

Military Resistance 7J20



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

Then And Now:
2008: “An American Success Story”
2009: “Khost Is One Of The Most Dangerous Provinces In Afghanistan”

“Outside Of The District Centers Everything Is Controlled By Our Mujahedeen”

“The Foreign And Afghan Forces Hardly Ever Leave Their Bases And Come To The Villages”

“No Afghan security forces or government employees can travel in these areas,” said Hanif Shah Hosseini, a parliamentarian from Khost. “The insurgents have a shadow government in all of these areas.”

OCTOBER 24, 2009 By YOCHI J. DREAZEN and ANAND GOPAL, The Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

The collapse of security in the southeastern Afghan province of Khost is highlighting the difficulties of trying to contain the Taliban.

In 2007 and early 2008, troops from the Army’s 82nd Airborne Division waged a long, bloody and seemingly successful campaign to push Taliban fighters and their allies from the Haqqani terrorist network out of Khost.

Diplomat Richard Holbrooke, now President Barack Obama’s special envoy to the region, wrote an op-ed calling it “an American success story.”

Today, Khost is one of the most dangerous provinces in Afghanistan. Afghan officials say the number of militant attacks in the province is up at least 31% so far this year.

Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, wrote that regaining control of Khost was the insurgents’ second-biggest goal in the country, after capturing the city of Kandahar, the Taliban’s spiritual birthplace.

The situation in Khost has given the Taliban space to solidify their alliance with the Haqqani network, an extremist group that has become the Taliban’s most important battlefield partner in the war against the U.S.

Sirajuddin Haqqani, the network’s leader, said in a rare phone interview that his fighters were working to expand their influence.

“Outside of the district centers everything is controlled by our mujahedeen. ... The foreign and Afghan forces hardly ever leave their bases and come to the villages,” he said.

Afghan elected officials from Khost agree that the Haqqani group controls much of the province.

“Khost is in a lot of ways a microcosm for what’s happening in Afghanistan,” said Andrew Exum, a counterinsurgency expert in Washington who advises Gen. McChrystal.

A military official said the U.S. now had roughly 2,400 troops in the province, about double what had been there in previous years. A defense official involved in the current administration debate said he thought the U.S. should ideally deploy at least 1,000 or 2,000 more troops there.

Most violence in the province has been linked to the Haqqani network, which operates out of havens on both sides of the porous Afghanistan-Pakistan border and has taken responsibility for dozens of attacks around Afghanistan.

The group was founded by Jalaluddin Haqqani, who made his name as a leader of the Islamist uprising against the Soviet occupation in the 1980s.

Sirajuddin Haqqani, Jalaluddin’s son, said his fighters didn’t want to capture heavily populated areas because the operations would likely result in significant casualties among insurgents and civilians.

Still, he made clear his group had no intention of abandoning its focus on Khost. “Every now and then we want to carry out coordinated group attacks,” he said.

An American military official who recently served in eastern Afghanistan said the U.S. had intercepted communications suggesting the Haqqani leadership was closely coordinating its activities in Khost with Mullah Omar, the Taliban’s leader, who is believed to be in Pakistan. “It’s a division of labor, with each group focusing on a different part of Afghanistan,” the official said.

The official said some U.S. intelligence officers suspect that the Haqqani leadership had offered to conquer Khost in exchange for a promise from Mullah Omar that the family would be allowed to rule large swaths of eastern Afghanistan if the armed group eventually retook control of the country.

Afghan officials said insurgents now control many of the districts surrounding Khost city and use them as launching pads for attacks targeting the city and for campaigns designed to intimidate the local population there.

The district of Sabari, north of the city, has long been an insurgent stronghold, and another neighboring district called Musa Khel has recently fallen to insurgents, according to Afghan government officials.

Likewise, government control of three other nearby districts is limited to the district capitals, while the surrounding areas are in the hands of the insurgents.

“No Afghan security forces or government employees can travel in these areas,” said Hanif Shah Hosseini, a parliamentarian from Khost.

“The insurgents have a shadow government in all of these areas.”

“We’ve been able to deploy more border police and Afghan army soldiers than ever before, and we plan to continue to increase the numbers,” said provincial Gov. Hamidullah Qalandari.

Still, it may be too late to prevent insurgents from winning the support of local Afghans, officials say.

“At the beginning everyone supported the Americans,” said Mr. Hosseini, the parliamentarian.

“But now a lot of locals don’t believe in a U.S. or government victory anymore. They expect the Americans to leave, so they are casting their support to the Taliban.”

