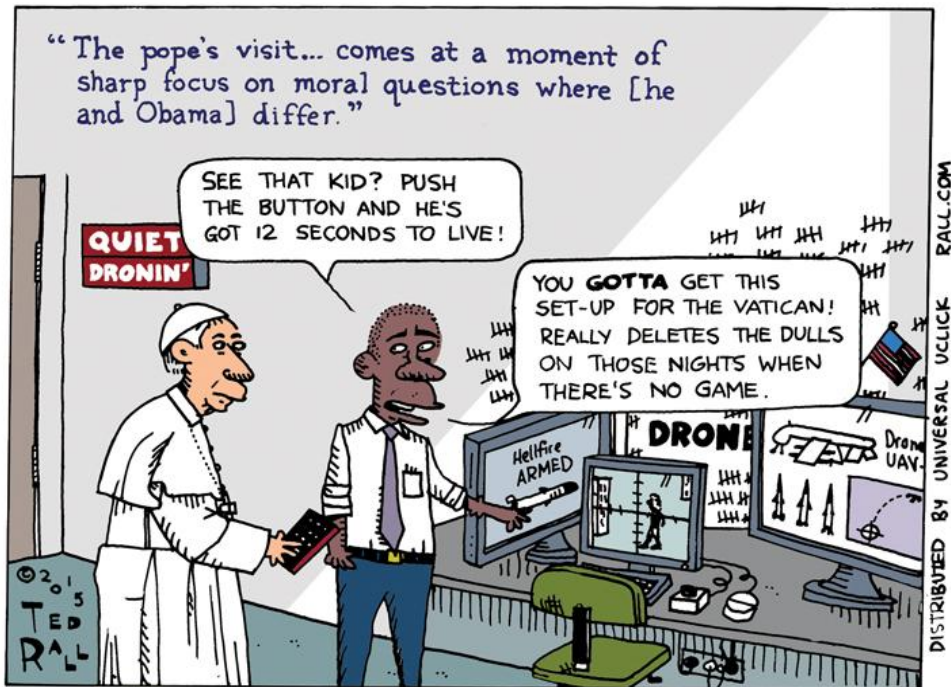


Military Resistance 13J1



“Kunduz, With A Population Of More Than 300,000 People, Is The First City To Fall To The Taliban Since The US Ejected The Group From Power In Late 2001 And 2002”

“‘This Wasn’t Supposed To Happen,’ Said A Senior American Military Officer”

“Several Hundred Insurgents Were Able To Cause The Collapse Of Several Thousand Troops Defending The City”

“A Major Victory For The Insurgents And A Humbling Defeat For Kabul And Its U.S. Allies”

Sept. 30, 2015 By MATTHEW ROSENBERG, New York Times & 2 October 2015 BBC & BY HAMID SHALIZI, Reuters & By Mirwais Khan and Lynne O'Donnell, Associated Press & 03 October 15 By ALISSA J. RUBIN, New York Times & The Daily Beast

Rights groups have expressed concern for the large numbers of civilians trapped in the Afghan city of Kunduz, amid fierce fighting between the Taliban and government troops.

Both sides are claiming to be in control of much of the city.

The Taliban took control of Kunduz City on Monday and despite sporadic but often intense fighting over the last three days, their white flag is still flying over the main square

The Taliban's pre-dawn assault on Kunduz on Monday caught the Afghan police and army by surprise, handing the militants arguably their biggest victory in 14 years of war.

American and Afghan officials appeared to be genuinely surprised at the speedy fall of Kunduz, which took place when Gen. John F. Campbell, the commander of coalition forces, was in Germany for a defense conference. He flew back to Afghanistan on Monday night.

Though the Taliban have been making gains in the hinterlands around Kunduz for months, American military planners have for years insisted that Afghan forces were capable of holding onto the country's major cities.

“This wasn't supposed to happen,” said a senior American military officer who served in Afghanistan, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

“The Afghans are fighting, so it's not like we're looking at them giving up or collapsing right now. They're just not fighting very well.”

The government of President Ashraf Ghani is trying to determine how a force of several hundred insurgents were able to cause the collapse of several thousand troops defending the city.

There is a battle still very much in progress, despite repeated Afghan government claims that the city has been retaken.

But one resident of Kunduz told the BBC that he disputes the government's claims that the city has been retaken, saying he could see no evidence of government troops there.

The Taliban advanced on Kunduz Airport after storming Kunduz city on Sept. 28. Kunduz, with a population of more than 300,000 people, is the first city to fall to the Taliban since the US ejected the group from power in late 2001 and 2002.

Fighting continued in other parts of the city, the seizure of which represented a major victory for the insurgents and a humbling defeat for Kabul and its U.S. allies.

Qul, like many in Kunduz, said he thought it was "stupid" to believe President Ashraf Ghani's assurances that he would protect the people there at any cost.

"I should not trust President Ghani's words," he said.

A Western diplomat in Kabul told The Daily Beast that U.S. forces seem to be focused more on the south of Afghanistan than they are on northern areas like Kunduz.

The diplomat said Ghani has found himself isolated as he tries to marshal resources to take back the city.

"No one listens to him and everyone — his rivals, the media — blames him for not being aggressive enough against the Taliban, and that makes his position weaker than ever," said the diplomat.

