

## **Military Resistance 7K20**



# **Blackhawk Up: An American Private Military And Security Company Deploys To Somalia As The First U.S. Presence In The Country Since The 1993 Battle Of Mogadishu: “Otherwise Known As The Infamous Black Hawk Down Situation”**

One would think this story would receive major media attention given the last time US forces were in Somalia and the Black Hawk Down debacle; however, mainstream American media has been shamefully silent on these recent developments.

23 Nov 2009 By Jody Ray Bennett for ISN Security Watch [Excerpts]

Tensions rose in Somalia in the final weeks of October 2009 as the president of the country's UN-backed transitional government, Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, became the target of an insurgent attack while attempting to depart from an airport to Uganda to attend an African Union (AU) summit on refugees and internally displaced people.

According to news reports, al-Shabaab militants "lobbed mortars at the airport, prompting peacekeepers [translation: U.S. government-backed occupation troops] of the AU mission in Somalia known as AMISOM, to fire back."

At least 24 people were killed and as many as 60 wounded when peacekeepers returned fire in the direction of the crowded Bakara marketplace, causing many to question AMISOM's effectiveness in Somalia, according to Voice of America.

Part of the problem might be that AMISOM's 5,000-strong force is short by 3,000 troops to meet its mandated strength of 8,000 peacekeepers [translation: U.S. government-backed occupation troops]. That AMISOM fires back through the very public it is mandated to protect reveals the missions' frustrations to effectively combat against increasingly unorthodox and unexpected attacks by insurgents that, in comparison to what is needed to build a common security in Somalia, are inexpensive and relatively easy to orchestrate.

**This has caused the government of Somalia to search for support from other willing parties, eventually awarding a US-based private military and security company (PMSC) a contract to "provide security consulting services and training for government forces."**

The company, Corporate Security Solutions Global (CSS Global), is a part of the larger CSS Alliance, a multi-faceted strategic and security solutions provider based in Ada, a township in western Michigan that contains less than 10,000 residents.

Concerning the side of the business on its way to Somalia, CSS Global advertises its services proudly, selling everything from personal armed security guards, convoy security, military and police training, and evacuations and extraction operations.

[T]he company was awarded a contract by the US Department of Defense (DOD) to provide personal and convoy security outside of the Green Zone in Iraq, and according to a local Michigan daily, "three CSS operatives were killed in 2007 by roadside bombs while escorting convoys" for the company.

**More fascinating, however, is that by securing this contract that has been awarded directly by the government of Somalia, the company now represents the first overt American presence involved with the military and security affairs of Somalia since the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu, otherwise known as the infamous Black Hawk Down situation.**

But this time, it is not a US state-led force on the ground, but private military and security firm.

**One would think this story would receive major media attention given the last time US forces were in Somalia and the Black Hawk Down debacle; however, mainstream American media has been shamefully silent on these recent developments.**

While CSS is a private company, its role in Somalia will nevertheless force the company to serve as US representatives and will more than likely be perceived by insurgents as US interest and influence returning to the country.

In an interview with the local Michigan daily, the owners of the company referred to its “protective operations team” that may indicate an intention to place armed security personnel in Somalia or train local Somalis to act as a private force to secure and protect state interests against the insurgency.

**In the interview, one owner stated he could not comment on the “number of security forces CSS would employ.” How such forces will be used is also unknown.**

Nevertheless, while this story remains absent from any mainstream coverage, the private military and security industry is watching very closely.

**It seems the company does not want to generate a lot of attention about its role in Somalia, and as a result, many questions remain.**

To date, the company has given only one interview to a local publication in its home state of Michigan, which was later criticized by the Grand Rapids Institute for Media and Democracy (GRID) for publishing a “favorable” story that interviewed the company’s owners who “(made) vague comments about what they will be doing in Somalia.”

#### **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**

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Paratrooper’s Mom Begs Obama: ‘End It’**

# Benjamin Sherman Died In Afghanistan Trying To Save Another Soldier



Benjamin Sherman, 21



Denise Sherman, mother

November 11, 2009 TheBostonChannel.com

PLYMOUTH, Mass

As family and friends mourn a fallen U.S. paratrooper on Veteran's Day, his mother made an emotional plea to President Barack Obama that it's time to either bring home the troops or end the war in Afghanistan.

The body of Benjamin Sherman, 21, was recovered in Afghanistan Tuesday.

"It's time we do something. This has gone on too long. They either need to come home or we need to end it," a tearful Denise Sherman said.

Sherman was on his second tour of duty when he disappeared in Afghanistan last week during a mission to resupply troops in the western part of the country. He was a paratrooper with the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, based in Fort Bragg, N.C.

His family said Sherman jumped into a river to try to help another soldier when both were swept away. He was missing for about a week.

Dozens of troops searched frantically for Sherman and his comrade and found Sherman Tuesday. Sherman's family received the news on the eve of Veterans Day.

The South Shore native leaves behind a wife, Patricia, who is expecting their first child in just a few months. Sherman graduated from Plymouth South High School three years ago.

In a statement, his sister Meredith said she knows why he plunged into that river to save his struggling comrade. She said he didn't do it because he was trained to but because that's what his heart told him to do.

