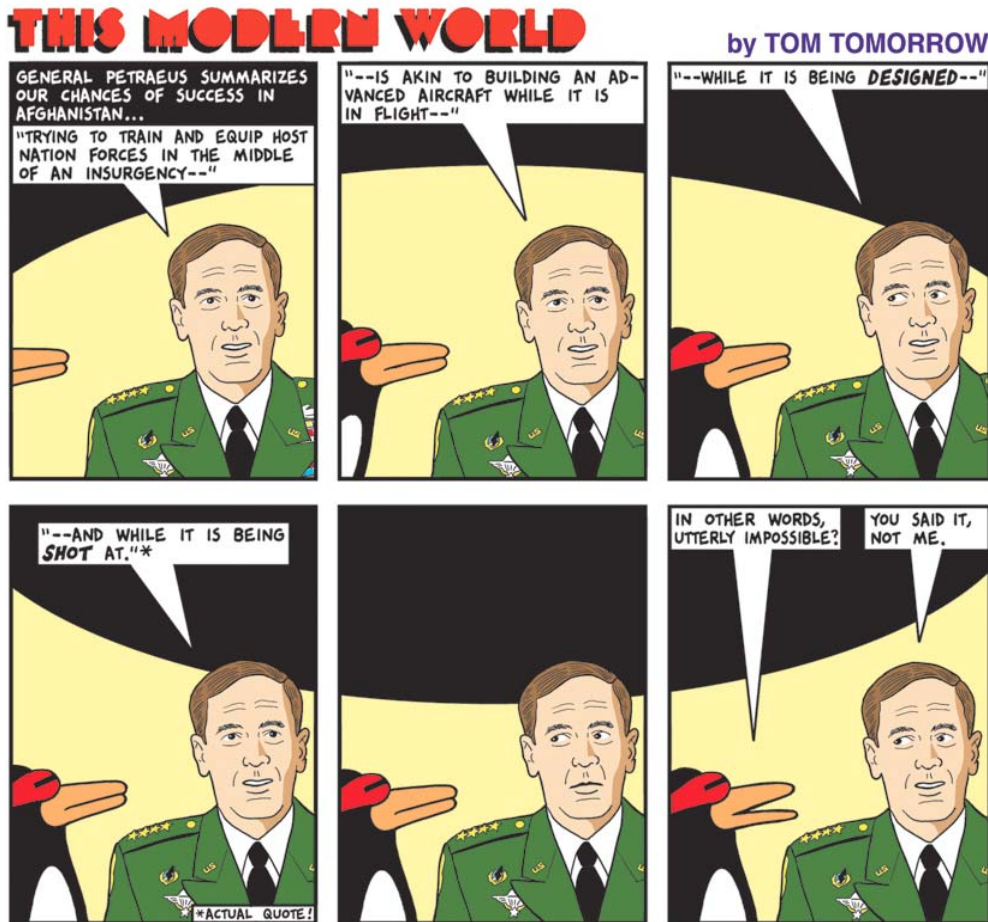


Military Resistance 8G15



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

A Very Proud Mother [And Rightly So]

From: O@aol.com
To: Military Resistance
Subject: (no subject)
Date: Jul 16, 2010

I am glad that you showed my son as a man, that would protect you.

A Very Proud Mother

[Here is the article referred to above. It's a privilege to be able to publish it again. Spc. Jacob P. Dohrenwend represents what is finest and most honorable in the armed forces: the enlisted men and women who are the best hope for defending our liberties from all forms of tyranny. Carry him in your heart. T]

Milford Soldier Dies In Iraq: “I Support The Right Of Protesters Because An Unchallenged And Fearless Government Soon Will Become A Harsh Tyrant Of Its People”



Army Spc. Jacob P. Dohrenwend, 20, died Monday in Iraq. Provided

[From: “Carry Him In Your Heart” Military Resistance 8G3 7.4.10]

June 23, 2010 By Jennifer Baker and Barrett J. Brunsman, The Enquirer

MILFORD - Army Spc. Jacob P. Dohrenwend of Clermont County died Monday in Balad, Iraq, of injuries unrelated to combat, the U.S. Department of Defense announced Wednesday. The circumstances surrounding the death of Dohrenwend, 20, a 2008 graduate of Milford High School, remain under investigation, military officials said.

"Jake was a happy, smiling student at Milford High School," said Tim Ackermann, spokesman for Milford schools. "He was an overall great kid, according to his teachers."

Dohrenwend was on his first deployment overseas. He enlisted as an infantryman in the Army on May 29, 2008, according to the military.

After completing basic training, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Infantry Division in Fort Riley, Kan.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Specialist Dohrenwend's family," said Sgt. Jake A. Newman, a spokesman for the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "We share in their loss."

Survivors include his parents, Shannon Abernathy and Jim Dohrenwend of Milford; a 13-year-old brother, Jack Dohrenwend of Milford; and a sister, Andrea Back of West Chester Township, said Clermont County Commissioner Bob Proud, who met with family members Wednesday to offer his condolences.

