

GI SPECIAL 7G10:



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

ACTION REPORTS

“We Encountered A Potential Ally” “He Would Deploy ‘Only For Those He’s Trained,’ Being Totally Opposed To Iraq” [Outreach To New York National Guard]

From: Alan Stolzer, The Military Project
To: GI Special
Sent: July 13, 2009
Subject: New York National Guard Armory Outreach

The second outreach to a new New York National Guard Armory yielded more than expected.

Although more than 20 packages of publications including the new issue of Traveling Soldier, material about IVAW, and snacks and 3 "Sir! No Sir!" DVDs were handed out to National Guard recruits and more experienced troops, we encountered a potential ally who may become extremely useful in future contacts with troops.

A soldier who was given material before the first outreach to this armory last month told us how much he liked the Sir No Sir DVD he received, telling us he never knew about several of the historical facts revealed in the film.

In a position to do so, he went on to tell us "I'm 100% behind you guys" and will provide dates for future troop gatherings. He qualified this by saying he'd like to inspect all material before handing out to the recruits, not wanting anything "harmful" to be passed to them.

He also felt Vietnam era material, such as "Sir! No Sir!" isn't as useful as more contemporary material. He feels younger people don't connect to the past nearly as well as the present.

He went on to say legislation should be passed to keep the Guard home - ready for domestic needs.

Further, he would deploy "only for those he's trained," being totally opposed to Iraq, having come to that decision several years ago.

He is available for contact at any time, having given information on how to stay in touch.

He will be taken up on this shortly.

MORE:

MORE ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to GI Special for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so. If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not in any way identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the wars.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs identifying information be published in reporting on the action.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

7 U.S. Soldiers Wounded By Al Sharqat Bomb; “The Extent Of Their Injuries Was Not Immediately Known”

July 13, 2009 By TIMOTHY WILLIAMS, The New York Times

BAGHDAD — Seven American soldiers and a linguist traveling with them were wounded in a bomb blast as they walked out of a meeting with local government officials in northern Iraq, a United States military spokesman said Monday.

The attack occurred Sunday afternoon in Al Sharqat, a town about 200 miles north of Baghdad, but was not reported by the United States military until the following day.

The soldiers had traveled to the town, in generally peaceful [**so much for that one**] Salahuddin Province, to discuss possible United States military participation in several projects, including renovating schools and medical centers, said Lt. Sean P. Riordan, a military spokesman in Baghdad.

They were transported to a nearby base for treatment, but the extent of their injuries was not immediately known.

American combat troops pulled out of most Iraq cities and towns on June 30, but some remain as trainers and advisers. The military did not comment on what capacity the troops in Al Sharqat were working in.

Sloppy IED Attack On U.S. Ambassador In Dhi Qar Misses His Vehicle

July 13 2009 Reuters

A roadside bomb exploded near a convoy carrying US ambassador to Baghdad Chris Hill in southern Iraq, but the envoy was unhurt, the US embassy said today.

Hill was travelling in Dhi Qar province, about 300 km southeast of Baghdad, yesterday when the bomb struck his convoy, US embassy spokesperson Susan Ziadeh said.

The American daily USA Today said its reporter was a few minutes behind Hill in a separate convoy at the time. "There was a bang and we went through a thick cloud of smoke," Hill told the reporter afterwards. "We are all fine."

Resistance Action

July 12 (Reuters) & July 13 (Reuters) & By TIMOTHY WILLIAMS, The New York Times

A bomb planted on the car of an officer in Iraq's Cabinet killed him and wounded his wife and 12 bystanders in Saidiya district, southern Baghdad, on Saturday, police said.

Insurgents shot dead a brother of a government-backed militia leader in Jurf al-Sakhar, about 60 km (40 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

A sticky bomb attached to a car killed an off-duty Iraqi soldier in northern Mosul, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol killed one policeman and wounded four policemen, in the capital's central Karrada district, police said.

On Monday, a roadside bomb in Baghdad wounded three police officers.

In Mosul, two bombings killed three Iraqi soldiers, and a sniper shot and killed an Iraqi police officer.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATIONS</p>
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**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!**

**Just In Case You Believed The
Liar's Bullshit:
“We're Not Coming Home” SecDef
Gates Says:
“We Will Still Occupy Hundreds Of Small
Outposts Around Iraq” Odious Odierno
Says**



[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

7.13.09 By Michelle Tan, Army Times [Excerpts]

U.S. combat forces pulled out of Iraqi cities June 30, marking what the top commander there called a significant milestone.