"My brother is the type of man whose main values are honor, respect and standing up for what you believe in. Yet, more importantly, he was all about brotherhood. He would consider every single soldier, friend or even a stranger his brother," she wrote in a statement confirming his death.

Denise Sherman added that her son was strong-willed, honorable and loyal.

Growing up, she said, they called him "the unstoppable one."

"I am requesting because we are One Nation under God that you ask for our nation to come together and pray. To pray for all who are missing to persevere, be found safe and returned home, for those have gone before us and have made their sacrifice to our country, for those who serve our great nation to be guided and protected," his mother wrote.

Denise Sherman urged the president to make a decision about the Afghan war.

"I think it is time that a decision is made that this country comes together and supports our troops or whatever (Obama) decides. God will guide him. But it is time. It is time," she said.

Sherman will be honored at Veterans Day services in New Bedford, where he was born, but his family is planning to bury him in Plymouth.

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## **Gadsden High Honors Slain Grad At Veterans Day Ceremony**



(Army Spc. Tony Carrasco Jr.)

11/11/2009 By Amanda L. Husson, Sun-News reporter

LAS CRUCES - As the American flag waved at half-staff over Gadsden High School's annual Veterans Day assembly on Tuesday, students who gathered with faculty and staff to pay tribute to those who have served were reminded that sometimes war hits much too close to home.

During the ceremony, which honored veterans around the world along with more than a dozen in attendance, the assembled students observed a moment of silence for Army Spc. Tony Carrasco Jr., who was killed Nov. 4 in Ad Dawr, Iraq, after being hit by sniper fire, according to Army officials. Carrasco, 25, was a 2003 graduate of GHS.

Carrasco's former teacher at GHS, Christina Lessau, who described herself as a close family friend, spoke during the ceremony, describing Carrasco as man who was protective of his family and of his country.

"Tony is one of my heroes," she said in a voice strained with emotion. "Today we dedicate this to Tony Carrasco, who was a unique human being."

Lessau wiped away tears as she embraced members of Carrasco's family, who received red carnations and purple irises from the students.

In honor of Carrasco and Maj. Eduardo Caraveo, 52, a former counselor at the school who was killed in last week's shooting at Fort Hood, members of the Navy JROTC Drill Team at Gadsden High School performed a maneuver patterned after the aerial salute known as the missing man formation, in which one jet abruptly veers away from the formation.

Petty Officer 1st Class Rodrigo Robles, 16, a junior, represented the "missing man" in Tuesday's performance, which also honored all fallen military personnel.

"It was a great honor doing it," he said after the assembly. "It was just to thank them for the job they do."

Carrasco and his wife, Johana, and stepchildren were stationed at Fort Riley, Kan. Members of Carrasco's family declined to be interviewed, but in comments provided by Lessau, Johana Carrasco, who is expecting the couple's child, described her husband as the love of her life, who treated her and her children with love and respect.

Other family members expressed their shock at his death, and described Carrasco as a happy, playful person. His parents praised his bravery in choosing to join the Army and fight for freedom.

The Army lists Berino, N.M., as Carrasco's hometown, but Lessau said he and his family lived in nearby Anthony, N.M. Carrasco was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division in Fort Riley.

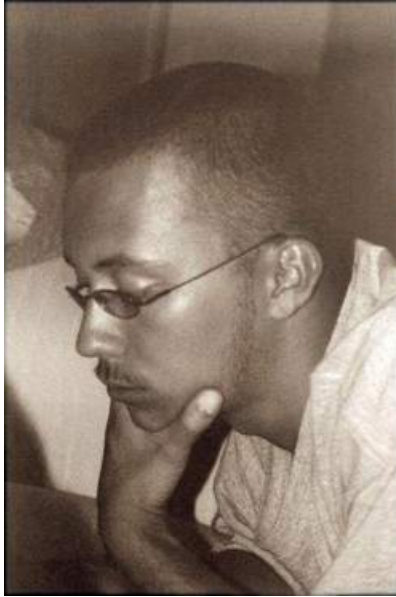
Carrasco is survived by his parents, Antonio and Juana Carrasco; wife, Johana Carrasco, and unborn child; stepdaughter, Ilse, and stepson, Axel; sisters, Rosie Carrasco (Raymond Flores), Susana Carrasco (Adrian Cardona) and Jessica Carrasco

(Steven Lopez), nephew Raymond Flores Jr. and niece Kayla Flores, as well as other family members and friends.

A viewing for Carrasco will be held 2 p.m. Friday at Iglesia Jesucristo Apostolica in Berino. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at the same church.

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## Fallen Soldier Was To Return For Thanksgiving



Gary Gooch is shown in an undated photo from his MySpace Web page.

November 11, 2009 By Susan Latham Carr, Staff writer, Ocala.com

Spc. Gary L. Gooch Jr. wanted to serve his country, and he wanted to make a good life for himself. That's why he joined the U.S. Army in August 2006, after graduating from Dunnellon High School.

Keely Murphy, Gooch's older sister, also served in the Army and did tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan before leaving the service four months ago.

"We grew up with mom playing all these World War II videos," Murphy said. "We both wanted to serve our country.

