

## **Military Resistance 7K11**



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd). She writes: "Tell me once again, why are we still fighting in Afghanistan? They've got the best democracy money can buy, even more efficient than our own."]

**“1,800 Troops Were Wounded In  
Afghanistan In The First 10  
Months Of This Year”**

**“Nearly 1,000 Of Those Injuries  
Occurred In The Last Three  
Months”**

**“In Iraq, More Than 600 Troops Have  
Been Wounded So Far This Year”**

# **“Spinal Injuries Account For One In Six Of The Wounds Treated In The Afghanistan Battle”**

Nov 11, 2009 By Kimberly Hefling - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — Far from winding down, the numbers of wounded U.S. soldiers coming home have continued to swell. The problem is especially acute among those who fought in Afghanistan, where nearly four times as many troops were injured in October as a year ago.

Amputations, burns, brain injuries and shrapnel wounds proliferate in Afghanistan, due mostly to crude, increasingly potent improvised bombs targeting U.S. forces. Others are hit by snipers' bullets or mortar rounds.

Since 2007, more than 70,000 service members have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury — more than 20,000 of them this year, according to the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center.

At least 1,800 troops were wounded in Afghanistan in the first 10 months of this year, about 40 percent of all the wounded U.S. troops in Afghanistan since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Nearly 1,000 of those injuries occurred in the last three months.

In Iraq, more than 600 troops have been wounded so far this year.

Spinal injuries account for one in six of the wounds treated in the Afghanistan battle theater, Shanks said.

Of those injuries, about 15 percent involved motor or sensory changes such as a broken back or spinal cord injury, Shanks said.

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## **ACTION REPORTS**

### **Veterans' Day Outreach: New York City**

From: Richie M  
Subject: Veterans Day Outreach  
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2009 9:00 AM

So I'm walking past the Lexington Ave. armory [New York City] this morning and I think "holly sh!t we're being invaded!" (not realizing today is Veterans Day and the parade is this morning).

What had to be 200 or more troops were starting to line in formation on the sidewalk.

So I whip out whatever cards I had remaining and I run through the formation yelling out "traveling soldier magazine"..."traveling soldier magazine" as if I'm selling papers on a street corner in knickers.

In any event, I distributed about the 25+ remaining cards I had on me and then got the f#@k out of dodge!

## THE MILITARY PROJECT

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## SUPPORTING GI RESISTANCE

[front]

*If you are a veteran who supports an immediate end to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan -- the Military Project recommends you contact:*

## IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR



www.IVAW.org

[back]

[Cards design: Richie M, Military Resistance]

## 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/](http://www.ivaw.org/))**

**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 Military Resistance 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.**

**All identifying information – locations, personnel – will be omitted from the reports.**

**If accidentally included, that information will not be published.**

**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.**

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

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# **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

## **Five Swedish Soldiers Wounded By IED**

Nov 11, 2009 South Asia News

Stockholm - An Afghan interpreter was killed and five Swedish soldiers wounded by a roadside bomb in northern Afghanistan on Wednesday, the Swedish military said.

The blast targeted the armoured vehicle the group was travelling in, some 40 kilometres west of Mazar-e-Sharif, where the Swedish and Finnish contingent of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) is based.

The five soldiers were taken to a German-run field hospital, but the military had no immediate details of their injuries.

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## **Australian Soldier Wounded By Oruzgan IED**

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

11/11/2009 Department of Defence

An Australian soldier is in a stable condition after receiving wounds when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) detonated during operations in southern Afghanistan.

The soldier with the 2nd Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force (MRTF-2) was part of a joint Australian and Afghan National Army (ANA) patrol, when they were targeted in an IED attack, north of Tarin Kowt in Oruzgan Province on the 10th of November.

Receiving minor shrapnel wounds to the leg, the soldier was administered immediate first aid before being transferred by Aero Medical Evacuation to the ISAF medical facility at Tarin Kowt for treatment.

The soldier's wounds are not considered to be life threatening and his family have been notified.

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## **Attack On Occupation Convoy In Shajoy Wounds Foreign Troops;**

# **Nationality And How Many Not Announced: [Precise Details About Civilians Announced]**

Nov 11, 2009 By Elena Becatoros - The Associated Press

In southern Afghanistan, a bomber on a motorcycle detonated his explosives near a NATO military convoy in the province of Zabul, killing a man and a woman and wounding another three bystanders, the province's governor said.

Gulab Shah Ali Khail said the bomber struck in the district of Shajoy. Afghan Army officer Aimal Khan also said the motorcycle bomber killed two and wounded three.

Tech. Sgt. Angela Eggman, a NATO spokeswoman, confirmed that a military convoy had been hit by an explosion in Zabul that had wounded both Afghan locals and international troops. She did not have any further details.

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## **Resistance Action**

Oct. 30, 2009 AP & Nov. 5 (Xinhua) & Nov 9 (Reuters)

A bomber was killed and three Afghan intelligence officers were wounded in a car bomb blast in Kandahar province, police said.

