

Military Resistance 8J11

[Two To Remember]

#1:

“It’s So Senseless”

**“You Try To Find Reasons For Cody
Losing His Life At 19 Years Of Age, But
You Don’t Find The Answers”**



Pfc. Cody Board

October 13, 2010 by Peter Bodley, ABC Newspapers

The grandson of retired Coon Rapids High School teacher and wrestling coach Bob Board and his late wife, Sally, died in action in Afghanistan last week.

Pfc. Cody Board, who had joined the Army Airborne Rangers after graduating from McKinney North High School in McKinney, Texas, in 2009, was killed Oct. 4 by an improvised explosive device in Mirwais, Afghanistan, while returning from patrol.

Assigned to the 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Cody would have celebrated his 20th birthday this week.

Funeral service for Cody Board was scheduled to take place today (Friday, Oct. 15) in McKinney, where the family has lived since 1999.

Cody Board's father, Chris, was a 1985 graduate of Coon Rapids High School and went on to attend West Point Military Academy, from where he graduated in 1989 and served in the front lines during Operation Desert Storm in the early 1990s.

According to Bob Board, Chris Board settled in McKinney, Texas, which is about 30 miles north of Dallas, Texas, after retiring from the military with the rank of captain. He now works for Raytheon on quality control for special military projects, Board said.

"Cody wanted badly to join the military to follow in his father's footsteps," he said. "He wanted the military lifestyle."

He was also a wrestler like his father and grandfather.

Bob Board was a state champion wrestler in 1955 as an Anoka High School student and retired from Coon Rapids High School in 1997 after 33 years of teaching and coaching the high school wrestling team.

But Cody did not start wrestling until high school, according to Board. "Wrestling is not as big in Texas as it is Minnesota," Board said.

He lettered in both wrestling and cross country in high school.

Cody was initially stationed in Germany prior to his deployment to Afghanistan in late June or early July, his grandfather said.

"He was not there a long time," Board said. "He had been shipped to the front lines."

Board got to see Cody regularly. He would come to Minnesota for one or two weeks in the summer and they would also get together on holidays, like Christmas.

"We were very good friends," Board said.

And Board was very grateful that he was able to see Cody this past summer before he was deployed to Afghanistan, he said.

"My son, Jeff, flew him up here for four days," Board said. "It was a great thing that Jeff did and we had a wonderful time."

Coping with the news of his grandson's death in action is "like living a dream at first," according to Board.

But it gets tougher as the day of his funeral draws nearer, Board said.

Board flew to Texas Wednesday for the funeral.

"You try to find reasons for Cody losing his life at 19 years of age, but you don't find the answers," Board said. "It's so senseless."

According to Board, following the funeral service in McKinney, there will be a three-hour funeral procession to Fort Sill, Okla., where Cody will be buried in a military cemetery.

The Texas Patriot Guard motorcyclists will escort the funeral procession to the border where the Oklahoma Patriot Guard will continue the escort, Board said.

Coon Rapids resident Marlyn Hyland, who taught at Coon Rapids High School from 1964 until his retirement in 1996, except for five years at Roosevelt Middle School, and was Board's assistant wrestling coach for many of those years, also got to meet with Cody during his visit to Coon Rapids this past summer before Cody left for Afghanistan.

Hyland, who said he had known Cody since Cody was a small child because of his annual trips to see his grandparents, described Cody as "happy go lucky" who wanted to join the military.

"Cody was a leader and people liked to be around him," Hyland said.

A vigil for Cody took place the evening of Oct. 8 at McKinney North High School and the high school football team wore his initials on their football helmets in his memory.

Following the news of his death, Cody's Facebook page immediately turned into an online memorial.

His brother, Aaron, a senior at McKinney North High School, wrote, "You are and always have been my hero, my inspiration."

Cody is survived by his father, Chris; mother, Melissa Sue; brothers, Aaron and Tyler, a freshman at McKinney North High School; as well as paternal grandfather, Board; and maternal grandfather, retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. Al Daly of Grove, Okla.

