

Military Resistance 8/13

**WELCOME TO OBAMAWORLD:
WHERE EVERY DEATH IN COMBAT
ACCOMPLISHES NOTHING AT ALL**



US Army medevac crew chief (L) performs CPR as she and flight medic with 6-101 Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, attempt to revive a gravely wounded Marine onboard a medevac helicopter near the town of Marjah in Helmand Province, August 20, 2010. REUTERS/Bob Strong

**U.S. Officer Says “Imperial
Stormtroopers” At Work:
[McChrystal Light In Iraq?]
He Says “We Call It The Darth Vader
Model”
“The Imperial Storm Troopers, They'll Go
In, Secure The Target”**

Sep 24 By Jim Loney, Reuters [Excerpts]

Obama's announcement on August 31 has not meant the end of fighting for some of the 50,000 U.S. military personnel remaining in Iraq 7-1/2 years after the invasion that removed Saddam Hussein.

"Our rules of engagement have not changed. Iraq does remain from time to time a dangerous place, so when our soldiers are attacked they will return fire," said Brigadier General Jeffrey Buchanan, a U.S. military spokesman.

Colonel Mark Mitchell, commander of a U.S. special operations training force, said Americans are routinely outnumbered by Iraqis two-to-one on such missions but the ratio can be as high as eight-to-one.

Iraqis plan and lead the operation and conduct the assault, while Americans hold back, watching, coaching and supervising, entering the hideout only when the Iraqis have secured it.

"We call it the Darth Vader model ... the imperial storm troopers, they'll go in, secure the target. Once it's all secure then Darth Vader can go in and walk through," Mitchell said.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Foreign Mercenary Wounded By Rocket Attack On Green Zone

Sept 23 (Reuters)

Three rockets targeting a security company were fired at Baghdad's fortified Green Zone government and diplomatic enclave, wounding one foreign contractor, an Iraqi army source said. Police said two rockets were fired without giving any further details.

Resistance Action

Sept 19 (Reuters) & By TIMOTHY WILLIAMS and STEPHEN FARRELL, The New York Times & Sept 20 (Reuters) & By Ned Parker and Jabr Zeki, Los Angeles Times & Sept 21 (Reuters) & Sept 23 (Reuters) & Sept 24 (Reuters)

Two powerful bombs ripped through the capital, and one hit the western city of Falluja on Sunday, killing at least 35 people and wounding more than 100.

But it was the other bombing that was the more lethal, apparently aimed at a branch office of the Ministry of National Security in Kadhimiya, in northern Baghdad. Nineteen people were killed, Iraqi officials said.

The casualties included employees of the Ministry of National Security, an agency that works in part to prevent insurgent attacks.

TAJI - Gunmen killed Lieutenant Colonel Hazim Salih, a member of the staff of the Council of Ministers, and wounded his wife in their car in the town of Taji, 20 km (12 miles) north of Baghdad, an interior ministry source said.

MOSUL - Attackers detonated three roadside bombs in quick succession and then fired shots at a police patrol, killing three policemen and wounding 13 policemen in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, a source in the local police operations centre said.

MOSUL - A roadside bomb killed one policeman in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

MOSUL - One policeman was wounded in southern Mosul when a roadside bomb went off near a police patrol, police said.

A car bomb exploded Sunday in Fallouja, killing three soldiers and one policeman, a security officer said. The attack targeted an army patrol and came after a controversial raid last week by Iraqi and U.S. special forces, which left at least six people dead.

At least six people were killed and 15 wounded when a car bomb went off, targeting a national security office, in northwestern Baghdad, the Baghdad security command said. Interior Ministry sources put the death toll at 17 to 19 but the civil defence force said it had recovered three bodies.

A bomb attached to a vehicle killing a foreign ministry employee and wounded his son in western Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

MOSUL - Insurgents shot dead a policeman at a checkpoint in central Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

SHIRQAT - A government-backed militia member was shot dead by insurgents targeting the militia's checkpoint, on Sunday, in Shirqat, 300 km (190 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - A parked car bomb targeting a federal police patrol wounded six policemen in Baghdad's southern Saida district, a federal police source said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb went off near a police patrol, wounding one policeman, on a highway near Baghdad's southern Doura district, an interior ministry source said.