Two persons were killed and two others got wounded as a roadside bomb struck a vehicle of a road construction company in Khost province, in east Afghanistan, on Thursday, police said. The incident occurred in Duamanda district this morning as a result two local employees of an Indian road construction company were killed and two others sustained injuries.

One Afghan soldier was killed and another was wounded by insurgent fire in the eastern province of Laghman overnight, the Afghan Defence Ministry said.

<p><b>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATIONS</b></p>
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## **Troops In Afghanistan Call Strykers "Kevlar Coffins"**

**“Honestly, I’m Going, But I Don’t  
Want To Go,” Said The Soldier:  
“I Want To At Least Have A Fighting  
Chance. There’s No Enemy When  
You’re Sitting In A Box”  
“You Can’t Fight What You Can’t See  
When You’re Sitting In The Kevlar  
Coffin”**

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

November 5, 2009 Sara A. Carter, The Washington Times

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan: Staff Sgt. Daniel Paul Rabidou nervously rubbed the sweat from his palms onto his Army fatigues.

The tall, well-built 24-year-old from San Bernardino, Calif., had already survived two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) on convoys in the past six weeks, including one on the same road he was getting ready to traverse again from Forward Operating Base Ramrod near Kandahar to a small outpost in the heart of Taliban territory.

Since they arrived at the outpost on Sept. 13, the Blackwatch unit - Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, with the 5th Stryker Brigade - had lost three soldiers and two civil affairs officers.

**IEDs had destroyed three of their four Stryker vehicles. Overall, 21 of 350 Strykers have been destroyed since the 5th Brigade deployed in southern Afghanistan in July; more than two dozen Americans have been killed and nearly 70 wounded.**

Soldiers call the Strykers “Kevlar coffins,” Sgt. Rabidou said.

“Lead vehicle always sucks,” he said, as the convoy set off with a reporter and photographer from The Washington Times in the first Stryker.

“It’s usually the one to go first if there’s a pressure plate bomb. Sure you don’t want to get out now? It may be your last chance,” he asked half-jokingly.

The eight-wheeled Stryker, introduced a decade ago as a faster, more mobile alternative to tanks and other tracked vehicles, has had a controversial history. In theory, the Stryker’s speed and capacity -- it can carry 11 plus a crew of two -- makes up for its lighter armor.

But critics say its vulnerability to IEDs make it unsuitable for duty in southern Afghanistan.

The Stryker is “essentially a paramilitary police vehicle,” said retired Army Col. Doug Macgregor, a specialist on tank warfare. “It’s designed to transfer American light infantry down a road,” not to fight an elusive enemy in treacherous terrain.

Col. Macgregor said the U.S. Army would do better to follow the example of Canada, which has bought German Leopard II tanks for use by ground forces in Afghanistan.

“What you need in Afghanistan is tracked armor, off-the-road capability and a stable platform for large-caliber guns,” he said.

**Many soldiers and officers interviewed by The Times over the past two weeks also questioned the use of Strykers in southern Afghanistan.**

Taliban insurgents have become increasingly successful in planting IEDs, some as large as 1,500 to 2,000 pounds.

Since July, these powerful bombs have ripped apart 21 of the 350 Strykers in Afghanistan and destroyed one Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle. In addition to more than two dozen Americans killed in action, scores have been wounded, many with severe injuries ranging from head trauma to loss of limbs.

The latest incident occurred Monday as a convoy headed out from Forward Operating Base Ramrod.

“We were heading into town to win over the hearts and minds,” said Sgt. Josh Gooding, 33, from Panama City, Fla., interviewed in a hospital bed at Kandahar airfield’s trauma unit.

A hand and his right eye had been damaged.

“We went out there to say, ‘Look, we’re not intimidated, and we’re not going anywhere,’ “ he said.

“I’m lucky,” said Sgt. Gooding, who had just woken up his wife, Amber, by phone to tell her he was OK.

“It was a huge reality check for me. It blew the tires right off and it breached the hull.”

Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell said U.S. officials are “well aware of the fact that the Stryker brigade out of Fort Lewis has taken heavy casualties” in southern Afghanistan.

“While the type of vehicle our forces are riding in, be it a Stryker or an MRAP, can help them survive an IED attack, the best defense is a good offense and Secretary Gates and his team here and in Afghanistan are working hard to make sure our troops have the wherewithal to track, map and ultimately defeat the bomb-implanting networks,” Mr. Morrell said. **[Well, time for Shitbird Morrell to take some rides in Afghanistan up**



**close and personal. See whether he keeps puking out this lame, stupid, silly bullshit. T]**

**Despite the Army's use of mine-clearing vehicles before many of the convoys head out on patrol, insurgents sometimes replace the IEDs within an hour.**

"We are constantly reviewing our tactics," said Capt. Adam Weece, spokesman for the Stryker brigade. "We take into account the mission, the desired outcome, the enemy's tactics and the area in which we operate, and we do that to determine the way we carry out our missions," he said. **[Right. As more and more Strykers are blown up and more and more soldiers killed, "reviewing tactics" does become necessary: doing less with less.**

"We've seen the developments of new IEDs," he added, "some with on and off switches trying to defeat our detection devices.

