the true sense of the word was an “unproductive” laborer.

**Then even a third group came along who declared that the “capitalists” themselves were unproductive, or who at least sought to reduce their claims to material wealth to “wages”, that is, to the wages of a “productive laborer”.**

**Many intellectual workers seemed inclined to share the skepticism in regard to the capitalist.**

It was therefore time to make a compromise and to recognise the “productivity” of all classes not directly included among the agents of material production.

One good turn deserves another; and, as in the *Fable of the Bees*, it had to be established that even from the “productive”, economic standpoint, the bourgeois world with all its “unproductive labourers” is the best of all worlds.

This was all the more necessary because the “unproductive labourers” on their part were advancing critical observations in regard to the productivity of the classes who in general

were "*fruges consumere nati*" [born only to eat]; or in regard to those agents of production, like landowners, who do nothing at all, etc.

Both the *do-nothings* and their *parasites* had to be found a place in this best possible order of things.

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## Amber Alert Issued For Missing U.S. Foreign Policy



November 19, 2013 By G-Had, The Duffel Blog. Duffel Blog editor Paul also contributed to this report.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Washington-area police have issued an Amber Alert and are seeking the public's help in locating a missing 238-year old foreign policy for the United States.

The foreign policy was described as wholly consistent with our national security interests, while also balancing the needs for human rights, labor, business and the environment. It answers to the Obama Doctrine, the Bush Doctrine, the Clinton Doctrine, the Powell Doctrine, the Weinberger Doctrine, and the Domino Theory.

When last seen it was speaking softly and carrying a big stick.

Police are looking for a suspect, described by witnesses as a well-dressed middle-aged bald man who spoke with a Russian accent. The man was seen getting into a stretch limousine in downtown Washington with the foreign policy early on Monday.

Some law enforcement officials were confused on how to proceed.

“We can’t get it back because we don’t negotiate with kidnappers and terrorists,” said FBI Director James Comey, before correcting himself. “Wait, maybe we do ... or do we? Dammit! We need it back right now!”

“We believe with high confidence that the kidnappers of the foreign policy will demand a hefty ransom,” said D.C. Chief of Police Cathy Lanier, who has taken the lead on the investigation. “This will likely include demands of overseas military bases, nuclear missile silos, and even possible Tomahawk missile launches against random countries in the Middle East.”

Lanier has dismissed suggestions by the Department of Homeland Security that the foreign policy may have kidnapped itself, although she couldn’t completely rule it out.

She mentioned that the foreign policy did seem to regularly go missing in times of personal crisis, such as an unexplained eight-year disappearance from 2001 to 2009 which it later blamed on “terrorists.”

Longtime friend Australia admitted that the foreign policy had been acting erratic lately, flip-flopping and dithering on Syria, Iran, China, and Afghanistan.

Australia suggested this might be due to its recent breakup with steady girlfriend Angela Merkel after it was caught stalking her over the phone.

David Eisenhower, a research analyst at the Rand Corporation, believes the foreign policy may have been kidnapped by something called the “military-industrial complex,” although his group is struggling to pinpoint exactly what that is.

Washington officials are hoping to recover the foreign policy before this weekend’s Mideast conference, in which the U.S. will either support or oppose Israel in its diplomatic negotiations with Egypt, a longtime friend or enemy of the United States.

### **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.**

## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

### **Zionist Beats On Palestinian 12 Year-Old Girl In Occupied Jerusalem:**

# **The Settler “Struck Her In The Back, Causing Her To Fall Down, Then Proceeded To Hit Her On The Back, Stomach, And Head”**

05/01/2014 Ma'an

JERUSALEM -- An Israeli man on Sunday assaulted a Palestinian girl in the al-Sharaf neighborhood of the Old City of Jerusalem, her father said.

He said his daughter, 12-year-old Marah Munther Jalajel, was beaten by an Israeli “settler” on her way to school.

She was walking with her cousin through al-Sharaf when the man attacked Marah, her father said.

He said the man “struck her in the back, causing her to fall down, then proceeded to hit her on the back, stomach, and head.” Her cousin “managed to escape and call for help, and a young man came to the area to help Marah.”

“The perpetrator fled.”

Marah suffered “several bruises,” her father said, adding that he had notified the police.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said he was unfamiliar with the incident.

