

Military Resistance 8D7



**Thailand: Possibilities:
Some Soldiers Refusing To
Defend The Military Dictators:
“We Have Decided, Among The
Draftees, That We Will Not Go Out
On Missions Like This”
“We Have Been Told By The
Commanding Officer That We Will
Not Be Asked To Go Out Again”**

“Many Of The Draftees Ran For Safety, Some Leaving Behind Weapons And Other Equipment”

12/04/2010 - Prachatai.org/english/
[Via Max Watts, Australia 4.12.10]

This account of events around Ratchadamnoen and Khao San on the night of 10 April was given by a conscript in a phone call to his family. Soldiers have been told not to communicate with the media so this report must remain anonymous.

Approximately 50 draftees who had not finished basic training were ordered to put on riot gear at dusk on Saturday and were driven to the Ratchadamnoen area.

We were not told in advance where we were going or what our objective was. We were equipped with rubber bullets but no gas masks. We had previously received some training in riot control and had manned checkpoints, but in general discipline and leadership required improvement and we were inexperienced.

We quickly found ourselves in a confused fight with the red shirts. We were instructed to fire rubber bullets at the legs of protestors, but were facing bricks, sticks and gunfire. Tear gas was making it difficult to see what was going on.

It wasn't like a video game. There were other units, some from other services, but we saw no coordination among them.

The non-commissioned officer in charge of us was injured and taken away and no one took over.

Many of the draftees ran for safety, some leaving behind weapons and other equipment. I was helping to pull wounded comrades out of danger. There were some bad injuries and we thought some people were probably dead. It was a terrifying situation.

At one point I was overcome with tear gas.

Red shirts took off my helmet and I never saw it again. They washed the tear gas off my face. I and 2 friends were now isolated and did not know where to go. We tried staying put but it got too dangerous, so we started moving about and got lost. After 3 hours, we met a policeman in the middle of the night who told us where our unit was.

We got about 3 hours sleep and were transported back to camp the following afternoon.

Of the 50 who had gone out, only about 20 remained. Some must be in hospital with injuries, and probably many just ran for their lives.

We have decided, among the draftees, that we will not go out on missions like this. The officers say this too. We have been told by the commanding officer that we will not be asked to go out again.

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Lots Of Resistance Action



A bomb attack killed a high-ranking police officer in al-Nisoor Square in Baghdad, Iraq, April 14, 2010. Brig. Gen. Arkan Ali, who served on the ministry's anti-terrorism force, was killed by 'sticky bomb' on his car as he drove to work. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

April 7 (KUNA) & April 8 (KUNA) & Apr 10, 2010 DPA & Reuters & 4.12 DPA & By DAVID RISING, Associated Press Writer & April 14 (Reuters)

A roadside bomb wounded a local leader of the government-backed militia and three bodyguards in Hawija, 210 km (130 miles) north of Baghdad. Police said another bomb hit a police patrol heading to the scene and wounded two police officers.

A bomb attached to a car in al-Nisour Square in central Baghdad killed Brigadier Arkan Mohammed Ali, a counter- terrorism officer at the Interior Ministry, and wounded three people including a traffic police officer, police said.

Militants in a car fired on an Iraqi army checkpoint, killing two soldiers in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

4.12: Outside Baghdad, a bomb went off midday next to an Iraqi army patrol, killing two soldiers and injuring seven, another police officer said.

Insurgents assassinated a ranking Iraqi security officer in the capital on Thursday, police said. A police source told KUNA that attackers opened up with a hail of gunfire in the direction of Brigadier Fadhel Abbas Ali in front of his house in Al-Ghazaliah district in the western sector of the city tonight. He lost his life immediately. The slain officer was in charge of training in the interior ministry.

4.12: A bomber drove a small bus loaded with explosives into an Iraqi army convoy in the town of Abu Ghraib, just west of Baghdad.

Witnesses told the German Press Agency dpa that a man drove a small Kia brand bus into an Iraqi army patrol in the center of Abu Ghraib, resulting in a 'massive explosion.' Four soldiers and one civilian were reported dead, in addition to the bomber. Thirteen soldiers and two civilians were left injured by the explosion.

4.12: BAQUBA: Three brothers who were members of the US-allied Sahwa "Sons of Iraq" militia that helped tame the nation's insurgency were killed when a roadside bomb engulfed their car yesterday, officials said.

The incident, in which a fourth brother was wounded, occurred around 10:00 am (0700 GMT) in Adhaim in Diyala province, northeast of Baghdad, said a security official who confirmed the men were Sahwa fighters.

A hospital official in the provincial capital Baquba said three brothers had died and a fourth was hurt.

Sahwa (Awakening) movement, known as the "Sons of Iraq" by the US army, joined American and Iraqi forces in 2006 and 2007.

A policeman was killed when attackers opened fire while he was leaving his residence in Karamah area.

Two policemen and one Iraqi soldier were killed when an explosive device went off targeting them in al-Qiyara district, south of Mosul, a source in Mosul Operations told the German Press Agency dpa.