"They don't have to kill every one of us; they don't have to destroy every vehicle; they only have to destabilize us, and that is what they are attempting to do." **[From the insurgents' point of view, mission accomplished.]**

The results have been especially rough for the men and women of combat outpost Rath in the heart of Maywand district. With a population of 55,000, a growing insurgency and a literacy rate of under 3 percent, the district has become an enormous challenge to secure.

First, the soldiers have to get there.

"The reality is, if an IED is out there, and we haven't spotted it, someone's going to get hit," said Staff Sgt. Joshua Yost, 27, from Shelton, Wash.

A survivor of a Sept. 14 IED attack that killed two Americans, he said, "When I first came to Afghanistan in 2002, 2003 and even 2004, we never worried about IEDs. Now it's the most dangerous weapon the Taliban uses against us."

On the road from Ramrod to Rath, nine soldiers and two civilians were crammed into a Stryker, facing one another in the small space.

Outside was desert, rock and white powdery sand. Inside the vehicle, a live video feed gave a black-and-white view of the desolate surroundings.

The vehicle bumped and bounced through the empty vastness, trying to stay clear for as long as possible from Highway 1, the main thoroughfare that connects Kabul to Afghan cities in the south and west.

U.S. troops call it the "Death Highway" for the large number of IEDs placed by insurgents in its culverts.

Just as Highway 1 came into view, the Stryker rolled over a small boulder, jostling its occupants as it lifted into the air, before falling back to earth with a thud.

“Damn, it doesn’t matter how many times we hit a big rock, it still makes me jump,” Sgt. Rabidou said. Then he added: “Feeling lucky today.”

At the highway, Capt. Casey Thoreen stopped the convoy to check the culverts, and several soldiers dismounted with rifles at the ready to search for IEDs beneath the asphalt.

Capt. Thoreen, commander of the unit, also dismounted. He had seen something that resembled the upper plate of a pressure bomb, but it turned out to be a large ceramic container.

“It’s just the top of a jar or something,” he yelled to his men. “Let’s roll out of here.”

Once the Strykers mounted Highway 1, the bumps and rocks gave way to smooth asphalt. Still, the nearly 45-minute ride from Ramrod to Rath seemed to last a lifetime.

People from surrounding villages stopped and stared at the convoy until it passed through the gates of the outpost. Finally, the soldiers in the Stryker smiled with relief.

“This was a good ride,” Sgt. Rabidou said. “We’re here.”

At the outpost, there were a few comforts: chewing tobacco, Cup o’ Noodles, cookies and Starbucks instant coffee packets. The soldiers would spend the next few days meeting with locals, dealing with detainees, securing the bazaar on foot patrol and searching for insurgents and weapons.

“Hey, Martinez!” yelled one of the arrivals to Pfc. Carlos Martinez-Toro, 20, from Las Vegas, who had just returned from leave. He was the only member of his unit who hadn’t needed to be medically evacuated after the Sept. 14 IED attack.

“I didn’t want to get back on the Stryker. It made me nervous,” he said. “I feel very lucky to be alive. I knew my family was praying for me. Maybe that’s why I got so lucky that day. We lost some really good friends.”

**Sgt. Rabidou said he still gets “jittery” whenever he hears an explosion. “We train, train, train to do the right thing to stay alive. There’s not a lot we can do for an IED. It’s like a game of chance - sometimes you’re lucky, sometimes you’re not.**

**“It’s the most dangerous ride of my life; for that matter, anyone’s life. Guess that’s why people started calling it the Kevlar coffin.”**

**Earlier in the week, at Kandahar Air Field, a young soldier said he was terrified of being deployed to his Stryker unit.**

**“Honestly, I’m going, but I don’t want to go,” said the soldier, who asked not to be named to avoid problems with his superiors.**

**“I want to at least have a fighting chance. There’s no enemy when you’re sitting in a box. You can’t fight what you can’t see when you’re sitting in the Kevlar coffin.”**

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# **Bombings By Afghanistan Occupation Highest Since July 2008**

Nov 11, 2009 By Bruce Rolfsen, Army Times [Excerpt]

The number of airstrikes in Afghanistan was up in October, according to Air Forces Central Command.

Coalition warplanes dropped 647 bombs during 2,359 close-air support sorties, AFCent figures show. The bomb total is the highest since July 2008, when 752 bombs were released.