For now, while combat troops are no longer in Iraq's cities, a number of forces still remain to train, advise and work with Iraqi security forces, Odierno [Gen. Ray Odierno, commanding general of Multi-National Force-Iraq] said.

He declined to say how many troops remain in the cities, saying only that it is a "significantly smaller" number than before and that the number changes daily based on how much "training, how much advising, how much coordination is required."

"Outside the cities, U.S. forces will continue to conduct full spectrum and stability operations by, with and through our Iraqi security force partners," he said.

"Our combined efforts will establish a layer of defense as Iraqis secure the cities. Our combat forces, partnering with the (Iraqis), will secure the belts and borders in an attempt to eliminate safe havens and sanctuaries, and to limit freedom of movement of insurgents, and prevent the facilitation of foreign fighters through the borders."

The withdrawal doesn't mean all American troops are confined to big bases, Odierno said.

"We have many outposts out and around the cities that we had established as we conducted the surge," he said. "So we have not all just come back into a small number of big bases.

"We will still occupy hundreds of small outposts around Iraq. They just will not be inside of the cities."

Gates [Defense Secretary Robert Gates] said he expects sporadic attacks to continue as insurgents try to take advantage of U.S. forces moving out of the cities.

"But we're not coming home," he said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

U.S. Armed Forces Member Killed In Bargh-E-Matal; "Some Other Troops" Wounded Some Way Or Other

July 13, 2009 AP

An American service member has been killed in an insurgent attack in eastern Afghanistan, the U.S. military said.

Sunday's attack in the town of Bargh-e-Matal in Nuristan province also wounded some other troops, said Lt. Cmdr. Christine Sidenstricker.

She did not have an exact number of wounded.

Sidenstricker did not provide more details on the attack, saying only that it was not a roadside bomb or suicide bomber.

The death brings to 105 the number of U.S. troops killed in Afghanistan so far this year, compared with 151 U.S. deaths in all of 2008. Overall, 194 international troops have died in Afghanistan this year, according to an Associated Press count based on official announcements.

Marine Matthew Lembke Of Tualatin Dies Of Injuries Suffered In Afghanistan



Cpl. Matthew Lembke was on his third tour of duty when he was wounded in Afghanistan. This photo was taken during an earlier tour of Iraq.

July 10, 2009 by Julie Sullivan, The Oregonian

Cpl. Matthew Lembke, a Tualatin man serving his third combat tour, died Friday at Bethesda Naval Hospital from complications from his blast injuries suffered in Afghanistan.

The 22-year-old Marine sniper had been patrolling on foot June 22 when an IED exploded. He lost both his legs and sustained internal injuries.

He was flown to the U.S. Army's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany where his parents, Claudia and Dale, and sister Carolyn, joined him. Last weekend, he was flown to Bethesda in Maryland where he underwent several surgeries.

Lembke, who was nicknamed "Lumpe" by a high school coach, was a popular Tualatin High Timberwolf student/athlete with a deep pool of friends. Within hours of his

wounding, one friend launched a Facebook group that swelled to 318 members. Other family friends launched a web page and a trust fund for him at U.S. Bank. Marines recovering from wounds from Afghanistan flocked to the family at the hospital.

Lembke's story, which was featured in The Oregonian July 8, drew national response from members of the Second Marine Expeditionary Brigade headquartered at Camp Lejeune to Richard Davis, the president and CEO of U.S. Bank, where his mother, Claudia, works in the Machine Tool Finance Group.

Scott Jones, whose son Garrett, a Marine from Dundee, lost his leg in 2007 wrote saying, "Both my wife Phyllis and I SOO want to reach out to the Lembke family. We want them to know there is a Marine family living near them who has been through what they are going through." Garrett Jones eventually returned to duty and is planning to attend Western Oregon University.

But Lembke's wounds were catastrophic.

Doctors began performing surgery every other day to combat infection, which observers say is a common complication because of the debris associated with such blast injuries. He was mostly sedated, but at some points, had blinked his eyes and squeezed the hands of his mother, father and sister.

On Wednesday, they reported that after a morning surgery, Lembke began to take a turn for the worse. "Pray for my brother," Carolyn posted. "... all of a sudden, things are not looking so good."

The family camped at the ICU waiting room Thursday night. They reported he did not appear to be in pain. Lembke died about 9:30 a.m. Friday PST, his mother said.