A blast targeting Iraqi army patrol in the Hamam al-Alil area, southern Mosul, left one soldier killed.

Insurgents opened fire on two policemen in central Mosul, killing them, before escaping on Friday evening.

Militants opened fire on an army patrol and wounded two soldiers in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, authorities said.

A car bomb blew up next to a police patrol west of the northern city of Mosul, killing a policeman.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Four German Soldiers Killed In Baghlan; Five More Wounded

April 15, 2010 By NOOR KHAN and KATHY GANNON, Associated Press Writers

Four German soldiers were killed in fighting in the north.

The Germans were killed when a rocket slammed into their "Eagle" armored vehicle during heavy fighting Thursday with Taliban militants in Baghlan province about 120 miles (190 kilometers) north of the capital, Kabul, the German Defense Ministry said. Five other German soldiers were wounded.

It was the biggest single-day loss of life suffered by the Germans since June 2003, when four soldiers were killed and 29 wounded in a bombing near Kabul airport.

Later Thursday, five Afghans working for the U.N. Office for Projects were missing after insurgents carjacked their vehicle in Baghlan, the U.N. mission said.

Baghlan provincial police spokesman Habib Rahman said three Afghan policemen were also killed in Thursday's fighting, which included airstrikes and heavy weapons.

Northern Afghanistan, where the Germans are based, was relatively peaceful when the German force was sent there in 2002.

But fighting increased last year after NATO opened a new supply route from Central Asian countries to the north, hoping to avoid ambushes that plagued roads coming in from Pakistan to the south and east.

MORE:

62% Of Germans Want Their Soldiers Out Of Afghanistan: Reichskanzler Und Fuehrer Merkel Doesn't Give A Shit What Germans Want

April 15, 2010 By NOOR KHAN and KATHY GANNON, Associated Press Writers

On Wednesday, Germany's Stern magazine reported that a record 62 percent of the 1,004 Germans polled by the Forsa Institute want to bring the troops home. The margin of error for the survey taken April 8 and 9 was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

At least 43 German soldiers have died in Afghanistan since Germany sent troops here in 2002.

Despite the growing opposition, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said last week she still believes her country's soldiers are needed in Afghanistan but will not stay a day longer than necessary.

Washington Soldier Killed In Char Bagh

April 13, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 292-10

Spc. Joseph T. Caron, 21, of Tacoma, Wash., died April 11 in Char Bagh, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit using an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Fort Campbell Medic Killed In Afghanistan

Apr. 14 The Associated Press

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. -- The military says a Fort Campbell soldier has died from wounds suffered when his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb in eastern Afghanistan.

The 101st Airborne Division said in a news release that 23-year-old Pfc. Jonathan Hall died April 8 from wounds suffered a day earlier when his vehicle was hit in Paktika Province.

Hall was a combat medic assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

He joined the Army in October 2008 and arrived at Fort Campbell in August 2009.

He is survived by his mother, Robynn Harrison of Rocky Face, Ga., and father, Air Force Lt. Col. Steven Hall of Anchorage, Alaska.

Colorado Sgt. Wounded In Afghanistan Dies At Walter Reed



Sean M. Durkin (AP Photo/Fort Carson)

April 12, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 289-10

Sgt. Sean M. Durkin, 24, of Aurora, Colo. died April 9 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his vehicle with an improvised explosive device near Forward Operating Base Wilson, Afghanistan, on March 27. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, Fort Carson, Colo.

Canadian Soldier Killed In Blast While On Foot Patrol In Afghanistan



Kitchener, Ont., native Private Tyler William Todd was weeks away from completing his six-month tour

Apr. 11, 2010 Sarah Boesveld, Globe and Mail [Excerpts]

He grew up helpful and hard working, lifting wagon-loads of hay at his family's dairy farm and aspiring to become a firefighter.

Just months ago, the 26-year-old from Bright, Ont. embarked on his next mission to help others — a military tour in Afghanistan.

That mission ended Sunday for Private Tyler William Todd when he was killed in a roadside blast, becoming Canada's 142nd casualty in Afghanistan.

Pte. Todd was on foot patrol in Belanday, a volatile region southwest of Kandahar City early Sunday morning when the powerful bomb went off. When the bomb detonated, he was on a routine patrol to learn more about the people in the village and what they would need from the troops, said commander Brigadier-General Daniel Ménard.

Pte. Todd was just weeks away from capping his six-month tour of duty and returning to the garrison of the 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based in Edmonton.

He headed out there about a year and a half ago, said cousin Kris Rogers from his home in Cambridge, Ont. He grew up in the small town near Kitchener, just down the street from Pte. Todd, who was known for his easy humour and fondness for hockey. Pte. Todd leaves his parents, Beverly and Bryan and two sisters, Samantha, who is older and Jenna, who is younger. He also had a girlfriend in Edmonton, Mr. Rogers said.