MORE:

[Two To Remember]

#2:

"Dedicated To Lcpl Ralph J. Fabbri"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0AKEbH-TYM>

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**Obama's Lying Bullshit Reeks On:
U.S. Combat Troops Who Are No Longer
In Iraq Go Into Action In Tikrit**



A U.S. soldier on patrol near the site of a bomb attack in Tikrit, 150 km (95 miles) north of Baghdad, October 19, 2010. REUTERS/Sabah al-Bazee

Resistance Action



A huge bomb tore through the home of Lt. Col. Qais Rashid, Iraqi police, in Tikrit, killing eight members of his family. AP Photo/Bassim Daham

10.19.2010 AFP & AP & Oct 20 Reuters & Oct 27 (Reuters) & Oct 28 (Reuters) & Oct 30 (Reuters)

JALAWLA - A roadside bomb killed the head of Jalawla's criminal investigation unit, Mohammed al-Tememi, and three of his bodyguards when it went off in Jalawla, 115 km (170 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police said.

JALAWLA - A sticky bomb attached to a car wounded two off-duty policemen who were in the vehicle when it went off in central Jalawla, police said.

A roadside bomb hit the convoy carrying U.N. special envoy to Iraq Ad Melkert on Tuesday, killing one policeman and wounding three when it exploded in Najaf.

ABU GHRAIB - Guerrillas attacked an Iraqi army checkpoint in Abu Ghraib, on the western outskirts of Baghdad, killing two soldiers.

KIRKUK - Guerrillas in a speeding car opened fire and wounded a policeman in the southern parts of the city of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

MOSUL - A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi police patrol went off and wounded three policemen in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

BASRA - A sticky bomb attached to the car of a South Oil Company employee went off and wounded him in central Basra, 420 km (260 miles) southeast of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - A sticky bomb attached to the car of a police colonel went off and killed him in Baghdad's southwestern Amil district, police said.

BAGHDAD - A sticky bomb attached to the car of a police brigadier general went off and wounded him seriously in Amil district, southwestern Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - A sticky bomb attached to the car of a Housing and Construction Ministry employee went off and wounded him in central Baghdad's Karrada district, police said.

MOSUL - A car bomber targeting a federal police base killed a policeman and wounded seven others, in western Mosul, police said.

ABU GHRAIB - A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol wounded two soldiers, police said.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed By IED Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Saturday: Nationality Not Announced

October 30 AP

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

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

October 30 AP

A foreign servicemember died in an insurgent attack in Afghanistan Saturday.

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed By IED Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Thursday: Nationality Not Announced

October 28 AP

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

Rosamond Family Prepares To Bury Soldier Killed In Afghanistan:

“I Had To Try To Explain To A 4-Year-Old That His Daddy Was Not Coming Home”

October 13, 2010 By JODY MURPHY, News And Sentinel

A Parkersburg man killed in Afghanistan this weekend is coming home to be buried.

Details are sketchy, but, a 2003 Parkersburg South High School graduate, was apparently driving a vehicle that was struck by a roadside bomb, said Hess' mother Kathryn Dowler.

Hess, 25, had been living in Ruskin, Fla., where he worked in construction before he joined the military in December. Hess, a member of the 101st Airborne, shipped out to Afghanistan in June from Fort Campbell, Ky., said Dowler, who spoke to Hess about two weeks ago.

“He called me every week,” she said.

Sarah Hess said her brother talked about seeing his buddies hit by a roadside bomb.

She spoke to him by phone on her birthday and the two chatted over the computer once or twice a week.

“He was scared,” she said. “There was a roadside bomb and one of the guys in his platoon had been killed and he was scared.”

Hess' Facebook page lists “Only the dead have seen the end of war” as his favorite quote.

Hess' father Jeffrey was the first member of the family to be notified of his son's death.

Jeffrey Hess, who lives in Ruskin, said he was heading to work Sunday afternoon when he was informed by military officials. He described his son as the all-American kid who played baseball, football and wrestled at Parkersburg South, and enjoyed hunting, fishing and watching sports.