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**The Great Afghan Troop  
Training Fiasco Rolls On:  
“In The Afghan Logistics Battalion  
I Was Embedded With, The  
Commander Was Extorting A  
Local Shopkeeper”  
“We Teamed Up With Well-Known  
Criminals And Local Thugs To  
Distribute Aid In The Very Village  
They Had Been Terrorizing, And That  
Was The Face Of American Charity”  
“Only The CEOs And Executive Officers  
Of War-Profiteering Corporations Find  
Satisfactory Returns On Their  
Investments”**

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

**Only an estimated 10 percent of the money poured into Afghanistan is used to ameliorate the suffering of Afghan civilians. The remainder is swallowed by contractors who siphon the money out of Afghanistan and into foreign bank accounts.**

November 09, 2009 By Chris Hedges, Truthdig [Excerpts]

Success in Afghanistan is measured in Washington by the ability to create an indigenous army that will battle the Taliban, provide security and stability for Afghan civilians and remain loyal to the puppet government of Hamid Karzai.

**American military advisers who work with the Afghan National Army, or ANA, speak of poorly trained and unmotivated Afghan soldiers who have little stomach for military discipline and even less for fighting.**

**They describe many ANA units as being filled with brigands who terrorize local populations, exacting payments and engaging in intimidation, rape and theft.**

**They contend that the ANA is riddled with Taliban sympathizers.**

**And when there are combined American and Afghan operations against the Taliban insurgents, ANA soldiers are fickle and unreliable combatants, the U.S. advisers say.**

**American military commanders in Afghanistan, rather than pump out statistics about enemy body counts, measure progress by the swelling size of the ANA. The bigger the ANA, the better we are supposedly doing.**

**The pressure on trainers to increase the numbers of the ANA means that training and vetting of incoming Afghan recruits is nearly nonexistent.**

The process of induction for Afghan soldiers begins at the Kabul Military Training Center. American instructors at the Kabul center routinely complain of shortages of school supplies such as whiteboards, markers and paper.

They often have to go to markets and pay for these supplies on their own or do without them.

Instructors are pressured to pass all recruits and graduate many who have been absent for a third to half the training time. Most are inducted into the ANA without having mastered rudimentary military skills.

“I served the first half of my tour at the Kabul Military Training Center, where I was part of a small team working closely with the ANA to set up the country’s first officer basic course for newly commissioned Afghan lieutenants,” a U.S. Army first lieutenant who was deployed last year and who asked not to be identified by name told me.

“During the second half of my tour, I left Kabul’s military schoolhouse and was reassigned to an embedded tactical training team, or ETT team, to help stand up a new Afghan logistics battalion in Herat.”

“Afghan soldiers leave the KMTC grossly unqualified,” this lieutenant, who remains on active duty, said.

**“American mentors do what they can to try and fix these problems, but their efforts are blocked by pressure from higher, both in Afghan and American chains of command, to pump out as many soldiers as fast as possible.”**

Afghan soldiers are sent from the Kabul Military Training Center directly to active-duty ANA units. The units always have American trainers, known as a “mentoring team,” attached to them.

The rapid increase in ANA soldiers has outstripped the ability of the American military to provide trained mentoring teams. The teams, normally comprised of members of the Army Special Forces, are now formed by plucking American soldiers, more or less at random, from units all over Afghanistan.

**“This is how my entire team was selected during the middle of my tour: a random group of people from all over Kabul — Air Force, Navy, Army, active-duty and National Guard — pulled from their previous assignments, thrown together and expected to do a job that none of us were trained in any meaningful way to do,” the officer said.**

“We are expected, by virtue of time-in-grade and membership in the U.S. military, to be able to train a foreign force in military operations, an extremely irresponsible policy that is ethnocentric at its core and which assumes some sort of natural superiority in which an untrained American soldier has everything to teach the Afghans, but nothing to learn.”

“You’re lucky enough if you had any mentorship training at all, something the Army provides in a limited capacity at pre-mobilization training at Fort Riley, but having none is the norm,” he said.

“Soldiers who receive their pre-mobilization training at Fort Bragg learn absolutely nothing about mentoring foreign forces aside from being given a booklet on the subject, and yet soldiers who go through Bragg before being shipped to Afghanistan are just as likely to be assigned to mentoring teams as anyone else.”

The differences between the Afghan military structure and the American military structure are substantial. The ANA handles logistics differently. Its rank structure is not the same. Its administration uses different military terms. It rarely works with the aid of computers or basic technology.

The cultural divide leaves most trainers, who do not speak Dari, struggling to figure out how things work in the ANA.

“The majority of my time spent as a mentor involved trying to understand what the Afghans were doing and how they were expected to do it, and only then could I even begin to advise anyone on the problems they were facing,” this officer said.

**“In the unit I was helping to mentor, orders for mission-essential equipment such as five-ton trucks went unfilled for months, and winter clothes came late due to national shortages,” the officer told me.**

**“Many soldiers in the unit had to make do for the first few weeks of Afghanistan’s winter without jackets or other cold-weather items.”**

But what disturbs advisers most is the widespread corruption within the ANA which has enraged and alienated local Afghans and proved to be a potent recruiting tool for the Taliban.

“In the Afghan logistics battalion I was embedded with, the commander himself was extorting a local shopkeeper, and his staff routinely stole from the local store,” the adviser said.

