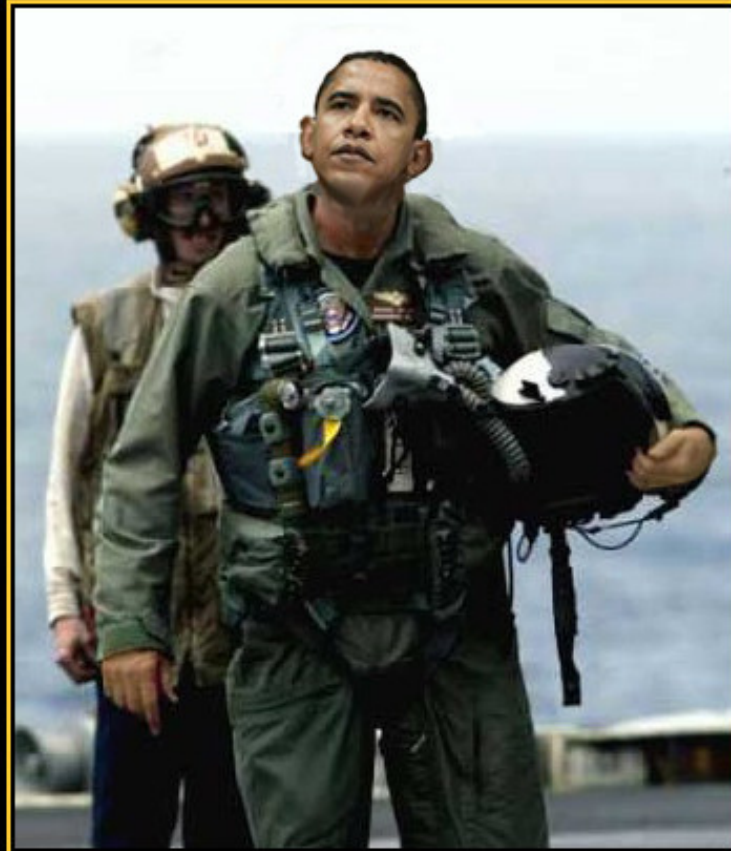


GI Special: thomasbarton@earthlink.net

6.19.09

Print it out: color best. Pass it on.

GI SPECIAL 7F11:



WAR

IT'S A GOOD THING WHEN I WAGE IT - TRUST ME - I MADE A
SPEECH ONCE SO I KNOW

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in.]

Democrat Congressional Slime Vote \$106 Billion For Imperial Wars: Murderous Rats Vote To Give Obama All The Money He Wants To Kill More U.S. Troops, Iraqis & Afghans: “What Once Democrats Could Argue Was ‘Bush's War,’ They Now Officially Own”

June 17, 2009 By Jeremy Scahill, AlterNet & By Jim Abrams, The Associated Press
[Excerpts]

In a vote that should go down in recent histories as a day of shame for the Democrats, on Tuesday the House voted to approve another \$106 billion dollars for the bloody wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (and increasingly Pakistan).

To put a fine point on the interconnection of the iron fist of U.S. militarism and the hidden hand of free market neoliberal economics, the bill included a massive initiative to give the International Monetary Fund billions more in U.S. taxpayer funds.

What once Democrats could argue was “Bush's war,” they now officially own.

Only 30 Democrats voted against the war funding when it mattered.

That means that only 30 out of 256 Democrats are willing to stand up to the war and the current president presiding over it.

Under the leadership of Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid, the Democratic-controlled Congress has been a house of war.

To paraphrase Bush, it was one of those days when we truly discover who is for war and who is against it.

The Senate passed the measure on a one-sided 91-5 vote despite complaints from several senators about the add-ons that pushed the total more than \$20 billion above the funding request Obama made two months ago.

The House approved the bill Wednesday by a much closer 226-202 vote.

Congress has passed such bills every year since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and with enactment of this legislation the amount will near \$1 trillion, with about 70 percent going to the conflict in Iraq.

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

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Jasper Soldier Killed In Iraq Blast

Jun 08, 2009 Elane Jones, Eagle Reporter, Daily Mountain Eagle

If a life was measured by how much someone is loved by others, then 23-year-old Army Corporal Charles Dustin "Dusty" Parrish's life would most likely be immeasurable, and his family believes it is.

"Dusty was the kind of kid growing up who everyone liked," Parrish's sister, Tasha Parrish, said about her fallen brother. "He was kind and funny and could tease and comfort. He caused the kind of trouble boys typically do and was always screening our (his sisters') boyfriends."

Tasha said her brother played several sports and really knew how to be a member of a team.

"We always expected great things from him, even from as early as his toybowl football and baseball days," she said. "As he grew up, in stature, age and character, he befriended many people and did his best to help them through hard times."

Parrish was well-liked by his teachers and coaches, according to his family who loved him deeply. And he loved them.