Michael Semple, professor at the Institute for the Study of Conflict, Transformation and Justice at Queen's University in Belfast, said the Taliban attack on Kunduz aimed to loot vehicles, weapons and ammunition.

But he said the battle should be a warning to Ghani that the Taliban have the battlefield discipline to plan and execute such operations.

MORE:

**As Regime Troops Pulled Away
To Join Kunduz Fighting,
Taliban Overrun Nearby
Districts Left Defenseless:**

“Some In The Nearby Provincial Capitals Preparing To Leave Rather Than Risk Being Trapped In A Taliban Assault”

“The Prospect Of A Domino Effect Worrying Western Military Strategists”

“The Reinforcements Move Very Slowly — They Send Five Or 10 Trucks Ahead And Then Stop When They Come Under Fire”

OCT. 1, 2015 By ALISSA J. RUBIN, New York Times & TOLONews.co & 2 October 2015 By Mirwais Khan and Lynne O'Donnell, Associated Press

Residents reached in parts of Kunduz Province beyond the city said that the Taliban remained in control in the district of Chardara.

That district is one of the most strategically important in the province because of a road to the largest city in Afghanistan's north, Mazar-i-Sharif, runs through it.

Meanwhile, the Taliban appeared to be taking advantage of a security void elsewhere as Afghan troops from neighboring provinces redeployed to Kunduz.

Taliban attacks forced government troops to withdraw from two districts in Badakhshan province, the provincial governor's spokesman Ahmad Nawid Frutan said, and there was further fighting in Takhar province. Both provinces are to the east of Kunduz.

To the south, a large group of Afghan soldiers who had set out days ago to help reinforce Kunduz remained mostly stuck in northern Baghlan Province, advancing painstakingly slowly as they were frequently halted by Taliban ambushes and roadblocks, officials said.

A reporter in Baghlan said the military convoy, with more than 1,000 soldiers, was moving several truck lengths at a time between halts.

“The Taliban blocked the Baghlan-Kunduz highway by placing sandbags on the road in several places; some of the forces crossed the roadblocks,” the reporter said.

“The reinforcements move very slowly — they send five or 10 trucks ahead and then stop when they come under fire.”

Some in the nearby provincial capitals — Pul-i-Kumri, in Baghlan Province south of Kunduz, and Taliqan in Takhar Province, to the east — said they were preparing to leave rather than risk being trapped in a Taliban assault.

In Takhar, people were further unnerved by reports that a northern district of the province had fallen to the Taliban on Thursday morning.

Taliban insurgents carried out a large scale attack on Khwaja Ghar district of Takhar province,

Mawolavi Hassin Hanif, a Takhar provincial council member, told TOLONews that Taliban insurgents launched the attack at about 3 am local time and captured the district.

“People are in a state of fear here,” said Ahmad Khalid, a resident of Kunduz who had fled to Taliqan on Thursday.

He said that as he walked around the city, he kept seeing other Kunduz residents who had sought refuge.

But Takhar residents were talking about getting out. “The people in Takhar are also preparing to leave. They fear this city will fall more easily than Kunduz.”

In Baghlan Province, the southeastern district of Tala Wa Barfak fell to the Taliban on Thursday.

The district, while sparsely populated, borders the majority Hazara province of Bamian and has one of the few east-west roads running through it.

Many Taliban in the past have viewed Hazaras as apostates.

The prospect of a domino effect in the country’s northeast with villages, districts and potentially another provincial capital falling under Taliban control was worrying Western military strategists as well.

They believe that the longer the Taliban can stave off a decisive counteroffensive by the government, the more momentum the insurgents will gain.

“The military leadership here is really frustrated with the Afghan leadership,” said one senior United States official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss confidential intelligence and operations assessments.

“They have not been able to maintain momentum.”

After American combat troops withdrew, the Taliban became more aggressive about facing down the Afghan security forces, inflicting record casualties. But until 2015, the insurgents had not assaulted a major city with the intent to hold it.

The Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Akhtar Muhammad Mansour, prevailed in an internal power struggle this summer and is now presiding over a sweeping insurgent offensive across northern Afghanistan.

In taking the northern city of Kunduz, and in other fights in the region, the insurgents are routing much larger forces of American-trained Afghan soldiers and police officers.

The Taliban are also keeping up major territorial fights in their traditional heartland, particularly in the southern province of Helmand and in Nangarhar in the east.

The roads through both provinces lead across the Amu Darya river to Tajikistan, making them some of the country's most lucrative drug routes.

They are used by traffickers moving opium from the poppy prolific provinces in the south to Tajikistan and on to Kyrgyzstan from which the opium or heroin finds its way across Central Asia and to Russia and Europe.

Whoever controls the roads gets to take a cut, and the Taliban have long financed themselves in part through poppy production.

A second benefit is the rich agricultural land in Kunduz and Takhar, which if they controlled the province they could use both as a source of income by taxing harvests and to sustain themselves if they were unable to obtain goods from other parts of the country.

"Last year in February and March we decided that the military struggle in the south had made no significant gains," said Commander Hajji Qadir, a Taliban commander in a district of Badakhshan Province, Waduj, that fell to the insurgents on Thursday.

