

Military Resistance 8F5

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



The casket of Connecticut National Guard Staff Sgt. Edwin Rivera at Jordan Cemetery in Waterford, Conn., June 5, 2010. Rivera died at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., on May 25, 2010, five days after he was wounded during a firefight in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Jessica Hill)

33 Foreign Troops Killed In Afghanistan In 11 Days: 23 From U.S.A. Killed Since Sunday: Monday One Of The Deadliest Days For Foreign Forces Since War Began

June 7th, 2010 AP & Cable News Network & June 9, 2010 AP & 10 June 2010 AFP

The latest casualties yesterday took the death toll of foreign troops in Afghanistan to 33 deaths in eleven days, according to an AP count.

The United States, whose some 94,000 troops vastly outnumber the rest of the allies' contributions in Afghanistan, has lost 23 service members since Sunday.

Across Afghanistan a total of 10 troops, including seven Americans, were killed Monday alone, making it one of the deadliest days for coalition forces, officials added.

In southern Afghanistan on Monday, three foreign troops were slain in combat and two people killed in a strike on a police training center, officials said.

Two service members died after a roadside bombing attack and another was killed in small arms fire, NATO's International Security Assistance Force said.

In eastern Afghanistan Monday, an improvised explosive device killed five foreign troops, according to an International Security Assistance Force news release.

In a separate operation, a service member was killed by small arms fire in eastern Afghanistan, and another was killed by a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan.

More:

33 Dead? Hey, Shit Happens, But Don't Let It Spoil A Good Laugh, Right?



June 11, 2010: United States Defense Secretary Robert Gates, center, shares a good laugh with Chairman of the Military Committee Admiral Giampaolo Di Paola, left, and Supreme Allied Commander Europe Admiral James Stavridis during a meeting of NATO defense ministers in Brussels focused on Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

More:

**“Everywhere We Walk
Out There Could Be Our
Last Step”**

**“The Taliban Are Conducting
Their Own Surge”**

**“For The Soldiers, Life Is A Hot,
Dusty Cycle Of Tedium, Guard
Duty, And Sudden, Explosive
Violence”**

**“They Are Burying Bombs Ever
Closer To The Pocket Fortresses
That Mark The Line Where
Government Control Peters Out
Completely”**

**“Taliban Bombs Alone Have Killed Five
Soldiers From Charlie Company And
Wounded 20 – One Of The Highest
Casualty Rates Suffered By Any US Unit
In The War”**

Pashmul, Afghanistan —

The high-velocity snap of a bullet passing the lanky sentry from South Carolina was the first sign combat outpost Fitzpatrick was under attack.

Men scrambled for weapons and flak jackets, running up the stairs to the roof of the pink cinder block building that had once been a police station.

“Go, go, go!” went the yell to civilians caught in the open. Already soldiers were scanning the lush green foliage for movement. Then snap, snap, snap – more bullets passing by, and the platoon’s first sergeant, Samuel Frantz, was calling for “203s on that tree line over there.”

Within minutes, Kiowa attack helicopters arrived, swooping low in search of the Afghan Taliban gunman – standard operating procedure here.

It might have been just another hit-and-run, but as the Kiowas circled in the unforgiving sun, a larger Taliban raid began against a base down the road.

The potshots had been a diversion.

“They’ve watched us all winter, seeing how we work,” platoon leader Lt. Mark Morrison said moments afterward. “Wherever (the Kiowas) were at, they got drawn over here and that’s when (the Taliban) opened up on Howz-e-Madad. It (bought) them probably two to three minutes to try to effect something.”

In the half-deserted village of Pashmul, two American platoons in combat outposts three-quarters of a mile apart – pocket fortresses divided by a maze of greenery and mud houses – hold the line.

For the soldiers, life is a hot, dusty cycle of tedium, guard duty, and sudden, explosive violence.

As much a front line as any in southern Afghanistan’s indefinite war of ambush and improvised explosive device (IED), Pashmul is a spot where the Taliban have been stepping up the fight with bolder tactics and more frequent attacks.

It is not just the acceleration of the annual fighting season, although across the country the insurgents have telegraphed their intent with a string of raids and bombings.

Here in Pashmul, they are trying to suck the foreign forces into a fruitless battle of attrition.

The “Taliban want to pull us into the grape fields,” Charlie Company commander, Cpt. Duke Reim, said.

“Slowly take a company from 130 and bring it down to 115. That’s what they’re looking to do because the more we focus here on the grape fields the less we focus on Kandahar – which, with its hundreds of thousands of inhabitants, is the prize in NATO’s campaign to protect key population centers.

But the Taliban are conducting their own surge.

Rebel fighters are flowing in from Helmand Province and Pakistan. They attack at night – unusual against US forces equipped with night-vision and thermal imaging equipment.

They are burying bombs ever closer to the pocket fortresses that mark the line where government control, if it ever existed, peters out completely.

Not only is the Taliban's history bound up intimately with this area, but Pashmul, sloping off the country's most important road, Highway 1, is also a staging point for Kandahar City.

This is where US troops try to disrupt Taliban infiltration routes, intercepting fighters and materiel heading east toward southern Afghanistan's de facto capital.

Frequent attacks on Charlie Company's combat outposts with small arms, rocket-propelled grenades, and antitank guns testify to the fact that the terrain is perfectly suited to the Taliban's brand of hit-and-run tactics.

The explosive blossoming of vines and marijuana fields along Kandahar Province's main river, the Arghandab, allows insurgents to come within close range of their targets without breaking cover.

Since Soviet times, foreign soldiers have unfondly called this ribbon of vegetation the "green hell."

Back then, there was bloody fighting here between the Russians and the mujahideen, including members of the fledgling Taliban movement, like Mullah Abdul Salaam Zaeef.