"Dusty was close to all of his brothers and sisters growing up as well as our grandfather, Charles Parrish," Tasha said. "But, he was especially close to our parents and our brother K.J. and sister Brooke, and his best friend, Luke Herring."

Tasha said her brother got married in 2004 to Ashley Alred and in 2005 they had their first and only son, Caden Lawson Parrish.

“Dusty chose the name Lawson in honor of one of his classmate’s who had passed away shortly before Caden was born,” Tasha said. “Caden is a spitting image of Dusty in both looks and heart.”

Tasha said her brother joined the Army in 2006 and left for basic training in early 2007 at Fort Sills. After being stationed in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., he was deployed to Iraq in March 2008.

Parrish was assigned to the 5th Engineering Battalion, 555th Engineering Brigade out of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and while in Iraq, he served as an army medic with a team that searched for and disarmed roadside bombs.

Parrish died Thursday, June 4, in Balad, Iraq, of wounds he suffered earlier that day in Jalula, Iraq, when his vehicle was struck by an anti-tank grenade.

“Dusty was proud to be an Army medic, serving not only his family and country, but also the other soldiers who were also risking their lives,” Tasha said. “In fact, about halfway through his 15-month tour, Dusty’s Hum-V ran over an IED, with Dusty the only one sustaining any injury. He had a concussion and was off from work for a few days, but he didn’t let that stop him.”

Tasha said her brother told his family that it had been hard for him to go back out on the next mission, but he went back early because he didn’t want his men to be out there without their medic.

“Dusty had such a short life, but there’s no doubt in his 23 years that he impacted many,” Tasha said. “He was a great man, a true hero, an American hero, and he will be greatly missed by all of us.”

Parrish’s brother, K.J. Parrish, said if there was one thing he had learned over his lifetime, is that losing a loved one always raises questions about ourselves and forces us to evaluate our own lives.

“We ask ourselves if we were as close to our loved one as we needed to be, and did we leave things as they ought to be?” K.J. said. “Did our loved one know just how much we loved him? And finally, we begin to examine our own mortality. How frail we are, and whether or not we’ve begun to accomplish anything that we consider important.”

K.J. said his brother looked out for others, never turning his back on friends in need.

“Dusty was always the best of friends to anyone who ever needed one,” K.J. said. “Not one to turn his back on someone in need, Dusty was known to give his all for anyone need help. His relationship with his family and friends was meticulously maintained and the love between us cultivated and continuously growing.”

K.J. said upon parting ways with his brother, or even wrapping up a phone call with him, the compassion he felt for those around him was evident and so strong, it could almost be physically felt.

“He was always one to make sure his friends and family knew how much they meant to him. He never needed to worry needlessly should the words shared upon parting with him ended up being our last,” K.J. said. “Knowing my brother, and I did, and knowing how much he loved his job and what he was able to do for his country, it was apparent that Dusty had finally found his calling in life.”

K.J. said his brother was a born soldier, but above and beyond that, he was a healer.

“He loved being able to help people in need and eagerly learned all he could,” K.J. said. “Being a protector and securing the safety and freedom of those he loved, and those he didn’t know, came naturally and completed him as a person.”

K.J. said it was obvious how much his brother loved his job, and clear he’d finally found his true calling in life, when he decided to re-enlist while still overseas. Even faced with the hardships of a soldier deployed in a combat zone, K.J. said his brother knew without a doubt that his job suited him.

“Everyone who spoke to him could tell how happy he was and his fulfillment and inner peace, even under duress, were evident in his voice, demeanor and attitude,” K.J. said. “He had the true spirit of an American Soldier — ready and willing to continue defending the freedom paid for with the sacrifices of so many other kindred spirits,” K.J. added.

Funeral services for United States Army Corporal Charles Dustin Parrish, 23, of Jasper will be announced later by his family through the Collins-Burke Funeral Home in Jasper.

Alamo Loses Native Son

06/07/2009 By Elva K. Österreich, Associate News Editor, Alamogordo Daily News

The Pentagon has identified a U.S. soldier killed in a grenade attack near Kirkuk, Iraq, as being from Fort Hood.

A Defense Department statement says 23-year-old Army Spc. Christopher M. Kurth, of Alamogordo, died Thursday in Kirkuk of wounds suffered when an anti-tank grenade hit his vehicle.

Kurth was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

A May 2005 graduate of Academy del Sol High School, friends and teachers describe Kurth as someone who was always concerned for the welfare of others.

“He always made sure everyone was taken care of before himself,” said friend Jorge Gallegos, who heard from Kurth a few days ago on MySpace. “He loved fighting for his country.”

Gallegos, who knew Kurth for the better part of 11 years, met him at Evolution Comix, where a group of friends gathered to play card adventure games like Pokemon. Kurth was 13 at the time.

"We were a bunch of nerds," Gallegos said. "He was a quiet guy, but he would always put in his two cents at the end."