"Therefore military offensives should begin in the northern region, particularly the four northeastern provinces," he said, adding that they appeared "strategic and valuable."

Even if the Taliban are forced to withdraw from the city of Kunduz, this recent show of strength will only make it that much easier for them to levy a share of the local commerce — be that wheat or drug trafficking.

In Kunduz, the Taliban were deploying a variety of tactics, including using the homes of locals to hide and wearing Afghan security force uniforms to confuse their enemies.

Hundreds of civilians and members of the government forces had been holed up in the airport south of Kunduz since Monday, and reinforcements sent from other provinces have been delayed or halted by Taliban resistance in outlying areas.

MORE:

Taliban Surround 200 Soldiers In Sar-e-Pul's Kohistanat District: "Soldiers Surrounded By Taliban Would Be Killed If Air Support Does Not Immediately Arrive There"

Oct 03 2015 By KHAAMA PRESS

Taliban militants have launched a coordinated attack on Kohistanat District of northern Sar-e-Pul province.

According to reports, Taliban launched attack on the center of Kohistanat District from four sides last night.

Noor Mohammad Rahmani, head of the Provincial Council of Sar-e-Pul said that heavy clashes have been erupting between security forces and Taliban.

He said routes leading to the district center have been closed, adding that soldiers surrounded by Taliban would be killed if air support does not immediately arrive there.

Rahmani said that he had a video conference with President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani this morning and let him know about the situation.

Meanwhile, Asadullah Khuram another member of this Shura says that more than 200 soldiers have been surrounded by Taliban.

He said around 600 Taliban are taking part in the attack.

MORE:

Taliban Overruns Another 2 Districts In Afghan North: "The Taliban Has Seized 10 Districts In Five Provinces As Well As The Provincial Capital Of Kunduz In The Span Of Span Of Five Days"

October 2nd, 2015 By Bill Roggio, The Long War Journal. Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of The Long War Journal.

As fighting in the city of Kunduz continues, the Taliban seized two more districts in the Afghan north. The district of Wardoj, which has switched hands in the past, and Baharak were overrun during Taliban assaults over the past two days, the jihadist group and Afghan officials reported.

The Taliban said it “launched coordinated attacks on enemy positions” in the district yesterday morning, which culminated in the capture of the district center, the administration center, and dozens of bases and outposts.

The claim was published on Voice of Jihad, the Taliban’s official website.

The Taliban claimed it killed 50 Afghan security personnel while losing three of its own fighters, and captured “2 APCs (armored personnel carriers, likely Humvees), 2 pickup trucks, a ZPU-1 gun, 3 DShK heavy machine guns, 2 mortar tubes and a sizable amount of other arms and ammunition.” The Taliban routinely inflate the number of Afghan personnel killed during an engagement.

Dawlat Mohammad Khawar, the district governor for Wardoj, “confirmed that the Afghan security forces have retreated from Wardoj following hours of gun battle with the Taliban militants,” Khaama Press reported.

Additionally, the Taliban overran the Baharak district in Badakhshan.

“On Friday Mujahideen stormed the district and after intense fighting with the enemy and soon seized control of the district as well as overrunning a number of the checkpoints based near the district headquarters for the security arrangements,” the Taliban stated on Voice of Jihad.

Badakhshan has become increasingly unstable over the past several years. Both the Taliban and the allied Islamic Jihad Union have been active in Badakhshan. The district of Yamgan is said to be under Taliban control since late June 2015, while the districts of Argo, Jurm, and Kishim are considered to be contested.

Wardoj and Baharak are the latest districts to fall to the Taliban since the provincial capital of Kunduz was overrun on Sept. 28.

The Taliban has seized 10 districts in five provinces (Wardoj and Baharak in Badakhshan; Khak-e-Safid in Farah; Khwaja Ghar, Yangi Qala, Ishkamish, and Bangi districts in Takhar; Khanabad and Qala-i-Zal in Kunduz; and Talaw Barfak in Baghlan), as well as the provincial capital of Kunduz in the span of span of five days.

MORE:

The Taliban Has Made Significant Gains In The North Since Launching Its Offensive In Kunduz This Spring: “In Addition To Taking Effective Control Of Kunduz Province, The Taliban Likely Overran Three Districts In The Neighboring Province Of Takhar”

September 30, 2015 By Bill Roggio, Long War Journal. [Excerpt] Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of The Long War Journal.

The Taliban has made significant gains in the north since launching its offensive in Kunduz this spring.

The districts of Imam Sahib, Aliabad, and Qala-i-Zal were overrun in the initial assault, while Chardara and Dasht-i-Archi fell in mid-June. Khanabad fell under Taliban control the same day that Kunduz fell.

Of the seven districts in the province, only the districts of Kunduz and Imam Sahib are contested.

In addition to taking effective control of Kunduz province, the Taliban likely overran three districts in the neighboring province of Takhar. The Taliban claimed to overrun the district centers in Yangi Qala, Ishkamish, and Bangi. While the reports have not been independently confirmed, the Taliban has accurately reported the takeover of districts in the past.

In the southwest part of the country, the Taliban also claimed it overran the district of Khaki Safid in Farah province. The district has been contested for at least a year, and also was the scene of fighting between the Taliban and the Islamic State in late May.