Jeffrey Hess called his daughter Sarah Hess to deliver the news. Sarah Hess called her older sister, Christie Hess. The two drove to Cisco in Ritchie County to tell his mother.

“My mother was the last to know,” Christie Hess said. “We couldn't find her.”

Dowler, who was four-wheeling Sunday, didn't return to the house until around 7 p.m. when she was greeted by her daughters and servicemen. “They showed up around 3 o'clock in the afternoon,” Dowler said. “I got back at 7 p.m. and they were still sitting on the porch, waiting on me when I got back.”

Dowler said funeral arrangements are being made at Lambert-Tatman Funeral Home on Pike Street. Memorial services will be at the South Parkersburg Baptist Church, but a date has not been set, Sarah Hess said.

Dowler said everything is up in the air until Hess' body is released by the military. Dowler had nothing but praise for the officers helping the family. "They have been excellent," she said.

Dowler said Hess will be buried at the family plot in Sandyville next to his grandfather, who died in March.

Sarah and Christie said their phones have been ringing off the hook from people calling to express their concern and condolences.

"I don't even answer my phone," Sarah Hess said. "It still won't bring him back."

When the men in formal military uniforms showed up at the door of her Fort Campbell, Ky. home on Sunday afternoon, Diane Hess knew right away why they were there.

"It felt like they literally punched me in the chest and ripped my heart out," the Tampa-born Hess said about hearing that her husband, Army Pfc. David Hess, was killed in Afghanistan.

The man she fell in love with five years ago in Ruskin was another American service member killed by an improvised explosive device. As she cried over the news, her little boy turned to her and asked a question. "Mommy," asked 4-year-old Bryor Hess, who was born in Ruskin, "is daddy alive?"

The two met after David Hess moved to Florida from West Virginia to live with his father Jeffrey Hess, who had moved to the state after divorcing David's mother.

Diane Hess even remembers the day. Hess said she was introduced to the then-19-year-old construction worker by friends. They quickly became friends and, within months, friendship blossomed into more, says Hess.

For her, anyway, it was love at first sight. "I knew from the first day I saw him" she says, her voice trailing off. Hess said the two got together on Jan. 7, 2005, her 23rd birthday. Eleven months later, on Nov. 23, their son Bryor was born.

The man who loved the outdoors, loved to hunt deer and fish with his dad, stuck with the woman he would wed Dec. 6, 2008, said Hess.

"He never missed a doctor's appointment," she said. "He was there for the birth."

But as the family came together, David Hess lost his job building aluminum cages for pools as the Florida housing bubble exploded. He was rehired, but then laid off again. With no income, Hess said her husband turned to her with an idea.

"He came home and said to me he was going to join the military," she said. "He mentioned that a couple of times before, but he never really had something to push him. Now he had me and his son and he just wanted to make sure we were taken care of."

After David enlisted, they moved from Ruskin to Fort Campbell on Dec. 1, 2009, she said. At first, being on their own was the best thing to happen, she said.

Then came the basic training and military schooling. Four months ago, he was deployed to Afghanistan with the 1st Battalion, 75th Cavalry Regiment, 101 Airborne Division Air Assault.

When he first got there, he was stationed in Kandahar, with easy access to the Internet and phone service. The couple communicated frequently. But by July, David Hess was moved to a new location, and the calls and Skypes were more sporadic. Through it all, Hess said her husband kept a brave face. "He didn't talk too much about the stress," she said. "He told me to stay strong, he would be coming home."

But the horror of war took its toll, especially after his good friend, Cpl. De'Angelo Snow, was killed.

While he "sugar coated everything" to his wife, David Hess was more vivid in his Facebook posts. "I wish these would stop blowin' us up; it's gettin' old...just shoot at us," he wrote in his last post, on Oct. 5.

Now Hess has a husband to bury and a child to raise on her own. "He thinks his daddy is at work," she said. "I had to try to explain to a 4-year-old that his daddy was not coming home."