**IF YOU DON’T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATIONS**

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**“Insurgents Have Now Wrecked
An Array Of Pillars Of The State’s
Authority: The Foreign, Finance,
Justice, And Municipalities And
Public Works Ministries, Along
With The Baghdad Provincial
Headquarters”**

**“It Is A Clear Message To Maliki’s
Government That It Cannot Control
The Situation”**

“The Americans Are Primarily To Blame, Though, He Added, Because ‘They Control Everything, From The Sky To The Ground’”



The remains of the Ministry of Justice the day after insurgent attacks in Baghdad October 26, 2009. REUTERS/Saad Shalash

October 26, 2009 By Anthony Shadid, Washington Post [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD -- Twin car bombs that devastated three government buildings and killed 132 people Sunday underlined a new strategy in Iraq's contest for power ahead of January elections: spectacular blows aimed at destroying faith in Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's ability to secure the country as the United States withdraws, officials and residents said.

Sunday's attack, cutting through snarled traffic during the morning rush hour, was the worst in Baghdad since 2007.

With an attack Aug. 19 that killed about 100 people, insurgents have now wrecked an array of pillars of the state's authority: the Foreign, Finance, Justice, and Municipalities and Public Works ministries, along with the Baghdad provincial headquarters, which are all gathered in a fortified swath of downtown.

Unlike the carnage unleashed by attacks in crowded mosques, restaurants and markets, aimed at igniting sectarian strife, these blasts appeared to rely on a distinctly political logic.

In elections scheduled for January to choose a new parliament, Maliki has staked his future on having restored a semblance of security to the war-wrecked country. In the

street Sunday, where blood and ashen detritus mixed with water surging from broken mains, that claim seemed as tattered as the forlorn facades of the targeted buildings.

“It is a clear message to Maliki’s government that it cannot control the situation,” said Wihda al-Jumaili, a Baghdad Provincial Council member opposed to Maliki’s faction.

At the scene, bystanders grew angry as high-ranking police and army officers visited the devastated ministries, surrounded by security details of dozens of men.

“Who has trust in the government?” Ahmed Abed asked. “Why should I have trust?”

The first bomb struck an intersection near the Justice Ministry and the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works at about 10:15 a.m., shattering windows a mile away.

A second blast targeted the Baghdad provincial headquarters, which was draped in a sign heralding its renovation and was sheltered behind blast walls painted with idyllic scenes of the Tigris River.

“We don’t know whether it’s the political parties, al-Qaeda, neighboring countries or the Americans,” said Ridah Mahdi Mohammed, 41, whose nephew was run over by a vehicle speeding away from one of the bombings. The Americans are primarily to blame, though, he added, because “they control everything, from the sky to the ground.”

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Eight More U.S. Troops Killed By “Bomb Attacks” Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan; “Several” More Wounded In “These Incidents” But U.S. Command Too Frightened Of Resistance To Say How Many Or Where

10.27.09 By Maria Golovkina, Reuters

KABUL (Reuters) - Eight U.S. troops were killed in bomb attacks in southern Afghanistan on Tuesday ahead of a run-off presidential election, the NATO-led alliance said, in the deadliest month for U.S. troops since the start of the war eight years ago.

Several troops were also wounded in “multiple complex (bomb) attacks” in the south, just a day after 11 U.S. troops died in separate helicopter crashes in Afghanistan.

An Afghan civilian was killed and several service members were also wounded in these incidents, it said.

No other details were immediately available.

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

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

California Sgt. Killed In Kunar



U.S. Army Sgt. Eduviges G. Wolf was killed when insurgents attacked her vehicle with a rocket-propelled grenade Oct. 25, 2009 in Kunar Province. The 24-year-old was from Hawthorne, Calif. She was assigned to Fort Carson's 704th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

Illinois Soldier Killed In Zhari



U.S. Army Pfc. Devin J. Michel, of Stockton, Ill. died Oct. 24, 2009 from wounds he suffered when his unit was attacked with an improvised bomb in Zhari province in Afghanistan. Michel was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colo. (AP Photo/Department of Defense)

Corporal Thomas Mason, 3 SCOTS, Dies Of Afghanistan Wounds In Selly Oak

27 Oct 09 Ministry of Defence

It is with deep regret that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of Corporal Thomas 'Tam' Mason from The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (3 SCOTS), at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, Selly Oak Hospital, on Sunday 25 October 2009.

Corporal Mason was injured when an improvised explosive device detonated during an operation in Kandahar province on 15 September 2009. Despite the best efforts of medical staff, both in theatre and back in the UK, over a period of nearly six weeks, he sadly died as a result of his wounds.

U.S. Military Finally Admits UH-60 Destroyed Trying To Recover Bodies Of Three Dead Mercenaries From C-12 Down “In Nuristan Province, A Taliban Insurgent Stronghold”

Oct 27 The Associated Press

KABUL – NATO-led forces have recovered the remains of three American military contractors from the wreckage of a U.S. Army reconnaissance plane that crashed two weeks ago in the rugged mountains of northeastern Afghanistan, the military said Tuesday.

The Army C-12 Huron twin-engine turboprop had been missing since it crashed Oct. 13 while on a routine mission in Nuristan province, a Taliban insurgent stronghold.