MORE:

The Taliban Has Made Significant Advances Throughout The Country This Year:

“Early This Morning, The Taliban Claimed That It Overran The Khaki Safid District In The Southwestern Province Of Farah’

September 30, 2015 By Bill Roggio, Long War Journal. [Excerpt] Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of The Long War Journal.

The Taliban has made significant advances throughout the country this year, despite the presence of nearly 10,000 US soldiers and thousands of NATO troops.

As the Taliban presses its northern offensive in Kunduz and Takhar provinces, the group has also continued to attack the Afghan government and military in other theaters.

Early this morning, the Taliban claimed that it overran the Khaki Safid district in the southwestern province of Farah.

“Mujahideen of Islamic Emirate (Taliban) in western Farah province launched a large scale attack midnight on Khak-e-Safid district center and all surrounding enemy positions,” the Taliban stated on its official website, Voice of Jihad. “The assault resulted in Mujahideen taking over the district administration building, police HQ, a large ANA (Afghan army) outpost and all surrounding enemy defense check posts as well as causing the enemy deadly losses and seizing a sizable amount of enemy arms and equipment.”

The Taliban claim cannot be independently confirmed as the reporting in Afghanistan has focused on the deteriorating situation in Kunduz.

But in the past, the Taliban has been accurate in its reporting of districts said to have been taken.

Khaki Safid district has been contested for the past year, according to reports from the area.

“There are four administrations in Khaki Safid,” an Afghan farmer told Reuters earlier this year.

“One is the governor. Another is Afghan local police. Another is the Taliban. Another is Daish,” he added, using the title popular in South Asia for Islamic State.

The Taliban clashed with the forces of the Islamic State Khorasan Province in Khaki Safid in late May, and repelled an attempt to seize the district.

If the Taliban's takeover of Khaki Safid is confirmed, the jihadist group has taken five districts in three provinces (Khak-e-Safid in Farah; Yangi Qala, Ishkamish, and Bangi districts in Takhar; Khanabad in Kunduz) and the provincial capital of Kunduz in the span of three days.

Six U.S. Airmen And 5 Mercenaries Among 14 Killed in C-130 Cargo Plane Crash in Afghanistan

10.1.15 AP & October 2, 2015 ABC Radio

Ten Americans were among the 14 people killed by the crash of an Air Force C-130J cargo plane Thursday night as it took off from an airfield in eastern Afghanistan, authorities said Friday.

Investigators are focusing on an engine failure or the clipping of a security barrier as possible causes for the crash.

The crash killed six American service members and five civilian passengers, whom defense officials said were contractors.

A Defense Department official told ABC News that four of the five contractors were also Americans.

The Department of Defense has identified the six American airmen killed when a U.S. Air Force military transport plane crashed in eastern Afghanistan.

The airmen were identified Saturday as: Capt. Jonathan Golden, 33, of Camarillo, California; Capt. Jordan Pierson, 28, of Abilene, Texas; Staff Sgt. Ryan Hammond, 26, of Moundsville, West Virginia; Senior Airman Quinn Johnson-Harris, 21, of Milwaukee; Senior Airman Nathan Sartain, 29, of Pensacola, Florida; and Airman 1st Class Kcey Ruiz, 21, of McDonough, Georgia.

Golden, Pierson, Hammond and Johnson-Harris were based at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene. Sartain and Ruiz were based at Hanscom Air Force Base in Massachusetts.

The Air Force C-130J was assigned to the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, part of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing and crashed at 12:19 a.m. at Jalalabad Airfield in eastern Afghanistan, the Air Force said in a statement confirming the crash.

The official said that three Afghan security personnel were also killed on the ground by the crash.

"The aircraft crash site is contained wholly within the confines of the airfield," said Major Tony Wickman, a spokesman for the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing in Afghanistan.

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

**Many Dead As U.S. Condemned
For ‘Horrific Bombing’ Of
Doctors Without Borders
Hospital:**

**“The American Military Continuing
The Bombing For 30 Minutes After
Receiving Phone Calls Telling
Military Contacts That The
Hospital Was Being Bombed”**

**”The Hospital Had Been A Refuge In
The Shattered City”**

**“Early On, The Taliban Had Respected
The Hospital’s Request Not To Bring
Weapons Inside, According To Staff
Members”**

03 October 15 By Sune Engel Rasmussen, Guardian UK & By ALISSA J. RUBIN, New York Times & The Daily Beast

The United States has been condemned for allegedly launching a fatal airstrike on a Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) hospital in Afghanistan and continuing the bombardment after being informed of the damage by the charity.

Qul, a carpet dealer, said the MSF hospital was burning in the night. "First we suffer from a warlord, then the last five days from the Taliban, and now from the U.S. Air Force," he said by phone.

At least nineteen doctors and patients were killed and dozens more people were injured at the facility in the besieged city of Kunduz after it appeared to have been targeted in an aerial bombardment early on Saturday.



Georgia Novello, a nurse in Kabul, comforted an 8-year-old girl wounded, along with her mother, in an airstrike in Kunduz. Victor J. Blue for The New York Times

One American official said early reports indicated that the attack may have been carried out by an American AC-130 gunship that was supporting Special Operations forces on the ground in Kunduz

The gunship is the air frame of an Air Force C-130, four-propeller transport aircraft but fitted with a range of powerful weapons, including cannon and heavy automatic weapons. It routinely is assigned to support troops on the ground.