"We both knew that would be the only way to make something of ourselves because mom did the best she could, but we just didn't have the money for college."

Gooch went to Fort Benning, Ga., on Aug. 29, 2006, for infantry training. On Jan. 9, 2007, he reported to Fort Lewis in Washington state, where he was assigned to the 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division as a grenadier. The brigade deployed to Afghanistan in July 2009. It was his first deployment.

It also was the first deployment for Spc. Aaron S. Aamot of Custer, Wash. Aamot enlisted July 2006 and was sent to Fort Benning for infantry training. And, like Gooch, he reported to Fort Lewis, where he was assigned as a Stryker vehicle driver in the 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

On Monday, the Department of Defense announced the death of the two soldiers, both 22 years old, in Jejewar, Afghanistan.

Aamot and Gooch, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment of the 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, died of wounds they suffered when enemy forces attacked their vehicle with an improvised explosive device.

Gooch's service will be private, Murphy said.

Gooch was scheduled to come home on leave in time for Thanksgiving.

"He was supposed to come home in a week, on the 24th," Murphy said Tuesday. "He told Mom he wanted to go snowboarding and horseback riding."

Murphy said he planned to visit his mother, Jeanine Murphy, and then go to Connecticut and Vermont to see family.

"For some reason, he just loves the cold," Murphy said.

That may seem unusual for a man who spent the first 15 years of his life in South Florida. Gooch lived in Margate before moving to the Dunnellon area at age 15.

His cousin, Megan Crowley, still lives in Broward County. Off and on from the time he was 2 years old until he was 15, Gooch and his family lived with Crowley's family.

"We grew up in the same house," Crowley said. "He loved his family and spent a lot of time with them. He and his mom were very, very close."

Crowley, 32, remembers how she and her girlfriends would take Gooch everywhere with them. She also remembers how he would baby-sit children in the neighborhood.

"He was just an amazing guy," Crowley said. "He was very loving."

Crowley said Gooch used to collect small John Deere tractors.

"He used to sing that song, 'She Thinks My Tractor's Sexy'," Crowley said with a laugh, referring to the tune by country singer Kenny Chesney.

"He lived life to the fullest," she said. "He did love living in Ocala. There was always stuff to do."

Lynn Bazinet, who lives at Meadow Wood Farms, raised her nephew Richard Lind. He and Gooch were good friends.

"If Gary was not sleeping at my house, then Richard was sleeping at Gary's," Bazinet said. "Both families have just been close."



Bazinet said Gooch was charming, easy-going and always saw the positive side of bad situations.

“He liked reading. He liked video games. He had a library of movies. He and Richard would watch movie after movie after movie, then sleep until 2 p.m.,” Bazinet said.

And after the marathon movie nights, Gooch and Lind would wake up and eat pizza rolls. “He said it was the world’s most perfect food,” Bazinet said.

She also remembers how Gooch liked to ride horses and how special he was to her.

“You come across people every day in your life. There’s a small handful that really stand out from the rest. Gary is in that small percent that stands out from all the rest of the people you meet,” Bazinet said. “I am devastated that this had to happen.”

Justeen Allen, of Fort Lewis, Wash., and her husband met Gooch when he was stationed at Fort Lewis. Her husband still is in Afghanistan.

“My husband, Ricky Allen, was deployed with him,” Allen said. “They were in the same squad.”

Gooch was the best man at the Allens’ wedding. She said her husband considered Gooch his best friend.

“There’s been a lot of action over there,” Allen said. “My husband has lost a lot of friends.”

Allen remembers how they would all go to the movies together and how Gooch would spend much of his paycheck on DVDs.

She said he was always friendly to strangers.

“He was always looking for the joy in life,” Allen said. “He just was a really nice guy. It’s rare to come across that now-a-days. He was a really sweet guy.”

Allen said she had met Aamot at military functions, but did not know him personally.

The 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division and its roughly 4,000 soldiers is the first of the medium-weight, highly mobile infantry brigades to go to Afghanistan. Two other Stryker brigades from Fort Lewis currently are serving in Iraq.

Both Gooch and Aamot received awards and decorations including the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Army Service Ribbon.

Aamot also received the Expert Infantryman Badge.

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# Afghanistan Conflict Claims Decorated Marine

11/12/09 By DAVID M. JOHNSON, Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Sgt. Charles I. Cartwright, 26, a member of the Marine Corps from Union Bridge died Saturday, caught in hostile fire in the Farah Province of western Afghanistan, according to the Marine Corps Forces Special Office of Command.

Cartwright graduated in 2001 from Walkersville High School in Frederick County where he helped the Lions bring home the county wrestling championship his senior year, according to The Frederick News Post archives.

Months after graduation, and a day before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Cartwright enlisted in the Marine Corps. He was married in December 2008, 11 months to the day of his passing.

A public memorial group for Cartwright has already gone up on Facebook, the social networking site. The group has provided a forum for mourners to post photos, share stories and pay tribute to him.

"A piece of my heart is broken that can never be filled again," said Rebecca Cartwright, Charles' sister, on the memorial site. "Baby Brother, I will forever be indebted to you, your courage and your service. I miss you so much but know you were not afraid or scared."