In his memoirs, Mr. Zaeef recalls that: "Many times we moved, engaged, fled, and regrouped, much like the 'Taliban' do nowadays.... We fought on regardless of exhaustion, hunger, and thirst.... We would wear the same clothes for months at a time, surviving on just a loaf of bread or a few dates each day. Many were eager to fight, eager to die, especially young mujahideen like myself."

Nowadays, the greenery makes it easy to bury IEDs undetected.

"We have (people) who go out there who look like farmers that are quite easily Taliban," Reim says. They are just as easily carrying explosives in their bundles as food and water.

"Everywhere we walk out there could be our last step. Guys are very meticulous (about) what they do, they pay attention more (to) where they're walking. To say they're scared, I hate to use that term, but they're just very aware what they're doing."

In the orchards and vineyards, Taliban bombs alone have killed five soldiers from Charlie Company and wounded 20 – one of the highest casualty rates suffered by any US unit in the war.

Villagers claim that fighters from Waziristan and Swat, in Pakistan, as well as from provinces in Afghanistan like Helmand, are arriving en masse, sleeping outdoors now that the nights are balmy, concealed by the greenery.

One tribal elder said people had started calling the area “Mullah Omar’s bed” because of all the militants bedding down.

“The weather is getting better,” said the elder, who was interviewed on a visit to Kandahar City and asked not to be named, for fear of retribution.

The outsiders “have come for fighting, not to eat. They want to fight the Americans, to disturb them, to make them angry, to make them leave the area. They plant mines everywhere, in every road and footpath.”

“We’re not in the business of conducting an attritional campaign,” [Britain’s Maj. Gen. Nick] Carter says. “(The) business we’re doing here is about bringing people into the tent and using the full range of political levers to achieve that effect. So we will not be going head-to-head with insurgents in vineyards and orchards.”

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Two U.S. Soldiers Killed By Jalawla Car Bomb; Six More Wounded

06/11/10 AFP

A car bomb in a central Iraqi town killed two American soldiers and wounded six others on Friday, a US military statement said.

“Two US Division-North soldiers were killed and six injured after a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near their combined patrol today,” it said.

Iraqi security officials earlier said four people were killed in the attack on a joint American-Iraqi patrol in Jalawla, northeast of the capital Baghdad, in Diyala province.

The attack occurred at around 11:00 am (0800 GMT) and left a total of 20 people wounded, said an official from Diyala security command.

Resistance Action

June 7 (Reuters) & June 8 (Reuters) & June 9 (Reuters) & June 10, 2010 Reuters

Two civilians were killed and five wounded when a bomber on a motorcycle rammed into a U.S. army patrol in Muqdadiya, 80 km (50 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police said.

A captain in the Interior Ministry was killed when a sticky bomb attached to his car exploded in central Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

Insurgents killed an off-duty policeman on his farm in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said. Another officer was seriously wounded when a grenade was hurled at his patrol in central Mosul.

An armed group killed a policeman and his wife inside their home in Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad, police said. Their five sons were wounded. Police said the group also attacked the nearby home of another policeman, seriously wounding him.

A roadside bomb wounded a police colonel and one of his bodyguards in Samarra, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents shot dead an off-duty policeman in front of his home in eastern Mosul late on Tuesday, police said.

Insurgents opened fire on a checkpoint manned by members of the Sahwa government-backed militia, killing one person and wounding two, southwest of the city of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A bomb attached to the car of a police officer wounded two policemen, late on Tuesday in the southern oil city of Basra, 420 km (260 miles) southeast of Baghdad, a police source said.

Armed men killed three members of Sahwa, a government-backed militia, and wounded a fourth in their homes in Jurj al-Sahkar, 60 km (40 miles) south of Baghdad on Sunday, police said.

Armed people killed an imam and two of his sons in Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad, police said. The imam's wife and two-year-old son were seriously wounded. The imam was a member of the government-backed Sahwa militia.

Armed people and bombers attacked the homes of five police officers in Iraq's western Anbar province, killing one person and wounding at least 20 people, police said.

Two policemen were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near their patrol in Mansouriya, 75 km east of Baquba.

A roadside bomb exploded near a police patrol, wounding two policemen in Baghdad's southwestern Amil district.

A roadside bomb exploded in southwestern Baghdad, killing two policemen and wounding three policemen, police said.

Explosions tore through the homes of the local leader of the government-backed Sahwa militia in Qaim and his son, 300 km (185 miles) west of Baghdad. No one was hurt in the initial blasts, but when police arrived to investigate, another explosion killed two officers and wounded three.

A car bomb exploded near an Iraqi army patrol Thursday in Baghdad, killing four and wounding 10, an Interior Ministry source said. The blast occurred in the Amiriya district of western Baghdad.

A bomb exploded outside the home of a policeman, wounding two members of his family, in the town of Saqlawiya, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad.

A roadside bomb exploded near an Iraqi army patrol, wounding a soldier in northern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

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

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

“They Are Interested In Only Two Things, The Bag And The Chair”

June 7, 2010 By Matt Robinson and Waleed Ibrahim, Reuters [Excerpts]

Three months have passed since Iraqis voted for a government on March 7, and the failure to stitch together a coalition to fix some of what is broken in this shattered country, and hand out jobs to the loyal, is feeding frustration.

“They are interested in only two things, the bag and the chair. The bag they put their money in, the chair they don't want to leave,” said Ahmed Mohammed Shandal, a 35-year-old hardware store owner with a Fu Manchu mustache and a picture of Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr pinned to his cash register.

In his clothes shop, Abdullah al-Abdullah wiped the sweat from his bald head and apologized that there was no electricity to run the air-conditioning. There rarely is. “They are all thieves,” he said. “We have nothing. No electricity, no water.”