The plane went down less than two weeks after insurgents overran a coalition outpost the same province, killing eight American troops in one of the war’s deadliest battles for the U.S.

Thomas Casey, a spokesman for Lockheed Martin Corp., confirmed that the three dead men — a pilot, co-pilot and technician — were American citizens working for Lockheed Martin subcontractors.

They were employed under a Lockheed Martin contract for “counter-narcoterrorism” operations, Casey said.

U.S. forces spokesman Col. Wayne Shanks said the crew were the only ones aboard when the craft went down without giving off any distress signals. “We just lost contact,” Shanks told The Associated Press.

Shanks said the plane was on a mission for NATO-led forces at the time, but he gave no other details. Casey said only that it was a surveillance mission.

The pilot and co-pilot worked for a company called Avenge Inc., while the technician was employed by a contractor called Sierra Nevada Corp., Casey said.

The military said a UH-60 helicopter traveling to the crash site four days later “experienced a strong downdraft and performed a hard landing” nearby.

The helicopter’s crew members were rescued, and the chopper was stripped of sensitive and useable parts and destroyed to keep insurgents from salvaging anything in the wreckage.

“The Situation In The Germans’ Part Of The North Has Deteriorated Rapidly”



Most of Germany’s 4,250 soldiers are in Kunduz Province. The New York Times

October 26, 2009 By NICHOLAS KULISH, The New York Times [Excerpts]

While the intensity of the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan’s south has received most attention, the situation in the Germans’ part of the north has deteriorated rapidly. Soldiers said that just a year ago they could patrol in unarmored vehicles. Now there are places where they cannot move even in armored vehicles without an entire company of soldiers.

A company of German paratroopers in the district of Chahar Darreh, where insurgent activity is particularly pronounced, fought off a series of attacks and stayed in the area, patrolling on foot and meeting with local elders for eight days and seven nights.

“The longer we were out there, the better the local population responded to us,” said Capt. Thomas K., the company’s commander. Another company relieved them for three days but then abandoned the position, where intelligence said that a bomb was waiting for the next group of German soldiers.

“Since we were there, no other company has been back,” the captain said.

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

Barrack Burned In Balkh



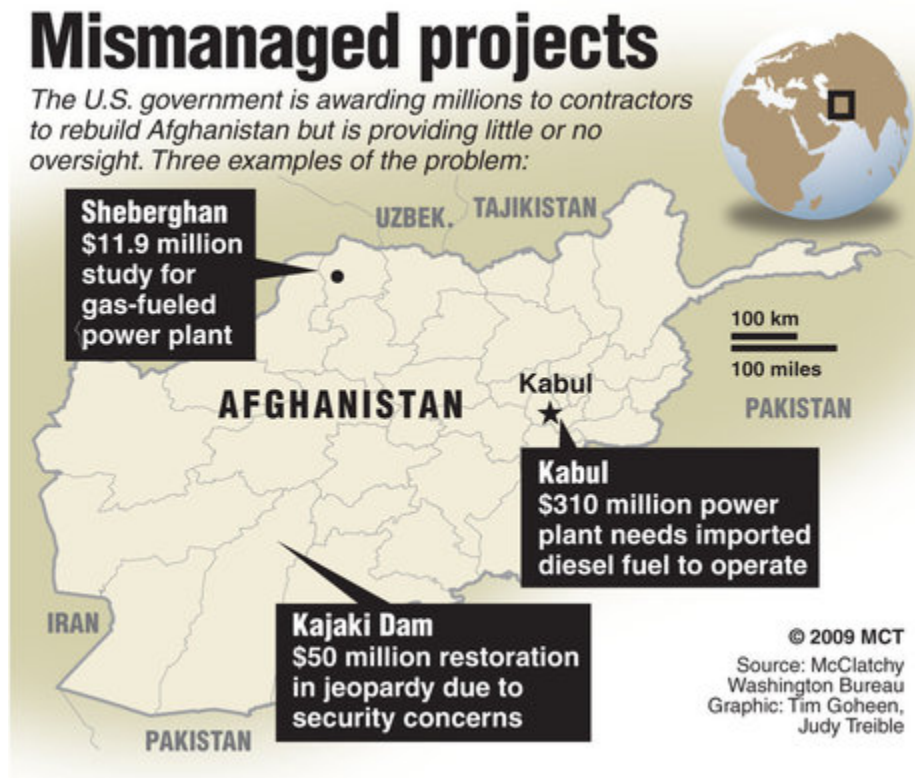
Afghan condemn U.S. occupation as others set fire on an effigy of Barack Obama during a demonstration in Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh province, north of Kabul, Afghanistan on Oct. 27, 2009. (AP Photo/Eltaf Najafizada)

**Corrupt U.S. Occupation
Officials And Thieving War-
Profiteers Join Forces To Steal
U.S. “Aid” To Afghanistan:
“We’re Seeing Fraud Not Only
Within U.S. Contractor Companies,
But Within Government Agencies
Responsible For Overseeing The
Contracts”**

**“Among Afghans, The Power Plant
Became Known As ‘Karzai’s Winter**

Coat' -- Designed To Keep Him Comfortably In Power"

"Afghan Officials Said, 'This Is Not Something We Asked For; This Is Not Something We Want'"



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

October 25, 2009 By Marisa Taylor, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — Flipping a switch on one of Afghanistan's long-awaited electrical power plants in August, U.S. Ambassador Karl Eikenberry urged Afghans to think of U.S. taxpayers' support when they turn their lights on at night.