Video of the hospital grounds posted Saturday showed fires still burning, blackened walls and, in one building, a collapsed ceiling.

The airstrike Saturday set off fires that were still burning hours later, and a nurse who managed to climb out of the debris described seeing colleagues so badly burned that they had died.

The hospital nurse, who asked not to be identified because he had instructions not to speak to reporters, said that two nurses had been killed, as well as three doctors, a pharmacist and two guards.

“Most of my colleagues died in the fire after the bombing,” he said.

“A few are still missing, they might have been buried in the rubble,” he said, declining to give his name because employees of Doctors Without Borders are not allowed to speak to reporters without authorization.

Another nurse described treating himself because there was no one to help him.

“When the bombing occurred, we were treating patients; then we lost our way, everyone stumbled and fumbled to escape,” the nurse said. “I don’t even remember how I got out.”



A U.S. airstrike damaged much of the Doctors Without Borders hospital in Kunduz.
(MSF/AFP/Getty Images)

Although the hospital was overwhelmed in recent days by civilians wounded in the fighting, and was running short of supplies, staff members continued to work.

Early on, the Taliban had respected the hospital’s request not to bring weapons inside, according to staff members, and the hospital had been a refuge in the shattered city.

MSF said large portions of the hospital were completely destroyed and it expected the death toll to rise.

It claimed GPS coordinates of the hospital had been widely circulated to all parties fighting in the conflict.

In a statement, the aid group, which is also known by its French initials, MSF, accused the American military of continuing the bombing for 30 minutes after receiving phone calls telling military contacts that the hospital was being bombed.

At the time of the bombing, 105 patients and their carers, and more than 80 MSF international and national staff were in the hospital.

At least 37 staff members were wounded in the incident, it said.

The US, which has been involved in airstrikes in the country in an attempt to repel Taliban fighters, said a strike on Kunduz may have caused “collateral damage”.

An MSF spokesman said the organisation condemned “in the strongest possible terms the horrific bombing of its hospital in Kunduz full of staff and patients”.

A statement added: “MSF wishes to clarify that all parties to the conflict, including in Kabul and Washington, were clearly informed of the precise location (GPS coordinates) of the MSF facilities – hospital, guesthouse, office and an outreach stabilisation unit in Chardara (to the north-west of Kunduz).

“As MSF does in all conflict contexts, these precise locations were communicated to all parties on multiple occasions over the past months, including most recently on 29 September.

“The bombing continued for more than 30 minutes after American and Afghan military officials in Kabul and Washington were first informed. MSF urgently seeks clarity on exactly what took place and how this terrible event could have happened.”

Human Rights Watch said it had “grave concerns about whether US forces took sufficient precautions to identify and avoid striking the facility”.

Patricia Gossman, a senior researcher at the NGO, said: “The bombing of the hospital is a shocking development for Kunduz, where civilians and aid workers are already at grave risk from the fighting. All forces are obligated to do their utmost to avoid causing civilian harm.”

The group called for an impartial investigation to establish the circumstances of the attack, and urged the US to review its targeting procedures to ensure such incidents do not reoccur.

The US airstrikes come after days of fighting over the town.

Sarwar Husaini, a spokesman for Kunduz police, claimed Taliban fighters had entered the hospital compound on Friday evening and were firing at security forces from inside. MSF has not responded to the allegation.

An MSF staff member, who was on duty at the time, told the Guardian: “I was inside my office. Around 2am, the plane started bombing the main building of MSF. It lasted one and a half hours. After 3.30am, I came out from my office and saw all of the hospital was on fire.”

A spokesman for the US military confirmed a strike took place early on Saturday morning.

“US forces conducted an airstrike in Kunduz city at 2:15am (local time) on 3 October against individuals threatening the force. The strike may have resulted in collateral damage to a nearby medical facility. This incident is under investigation,” said Col Brian Tribus, spokesman for international forces in Afghanistan.

Adil Akbar, a doctor at the trauma centre who was on duty at the time, told the Associated Press the operating theatre, emergency room and other parts of the hospital complex had been hit.

“I managed to escape after the attack but I know that most of the staff and even some of the patients are missing,” he said.

A relative of another doctor working at the hospital said his cousin had been killed in the strike. Nasratullah, 22, told the Guardian that Akbar, a 25-year-old not thought to be related to Adil, was in the Kunduz facility at the time.

“He had been working in the hospital for a long time. He was a famous doctor,” he said.

Afghan special forces have been battling to retake the city with the help of international special forces advising on the ground, as well as US airstrikes. Since fighting broke out on Monday, MSF had treated 394 wounded people in Kunduz.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

“It Is Not Lack Of Training That Breeds Killer Cops, But The Training, Itself”

“Fatal Scenarios Recur With Numbing Regularity Because The Cops Are Trained In Standardized Tactics Of Armed Occupation”

“The Essential U.S. Police Mission Has Been Military In Nature – Certainly In The Black Community, But Applicable In Calibrated Form Generally In The Country”

09/16/2015 by BAR executive editor Glen Ford, Black Agenda Report

There is no military gear on display in the video of a New York City cop’s take-down of James Blake as the Black former tennis pro leaned against a pole in front of a Manhattan Grand Hyatt hotel – just a white guy in a t-shirt suddenly body-slaming a totally inoffensive person into the sidewalk.