ADS teacher Glennon Cates had Kurth in his government, economics and New Mexico history classes and said Kurth returned to the school twice during leave from his service in Iraq.

"Every time he came back from Iraq, he would show photos, talk to the kids about what it was like," Cates said. "He really, really gave back to the community. He really believed in what he was doing."

Kurth was a turret gunner, Cates said.

He escorted convoys in Iraq and would bring back videos for the ADS students to watch.

"He truly cared about those people (in Iraq) and what they are going through," Cates said. "He thought what they (the military) are doing is a good thing and he thought he was needed out there."

ADS principal Linda Carr said Kurth had just recovered to from a bullet wound in the neck and had earned a Purple Heart for it.

"He was an outstanding young man," Carr said. "He was honorable worked hard. He was such a delight and when he would come back, he was the highlight of our year."

Kurth, raised by his father, grew up in Alamogordo with his sisters Ashley and Amber. His wife Robin lives in Killeen, Texas, where he was stationed.

"He served his country well," Carr said. "He was a bright spot."

**Odious Odierno Says U.S.
Troops Will Leave All Iraqi
Cities By June 30 Deadline --
Except For Cities They Won't
Leave;**

Refuses To Say Which Cities They Won't Leave, Refuses To Say How Many Won't Leave, Refuses To Say How Many U.S. Bases Will Still Be In Cities They Won't Leave

June 16, 2009 By Nada Bakri, Washington Post Foreign Service

BAGHDAD, June 15 -- U.S. combat troops will leave all Iraqi cities by their scheduled deadline of the end of this month, including Mosul, which remains the country's most dangerous urban area, the commander of U.S. forces said Monday.

American combat troops must pull back from cities by June 30 under a U.S.-Iraqi security pact that took effect this year. But Gen. Ray Odierno, the American commander, said this year that troops might remain in Baghdad and the northern city of Mosul because of continuing security concerns.

Odierno said that he is still “absolutely committed” to leaving all urban areas on schedule but added that a number of troops will remain in Iraqi cities as advisers and trainers to work with Iraqi security forces. He did not specify how many troops would remain or where they would be based.

“We will not get into any specific numbers, but it is a very small number,” he said.

Odierno said 320 U.S. military bases remain in Iraq, down from 460, but he did not specify how many of them were in Iraqi cities.

Mosul: This One Doesn't Pass The Smell Test Either

6.17.09 By CHELSEA J. CARTER (AP) [Excerpts]

A police investigation of two of their own in the killing of an American soldier and his interpreter is seen as a test of Mosul's police force — the weakest link among Iraqi security forces about to take the lead in protecting the country's most violent city.

The two policemen — an officer and a sergeant — were arrested last week by U.S. and Iraqi forces and handed over to Iraqi custody, according to Col. Gary Volesky, commander of U.S. troops in the province that includes Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city.

They allegedly fired on a U.S. patrol Feb. 24, killing Lt. William Emmert of Lincoln, Tenn., and his interpreter and wounding five others. The two policemen are believed to have fled Mosul after the attack, returning only a few weeks ago.

Under the terms of a security agreement that took effect at the beginning of the year, it is up to Iraqi authorities to prosecute the policemen. The Americans want the Mosul police to conduct a thorough and professional investigation of the shooting, a disturbing inside job that reinforced fears of insurgents and sympathizers possibly infiltrating Iraq's security forces.

During a recent meeting, a Mosul police commander told Volesky the two suspects had not appeared before a judge — the first step toward prosecution — because of doubts not only that they were the gunmen, but that they were policemen at all.

Volesky wasn't buying it, saying the men's relatives had identified them.

“Everybody will be looking at your ability to investigate this completely,” Volesky said. “Let us know what you need from us to help you.”

Turning to another American officer, Volesky said: “We've got to continue to coach them all the way through.”

Iraqi authorities are sending more army soldiers and national police to Mosul to help fill the void when the Americans pull back. But in the long term, U.S. and Iraqi officials believe local police must bear the primary responsibility for maintaining security.

That won't be easy. Volesky said the city is short 5,300 officers of the 17,000 policemen it needs.

“They are the least trained of the Iraqi security forces in Mosul,” Volesky said.

It was a point punctuated hours later when a U.S. convoy rolled through a police checkpoint, where policemen could be seen sitting in the shade rather than manning their sun-soaked posts. In another location, two police officers were text messaging rather than standing guard.

The Iraqi army has little respect for the police.

During a tour of a refurbished market about to reopen, Volesky urged an army officer to use the police to protect shoppers.

“Maybe the police could guard the market,” while the army provides security on the street, Volesky said.

The officer shook his head.

“No, no good,” said the officer, who refused to be identified because he is not authorized to speak to the media.

In one heavily fortified police station, policemen wore masks to conceal their identities.

In a nearby machine shop, Mizher Fathy perspired over a generator in the stifling heat. Fathy told Volesky he wanted to join the Iraqi army but that as a former officer in Saddam Hussein's army he was rejected.