Only about 6 percent of Afghans are estimated to have electricity, and in his appearance with President Hamid Karzai east of Kabul, Eikenberry hailed the project as part of the country's emergence out of the "darkness" of oppression and isolation.

To some U.S. experts, however, the project is the latest example of exaggerated political expectations and wasted American taxpayers' dollars in the effort to rebuild Afghanistan.

Plagued by delays and rising costs, the project reveals how the U.S. government continues to ignore the hard lessons of Iraq, critics say, where contractors received billions of dollars with little oversight and inspectors have found rampant waste, fraud and abuse.

Far from representing Afghanistan's budding energy independence, the project also demonstrates how dependent the country remains on its neighbors and the U.S.

The Afghan government is expected to need up to \$70 million in aid a year to truck in diesel fuel for the plant and at least another \$60 million to maintain and repair it. U.S. officials who once envisioned the project as a major supplier of electricity in the region now describe it as an expensive backup system.

"It's a sophisticated power plant," said Guy Sands, an assistant inspector general who's overseeing an inspection of the plant for the special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction that's due out soon.

"But the reality is that it's totally dependent on diesel fuel, which comes from outside sources."

Eikenberry's visit marked the completion of only the project's first phase, which was supposed to have been completed last December.

Meanwhile, the plant's construction costs have ballooned from about \$240 million to \$310 million, according to U.S. officials.

In a written response to questions posed by McClatchy, the plant's two contractors, the Louis Berger Group of New Jersey and Black & Veatch of Kansas, said the price tag would be only \$15 million more than expected, not \$70 million.

[So, somebody is a shit-eating lair. Three guesses who.]

Critics say that the U.S. Agency for International Development, the government organization that's overseeing the project, should have foreseen many of the power plant's setbacks, but instead made matters worse by setting an unrealistic deadline from the outset, requiring the first phase to be done in five months.

Among Afghans, the power plant became known as "Karzai's winter coat" -- designed to keep him comfortably in power through the winter of 2009 -- and also a project that the Bush administration could hold up as a success before George W. Bush left office -- an achievement needed to counter reports of cost overruns and delays.

A U.S. official with knowledge of the project said Afghan officials privately complained that they hadn't been part of the decision to construct the project.

"They said, 'This is not something we asked for; this is not something we want,'" said the official, who spoke only on the condition of anonymity because of the political sensitivity of the project.

The plant, near a sprawling industrial park, is part of a five-year, \$1.4 billion contract to build many of the roads and energy projects that now are under way in Afghanistan. The USAID awarded it jointly to the two U.S.-based companies in 2006.

Like Halliburton, which by some estimates took in more than \$10 billion in Iraq reconstruction contracts, Louis Berger/Black & Veatch received a so-called “cost plus contract,” which reimburses costs and pays a percentage of those expenses as a fee.

At the time, U.S. officials thought that cost-plus was the best way to encourage two major companies to take on the risks of overseeing a wide range of complex projects in a region in which expenses -- and security -- are difficult to predict.

Even so, cost-plus contracts can encourage waste and overbilling, experts said. Auditors and investigators who scrutinized Halliburton’s contracts over several years in Iraq, for instance, found millions of dollars in double-billing and inflated costs.

Republican Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, who’s called for ending cost-plus contracts and has been critical of U.S. oversight of them, describes cost-plus contracts as “an open invitation to contractors to rip off the government.”

“By allowing contractors to not have any skin in the game, we allow for billions of dollars to be wasted, because all the risk is born by the U.S. taxpayer,” he told McClatchy.

According to U.S. government estimates, fraud and corruption result in losses of up to 6 percent in government contracts.

“When we’re talking about numbers as high as \$50 billion in contracts like we are in Afghanistan, we’re talking about significant amounts of money,” said Ray DiNunzio, the assistant inspector general for investigations for the special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction.

“We’re seeing fraud not only within U.S. contractor companies, but within government agencies that are responsible for overseeing the contracts, and even on a larger scale among Afghan nationals who are being awarded some of the contracts.”

Making matters worse, U.S. officials and lawmakers describe the USAID as overwhelmed and in the dark when it comes to tracking the details of ongoing projects.