KIRKUK - A roadside bomb went off near a military vehicle carrying Iraqi soldiers, killing two soldiers and wounded one, in central Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

TARMIYA - A roadside bomb went off near a policeman's house, killing him in Tarmiya, 25 km (15 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - A sticky bomb attached to the car of an employee at the Industry Ministry wounded him and killed one passenger in the western Baghdad district of Yarmouk on Wednesday, an Iraqi army source said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb went off near a police patrol, wounding three policemen, on Palestine Street in northeastern Baghdad, an interior ministry source said.

Insurgents opened fire at a security checkpoint manned by the government-backed militia, wounding one member, in Jurf al-Sakhar, about 60 km (40 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - Insurgents in a speeding car threw a hand grenade at a police checkpoint and wounded three policeman in the Mashtal district of eastern Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - A sticky bomb attached to a federal police vehicle wounded two policemen in Baghdad's eastern Baladiyat district, police said.

MOSUL - A bomber killed a policeman and wounded a policeman, when he blew himself up near a mosque in central Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, a source at the provincial police operations room said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Michigan Soldier Killed In Kandahar



Spc. Deangelo B. Snow, from Saginaw, Mich., 22, was killed Sept. 17, 2010, in Kandahar province. He was assigned to the 526th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky. (AP Photo/Fort Campbell Public Affairs)

Mississippi Marine Killed In Helmand



Marine Corps Pfc. Joshua Ose, 19, of Hernando, Miss., was killed Sept. 20, 2010 while on foot patrol in Afghanistan. Ose was struck by small arms fire in the southern Helmand Province. Ose was assigned to a unit based at Camp Lejeune, N.C. (AP Photo/Ose Family)

Illinois Sgt. Killed In Afghanistan



U.S. Army Sg. 1st Class Ronald Grider, 30, of Brighton, Ill. Sept. 18, 2010 from wounds suffered after he was hit by machine gun fire in Afghanistan. He was assigned to U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg. (AP Photo/Department of Defense)

Pennsylvania Cpl. Killed In Kaftar Khan



Cpl. Joshua Harton of Bethlehem Pa., was killed in an attack in Kaftar Khan, Afghanistan, on Sept. 18, 2010. (AP Photo/Department of Defense)

Indiana Sgt. Killed In Zabul



U.S. Army Sgt. Marvin R. Calhoun Jr., 23, of Elkhart, Ind. and four others from the 101st Airborne Division were killed Sept. 21, 2010 in Zabul, Afghanistan. They were assigned to the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, which deployed in March. (AP Photo/Department of Defense)

Minnesota WO Killed In Zabul



U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Jonah D. McClellan, 26, of St. Louis Park, Minn. and four others from the 101st Airborne Division were killed Sept. 21, 2010, in Zabul, Afghanistan. They were assigned to the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, which deployed in March. (AP Photo/Department of Defense)

Illinois SSG Killed In Zabul



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Joshua D. Powell, 25, of Pleasant Plain, Ill. and four others from the 101st Airborne Division were killed Sept. 21, 2010, in Zabul, Afghanistan. They were assigned to the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, which deployed in March. (AP Photo/Department of Defense)

Nine U.S. Troops Killed When Copter Downed In Diachopan; Two More U.S. Troops & An “American Civilian” In Critical Condition

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

September 21, 2010 CNN & By ALISSA J. RUBIN, The New York Times & AP &
September 23, 2010 By David S. Cloud and Laura King, Los Angeles Times

Kabul, Afghanistan: -- Nine U.S. service members in southern Afghanistan perished in a helicopter crash in what is now the deadliest year for coalition and U.S. forces since the battle against the Taliban started nearly nine years ago.

U.S. military officials on Wednesday identified the nine men killed in a helicopter crash in southern Afghanistan early Tuesday as five soldiers attached to the 101st Airborne Division, three Navy SEALs and a Navy special warfare technician.

The crash occurred early on Tuesday in the Diachopan district of Zabul province, one of the several turbulent southern regions where coalition and Afghan troops have been battling the tenacious militant group for years.

Two other service members, along with an Afghan National Army soldier and an American civilian, sustained injuries in the crash. They were taken to a NATO medical facility and are in critical condition.

A CNN tally brings the number of coalition troop fatalities this year to 529, a number that includes 350 Americans making 2010 the most deadly year of the war that began in 2001.

These numbers surpass the previous highs -- 516 coalition troop deaths, including 313 Americans in 2009, and there are more than three months left in the year.