Volesky told him Mosul's provincial government was looking for former military officers to beef up the police. Fathy shook his head no.

“The Iraqi army is much better than the Iraqi police,” he said. But he fears for his family's safety since policemen are high-priority targets.

“It is not safe for my family. They might come and kill them, if I work as police,” he said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Three Danish Soldiers Killed In Helmand

Jun 17 COPENHAGEN (AFP)

Three Danish soldiers were killed Wednesday when a bomb exploded as their vehicle passed in the southern Afghanistan province of Helmand, the Danish military said.

The three victims were leading a convoy down Highway 1 heading toward the town of Barakhzai, the military said.

The three Danes were to have ended their mission in August.

Spc. Jonathan C. O'Neill Dies From Injuries Following June 2 Explosion In Paktya

June 17, 2009 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 430-09

Spc. Jonathan C. O'Neill, 22, of Zephyrhills, Fla., died June 15 at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, of wounds suffered June 2 in Paktya, Afghanistan, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the

549th Military Police Company, 385th Military Police Battalion, 16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne) at Fort Stewart, Ga.

U.S. Soldier Wounded By IED In Kandau March 8 Dies

June 18, 2009 U.S. Department of Defense News Release June 18, 2009

Sgt. 1st Class Kevin A. Dupont, 52, of Templeton, Mass., died June 17 at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, of wounds suffered March 8 in Kandau, Afghanistan, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 79th Troop Command, Rehoboth, Mass.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Dupont, Who Grew Up In Chicopee, Dies From Injuries Following March 8 Explosion In Afghanistan



Army Sgt. 1st Class Kevin A. Dupont, seen in this undated family photograph, died Wednesday following a three month battle with injuries he obtained in Afghanistan. Dupont grew up in Chicopee.

June 17, 2009 By HOLLY ANGELO, The Republican Newsroom

CHICOPEE - Army Sgt. 1st Class Kevin A. Dupont succumbed to his battle injuries Wednesday morning following a three-month fight for his life.

Dupont, a 1976 Chicopee High School graduate, was burned over 65 percent of his body on March 8 after the Humvee in which he was riding in Afghanistan ran over an improvised explosive device. He died at Brooke Army Medial Center in San Antonio,

Texas, where he had been treated for deep third-degree burns and had undergone weekly skin grafts.

“He developed bacteria in his blood,” said Bruce E. Socha, a close family friend who went to high school with Dupont. “I always held out hope because Kevin was never a guy down for the count. I realize his quality of life would have been an issue if he pulled through, but we just wanted to hear his voice.”

Dupont was 52 and was stationed in Afghanistan with the Massachusetts Army National Guard. He lived in the Boston area with his wife, Lisa, but his parents, Herbert R. and Gwendolyn A. Dupont, still live in Chicopee. Gwendolyn Dupont was too upset to talk about her son's passing.

More than 1,000 people attended a spaghetti dinner fund-raiser for Dupont's family on May 31. While at the dinner, the family received news that Kevin had taken a turn for the worse. They traveled to Texas and stayed for a week, Socha said. Kevin's wife was at his side when he died, he said.

“We all loved him so much. We hoped against hope,” Socha said.

Kevin suffered burns on his hands, face and legs and also had lung damage. Last month, Christopher R. Dupont, Kevin's younger brother who lives in Belchertown, said it was a race against time to cover his brother with new skin because of the constant threat of bacterial infections.

Kevin enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduating from high school and served two tours of duty. He then joined the National Guard. In Afghanistan, he worked with tribal leaders to identify insurgents.

“I still had hope,” said Linda M. McCarthy, a cousin of Kevin's who lives in Chicopee and helped organize the fund-raiser with Socha and others. “I know Lisa was trying to keep it upbeat, but I knew things were not good.”

Doctors had told the family that Kevin would need to be hospitalized for the next two to three years.

**If It Wasn't For Bad News,
Wouldn't Be No News At All:
“30 Officers Have Left The Squad
In The Past 18 Months, Most Citing
Warnings From The Taliban”**

“The Officers’ Former Commander Is Believed To Be Corrupt And Pro-Taliban, And Several Of His Sympathizers Remain On The Force”

“I Will Tell You, If The Marines Ever Leave This Valley, I Will Go Before Them”

Jun 18, 2009 By Chris Brummitt, The Associated Press [Excerpts]

GOLESTAN, Afghanistan — The request crackled over the radio in the police station in this remote Afghan valley: four officers needed to accompany U.S. Marines on an overnight patrol.

The appeal was met with little enthusiasm.

Although one officer ran for his Kalashnikov, another said he felt sick; his colleague said he was recovering from a long shift the previous day. With rain falling outside, the rest cast their eyes downward to avoid the glare of their commander.