He went to Huron Park High School in Woodstock, Ont., and later studied to become a firefighter. "He spent a lot of time with his friends, he developed a tight circle of friends," Mr. Rogers, 23, said. He was always eager to help others, said friend Dave Murray. "If you ever needed help moving something or help doing something, he was there," Mr. Murray said. "He was more or less going just to help the civilians."

Mr. Murray had been friends with Pte. Todd for 25 years — almost their entire lives.

"We got along like brothers. We did everything together, he'd do anything for me, I'd do anything for him," he said. The 26-year-old forklift driver said he used to help Pte. Todd with the haying at the dairy farm and milking the cows. They liked to ride their dirt bikes through the fields and back roads.

They had also talked about the dangers he'd face in Kandahar. He saw his friend on each of his visits home, about four or five a year. Over beers at each other's family homes, all he wanted to talk about was the experiences he was having as part of the troops.

"He loved it," Mr. Murray said. "In my eyes, he's a hero."

On the base in Kandahar, Pte. Todd was celebrated for his warm nature.

"Tyler was a practical joker; he would often hide rocks and candies in the other soldier's bed spaces," Gen. Ménard said. "He never allowed the small things to get to him and was often the rock that other soldiers could depend on."

The tragedy comes as the United States has inserted more forces into the area and is pressuring Canada to remain there with them. Canada has stuck with its proposed pull-out date of July, 2011.

That particular area of Afghanistan has become increasingly dangerous in recent months.

Sunday's attack happened in Dand district, where journalist Michelle Lang and four Canadian soldiers were killed on Dec. 30, 2009. In January, 44-year-old Sergeant John Faught was killed by a roadside bomb in nearby Nakhoney.

Just last month, Canada's military in Afghanistan aided the Afghan National Army's three-day sweep of small towns and villages southwest of Belanday in Panjwai district. It captured only two prisoners and no weapons. Villagers, meanwhile, said they'd done their part to chase the Taliban from their community.

Iowan Injured In Osprey Crash In Afghanistan

April 12, 2010 AP

The family of an Iowa soldier says he should fully recover from injuries suffered in the crash of a U.S. Air Force Osprey in southeastern Afghanistan.

The military says three service members and one civilian contractor were killed in the first crash of the costly tilt-rotor aircraft in a combat zone.

Twenty-eight-year-old Army Capt. Erick McFerran, of Independence, was among those injured on April 9.

His mother, Barb McFerran, of Independence, told the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier that he had been seen by doctors and was expected to "fully recover."

Civilians Slaughtered As U.S. Soldiers Fire On A Packed Passenger Bus: “If You Want To Stop The Bus, It Should Be Shot In The Tires,” Mr. Wesa Said. “Why Shoot The People Inside?” Demonstrators Blocked The Road With Burning Tires For An Hour And Shouted, “Death To America”

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

APRIL 12, 2010 By MATTHEW ROSENBERG, Wall St. Journal & By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr. and TAIMOOR SHAH, New York Times [Excerpts]

KABUL—U.S. soldiers opened fire on a packed passenger bus in the southern Afghan province of Kandahar, killing at least four civilians and wounding 18 others, Afghan and coalition officials said.

If the casualty toll is correct, it would imply that troops may have fired scores of rounds.

The deaths triggered a vitriolic anti-American demonstration, infuriated officials and appeared likely to harm public opinion on the eve of the most important offensive of the war, in which tens of thousands of American and NATO troops will try to take control of the Kandahar region, the spiritual home of the Taliban, this summer.

Hundreds of demonstrators poured into the area around a station where the damaged bus was taken on the western outskirts of Kandahar.

They blocked the road with burning tires for an hour and shouted, “Death to America” and “Death to infidels” while also condemning the Afghan president, Hamid Karzai, according to people in the area.

The Kandahar governor, Tooryalai Wesa, called for the commander of the military convoy who opened fire to be prosecuted under military law.

“If you want to stop the bus, it should be shot in the tires,” Mr. Wesa said. “Why shoot the people inside?”

The shooting in Kandahar occurred just after daybreak, as the bus was taking scores of passengers to Nimruz Province, said Zalmy Ayoubi, a spokesman for Governor Wesa.

Two people who had been on the bus said that an American convoy 60 to 70 yards ahead opened fire as the bus began to pull to the side of the road to allow another military convoy to pass from behind.

“An American convoy was ahead of us and another convoy was following us, and we were going to pull off of the road, and suddenly the Americans opened fire,” said one, Nida Muhammad, a passenger who suffered a shoulder wound.

“We were not close to them, maybe 60 yards away from their convoy,” Mr. Muhammad said.

“This bus wasn’t like a suicide bomber, and we did not touch or come close to the convoy,” he said. “It seems they are opening fire on civilians intentionally.”

The two convoys and the bus were on the main highway in Sanzari, about 15 miles west of Kandahar city. The windows on one side of the bus were shot out.

One of the passengers, Roozi Muhammad, 48 years old, said that shortly after the bus got near the U.S. convoy, a second coalition military convoy pulled up behind it. The second convoy then tried to overtake the bus, he said.