The Taliban have long been entrenched in many areas of Zabul Province, and a Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility for what they said had been an attack on the helicopter, but offered no details.

Tuesday's crash occurred near the district center of Diachopan District, according to Muhammad Jan Rasoolyar, a spokesman for the provincial governor. Zabul, which lies

just to the east of Kandahar Province and borders Pakistan, is sparsely populated with large areas of desert, low mountains and small villages.

"I was sitting taking my tea," said Nakeemullah, 20, who works transporting livestock in the area. "I heard noise and I went outside to see what happened.

"I saw a lot of smoke in the sky," said Nakeemullah, who uses only one name. "It was far away for me, but I could see that it was a helicopter and it went down on the backside of the mountain where I couldn't see."

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Monday: Nationality Not Announced

Sept. 20 AP

A foreign servicemember died following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan today.

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Wednesday: Nationality Not Announced

Sept. 22 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan today.

Another Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Wednesday: Nationality Not Announced

Sept. 23 AP

A foreign servicemember died following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan today.

Utah Military Pilot Loses Life In Afghanistan



U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Matthew G. Wagstaff, 34, of Orem, Utah and four others from the 101st Airborne Division were killed Sept. 21, 2010, in Zabul, Afghanistan. They were assigned to the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, which deployed in March. (AP Photo/Department of Defense)

Sep 22, 2010 By Erin Alberty and Matthew D. LaPlante, The Salt Lake Tribune

Matthew Wagstaff's dreams of service began long before he ever put on a uniform.

Military posters decorated the walls of his childhood bedroom in Orem, one neighbor said, and as a teenager he loved watching war movies. Wagstaff joined the Army first thing after college, and he never looked back.

"Matt died doing what he loved to do — and that was to fly," Wagstaff's family wrote in a statement Wednesday after the Army confirmed the 34-year-old helicopter pilot had been killed in Afghanistan.

Wagstaff, a chief warrant officer, was killed Tuesday in a helicopter crash during his third overseas combat deployment, said Kelvin Brock, a Wagstaff family friend. It was unclear whether that crash was the same one that killed nine NATO troops near the Pakistani border.

Wagstaff began his second tour of duty in Afghanistan in February, just one month after marrying his wife, Tiffany, Brock said. The couple met while Wagstaff was stationed at Ft. Campbell in Kentucky.

Wagstaff also had served in Iraq, Brock said.

“He wanted to be a helicopter pilot and the Army allowed him to do that,” Brock said. “Matt was promoted quite quickly ... and was at the top of his class when he went to pilot school.”

Longtime friends described Wagstaff as quiet and reserved — “but he has a big impact once you get to know him,” Brock said.

Wagstaff was a disciplined student and football player at Orem High School, said Garrett Larsen, who grew up next door to Wagstaff.

When he wasn't at practice or studying, Wagstaff spent hours fixing motorcycles with his father, Ronald, and helping with household chores, Larsen said.

“He was definitely a hard worker at everything he did,” Larsen said. “He was very, very smart. He knew what he wanted to do, and he did it.”

Wagstaff went on to earn a degree from Utah State University and joined the Army after graduation, 10 years ago, Brock said. He served a tour in Iraq, where his work was mostly administrative, Brock said.

“He really longed to fly,” Brock said. “Although it meant another deployment, the thing he was excited about was the opportunity to fly.” Wagstaff spoke fondly of the Afghan people he worked with and described them as “accepting and loving,” Brock said. “(They were) why he felt justified in being there,” Brock said. “It helped him feel like he was doing something worthwhile.”

Wagstaff was scheduled for mid-tour leave next month, Brock said.

His parents, Ronald and Suzanne, “were very proud of the fact that he was serving our country,” Brock said.

Wagstaff's death marks the second announced in two weeks for the state.

Last week, the death of 22-year-old Aaron Kramer, a graduate of Skyline High School in Millcreek, was announced. Kramer was among a team of soldiers holding down a base in southern Afghanistan when he was shot by Taliban rebels. He died during his evacuation to a military hospital.

Danish Soldier Killed And Another Badly Wounded By IED Near Gereshk

22-09-2010 Hærens Operative Kommando

Afghanistan, Helmand: A Danish soldier was killed and one soldier was seriously wounded by an explosion from an improvised explosive device. The closest relatives have been informed

Wednesday morning at approx. 7.40 local time, a Danish soldier killed and one badly injured when a dismounted security task triggered an improvised explosive device. The incident happened south of the patrol base Bridzar approx. six kilometers northeast of Gereshk.