First Lt. Joseph Cull, his platoon commander, wrote the family from Afghanistan. He had met Lembke last year when Lembke was one of 50 Marines to try out for a specialized platoon. He was one of seven who passed all examinations, and events, and was selected. Cull wrote that he was 100 miles away, at another position with a different team; when he received the message that Lembke was wounded.

"We had been operating for about 4 days straight, and sleep was short at hand for myself, and other Marines in the platoon. I came back from the radio, with Staff Sergeant Bustamante and we just sat down, silent and very much awake, regardless of fatigue. Soon word spread, our actions where mimicked by others all around, not due to the degree of Matt's wounds, but because of the severity of his character, his bond with others and more importantly the profound respect all within our battalion have for your son's professionalism and solid character.

"You have 26 sons, who are praying for his recovery every day, regardless of what we do, what hostilities are encountered in our day he is with us, in our actions and thoughts."

Eighty-three Marines have died in Afghanistan between 2002 and July 7. Two more, Lance Cpl. Roger Hager, 20, of Gibsonville, N.C. and Master Sgt. John Hayes 36, of Middleburg Fla. died July 8 in the same area where Lembke was serving, Helmand Province.

Lembke is survived by his parents, Claudia and Dale, of Tualatin; sister, Carolyn Lembke, of Sherwood; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Services are pending.

Mourning A Marine Killed In Afghanistan

July 13, 2009 by John Sepulvado, All Things Considered

Shortly before U.S. Marines began their operation earlier this month in Afghanistan's Helmand province, a member of the unit known as "America's Battalion" wrote a letter to his grandmother.

Lance Cpl. Charles Seth Sharp of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, wrote that he would soon be fighting in a mission his grandchildren would learn about in history class. Sharp was among some 4,000 Marines deployed by helicopter and armored transport throughout the volatile Helmand River valley in an effort to counter the Taliban insurgency.

Just days after he mailed the letter, Sharp, 20, died in battle. He was the first Marine killed in the offensive.

Last week, Sharp was buried in his hometown of Adairsville, in rural northwestern Georgia.

The Northpointe Church in Adairsville was packed. For 3 1/2 hours, the line of people waiting to view Sharp's casket extended into the parking lot. The family stood next to the casket, hugging every well wisher who came through.

Behind them, a giant screen displayed pictures of Sharp. In most of these pictures, as a teen, or even as a boy, Sharp never displayed a full smile. He just grinned, and flashed a few teeth.

"We got three little teeth, and a laugh, and that was it," recalls his father, Ric Sharp.

It didn't show up in photos, but Sharp was playful and a bit of a mischief maker, friends and family say. As the sun went down outside the church, his friends, including Justin Hooper and Patrick Maolin took turns telling stories of getting into trouble with Sharp, who went by his middle name Seth, small kinds of trouble really.

"It was my cousin Justin, and Seth, and they were chewing tobacco. And I was like, man I want some of that. I put a big ol' pinch in my mouth," Maolin recalls. "And ooh, I got sicker than a dog."

Ric Sharp says his son was a character, but never into anything bad.

"He didn't mind having fun...I know I come home one day, and the sheriff's car's in my driveway. And I'm thinking, oh Lord, what have these kids done now? And the sheriff's out there with four of his buddies in my backyard. They've been hitting golf balls down in the woods, and they didn't realize someone was building their house down there, and

the lady was afraid they were going to hit the house or, more importantly, hit their kids,” he says.

But when Seth turned 17, he made a big decision. Seth was looking to become more serious and straighten up.

His dad had told him to go to school and get a job, or join the military. The Sept. 11, 2001, attacks had a lot to do with Seth’s decision to join the Marines. He told everyone he wanted to the toughest assignment he could get.

His stepmother, Tiffany Sharp, was scared about the whole thing. She tried to talk him out of it.

“Yes, I said go into another one, or go into the Navy, go out in a boat, and that way you’re not Marines, infantry. And I was like ‘I just don’t know what I’m gonna do with this youngin.’ But, you know, that’s where his heart was,” she says.

After basic training, his family says Seth matured in a hurry. He got engaged. His fiance was able to get a big smile out of him in all of the pictures he took with her.

Those pictures of Seth, with his strong jaw, steely blue eyes, and big smile, are on the Sharp’s kitchen table.

Beside the photos are newspaper reports about his death, letters from well wishers, and the flag that draped their son’s coffin when his body was returned home from Afghanistan.