“The outlook is ominous,” Joost Hiltermann of the International Crisis Group thinktank wrote last week. “Baghdad's surface calm may therefore be deceptive.”

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Blackhawk Down In Sangin: Four U.S. Soldiers Dead

June 9, 2010 AP & BBC & JUNE 10, 2010 By ALAN CULLISON, Wall St. Journal

Four U.S. soldiers have been killed as their Blackhawk helicopter was shot down in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan.

NATO said the aircraft was hit by "hostile fire". The troops were Americans, said US military spokesman in Kabul, Lt Col Joseph T Breasseale.

The helicopter crashed in the Sangin district, said provincial government spokesman Dawood Ahmadi.

A couple of wounded British soldiers being carried on board survived and were transferred to another Blackhawk. Their injuries are said to be not life-threatening.

Helmand provincial spokesman Daoud Ahmadi said the helicopter was shot down about midday in Sangin district during an operation involving U.S. and Afghan security forces.

A Taliban spokesman said the helicopter, shot down by an RPG as it flew past a Taliban outpost, crashed and burned.

"The crash site was swarmed by locals in the space of a few minutes and they saw American soldiers burning to death," said the Taliban spokesman, Qari Yusuf Ahmadi.

Taliban spokesman Yousuf Ahmadi said it had been brought down in the Sangin district bazaar on Wednesday morning.

Ahmadi said the insurgents shot off two rockets to down the helicopter.

The Taliban, who lack sophisticated surface-to-air missiles, are rarely able to shoot down NATO helicopters.

Yet, amid signs that the insurgency is intensifying, they have been able to hit three NATO choppers in Helmand alone over the past month.

Because of deteriorating security, NATO relies more and more on helicopters to ferry troops and supplies around the country, even for short distances.

A different insurgent RPG hit an ISAF chopper landing elsewhere in Helmand on May 21, causing no injuries.

On May 10, small-arms fire downed an MH-60 ISAF helicopter in Sangin. There were no casualties but the aircraft had to be destroyed in order to keep insurgents from recovering it.

The crash brought to five the number of foreign soldiers killed in the south of the country on Wednesday. The military announced earlier that a British soldier had been killed by a roadside bomb.

Two U.S. “Service Members” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan On Friday

6.11.10 AP

KABUL, Afghanistan

NATO said the two American service members died in an explosion in southern Afghanistan on Friday but did not disclose details or the location because relatives had not yet been notified.

Two U.S. Marines Killed In Helmand Monday

June 09, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 475-10

The following Marines died June 8 while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan:

Sgt. Derek L. Shanfield, 22, of Hastings, Pa.

Sgt. Zachary J. Walters, 24, of Palm Coast, Fla.

Shanfield and Walters were assigned to 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Two Australian Soldiers Killed In Mirabad Valley

Jun 8, 2010 ABC Home & Defence.Gov.Au & ROD McGUIRK, Associated Press Writer
Rod Mcguirk, Associated Press Writer

Two soldiers from a Brisbane-based regiment were killed by an improvised explosive device while on foot patrol in Afghanistan's south.

They were part of an Australian dismounted patrol conducting operations in the Mirabad Valley region of Oruzgan province.

Defence has confirmed the soldiers were Sapper Jacob Moerland, 21, and Darren Smith, 26, from the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment.

One soldier died at the scene while the second was flown by helicopter to a hospital at the Australian military base in Tarin Kowt, where he died.

Sapper Smith's explosives detection dog, Herbie, was also killed.

The dead soldiers were based at the Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane.

It was their first tour of Afghanistan. They were part of a larger patrol of Australian troops at the time of the explosion.

The incident is the first time two Australian soldiers have been killed as a result of enemy action on the same day since the Vietnam War.

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Tuesday: Nationality Not Announced

June 8, 2010 AP

A foreign servicemember died as a result of small-arms fire in southern Afghanistan today.

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Thursday: Nationality Not Announced

June 10, 2010 AP

A foreign servicemember died following an IED strike in southern Afghanistan today.

Alabama Soldier Killed At Jelawar

June 08, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 471-10

Spc. Brendan P. Neenan, 21, of Enterprise, Ala., died June 7 at Jelawar, 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.

Indiana Marine Killed In Helmand

June 08, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 470-10

Sgt. John K. Rankel, 23, of Speedway, Ind., died June 7 while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Soldier From Cypress Dies In Afghanistan; Three More Also Killed When IED Hits Humvee



June 9, 2010 Click2Houston.com

A soldier from Cypress was killed while serving in Afghanistan, KPRC Local 2 reported.

Spc. Matthew Catlett came home on Wednesday. His casket arrived at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

Catlett and four other troopers with the 101st Airborne were killed in Afghanistan on Monday when their Humvee was hit.

It was the bloodiest day for NATO troops there so far this year.

Catlett grew up in Cypress with his good friend, Allan Bailey. Bailey remembered Catlett as a fun-loving kid who grew up in the Army to become a dedicated father.

"His family, his little girls were easily his most important thing. He told me four days ago that was his biggest thing," Bailey said.

Catlett was the divorced father of 3- and 4-year-old daughters. He and his ex-wife, Brytnee, were still close.

She met his casket when it arrived at Dover.

Catlett joined the Army right out of Cypress Ridge High School. He'd served a tour in Iraq three years ago and deployed to Afghanistan in April.

Friends said he loved the Army, loved his family, loved his life.

"He was one of the guys who was just trying to raise his kids, try to be there for them. That's really it -- just an everyday guy living his life," Bailey said.

Catlett's body will return to Houston some time next week for burial.

His daughters still don't know what happened to him. And their mother said sometime between now and then, she will have to find a way to tell them.