The family didn't want to speak publicly about the tragedy, but members agreed to share in an e-mail for the public their thoughts on what made Dohrenwend special, Proud said.

"He was a wonderful brother, son, and friend," his family members wrote.

"He loved his family, friends, his country, and the Army. When he wasn't playing video games with friends, he was serving the community by volunteering at the library or a nursing home." One of his battalion commanders called the family and "told us that Jacob was very concerned about the children of Iraq and used his own money to buy them whatever he could," the e-mail said.

The family included with the e-mail a letter Dohrenwend wrote before he left for Iraq.

"I joined the Army not for adventure or money but because I feel it is my duty to defend the freedoms I hold so dear," Dohrenwend wrote.

"I'm proud to fight for people who would disagree with me or (have) ideas different from mine. ...

"I support the right of protesters," he added, "because an unchallenged and fearless government soon will become a harsh tyrant of its people. ...

"My life is nothing compared to the repercussions of weakening or losing any of these freedoms."

Three former students of the Milford school district have died in Iraq, Proud said. Dohrenwend was the second Milford High graduate to die there.

Marine Lance Cpl. Bryan Taylor, 20, had served in Iraq five weeks when he was fatally shot April 6, 2006, by an Iraqi Army soldier trained by U.S. troops.

Marine Lance Cpl. William Spencer, who had attended Milford High School before moving with his family to Tennessee, was killed during a combat mission in Al Anbar province on Dec. 28, 2006.

"I am devastated," said Allison Willson of Loveland, Dohrenwend's 11th-grade English teacher at Milford High School. "I've been in a funk all day. He will be truly missed by the Milford community."

She said he was one of five Milford graduates who served in the military in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past year.

"One of them came back in April," she said. "We have three currently over there right now, including two brothers. It kind of makes you send out an extra prayer for them, to make sure that they come home safely. It's devastating."

As word of Dohrenwend's death spread Wednesday, flags at government buildings in Milford, Miami Township and elsewhere in Clermont County were lowered to half-staff in his honor.

A Facebook page was launched Wednesday in memory of Dohrenwend. His friends held a candlelight vigil at Miami Meadows Park in Miami Township. The soldier's family attended.

Catherine Perry, one of Dohrenwend's friends who set up the Facebook page, described him as "one of the kindest and funniest guys I have ever met in my life."

"His personality was so addicting to anyone who met him because it was the little things he did that made everyone around him - no matter how upset we were - so happy," she said.

She knew Dohrenwend, one of her best friends, since they met in the seventh grade.

Before he was deployed to Iraq, they discussed how his funeral arrangements should be handled if he died.

"He told me that he didn't want people in black because that was never his thing," she said. "He made me promise that I would do something where all the girls and guys would wear lots of colors, especially orange."

A memorial service will be held at Milford First United Methodist Church once Dohrenwend's body is returned, Proud said. That's expected to take about a week. The body is now at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Police Killed In Tikrit

July 15, 2010 New York Times

A car bomb exploded near an ice cream shop in northern Iraq on Thursday, killing nine people, including five police officers, in a wealthy area of Tikrit.

The bomb appeared to be aimed at a large group of Iraqi police officers who had gathered in the area on Thursday morning, the authorities said. Among the 15 people injured were nine police officers — a frequent target of insurgents.

After Thursday's bombing in Tikrit, Ahmed Jassim, who owns the ice cream shop in the mixed commercial and residential district near where the explosion occurred, said there had been rumors that the area might be attacked.

"We heard that there were gunmen who intended to blow up a car on the street, and someone did that today," Mr. Jassim said as he stood outside his badly damaged ice cream parlor.

Zaydan Mohamed, a street cleaner, said the blast occurred as he and his fellow workers were sweeping the road.

"Suddenly there was a huge explosion and people's bodies flew everywhere," he said. "It was a horrible sight."

“Men Who Spent Years In Yellow Jumpsuits At U.S. Detention Centers And Were Never Charged With A Crime Said They Would Never Forget, Or Forgive”

July 16, 2010 By Leila Fadel, Washington Post Foreign Service [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD -- A U.S. general on Thursday handed an oversize key to Iraq's justice minister and relinquished control of the nation's last American-run detention center.

That moment closed a controversial chapter of the U.S.-led occupation, after seven years in which tens of thousands of Iraqis have passed through American detention centers. Often they were never charged with a crime. At Abu Ghraib, some were infamously abused and humiliated.

But men who spent years in yellow jumpsuits at U.S. detention centers and were never charged with a crime said they would never forget, or forgive.

Abu Mariam is one of those men. U.S. and Iraqi forces detained him in a controversial raid of a Shiite mosque in 2006 that left more than a dozen people dead.

In 2007, Abu Mariam, a follower of fiery Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, was acquitted in an Iraqi court of charges related to several killings.

Despite his acquittal, the U.S. military kept him for two more years because it deemed him a security threat.

"I was isolated from the world. I am dead inside. They killed me 100 times," said Abu Mariam, who would allow only his nom de guerre to be used because he is worried about being detained again.