[This Really Is The Times Headline] Blast Kills Afghan Police Chief In Model American District



A U.S. army vehicle from the 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division picking up a wreckage of a Afghan police vehicle in Maidan Shahr, capital of the mountains of Wardak Province, July 13, 2009. Four Afghan National Police servicemen, including police chief of Jalrez district, were killed in a roadside bomb attack on Monday.

REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov (AFGHANISTAN)

July 13, 2009 By CARLOTTA GALL and RUHULLAH KHAPALWAK, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

Kabul, Afghanistan — The police chief of a district south of Kabul that the Americans had sought to make a Taliban-free model of safety and security was killed along with three of his officers Monday in a roadside blast.

The deaths cast a blow to the American effort and suggested that Taliban operatives had re-infiltrated the district, Jalrez, in Wardak province.

A report published Monday by an independent group of diplomats, the Afghanistan Analysts Network, warned that the Taliban's appeal is increasing in Afghanistan alongside a "deepening sense of occupation and undercurrents of anti-Westernism."

Four other policemen were wounded in the explosion that killed the police chief in Jalrez, the Interior Ministry said in a statement. The attack occurred as the police commander, Colonel Rajab, who only uses one name, was en route to the provincial capital from his base.

Several thousand American forces deployed into the provinces of Wardak and Logar in February in an effort to halt violence on the southern edges of the capital.

One of their first actions was to recruit and arm a local protection force in Jalrez district to bring some extra security to the ethnically mixed valley which was vulnerable to criminal and insurgent activity.

The Taliban largely melted away in the weeks after American forces began patrolling the valley and security improved, but the death of the police chief may indicate that the insurgents have returned to the attack. **[No shit?]**

The police chief represented one of the non-Pashtun ethnic minorities in the valley, and so would not have been favored by the Taliban, which is a predominantly Pashtun force.

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 request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

Fuel Supplies For Afghan Occupation Attacked And Burned, As Usual



A burning Pakistani tanker, carrying fuel for NATO forces fighting in Afghanistan, after it was attacked by militants in Peshawar, Pakistan on July 13, 2009. (AP Photo/Mohammad Sajjad)

ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT; ALL HOME NOW



U.S. soldier, 10th Mountain Division, works at a Blackhawk Combat out-post in Nerkh, Wardak province in west of Kabul, Afghanistan, April 30, 2009. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

TROOP NEWS

**THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THE TROOPS
HOME:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



The remains of U.S. Army Private First Class Richard A. Dewater of Topeka, Kan., Dover Air Force Base, Del., April 18, 2009. Dewater died in Iraq. AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

IVAW'S "THIS IS WHERE WE TAKE OUR STAND"



From: Displaced Films

To: GI Special
Sent: July 13, 2009
Subject: Spread the word

This is Where We Take Our Stand, the series that tells the riveting and timely story of the hundreds of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who testified at last year's Winter Soldier investigation, has now begun.

We hope to reach thousands, even millions worldwide as the six episodes are released throughout the summer:

The trailer for "This is Where We Take Our Stand" came out online this week: watch [Episode One: For Those Who Would Judge Me](#)

Episode Two: Rules of Engagement will launch July 27, 2009.

Episode Three: Why We Fight will launch August 10, 2009.

Episode Four: Broken Soldier will launch August 24, 2009.

Episode Five: This is Not Human Nature will launch September 7, 2009.

Episode Six: No Longer a Monster will launch September 20, 2009.

Spread the link, mark your calendar, stay tuned!



DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 917.677.8057

Stop-Loss Trickery? “Are Units Just Trying To Bluff Us To Get Us To Re-Enlist Or To Completely Set Us Up For Failure Outside The Army So We Will Have To Come Back In?”

7.13.09

Letters To The Editors
Army Times

I am an infantry soldier who has completed one 15-month tour. I initially signed for four years, 16 weeks.

When I returned from Iraq, I was sure I had one more tour left because of stop-loss.

Then I read the April 6 Army Times article about Defense Secretary Robert Gates putting an end to it (“After stop-loss”).

Since I have become aware of the new policy, I have done my best to gather more information from my chain of command so that I may take the proper steps on my part to separate from the Army.

However, my unit not only acts as if there is no new policy, but they are actually preparing as if I will deploy with them in January 2010.

That is the exact time that Gates has said the regular Army will cease deploying with stop-loss soldiers.

I am worried about two things.

First, that no matter how my unit acts, I will get out according to the new policy but will not be prepared for the adjustment of civilian life because I have been spending all my time training for a deployment.