Some U.S. officials have questioned how Louis Berger won the contract in the first place, given a troubled history in Afghanistan.

The company was accused of overseeing poorly constructed roads, medical clinics and schools.

Because of lackluster monitoring by the USAID and the company, a highway from Kabul to Kandahar required major reconstruction, according to the USAID’s inspector general.

The road is now virtually unusable because the Taliban have made it unsafe by using it to stage attacks.

So far, the U.S. government has paid Louis Berger \$700 million for the previous contract.

According to Louis Berger/Black & Veatch's estimates, the companies have billed the U.S. government \$549 million so far for their joint contract.

According to the USAID, Louis Berger/Black & Veatch have completed six projects three years into the joint contract, at a total of almost \$54 million, or less than 5 percent of the total contract's value.

Projects in the contract overseen by the companies, according to the USAID, include:

-- A \$11.9 million study of the viability of using a natural gas field to fuel a 100-megawatt power plant, which was canceled in June because of "poor performance" by the subcontractor, according to the USAID, after the government had paid \$7 million.

-- A \$50 million restoration of the Kajaki dam, which was built more than 50 years ago in Helmand province. It initially was subcontracted to China Machine-Building International, which abandoned the project last November, citing major security problems, the USAID said. Intended to generate 100 megawatts to provide electricity to hundreds of thousands of people after it was restored, the dam so far generates 33 megawatts at a cost of \$48 million.

In its response to McClatchy's questions about its projects, Louis Berger/Black & Veatch said it planned to complete the projects required under the five-year contract.

They blamed the power plant delays on the subcontractor, which they contended failed "to adhere to its contractual obligations."

Symbion Power, the subcontractor, denies being responsible. R. Scott Greathead, a lawyer for the U.S.-based company, accused Louis Berger/Black & Veatch of "serious" management mistakes.

Scott "Max" Anthony Walker, who worked for the companies as a security coordinator until he was fired in June, is charged with soliciting at least \$250,000 in kickbacks along with Bryan Lee Burrows, a Kabul-based consultant and major in the U.S. Army Reserve.

In a Skype chat, Burrows told the subcontractor that he could help it win a security contract, according to court records. "I have a good friend on the inside on the committee that can swing this whole thing your way," the federal criminal complaint says Burrows told the subcontractor.

Burrows also told the subcontractor that his friend wanted 1.5 percent of the contract's value in order to steer the deal, the complaint says.

He added, "As you know, everything in Afghanistan comes at a price," according to the complaint.

Burrows has pleaded guilty. Walker hasn't yet appeared in court.

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW



During a firefight with Taliban militants a U.S. Marine sprints down an irrigation canal to a location to launch his rocket in Nawa district, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Oct. 4, 2009. Taliban militants attacked the Marines on patrol using assault rifles, medium machine guns, and snipers. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of Cpl. Benjamin Stephen Kopp of the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, is carried during funeral services, Aug. 7, 2009, at Arlington National Cemetery. Kopp, of Rosemount, Minn., was wounded during combat operations in Afghanistan and later died of his injuries. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

3500 From Iowa National Guard Off To Obama's Imperial Slaughterhouse

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

October 20, 2009 BY WILLIAM PETROSKI, The Des Moines Register

About 3,500 Iowa National Guard soldiers from 31 communities are scheduled to be sent to Afghanistan later next year for a deployment that will touch families, employers and many other people statewide, military officials said today.

The entire 2nd Brigade of the 34th Infantry Division has been alerted for a mobilization in the fall of 2010 in what is projected to be the largest single call-up of an Iowa National Guard unit since World War II, said Brig. Gen. Tim Orr, the Iowa National Guard's adjutant general.

A total of about 3,900 soldiers have been alerted for possible duty, Orr said. Some brigade elements may not be mobilized because of recent deployments. Four additional Guard units have been notified they may be needed to support the brigade's mission, he said.

The brigade is a fighting force that includes infantry troops, artillery units, engineers, medical specialists, truck drivers and other military occupations.

The brigade is expected to remain on active duty about 12 months. The troops will probably spend about two months training at a yet-to-be determined military base in the United States before they are deployed to Afghanistan. Fighting there between coalition forces and the Taliban has intensified with more U.S. troops dying now in Afghanistan than in Iraq.

The call-up is so widespread that many Iowans will know some of the soldiers being mobilized, Guard officials said.

Amazing News! The Part Of Canada Where Troops Come From "Even Favoured Bringing The Troops Home Earlier Than 2011"

10.23.09 By Murray Brewster (Canada Press) [Excerpts]

About half of Canadians are comfortable with the idea of the country remaining involved in Afghanistan post-2011, but in a civilian role and not with combat troops, a new poll suggests.

Quebec and Atlantic Canada appeared cool to the idea and a majority of respondents in those regions even favoured bringing the troops home earlier than 2011.