"Now Iraqi forces learn from them."

**NO MISSION;
POINTLESS EXERCISE:
ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers patrol in Kerbala, 80 km (50 miles) south of Baghdad July 17, 2010.
REUTERS/Mushtaq Muhammed

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Royal Logistic Corps Soldier Killed In Nahr-E Saraj

16 Jul 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce that a soldier from The Royal Logistic Corps, serving with the Counter-IED Task Force in support of Combined Force Nahr-e Saraj (South), was killed in Afghanistan today, Saturday 17 July 2010.

The soldier was killed in an explosion during a counter-IED operation in the Nahr-e Saraj District of Helmand Province.

**“The RPG Is Responsible For
Felling Scores Of Military
Rotorcraft”**

**“There’s No Warning, There’s No
Defense That You Can Put Up To
Stop A Guy From Shooting At
You”**

**“RPGs Are As Plentiful As Heavy
Machine Guns; They’re Cheap,
They’re Easy And They’re All Over
The Battlefield, So You Don’t Get
Away From Them”**

“The Majority Of Hostile-Fire Losses Are Attributable To RPGs And Man-Portable Air Defense Systems, Which Are Infrared-Guided, Shoulder-Launched Surface-To-Air Missiles”

“It’s very comparable to IEDs,” said Schloesser, “in that our sophistication sometimes does not lend itself to an easy solution in the case of a poor man’s weapon that’s commonly available, that’s relatively unsophisticated, and yet devastating en masse and for a relatively well-trained operator.”

Jul 17, 2010 By Joe Gould - Staff writer, Army Times

Four American soldiers were killed when a NATO helicopter was shot down using two rocket-propelled grenades in a midday attack in Afghanistan’s southern Helmand province. The Black Hawk, attempting to pick up a British casualty, crashed in the Sangin district bazaar.

The June 9 attack was the latest in a string of RPG helicopter shoot-downs.

In fact, the RPG is responsible for felling scores of military rotorcraft of all types, according to news accounts.

As the Army prepares nearly triple the number of air assets in Afghanistan, the cheap, easy RPG used in the famous ‘Black Hawk Down’ crash in Mogadishu, Somalia, remains the weapon of choice for militants, Army officials say.

There have been 375 rotorcraft losses, with 496 fatalities through September.

Of those, 19 percent are attributable to hostile action and the rest to mishaps in and out of combat, Mark Couch, of the Institute for Defense Analyses, and Dennis Lindell, program manager for the Joint Aircraft Survivability Program Office, stated in a May report to Congress.

Precise numbers are unavailable due to their sensitivity; however, Couch and Lindell said in a subsequent report for the rotorcraft community that the majority of hostile-fire losses are attributable to RPGs and Man-Portable Air Defense Systems, or MANPADS, which are infrared-guided, shoulder-launched surface-to-air missiles.

“We have had aircraft shot down either by a combination of small-arms fire and RPGs or massed RPGs, of which one or two or more might hit an aircraft,” said retired Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Schloesser, the former director of Army aviation in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7. “They’re a poor man’s weapon, and they’re available throughout the world.”

Schloesser recalled during his time commanding the 101st Airborne Division in eastern Afghanistan, a Chinook that was felled when an RPG struck its aft pylon. The pilot crash-landed on top of an abandoned farm building in the high mountains, escaping serious injury.

“There are other shoot-downs where that wasn’t the case, so it has always been a significant factor,” he said of the RPG threat.

With the battlefield in mind, the Army has accelerated its aircraft survivability efforts to focus on the ubiquitous “dumb” threats of small-arms fire and RPG’s.

“RPGs are as plentiful as heavy machine guns; they’re cheap, they’re easy and they’re all over the battlefield, so you don’t get away from them,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jon Larue, one of the officials spearheading the Army’s technology effort. Larue is an action officer with the Aviation Division of the Deputy the Chief of Staff G-3/5/7, the division responsible for managing and integrating the modernization process for Army aviation.

“There’s no warning, there’s no defense that you can put up to stop a guy from shooting at you, or detect it until he’s fired the first round.”

Common to conflicts since the Vietnam War, the Soviet-made RPG-7 was once a mainstay of the Iraqi army and is now a favorite of insurgents, according to report by George J. Mordica II, an analyst for the Center for Army Lessons Learned.

A shoulder-fired, muzzle-loaded anti-tank and anti-personnel grenade launcher, the RPG-7 fires grenades with a an effective range of 300 meters against moving targets and a maximum reach of about 1,000 meters. The grenades travel at 200 meters per second and detonate with a bursting radius of 4 meters.

One variety self-destructs after flying for 4.5 seconds.

“The most effective use of the RPG-7 against helicopters has been to use the self-destructing round to bring down a platform with shrapnel,” Mordica writes. “Engaging from 800 meters away will allow for the 920 meters self-destruct to activate and kill the aircraft.

“Obviously, this technique takes a lot of practice to be effective, but the results of RPG-7 attacks against Soviet helicopters in the mountains of Afghanistan prove that it can be effectively trained.”