But, in fact, the assault on Blake by officer James Francatore, part of a squad of six plainclothes cops prowling the hotel lobby on East 42nd Street, is a prime example of the militarization of policing in the United States.

Police behavior – the routine tactics they employ “in the line of duty” – is the best indicator of the actual police mission in the community – better, even, than the inanimate equipment they drive around in or carry.

Although Blake was not seriously injured, his case shares an essential commonality with that of Tamir Rice, the 12-year-old shot dead by a white Cleveland cop while playing with a toy gun in a neighborhood park, last November.

No tanks or machine guns were involved in that case, either – just a cop with a pistol who shot a Black child from only a few feet away within two seconds of pulling up in an ordinary squad car.

The behavior of the victims is incidental to the actual mission of the police.

Blake was on the ground with the cop’s knee in his back before he seemed to realize he was under attack. Afterwards, the one-time Harvard student shuddered at the thought of what would have happened if he had put his hands up in a “normal reaction...to defend myself.”

The Cleveland cop gave Tamir Rice no time at all to put away childish toys, before neutralizing the target.

For decades, the essential U.S. police mission has been military in nature – certainly in the Black community, but applicable in calibrated form generally in the country.

Routine police behavior closely tracks the U.S. armed forces field manual tactical operations guidance on “strike campaigns” to “find, fix, destroy, and capture” the enemy. Speed and decisiveness of action are emphasized, for rapid engagement.

The routine police practice of suddenly slamming people to the ground on the slightest pretext – or for no reason at all except to establish immediate control of the person or area – and then pinning them in place with knees or feet to the neck and back, or with the full weight of multiple cops (often yelling “Stop resisting! Stop resisting!” whether there is resistance or not) is a relatively recent development.

U.S. cops have always been brutal, but in their own ways. Today’s police bum-rush – which can be observed on Cops, the TV show, any day of the week – is clearly a national phenomenon, a standardized tactic.

Cops all over the country engage in similar tactics in street encounters, rapidly closing in on “subjects” (like young, innocent Tamir) and shooting them, afterwards claiming the officer’s life was in danger because of physical proximity to the unarmed victim.

The tactic – moving rapidly to close with the targeted individual – justifies the fatal outcome, whether the victim was engaged in criminal activity or not.

If Blake had reacted like a “normal” person in the instant that the cop attacked, the 34 year-old athlete would likely be dead.

These fatal scenarios recur with numbing regularity because the cops are trained in standardized tactics of armed occupation. Black people are killed under roughly the same circumstances in all parts of the nation because cops everywhere are getting the same training.

It is not lack of training that breeds killer cops, but the training, itself.

Under the militarized policing regime, the exercise of individual police “command” authority over civilians has been weaponized to an unprecedented degree.

To be sure, cops have always extrajudicially executed Black people – although the national failure to gather such data from local police departments makes assessment of the relative frequency of past and present killings nearly impossible to determine.

However, with the advent of federal funding and direction of local police, dating from the beginnings of the national Black mass incarceration regime in the late Sixties, the procedures and legal theory behind invocation of police authority have been generalized and nationalized, as well.

A cop’s verbal exclamation, when characterized as a “lawful order” or “command,” becomes a license to kill.

Once the order has been issued – no matter how outlandish, or even impossible to comply with – failure to obey is a crime and the basis for rapid escalation of the conflict. Individuals or groups can easily be maneuvered into non-compliance with police orders, followed quickly by death.

Every cop knows this, thanks to decades of standardized police training as armed occupiers.

U.S. police are well trained, in the same way that U.S. Special Forces are well trained.

The problem with both, is their mission. Green Berets are professional assassins and terrorists.

U.S. police specialize in containing, controlling, terrorizing and incarcerating Black people, killing many hundreds every year in the process.

Since 1968, with the creation of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, the federal government has spent billions training and equipping local police. Homeland Security and the Pentagon have left their indelible mark on U.S. policing.

Last summer, two months before a Ferguson cop killed Michael Brown, 32 members of the Congressional Black Caucus voted against a measure that would have halted the transfer of Pentagon weapons (and the accompanying training) to local police departments. Israel has also played a major role in training U.S. cops.

It is nonsense to ask for more “training” for police, unless their mission of armed occupation of Black communities is cancelled, first.

The next step would be to ask these Black communities if they want the police there at all, or would prefer to organize their own security, consistent with the principle of self-determination.

There is no U.S. police department or federal agency that is qualified to assist in training cops to serve the Black community, because that has never been done in the United States.

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

MILITARY NEWS

Senate Panel Oks Letting VA Docs Give Advice On Medical Marijuana

[Late Report]



[High Times graphic]

MAY 22, 2015 BY ANDREW TAYLOR, ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) -- A Senate panel Wednesday approved a plan to permit veterans to receive information about medical marijuana from their government doctors.

The proposal by freshman Sen. Steve Daines would lift a rule blocking Department of Veterans Affairs doctors from discussing the pros or cons of medical pot with their patients. They would still not be able to prescribe it.