“In Kabul, on one humanitarian aid mission I was on, we handed out school supplies to children, and in an attempt to lend validity to the ANA we had them distribute the supplies.

“As it turns out, we received intelligence reports that that very same group of ANA had been extorting money from the villagers under threat of violence.

“In essence, we teamed up with well-known criminals and local thugs to distribute aid in the very village they had been terrorizing, and that was the face of American charity.”

We have pumped billions of dollars into Afghanistan and occupied the country for eight years. We currently spend some \$4 billion a month on Afghanistan. But we are unable to pay for whiteboards and markers for instructors at the Kabul Military Training Center. Afghan soldiers lack winter jackets. Kabul is still in ruins. Unemployment is estimated at about 40 percent. And Afghanistan is one of the most food-insecure countries on the planet.

**What are we doing? Where is this money going?**

**Look to the civilian contractors.**

These contractors dominate the lucrative jobs in Afghanistan.

The American military, along with the ANA, is considered a poor relation.

“When I arrived in theater, one of the things I was shocked to see was how many civilians were there,” the U.S. officer said. “Americans and foreign nationals from Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia were holding jobs in great numbers in Kabul. There are a ton of corporations in Afghanistan performing labor that was once exclusively in the realm of the military. If you’re a (military) cook, someone from Kellogg Brown & Root has taken your spot.

“If you’re a logistician or military adviser, someone from MPRI, Military Professional Resources Inc., will probably take over your job soon. If you’re a technician or a

mechanic, there are civilians from Harris Corp. and other companies there who are taking over more and more of your responsibilities.”

“I deployed with a small unit of about 100 or so military advisers and mentors,” he went on. “When we arrived in Afghanistan, nearly half our unit had to be reassigned because their jobs had been taken over by civilians from MPRI. It seems that even in a war zone, soldiers are at risk of losing their jobs to outsourcing.

“And if you’re a reservist, the situation is even more unfortunate. You are torn from your life to serve a yearlong tour of duty away from your civilian job, your friends and family only to end up in Afghanistan with nothing to do because your military duty was passed on to a civilian contractor. Eventually you are thrown onto a mentoring team somewhere, or some responsibility is created for you. It becomes evident that the corporate presence in Afghanistan has a direct effect on combat operations.”

**What was once done by the military with concern for tactical and strategic advancement is done by war profiteers concerned solely about profit.**

**The aims of the military and the contractors are in conflict.**

**A scaling down of the war or a withdrawal is viewed by these corporations as bad for business.**

But expansion of the war, as many veterans will attest, is only making the situation more precarious.

The wells that are dug, the schools that are built, the roads that are paved and the food distributed in Afghan villages by the occupation forces are used to obscure the huge profits made by contractors.

**Only an estimated 10 percent of the money poured into Afghanistan is used to ameliorate the suffering of Afghan civilians.**

**The remainder is swallowed by contractors who siphon the money out of Afghanistan and into foreign bank accounts.**

“It is this system that has broken the logistics of Afghanistan,” the officer said. “It is this system of waste and private profit from public funds that keeps Kabul in ruins.

**“It is this system that manages to feed Westerners all across the country steak and lobster once a week while an estimated 8.4 million Afghans — the entire population of New York City, the five boroughs — suffer from chronic food insecurity and starvation every day.**

**“When you go to Bagram Air Base, or Camp Phoenix, or Camp Eggers, it’s clear to see that the problem does not lie in getting supplies into the country. The question becomes who gets them.**

**“And we wonder why there’s an insurgency.”**

“We as Americans do not help the Afghans by sending in more troops, by increasing military spending, by adding chaos to disorder,” he said.

“What little help we do provide is only useful in the short term and is clearly unsustainable in the face of our own economic crisis. In the end, no one benefits from this war, not America, not Afghans.

“Only the CEOs and executive officers of war-profiteering corporations find satisfactory returns on their investments.”

**MORE:**

**GUESS WHO DOESN'T NEED U.S. MILITARY  
“MENTORS” TO TELL HIM WHAT TO DO OR  
BILLIONS PISSED AWAY ON HIS TRAINING:  
*NOW, FOR THE BIG BUCKS, GUESS WHY***



Taliban fighters in an undisclosed location in Afghanistan October 30, 2009.  
REUTERS/Stringer

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**The Great Afghan Police Training  
Fiasco Rolls On:**



# Thieves, Thugs, Blackmailers, And Resistance Infiltrators Prosper: Three Weeks Training Provided By War Profiteer DynCorp's Ex-U.S. Campus Security Guards

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

**For a number of years, many Afghans have feared the police force as much as the Taliban, with officers supplementing their wages by extorting money at checkpoints, taking kickbacks from drug producers and even asking the victims of crime to pay before investigations are made.**

4 November 2009 Jon Boone in Kabul and Peter Beaumont, Guardian News and Media Limited [Excerpts]

The Afghan national police has achieved a reputation for being badly trained, riddled with drug addicts and, many fear, infiltrated by secret Taliban agents.