The results are interesting, especially since support for the military in almost everything it does is routinely highest in Atlantic Canada, which proportionally contributes the greatest number of soldiers, sailors and aircrew to the military.

[Quebec isn't a surprise either. They're still pissed off about being invaded and occupied by the British 350 years ago. T]

Apply For Retro Stop-Loss Payments Today: [“There’s Not Enough Money In The World To Cover The Cost Of Stop Loss”]

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: “There’s not enough money in the world to cover the cost of stop loss.”]

Oct 21, 2009 By Jim Tice, Staff writer, Army Times

Soldiers, retirees and veterans who think they may be eligible for retroactive stop-loss pay have 12 months to apply for the special \$500 per month entitlement authorized by Congress earlier this year.

As many as 140,000 current and former soldiers may qualify for payment.

Effective Oct. 21, the Army will compensate soldiers for each month, or portion of a month, they were retained on active duty beyond their contracted separation or voluntary retirement date.

Claims may be submitted starting Oct. 21 and must be filed by Oct. 21, 2010.

Payments are retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001, and cover involuntary service performed through Sept. 30, 2009.

However, soldiers who have received regular stop-loss pay for service performed after Oct. 1, 2008, will be compensated only if they were in stop-loss status before that date.

The retroactive compensation will be paid lump sum for the months served in stop-loss status.

Soldiers will not receive regular stop-loss pay and retroactive stop-loss pay for the same period.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service will determine the applicable tax exclusion for retroactive pay that was earned in a combat zone, according to Army officials.

While all the armed forces have imposed some form of stop-loss since 9/11, the Army has liberally applied the policy to its active and reserve components over the past nine years, with restrictions initially imposed on soldiers in priority specialties, and since 2003, on entire units.

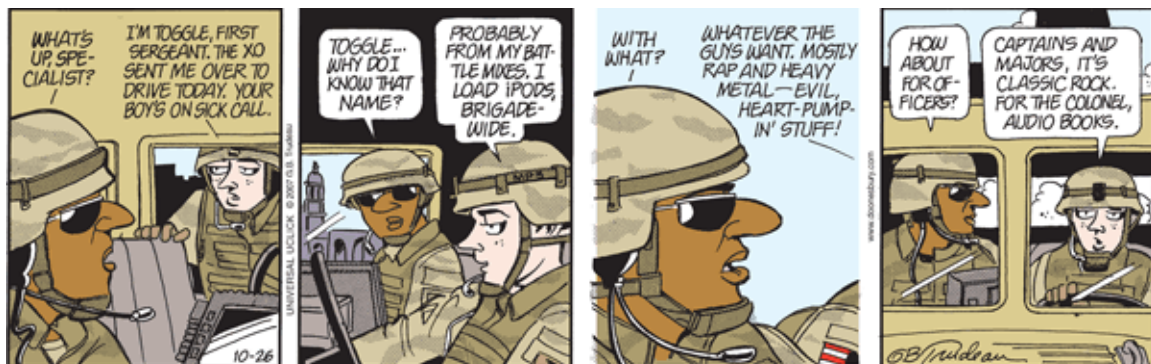
Because of stop-loss's widespread use, Army personnel officials estimate that nearly 140,000 current and former soldiers may be eligible.

To qualify, soldiers, retirees, veterans or their survivors must file a claim with the Army no later than Oct. 21, 2010.

Claims can be submitted electronically beginning Oct. 21 at a dedicated Web site, <https://www.stoplosspay.army.mil>.

Soldiers and former soldiers qualify for retroactive stop-loss pay if they were retained on active duty beyond:

- A contractual expiration term of service, or ETS, date, or in the case of reservists, their contractual ETS in the Selected Reserve.
- An approved separation date based on an unqualified resignation or release from active duty or, in the case of reservists, an approved request for transfer to the Individual Ready Reserve.
- An approved retirement based on length of service.



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

Military Resistance Available In PDF Format
If you prefer PDF to Word format, email contact@militaryproject.org

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**

**I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace**

**“While there is a lower class I am in it; while there is a criminal element I am of it; while there is a soul in prison, I am not free”
-- Eugene V. Debs**

We Can Stop This War



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: October 23, 2009
Subject: We Can Stop This War

We Can Stop This War

**Arrested at the Gangster 20,
along with the truth on his
T-shirt.**

**Empire will not tolerate
Democracy.**

**The youth have their whole
lives in front of them,
while those much older
sit and play safe.**

**They pass judgement,
and they wonder why there is
a generation gap.**

The youth are pissed off,

because they have their whole lives
in front of them.
They do not want the corporate rich
marching them into a methane gas
chamber.
Home foreclosures.
Homeward bound to the streets.
Schools in turmoil.
No jobs.
No peace in the Middle East.
No health care for millions.
No future.
Drugs everywhere.
Climate chaos.
Denial is a mental illness,
because the ruling class have
kept people comfortably numb.
I meet so many young people who
see the truth,
because they are not mentally arrested,
and they are willing to get arrested for
wearing the truth.
If the youth loose hope,
we are all dead.
Because they are the future.

Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
October 23, 2009

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) 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.

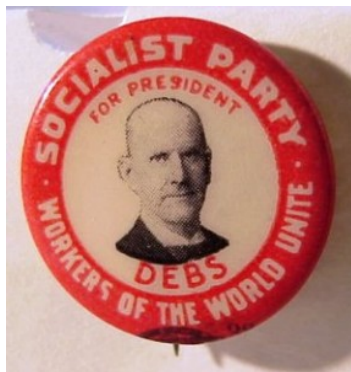
Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

The Obvious:

“Every hint at public ownership is now called Socialism, without reference to the fact that there can be no Socialism, and that public ownership means practically nothing, so long as the capitalist class is in control of the national government.”

-- Eugene Debs, quoted by Bill Roberts in “Eugene Debs And American Socialism,” International Socialist Review September-October 2009.

[What a long list of political tendencies prefer to blind themselves to the obvious: reactionaries who howl about Obama’s “socialist” program; leftish reformers who howl about “nationalizing” the Wall Street banks; assorted intellectuals who defend capitalist dictatorships in Cuba, Vietnam and so forth merely because the parasites who rule there own some means of production and put on a “socialist” mask. T]



Eugene Debs 1910

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW 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/)**

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Obama's Great Health Care Swindle:

“Obama And The Democrats Offer False Promises To ‘Keep The Insurers Honest’”

“Nowhere In Obama's Comments Does He Acknowledge The Obscene Greed And Wealth Of The Health Care CEO's

And Stockholders, The Real Source Of Crisis”

The so-called public option made it into the House legislation by a vote of 35 to 24. It's touted as the antidote to private insurers' greed — the way to “keep them honest.” Boosters claim that it will infuse competition into the system and bring down costs. It will do nothing of the sort.

By HELEN REDMOND, International Socialist Review September-October 2009.
[Excerpts] Helen Redmond is a social worker in Chicago.

WHEN IT comes to the crisis in health care the adage “The more things change, the more they stay the same” couldn't be more true.

The politicians' names may change, but the two parties don't deviate much from the same timeworn script.

The Republicans are making hysterical and ludicrous pronouncements of a “government takeover” of the health care system and President Barack Obama and the Democrats offer false promises to “keep the insurers honest,” or as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi declared, “The glory days are coming to an end for the health insurance industry.”

How can that be when the private insurers had most of the seats at the table, shaped the legislation into what was acceptable and what was not, and are spending \$1.4 million dollars a day lobbying members of Congress?

Would these wealthy corporations willingly agree to end their “glory days” of astronomical profit making?

The health care debate gripping Washington happens about every twenty years. Two things have coalesced to force the government to attempt reform once again: the economic depression and record numbers of uninsured (50 million and counting).

Unemployment is the major factor contributing to the steep rise in the number of uninsured, because for most American workers health coverage is linked to a job.

In one comment to NBC reporter Chuck Todd, President Obama revealed how deeply the priorities of the private health insurance industry are embedded in his legislation.

In the interview with Todd, Obama explained: “I want to cover everybody—now, the truth is that unless you have a — what's called a single-payer system in which everybody's automatically covered, then you're probably not going to reach every single individual because there's always going to be somebody out there who thinks they're indestructible and doesn't want to get health care, doesn't bother getting health care and then, unfortunately, when they get hit by a bus, end up in the emergency room and the rest of us have to pay for it.

“But that’s not the overwhelming majority of Americans. The overwhelming majority of Americans want health care but millions can’t afford it. So the plan has been — that I’ve put forward and that what we’re seeing in Congress would cover, the estimates are at least 97 percent to 98 percent of Americans.

“There might still be people left out there who, even though there’s an individual mandate, even though they are required to purchase health care, might not get it or, despite a lot of subsidies are still in such dire straits that it’s still hard for them to afford it, and we may end up giving them some sort of hardship exemption.”

One might reasonably ask that if a single-payer system would cover 100 percent of Americans, why not enact Rep. John Conyers single-payer bill H.R. 676.

Answer: because that legislation eliminates the role of the private insurance industry; which makes obscenely high profits.

Obama’s comment represents a wholesale acceptance of the “talking points” the lobbying group for the health insurance industry, America’s Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) are promoting.

The notion that people “don’t want” or “don’t bother” to purchase insurance, get injured and then “we” end up paying is straight from the crooked mouth of Karen Ignagni, the CEO of AHIP.

Always blame the victims of the system.

Or as the corporate media does, blame doctors for ordering too many tests, prescribing brand name drugs, not rationing care, and providing too much “expensive” end-of-life care.

Nowhere in Obama’s comments does he acknowledge the obscene greed and wealth of the health care CEO’s and stockholders, the real source of crisis.