Daines said veterans should be able to "talk openly and freely with their doctor about all options available to them."

The Appropriations Committee approved the measure by an 18-12 vote as an amendment to a bill funding the Department of Veterans Affairs. Four Republicans joined with panel Democrats in support of the move.

Twenty-three states and the District of Columbia permit the use of medical marijuana, which advocates say helps with conditions like chronic pain, glaucoma, anxiety, and nausea from chemotherapy or drugs to combat HIV.

The measure narrowly failed the House last month by a 213-210 vote.

In addition to Daines and every panel Democrat, GOP Sens. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, and Bill Cassidy of Louisiana voted for the amendment.

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

**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**

The Oregon Massacre

I thought I was only betrayed in Vietnam, until I began to realize the full extent of that betrayal throughout my boyhood. When I came back from Vietnam, I hated my government for lying to me, until I came to see the overwhelming evidence that the gun was put into my hands when I went to a toy store, and was further indoctrinated to believe that the glorification of war was essential to the American way of life. Intellectually this all made sense, but emotionally, it affected every area of my life, as this devastating wound went far beyond the intellect.

*Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam*



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: October 01, 2015
Subject: The Oregon Massacre

The Oregon Massacre

Like most people around this country, we are shocked once again by a school shooting.

This time it occurred in Roseburg, Oregon, a town that is located about 180 miles south of Portland, where I currently live.

13 students were murdered, and 20 injured.

The death toll could certainly go higher.

39 years ago I applied to the nursing program at Umpqua Community College, where the shootings occurred.

I went to the campus to fill out an application form.

I was later accepted to a nursing school in Portland.

Roseburg is a town I have been to many times over the years since I moved to Oregon in 1972.

Shortly before I found out about the shootings, I had just finished reading an article in The New York Times about 13 American soldiers who committed suicide from the same unit that

was deployed to Afghanistan in 2008.
When they came back from war, they simply
could no longer take the emotional trauma.
Their own sense of betrayal by their own
government was the hidden catalyst that
collectively put the gun to their own heads.
It is what I call, Political Incest.
"It is the great truth that has great silence."

Everything is interconnected, as we connect
the dots to what just happened in Roseburg.
The picture I chose to attach to this email was
taken in 1992 at a Veterans Day Parade in
Albany, Oregon. The First Gulf War had just
ended, and the American public was cheering
about this great victory.
The photo was taken of a group of boys who
were on a long flatbed truck along the parade
route. Most of the boys were around 12 years
old, as they pointed their plastic guns at people
along the route of the parade.
I simply kept my mouth shut, as I took many
photos of the boys acting out their bravado.
This is one of the things that antiwar activists
are so capable of doing-- we connect the dots.
We connect the insanity.
We connect the "Why" question.
We connect the ramifications of living in an
obedient society, so American corporations
can make a killing off of war.
The school shootings are all interwoven into
the very fabric of the American Empire.

Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
October 1, 2015

Since the end of World War II, America
has bombed 29 countries. More Vietnam
veterans have committed suicide than were
killed in Vietnam. 22 American veterans
commit suicide every 24 hours in this country.
I just did a fact check on school shootings in the
United States, and according to Wikipedia, since
1992, there have been 212 school shootings.

The water in a vessel is sparkling.
The water in the sea is dark.
The small truth has words that are clear.
The great truth has great silence.
Rabindranath Tagore

Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

Bond Market Crisis:

Comment: T

Concerning vast sums of capital that have not been invested in production of commodities, as a consequence of world wide overcapacity and general falling rates of profit:

For several weeks, the Wall Street Journal has been carefully publishing warnings of a bond bubble crisis brought on by the collapse in major sections of the market for corporate bonds, and bonds of nations that relied on exports to China, and consequently those entities, including banks, stuffed full of those bonds.

t would appear from the content that the risk is not distant.

As Galbraith once wrote of the 1929 stock bubble: "The end had come, but it was not yet in sight."

There is a possibility that the collapse of Glencore may bring on the crisis:

"Glencore Shares Plunge as Debt Fears Rattle Investors"

"Problems at Glencore could quickly infect other parts of the financial system and trading market. "The company has credit with most of the world's biggest banks. It is a major transporter of oil and food around the globe."

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/glencore-sinks-to-all-time-low-on-continued-debt-fears-1443435063>

MORE:

"Debt-Market Tumult Hits Corporate-Bond Sales"

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/debt-market-tumult-hits-corporate-bond-sales-1443480855>

"Bonds Flash Warning Sign"

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-bonds-flash-warning-sign-1443382940>

"Investors" Pull Back From Junk Bonds:

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/investors-pull-back-from-junk-bonds-1443410976>

Empires Go To Hell

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance
Sent: September 29, 2010
Subject: Empires Go To Hell by Dennis