Neb. Soldier Killed Fighting In Afghanistan

Jun. 09, 2010 The Associated Press

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb. -- The body of an Army soldier from southeast Nebraska who was killed in Afghanistan is being returned to the United States.

Army Spc. Blaine Redding of Plattsmouth, a member of the Fort Campbell, Ky.-based 101st Airborne Division, was killed Monday. The 23-year-old's body is scheduled to arrive Wednesday at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

The U.S. Department of Defense hadn't released details of Redding's death as of Wednesday morning, but his relatives said Redding was killed by a roadside bomb near Kandahar.

Redding just married in March. Teresa Redding said her son told people at the wedding that his coming deployment to Afghanistan was important because he was keeping his family and country safe.

"Blaine was extremely handsome, like a Ken doll," Teresa Redding said to KETV. "He had a smile for everything, a quick wit and was always ready to help somebody."

Teresa Redding did not immediately respond to a message from The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Redding's 20-year-old brother, Spc. Logan Redding, who was also serving in Afghanistan with the 101st Airborne, plans to escort his brother's body back to the United States.

Fort Campbell Soldier From Mississippi Killed In Afghanistan



Staff Sgt. Robert N. Barton (Special to the Clarion-Ledger)

June 9, 2010 AP

ROXIE, Miss.

Army Staff Sgt. Robert N. Barton, a Mississippi native stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky., was killed when a bomb exploded near his military vehicle in Afghanistan.

Barton's body, along with that of four other American servicemen, was returned to the military mortuary at Dover Air Force Base on Wednesday.

Barton, 35, was born in 1974 and grew up in the Roxie, Miss., area.

His grandmother, Jo Beth Coleman told the McComb Enterprise-Journal that Barton was a 1993 graduate of Franklin High School, where he played center on the football team.

He joined the military the following year.

“He was a good student and a real likable person. Everybody loves him,” Coleman said.

“The Army was his career. He lacked four years (retiring).”

Barton was stationed at Fort Campbell, a sprawling post on the Kentucky-Tennessee line, where he was in the infantry. He was deployed to Afghanistan on April 24.

Coleman said Barton and his wife, Rebecca, had been married for one year and lived in Hopkinsville, Ky.

“He was military through and through,” she said. “When he became a staff sergeant, I said, ‘I can’t believe my Bobby is a staff sergeant. You can’t be that tough.’ But that’s part of being in the military.”

Coleman said plans are for Barton to be buried in the military cemetery at Fort Campbell.

Other survivors include his father, Nathaniel Coleman of Amite County; his mother, Rebecca Paugh, who lives in West Virginia; and a half-sister and half-brother.

Soldier From 2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales’s Royal Regiment killed In Nahr-E Saraj

9 Jun 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a soldier from 2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales’s Royal Regiment, attached to 1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment, serving as part of Combined Force Nahr-e Saraj (North), this morning, Wednesday 9 June 2010.

The soldier was killed in an explosion in the Nahr-e Saraj district of Helmand province.

Soldier From 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery Killed In Nad ‘Ali

8 Jun 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a soldier from 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, attached to 4th Regiment Royal Artillery, serving as part of Combined Force Nad 'Ali, this morning, Tuesday 8 June 2010.

The soldier was killed in a small arms fire engagement with insurgent forces in the Nad 'Ali district of Helmand province.

Canadian Soldier Killed By IED In Panjwayi



Sergeant Martin Goudreault

June 7, 2010 CEFCON NR – 10.012

OTTAWA — One Canadian soldier was killed after an improvised explosive device detonated during a foot patrol, about 15 kilometres southwest of Kandahar City, in the Panjwayi District, at approximately 6:30 a.m. Kandahar time on 6 June 2010.

Killed in action was Sergeant Martin Goudreault from 1 Combat Engineer Regiment, based in Edmonton, Alberta, and was serving in Afghanistan as a member of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group.

Sgt. Ryegel Killed In Tabab Valley; Three More French Soldiers Wounded

10 juin 2010 Corse-Matin & Ambafrance-uk.org

France reports death of another soldier in Afghanistan. Three of his fellow soldiers were wounded during the same operation.

It was one of the best legionaries in his company, the first of the second Rep of Calvi. Sergeant Konrard Rygiel, killed Monday in the Tagab Valley, Afghanistan, was only 28 years.

Unmarried, he had joined the Foreign Legion in May 2002 and 2nd Rep. four months later, after an initial training at the 4th RE Castelnaudary. A keen sportsman, described

by his superiors and fellow soldiers as a soldier in a seamless availability, he was integrated into the group of paratroopers (PAG) in 2004 and the NCO corps in 2007.

Dynamic, intelligent and attentive to others: these are the qualities put forward by those who knew him. Afghanistan, where he unfortunately fallen, Sergeant Rygiel Konrad had already been engaged for the first time in 2008. During these eight years of service, he had also served in Ivory Coast and Djibouti.

Military honors will be rendered to him Monday at Calvi.

Since January, he was engaged with his unit in Afghanistan as part of Operation Pamir. It was during this mission that he has died, Monday, June 7, hit by a deadly rocket attack.

Originally from Poland, Sergeant Konrad Rygiel had obtained French nationality there is less than three months. He was then already in Afghanistan.

His remains will be repatriated on Monday to Calvi, where military honors of the nation shall be restored, during a ceremony to be attended by many personalities. We will return.

Taliban Attack Kandahar Police Training Centre: U.S. Citizen And “Another Person” Killed



The damage caused after bombers attacked this police training center in Kandahar, Afghanistan, June 7, 2010. One of the attackers drove an explosives-laden car up to the gate of the center and detonated the bomb, blowing a hole in the compound wall. (AP Photo/Allauddin Khan)

Jun 7, 2010 DPA

Kabul - At least three Taliban bombers attacked a police training camp in the southern province of Kandahar on Monday, injuring three policemen, a local official said.