Before leaving for Afghanistan, David Hess told his loved ones he wanted to be buried in West Virginia.

Jeffrey Hess spoke to his son two weeks ago and he said Pfc. David Hess was nervous after a recent roadside bomb injured several of his fellow soldiers. "He said he didn't want to die like that," said Hess.

But on Sunday David's unit came under attack in Afghanistan and he was killed in an explosion after less than a year in the Army. "He changed into a man and he really straightened his life out," said Hess.

Hess talked about David's worries after he lost his job just before enlisting. He said David was worried about providing for his wife and child and he had a desire to be a man they would all be proud of.

"He wanted to retire from the Army and leave behind a legacy for his wife and son," said Hess who tearfully remembered his last conversation with David.

"I told him I loved him and that I missed him."

Army Spc. David A. Hess was killed in action on 10/10/10

Ruskin Soldier Dies In Afghanistan

October 12, 2010 By HOWARD ALTMAN, The Tampa Tribune

When the men in formal military uniforms showed up at the door of her Fort Campbell, Ky. home on Sunday afternoon, Diane Hess knew right away why they were there.

“It felt like they literally punched me in the chest and ripped my heart out,” the Tampa-born Hess said about hearing that her husband, Army Pfc. David Hess, was killed in Afghanistan.

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As she cried over the news, her little boy turned to her and asked a question.

“Mommy,” asked 4-year-old Bryor Hess, who was born in Ruskin, “is daddy alive?”

The two met after David Hess moved to Florida from West Virginia to live with his father Jeffrey Hess, who had moved to the state after divorcing David’s mother.

Diane Hess even remembers the day.

Feb. 2, 2004.

Hess said she was introduced to the then-19-year-old construction worker by friends. They quickly became friends and, within months, friendship blossomed into more, says Hess.

For her, anyway, it was love at first sight.

“I knew from the first day I saw him...” she says, her voice trailing off.

Hess said the two got together on Jan. 7, 2005, her 23rd birthday. Eleven months later, on Nov. 23, their son Bryor was born.

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Now Hess has a husband to bury and a child to raise on her own.

“He thinks his daddy is at work,” she said. “I had to try to explain to a 4-year-old that his daddy was not coming home.”

Before leaving for Afghanistan, David Hess told his loved ones he wanted to be buried in West Virginia.

A service will be held there either this weekend or next, Hess said.

Fitzgerald Community Honors Fallen Airman

Oct. 07, 2010 By MARLON A. WALKER, The Macon Sun

FITZGERALD — Wednesday’s service for U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Michael John Buras was the culmination of several days of mourning during which thousands paid tribute to the first combat-related death since the Vietnam War for this small town of about 9,000.

Buras was killed Sept. 21 after a bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 99th Civil Engineering ordnance disposal team based out of Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Buras, 23, who was born in Tifton and grew up in Fitzgerald, was a 2005 graduate of Fitzgerald High School.

Nearly 400 people packed the chapel at Arbor Baptist Church in Fitzgerald. It seemed they all had a story to share.

An Air Force team leader recalled a gifted worker with no filter between what went on in his head and what came out of his mouth. A former high school soccer coach recalled a rambunctious teen who was “high speed, low draft.”

They told stories of Little Mikey or BB Gun, Nighthawk — as he was called by others in the service — or Bubba, how he was known by his family.

The soccer coach, David Vaughn, said no matter what name he was known by, you always got the same Michael.

“He was a man of passion and purpose,” Vaughn said Wednesday morning. “Everything that crossed his path ... was drawn to him.”

Inside and outside the church, people told stories of a pint-sized dynamo, always ready for anything.

“He may have been small in structure,” said Johnny Smith, who knew Buras from Fitzgerald High and through the church, “but he had a heart of gold. He was a good kid. You won’t hear anything bad about him.”

Trey Holley, the team leader, thanked Michael for saving his life during a combat-related incident in Afghanistan last year where they both suffered injuries. Buras was awarded a Purple Heart for that.