“Come on, you told me you wanted to be warriors,” said the unit’s trainer, an American working for a U.S. security company contracted by Washington to build up the force. “If you want to be in the Afghan National Police, then you follow orders from your commander. If not, you quit.”

Although the Marines did eventually secure four officers to accompany them on their night patrol this week, the police force in Golestan offers a window into problems facing police units around the country as they are increasingly expected to join in the fight against the Taliban.

“When we walk through a town and it is just U.S. Marines and no Afghan forces, if I’m a local, how does that inspire my confidence in the government?” asked Gen. Larry Nicholson, the commander of a brigade of 10,000 recently arrived Marines. “It doesn’t. It’s just another group of foreigners walking through our neighborhood.”

Improving Afghan security forces was high on the agenda when the U.S. and its allies got around to rebuilding the country after ousting the Taliban regime in late 2001. Ambitions were high, but — as with so many goals in post-Taliban Afghanistan — progress has been patchy.

Nicholson said he does not yet have enough police and army units to secure the south.

A U.S. government report released in March said more than half the American-trained units were unable to conduct missions independently.

Compounding the problem, most police officers have little education and are illiterate.

Although salaries have increased in recent years — an officer can expect to earn more than \$100 a month — the police force and the Interior Ministry are regarded as two of Afghanistan's most corrupt institutions.

And, as the insurgency began picking up in 2006, Taliban militants began targeting police officers.

Last year, the force lost 10 times more officers than the better trained and equipped army, according to a tally kept by The Associated Press. The AP counted 86 Afghan army troops and 868 Afghan police killed in 2008.

Golestan is a hardscrabble valley in southeastern Afghanistan where opium poppy farming is the main business and the Taliban are ever present.

There are no paved roads, cell phone service or medical facilities. With no Afghan army troops in the district, security falls to the police.

The Taliban have threatened or attacked Golestan's 40 or so officers and their families.

The officers' former commander is believed to be corrupt and pro-Taliban, and several of his sympathizers remain on the force.

There are judges and a courthouse in the district headquarters, but police make few arrests and hardly any of those make it to court.

The police here have four unarmored trucks, Kalashnikov assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and other weapons.

But they complain of ammunition shortages.

About 30 officers have left the squad in the past 18 months, most citing warnings from the Taliban.

Two weeks ago, police deputy commander Abdullah Tawkalai's house was attacked by about 40 insurgents firing rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons.

He and others in the house returned fire, keeping the attackers at bay long enough so that they fled, apparently fearing Marines would come to back up the police.

But the militants first shouted a warning, Tawkalai said: "We will kill all your family, even the small children."

Tawkalai's family has now moved away, and he and the rest of the force are sleeping in the station, a stone's throw from the Marine base.

Contractors and the cleaner also stay there for fear of Taliban attack.

“I will tell you, if the Marines ever leave this valley, I will go before them,” he said, with a laugh.

Resistance Action

June 17 (Reuters) & Jun 18 (AFP) & Reuters

A roadside bomb destroyed a police vehicle near the southeastern border with Pakistan and killed five policemen, their commander said. The bomb was in the Shorabak district of Kandahar province, said the border police commander for southern Afghanistan, General Saifullah Hakim. Two other policemen were wounded, he said.

In the eastern province of Khost, Taliban insurgents attacked a police convoy overnight, sparking a clash, provincial border police chief Shair Ahmad Kochai told AFP. “Two border policemen were killed in the Taliban attack,” he said.

A bomb struck a police patrol in the western Farah province overnight, killing a policeman and wounding three others, deputy provincial governor Mohammad Younus said.

A bomb hit a vehicle of international aid group Mercy Corps in the northern province of Kunduz Thursday, wounding four employees, an official said.

Seven rockets were fired at United Nations offices in the western province of Herat overnight but did not hurt anyone, police said.

A bomb placed on a motorbike outside a compound belonging to an Afghan construction company in southern Kandahar city killed three people and wounded three more, senior provincial police official Ghulam Mohammad said.

Insurgents attacked a NATO-led base in Maidan Shahr district of Wardak province, west of Kabul on Tuesday, the alliance said. Soldiers returned fire from the base, wounding three civilians, it said.

A provincial oil official, Mohammad Najib Jamal, was killed by insurgents while going to work in northern Kunduz province, provincial governor Mohammad Omar said. Two other people were wounded in the attack.

Taliban militants killed four guards working for an Afghan road construction company in Qara Bagh district of Ghazni province on Tuesday, provincial police chief Khial Baz Sherzai said.

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|--|
| <p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATIONS</p> |
|--|

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!**

**NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1:
PACK UP
GO HOME
THIS IS POINTLESS BULLSHIT**



A U.S. soldier of 10th Mountain Division comes out of a house after a search in Nerkh district of Wardak province in west of Kabul, Afghanistan, May 1, 2009. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

The Great Afghan Election Farce Rolls On

June 17, 2009 By Laura King, Los Angeles Times [Excerpt]

Reporting from Kabul, Afghanistan -- The campaign for nationwide elections in Afghanistan got off to a subdued start Tuesday, shadowed by security fears and marked by the chronic disorganization that characterizes most large-scale endeavors here.