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul said an American citizen and another person died in an attack on a police training center in Kandahar.

One driving a Toyota Corolla struck the police training center tower and two attackers who attempted to enter the center detonated themselves at the facility's gate.

Local residents said explosions and gunfire could be still heard coming from the training camp located near Kandahar airfield, the main US and NATO military base in the region.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousif Ahmadi claimed that five of their fighters equipped with automatic weapons and explosive vests entered the training centre, and killed several Afghan and foreign forces.

One of the bombers had detonated his explosives, while four others had taken positions and heavy fighting was ongoing, Ahmadi said in a statement.

Rocket Attack Targets U.S. Headquarters

6.11.10 AP

The Taliban claimed responsibility for a rocket attack on Bagram Air Field north of Kabul. NATO confirmed that a rocket landed in a field inside the base but did not cause any injuries or damage. NATO said a second rocket landed outside the base.

Other Resistance Action

Jun 5 AFP & 6.6.10 DPA & 6.8.10 AP & 6.11.10 AP

A remote controlled bicycle bomb killed at least one policeman in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar on Saturday, police and a provincial spokesman said. The bomb detonated as police were getting out of a vehicle close to the provincial governor's office, the spokesman for the provincial governor, Zalmay Ayobi, told AFP.

A roadside bomb killed two civilians and a police officer Sunday in southern Afghanistan, provincial officials said. The bomb struck a police vehicle in Panjwai district of southern province of Kandahar, district governor Haji Shah Baran said. A passenger vehicle driving behind was also hit by the blast. 'One policeman and two civilians were killed, and a policeman and four civilians were injured in the attack,' he said.

Five Afghan private security guards were killed and four others wounded in a roadside bomb blast in eastern Ghazni province, the Interior Ministry said.

Two Afghan security guards were killed and two wounded in a gunbattle with insurgents in another part of the province, it said in statement.

On Thursday in Ghazni province, in the south, three Afghan policemen were killed when their vehicle hit a mine in the Qarabagh district, the Ministry of Interior said Friday.

Also on Thursday, a private security company employee was killed in a mine explosion in the Ali Shir district of Khost province in eastern Afghanistan, the ministry said.

Frightened British Prime Minister Cancels Visit To “Front Line Base” After RPG Threat

6.11.10 AP

British Prime Minister David Cameron's planned visit to a front-line base in Helmand province next to Kandahar was canceled on Thursday after cellphone calls referring to a possible rocket attack on a helicopter were intercepted, the British domestic news agency Press Association reported.

Tanker Convoy Attacked East Of Kabul



A burning oil tanker hit by a roadside bomb on the Jalalabad-Kabul highway, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, June 11, 2010. The tanker was part of a military supply convoy for foreign troops. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)

Militants In Pakistan Wipe Out Huge Supply Convoy For Occupation Forces In Afghanistan: 60 Trucks Destroyed; Drivers And Guards Killed



Burning military supply trucks near Islamabad:
Photo: Agence France-Presse/Getty Images

JUNE 9, 2010 By TOM WRIGHT And ZAHID HUSSAIN, Wall St. Journal & JUNE 10, 2010 By ALAN CULLISON, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

KARACHI, Pakistan -- An audacious attack Wednesday by suspected militants on a NATO supply convoy outside Pakistan's capital highlights security concerns that have prompted local drivers to demand higher fees to truck supplies into neighboring Afghanistan.

In an early-morning raid, a dozen militants in a van and on motorcycles opened fire on trucks carrying fuel and military hardware that had stopped at a depot only six miles from the normally well-protected Pakistani capital of Islamabad.

Militants killed seven people, including truck drivers and security personnel, and torched about 60 trucks, police said.



The burnt-out wreckage of 60 military supply trucks destroyed on the outskirts of Islamabad after they were attacked and burnt in a field in Sangjani, Pakistan. Nationalist forces attacked military vehicles and goods destined for foreign occupation troops in Afghanistan, in an unprecedented assault near Islamabad. REUTERS/Faisal Mahmood

It was unclear whether any militants died in the attack. But local truck companies say the threat is significant enough that it is becoming harder to find drivers to make the perilous journey.

Wednesday's attack close to Islamabad shows that the Taliban and other militant groups can strike at the heart of the nation despite a Pakistan military offensive against them in the northwestern tribal areas bordering Afghanistan.

Wednesday's strike near Islamabad, the heavily fortified capital, marked a rare attack on a NATO convoy outside the tribal areas and the remote southwestern province of Baluchistan, another gateway to Afghanistan.

The U.S. has attempted to broaden the way it delivers supplies to troops in Afghanistan, signing an agreement last year with Moscow to transport military personnel and equipment through Russia.

But NATO continues to transport more than half its fuel and other supplies through Pakistan, which shares a 1500-mile-long border with Afghanistan and has large port facilities on its Arabian Sea coast.

Transport firms based in the port city of Karachi, where NATO unloads its shipments by boat under an eight-year-old tariff-waiver agreement with Pakistan, say they are now charging about \$7,000 in freight charges per fuel truck between Karachi and Afghanistan, about twice as much as a year ago due to concerns over safety.

Rashid Khan Afridi, who owns and drives a fuel truck, says he will continue making the journey despite being targeted by rocket fire last month outside the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad. Mr. Afridi, who earns \$3,000 a trip after deducting expenses and makes about eight runs to Afghanistan each year, says the money needs to be high to attract

drivers. Such earnings are huge for Pakistan, where about a third of the nation's 175 million people live below the poverty line of \$1.25 per day.

About 200 containers of NATO supplies leave Karachi daily for Afghanistan, up from between 25 and 50 containers in 2006, says Asif Mahmood, chairman of the Pakistan Transport Federation and a truck-company owner.