“Whenever Michael said ‘I got this,’ he did,” Holley told the audience. “I can never thank you enough for your friendship, camaraderie and service.”

In his final travels, Buras touched more lives.

More than 1,500 military personnel greeted the body when it landed Saturday at Robins Air Force Base. Several hundred more lined the streets as his body was transported from the base to Paulk Funeral Home in Fitzgerald. Hundreds more were out Wednesday morning at various points, including the soccer field at his old high school, as a hearse carried the body from the funeral home to the church. U.S. Rep. Jim Marshall was among those who attended the funeral.

Even more lined the sides of the road as the hearse made its way from the church through the county and various cities to Andersonville National Cemetery in Andersonville, where Buras was finally laid to rest after receiving full military honors.

It was one of the bigger events in Fitzgerald in awhile. The church opened a hall for additional seating to accommodate those who couldn’t fit inside the church. Radio station WRDO-FM broadcast the entire service.

Flags were set up at various spots along the nearly 100-mile procession from the funeral home to the cemetery. Law enforcement officials from the city, as well as the Ben Hill County Sheriff’s Office, were there to ensure a smooth transition. Members of the Patriot Guard Riders, a group of motorcyclists who helped keep away any potential anti-

war protesters or anybody looking to ruin the celebration of a fallen soldier's life, also were there.

Buras leaves behind a wife, Emily, and a daughter, Maddison, of Las Vegas; his mother, Joy Buras of Fayetteville, N.C.; his father, John E. Buras of Oroville, Calif.; two sisters; a brother; his grandparents and others.

Swanton Salutes Its Fallen Marine



A Marine Corps honor guard carries the coffin of Lance Cpl. Anthony Rosa to the hearse after funeral services Saturday at Missisquoi Valley Union High School in Swanton.
GLENN RUSSELL, Free Press

October 3, 2010 By Matt Ryan, Free Press Staff Writer

Lance Cpl. Anthony “Chuckie” Rosa considered being a gentleman an honor, and addressed people as ma’am and sir long before he joined the U.S. Marines, Bill Rowell said.

Rowell, close friend of Rosa’s grandfather, spoke to nearly 1,000 people who attended the fallen Marine’s funeral Saturday in the gym of the Missisquoi Valley Union High School in Swanton. Most of the visitors parked in a field at the Franklin County State Airport, about a mile away. School buses shuttled them to the campus.

Rosa graduated from MVU in 2008. He loved Ford cars and trucks, and golf — he sunk his first hole-in-one at the age of 13, Rowell said.

He had strong moral fiber, and was the sort of guy you could count on to help push your car out of a ditch at 1 a.m.

He was also proud to be a Marine. "Chuckie, on behalf of a grateful nation, we thank you," Rowell said. "God bless you."

Rosa, 20 of Swanton was killed Sept. 23 while on patrol in Afghanistan's Helmand province. Hundreds of people lined the streets of his hometown Wednesday as a motorcade escorted his body to the funeral home. Friends recalled Rosa's loyalty, generosity, smile and laugh.

Bishop Salvatore Matano presided over the Mass at Saturday's funeral, which Vermont's Congregational delegation, Gov. Jim Douglas and Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie attended.

Rosa is survived by his parents, four sisters and a brother, grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He is the 39th U.S. serviceman either from Vermont or with close ties to the state who has died in support of the wars in Iraq, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and in Afghanistan, Operation Enduring Freedom, since March 2003.

This year, three other soldiers died in Afghanistan, all Vermont Army National Guardsmen. Spc. Ryan Grady, 25, of West Burke, was killed July 2; Spc. Tristan Southworth, 21, of Walden, and Sgt. Steven Deluzio, 25, of South Glastonbury, Conn., were killed Aug. 22.

Coldspring Soldier Killed In War



A Coldspring family is mourning the loss of their son, Sgt. Calvin Bernard Harrison, 31, who was killed September 29 in Uruzgan province in Afghanistan.