**For a number of years, many Afghans have feared the police force as much as the Taliban, with officers supplementing their wages by extorting money at checkpoints, taking kickbacks from drug producers and even asking the victims of crime to pay before investigations are made.**

In the rush to “crank the handle of force generation”, as one senior Nato commander put it, it has become even harder to raise the quality of an institution that barely existed in any meaningful way after the fall of the Taliban in 2001 and was soon filled by former civil war militia fighters.

That was the conclusion of an independent report ordered by the European commission, written by professional policemen who were appalled to discover that some police, particularly about 15,000 hired in the runup to the presidential elections, received just three weeks' training.

It criticised a multibillion dollar American programme called focused district development (FDD) that has been promoted as a solution to the country's police problems but gives new recruits just eight weeks of training.

**“It is barely conceivable how eight weeks', let alone three weeks', training can adequately bring any form of security other than cosmetic,” the report said.**

Even more damning was the authors' warning that desperate recruiters dropped their vetting standards in order to replace officers killed in dangerous southern provinces such as Helmand and Kandahar, making it easier for insurgents to infiltrate police ranks.

The US has pumped billions of dollars into its FDD programme, which intensively trains police away from the country's 364 districts. But the teaching curriculum has been criticised for focusing too much on basic survival skills rather than police responsibilities. Questions have been raised about the quality of the teachers, many of whom are privately contracted by the US company DynCorp.

**Philip Alston, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial killings, warned in May last year that it risked simply creating better-trained criminals – or police who “would be able to extort more effectively”.**

A European police official said many of the DynCorp staff were “former US campus security guards” unsuited to the job.

**GUESS WHO DOESN'T NEED CAMPUS SECURITY GUARDS TO TELL HIM WHAT TO DO OR BILLIONS PISSED AWAY ON HIS TRAINING:  
*NOW, FOR THE BIG BUCKS, GUESS WHY***



Taliban fighters in an undisclosed location in Afghanistan October 30, 2009.  
REUTERS/Stringer

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**REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE:**

## ALL HOME NOW



A U.S. special operations forces armored vehicle stuck in mud during a joint patrol with Afghan National Army soldiers in Afghanistan's Farah province, Nov. 1, 2009. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)



Taliban fighters ambush U.S. soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division during a patrol in the Pech Valley of Afghanistan's Kunar province Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2009. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

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## **TROOP NEWS**

**NOT ANOTHER DAY  
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR  
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



Rick Rodriguez gives a kiss good-bye to his daughter Isabella, 7, as he prepares to deploy to Afghanistan with the South Carolina Army National Guard from Wellford, S.C. on Tuesday Nov. 10, 2009. (AP Photo/Herald-Journal, John Byrum)

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**“Almost Two-Thirds Of Britons  
Believing The War Is Unwinnable And  
That UK Troops Should Be  
Withdrawn Immediately”**

# **[Because Britain Is A Political Dictatorship, The Troops Stay In Afghanistan]**

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

8 November 2009 Toby Helm and Mark Townsend, The Observer [Excerpts]

Research for BBC1's Politics Show found almost two-thirds of Britons believing the war is unwinnable and that UK troops should be withdrawn immediately.

The military mission in Helmand province is a lost cause, according to 64% of respondents, a 6% increase from July. Since then 39 British soldiers have been killed.

The research also reveals that two-fifths of people do not understand why UK forces are in southern Afghanistan.

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## **British Soldier Arrested After Joining An Anti-War Demonstration: In Britain, The Government Calls Soldiers "Our Employees"**

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

**"In the last few days a range of military personnel have been speaking in the media in defence of this appalling war. I doubt if any of them have been arrested."**

11 Nov 2009 Telegraph Media Group [Excerpts]

Lance Corporal Joe Glenton led a protest in London last month against the continued presence of British troops in Afghanistan.

He was already facing a court martial but according to the Stop the War Coalition the new charges carry a maximum of 10 years imprisonment.

The anti-war group called for the soldier's release and accused the Ministry of Defence of trying to stop his freedom of speech.

The group's convener Lindsey German said: "This is not about breach of military regulations.

**“In the last few days a range of military personnel have been speaking in the media in defence of this appalling war. I doubt if any of them have been arrested.**

**“This is about the persecution of a soldier who believes in telling the truth in accordance with his conscience.**

“He is saying what the majority of the population believes - that this war is unwinnable and immoral.

“The anti-war movement will be doing everything possible to get him released.”

An MoD spokesman said: “I can confirm that disciplinary action against a serving soldier from the Royal Logistics Corps is currently in progress.

“As this matter is subject to court martial proceedings, it would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage.

“We are not prepared to release any personal information relating to this incident.

“We have a common law and Data Protection Act duty to protect the personal information of our employees and there is no good reason to release personal information in this case.

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?**

**Forward Military Resistance 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 Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550**

# **Mother Of Dead Afghanistan Soldier Confronts Prime Minister Over Lack Of Equipment**

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

10 Nov 2009 Telegraph Media Group Limited

Jacqui Janes, the mother of Jamie Janes, a soldier killed in Afghanistan, has confronted Gordon Brown over the lack of equipment for troops serving on the frontline.