Writing in a 1998 issue of Infantry magazine, Lester W. Grau, of the Foreign Military Studies Office at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., described how the mujahedeen in Afghanistan would use RPGs to attack Soviet transport helicopters loaded with troops.

“In Afghanistan, the Mujahideen found that the best anti-helicopter tactics were anti-helicopter ambushes,” Grau writes.

“The first variant was to identify likely landing zones and mine them. Then the Mujahideen would position machine guns and RPGs around the landing zone. As the helicopter landed, massed RPG and machine gun fire would tear into the aircraft.”

Grau pegged the RPG as the perfect weapon in an asymmetrical fight: “The chances are, whenever a U.S. soldier is deployed to a trouble spot, the RPG-7 will be part of the local landscape.”

“It’s very comparable to IEDs,” said Schloesser, “in that our sophistication sometimes does not lend itself to an easy solution in the case of a poor man’s weapon that’s commonly available, that’s relatively unsophisticated, and yet devastating en masse and for a relatively well-trained operator.”

Notes From A Lost War:

“Elders Fingering Prayer Beads Shouted Comments, Most Of Which Revolved Around One Theme: U.S. Forces Should Leave”

“In The District’s Western Reaches, Taliban Rule Is Unquestioned And Government Representatives Have Not Stepped Foot For Years”

July 16, 2010 By Karin Brulliard, Washington Post Foreign Service [Excerpts]

ZHARI DISTRICT, AFGHANISTAN -- The battle for this rural Taliban stronghold is not about killing insurgents, U.S. military officials say. It is about getting the new district governor to stop the grenades.

Soon after Karim Jan assumed the post in June, the explosives began sailing over mud walls and onto U.S. troops patrolling the labyrinth of Senjaray, the biggest town in a district that U.S. officials say is under near-complete Taliban control. Two weeks later, five soldiers had been wounded in a half-dozen strikes.

A jovial fellow with a thick mustache, [Jan] says he wants to open a cinema showing James Bond and Jean-Claude Van Damme movies to show constituents how advanced the West is.

But given the level of Taliban activity here, that is a fantasy, as is the mere notion of Jan’s traveling much beyond his office adjoined to a U.S. base.

Soldiers at small combat outposts, who for the time being serve as the government’s primary ambassadors, face regular rocket attacks and ambushes.

The elders of villages in the district's western reaches, where Taliban rule is unquestioned and government representatives have not stepped foot for years, live full time in Kandahar.

On a recent day in Khadakalay, a town off the main highway, farmer Rozi Khan said he knew Jan's name but had no intention of turning to him.

"If we had any connection with the district government, it would be so bad for us," said Khan, a man with a salt-and-pepper beard. "If we even talked with the police at the checkpoint on the highway, the Taliban would cut off our heads."

If Jan holds sway anywhere in Zhari, it is in Senjaray, a town of 10,000 people that is the district's main population center.

But even though he insisted people there are weary of the Taliban, U.S. soldiers say Senjaray leaders sit squarely on the fence.

From their expanding perch on the hill, the troops have a view of their narrow cat-and-mouse game. On one patch of town sits an inert, American-built school that has been repeatedly attacked and is now a "strong point" for U.S. and Afghan forces.

Not far away is a large mosque that is a Taliban hub.

In between are the mud-brick compounds that U.S. soldiers visit in hopes of making inroads with influential elders.

Recently, though, the structures became launching pads for grenades, some tossed by children. It is a new tactic that sows fear, Stout said [Army Capt. Nick Stout, 27, a commander of the 101st Airborne company].

"You throw a grenade in there, it's going to hit something," he said, peering down on the town.

After the fifth attack, Jan accompanied the patrol and threatened to burn down collaborators' houses, U.S. soldiers said.

Days later, another patrol pursuing a suspect in the previous attack was targeted by a grenade.

Jan quickly organized the meeting, or shura, of Senjaray elders, at which he counseled that only by helping coalition forces secure the town would they get hospitals and schools and fertilizer. Davis, the battalion commander, praised Islam, then condemned the Taliban for endangering children.

"My unit has come here to support the district governor. To help strengthen and train your army. To help train the Afghan police," Davis said. "And I ask you to help."

Elders fingering prayer beads shouted comments, most of which revolved around one theme: U.S. forces should leave.

"I'm not going to let the enemy or you in my village. I'm going to take care of security myself," said Haji Jalat, the most vocal of the elders.

"I'm sure they had a little shura with the Taliban before coming here," Davis whispered as he watched Jan work the room.

“Taliban Attack On Kandahar Base The Best Planned And Most Advanced That U.S. Soldiers Who Fought It Off Have Seen”

**“Taliban Fighters Have Used Similar Tactics To Hit Major Coalition Military Bases In Kandahar, Bagram And Jalalabad”
Taliban Fighters “Routinely Set Up Temporary Checkpoints Within A Few Hundred Yards Of The Afghan Forces”**

"They Just Stay In Their Posts"

July 15, 2010 By Dion Nissenbaum, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — The attack this week on a major Afghan police base in Kandahar that killed nine — including three American soldiers — was the best planned and most advanced that U.S. soldiers who fought it off have seen in the past year, U.S. military officials said Thursday.