“Suddenly, I heard shooting and then the sound of windows shattering.

The driver slammed the brakes, and then I lost consciousness and don't know what happened,” Mr. Muhammad said in the Mirwais Hospital in Kandahar city, where he was being treated for a bullet wound to his neck and the back of his head.

He said he and a friend, who was also injured, had been on their way to Iran to look for work.

The bus shooting prompted widespread anti-American anger in Kandahar. Protesters set tires aflame and blocked the highway leading west of the city. Provincial and national officials condemned the incident.

A military spokeswoman confirmed that a y convoy traveling westward, in front of the bus, had opened fire, but said the second convoy was traveling east toward passenger bus. She also said the driver of the passenger bus was killed.

However, a survivor identified himself as the driver and said he did not violate any signal from the troops.

“I was going to take the bus off the road,” said the man, Mohammed Nabi. Then the convoy ahead opened fire from a distance of 60 to 70 yards.

“It is a huge bus full of passengers, and if they think we were a suicide bomber, we are sad that the Americans have killed innocent people,” he said. “We don’t feel safe while traveling on the main highways anymore because of NATO convoys.”

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



Photo: REUTERS/Asmaa Waguih

A foreign occupation armed forces member from the USA puts his hands on the body of an Afghan citizen without consent during a patrol in Karez-e-Sayyidi, Helmand province, April 10, 2010.

Foreign occupation soldiers from the USA make a daily practice of publicly humiliating Afghan citizens.

This encourages self-respecting honorable Afghans to kill them.

[Fair is fair. Let’s bring 80,000 Afghan troops over here to the USA.

[They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, bomb and butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it “sovereign,” and “detain” anybody who

doesn't like it in a U.S. military prison in the invaded nation without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.

[Those Afghans are sure a bunch of backward primitives.

[They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship killing them wholesale, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country.

[What a bunch of silly people.

[How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by Barrack Obama.

[Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

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

Militants Attack The Main Office Of Afghanistan's Intelligence Service In Kandahar City

APRIL 12, 2010 By MATTHEW ROSENBERG, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

Taliban militants took over a school and attacked the main office of Afghanistan's intelligence service in Kandahar city, wounding at least five people.

The Taliban attack took place after noon, when three bombers took over a school and another building adjoining the Kandahar office of the National Directorate of Security, Afghanistan's intelligence agency, said provincial Gov. Tooryalai Wesa.

From there, the militants showered the NDS office with gunfire and grenades. Afghan security forces eventually shot and killed two of the attackers and the third was captured alive, Gov. Wesa said. The wounded included four NDS officers and a teacher, officials said.

Resistance Attacks Hit Kandahar:

Seven Foreign Occupation Workers Killed

April 15, 2010 Reuters & By NOOR KHAN and KATHY GANNON, Associated Press Writers

Two powerful bombings rocked the southern Afghan city of Kandahar on Thursday.

Seven foreign workers, believed to be British, were killed in a car bomb attack on Thursday, a police official said.

After sundown a bomber detonated his explosives-laden vehicle at the inner security barrier of a compound shared by several Western companies, according to Ahmad Wali Karzai, the president's half brother and the main power broker in southern Afghanistan.

Police official Mohammad Nabi said the car bomber drove into a compound where foreigners live and detonated his vehicle after guards opened the gate. Two other security sources who asked not to be named said at least six people had died, including at least three foreigners.

At least 16 people were wounded, including one foreigner and four in critical condition, according to Dr. Mohammed Hashim of the city's Mirwais Hospital.

The blast blew out windows as far as 2.5 miles (4 kilometers) away, including those at Karzai's home.

The compound includes the offices of the international contracting company Louis Berger Group, the Afghanistan Stabilization Initiative and the aid contracting company Chemonics International.

Earlier Thursday, a remotely detonated car bomb went off in front of the Noor Jehan Hotel, which includes the offices of several foreign news organizations, wounding eight people and shattering windows in the four-story building.

Local Occupation Worker Killed In Kandahar; Others Don't Believe Foreigners Will Protect Them

Apr 13 Associated Press Writer

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – An attacker lying in wait shot and killed an 18-year-old woman as she left her job at a U.S.-based development company Tuesday.

In Tuesday's attack, the militant emerged from a hiding place and shot the woman, whose first name was Hossai, after she stepped out of her office building, said deputy police chief Fazle Ahmed Shehzad. Hossai died at the hospital, and the assailant escaped.

Hossai worked for Development Alternatives, Inc., a Washington-based global consulting firm that "provides social and economic development solutions to business, government, and civil society in developing and transitioning countries," according to its Web site.

Sara, 34, said her family is demanding that she quit her \$1,300-a-month job with an international organization because the risks are too great, even though her salary is about six times what a policeman in the city earns.

She refused to allow her surname or employer to be identified because of fears for their safety.

She and other women interviewed at the Afghan Canadian Community Center were largely skeptical that the coming NATO-Afghan offensive in Kandahar would succeed where eight years of military operations against the insurgents had largely failed to bring a lasting peace.