None of the three main presidential candidates made a public appearance on the first official day of the two-month campaign.

Out in Afghanistan's vast hinterlands, many candidates for provincial assemblies stayed home, saying traditional campaign activities such as rallies would be far too dangerous.

**[Headline Of The Month, So Far]
“Afghan Civilian Deaths Big Problem In
War”**

06/18/09 Associated Press

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

**Resistance Kills Security Minister:
“He Also Had Been Working With The
Ethiopian Military, Which Recently
Moved Troops Into Hiran”
“The Somalia Government Controls A
Few Blocks In Mogadishu”**

Shabaab and Hizbul Islam currently control all of the southern and many of the central provinces of Lower Jubba, Middle Jubba, Lower Shabelle, Gedo, Bay, and Bakool, as well as much of Mogadishu, where the government controls only “very little territory in Mogadishu,” Garowe Online reported.

June 18, 2009 Multimedia Inc.

An insurgent group killed the security minister of Somalia's struggling government in an attack today that killed more than 20 people in the central part of the country.

Security Minister Omar Hashi Aden and Abdikarim Lakanyo, the former ambassador to Ethiopia, were killed when a Shabaab [resistance] bomber targeted them as they left a hotel in the town of Beletwein, the provincial capital of Hiran. The men were heading to the wedding of Hashi's son when the attack took place.

Shabaab has taken credit for the strike and said the men were meeting with Ethiopian military officials at the hotel.

“We are responsible for the explosion that killed Omar Hashi, Abdikarim Lakanyo and Ethiopian military officers whom they were meeting,” Sheikh Ali Dheere Mohammed told Garowe. “It was a response to the suffering of Somali Muslims,” Mohammed said, warning of “more attacks” against government officials in Hiran.

Hashi had been working in Hiran province to organize resistance against Shabaab and the allied Hizbul Islam. Both groups control much of the region.

He also had been working with the Ethiopian military, which recently moved troops into Hiran. [Cooperating with the Bush regime, the Ethiopian government sent their army to attack and occupy Somalia, overthrowing the popular government and replacing it with a puppet government of Bush Buddy collaborators that is now collapsing in defeat.]

Shabaab has targeted Hashi at least two other times in the recent past. On March 26, Hashi was injured in a roadside bomb attack near his home in Mogadishu.

In mid-March, a Shabaab leader said his group would continue to target government ministers and lawmakers for “aiding the enemy.”

“It is our decision to target TFG (Transitional Federal Government) lawmakers everywhere, because they allowed enemy troops (Ethiopia and African Union) into our country,” said Sheikh Hassan Mohamed, or Abu Ayman, during a press conference. Abu Ayman leads Shabaab forces in Bay and Bakook provinces.

The assassination of the security minister took place just one day after Mogadishu's chief of police was among 20 Somalis killed during a failed assault by government forces on Shabaab and Hizbul Islam strongholds in Mogadishu.

The Somali government has suffered major setbacks since the Djibouti wing of the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia, an offshoot of the Islamic Courts led by Sheikh Sharif Ahmed, reconciled with the defeated Transitional Federal Government in late January 2009. Sharif joined the government following the withdrawal of Ethiopian forces after a two-year occupation.

Ahmed was named president of Somalia and has since attempted to reconcile with the Asmara wing of the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia, led by Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, and Hizbul Islam. Ahmed also lobbied for sharia, or Islamic Law, to be imposed. The Somali parliament passed the sharia bill into law in May.

But Shabaab and Hizbul Islam rejected offers to join the government and branded Ahmed and other Islamic Courts leaders as apostates and tools of the West.

On May 14, the normally reclusive Shabaab leader Sheikh Muktar Abdirahman released an 11-minute audiotape railing against the government.

“The so-called government cannot be described as an Islamic government, because it was created to destroy Islamists in Somalia,” Sheikh Muktar said, according to Garowe Online.

“The so-called President flew to Addis Ababa (capital of Ethiopia) immediately after he was elected to ask for advice and troops to fight against what he calls 'extremists' in Somalia.”

Shabaab and Hizbul Islam have continued to attack government forces and allied groups such as the Islamic Courts and the Ahlu Sunna Waljama throughout central Somalia and in Mogadishu.

Hizbul Islam was created in January of this year. The group was created by the merger of four separate Islamic groups: Hassan Aweys' Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia-Eritrea, Jabhatul Islamiya (the Islamic Front), Mu'askar Ras Kamboni (the Ras Kamboni Brigade), and Anole. Hizbul Islam was led by Sheik Omar Iman Abu Bakar but he was ousted by Aweys for being too moderate. He was replaced by Aweys.