The two soldiers from Charlie Company are seconded from the Royal Guard.

His comrades gave first aid on the spot, and both soldiers were evacuated by helicopter to the field hospital at Camp Bastion. Despite the rendered first aid and rapid response was the one soldier dead on arrival at Camp Bastion. The other soldier is still being processed.

Head of the Army Operational Command, Major General Agner Rokos said:

We have today lost one of our soldiers who were killed in southern Afghanistan when his platoon during a dismounted security task was hit by an explosion. A further soldier was seriously wounded during the incident. It is a hard blow for us all.

Head of the Danish Battlegroup in Helmand, Col. Lennie Fredskov says:

It's terrible to hear about our soldier's deaths.

We are all deeply concerned and our thoughts are with his family, whose world suddenly sunk in the gravel.

My thoughts go also to comrades in Charlie Company, which in these hours are affected by the shock of a good friend's untimely death.

Parkersburg Native Killed In Afghanistan

September 15, 2010 By JOLENE CRAIG, Parkersburg News and Sentinel [Excerpts]

BELPRE - A family is mourning the loss of a brother who died last week in Afghanistan during an attack on a base where he was a civilian worker.

William Glenn Allen, 51, of Munhall, Pa., died Sept. 6 while working as an electrician on the LOGCAP IV program in Howz-e-Madad in Kandahar province, according to Dyncorp International, which employed him for the United States government.

"He was just a good brother, and his death is a real shock to all of us," said his sister Linda Phaneuf of Belpre. "I didn't want him to go - none of us wanted him to go because he was the only brother we had left."

Allen, a 1977 graduate of Parkersburg High School, was one of nine children. Six sisters, including Phaneuf, Brenda Adkins, Sherry Loan, Sandra Adkins and Melody Allen, all of Parkersburg, and Virginia Lamb of Ironstation, N.C., survive him along with his wife Lois Allen and daughter Jamie Lynn Allen McCandless of Pittsburgh as well as stepchildren, Wendy Williams of Virginia Beach, Va., and Billy Williams of Maryland and seven grandchildren.

Phaneuf said her brother had been to Afghanistan twice before this last assignment to do electrical work.

"This was his third time over there," she said. "Where he was before he was safe, but they moved him this time and he wasn't safe anymore."

Phaneuf said the reason Allen chose to take on the dangerous job was the money.

"The money was really good," she said. "He wanted to make some fast money to retire with his wife, who is already retired. He thought he would make good money to support his family and be able to relax, but that didn't happen."

Allen was killed at the time of the attack while two others later died of wounds received, according to Dyncorp.

The others included Alan Herzel, 48, of Milton, Fla., who worked as a plumber foreman, received medical care after the incident but later passed away as a result of his injuries and a third subcontract employee who provided information technology support for the program.

A number of individuals who were wounded in the attack were transported by medevac for hospital care.

Milton Contractor Killed In Afghanistan

September 17, 2010 Troy Moon, PNJ.com [Excerpts]

Connie Herzel married in March.

On Saturday, the newlywed will bury her husband, a plumbing contractor who was killed earlier this month in a mortar attack in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Alan Herzel, 48, of East Milton was killed on Sept. 6 while working to set up a remote forward base for military troops. Two other contractors also were killed in the mortar attack.

Herzel had served more than a year in Iraq before being transferred to Afghanistan in July.

"He came home for 21 days in March, and everything fell into place," said Herzel, 52, a retired deputy sheriff from Virginia. "We got married at the Moose Lodge on March 27."

The couple had been together for five years.

"We knew we loved each other," she said. "That's what was important. So we were in no hurry to get married."

Alan Herzel, a 1980 graduate of Pensacola High, served as a U.S. Air Force policeman before leaving the military and starting a career as a master plumber.

He was working for DynCorp International in Afghanistan. His widow said he took great pride in trying to improve the living conditions of military personnel overseas.

"He was real close to them," she said. "He was over there working to make sure they had running water and bathroom facilities."

But he was like that even with his buddies back home, she said.

"He really liked helping his friends," she said. "Before he went over there, he'd come home from work all tired, and a friend would call with a plumbing problem, and he would take off."

He was also a man who liked life's "simple pleasures," she said.