Others wrote stories about times Cartwright made them laugh or how much they enjoyed riding around in his old Jeep. Stephanie Brown talked about being "best friends" with Cartwright for almost 26 years and playing "Marines" together as children.

"I met Charlie when he was a freshman and I was a junior -- through various ups and downs, wrestling matches and nagging moments in the hallway, he always knew how to cheer me up," said Jayme L. Sally.

"He talked about the Marines since we were kids; I always knew he'd join," said Heather Renner. "It's soldiers like him that make our country free. Thank you, Charlie, you will be missed greatly."

After enlisting as an 18-year-old, Cartwright trained in reconnaissance. He went on to serve tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan and won a total of four service deployment ribbons.

Cartwright was promoted to sergeant on Aug. 1, 2006, and joined the 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion based at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Because of the base's location, right on the Pacific Ocean, he was able to take up surfing as a hobby.

Cartwright was twice awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sustained in battle and accumulated numerous other decorations for his outstanding performance, including a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, two Combat Action Ribbons, a Navy

Presidential Unit Citation, two Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, an Afghanistan Campaign Medal, two Iraqi Campaign Medals, the Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, a NATO medal and two Certificates of Commendation.

**Cartwright is the 19th Marylander in the armed forces to lose his life in Afghanistan since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom.**

The 288 American deaths this year are nearly double last year's total of 144.

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## **“One Precinct Commander Refuses To Go Downtown From His Station House Unless Accompanied By Five Armed Patrolmen” “The Taliban Would Kill Me”**

NOVEMBER 25, 2009 By MICHAEL M. PHILLIPS, The Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

Gen. Carter [British Maj. Gen. Nick Carter] is wary of inserting large numbers of foreign troops into the center of Kandahar, an ethnically Pashtun city in a Pashtun insurgency. There is a small Canadian security and economic-aid team inside the city and a 150-man U.S. military-police company. Gen. Carter plans to boost that with another small MP unit to bolster the Afghan National Police.

The Taliban's influence in the city is so pervasive that the Afghan police are often too frightened of kidnapping and assassination threats to move about the city freely, especially at night.

One precinct commander refuses to go downtown from his station house unless accompanied by five armed patrolmen. “The Taliban would kill me,” said the commander, Lt. Col. Abdul Qader.

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## **“An IED Can Do As Much Psychological Damage As Physical Damage”**

**“The Threat Of IEDs Makes Every Troop Movement In Afghanistan More Difficult, Decreasing The Effectiveness Of The Fighting Force”  
“You Have To Give Each IED The Respect It Deserves”**



Marines sweep routes daily for buried bombs. (Tony Perry / Los Angeles Times)

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War & Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

November 24, 2009 By Tony Perry, The Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

Reporting from Nawa, Afghanistan

A long, dusty road under a bright blue Afghan sky. To the left, a stagnant irrigation canal; to the right, drying cornfields. Marines from Charlie Company walk slowly, eyes fixed on the dirt, the drainage culverts, the weeds, the mud houses.

Suddenly, at the front of the column, a metal detector in the hands of a young lance corporal begins to buzz.

Staff Sgt. Sam McDaniel moves quickly into place, gently probing the ground for evidence of a buried bomb, by far the No. 1 killer of U.S. forces in Afghanistan -- and responsible for three of the four American deaths reported Sunday and Monday.

It is part of a cat-and-mouse game repeated countless times here in the insurgent stronghold of Helmand province and across the country. Route clearance teams, alert for constantly shifting tactics, comb the roads by day. Searches also uncover small stashes of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, the main bomb-making ingredient.

At night, Marines using night-vision goggles and sniper rifles, and given shoot-to-kill orders, watch for insurgents burying the bombs.

Almost 300 U.S. military personnel have been killed in Afghanistan this year. An estimated 70% to 80% of the deaths are attributed to IEDs, the shorthand for improvised explosive devices.

Of the four Marines from the 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment, killed here, three died of injuries suffered in IED explosions.

"An IED can do as much psychological damage as physical damage," said Capt. Frank "Gus" Biggio, head of a civil affairs unit that meets every day with Afghan civilians.

The threat of IEDs makes every troop movement in Afghanistan more difficult, decreasing the effectiveness of the fighting force, says Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the U.S. and allied commander in Afghanistan.

When Marines swooped into the Nawa district in July, insurgents attacked with assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades.

When that failed, they began using buried bombs in hopes of catching a Humvee full of Marines or a foot patrol.

Sometimes they do.

Here, the Marines say, they have the impression that insurgents have shifted their tactics in an effort to avoid civilian casualties. They are planting bombs on roads that are more likely to be used by military patrols.

An IED exploded recently beneath a military vehicle near a Marine outpost, and patrols are finding bombs on the rural roads Marines patrol to give civilians a sense of security. But the main road to the Nawa market has been clear.

Taliban fighters, the Marines say, constantly change the kinds of bombs and the places they are buried.

"The enemy is not stupid," said McDaniel, the staff sergeant and father of two sons, 6 and 16 months old, who is stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Like all explosive ordnance specialists, the 28-year-old Kokomo, Ind., native is a volunteer.