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## **Settlers Attack School, Water Reservoir Near Nablus**

06/01/2014 Ma'an

NABLUS -- A group of settlers attacked a school and water reservoir in the Nablus village of Urif early Monday before clashing with local Palestinians, a PA official said.

Ghassan Daghlas, who monitors settlement activity in the northern West Bank, told Ma'an that six settlers from Yizhar tried to damage an electricity box connected to the water structure.

The settlers also attacked a school in the village before Palestinian crowds gathered and clashed with the Israeli extremists. Israeli forces arrived in the area and fired tear gas at the Palestinians.

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## These Palestinians Are Dangerous: They Defend Themselves When Attacked



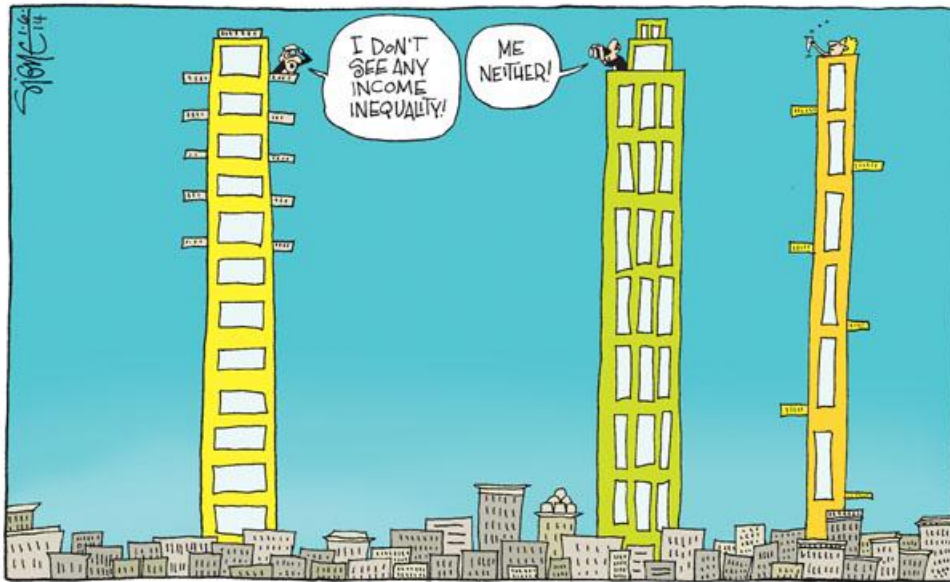
A Palestinian villager (2nd R) guards Zionist settlers after they were detained in the West Bank village of Qusra near Nablus January 7, 2014. Palestinian villagers on Tuesday beat and detained the settlers before freeing them, after the group of settlers threw rocks at farmers tending their fields in the occupied West Bank. REUTERS/Abed Omar Qusini

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

### **GOT A COMMENT?**

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.

## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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### **Iraqi Sunnis Call For Their Sons To Quit The Dictator Al-Maliki's Army:**

**“There Were No Al-Qaeda  
Affiliates Among The Protesters”  
“All Of Al-Maliki's Accusations Are  
Untrue” “He Was Lying To The Iraqis  
And Deceived The Army”  
“Al-Maliki Started The War And Will Not  
Be Able To Stop It Until We Have Our  
Rights”**



Masked Sunni militia chant slogans during a protest against Iraq's government, demanding that the Iraqi army not try to enter the city, in Falluja, 50 km (31 miles) west of Baghdad January 7, 2014.

04 January 2014 The Middle East Monitor & Jan. 6, 2014 Wall Street Journal

On Friday chief tribal leader Sheikh Ali Al-Hatem called on all Iraqi tribes to withdraw their sons from the Iraqi army until the latter releases the kidnapped parliamentarian Ahmed Al-Alwani and stops targeting Sunni residents.

Al-Hatem, who is the chief of Al-Doleem tribe in Al-Anbar, denied accusations made by the Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki that the Iraqi army targeted Al-Qaeda when it violently dispersed a one-year protest in the centre of Al-Ramadi, one of Al-Anbar cities.

In a televised statement, Al-Hatem said: "There were no Al-Qaeda affiliates among the protesters. All of Al-Maliki's accusations are untrue, he was lying to the Iraqis and deceived the army for the sake of paving the way ahead for a third term in office."

He continued: "Al-Maliki started the war and will not be able to stop it until we have our rights, and that includes securing the release of Al-Alwani."