**Higher Eating Boasts About
Kandahar Campaign:
“Kandahar Is Presenting A Bigger
Challenge Than Expected”
McChrystal Admits That Preparations
To Take Control Of Kandahar
“Weren’t Going As Planned”
“When You Go To Protect People, The
People Have To Want You To Protect
Them,’ McChrystal Told Reporters”**

He said winning support from local leaders, some of whom see the Taliban fighters not as oppressors but as their Muslim brothers, was proving tougher than expected.

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June 8, 2010 By ROD NORDLAND, New York Times & June 2010 By Craig Whitlock, Washington Post Foreign Service & AFP [Excerpts]

In a sign of fresh difficulties in the war effort, the U.S. commander in Afghanistan said the campaign would move more slowly than initially planned.

General Stanley McChrystal's forecast echoed comments by his deputy in the south, suggesting Kandahar is presenting a bigger challenge than expected, amid a shortage of Afghan security forces and skepticism among the local population.

“I do think it will happen more slowly than we originally anticipated,” McChrystal told reporters in Brussels.

The four-star US general and other senior officers had previously said operations around Kandahar would climax this summer with an influx of American forces, but have begun scaling back their statements.

The commander said it would “take a number of months for this to play out”.

The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan is finding himself squeezed between a ticking clock and an enemy that won't go away.

On Thursday, during a visit to NATO headquarters here, Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal admitted that preparations for perhaps the most critical operation of the war -- the campaign to take control of Kandahar, the Taliban's birthplace -- weren't going as planned.

He said winning support from local leaders, some of whom see the Taliban fighters not as oppressors but as their Muslim brothers, was proving tougher than expected.

The military side of the campaign, originally scheduled to surge in June and finish by August, is now likely to extend into the fall.

But McChrystal does not have time on his side.

The day before he revealed the Kandahar delay, his boss, Gates, said that the U.S.-led coalition has until the end of the year to show progress in the war and prove to the United States and its allies that their forces have broken a stalemate with the Taliban.

Asked whether the delay still left time for a decisive outcome by the end of the year, McChrystal was noncommittal.

“It will be very clear by the end of the calendar year that the Kandahar operation is progressing,” he said. “I don't know whether we'll know whether it's decisive. Historians will tell us that.”

But McChrystal said it was taking longer than expected to gain the blessing of local tribal leaders -- and Kandaharis in general -- for the operation.

“When you go to protect people, the people have to want you to protect them,” McChrystal told reporters.

He also did not say why it was taking longer to lay the political groundwork for the operation.

“This is not going to be a door-to-door military campaign,” said one American civilian official, who requested anonymity in line with his agency's policy. “You'll see more Afghan National Police checkpoints, but it's not going to be an aggressive military campaign. They've looked at it and realized it wouldn't work.”

“I’m not sure exactly what happened at the political level above us, but the very name of the thing changed,” said one NATO official in Kandahar, whose government’s policy requires that his name be withheld.

McChrystal said the decision to move more slowly in Kandahar was influenced by the experience of U.S. and NATO forces in next-door Helmand province.

In February, foreign and Afghan troops led by U.S. Marines took control of Marja and other districts long held by the Taliban.

But the effort to install a functioning Afghan government in the wake of the fighting has stumbled and now the Taliban is trying to reassert itself.

“Some of the lessons we learned in Marja is we did very good coordination with the Afghan people, shuras and whatnot, but then as we did it, we found it even more complex than we thought,” McChrystal said.

Marja, with 60,000 residents, is far smaller than Kandahar, with more than a million in the city and the surrounding districts.

If Marja was hard, planners worried, what might Kandahar be?

Asked whether he considered the Kandahar delay a setback in the Afghan war, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, NATO’s secretary general, said the difficulties actually indicate progress in the overall war effort.

[December 28, 1942: Berlin: Asked whether he considered the delay in capturing Stalingrad a setback in the Russian war, Kurt Zeitzler, Chief of Staff of the German Army High Command, said the difficulties actually indicate progress in the overall war effort.]

Taliban Launch Campaign To Kill Government Personnel Collaborating With The Occupation: Occupation Official Calls It A “Game”

June 9, 2010 By ROD NORDLAND, The New York Times [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban have been stepping up a campaign of assassinations in recent months against officials and anyone else associated with local government in an attempt to undermine counterinsurgency operations in the south.

Government assassinations are nothing new as a Taliban tactic, but now the Taliban are taking aim at officials who are much more low-level, who often do not have the sort of bodyguards or other protection that top leaders do.

As the coalition concentrates on trying to build up the Afghan government in the southern province of Kandahar, a big part of that strategy depends on recruiting capable Afghan government officials who can speed delivery of aid and services to undercut support for the Taliban.

The insurgents have just as busily been trying to undermine that approach, by killing government officials and intimidating others into leaving their posts.

“They read the papers; they know what we are doing,” said a NATO official here, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with his government’s policy. “It’s very much game on between the coalition and the Taliban.”

The assassinations have been effective in slowing recruitment of government officials, he said. “Am I going to live through the workweek? No one should have to ask that question.”

The mayor acknowledged, though, that the assassination campaign had made it harder to hire government workers — a task already complicated by the low salaries offered by the Afghan government, compared with what international organizations and even the military pay qualified workers.

The NATO official said the authorities had compiled statistics on an increase in assassination-style killings in Kandahar, but a request for that information was turned down by the American Embassy on the grounds that it was classified.

Often just the threat of assassination has been enough to drive people from their jobs. A Kandahar communications expert who worked for the International Committee of the Red Cross said he left his job after receiving a series of death threats. He asked not to be named because he feared for his life.