Marine patrols also keep an eye on the weedy areas along the road for wires leading to a mud house, where an insurgent or terrified farmer under Taliban pressure might be waiting to detonate a bomb.

In Helmand, many farmers work at night during the summer to avoid blistering daytime temperatures.

Tractors can be heard all night, and farmers often switch the earthen canal laterals at night so water will arrive in the morning.

Farmers have been warned to carry lights and make noise.

Marines have been told that an Afghan with a shovel is more likely to be a farmer than a Taliban fighter.

On this day, the five Marine vehicles trailing the 16 Marines in the Charlie Company patrol contain some of the latest anti-IED technology.

As McDaniel probes the soft earth, Marines guarding against possible attack point their M-16s in all directions. Barefoot boys watch intently from the far side of the canal and yell out to the Marines. A Marine in one of the vehicles uses a slingshot to hurl candy over the canal to them.

Two fat geese float by on the greenish water. In the distance, cows and goats being herded to their fields can be heard in full complaint. On the footpath that parallels the dirt road, two men walk beside their aging camel.

McDaniel concentrates on a patch of dirt beneath a slight hump in the road. Lance Cpl. Stephen Tyson, whose metal detector set off the alarm, says one telltale sign is whether the area is big enough to contain a buried bomb.

“The hair on the back of your neck stands up, and then you feel the area out,” said Tyson, 21, of Orting, Wash.

Technology is good, but human judgment is still better.

“I try to blank everything out of my mind and think of the safest way possible to do the job,” McDaniel said.

“You have to give each IED the respect it deserves.”

In this case, McDaniel determines that the metal detector made a false hit.

The patrol moves on, Marines occasionally edging to the side of the road to allow boys to pass as they take their sheep to market.

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

# **The Men Hired To Protect The U.S. Military Supply Convoys “Are Heroin Addicts Armed With Rocket-Propelled Grenades And Assault Rifles”**

**“Security Guards Are Responsible For Killing And Wounding More Than 30 Innocent Civilians During The Past Four Years In Maywand District Alone”**

**“The Firms’ Attitude Was: ‘Good Luck — It Sucks To Be You. You’re In Maywand. We’re Kicking You To The Curb’”**

November 30, 2009 By Sean D. Naylor, Army Times [Excerpts]

HUTAL, Kandahar province, Afghanistan — Ill-disciplined private security guards escorting supply convoys to coalition bases are wreaking havoc as they pass through western Kandahar province, undermining the coalition’s counterinsurgency strategy here and leading to at least one confrontation with U.S. forces, say U.S. Army officers and Afghan government officials.

The security guards are responsible for killing and wounding more than 30 innocent civilians during the past four years in Maywand district alone, said Mohammad Zareef, the senior representative in the district for Afghanistan’s intelligence service, the National Directorate of Security.

Highway 1, the country’s main east-west artery, runs through Maywand and is the route taken by logistics convoys moving west from Kabul and Kandahar to coalition bases in Helmand province.

The Afghan government’s district chief for Maywand says the men hired to protect the convoys are heroin addicts armed with rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles.

“They’ll start firing at anything that’s moving, and they will injure or kill innocent Afghans, and they’ll destroy property,” said Lt. Col. Jeff French, commander of 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment and Task Force Legion, the main coalition force in Maywand since mid-September. French has vowed to take tough action against contractors involved in violent acts against civilians.

About twice a week convoys up to 50 vehicles long pass through Maywand en route to coalition bases in Helmand carrying fuel and other bulk goods coming from the Pakistani port city of Karachi, said Capt. Casey Thoreen, commander of 2-1 Infantry’s B Company, which operates from Combat Outpost Rath, located less than 100 meters from Highway 1 in the town of Hupal.

Although the convoys sometimes carry U.S. military vehicles and represent a vital lifeline for the coalition effort, no Afghan, U.S. or other coalition military forces accompany them.

Instead, each convoy is protected by Afghan security guards armed with AK-series assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades in sport utility vehicles — “black 4Runners, full of guys in these tan uniforms, with lots of guns sticking out of them,” Thoreen said.

“These guys are like gun-toting mercenaries with probably not a whole lot of training. ... They’re just light on the trigger finger.” Haji Obidullah Bawari, the Afghan government’s district chief for Maywand, rendered an even harsher judgment.

“Most of them are addicted to heroin,” he said.

Until recently, the identities of the companies for whom the security guards worked remained shrouded in mystery, even from the coalition headquarters whose troops they are supplying. French said he requested information on the companies through his higher brigade headquarters — 5th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division — but had yet to receive any word back.

An International Security Assistance Force spokesman said the convoy security workers are employees of the logistics contractors running the convoys. Those contractors work for one or several of the ISAF, NATO or 26 countries operating in Afghanistan. As a result, he said he did not know how much is spent on the security firms or which companies had hired them.

Over the past several weeks, local leaders have voiced complaints about the security contractors, prompting French to ask more questions about the contractors’ behavior. He said the answers he received troubled him.

“They roll through, and if they see something that seems like a threat to them, or they feel that they’re under attack, the local Afghans are saying that they just start to lase and blaze,” French said.

“They don’t stop, they don’t wait for the police to come and do an investigation or anything; they just take off.”