He said that withdrawing the army from Al-Anbar is "not enough" and demanded calling off attacks on Sunni residents in Deyai and Baghdad.

The strongman said that all "unconstitutional" forces in Al-Anbar would be targets for the tribal rebels.

“We will not allow a revolutionary flag to be risen under a jihadist slogan,” he insisted. “I call for all tribes to protect private and public properties, and not to attack the police.”

Maliki’s government is trying to use the ISIS card to persecute the Sunnis,” an Anbar tribal leader, Ali Hatem al-Suleiman, said in an interview on Monday. “So we’ll be ready for any contingency, including a confrontation with government forces.”

“We do not trust the government of al-Maliki,” he said.

**MORE:**

**“The Iraqi Government Has Declared That Fallujah Has Fallen Entirely Into The Hands Of ‘Al Qaeda And Daash’”**

**“Shafaq News Reports That Some Government Sources Admit That The Claims Are A Deliberate Deception”**

**“Some In The Protest Movement Are Supportive Of Armed Attacks Against Government Forces, And That Represents A Large Section Of The Iraqi Population”**

**“Armed Clashes Between Regime Forces And Militias Are Spreading And Intensifying”**





An insurgent holds a rocket-propelled grenade during clashes with Iraqi government forces in Fallujah, Iraq, January 5, 2014. AP

**By citing Al Qaeda and linking it to the brutal terrorist mass-murder campaign as well as alleged ambitions to create an entire state, the Iraqi government may be working towards justifying unleashing high levels of military violence on Fallujah, but who really is controlling Fallujah?**

January 5, 2014 by Kieran Kelly, Uruknet

The Iraqi government has declared that Fallujah has fallen entirely into the hands of “Al Qaeda and Daash”.

This follows over a month of US and Iraqi PR campaigning in the news media touting Al Qaeda’s ambitions to carve out an emirate in the region.

It also comes just days after the revelation that the regime in Baghdad has received hellfire missiles and drones from the United States for the stated purpose of fighting Al Qaeda in the last month.

**Behind the scenes, however, Shafaq News reports that some government sources admit that the claims are a deliberate deception.**

**One source describes the government stance as: “Deliberate confusion in the information and attempts to create a dangerous atmosphere in the city to be dealt with in a militarily way in every way,” but in reality, “Fallujah and even other cities are still experiencing quieter days than before”.**

By citing Al Qaeda and linking it to the brutal terrorist mass-murder campaign as well as alleged ambitions to create an entire state, the Iraqi government may be working towards justifying unleashing high levels of military violence on Fallujah, but who really is controlling Fallujah?

Political revolutionaries affiliated with the protest movement in Iraq have been describing the anti-government forces in places such as Fallujah as “Tribal Rebels”.

Many are from the “Awakening” who were originally opponents of the US occupation recruited and armed by the US to fight Al Qaeda.

Clearly some in the protest movement are supportive of armed attacks against government forces, and that represents a large section of the Iraqi population.

**While Western media have been reporting the horrific and seemingly ever-increasing bombing campaign, they have neglected the massive peaceful protest movement that has been in action for years.**

As The Common Ills reports, Iraqi reporters face death and serious government repression for reporting on such matters, but the Western media need only the will to write something that might contradict the official Western narrative on Iraq.

**Now it seems as if armed clashes between regime forces and militias are spreading and intensifying – perhaps enough to foreshadow bottom-up regime change in Iraq, but that too is not deemed newsworthy.**

**Instead there is a deliberate and convenient conflation with the bombing campaign and the aforementioned supposed ambitions of Al Qaeda.**

However, far from being a threat such as presented by mass protests and armed insurgency, the principle Iraqi beneficiary of the terrorist bombing campaign is the regime of Nouri al-Maliki itself.

It fuels and justifies government repression which includes disappearances, torture, unfair trials (in a court system created by the US) and many, many executions of “terrorists”.

The regime’s political enemies are “terrorists” and rivals for power in place like Anbar province (where Fallujah is) are frequently assassinated or arrested. This too goes unreported in the Western media.

The immediate trigger for this recent upsurge in armed militia violence was the arrest on December 28 of a Sunni member of parliament at his home in Ramadi. The government claims that they were trying to arrest his brother for terrorism but were met with armed resistance (in which the brother was killed).

The MP was thereafter arrested for attacking the security forces not as a terrorist as such.