From 2000 to 2007, health insurance profits grew from \$2.4 billion to \$12.9 billion.

Under Obama’s plan, Ronald A. Williams, CEO of Aetna, will continue to make \$18,608,778 a year.

Representative Peter Welch, a Democrat from Vermont, admitted in an article in the New York Times, that “under the agreement, private insurers are coming off unscathed.... They do quite well—too well, frankly.”

Moreover, the House legislation allocates billions of dollars to subsidize those who can’t afford insurance premiums — an outright transfer of money to the insurance industry.

But where the money will come from is still being hotly debated. The “Blue Dog” Democrats oppose taxing the rich to fund and expand coverage, but are entertaining the idea of taxing workers’ health benefits.

There was one moment of honesty in the debate over funding health care reforms that are expected to cost more than \$1 trillion over ten years.

Douglas Elmendorf from the CBO said of the proposed House legislation: “We do not see the sort of fundamental changes that would be necessary to reduce the trajectory of federal health spending by a significant amount.”

In other words, the legislation cannot do what Obama said it must do; contain costs.

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In a thoroughly researched article on the public option titled “Bait and Switch,” author Kip Sullivan shows how it can't control costs and still leaves millions uninsured. He explained, “Any proposal that leaves in place a multiple-payer system — even a multiple-payer system with a large-government run program in the middle of it — is going to save very little money.”

Sullivan notes that the public option was originally sold as something similar to Medicare that could cover 130 million people and which, like Medicare, would cost considerably less than private insurance. Now the public option has been whittled down to a plan to cover at most 10 million.

Moreover, as the CBO notes, the plan “would pay providers of health care at rates comparable to privately negotiated rates — and thus was not projected to have premiums lower than those charged by private insurance plans.”

As long as the private insurance industry is in the mix, affordable health care coverage for everyone is an impossibility because the system is based on the avoidance of sick people and denial of care — to ensure profits.

It is the central logic of privatized health care in a capitalist economy.

Congress faces the same conundrum every time they address health care.

In order to keep profit-making at the core of the system, which is the cause of the crisis, heavily lobbied lawmakers create legislation that is deliberately complex, confusing, full of contradictions, and offers only incremental change at best.

The Obama bill is more than 1,000 (impenetrable) pages long. The legislation promises only to “rein in” the most outrageous insurance industry practices of medical underwriting and make coverage affordable, but how will they “rein in” insurers, and who decides what is affordable?

The leading cause of bankruptcy is the inability to pay medical bills and the majority of those who declared bankruptcy had insurance when they got sick.

Unfortunately, the “glory days” of the health insurance industry are not over.

It will take a much bigger social movement to pry health care from the greedy fingers of the private health care industry.

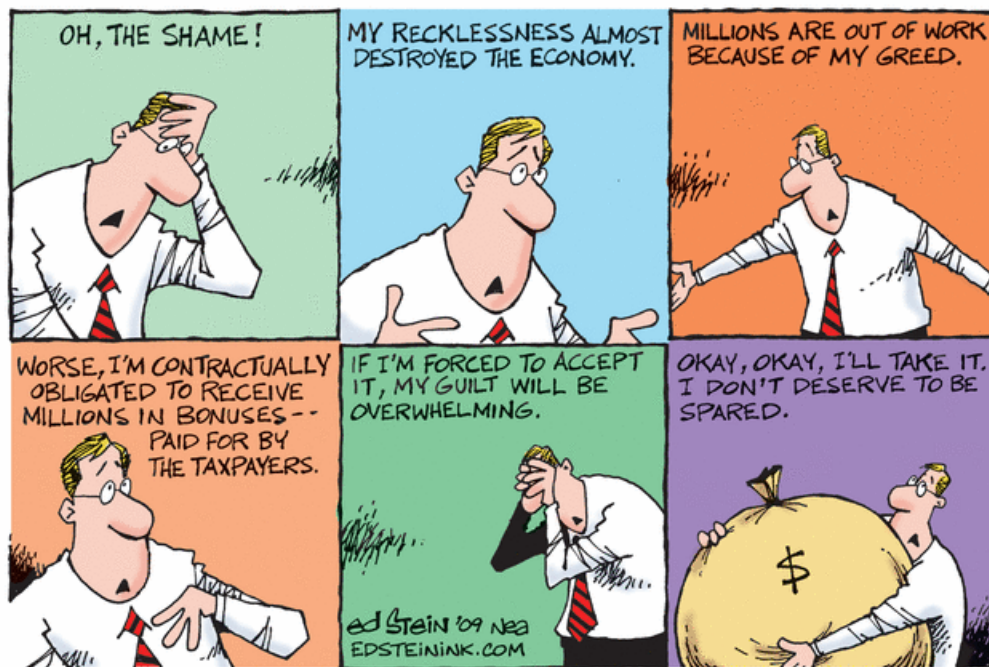
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