"It was definitely well-planned and coordinated much better than anything we've seen before," said Capt. Steven J. Davis, 26, of Lansing, Mich., as U.S. and Afghan forces

worked to repair the damage. His unit, the 82nd Airborne's 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment, based at Fort Bragg, N.C., arrived about a year ago.

The assault began Tuesday night when at least three attackers blew up the rear wall of the elite police compound in a Taliban-saturated part of Kandahar. Although it was initially thought to be a car bomb, Davis said explosives planted alongside the compound wall caused the first blast.

As Afghan and American forces inside the base rushed to fend off the attack, Taliban fighters fired rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns during a half-hour battle that killed three American soldiers, one Afghan police officer and five Afghans working with the U.S.-led coalition forces, NATO officials said.

The assault — which involved at least three Taliban bombers — was the latest in a series of well-planned Taliban strikes that are forcing American and Afghan forces to adapt.

In the past two months, Taliban fighters have used similar tactics to hit major coalition military bases in Kandahar, Bagram and Jalalabad.

"Obviously we are going towards these fairly sophisticated complex attacks," said Sami Kovanen, senior information analyst for Indicium Consulting, a Kabul-based research firm that analyzes trends in the Afghan war.

Tuesday's target was a burgeoning base housing members of the Afghan National Civil Order Police, an elite unit dispatched to Kandahar to set up a new ring of checkpoints around Kandahar city.

The checkpoints had been operating about two weeks when the Taliban hit the central command base.

[Ghulam] Sakhi lives in an Afghan no-man's-land between the Afghan base that came under attack this week and sprawling orchards on the outskirts of Kandahar where the Taliban roam freely.

Two Afghan police posts overlook the contested orchards.

However, Sakhi said that they rarely challenge Taliban fighters who routinely set up temporary checkpoints within a few hundred yards of the Afghan forces.

"They can't protect us," he said. "They just stay in their posts."

“Three Attached Afghan Soldiers (At Last Count) Had Shot

Themselves In The Foot And One In The Hand”

“Such Incidents Usually Result In Quick Transfers Out Of The Battle Zone”

[Gee, Why Do You Suppose The Taliban Don't Have These Little Problems?]

That same day, however, the men brazenly disobeyed the orders of a Marine officer when they refused to walk any farther toward a dangerous stretch of road. They simply stood their ground as he cursed up a storm and threatened to throw them into a nearby canal, a threat they could not understand.

Jul. 15, 2010 By Jason Motlagh, Time Magazine [Excerpts]

The summer fighting season is now in full gear across the south. In a recent 24-hour stretch, eight American troops died in a series of attacks that included a car-bomb assault and a gunfight outside the Kandahar city police compound.

In Marjah, where fierce firefights and roadside-bomb strikes occur every day, the ANA often appears to be yet another burden for U.S. forces, with problems ranging from insubordination to the careless handling of weapons.

During a morning patrol on the edge of town late last month, for example, a gunshot rang out within seconds of U.S. troops' stepping outside the base, sending Marines ducking for cover. The discharge, however, was accidental — an Afghan soldier had fumbled his rifle. It wasn't the first time something like that had happened.

The love-hate relationship was better illustrated during a route-clearance operation later in the week. The three Afghan army soldiers who accompanied Marines were useful when a private compound with women and children needed to be searched for weapons. With respect to the deeply conservative mores of the area, Marines stood back while the Afghans talked reassuringly with the family and checked things out.

That same day, however, the men brazenly disobeyed the orders of a Marine officer when they refused to walk any farther toward a dangerous stretch of road. They simply stood their ground as he cursed up a storm and threatened to throw them into a nearby canal, a threat they could not understand.

"These guys are gonna be in pretty bad shape when we finally get out of here," said a low-level Marine officer, shaking his head.

"Most of them are a danger to themselves." He wasn't entirely kidding.

In the case of one front-line unit based in northern Marjah, three attached Afghan soldiers (at last count) had shot themselves in the foot and one in the hand. Whether the shootings were intentional or not, the upshot is that such incidents usually result in quick transfers out of the battle zone.

MORE:

**Australian Soldiers Feel Their
Afghan Army Allies Are 'Dodgy,
Dodgy As Hell, No Trust'
"Australian Troops Expressed 'A
Sense Of Distrust' About Working
With The Local Forces"
"They Felt They Did Not Know Who, Or
Where, Their Enemies Were"**

July 16, 2010 By Rory Callinan and Sean Parnell, News Limited [Excerpts]

AN Afghan soldier working alongside Australian troops was suspected of spying for the Taliban after making a long mobile phone call just before their patrol was subjected to a five-hour attack.

Australian soldiers also feared their Afghan counterparts were "dodgy", according to statements collected from frontline troops as part of a government-funded study of deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Australian Defence Force has declined to provide further details about the mobile phone incident and other scenarios relating to Afghan National Army troops, but said such allegations were a "serious issue of concern".