The expert planned to take a new job with the American-financed Afghanistan Stabilization Initiative, as the director of a program in one of the rural districts around Kandahar. Then, on April 15 two car bombings hit the program and other American-supported aid organizations, killing three Afghans and wounding dozens of Afghans and foreigners.

“My family pushed me to give it up,” he said. “I know so many people who are afraid to take jobs with the government or the aid community now. It’s a very effective and very efficient campaign; the armed opposition are using this tool because it works.”

**“‘We’re Funding Both Sides Of
The War,’ A NATO Official In
Kabul Said”**

**“Millions Of Dollars Were Making
Their Way To The Taliban”
“Rather Than Fighting Each Another,
The Two Afghan Sides May Often
Cooperate Under The Noses Of Their
Wealthy Benefactors”
“People Think The Insurgency And The
Government Are Separate, And That Is
Just Not Always The Case,’ Another
NATO Official In Kabul Said”**



Afghan and NATO officials say that anecdotal evidence suggests that in order to keep their trucks moving — and to keep up their business — some companies may sometimes pay Taliban fighters not to attack, to sometimes mount attacks on competitors, or, as is suspected in the case in Maidan Shahr, to attack NATO forces.

June 7, 2010 By DEXTER FILKINS, The New York Times [Excerpts]

MAIDAN SHAHR, Afghanistan — For months, reports have abounded here that the Afghan mercenaries who escort American and other NATO convoys through the badlands have been bribing Taliban insurgents to let them pass.

Then came a series of events last month that suggested all-out collusion with the insurgents.

After a pair of bloody confrontations with Afghan civilians, two of the biggest private security companies — Watan Risk Management and Compass Security —

were banned from escorting NATO convoys on the highway between Kabul and Kandahar.

The ban took effect on May 14.

At 10:30 a.m. that day, a NATO supply convoy rolling through the area came under attack. An Afghan driver and a soldier were killed, and a truck was overturned and burned.

Within two weeks, with more than 1,000 trucks sitting stalled on the highway, the Afghan government granted Watan and Compass permission to resume.

Watan's president, Rashid Popal, strongly denied any suggestion that his men either colluded with insurgents or orchestrated attacks to emphasize the need for their services. Executives with Compass Security did not respond to questions.

But the episode, and others like it, has raised the suspicions of investigators here and in Washington, who are trying to track the tens of millions in taxpayer dollars paid to private security companies to move supplies to American and other NATO bases.

Although the investigation is not complete, the officials suspect that at least some of these security companies — many of which have ties to top Afghan officials — are using American money to bribe the Taliban. The officials suspect that the security companies may also engage in fake fighting to increase the sense of risk on the roads, and that they may sometimes stage attacks against competitors.

The suspicions raise fundamental questions about the conduct of operations here, since the convoys, and the supplies they deliver, are the lifeblood of the war effort.

“We’re funding both sides of the war,” a NATO official in Kabul said. The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the investigation was incomplete, said he believed millions of dollars were making their way to the Taliban.

The investigation is complicated by, among other things, the fact that some of the private security companies are owned by relatives of President Hamid Karzai and other senior Afghan officials.

Mr. Popal, for instance, is a cousin of Mr. Karzai, and Western officials say that Watan Risk Management's largest shareholder is Mr. Karzai's brother Qayum.

The possibility of collusion between the Taliban and Afghan officials suggests that, rather than fighting each other, the two Afghan sides may often cooperate under the noses of their wealthy benefactors.

“People think the insurgency and the government are separate, and that is just not always the case,” another NATO official in Kabul said.

“What we are finding is that they are often bound up together.”

The security companies, which appear to operate under little supervision, have sometimes wreaked havoc on Afghan civilians.

Records show there are 52 government-registered security companies, with 24,000 gunmen, most of them Afghans. But many, if not most, of the security companies are not registered at all, do not advertise themselves and do not necessarily restrain their gunmen with training or rules of engagement.

Some appear to be little more than gangs with guns.

In the city of Kandahar alone, at least 23 armed groups — ostensibly security companies not registered with the government — are operating under virtually no government control, Western and Afghan officials said.

“There are thousands of people that have been paid by both civilian and military organizations to escort their convoys, and they all pose a problem,” said Hanif Atmar, the Afghan interior minister.

(Mr. Atmar resigned under pressure from President Karzai on Sunday.)

Many of the gunmen are escorting convoys carrying supplies to American and NATO bases, under a \$2.2 billion American contract called Host Nation Trucking. American officials award contracts to Afghan and American trucking companies to transport food and other supplies to their bases around the country. They leave it to the trucking companies to protect themselves.

As a result, the trucking companies typically hire one of the security companies that have sprung up to capture the extraordinarily lucrative market in escorting convoys.

The security companies typically charge \$800 to \$2,500 per truck to escort a convoy on a long stretch of highway. The convoys often contain hundreds of trucks each.

In addition, many of the security companies also have contracts to guard American military bases.

The money is so good, in fact, that the families of some of Afghanistan’s most powerful people, many of them government officials, have set up their own security companies to get in on the action.

In addition to Watan Risk Management, there is NCL Holdings, founded by Hamid Wardak, the son of Rahim Wardak, the Afghan defense minister.

Elite Security Services, another NATO convoy escort service, is owned by Siddiq Mujadeddi, the son of Sibghatullah Mujadeddi, the speaker of the Afghan Senate, officials said.

Asia Security Group, another private security company, was, at least until recently, controlled by Hashmat Karzai, a cousin of the president.

The security companies’ methods are sometimes unorthodox. While at least some of the companies are believed to be bribing Taliban fighters, many have also been known to act with extreme harshness toward villagers or insurgents who have tried to interfere with their convoys.