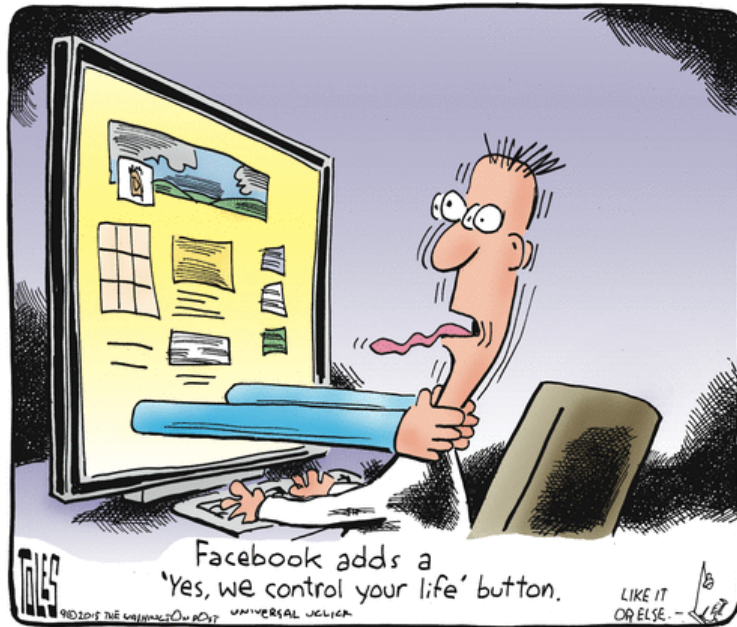
**Written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2010; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour)
Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree**

Empires Go To Hell

the heat seeps through the helmet
boils the sheet metal on all the desert
camouflaged trucks and vehicles
the oversized rucksack pulls
on the shoulders
grinds away on the gut
everybody is not fighting the war
only a few considering
all the Soldiers around the world
this long war is taking its toll
like sores eating the brain
the body is beginning to ache
the head the back the legs
grind on but the pain pills
only help but can't cure exhaustion
they can't give back
the days the months the years
who can't count all the steps
nobody can count the miles
and waiting feel the minutes
the hours the days then go on
wasting a life for this battlefield
that goes back to blood on the soil
to every invasion by all sorts
of empires in the past
where only cemeteries

and memorials remain
the world must get rid of empires
all they do is invade and rape
small countries for any type
of gold the little countries have
but the empires may be
brought down within
and work against the empires
of the world until there
are no empires anymore.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Zionist Security Cabinet Votes
Unanimously To Permit The Use Of
Sniper-Fire Against Stone Throwers**

In Circumstances Where An Officer's Life Is Not At Imminent Risk: “Since The Beginning Of The Year 27 Palestinians Have Been Killed By Israeli Forces With Live-Fire”

September 24, 2015 by Allison Deger, Mondoweiss [Excerpts]

Israel's security cabinet voted unanimously Thursday evening to permit the use of sniper-fire against stone throwers in circumstances where an officer's life is not at imminent risk.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu proposed the changes and declared the increased measures were a “fight against those who throw rocks and firebombs, and shoot fireworks.”

“Until recently police would open fire only when their own lives were in danger. As of now, they will be permitted to open fire – and they will know that they have the right to open fire – when they face danger to any lives,” Netanyahu said.

In addition to relaxing the regulations on live-fire, Israel also approved harsher punishments for children.

Minors aged 14 to 18 will now be sentenced in prison for throwing projectiles and their parents will face fines.

Child welfare benefits will also be revoked for convicted children.

A mandatory minimum sentence of four years will be given to adults found guilty of throwing stones or firebombs with a possible maximum sentence of up to 20 years.

The security cabinet noted that they will seek legislation in Knesset in order to authorize this maximum sentence.

Since the beginning of the year 27 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces with live-fire. Yesterday the Israeli military shot and killed both a Palestinian teenage women, 18-year old college student Hadil al-Hashlamon, and a 21-year old Palestinian man.

**To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:
<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/>
The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”**

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?

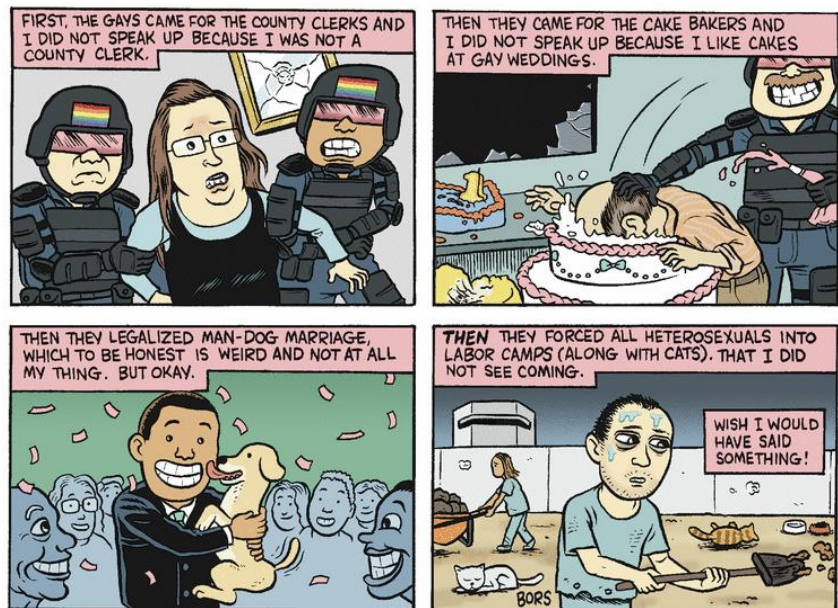
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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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