Mrs Janes made her points to the Prime Minister during a 13-minute phone call.

Mrs Janes said during the call she had challenged Mr Brown over equipment for troops.

During the conversation, which she recorded, Mrs Janes said: “Mr Brown, listen to me.

“I know every injury my child sustained that day. I know that my son could have survived but my son bled to death.

**“How would you like it if one of your children, God forbid, went to a war doing something that he thought, where he was helping protect his Queen and country and because of lack, lack of helicopters, lack of equipment, your child bled to death and then you had the coroner have to tell you his every injury?”**

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## **“Please Pass The Word” “The Lesser Danger Is The ‘Pusher’ At The Street Corner” [What Killed The Soldiers At Fort Hood]**



Prescription drug bottles with Nadil Malik Hasan's name on them fill a shoe box inside his Killeen, Texas apartment seen after the residence was released to the property manager following an investigation by the FBI. (AP Photo/The Killeen Daily Herald, David Morris)

[From Military Resistance 7K6: 11.8.09]

What is yet to be reported, which will be based on a toxicology screen taken after his capture, is whether Major Hasan was helping himself to any of the assorted drugs that Army psychiatrists give out to soldiers like so many bags of popcorn.

The dirty little secret largely unknown to the public is that most of those prescription drugs have side effects that may include “homicidal and/or suicidal ideation.”

Army psychiatrists know the ugly fact of those side-effects very well. It’s not a secret to them.

Neither is the fact that prescription drug abuse is common among psychiatrists. T

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## “Please Pass The Word”

From: Fred Baughman, M.D.  
To: Military Resistance  
Sent: November 10, 2009  
Subject: Re: Drugging The Troops

Please pass the word.

Somebody, high up in the military, possibly including the House, Senate and White House, has sold access to soldiers and veterans to psychiatry and the pharmaceutical industry, for an unbelievable amount of money.

Just like school kids (4.5 million on Ritalin and other legal forms of speed).

That is what this is all about. The lesser danger is the ‘pusher’ at the street corner.

Tell them I said so. Stay safe.

Fred Baughman, MD

### 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 to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550



# Public And Military Families Agree: Government Fucking Over War Veterans

November 11 Pew Research Center [Excerpts]

While Americans across the country will be honoring the nation's military veterans on Veterans Day, most say the U.S. does not give enough support to soldiers who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. According to a March 2008 Pew Research survey, fully 72% say the government does not give enough help to returning troops.

Notably, there are no significant differences in opinion on this question by party or ideology. There is also no difference in opinion among those with a close family member who has served in Iraq or Afghanistan and those who have no family ties to the wars.

	Close family in Iraq/Afghan (29%)	No close family in Iraq/Afghan (71%)
<b>Govt's job providing medical care:</b>		
Excellent/good	28	25
Only fair/poor	64	63
DK/Ref	8	8
	100	100
<b>Govt gives enough support to troops?</b>		
Yes	22	22
No	74	71
DK/Ref	4	7
	100	100

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

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

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

## 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**

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”  
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

# The Heroin War in Afghanistan



From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance  
Sent: November 05, 2009  
Subject: The Heroin War in Afghanistan

## The Heroin War in Afghanistan

**When I left Vietnam in 1971,  
heroin was everywhere.  
It was one of the reasons why  
the U.S. was defeated in Vietnam.  
We just couldn't win that war,  
because hero-win finally delivered  
the truth to the American people.  
The U.S. government had no mission in Vietnam,  
just like we have no mission in Iraq or Afghanistan.  
Except to steal natural resources to protect our interests.  
That truth was brought home to me shortly before  
I left Vietnam in September 1971,  
when an American soldier who was a heroin addict,  
blew his brains out with his M-16.  
Then there was the time I unzipped a body bag and  
looked at another heroin addict who shot himself  
in the forehead with a pistol.  
Blew his skull wide open.  
You just can't win with heroin.  
I saw so many American soldiers destroy their  
lives with heroin.  
They went back to America with a full blown heroin addiction.**

No mission.  
No cause.  
Nobody who gave a shit when they came home.  
What the American people know about the Vietnam War,  
you could stick in a thimble.  
A thimble....  
that was about the size of the plastic vials that heroin came in,  
in Vietnam.  
Some people shot it.  
Some people snorted it.  
Some people smoked it.  
Either way,  
you couldn't win with heroin.  
And, that may be the same reason America  
will not win in Afghanistan.  
Not to mention that the war is a lie to begin with.  
In fact,  
that's why heroin was used so much in Vietnam,  
because the war was a lie,  
and we could have never won in Vietnam.  
Won.  
Win.  
Heroin.  
Don't mean nothin'  
Then, when you get back from Vietnam,  
you realize the U.S. Government was involved in the  
heroin trade all along.  
The South Vietnamese military was involved in  
the manufacturing of heroin.  
Ever see an American soldier on heroin with an  
M-16 in his hands during a mortar attack?  
I have.  
And, that's one reason why we didn't win in Vietnam.  
In the end,  
America got stoned in Vietnam with heroin.  
Why?  
Because the war was unwinnable.  
Because the entire Vietnam War was a lie.  
The U.S. Government was bombing Laos before  
the Gulf of Tonkin Lie ever happened in 1964.  
That is just one of a thousand lies that the American people  
never knew about the Vietnam War.  
And,  
towards the end of the Vietnam War,  
that is why tens of thousands of American soldiers were on  
heroin.  
It's the lie that makes you want to kill yourself.  
It's the lie that makes you want to use heroin.  
It's the lie that made me want to do a swan dive over a cliff  
with my automobile when I got back from Vietnam.  
It's the lie that made that American soldier in Vietnam put