Second, that my unit has found some loophole and I will go no matter what the new policy says.

I wonder if I am the only soldier facing this problem.

Are units just trying to bluff us to get us to reenlist or to completely set us up for failure outside the Army so we will have to come back in?

Cpl. Richard Howard
Fort Stewart, Ga.

***Department Of Fools In
Command;
Office Of Complete Idiocy:
Where's Pentagon 'Terrorism
Suspect' Now?
"Going From One High-Level Official
Meeting To Another"
Free Now, Six Years After Command
Took The Word Of A Drug Dealer And
Locked Him Up In Guantanamo***

[Thanks to Phil G.]

July 7, 2009 By Nancy A. Youssef, McClatchy Newspapers

KABUL, Afghanistan — Haji Sahib Rohullah Wakil spends his days going from one high-level official meeting to another with the swagger of a tribal elder, advocating for the needs of Kunar province, his home region.

Each encounter — with President Hamid Karzai, with Karzai's chief of staff or with one of Afghanistan's other presidential candidates — begins the same: They thank him for his honorable service to the people of Kunar.

Despite those endorsements, the Pentagon says that Wakil is among 74 former Guantanamo Bay detainees who've returned to or are suspected of returning to terrorism after their release from the island prison camp.

Wakil scoffs at the suggestion. So do those who know him.

“How could he be a terrorist? He is never far off the government’s radar,” leading Afghan presidential candidate Mirwise Yaseeni said. “His family is here. I have never known him to do anything criminal.”

Pentagon officials didn’t respond to a request for comment on why Wakil was included in a report that was leaked in May.

The report itself says only that Wakil has “associations with terrorist groups.”

The discovery that Wakil, far from being in hiding, operates openly among officials of Afghanistan’s U.S.-allied government raises questions about the report’s credibility, however.

Despite his bravado, Wakil acknowledges that the report has him worried that he’ll be detained again.

Never out of his reach are a stack of legal documents, letters signed by scores of high-ranking officials and frayed newspaper clippings that he believes prove that he isn’t — and never has been — a terrorist. Documents in hand, he’s always prepared to make the case he was never given the opportunity to make at Guantanamo.

“For six years, I was ready to go to court and defend myself. They should show the world their proof against me,” Wakil said. “I am ready to answer any question.”

Unknown officials leaked the Pentagon report naming Wakil to The New York Times just as debate was peaking over President Barack Obama’s plans to shutter Guantanamo.

On the same day that The Times published its story, former Vice President Dick Cheney cited the report in a speech blasting the idea of closing Guantanamo; that same day, Obama made his own presentation defending his plans.

In subsequent weeks, Congress rejected Obama’s request for \$80 million to pay for the closure and restricted his ability to relocate Guantanamo detainees to the United States.

Since then, The New York Times has said that its initial news story made a crucial error, lumping together 27 former detainees who the Pentagon said were confirmed as having returned to terrorism — including several who were dead or in prison — with 47 others, including Wakil, who were suspected terrorists, defined in part as those whose activities were “unverified or single-source but plausible.”

Wakil’s case adds more questions about just what’s meant by “returning to terrorism.”

Wakil, who’s now 49, represented Kunar province in the grand assembly that helped name Karzai president in June 2002. Wakil met with American officials several times after they descended on Afghanistan in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

At the time he was well-known as an anti-Taliban commander and was considered a potential candidate to serve as Kunar’s governor.

Wakil traces his detention to an August 2002 meeting he had with an American commander after U.S. troops shot a resident at a bazaar. Wakil said he went to the U.S. base in hopes of defusing tensions.

“Don’t take any direct action here. Coordinate your actions with the local forces. You don’t understand the local security.’ This is what I advised him,” Wakil said. “I talked to the Americans as an elder of the area. ‘If there is anything I can do, please let me know.’”

At the gate, as he was leaving the meeting, he and nearly a dozen others were detained and taken to Bagram air field.

Within days, only he and Sabar Lal, his military commander, remained in custody. After seven months, he and Lal were transferred to Guantanamo, where for the next six years the tribal leader was known as detainee 798. Lal was released in October 2007, Wakil in April 2008.

“I told them I am a supporter of this government. Why am I detained?” Wakil said. “I said everyone in my province will fight for my release all the way up to the president. They told me no one will fight for you because you are a bad person.”