"In eight years they have done nothing. How is it that they couldn't find (the Taliban) with all their equipment? I heard they had equipment that could see people in a room but they can't find the Taliban," said Gila Bibi, a business management student.

"Corruption is in every group, and every group is our enemy — the Taliban, the government, the police."

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

**U.S. Forces Abandon Fighting
In Afghan 'Valley Of Death'
"A Tacit Admission That Putting
The Base There In The First Place
Was A Costly Mistake"**

**“It Did More To Spawn Insurgents
Than Defeat Them”
“The Korangalis Were By No Means Part
Of The Insurgency,” He Said.
“Unfortunately, Now They Are, Because
They Were Willing To Accept Any Help
To Get Us Out”**



This week, American soldiers climbed a mountain in the Korangal Valley of Afghanistan, where a remote base was being closed. Photo: Christoph Bangert for The New York Times

During the period Specialist Soto served there half of his platoon was wounded or killed, according to the unit’s commanding officer. “It confuses me, why it took so long for them to realize that we weren’t making progress up there,” Specialist Soto said.

Some of his soldiers were more blunt with the general. "This place is rough," said Pfc. Matthew Lunceford, who had a gash across his cheek from the bombing on the way to see the Khans.

"It is freaking nuts."

There were never enough soldiers to crush the insurgency, and after four years, it became clear that there was not much worth winning in this sparsely populated valley.

April 14, 2010 By ALISSA J. RUBIN, New York Times & By Greg Jaffe, Washington Post Staff Writer & 4.15 AFP [Excerpts]

KORENGAL VALLEY, AFGHANISTAN -- It was as if the five years of almost ceaseless firefights and ambushes had been a misunderstanding -- a tragic, bloody misunderstanding.

More than 40 U.S. troops have been killed, and scores more wounded, in helicopter crashes, machine-gun attacks and grenade blasts in the Korengal Valley, a jagged sliver just six miles long and a half-mile wide.

The Afghan death toll has been far higher, making the Korengal some of the bloodiest ground in all of Afghanistan, according to American and Afghan officials.

U.S. troops arrived here in 2005 to flush out al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters. They stayed on the theory that their presence drew insurgents away from areas where the U.S. role is more tolerated and there is a greater desire for development.

The troops were, in essence, bullet magnets.

In 2010, a new set of commanders concluded that the United States had blundered into a blood feud with fierce and clannish villagers who wanted, above all, to be left alone. By this logic, subduing the Korengal wasn't worth the cost in American blood.

The last American soldier left here Wednesday, abandoning a base surrounded by tall cedar trees and high mountains, in a place that came to be called the Valley of Death.

There were never enough soldiers to crush the insurgency, and after four years, it became clear that there was not much worth winning in this sparsely populated valley.

Closing Korangal Outpost in Kunar Province, a powerful symbol of some of the Afghan war's most ferocious fights, and a potential harbinger of America's retreat, is a tacit admission that putting the base there in the first place was a costly mistake.

Fighting for isolated mountain valleys like this one, even if they are hide-outs for clusters of Taliban, was no longer sustainable.

It did more to spawn insurgents than defeat them.

Forty-two Americans died fighting in the Korangal Valley and hundreds were wounded, according to the military. Most died in the period from 2006 to 2009.

Many Afghan soldiers died as well, and in larger numbers, since they had poorer equipment.

In a war characterized by small, brutal battles, the Korangal had more than its share, and its abandonment has left soldiers who fought there confronting confusion, anger and pain.

“It hurts,” said Specialist Robert Soto of Company B, First Battalion, 26th Infantry, who spent 12 months in the valley from 2008 to 2009. “It hurts on a level that — three units from the Army, we all did what we did up there. And we all lost men. We all sacrificed. I was 18 years old when I got there. I really would not have expected to go through what we went through at that age.”

During the period Specialist Soto served there half of his platoon was wounded or killed, according to the unit’s commanding officer.

“It confuses me, why it took so long for them to realize that we weren’t making progress up there,” Specialist Soto said.

Korangal Outpost was the third area of eastern Afghanistan where combat outposts closed: In 2007 and 2008 two posts and a smaller satellite base were closed in the Waygal Valley of Nuristan Province; in 2009 two posts were closed in the Kamdesh region of Nuristan. Along with the main Korangal outpost, five satellite bases closed; at least two, Restrepo and Vimoto, were named for soldiers who died there.

Perched on a steep hillside sprinkled with gnarled trees, Korangal Outpost is little more than a dozen structures made of stone and wood and is heavily sandbagged. It is a primitive-looking place built into the hillside, like the nearby villages. Farther down the valley tower the deodar cedars that the Korangalis cut down to make their living.

The vulnerability of these combat outposts was hardly surprising.

Though sparsely populated, Kunar and Nuristan Provinces have a long history of strident resistance to outsiders. Kunar was one of the first places to rise up against the Soviet occupation in the 1980s, giving the area the label of “cradle of jihad.”