He loved fishing and boating and was content to spend an entire afternoon tending pork butts he was fond of smoking in the pit.

"He could sit out there all day," she said. "And be as happy as anything."

Herzel went to the Middle East for work because of the economy back home. He was hoping things would improve so he could return to the Gulf Coast.

His 15-year-old daughter, Emily, lives in Gautier, Miss.

"She wants to go in the Air Force like her daddy," Connie Herzel said. "She wants to be a nurse."

Connie Herzel said she and her husband communicated twice a day on Facebook.

"He wrote me before he went to work in the morning and again when he got off," she said.

Besides his wife and daughter, Herzel is survived by a sister, brother and many other relatives.

Unfortunately, Herzel never got to ride the motorcycle he won in a raffle from the Moose Lodge, where he was a member.

"I bought six tickets — three for me and three for him," Connie Herzel said. "He won a Harley Sportster. He had pictures of it, but that was it. It's in the shed now. I guess I'm going to have to learn to ride it for him."

Two Lithuanian Soldier Shot While Shopping In Cheghcheran

23 September TOLONews

Two Lithuanian troops and one civilian were hurt after an armed man targeted them with small arms fire in western Ghour province on Thursday, provincial officials say

"A man with a weapon attacked Lithuanian soldiers working under ISAF's Provincial Reconstruction Team early at eleven am today and two of them were wounded in the incident," a provincial spokesperson, Abdul Hai Khatibi, told TOLONews reporter.

While the two soldiers were busy shopping in Cheghcheran, provincial capital, they came under attack, Mr Khatibi said.

A shopkeeper was also hurt in the incident and one of the wounded soldiers is said to be in severe condition.

Provincial officials said the attacker has managed to flee the area.

Fuel Tankers Supplying U.S. Occupation Troops Blown Up In Pakistan

September 23rd, 2010 CNN

Explosions on oil tankers carrying fuel for U.S. forces in Afghanistan killed two people and wounded four in northwestern Pakistan, a local official told CNN.

The incidents took place near Afghanistan in the areas of Landi Kotal and Torkham in the Khyber Agency, part of Pakistan's tribal region, said Shafi Ullah Wazir, the Khyber political administrator.

Wazir said explosive devices were planted on the tankers, which were bound for forces in Afghanistan.

Resistance Action

Sep 19, 2010 By Heidi Vogt - The Associated Press & September 21, 2010 By ALISSA J. RUBIN, The New York Times & September 23rd, 2010 BNO News & TOLONews

In the south on Sunday, rockets disrupted efforts by officials to rally support against the Taliban in the Arghandab district of Kandahar.

Officials including the governor and Ahmad Wali Karzai, chairman of the Kandahar provincial council and President Karzai's brother, addressed about 150 people in Babasab, a town that is a staging ground for attacks on Kandahar city.

"We need your help," Ahmad Wali Karzai said. "We want you to give your men to the army and police. We will support you in every possible way."

Three rockets were fired at the meeting, with the closest landing about 45 yards away. There were no injuries.

Six Afghan security guards died Tuesday when a roadside bomb exploded as they were driving in the Shinwari District of Parwan Province, according to Gen. Basir Salangi, the provincial governor. The security guards, who worked for the Hajji Naveed Construction Company, were guarding workers who were paving a 45-mile stretch of road that connects Parwan with neighboring provinces.

A bomb aimed at a United Nations convoy in Parwan Province killed three police escorts and a driver.

At least 19 people were wounded in consecutive explosions in the eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan at 9pm on Wednesday. According to unconfirmed reports, two National Security employees are also among the wounded. The incident occurred when a vehicle of the National Security officials was hit by two road-side mine blasts in Jalalabad city, the provincial capital of Nangarhar province, Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, a spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar told TOLONews.

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

Despite Lying Bullshit From General Betrayus, Afghan Election Statistics "Suggest A Dismal Turnout"

September 21, 2010 CNN

Kabul, Afghanistan: -- An independent watchdog group says it has "serious concerns about the quality" of the Afghan parliamentary elections last weekend, citing "electoral violations and irregularities" and security problems that forced polling centers to close.

Despite praise from U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. military commander in Afghanistan, and Afghan President Hamid

Karzai regarding Saturday's balloting, the statistics suggest a dismal turnout, with nearly a million fewer votes cast than in the national election a year ago.