Iran also supports the Maliki government, perhaps feeling they have no choice or perhaps not understanding how much this benefits the US. The repression they sponsor

(in cooperation with the US) drives the extremism they fear. Iran would be better served by a democratic, tolerant and pluralistic Iraq (or, for that matter, a democratic tolerant and pluralistic Iran).

In Iraq the lines between “real” terrorism and “false flag” terrorism are blurred.

Historically agents provocateurs have often blurred those lines, sometimes transforming revolutionaries into terrorists by their presence alone.

In this instance we need no details of such infiltration to draw the same sort of conclusions.

Now, as it was in 2004, a whole city is being labelled “terrorist”, but it is first and foremost a city of resistance.

In 1920, when it was only a small town, Fallujah was a centre of spreading resistance to British imperial rule and this seems to have been formative.

In 2004, in response to the crimes of US personnel (including the murder of unarmed demonstrators) Fallujah rose in resistance to the US-led occupation.

Any so-called “Al Qaeda” who entered the city thereafter were drawn by the strength of the resistance there, they were not the cause of the resistance nor were they the target of the US assaults.

Now it seems that the current Iraqi government, a client of both the US and Iran, may be preparing to repeat the destruction and suffering wrought on the people of Fallujah in 2004.

**MORE**

## **In Iraqi City Under Siege, More Support For Militants Than Officials:**

**“In Falluja Many People Say They Hate The Government Even More Than Al Qaeda”**

**“We Have Real Men, And Just As We Showed The Americans What Kind Of**

**Men We Have, We Can Show Maliki  
And His Army” “We Are Going To  
Fight For Our City”  
“He Did Not Want To Live Under Al  
Qaeda Rule But Would Nevertheless  
Fight Against The Iraqi Army Should It  
Try To Retake Falluja”**



Militants who took control of Falluja last week rallied on Tuesday to warn the Iraqi Army not to enter the city, as officials in Baghdad held off on ordering an assault. Associated Press

**In the current fight for Falluja, many ordinary citizens would rather see their city in the hands of plain-clothed and masked militiamen — even if they do not understand their true allegiance — than under the control of soldiers loyal to the Shiite-controlled federal government.**

**A tribal leader in Falluja, warned that the army would face stiff resistance from tribal militias if it sought to enter the city.**

JAN. 7, 2014 By YASIR GHAZI and TIM ARANGOJAN, New York Times Company  
[Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — On a good day, the drive from Falluja to Baghdad takes less than an hour. On Sunday morning, with his city under siege, its morgue filled with bodies and people running low on food, water and generator fuel, Osama al-Ani packed his family of seven into his car and set off for the capital. The trip, with its constant checkpoints and vehicle searches, took more than 12 hours, he said.

Yet, even after being forced to flee for his family's safety, Mr. Ani remains more sympathetic to the militants who have set up checkpoints across his city than he is toward the central government.

"We had no food, no electricity and no water, and mortar shells were falling all around us," said Mr. Ani, who is staying with relatives in the Sunni neighborhood of Ameriya here.

"But many of us would rather support Al Qaeda than the army that has led to this massacre."

On Tuesday fierce clashes erupted again, while government forces with tanks and heavy weapons circled the city, waiting for orders from the prime minister.

In Baghdad, officials held off calling for an offensive, heeding pleas from local leaders inside Anbar who warned that civilian casualties would end any amount of support the government could count on from local tribes in routing Al Qaeda.

In Falluja many people say they hate the government even more than Al Qaeda, underscoring the difficulty facing Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki as he seeks to put down an escalating Sunni insurgency in Anbar Province with a forceful military offensive that he and his advisers have suggested could begin at any moment.

In a telephone interview in which he spoke in the swaggering tone the region is known for, Sheikh Mohamed al-Bachary, a tribal leader in Falluja, warned that the army would face stiff resistance from tribal militias if it sought to enter the city.

"The tribes in Falluja are the real tribes," he said. "We have real men, and just as we showed the Americans what kind of men we have, we can show Maliki and his army."

**Mr. Maliki has labeled nearly any expression of Sunni grievance as terrorism and the work of Al Qaeda, an approach that has made it harder to secure the support of moderate citizens and tribal leaders.**

**What had been a largely peaceful uprising in Syria has evolved into a civil war whose bloodshed is increasingly converging with Iraq's unrest, and analysts worry that Iraq could again find itself in the midst of a full-blown civil war.**

"We are going to fight for our city," said Saif al-Jumaily, a resident of Falluja who said he did not want to live under Al Qaeda rule but would nevertheless fight against the Iraqi Army should it try to retake Falluja.