A combat veteran - identified only as "3 BDG Combat" - told a health researcher how the patrol came under attack.

"We had an incident when one of them was on a mobile phone and about 20 minutes later we got contacted (attacked) and the contact went for like five hours," the soldier said in a focus group last year.

"We had to strip all the gear off them (the soldiers) and take their weapons away and like, they got some interrogators in to see what was going on."

Another Australian soldier in the focus group described working with the Afghan army as "dodgy, dodgy as hell, no trust".

One even detailed an incident where Australian troops watched Afghan police fight over "chi boys".

"The ANP, the Afghani police, had a massive shootout one night and we just sat on the roof and sort of watched it, when we figured out they weren't actually shooting at us, they were shooting over us," said the soldier also just referred to as "3 BGD Combat".

"And a couple of them come up with holes in them from getting shot, but that's what it was about, someone having fun with their little mate that night."

An ADF spokesman said Defence would investigate the incident relating to the "chi boys" if more information was provided.

Last month, Defence Minister John Faulkner said there was growing evidence that the ANA's 4th Brigade was "maturing towards its goal of independent operations".

The researchers who extracted the statements were preparing for a \$12 million health study of Middle East deployments.

They noted how Australian troops expressed "a sense of distrust" about working with the local forces. They felt they did not know who, or where, their enemies were.

MORE:

Afghan Government Soldier Who Killed British Troops “Told Me He Was Angry At The Conduct Of British Troops In Helmand Province” “He Said That The Taliban Were Mujahideen Fighting For Their Own Country”

July 15, 2010 By Dawood Azami, BBC Pashto service [Excerpts]

A man who says he is the Afghan soldier who killed three British troops in Helmand province in Afghanistan has contacted the BBC.

The man said he had been angry at the conduct of British troops and that he had acted alone. He said he had joined the Taliban after the attack.

On Thursday - 48 hours after the attack - the BBC's Kabul bureau was contacted by the Taliban and I was given a mobile phone number to call.

An intermediary then passed the phone to a man, who said he was 21-year-old Talib Hussain from the central Ghazni province of Afghanistan.

During the interview, which lasted about 10 minutes, he told me he was angry at the conduct of British troops in Helmand province. He accused them of killing civilians including children.

When I challenged him that civilians had been killed in Taliban attacks too, he said that the Taliban were Mujahideen fighting for their own country.

He also said that British soldiers were not there to secure and reconstruct Afghanistan.

The man told me that he belonged to the Hazara ethnic group and had spent a couple of years in Iran. He told me that soon after returning to Afghanistan a year ago, he had joined the Afghan army.

Most of the Taliban support comes from the majority Pashto population.

He said the shooting of British soldiers was his own idea, and that he had had no contact with the Taliban, Iran or Pakistan beforehand. It was only after the shooting that he had joined the Taliban.

We cannot be certain that the man was Talib Hussain but I questioned him about his name, age, ethnicity, home village and the duration of his military service.

I then checked the information with an official in Helmand. All of it matched.

The Taliban had already said that they were sheltering the soldier who shot the British troops at a base in Helmand province.

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

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

TROOP NEWS

NOT ANOTHER DAY NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR NOT ANOTHER LIFE



The casket of U.S. Army Spc. Keenan Cooper July 16, 2010 at the National Guard Armory in Wahpeton, N.D. Cooper was killed while on duty in Afghanistan July 5. Cooper was with the Fort Bragg, N.C.-based 82nd Airborne Division. (AP Photo/The Forum, Dave Wallis)

3,800 From Fort Carson Off To Obama's Imperial Slaughterhouse

Jul 15, 2010 By Dan Elliott - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

FORT CARSON, Colo. — Fort Carson bade a formal farewell Thursday to 3,800 soldiers who are leaving for Afghanistan, where they'll spend the next 12 months teaching local police and Afghan troops how to run a modern defense force.

After a brisk 30-minute ceremony paced by traditional bugle calls, Col. Jeffrey Martindale told his soldiers they are going to Afghanistan at a decisive time.

The troops under Martindale's command, the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division, will be deployed in southern and western Afghanistan.

Martindale's command is a "heavy brigade" that normally uses tanks and armored vehicles but had to retrain as an infantry brigade for this mission.

Second Lt. Nicholas Lange said this will be the second or third deployment for some in the brigade.

A 1st Brigade advance party is already in Afghanistan, and the rest of the soldiers were scheduled to start leaving Friday.

“Troops Return From Combat Deployments To Find Their Jobs Have Disappeared”

Jul 15, 2010 By Rick Maze - Staff writer, Army Times [Excerpt]

A Vermont lawmaker trying to get Congress to approve a new job training program for unemployed and under-employed veterans says he is worried about what happens when troops return from combat deployments to find their jobs have disappeared.

Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt., said he has been warned that up to 20 percent of Vermont National Guard troops now deployed to Afghanistan could be unemployed when they return.