Among incidents this year involving the security guards in Maywand, according to Zareef, the NDS chief:



■ On May 9, contractors shot dead an Afghan National Policeman manning a checkpoint on Highway 1, then drove away.

■ **Contractors left their broken-down car for a night at a gas station and found the next morning that insurgents had burned it. In their anger, the security guards turned their guns on the local population.**

**“They started shooting and killed a kid,” Zareef said.**

■ On March 28, speeding contractors killed a local man and his wife and injured their child when the security guards’ SUV hit the motorcycle on which the family was riding.

■ Afghans arrested a convoy security guard for the March 4 killing of a kuchi, or nomadic herder.

Zareef’s accounts were consistent with the reports received by U.S. commanders.

“We’re getting fairly consistent complaints about them,” Thoreen said. “Everybody knows somebody who’s been shot by the contractors.”

When the Taliban hit their targets, the security guards show little compassion for their wounded, French said.

“They will literally dump them on the road out here,” he said. Those who come to the base seeking medical aid get it and “on several occasions” the U.S. forces medically evacuated them to more sophisticated coalition medical facilities.

“There’s no give-a-shit factor in them when it comes to their employees,” he said. The firms’ attitude was: “Good luck — it sucks to be you. You’re in Maywand. We’re kicking you to the curb.”

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

***Good News For The Afghan  
Resistance!!***

**U.S. Occupation Commands’ Stupid  
Terror Tactics Recruit Even More  
Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops**



A foreigner from the U.S. army forces a group of Afghan citizens to squat down before him in the dirt at gunpoint while waiting to have their photos taken at a checkpoint near the Forward Operating Base (FOB) Tillman November 24, 2009. REUTERS/Bruno Domingos

**“OH, WE ARE SO HAPPY YOU ARE HERE TO LIBERATE US. WE JUST LOVE SQUATTING IN THE DIRT. WE CAN’T WAIT TO FIND SOME WAY TO THANK YOU, VERY VERY SOON. WE PROMISE, YOU WON’T FORGET IT.”**



See, see the happy, liberated Afghan citizens forced at gunpoint down in the dirt while waiting to have their photos taken by foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. at a checkpoint near the Forward Operating Base (FOB) Tillman November 24, 2009. REUTERS/Bruno Domingos

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

**WELCOME TO AFBAGHVIETISTAN:  
HAVE A NICE DAY**



U.S. soldiers from Alpha troop of the 3-71 Cavalry squadron near the town of Baraki Barak, Logar province, Afghanistan, Nov. 23, 2009. (AP Photo/Dario Lopez-Mills)

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## **TROOP NEWS**

**Thieving “Retired” Generals Get  
Huge Pentagon Consulting  
Contracts While Working For  
War Profiteers:**

**They Are “Being Paid By  
Somebody Who Wants To Make  
Money Off The Government”  
“Everyone In This Story Is Fat And  
Happy”  
“Everyone, Of Course, Except The  
Public, Which Has Virtually No Way Of  
Knowing What’s Going On, Much Less  
Holding These Guys To Account”**

**Those with industry ties have earned salaries, fees or stock options as consultants, board members or full-time employees of defense firms.**

11.30.09 By Tom Vanden Brook, Ken Dilanian and Ray Locker, Army Times [Excerpts]

Army Gen. Gary Luck retired more than a dozen years ago, but at 72 he is still busy working for the Pentagon.

Air Force Gen. Gregory “Speedy” Martin no longer serves as commander of the Air Force Materiel Command, but he keeps plenty busy.

Luck and Martin are part of the Pentagon’s “mentor” program. Martin works for the Air Force; Luck works for Joint Forces Command.

**In addition, Martin is a defense industry consultant and an adviser to a private equity firm whose Web site boasts that its stable of retired generals has “a nearly unmatched sense of how the armed forces will spend its money.”**

**Martin, Luck and nearly 160 other retired generals and admirals from the four services work for the Pentagon under an unusual arrangement that lets them draw hefty salaries from the military — hundreds of dollars an hour as well as six-figure annual pensions if they served 30 years or more — and still work for companies seeking Defense Department contracts, a USA Today investigation found.**

Retired generals and admirals have taken jobs with defense contractors for decades, reaping rewards for themselves and their companies through their contacts and insights.

**But mentors enjoy even more access than a typical retired officer and can pass along the knowledge they gain to their private employers, which can use it in seeking government work.**

Nothing is illegal about the arrangements.

**In fact, there are no Pentagon-wide rules specific to the various mentor programs, which differ from service to service.**

Based on interviews and a review of public records, the investigation found:

- **Of 158 retired generals and admirals identified as senior mentors, 80 percent had financial ties to defense contractors, including 29 who were full-time executives of defense companies. Those with industry ties have earned salaries, fees or stock options as consultants, board members or full-time employees of defense firms.**

- **Mentors are paid from about \$200 to \$340 an hour, plus expenses; active-duty generals typically make \$170,000 to \$216,000 a year, including a housing allowance.**

- **Mentors are hired as independent contractors and are not subject to government ethics rules.**

They don't have to disclose, either to the military or the public, the identities of their clients.