Welcome To Obama Style Afghan Democracy: Reporter Arrested By U.S. Military Occupation For Doing His Job; “Naikzad Was In Regular Contact With Members Of The Taliban And Government Officials So He Could Report On Insurgent And Government Activities”

September 21, 2010 By Associated Press [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan: — The U.S. military has arrested an Afghan journalist in the eastern region of Ghazni, saying it is investigating suspicions he may have been too close to Taliban militants.

Family members of the journalist, Rahmatullah Naikzad, strongly denied the allegations that he may have spread insurgent propaganda and filmed attacks tied to last weekend's parliamentary elections.

The NATO statement announcing his detention did not detail any of the accusations.

According to colleagues, Naikzad was in regular contact with members of the Taliban and government officials so he could report on insurgent and government activities.

He is an ethnic Tajik, a group that tends to be hostile to the Taliban.

Since late 2007, The Associated Press has used video and photographs supplied by Naikzad on a freelance basis.

An active local radio journalist, he also has worked for Al-Jazeera Arabic service, according to his brother, Abdullah Naikzad.

The NATO statement did not specify if any news outlet used video or photos provided by Rahmatullah Naikzad during the election.

The U.S. has detained local journalists in both Afghanistan and Iraq for questioning or on suspicions of having contact with anti-U.S. elements. In most cases, they eventually have been exonerated or released.

The NATO statement said that intelligence tips led the joint NATO and Afghan force early Monday to a compound in the town of Ghazni, where they apprehended Naikzad.

Three grenades, magazines and a "significant number of AK-47 rounds" were found in the compound, according to NATO.

His relatives reported that the joint force detonated explosives at the gate of the compound, used dogs to search the house and left with two grenades, money and a video disk. It is very common for Afghans to keep weapons for self-protection.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Government Soldiers Run Away When Insurgents Attack: “President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed's Government Is On Its Last Legs” "We Are Riding A Dead Horse"

Shebab fighters have nevertheless moved closer, and are now just a couple of blocks from the avenue, presenting a serious threat to the crucial supply line that cuts right through the middle of the city, and forcing AMISOM to set up two new positions there.

22 September 2010 All Africa

Mogadishu — After a worrying setback when their Somali government allies deserted their posts, African Union troops in Mogadishu managed to contain the situation, but remain under pressure.

At one point, according to a foreign observer, only the Ugandan troops stood their ground to fight off the Al-Qaeda-inspired Shebab rebels, as government forces fled.

On August 23, the Shebab announced a fresh operation "to eliminate the invading Christians and their apostate government."

For around 10 days, waves of Shebab fighters attacked African Union (AMISOM) and government positions to cries of "Allahu akbar" (God is greatest).

Most of the fighting was concentrated in the seaside capital's northeastern neighbourhoods.

The insurgents, who include several seasoned foreign jihadis, advanced on the presidential palace and parliament.

At one point, they threatened Maka al-Mukarama, a strategic thoroughfare linking the harbour to the airport and AMISOM's main lifeline.

"For 48 hours, there was a very alarming period of swaying," said a foreign Mogadishu-based official.

"It was a complete fiasco for the TFG (transitional federal government)".

Soldiers, militiamen and to a lesser degree moderate Sufi allied forces - all deployed along different segments of the front line - "abandoned most of their positions," the official said.

Under Shebab pressure, some vacated their positions without a fight, while others retreated frantically when they ran out of ammunition.

"At one point, only the Ugandans (the main contingent in AMISOM) were fighting," the foreign observer said.

"Fighting has escalated since August 24. This was characterised by TFG forces withdrawing from their positions," admitted Colonel Mickael Ondoga, who commands the Ugandan force.

"When they ran, they exposed us and made our positions more vulnerable, we had to move to take tactical advantage," he added.

Ondoga explained that AMISOM deployed tanks and other armoured vehicles - the kind of equipment the Shebab lack - and punched back.

"The TFG withdrew from a dozen positions... Most of these positions have been reoccupied (by AMISOM) and now the government forces have started coming back to these positions," he said.

After a week's lull in the fighting, it emerged clearly that the Shebab had failed to reach their military objectives of capturing the presidential compound and cutting Maka al-Mukarama.

Shebab fighters have nevertheless moved closer, and are now just a couple of blocks from the avenue, presenting a serious threat to the crucial supply line that cuts right through the middle of the city, and forcing AMISOM to set up two new positions there.