VA’s Shell Game: “24 Ways VA Hospitals Mask Violations Of The Requirement To Provide An Appointment Within 30 Days To Every Veteran Seeking One”

7.19.2010 Editorial

For years, veterans have complained that VA hospitals game the system to make it look like they are meeting mandated appointment scheduling requirements when, in fact, they are falling short.

Now a top VA official has confirmed veterans’ suspicions.

VAWatchdog.org, an independent advocacy group, has published an April 26 memo signed by William Schoenhard, VA’s deputy undersecretary for health for operations and management, detailing 24 ways VA hospitals mask violations of the requirement to provide an appointment within 30 days to every veteran seeking one.

For example, a patient's initial appointment request may be recorded in a paper log rather than a computer system. A false date is then recorded once an appointment is finally scheduled — usually months later.

In another strategy, doctors are double- and triple-booked, to guard against the chance that a patient fails to show up. This is why patients can sometimes wait for hours to be seen.

To his credit, Schoenhard flatly states that such practices “will not be tolerated.” But his memo offers no action plan beyond that stern edict.

The only way to root out the problem is to put managers on notice that they can and will be held accountable for failures to adhere to the rules.

Retail stores use “secret shoppers” to ensure their managers follow requirements; VA should do the same.

Surely there would be no shortage of veteran volunteers eager to enlist for that campaign.

Not unless schedulers can be caught red-handed gaming the system — and punished on the spot — will these corrupt practices be brought under control.

CHECK OUT THE NEW ISSUE OF TRAVELING SOLDIER JUST POSTED

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS31.pdf>

THIS ISSUE FEATURING:

**ARMY LIFE: “THE CHAIN OF COMMAND AND THEIR
GENERAL SELFISHNESS AND HABITUAL
EXPLOITATION OF THE LOWER ENLISTED”
By Soldier R, Traveling Soldier Correspondent
Reporting from Germany**

**“EVEN BEFORE I HAD LEFT THE NAVY I REALIZED
THAT I WAS NOT PROTECTING FREEDOM OR
DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITES
STATES”**

By F. Bouthillette (USNR, Veteran, Iraq Theatre)

MORE ARMY LIFE: “INTELLIGENCE IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE A SENIOR IN THE MILITARY”

**By Soldier R, Traveling Soldier Correspondent
Reporting from Germany**

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/>

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**Hope for change doesn't cut it when you're still losing buddies.
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

War In Afghanistan



Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: July 16, 2010
Subject: War In Afghanistan

War In Afghanistan

**Round after round.
Punch after punch.
Bullet after bullet.
Day after day.
Year after year.
Air strike after air strike.
Suicide bomber after suicide bomber.
Explosion after explosion.
IED after IED.
President after president.**

**Cabinet member after cabinet member.
General after general.
War profiteering after war profiteering.
Oil barrel after oil barrel.
Killing after killing.
Civilian after civilian.
Torture after torture.
Lie after lie.
American idol after American idol.
Lemming after lemming.
Foreclosure after foreclosure.
School cuts after school cuts.
Job loss after job loss.
Divorce after divorce.
Drink after drink.
Drug after drug.
Dover after Dover.
Funeral after funeral.
Taps after taps.
Tour after tour.
Suicide after suicide.
Round
after
round
after
round
after round.
Punch
after
punch
after
punch.
Knock down after knock down.
Memory loss after memory loss,
until America knocks itself out.
War in Afghanistan.
The bell is getting ready to ring for year 10.**

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
July 16, 2010**

"A nation that year after year spends more money on national defense than it does on programs of social uplift is facing spiritual death."

**Martin Luther King Jr.
April 4, 1967**

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

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

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

War On Afghanistan “Now Costs U.S. Taxpayers \$17 Billion Monthly” “Yet Another Pitiless Colonial War Against A Small, Backward People For Resource Domination And Strategic Geography”

July 11, 2010 by Eric Margolis, Toronto Sun [Excerpts]

Afghanistan is America's longest-running conflict.

The escalating war now costs U.S. taxpayers \$17 billion monthly. President Barack Obama's Afghan "surge" of 30,000 more troops will cost another \$30 billion.

The Afghan and Iraq wars - at a cost of \$1 trillion - are being waged on borrowed money when the U.S. is drowning in \$13.1 trillion in debt.

As the United States feted freedom from a foreign oppressor on July 4, its professional soldiers were using every sort of weapon in Afghanistan, from heavy

bombers to tanks, armoured vehicles, helicopter gunships, fleets of drones, heavy artillery, cluster bombs and an arsenal of hi-tech gear.

In spite of this might, bands of outnumbered Pashtun tribesmen and farmers, armed only with small arms, determination and limitless courage, have fought the West's war machine to a standstill and now have it on the strategic defensive.

This brutal David versus Goliath conflict brings no honour upon the western powers waging it, including Canada. They are widely seen abroad as waging yet another

pitiless colonial war against a small, backward people for resource domination and strategic geography.

But Washington's imperial impulses continue.

Too many political careers in the U.S., Canada and Europe hang on this misbegotten war.