**Mentors are not barred from lobbying the same officers they are advising, from advertising their military adviser role on company Web sites, or from taking commercial advantage of insights gleaned through their government work.**

- **Mentors operate outside public scrutiny.**

**Although the services have released broad pay rates, most won't say how much individual mentors have been paid.**

The services released some names but couldn't say the lists were complete.

"This setup invites abuse," said Janine Wedel, a George Mason University public policy professor and author of a forthcoming book on government contracting.

"Everyone in this story is fat and happy. "Everyone, of course, except the public, which has virtually no way of knowing what's going on, much less holding these guys to account."

If retired generals advising the Pentagon also are "being paid by somebody who wants to make money off the government, I think it's important the public know that," said Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., who chairs the subcommittee on contracting oversight.

The Joint Forces Command said it cannot disclose what Zinni and others were paid as mentors because the information is held by a government-paid contractor, Northrop Grumman, which hires the mentors as subcontractors. The rate for three-star generals ... is about \$1,600 a day plus expenses, the command said in a statement.

The Marine Corps said its mentors are paid \$187 an hour for labor alone, while the Navy released figures showing mentors were paid an average of \$330 an hour including expenses. Air Force mentors are paid \$160 to \$486 an hour, not including expenses, the Air Force said.

Spending on the programs has grown in recent years.

**The Navy, for example, went from spending \$112,000 to pay mentors in 2005 to \$838,000 for its four mentors in the current year, according to figures that service released, which do not include the Marines. Other services would not release similar spending figures, but said the programs have expanded.**

Other information is kept from public view.

**All but the Marines said they are unable to disclose how much each mentor has been paid.**

The Air Force, Marines, Army and Navy released some names after requests by USA Today. Spokesmen for the Air Force, Marines and Army said they could not be sure the lists were complete.

**None of the services collects data about the mentors' private business affiliations.**

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## HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



Aug. 19, 2009: Two wounded U.S. soldiers of the U.S. Army's Apache Company 2nd Battalion 87th Infantry Regiment, part of the 3rd Combat Brigade 10th Mountain Division based out of Fort Drum, N.Y., being loaded into a medivac helicopter after their armored vehicle hit an improvised explosive device in the Tangi Valley of Afghanistan's Wardak Province. (AP Photo/David Goldman)

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# FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



**“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.**

**“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.**

**“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”**

**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**

**“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 mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!”  
-- Camille Desmoulins**

**“When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, “No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country.”  
-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq**

**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**

**We stand in a moment of time between the eternal past and the eternal future, content that, for us, all that was before and all that will be cannot exist for us, and yet we exist because all that was before us gave us our moment in time, and we will share the responsibility for all that will exist in the eternal future.  
-- Abraham Lincoln**

**Firearms are second only to the Constitution in importance; they are the peoples' liberty's teeth.  
-- George Washington**

## **How About A Little Bit Of Help From Our Friends? [No, It's Not About Money]**

**As the pressure builds from below, there has been a noticeable increase in message traffic.**

**Readers can help ease the part of the production of Military Resistance that involves reviewing incoming emails by NOT sending in:**



Material demonstrating George W. Bush, Rumsfeld, & Co. Etc. were bad.

Articles by people explaining why no more U.S. troops should be sent to Afghanistan but fail to demand the immediate return of the troops killing and dying there now. The stench of their hypocrisy is unwelcome.

Articles arguing that Iraq and/or Afghanistan veterans are homicidal maniacs: "Iraq War Veteran Kills And Eats Three Neighbors". FYI, the homicidal category runs the Imperial government.

"Open Letters To President Obama." He's not reading them. Not understanding that is a failure of situational awareness. Duh.

"Petitions To President Obama." He's not reading them. Not understanding that is a failure of situational awareness. Duh.

"Phone Calls To President Obama" He's not answering the phone. Not understanding that is a failure of situational awareness. Duh.

Tedious articles warning Obama that if he does this or that or doesn't do that, people won't like him, or if he would just do this or that, people would like him. He's not reading them either. Not understanding that is a failure of situational awareness. Duh.

Articles that refer to the people who occupy Palestine as "Jews." They are Zionists. Referring to Zionists as Jews slanders Jews who are implacable political opponents of Zionist politics and the state of Israel. There are a lot of them and always have been.

Articles that portray Obama as a wholesome reformer being forced to do this or that by the Generals, or Wall Street, or some other evil powerful political force that has taken the helpless man prisoner. Not only is that argument stupid, it's racist.

Articles about this or that bizarre new weapon the Pentagon might or might not deploy five years from now.

Articles about the personal lives of members of the armed forces that have nothing to do with military resistance: "Norwegian Sgt. Photographed Having Sex With Giraffe" "Soldier Attacks Vending Machine." Before sending, please ask yourself why you are emailing this or that article to a newsletter about Military Resistance. What message do you think you are sending troops opposed to Imperial wars? If any?

Articles that criticize Obama for ignoring Generals who want more troops in Afghanistan. This is Military Resistance. Got it? Resistance? To Empire?

All that idiotic crap about how the U.S. government is going to attack Iran now! That's been puked out every year for over 5 years by the pretty much the same lame hysterics. Send it instead to somebody who thinks alien worms have built a civilization on the dark side of the moon.