"This offensive was a failure," AMISOM spokesman Ba-Hoku Barigye claimed for his part. "The enemy was not able to chase us from a single of our positions and on the contrary, we have advanced in the city," he said.

But according to a local journalist, AU forces made scant gains, only taking over some front-line positions previously held by their Somali government allies.

The TFG forces' disorderly retreat last month however confirmed that President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed's government is on its last legs, unlikely to breed a force able to take over security duties from AMISOM.

"We are riding a dead horse," was the uncompromising assessment made by one of AMISOM's political officials.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

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

**I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace**

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

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**

**The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”
-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done**

**A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.
-- Leon Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution**

**“The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy”
-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt**

**It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it.
-- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers**

Huge Majority Of Americans Reject Democrat And Republican Congressional Politicians

September 19, 2010 By Chris Cillizza, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

In an Associated Press poll released last week, 38 percent of respondents approved of the job Democrats in Congress are doing, while 60 percent disapproved - not exactly where any party wants to be this close to an election.

The ratings for Republicans in Congress, however, were even worse, with 31 percent approving and 68 percent disapproving.

A New York Times/CBS News survey released last week also showed congressional Democrats' approval rating at a measly 30 percent, while congressional Republicans' sat at a ghastly 20 percent.

And in a Washington Post-ABC News poll released this month, voters expressed a distinct desire not to reelect incumbents in either party. Just 34 percent said Democrats deserved reelection, while 31 percent said Republicans did.

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Election 2010: The Evil Of The Two Lessers

9-21-10 By Marti Hiken and Luke Hiken, Progressive Avenues

Progressive Avenues can be found at www.progressiveavenues.org. The website is updated regularly. Responses should be directed to info@progressiveavenues.org.

With the elections gearing up, it is crucial for us to think critically about the concept of voting for “the lesser of two evils.”

The party line is that Progressives must vote for Obama because he is the lesser of two evils.

Every time an election rolls around this is what the Democratic Party and its allies tell us.

It is what many Progressives tell us.

It is practically beaten into us.

We are guilt-tripped and chastised for questioning the validity of the Democratic candidate. We are told that we are throwing our votes away if we don't vote for the Democratic candidate – especially for the Presidency.

Yet, each time we vote for the lesser of two evils, the Progressives throw away a part of themselves, what they believe in, what they fight and struggle for, and what is morally right.

Compromise, they tell us, is an integral part of politics.

There is another side of politics, though. Winning and building a lasting Progressive Movement.

The “lesser of two evils” is not always the best choice: there are other factors that enter into the equation.

The ability to build a positive alternative to corruption and violence requires the establishment of a solid foundation, an atmosphere of trust and confidence, and a belief in our own ability to build a better future.

A “lesser evil” can immobilize a growing movement, create an atmosphere of despair and failure, and render impotent an attitude of struggle and potential.

In such situations, it is sometimes preferable to face the consequences of unbridled cruelty and corruption, rather than rely on a less visible and tangible enemy.

Where do Progressives learn to run a government or learn from their victories and strengths? How can the people judge our decisions if we never get a chance to put them into effect and test them?

The question is not whether the lesser candidate does some scintilla of good, but rather, whether the people are ultimately empowered more by their presence and actions than by having to fight the true enemy without false promises and dashed hopes.

The fact is that people suffer as much from the Democrats as they do from the Republicans. There is no difference between them any longer.

Some argue that not voting the Democratic Party line suggests that "the worse things are, the better." This isn't the case. So, let's be clear on what we're talking about here.

Take an extreme example: Say that there are people to the right of the Tea Party, for example -- terrible people who believe that Jews, minorities, Catholics, and everyone they hate, should be killed. Let's say that they go further than this: they believe that all women who get abortions should be killed, etc. It is obvious that we don't support these extremists by saying: "Let's support the Tea Party because it's the lesser of two evils."

The point is that there are boundaries that we will not cross to support Democratic Party candidates. We have reached those limits.

The political spectrum, through the inaction and acquiescence of the Democratic Party, already has moved from the center to the right before our very eyes and we have done nothing.