Shabaab and Hizbul Islam currently control all of the southern and many of the central provinces of Lower Jubba, Middle Jubba, Lower Shabelle, Gedo, Bay, and Bakool, as well as much of Mogadishu, where the government controls only “very little territory in Mogadishu,” Garowe Online reported.

Shabelle said the Somalia government “controls a few blocks in Mogadishu.”

The central districts of Middle Shabelle, Hiran, and Galgadud are considered contested, with the government and allied Islamist groups in nominal control of some areas.

MORE:

Occupation Troops Using Artillery To Kill Civilians In Mogadishu

6/18/2009 MOGADISHU (Sh. M. Network)

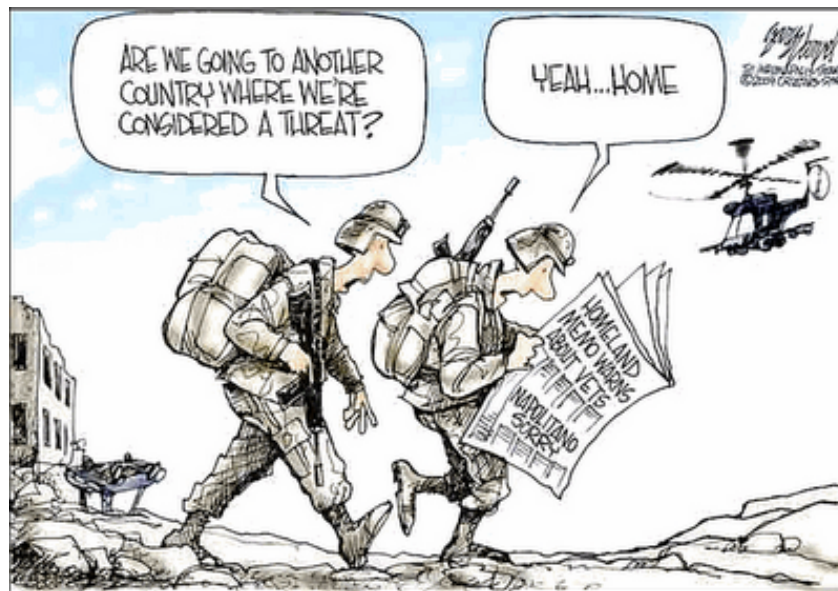
Mohamed Hassan Had, the chairman of Hawiye traditional elders has greatly denounced Thursday for indiscriminate bombing that AMISOM targeted to parts of the residential areas in the Somali capital Mogadishu killing more than 30 and injuring 100 others.

Mr. Had said that Hawiye traditional elders are very sorry for yesterday's fighting in Mogadishu and reiterated that the African Union troops AMISOM targeted constant shelling in Mogadishu which caused more casualties of deaths including wounds and loss of properties in the capital.

Mohamed Hassan Had also called for the warring sides to halt the fighting as soon as possible and respect the civilians who are dying and live in the critical condition.

The statement of the traditional elders comes as there has been heavy fighting and shelling in the north and south of the Somali capital Mogadishu.

TROOP NEWS



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in.]

“Injured Veterans From The Recent Wars Are Paying Bills With Credit Cards, Pending Their First Disability Payments”

“For Someone That Gets Out Of The Military And Doesn't Have A Job Lined Up, They Have No Income”

“They Wait More Than Four Months On Average For A Claim To Be Processed, And Appealing A Claim Takes A Year And A Half On Average”

[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,536th time, there is no enemy in Iraq or Afghanistan. Their citizens and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started these wars of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn't tell the truth: U.S. Imperial wars are about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. T]

June 18, 2009 By KIMBERLY HEFLING, The Associated Press [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — This isn't the same as getting a free duffel bag for being the millionth person to go through the turnstiles: The Veterans Affairs Department appears poised to have hit the 1 million milestone on claims it still hasn't processed.

Meanwhile, veterans, some of whom were severely wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, continue to endure financial hardship while their claims are processed.

They wait more than four months on average for a claim to be processed, and appealing a claim takes a year and a half on average.

The VA says it's receiving about 13 percent more claims today than it did a year ago.

The VA's Web site shows the department has more than 722,000 claims and more than 172,000 appeals it currently is processing, for a total of about 900,000. That is up from about 800,000 total claims in January, according to the site.

Veterans advocates acknowledge there have been improvements in the claims process, but say it still is too cumbersome.

They say some injured veterans from the recent wars are paying bills with credit cards, pending their first disability payments, at a time when it is challenging enough to recover from or adapt to their injuries.

Former Marine Cpl. Patrick Murray, 25, of Arlington, Va., who was severely burned and had his right leg amputated after a roadside bomb explosion in 2006, considers himself fortunate. He got a job once he was discharged from the military, making for an easier wait as his case is processed.

"For someone that gets out of the military and doesn't have a job lined up, they have no income," said Murray, who works for a construction company.

"They are sitting there making zero money, either racking up credit card bills or taking out loans, whatever it may be, all the while waiting."