One of the more notorious commanders of a private security outfit is an Afghan named Ruhullah, who, like many Afghans, goes by one name. Mr. Ruhullah controls a company called Commando Security, which escorts convoys between Kandahar and Helmand Province to the west. While he is suspected of striking deals with some Taliban fighters, Mr. Ruhullah is known to have dealt brutally with those — civilians or insurgents — who have impeded the flow of his trucks.

“He’s laid waste to entire villages,” said an official at the Interior Ministry who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Many of the private security companies, including the one owned by Mr. Ruhullah, appear to be under the influence of Ahmed Wali Karzai, a brother of President Karzai and the chairman of the Kandahar Provincial Council.

Though nominally an American ally, Ahmed Wali Karzai has surfaced in numerous intelligence and law enforcement reports connecting him to Afghanistan’s booming opium trade.

The NATO official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the Popals, the nominal owners of Watan Risk Management, cooperate with Ahmed Wali Karzai and Mr. Ruhullah. “They are very, very close,” he said.

American and Afghan officials said that Ahmed Wali Karzai was moving rapidly to bring the 23 unregistered security companies in Kandahar under his own control. With the government’s support, Ahmed Wali Karzai, together with Mr. Ruhullah, plan to form an umbrella company, called the Kandahar Security Force, that will broker business for the various individual companies, a senior NATO official said.

“He wants a cut of every contract,” the NATO official in Kabul said.

At least two groups of American investigators are focusing on potential bribes to the Taliban: the House national security subcommittee, whose chairman is Representative John F. Tierney, a Democrat from Massachusetts; and another group working for NATO in Kabul.

While the practice of buying off the enemy may seem extraordinary, it is neither unusual here nor unprecedented.

Many Afghans, even those in the government, have relatives, even brothers and sons, in the Taliban.

The evidence, they say, suggests that the Afghan security companies sometimes make deals with insurgents when they feel they have to — that is, where the Taliban are too strong to be defeated.

“The rule seems to be, if the attack is small, then crush it,” the Interior Ministry official said. “But if the presence of Taliban is too big to crush, then make a deal.”

Exact casualty figures are difficult to come by, because statistics are kept only for the Host Nation Trucking contract. American officials in Kabul say 27 security contractors were killed between April 2009 and May 2010, and 38 were wounded.

Investigators say they are having a hard time putting a dollar figure on the amount the Taliban may be receiving, in part because the trucking companies are not required to report what they pay for security.

Trucking contractors pay security companies, which sometimes award subcontractors to other companies, which sometimes do the same.

“I can’t tell you about the sub to the sub to the sub,” the senior NATO official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

As a result, much about the relationships between the security companies and the Taliban is shrouded in mystery.

Afghan and NATO officials say that anecdotal evidence suggests that in order to keep their trucks moving — and to keep up their business — some companies may sometimes pay Taliban fighters not to attack, to sometimes mount attacks on competitors, or, as is suspected in the case in Maidan Shahr, to attack NATO forces.

“It would be my expectation that people might create their own demand,” said Maj. Gen. Nick Carter, the commander of NATO forces in southern Afghanistan.

Officials say that they are not certain what happened last month in Maidan Shahr, but that some of the circumstances surrounding the case points to the possibility of some sort of collusion with insurgents or criminals.

Mohammed Halim Fedai, the governor of Wardak Province and the official who pushed for the ban on Watan and Compass, said he was not sure what happened either. But he noted that Watan Risk Management came under attack far less frequently than the other security companies did.

An Afghan official in Maidan Shahr, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that there were strong suspicions in the Afghan government that Watan pays the Taliban, and that the company acts brutally to deal with threats to its business.

“Watan’s people may have staged the attack themselves,” he said.

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

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

WELCOME TO THE LONELY SIDE OF HELL: ALL HOME NOW!



United States soldiers on a Stryker vehicle, April 26, 2010, in the Maiwand district of Kandahar province. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)



United States soldiers with 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment of the 5th Stryker Brigade patrol May 20, 2010, in Afghanistan's Kandahar province. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)



May 20, 2010: U.S. Army Stryker vehicles roll across a rocky road to pick up troops from 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment of the 5th Stryker Brigade who were on patrol in the Shah Wali Kot district of Afghanistan's Kandahar province. Twenty-two men in the U.S. Army's 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment of 800 died in a yearlong Afghan tour ending this summer. Most were killed last year in the Arghandab, a gateway to the southern city of Kandahar. About 70 were injured, all but two in bomb blasts. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Two Foreign Troops Killed In Mogadishu

Jun 7, 2010 GAROWE ONLINE [Excerpts]

A spokesman for African Union peacekeeping mission [translation: U.S.-backed foreign occupation troops] in Somalia (AMISOM) confirms that two Ugandan soldiers serving the mission have been killed in last week's clashes that rocked Somalia's capital Mogadishu.

Manirakiza Adolphe AMISOM's deputy public information officer said the soldiers died in fighting with insurgents for control of north Mogadishu districts.

"Two of our soldiers died in Thursday fighting. 5 others were injured and two vehicles were burnt by Al-Shabaab," he said.

Hizbul Islam and Al-Shabaab are the two main insurgent groups fighting Somalia's western-backed transitional government, which is confined in few blocks of Mogadishu.

Seven Somali Government Soldiers Killed In A Bombing In Mogadishu

June 9, 2010 (Mareeg)

Death toll of a blast targeted to government soldiers has risen to seven after remote controlled roadside bomb targeted them in Mogadishu, officials and witnesses said on Wednesday.

The spokesman of the administration of Mogadishu of the Somali government, Mohamed Abdullahi Arig said 7 government soldiers in the blast.

Arig said the soldiers who were killed in the explosion were the security guards of Dharkeynley district commissioner.

Al Shabaab militants claimed the responsibility of the attack. The militants often target blasts to government and African Union troops in Mogadishu.

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

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 Afghanistan, 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

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

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

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.

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