His uncle had formed Jama’at-ud-Da’wah Pakistan, a Sunni Muslim-based group created in the 1980s to fight the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. The State Department considered it a terrorist organization. While Wakil admits that he was a member of the group, he said he was never a fighter, that his group promoted a certain thread of Islam, not terrorism.

According to Defense Department documents from Wakil’s Combatant Status Review Board hearing at Guantanamo, the United States charged that Wakil helped members of al Qaida escape from Kunar into neighboring Pakistan. The U.S. also charged that he obtained weapons that were used in a rocket attack on the main military base in Kunar.

The charges, the documents say, were based on a source.

In response, Wakil told the review panel he thought that a political enemy, whom he didn’t identify, had set him up. He denied working on behalf of al Qaida; instead, he said he suspected that an al Qaida operative had assassinated his uncle.

Mohammed Roze, who directs the Afghan government’s peace and reconciliation commission in Kunar, said he thought that Malik Zarin, who was then the head of the rival Mushwani tribe, had turned Wakil in because the Mushwani tribe opposed a poppy-eradication program that Wakil had begun in Kunar around the time of his arrest.

Zarin had built close ties with American forces in Kunar, Roze said.

He said that Wakil was never a threat to American troops.

Wakil’s reputation in his province eventually helped his case. Fellow residents compiled hundreds of letters on his behalf. Politicians, including some who’d eventually seek his support, also wrote on his behalf.

“To some extent, he might have used his influence” to earn his release, said Mohammed Akram, the administrative director of the national peace and reconciliation commission, which help Kunar’s tribal leaders secure Wakil’s release.

Upon his release to Afghan authorities, Wakil met with Karzai, who he said apologized for his detention.

“He told me, ‘This was beyond my authority. I was very sad but I knew the people were fighting on your behalf,’” Wakil said.

He’s since met with the defense and interior ministers and with Karzai’s chief of staff a half-dozen times.

Karzai’s government confirmed Wakil’s account. “Whatever Haji Rohullah says about meeting with Karzai and his chief of staff is true. He is an honorable man, so whatever he said happened is correct,” Karzai’s chief of staff, Omar Daudzai, told McClatchy.

Wakil calmly stroked his beard as he described rough treatment at Bagram and Guantanamo, though he prefers to refer to his treatment by his American captors as “disputes.” He said he was now working on behalf of his province and encouraging people to support the government and participate in the national election Aug. 20.

He raised his voice only once, as he described his anger that once again he’s facing accusations and no trial.

“Where is the justice? I am still being threatened because of this,” Wakil said, his arms flailing. “But I do not want to retaliate. People respect me now more than before because they know I am innocent. It is my job as a tribal elder to suffer on behalf of my people.”

Afghan War Veteran Spc. Loope Wins Administrative Discharge: “They Wanted This Injured Soldier To ‘Twist In The Wind’ For A While, Probably In Hopes Of Deterring Other Ailing Soldiers Who Might Go AWOL In Search Of Treatment”

July 11, 2009 Citizen Soldier

Specialist Trevor Loope, 24, of Austin,. TX who faced a year in prison and a Bad Conduct discharge at Special Court Martial for AWOL was discharged administratively by order of Ft Drum's Commander, Gen. Michael Oates on Friday, July 10th.

Because Loope possessed an Honorable Discharge from an earlier Army tour, he will be eligible for GI Bill benefits as well as treatment at VA medical facilities.

Loope had left Ft Drum in 2007 when he was unable to obtain mental health treatment for his Afghan-war-related injuries.

With the support of Citizen Soldier, a national GI and veterans rights advocacy group based in New York City, Loope had surrendered to Ithaca's Common Council on December 3, 2008. He relied on a resolution which the council had adopted in October, 2008 which offered "sanctuary" in Ithaca to war resisters. Although council members offered Trevor support, they didn't provide sanctuary.

After surrendering at Ft Drum,.Trevor spent the next seven months serving in administrative jobs in his old unit. He had provided Ft Drum therapists with an extensive psychiatric diagnosis which documented that he suffered from both severe Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and a Major Depression.

His civilian psychologist, Dr. David Ogren travelled from Houston TX to testify at an Army "sanity board" which met to determine Trevor's mental state on June 18th at Ft Drum. Although that board has still not published its recommendations, General Oates approved an administrative discharge in lieu of court-martial.

Tod Ensign, Esq., Director of Citizen Soldier commented; "The Army has finally done the right thing by separating Trevor without court martial, but they have done this six months ago. For some reason, they wanted this injured soldier to 'twist in the wind' for a while, probably in hopes of deterring other ailing soldiers who might go AWOL in search of treatment."