Much of the American mission in the last couple of years has been to try to get the reclusive people who live here to recognize the Afghan government and work with it.

In some places that approach is reaping modest results. Not so in the Korangal.

The Korangalis speak a language unrelated to Pashto or Dari, the two main Afghan tongues.

They practice a conservative brand of Islam and have repeatedly rebuffed American offers of aid.

The area remains under the influence of a Taliban shadow governor along with two Taliban leaders, Hajji Mateen and Nasrullah, who make their money from the valley’s lumber.

The sawmill and lumberyard run by Hajji Mateen was seized by Marines to build the Korangal outpost in April 2006.

The troops had set out to penetrate the six-mile-long valley, but never made it more than halfway.

There have been only two missions to the valley's southern end since 2005, said Maj. Ukiah Senti, the executive officer of Second Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Lethal, which oversees Korangal and neighboring areas.

He said the antagonism from local Taliban and insurgents was so great that it would have taken a battalion-size force to make a foray there.

The Korangal Outpost was opened to root out Taliban fighters hiding deep in the mountains, according to soldiers who fought there.

Even before then, it was apparent that the valley's inhabitants were hostile to outsiders.

In June 2005 a four-man Navy Seals team was ambushed on a ridge above the valley; three members were killed, and a helicopter sent to rescue them was shot down, killing eight more members of the Navy Seals and eight other servicemen.

While there were Taliban in the valley and operatives of Al Qaeda passed through, Korangal was not a major haven, said Maj. James Fussell, a former Army Special Forces soldier who spent nearly two years fighting here, from 2004 to 2005 and again from 2008 to 2009. He recently was co-author of an analysis of the mission in Kunar and Nuristan for the Institute for the Study of War.

"Occasionally a Taliban or Al Qaeda member was transiting through that location, but the Korangalis were by no means part of the insurgency," he said. "Unfortunately, now they are, because they were willing to accept any help to get us out."

American commanders sporadically discussed closing the base almost since it was put there, but over the last 18 months the plan was pushed by Col. Randy George, who commands Task Force Mountain Warrior, which is responsible for four eastern Afghan provinces: Kunar, Nuristan, Nangarhar and Laghman.

"We're not going to go deep into these valleys and bring them into the 21st century in a couple of months," said Colonel George, who determined early on that keeping forces in the Korangal and in the Kamdesh region was not an effective way to use resources or win over local people.

Major Senti concurred.

"Realistically no one needs to be there," he said. "We're not really overwatching anything other than safeguarding ourselves."

Looking back, soldiers say the effort shows how choices made from a lack of understanding or consultation with local people can drive them into the arms of the insurgents.

A number of the infantrymen who fought here ruefully accept that the time has long passed for the military to spend lives and resources in a small and isolated valley that could not have been won without many more troops.

"It is frustrating, because we bled there and now we're leaving," said Capt. John P. Rodriguez, who as a first lieutenant served there with the 26th Infantry Regiment.

"So you question: Were those sacrifices worth it? But just because you lost guys in a place, doesn't mean you need to stay there."

In the pre-dawn hours of Wednesday, the U.S. presence here came to an abrupt end.

A day earlier, Capt. Mark Moretti, the 28-year-old commander of American forces in the valley, walked two dozen Korengali elders around his base and told them that the United States was withdrawing. He showed the elders the battle-scarred barracks, a bullet-ridden crane, wheezing generators and a rubber bladder brimming with 6,000 gallons of fuel.

Moretti, the son of a West Point physics professor, and Shamshir Khan, a valley elder whose son had been jailed for killing two U.S. troops, sat together on a small wall near the base's helicopter pad.

In keeping with local custom among friends, they held hands.

Moretti gently reminded Khan of the deal they had reached a few days earlier: If U.S. troops were allowed to leave peacefully, the Americans wouldn't destroy the base, the crane and the fuel.

Khan assured him that the valley's fighters would honor the deal.

"I hope that when I am gone, you will do what is best for your valley and the villagers," an almost wistful Moretti said.

"I want you to travel safely to your home, to your family," the 86-year-old elder replied. He gazed at the officer through thick glasses that magnified rheumy brown eyes and beamed.

Shortly after Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal took over as the top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan last summer, he flew into the Korengal to meet with Moretti.

At the time, McChrystal was reluctant to pump any more troops into the stalemated fight. But he also was hesitant to leave because an American defeat in the Korengal would raise questions about U.S. will and embolden other insurgents, American officials said.

Last week McChrystal flew back into the valley. Moretti walked him through the plan to pull out his 154 troops.

"Sir, I think we are looking forward to getting out of here," Moretti said. "I think leaving is the right thing to do."

Some of his soldiers were more blunt with the general.

"This place is rough," said Pfc. Matthew Lunceford, who had a gash across his cheek from the bombing on the way to see the Khans.

"It is freaking nuts."