**The government's shelling of Falluja in recent days, and its previous heavy-handed response to protests in the province, which prompted the recent fighting, has exacerbated the animosity among Sunnis toward the central government.**

In the current fight for Falluja, many ordinary citizens would rather see their city in the hands of plain-clothed and masked militiamen — even if they do not understand their true allegiance — than under the control of soldiers loyal to the Shiite-controlled federal government.

**An offer from Iran to give military aid to Mr. Maliki has also added to the sectarian tensions.**

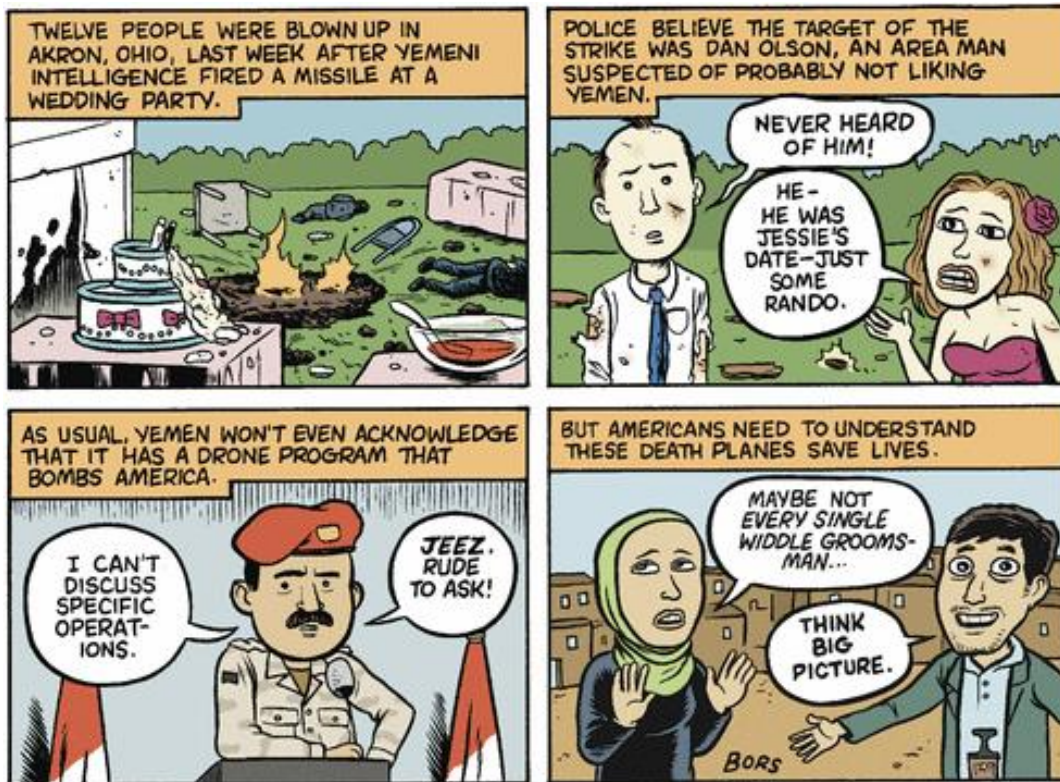
“I wonder, if one of the Shiite cities were controlled by gunmen, would Maliki give orders to shell the city, regardless of the families and the women and children?” asked Shaker Nazal, a Falluja resident.

**“Maliki and his army are taking the pretext of the existence of gunmen to raid our city and humiliate our people.”**

Some residents who recall the harsh and rigid codes of behavior imposed by Qaeda fighters who terrorized their communities last decade say the current fighters occupying their city are more accommodating, bringing fuel and opening bakeries and giving bread away.

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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# **White House Sees A Partner In The Bloody Tyrant Assad: “The White House Is Clearly In No Hurry To See Assad Go” “Officials Have Often Leaked How They Did Not Wish To See The Rebels Win Outright” “Indeed, The Administration’s Priority In Syria Has Not Been Regime Change, But Rather, Regime Continuity”**

There are signs that this type of thinking is already gaining ground in the White House. As the Journal reported, “some senior administration officials now privately talk about Mr. Assad’s staying for the foreseeable future and voice regret about the decision, in August 2011, to call for him to step aside.”