Ensign added: "Trevor's release is a victory that resulted from the broad support his case generated in Ithaca and across the country. However, we can't forget that there are thousands of other soldiers like Trevor who are denied mental health care every day."

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/)

**Indie Army Wife Says:
“Wash THAT Blood Off Your
Hands Every Night”
“These Soldiers And Their Families
Need HELP And They Need It NOW”
“They Do Not Have Time For Years Of
Government Bureaucratic Bullshit While
You Figure It Out”**

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

July 10, 2009 By Indie Army Wife – Life On The Left Side Of The U.S. Army:
Indiearmywife.typepad.com [Excerpts]

“Army Releases June Suicide Data”

Here we go:

“WASHINGTON, DC (July 9) By Wayne V. Hall, OCPA Media Relations”

“WASHINGTON, DC (July 9) — The Army released suicide data for the month of June today. Among active-duty Soldiers there were no confirmed suicides and nine potential suicides. In May, the Army reported one confirmed suicide and 16 potential suicides among active-duty Soldiers. Since that time, seven have been confirmed and nine remain under investigation. “

“During June 2009, among reserve component Soldiers not on active duty, there were no confirmed suicides and two potential suicides; to date, among that same group, there have been 16 confirmed suicides and 23 potential suicides currently under investigation to determine the manner of death. For the same period in 2008, there were 29 confirmed suicides among reserve Soldiers not on active duty.”

Translation: See??? if you juggle the numbers it really doesn't look so bad....we are competent...we care about soldiers... really, really we do... those “potential”

suicides could have been because of domestic issues, financial crisis, substance abuse or anything... and we're not responsible for that."

Again yeah, yeah you are.

SOLDIERS ARE DYING BECAUSE YOU REFUSE TO STEP UP AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY!

How does that fit into the military creed of accountability?

"Every Soldier suicide is different and tragic in its own way," said Brig. Gen. Colleen McGuire, Director, Army Suicide Prevention Task Force. "Our current research and prevention efforts are identifying common denominators that lead Soldiers to take their own life. It's often a combination of many factors that overwhelm an individual."

Actually, there's just one - LACK OF SUPPORT

You can say it's because of "domestic issues" or "financial problems" or whatever other terms you want to use but you know what? 99.9% of the time those problems are a DIRECT RESULT OF THE ARMY'S LACK OF SUPPORT, INEFFICIENCY, and BLATANT DISREGARD FOR THE NEEDS OF SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

So call it whatever you want boys, it's still your fault.

Wash THAT blood off your hands every night.

"Although suicide can impact anyone, we're finding that male Soldiers, in combat-arms occupational specialties, between ages 18 and 27 are more vulnerable," McGuire said. "That's why we're looking at existing programs and other institutional safety nets to see what works, and what needs to be changed to enhance the support network of trained leaders and behavioral healthcare providers who can identify and treat risk factors before young Soldiers get to the point where they feel there's no way out."

Hm. Well, here's a thought...

We've been fighting TWO brutal wars for more than six years, do you think that POSSIBLY the time to plan, research, and implement those programs was... say... SIX YEARS AGO?!?!

These soldiers and their families need HELP and they need it NOW.

They do not have time for years of government bureaucratic bullshit while you figure it out.

They need help.

Now.

Immediately.

“The Army will complete the second phase of a three-phased service-wide suicide stand-down and chain teach program, July 15, 2009. Phases one and two included an interactive training program, that features a video, and a small unit leader training effort which began on February 15, 2009. The third phase of the Army program will include sustained annual suicide prevention training for all Soldiers, emphasizing common causes of suicidal behavior and the critical role Army leaders, friends, co-workers and Families play in maintaining behavioral health.”

Yeah. In case you forgot what passes for suicide prevention at Fort Campbell, the Army leader in suicides, here's a reminder:



“73% Of Military Personnel Say They Are Comfortable Interacting With Gay People”

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

8 July 2009 Sean Duggan, Guardian News [Excerpts]

A December 2006 Zogby International poll found that 73% of military personnel say they are comfortable interacting with gay people.

The 2006 Zogby poll also found that while an overwhelming majority of US service personnel were comfortable interacting with gay people, only a small portion of those who said they uncomfortable around gay men and women were “very uncomfortable.”