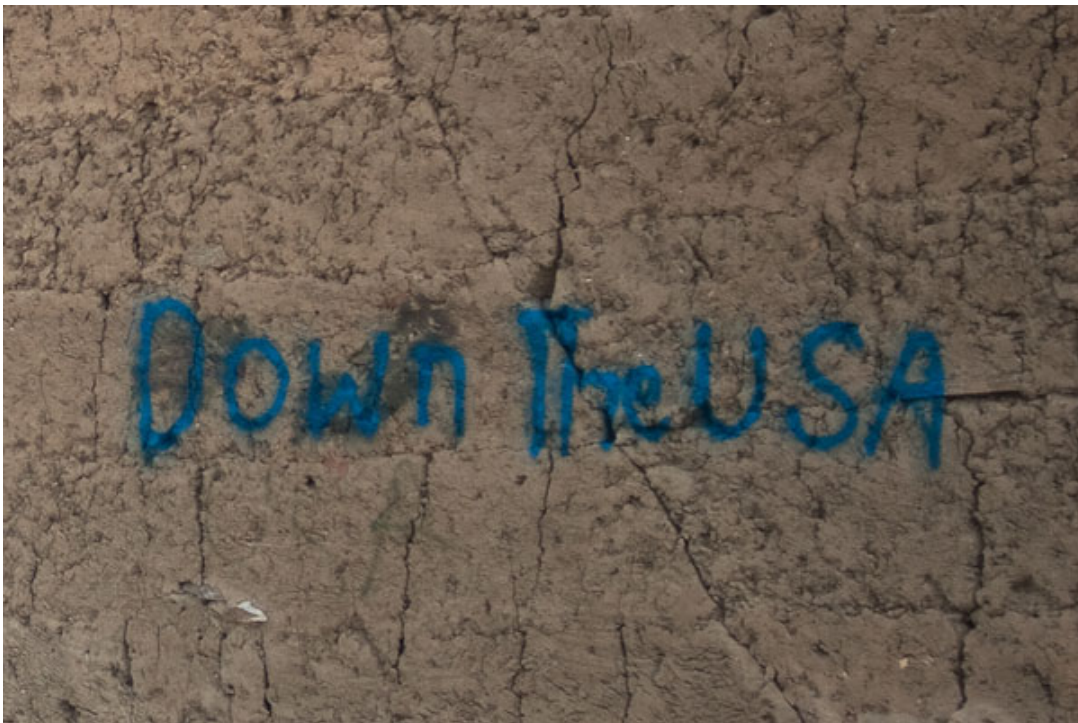
The Taliban, the main insurgent group that controls several districts in southern and eastern parts of the country, were quick to seize on the US withdrawal, after years of fierce fighting in the sparsely populated valley.

"It's a great victory for us," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahed told AFP by telephone from an undisclosed location.

"The area is very, very important for us. Its mountains provide us a good hideout, it can be used as a training ground and lead our operations across the region from there," he said.

"US troops fled under our constant attacks."

Resistance Action



Evidence of resistance marks a mud wall in Jalrez district, Wardak province, Afghanistan, March 28, 2010. Photo: James Lee [Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

04/10/10 & 4.11.10 AP & 04/12/2010 The Associated Press

Militants launched a pre-dawn attack on an Indian road construction camp in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, burning vehicles and equipment and sending the crew fleeing, authorities said. No deaths or injuries were reported in the attack in Khost province's Domanda district, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

Suspected Taliban, who are active in the mountainous eastern region bordering Pakistan, descended on the camp overnight. It wasn't clear whether the camp was targeted due to Indian involvement, although militants have launched a number of bloody attacks on Indian interests in Afghanistan over recent years.

A bus carrying Afghans working for a U.S.-supported demining group was struck by a roadside bomb in Kandahar province Sunday, killing five workers and wounding 13 others. The bus belonging to the Demining Agency for Afghanistan was struck early Sunday as it traveled through Kandahar province's Daman district, according to Mohammed Ibrahim, chief of medicine at Kandahar Hospital.

It wasn't clear if the blast was random or specifically targeted the demining agency, known as DAFA, which receives more than half its funding from the U.S. State Department, according to its Web site.

Roadside bombs killed four policemen. Two other policemen were wounded and their vehicle was destroyed in the blast Monday in northern Faryab province's Ghormach district, the Interior Ministry said.

Roadside bombs killed two Afghan soldiers. The Afghan Defense Ministry said two other soldiers were wounded when their vehicle hit a bomb Monday near Qalat city in Zabul province of southeastern Afghanistan.

And Another One Gone



A burning truck set on fire by Taliban insurgents in northern Baghlan province. The truck was carrying supplies for foreign troops. April 11, 2010. REUTERS/Stringer

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW



March 2, 2010: A U.S. Army flight medic, bottom right, prepares to lead U.S. Marines carrying a wounded comrade to a waiting medevac helicopter, during an ongoing firefight, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. A TF Pegasus chase helicopter circles in the background, helping provide security for the duration of the evacuation. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



U.S. soldiers inspect the scene of an insurgent attack in Jalalabad, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, April 7, 2010. An attacker appeared to have targeted a foreign troop convoy. One of the vehicles and several nearby shops were damaged. (Photo: AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)



Taliban insurgents in front of a burning German military vehicle in Isaa Khail village of Char Dara district of the northern Kunduz Province April 3, 2010. Three German soldiers were killed and five others seriously injured in fighting in Kunduz. REUTERS/Wahdat

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

“Islamist Rebels Fired Mortars To The Presidential Palace”

April 12, 2010 Mareeg & April 14 Reuters

MOGADISHU

Islamist rebels fired mortars to the presidential palace where the Somali military forces were commemorating their anniversary.