Here's a "short list" of the ATROCITIES that Obama has committed since he's been in office, and it is virtually impossible to envisage a worse set of choices: Allowing DADT; keeping Guantanamo open; Sending the National Guard to the Mexican Border; Giving us the woeful compromise on health care; Harshening the embargo against Cuba; Supporting Israel and abandoning Palestine; Tax cuts for the rich; Bailouts for the banks; Surveillance of the American people; Supporting oil interests; Supporting the death penalty; "Bipartisanship" vs. Principle; Renditions; Military tribunals; Crusades in the Middle East; Supporting the missile shield; Drones; Abandonment of allies (Jones, Sherrod, etc.); Sanctioning of torture; No criminal charges for war crimes against Yoo, Bybee, Rumsfeld, Bush; Support of the military, its budget, its incursions into country after country, its ever-expanding use of mercenaries, etc.

On what basis do we predict "Well, he's better than Palin might be?"

Since there is always someone to the right, where do we draw the line? Isn't it possible that we, the people, are likely to prevent Palin-types from committing the abuses Obama endorses every day, because we are wary of her and set limits for illegalities?

What has Obama got to do before you say "He's as bad as any right-winger that could be in office?"

The fact that he doesn't openly support lynchings doesn't make him better than Palin!! When she calls for lynchings, expect people to rebel; when Obama remains silent in the face of them, the country will continue to be split down the middle.

**September 23, 1939:
Disgusting Imperial Anniversary;**

Hitler Sells Lithuania, Stalin Buys

Carl Bunin Peace News 9.23 – 9.30

Nazi-led Germany [capitalists pretending to be “National Socialists”] and the Communist Soviet Union [capitalists pretending to be Communists] considered enemies at the time, negotiated an addendum to the Hitler-Stalin Pact ceding Lithuania, the small independent country on the Baltic Sea, to the Soviets’ sphere of influence [translation: to the Russian Empire] in exchange for 7.5 million gold dollars.

Josef Stalin, the Georgian who was General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, and Adolf Hitler, Chancellor of Germany, had agreed the previous month to allow Germany free reign [translation: to expand the German Empire] in eastern Europe, leading to Germany’s invasion of Poland.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Executed By Zionists For Going Fishing While Palestinian



Palestinians carry the body of fisherman Mohammed Baker during his funeral in Gaza September 24, 2010. The Israeli navy fired on a Palestinian boat off the northern Gaza Strip on Friday, killing Baker, the territory's Hamas administration said. An Israeli military

spokeswoman confirmed that naval vessels shot at a fishing boat. REUTERS/Suhaib Salem

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

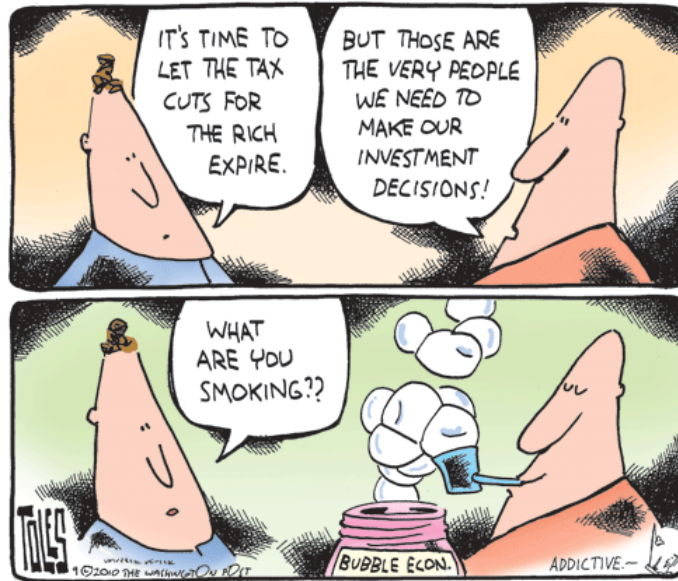


Troops Invited:

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.

"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

CLASS WAR REPORTS



Get The Message?



Pakistani citizens rally near the U. S. Consulate to condemn the imprisonment of Aafia Siddiqui on Sept. 23, 2010 in Lahore, Pakistan. A U.S.- trained Pakistani scientist convicted of trying to kill U.S. agents and military officers in Afghanistan was sentenced Thursday to 86 years in prison. She was brought to the United States after her July 2008 arrest in Afghanistan. She was convicted of grabbing a rifle and trying to shoot US authorities while yelling, 'Death to Americans!', which she denied doing. (AP Photo / K.M.Chaudary)

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.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)



Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

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

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

<http://williambowles.info/wordpress/category/military-resistance/> ;

news@uruknet.info; http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/

POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS

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