Of the approximately 20% who said that they were uncomfortable, only 5% fit into the “very uncomfortable” category while 15% were “somewhat uncomfortable.”

Oh Shit!

MRE Dairy Shake Tests Positive For Salmonella: They Might Give You Diarrhea

7.13.09 By Matthew Cox, Army Times [Excerpts]

Don't drink the dairy shakes. They might give you diarrhea.

Defense Department officials are warning all military personnel to stop drinking dairy shakes found in Meals, Ready to Eat and Unitized Group Rations-Express because they might contain salmonella.

“There is a remote chance that we might have some dairy shakes that could have some salmonella,” Gerry Darsch, director of the DoD Combat Feeding Program, told Army Times on July 1.

Potentially about 12 million dairy shakes in MREs could be subject to the warning, Darsch said. **[12 million is “some”?]**

Salmonella is a group of bacteria that can cause diarrheal illness in humans, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site.

The salmonella was detected in late June during routine testing of a single lot of dairy shakes, said Darsch, who said he became aware of the issue June 21.

The non-fat dry milk powder ingredient was tracked to two companies, one in Minnesota and one in California, Darsch said.

Defense officials did environmental analysis of “food contact sur-faces” in both facilities and one came up positive, he said.

“Salmonella came up positive in one of those two companies; there were a number of positives that were picked up,” Darsch said.

He would not name either of the two companies inspected. [Oh fuck no, got to protect the profits of the war profiteers. That’s his priority, right?]

The shakes in question are contained in MRE fieldings for 2008 and 2009, Darsch said. About three million cases were fielded for each year.

The shakes are also part of six of the eight Unitized Group Rations-Express menus, said Darsch, who did not have the specific menus, or numbers of how many UGR-Es are affected.

He said people should not drink the shakes in UGR-Es for 2008 and 2009.

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.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

“Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.”
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War

July 14, 1789:
Magnificent Anniversary:
**“Revolutionaries And Mutinous Troops
Stormed And Dismantled The Bastille”**



Carl Bunin Peace History

Bastille Day in France: Parisian revolutionaries and mutinous troops stormed and dismantled the Bastille, a royal fortress converted to a state prison, that had come to symbolize the tyranny of the Bourbon monarchs.

This dramatic action was proof that power no longer resided in the King as God’s representative, but in the people, and signaled the beginning of the French Revolution and the First Republic.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Traitors Busy Busy Busy:

Guantanamo “Detainees, Even if Acquitted, Might Not Go Free” “Like The Bush Administration” Liberty-Hating Obama Rats Say They Can “Continue To Imprison Non-U.S. Citizens Indefinitely Even If They Have Been Acquitted Of Terrorism Charges”

JULY 8, 2009 By JESS BRAVIN, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON -- The Obama administration said Tuesday it could continue to imprison non-U.S. citizens indefinitely even if they have been acquitted of terrorism charges by a U.S. military commission.

Jeh Johnson, the Defense Department’s chief lawyer, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that releasing a detainee who has been tried and found not guilty was a policy decision that officials would make based on their estimate of whether the prisoner posed a future threat.

Like the Bush administration, the Obama administration argues that the legal basis for indefinite detention of aliens it considers dangerous is separate from war-crimes prosecutions.

Mr. Johnson said such prisoners held without trial would receive “some form of periodic review” that could lead to their release.

Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, a leading Republican on detainee policy, approved.

“Some of them will be able to get out of jail because they’ve rehabilitated themselves and some of them may in fact die in jail,” Mr. Graham said.

While Mr. Obama wants to continue in modified form the commissions conceived under former President George W. Bush, officials said the administration favors an expiration date for the experiment unless reauthorized by Congress.

The offshore prison holds about 229 detainees. The administration plans to release some prisoners, while others could be tried in federal court, by military commission or held indefinitely without trial.

Some House Democrats say the limited number of additional protections for defendants the administration has proposed don’t go far enough.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D., N.Y.), who has scheduled a Wednesday hearing on military commissions before the House Judiciary subcommittee he heads, questioned the administration's plan to allot prisoners to federal courts, military commissions or indefinite detention.

“What bothers me is that they seem to be saying, ‘Some people we have good enough evidence against, so we’ll give them a fair trial.

“Some people the evidence is not so good, so we’ll give them a less fair trial. We’ll give them just enough due process to ensure a conviction because we know they’re guilty.

“That’s not a fair trial, that’s a show trial,” Mr. Nadler said.



**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED
THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

CLASS WAR REPORTS



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