According to a statement from the Department of Defense, "Harrison was killed when insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire."

Harrison had served 11 years in the Army. He had safely returned from one previous tour in Iraq. He was deployed on a nine-month tour to Afghanistan at the time of his death.

According to the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) news service, "Harrison was born March 11, 1979, in Cleveland, Texas. He graduated in Coldspring, Texas, and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1998 as a psychological operations specialist.

"He served with the 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C., as a psychological operations specialist. In 2007, Harrison completed the Special Forces Qualification Course and earned the coveted "Green Beret" as a Special Forces medical sergeant, 18D. He was then assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), also at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"Harrison's military education includes the Basic Airborne Course, Warrior Leader Course, Advanced Leaders Course, Special Forces Qualification Course and Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape Course."

The USASOC statement goes on to say that Harrison's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, two Army Achievement Medals, Army Good Conduct Medal (third award), National Defense Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with numeral three, Army Service Ribbon, Special Forces Tab, Combat Infantryman Badge and Parachutist Badge.

He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal (second award), the Purple Heart and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Harrison is survived by two daughters, Azalia and Eleanna, and his parents, Jack Washington and Betty Harrison of Cleveland, Texas.

Five U.S. Troops Wounded In Paktika

30 October 2010 RTÉ

US troops killed as many as up to 38 insurgents after calling in air strikes to repel a Taliban attack on their outpost in southeast Afghanistan.

Five US troops were wounded in the attack when the base in Paktika province came under fire from rocket-propelled grenades, gunfire and mortars.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the Islamist group had attacked the base, claiming that six police outposts had been overrun in the assault.

Ridge Man Wounded In Afghanistan

10/12/2010 By Paul Wellersdick, Paradise Post

A 22-year-old Paradise High School graduate was in Bethesda Maryland's National Naval Medical Center Monday recovering from injuries sustained from an Oct. 5 attack near the Kajaki Dam in remote Afghanistan.

Andrew K Myers, a U.S. Marine Lance Corporal, was injured by a rocket-propelled grenade last week while protecting the dam, Paradise varsity football coach and uncle to Myers, Rick Prinz confirmed Monday. Though he didn't know details, he said Myers had major shrapnel injuries to his right side, including his torso, arm and leg. His left arm and head were also injured.

Jeany, Andrew's mother was flying to Maryland as of Monday morning to see her son, Prinz said.

A call to the naval center in Bethesda confirmed Andrew was in an operating room Monday afternoon.

After graduating PHS in 2007, Andrew graduated boot camp Aug. 8, 2008 and was trained for motor transportation in Fort Leonardwood, Missouri. He was deployed to Afghanistan on Mother's Day 2010 to the 3/12 India Battery attached to 1/11, Prinz said.

The Kajakai Dam a major hydroelectric dam on the Helmand River in the Helmand province in southern Afghanistan, with a capacity about 25 percent of Lake Oroville's.

Amazing News! "Security Is Deteriorating In Afghanistan"

Oct 12, 2010 Reuters

Security is deteriorating in Afghanistan, creating more war casualties and making it harder for aid agencies to reach people in need of food, water and health care, the Red Cross said on Tuesday.

In the southern city of Kandahar, Mirwais regional hospital registered nearly 1,000 war-wounded patients in August and September, record highs and double the number in the same period a year ago, the International Committee of the Red Cross said in a statement.

Imperial Arrogance Meets Whack-A-Mole In Zhari: “Elders And Village Leaders In The Cleared District Of Zhari In Kandahar Province Are Either Unwilling Or Unable To Stand Up To The Taliban”

October 29, 2010 By Ben Farmer, Irish Times [Excerpts]

AMERICAN soldiers who have this autumn cleared Taliban fighters from their heartland are finding it more difficult to court a suspicious and fearful population to prevent the insurgents' return.

Elders and village leaders in the cleared district of Zhari in Kandahar province are either unwilling or unable to stand up to the Taliban, American officers complain.