Articles by ego-freak self-appointed anti-war "leaders." Do not send if the writer isn't writing about a personal experience, but uses the word "I" more than once per 1000

words, as in: "I think the reason I have so much trouble with what I hear Americans say about the war is because I don't get the sense that they understand what I have been arguing for the past six years."

Articles by stupid and or/arrogant interviewers who say "talk about" to the person being interviewed, as in "Talk about the situation in Afghanistan." This means the interviewer is too dumb or too lazy to frame a serious question, or is simply a condescending piece of shit treating the person being interviewed as if he or she were a child, or a performing animal to do some trick on demand.

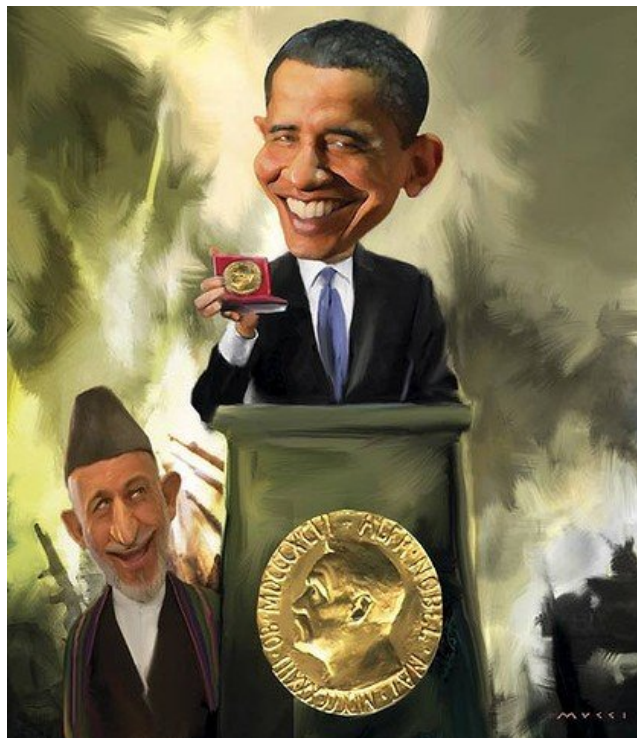
Articles by smug left elitists, often smug racist left elitists: This species will write about "Martin" doing this and "Malcolm" doing that, when referring to Martin Luther King or Malcolm X, but wouldn't dream of writing about "Leon" doing this and "Karl" doing that when writing about Leon Trotsky or Karl Marx. Oh no, then it's always the respectful "Trotsky" or "Marx." Don't bother sending anything when you spot this condescending crap.

Thanks!  
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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

### **Peace Prize**

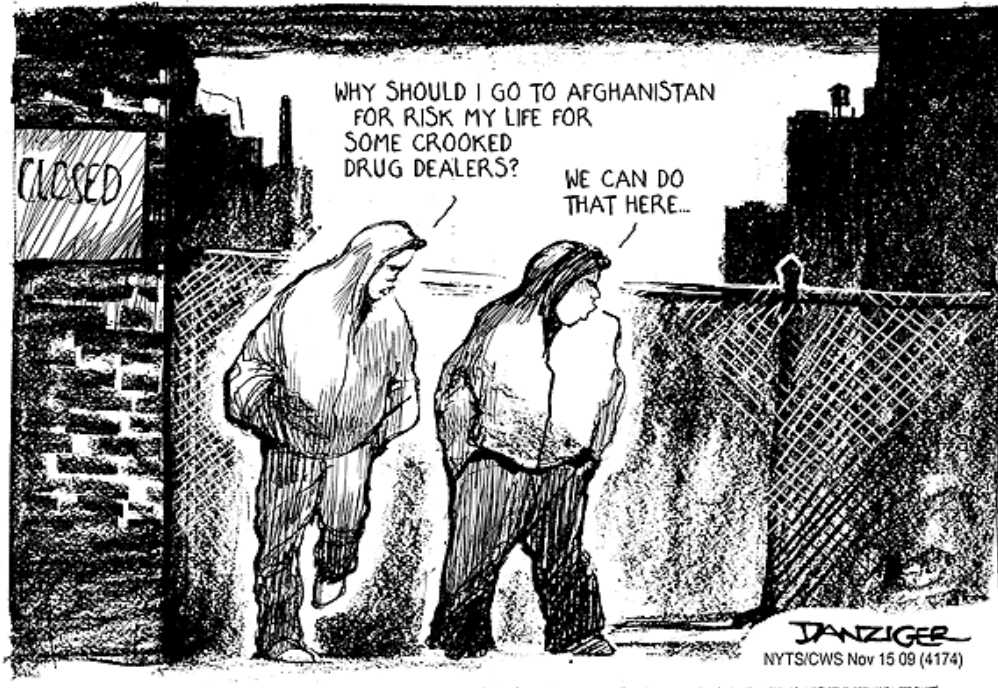


[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS

Enlist Now



### **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

### **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/))**



### **Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out**

Military Resistance/GI Special issues are archived at website

<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/index-2009.html>;

[http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/); [news@uruknet.info](mailto:news@uruknet.info);

<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res2&mod=newse&lan=1>

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