So, too, does the fate of the obsolete NATO alliance that may well meet its Waterloo in the hills of Afghanistan.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Prisoner Defies Guantanamo Terrorists:

“Mr. Khadr, Faced With What He And Many Others Deeply Believe To Be A Flawed And Unfair Tribunal Process, Was Offered A Deal To Serve Five Years Instead Of 30”

"I Will Not Take Any Of The Offers Because It'll Give The US Government An Excuse For Torturing Me And Abusing Me When I Was A Child"

[Thanks to Linda O, who sent this in.]

July 14, 2010 Embassy Magazine [Excerpts]

Following the terrorist attacks of 9/11, officials in the Bush administration and elsewhere sought to put aside civil liberties and due process in favour of fighting the so-called "war on terror."

That is how a 15-year-old boy ended up being tortured and then detained at Guantanamo Bay for the better part of a decade.

That boy has now grown up and on Monday, Omar Khadr drew a line in the sand.

The 23-year-old rejected a plea bargain offered by US authorities that would have seen him serve five years in prison instead of 30, despite all odds being stacked against his ever receiving a fair trial.

"I will not take any of the offers because it'll give the US government an excuse for torturing me and abusing me when I was a child," Agence France Presse quoted Mr. Khadr as telling a military tribunal in Guantanamo.

The bottomline: By accepting the plea bargain, Mr. Khadr felt he would not only be admitting guilt to charges that have been repeatedly called into question, but he would have provided his captors justification for the way they have treated him since his capture as a teenager in Afghanistan in 2002.

Ironically, Mr. Khadr made the announcement as the military tribunal set up to hear his case was about to consider whether confessions allegedly obtained through torture and coercion should be allowed as evidence.

Meanwhile, nowhere on the sheet listing the five charges against Mr. Khadr is the Canadian's age listed, further indicating that the court is refusing to take into account that he was technically a child soldier when he allegedly threw a grenade and killed an American medic in 2002. Both of these highlight the dubious nature of the entire trial.

Mr. Khadr himself gave notice that he has no intention of participating in the military tribunal, telling presiding judge Army Colonel Patrick Parrish that "I might be present, but I won't be participating. How can I ask for justice from a process that doesn't offer it?"

The significance of all of this shouldn't be underestimated.

Mr. Khadr, faced with what he and many others deeply believe to be a flawed and unfair tribunal process, was offered a deal to serve five years instead of 30. Yet instead of giving in and taking the offer — what's five more years? — he rejected it on a matter of principle. He will not be the one to let his captors, torturers and interrogators off the hook.

The onus is ostensibly now on US military prosecutors to prove that not only are the charges against Mr. Khadr true, but that the way he was treated was justified and legal.

This may be why they offered him the plea bargain: Take the deal and we can all walk away with our integrity intact. That appears to be off the table.

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

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

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS



Capitalists At Work:

“More Than 1 Million American Households Are Likely To Lose Their Homes To Foreclosure This Year”

“Nearly 528,000 Homes Were Taken Over By Lenders In The First Six Months”

“More Than 7.3 Million Home Loans Are In Some Stage Of Delinquency”

“About 1.7 Million Homeowners Received A Foreclosure-Related Warning Between January And June”

Jul 15 By ALEX VEIGA, AP Real Estate Writer [Excerpts]

LOS ANGELES – Rosalyn Dalebout rents out space in her home to three tenants, has cut off her phone service and canceled her earthquake and life insurance — all to pay her mortgage every month.

So far, she's one of the lucky ones.

More than 1 million American households are likely to lose their homes to foreclosure this year, as lenders work their way through a huge backlog of borrowers who have fallen behind on their loans.

Nearly 528,000 homes were taken over by lenders in the first six months of the year. If foreclosures continue at that rate, the yearly number would eclipse the more than 900,000 homes repossessed in 2009, RealtyTrac Inc., a foreclosure listing service, said Thursday.

"That would be unprecedented," said Rick Sharga, a senior vice president at RealtyTrac.

About 1.7 million homeowners received a foreclosure-related warning, one of several steps in the foreclosure process, between January and June. That translates to one in 78 U.S. homes.

Sherri Leu of Lino Lakes, a suburb of Minneapolis, is unemployed and stopped receiving unemployment benefits earlier this year.

"I burned up my savings," she said. "The best thing that's going to help me is a job."

The software engineer has been living on what's left of a \$120,000 home equity line of credit she took out shortly after she bought her house in 2006.

Leu estimates she's got enough money for another five or six mortgage payments.

"I might try to put it up for sale," Leu said. "The other option is to let the bank have it, but then I'll end up walking away losing money I put down on the house."

Assuming the economy doesn't worsen, RealtyTrac's Sharga projects lenders won't work through the backlog of distressed properties until the end of 2013.

More than 7.3 million home loans are in some stage of delinquency, according to Lender Processing Services. The fastest-growing group of foreclosures is coming from people who took out conventional fixed-rate loans.

The prospect of lenders taking over more than a million homes this year is likely to push housing values down, experts say. Foreclosed homes are typically sold at steep discounts, lowering the value of surrounding properties.

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