January 4, 2014 by Tony Badran, Now Media [Excerpts]

[W]hile 2013 was a particularly catastrophic year for US policy in Syria, 2014 promises to be even worse.

For if last year marked Washington’s official abandonment of the Syrian opposition, this may well be the year the White House begins the process of re-engaging Bashar al-Assad.

The White House is clearly in no hurry to see Assad go. This has been obvious for a while, as officials have often leaked how they did not wish to see the rebels win outright and how Assad’s departure at this time would lead to a jihadi takeover.

The White House’s focus in Syria is squarely on Sunni extremist groups. A Western diplomat recently summarized that position well: “Syria is now viewed as a security problem, not one about ousting Bashar and helping the Syrians get what they want.”

**Indeed, the administration’s priority in Syria has not been regime change, but rather, regime continuity.**

**Going back to 2012, administration officials have been talking about preserving so-called regime “institutions,” sometimes specifying they meant the security services and the military.**

For now, the public US position still says that Assad cannot be part of such an arrangement. In other words, Washington wants to keep the regime, but not Assad (and some of his closest aides).

This notion of retaining the regime without Assad goes back to the earliest days of the uprising, when the administration was looking for a quick fix through a “palace coup.” According to that scenario, senior Alawite officers would push Assad aside and present themselves as transitional figures who would bring the military and the Alawite community into a political settlement with the Sunnis.

And yet, this magical Alawite figure continues to prove elusive.

In reality, this scenario was always fictional.

They don’t call it “Souriya al-Assad” (“Assad’s Syria”) for nothing.

The notion that there was a deep state independent of the Assads betrays a poor understanding of how that family has engineered the regime over the past 40 years.

Equally fanciful is the notion that all that’s missing to make this scenario work is Russian and/or Iranian agreement to use their supposed influence to push Assad aside all while safeguarding the regime and their interests in it.

This is not to mention the silliness of expecting Syria’s Sunnis and their regional backers to buy in to a scenario that ensures not just continued Alawite domination over the state, but, through it, continued Iranian primacy in Syria.

The sheer impossibility of this scenario leads to one conclusion.

**If the US starting position is to keep the regime, it will soon become apparent that this is impossible without Assad.**

Consequently, the White House will lower its expectations and demands. For instance, instead of holding that Assad should play no role whatsoever, the US may well agree to him staying on as president, only with supposedly “limited authority.” And once that is conceded, the US position will continue to deteriorate from there.

There are signs that this type of thinking is already gaining ground in the White House. As the Journal reported, “some senior administration officials now privately talk about Mr. Assad’s staying for the foreseeable future and voice regret about the decision, in August 2011, to call for him to step aside.”

Moreover, Obama has purposely narrowed the US interest in Syria to a matter of arms control.

This will facilitate making the turn and dropping all demands for Assad’s departure.



As one senior administration official said, once Syria's chemical weapons have been fully removed, "the pressure on Assad to leave will be diminished." The chemical weapons deal, other officials said, gave Assad "considerable staying power" – something that clearly did not weigh heavily on Obama's mind.

This seems to be the trajectory for US policy in 2014.

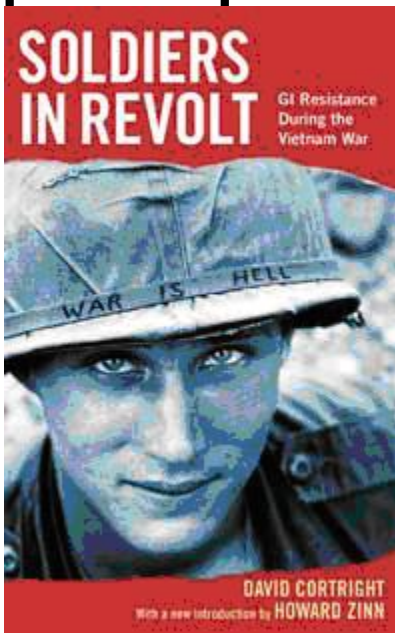
The White House has deliberately eliminated alternative courses of action that would force Assad out.

More importantly, it has conceptualized the Syrian conflict such that it does not see Assad and his regime as the central problem whose removal is the priority.

Rather, the path the White House has consciously charted in Syria is a one-way street leading back to Assad.

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## **FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY: A Vietnam Veteran Describes The Strategy And Tactics Used By Troops To Stop An Imperial War**



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