Murray said the first claim he filed was lost.

The second ended up at a VA office in Colorado, and the third was finally processed after a couple of months.

It was mind-boggling, he said, to have spent 11 months in Walter Reed Army Medical Center and in outpatient care with stacks of medical files, only to find out he had to mail his records to the VA to prove he was injured.

“The biggest disappointment, I guess, is that it should be unnecessary,” Murray said.

BOHICA FLASH BLAST: Pentagon Fucked Up Four Years’ Army Payroll Records: Withholding Taxes And W2 Forms Unreliable

Jun 18, 2009 By Rick Maze, Army Times [Excerpts]

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service has been ordered to do a full review of four years of Army payroll records after congressional auditors discovered four consecutive years of mistakes in withholding of Social Security and Medicare taxes.

Auditors found 1,500 errors over a four-year period in the Army payroll.

They did not look at income tax withholding, only at Social Security and Medicare.

In a report released Thursday, the Government Accountability Office said it looked at quarterly tax withholding reports for 2004 through 2007, 16 reports in all, and found mistakes in every one.

“Some service members had too much tax withheld, others had too little withheld,” the report said. “We were not able to determine the extent to which individual members identified errors in their pay statements and requested corrections. However, we determined that the underlying control weaknesses that resulted in errors, and untimely calculation and reporting of payroll data, have continued for several years.”

In response, defense officials said they had ordered a reconciliation of tax withholding records, including a review of individual records. Mistakes will be corrected, according to a statement from Michael Easton, the Pentagon’s deputy chief financial officer.

Auditors discovered 380 cases where Social Security taxes were over-withheld and 435 where they were under-withheld. They also found 326 errors in Medicare tax withholding.

“Although it is possible that individual service members may have identified errors and requested corrections on their W-2s, there is no assurance that all errors were corrected,” the report said.

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Walter Reed Army Doctor Used Wounded Troops Records To Forge Documents On Bone Graft Implants; Thieving Rat Took \$850,000 From Medical Company Making The Implants

Jun 18, 2009 By Matthew Perrone, The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Medical device maker Medtronic paid about \$850,000 over eight years to a former Army surgeon accused of forging signatures and falsifying data for a study touting the benefits of one of the company's implants.

Medtronic, the world's largest device firm, previously declined to release details of its financial arrangements with Dr. Timothy Kuklo, who authored a paper on Medtronic's Infuse implant that later had to be retracted from publication.

The Army found that Kuklo, now a university professor, forged the signatures of four colleagues and made up data overstating the benefits of Medtronic's implant on leg injuries of soldiers at Walter Reed Medical Center.

Kuklo retired from the Army in 2007 and is now a professor of orthopedic surgery at Washington University in St. Louis. He is currently on a leave of absence, according to university officials.

Infuse is a man-made version of a human protein that spurs bone growth. The Food and Drug Administration approved the system to fuse parts of the spine together during lower-back surgery as well as for oral and dental procedures.

However, serious complications have been reported when doctors use the graft for alternate uses, such as neck surgeries.

The FDA has said that use can lead to problems swallowing, breathing and speaking, which in some cases required additional surgeries.

Oops: Fort Detrick Lost Track Of 9,220 Vials Including But Not Limited To “Ebola Virus, Anthrax Bacteria And Botulinum Toxin”

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in.]

June 18, 2009 By Nelson Hernandez, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

An inventory of potentially deadly pathogens at Fort Detrick's infectious disease laboratory found more than 9,000 vials that had not been accounted for, Army officials said yesterday, raising concerns that officials wouldn't know whether dangerous toxins were missing.

After four months of searching about 335 freezers and refrigerators at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in Frederick, investigators found 9,220 samples that hadn't been included in a database of about 66,000 items listed as of February, said Col. Mark Kortepeter, the institute's deputy commander.

The vials contained some dangerous pathogens, among them the Ebola virus, anthrax bacteria and botulinum toxin, and less lethal agents such as Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus and the bacterium that causes tularemia.

Most of them, forgotten inside freezer drawers, hadn't been used in years or even decades. Officials said some serum samples from hemorrhagic fever patients dated to the Korean War.

Still, the overstock and the previous inaccuracy of the database raised the possibility that someone could have taken a sample outside the lab with no way for officials to know something was missing.

“Nine thousand, two hundred undocumented samples is an extraordinarily serious breach,” said Richard H. Ebright, a professor at Rutgers University who follows

biosecurity. "A small number would be a concern; 9,200 . . . at an institution that has been the focus of intense scrutiny on this issue, that's deeply worrisome. Unacceptable."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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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 send email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you

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CLASS WAR REPORTS



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in.]

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with **Iraq Veterans Against the War** to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

Vietnam GI: Reprints Available



Vietnam: They Stopped An Imperial War

Not available from anybody else, anywhere

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command. The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

The Military Project has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.

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



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