an M-16 to his head.

It's the lie that still makes me unable to wash the blood off  
of my hands.

It's the lie that is killing America everyday in Iraq,  
and Afghanistan.

Not to mention the great suffering and death our government  
is inflicting on hundreds of thousands of people in the Middle East.

Lying is the most powerful weapon in war.

Ever have a close friend hang himself in a motel room?

I did.

He was a Vietnam veteran.

He did that,

because the lie broke his neck.

Mike Hastie

U.S. Army Medic

Vietnam 1970-71

November 5, 2009

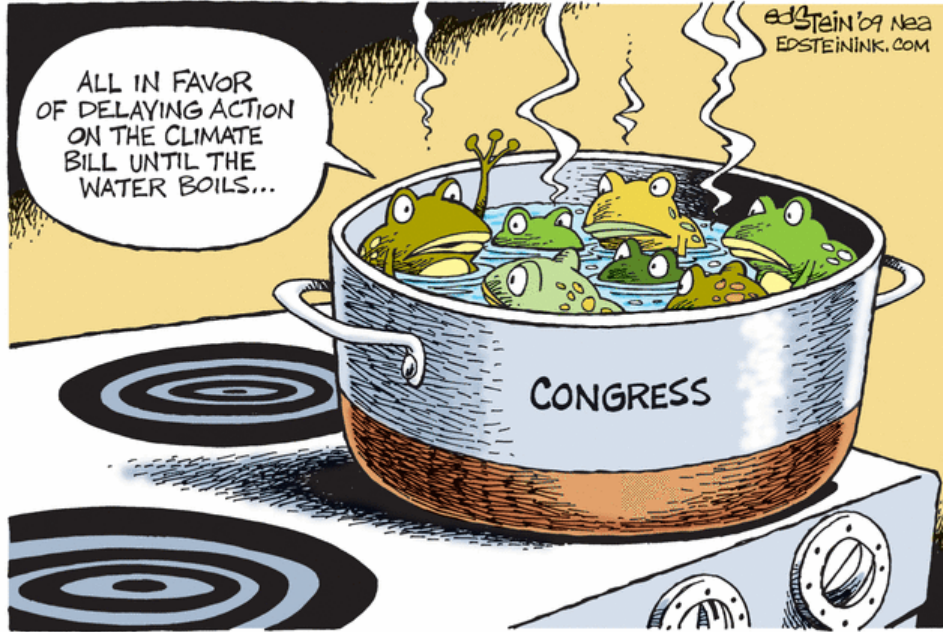
"The greatest purveyor of violence in  
the world today is my own government."

Martin Luther King Jr.

April 4, 1967

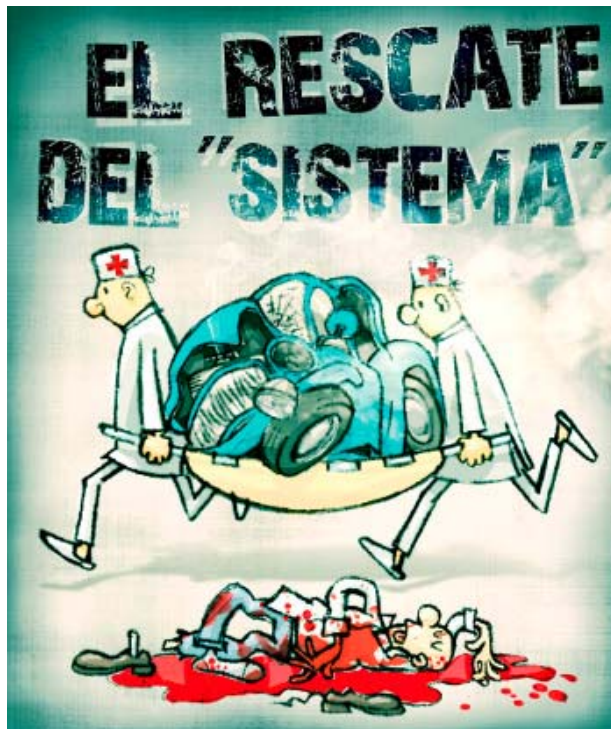
Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of  
Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work,  
contact at: ([hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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

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