A fragile western backed government controls just a few blocks in the capital, while militant Islamist groups, some linked to al Qaeda [translation: time to throw some dirt on the militants], control large swathes of southern and central Somalia.

At least two government soldiers and two civilians have been killed Monday in roadside explosions in Mogadishu, witnesses say. Five civilians have also been injured in the blasts which their sounds could be heard in parts of the capital.

The death of the four people came after two consecutive landmine blasts targeted government and African Union soldiers in Scuola Di Polizia in Hamar Jajab district in Mogadishu, a base of government soldiers.

Residents say one landmine went off first, and when people went to the area to save the wounded people, the second explosion went off which wounded most of the civilians in the area.

Al Shabaab militants took the responsibility of the attack and an official from the group also said that they have killed 7 African Union peacekeepers [translation: U.S. government-backed occupation troops] in the explosions and also 5 government soldiers.

So far, there is no word from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the government.

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of Marine Pfc. Kyle J. Coutu, St. Teresa of the Child Church in Pawtucket, R.I., following funeral services, Feb. 26, 2010. Coutu was killed last week in the Helmand province of Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Stew Milne)

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/)**

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

The Most Powerful One-Liner In American History



Photograph by Mike Hastie
Taken in the Central Highlands
of Vietnam in 1994. Two Vietnam
veterans walk through the grave-
yard of National Liberation Front
soldiers killed by the United States
Government.

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: April 06, 2010
Subject: The Most Powerful One-Liner In American History

The Most Powerful One-liner In American History

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

**Martin Luther King Jr.
Riverside Church NYC**

April 4, 1967

Fast forward to April 4, 2010,
and Martin Luther King's words
are more powerful today than
they were in 1967.

The United States Government
is a non-stop killing machine.
The worst experience I had in
Vietnam was experiencing the
absolute truth of Martin Luther
King's statement. America is in
absolute psychiatric denial of
its genocidal maniacal nature.
We kill and destroy for profit.
If there is one thing I absolutely
know to perfection, it is that
America will reap what it sows.
Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
April 6, 2010

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

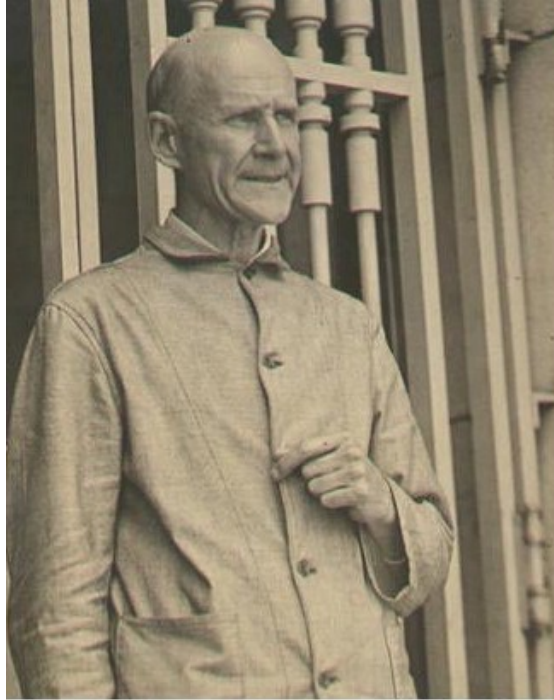
**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

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

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: Name, I.D., withheld unless you
request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone:
888.711.2550

April 13, 1919 A Hero Imprisoned For Opposing Imperial War



Eugene V. Debs when he was a prisoner at the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, sentenced for opposing U.S. entry into World War I.

U.S. Department of Labor, "Labor Hall of Fame Honoree"
<<http://www.dol.gov/oasam/programs/laborhall/evd.htm>>

Carl Bunin Peace History April 13-19

Socialist and labor leader Eugene V. Debs was imprisoned for opposing U.S. entry into World War I.

While in prison, he received nearly one million votes for President in the 1920 election (as he had in 1912).



***April 14, 1988: Very Happy
Anniversary***
**Next To Last Government To Invade
Afghanistan Withdraws In Defeat**



Happy Russian soldiers going home.

Carl Bunin Peace History April 9-15

April 14, 1988: The Soviet Union signed an agreement to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan after ten years of humiliating defeats at the hands of Afghan resistance forces.

**April 16, 1971:
Honor To Them All**



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

Carl Bunin Peace History April 14-20

Members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) threw medals they had earned in Vietnam on the U.S. Capitol steps in protest of the Vietnam War.

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