Operation Dragon Strike, the set-piece offensive of the year, has pushed thousands of US and Afghan troops into the valleys where the Taliban movement arose, west of Kandahar city.

In a repeat of previous operations, the rebels faced overwhelming force and largely fled south into the Reg desert or stashed their AK-47s and grenade launchers to melt away.

A series of grenades thrown by teenagers at American patrols in Senjaray's maze of mud-brick alleyways had highlighted the difficulty.

Two days after a grenade had peppered a young sergeant with shrapnel in his thighs and groin, the Americans called a shura, or meeting, at their Senjaray outpost.

Labourers earning €4.80 a day dredging canals for the Americans had begun informing where Taliban booby traps could be found, but the appointed elders were unwilling or powerless to hand in, or drive out, the grenade-throwers.

“Right now we are in a position to make something great happen in this town,” Capt Nick Stout told the 45 turbaned elders sitting cross-legged in a plywood army hut.

“Suddenly over the past 72 hours we have had two more grenade attacks. You know what that tells me? That tells me that all those efforts are completely

unappreciated, that tells me that for the most part, you guys don't give a damn," he said, his anger rising.

Malik Aminullah, the men's appointed spokesman replied with their own demands. They wanted the Americans to stop rounding up townspeople at random after the grenade attacks and to stop daytime town patrols.

Arrests or patrols would not stop until attacks had ended, the Americans countered. An hour of debate through interpreters resulted in stalemate.

A fifth of the elders refused to eat with the Americans at lunchtime.

"Why should we eat with you? What have you done for us?" one asked.

"I think what you saw today was a lot of people come up here with an agenda, whoever sent them. They want us to stop patrols." said Capt Stout afterwards.

The Taliban had pressured elders to demand the same in other towns, Lt Col Davis added. Just keep going at them, he told Capt Stout, ramp it up.

The impasse had raised the possibility the elders are unrepresentative, powerless, aligned with the Taliban, unable to control their young men, or some mix of all four.

Marjah:
**"Eight Months On, The Taliban
Are Still Here In Force, Waging
A Full-Blown Guerrilla
Insurgency That Rages Daily"**
**"We're In Firefights All Over,
Every Day"**
**"An Entrenched Guerrilla War That
Has Tied Down At Least Two U.S.
Marine Battalions"**

“The Taliban Enjoy ‘The Tacit Support Of Probably The Vast Majority Of The Population’”



Sept. 29, 2010: A U.S. Marine on patrol in Marjah, Afghanistan. Eight months after U.S.-led forces launched the biggest operation of the war to clear insurgents from the southern district of Marjah, the U.S. military is still struggling to route guerrillas staging complex hit-and-run attacks relentlessly here every day. (AP Photo/Todd Pitman)

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

“There was peace here before you came,” farmer Khari Badar told one Marine patrol that recently visited his home. “Today, there is only fighting.”

10.7.10 By TODD PITMAN (AP)

MARJAH, Afghanistan — The young Marine had a simple question for the farmer with the white beard: Have you seen any Taliban today?

The answer came within seconds — from insurgents hiding nearby who ended the conversation with bursts of automatic rifle fire that sent deadly rounds cracking overhead.

It was a telling coincidence — and the start of yet another gunbattle in Marjah, the southern poppy-producing hub which U.S. forces wrested from Taliban control in February to restore government rule.

Eight months on, the Taliban are still here in force, waging a full-blown guerrilla insurgency that rages daily across a bomb-riddled landscape of agricultural fields and irrigation trenches.

As U.S. involvement in the war enters its 10th year, the failure to pacify this town raises questions about the effectiveness of America's overall strategy.

"We're in firefights all over, every day."

"There's no area that's void of enemy. But there's no area void of Marines and (Afghan forces) either," said [Capt. Chuck] Anklam, 34, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. "It's a constant presence both sides are trying to exert."

That day, militants in his zone of operations alone had attacked Marines in four separate locations by mid-afternoon.

[T]he end of Taliban control in Marjah has sown the seeds of an entrenched guerrilla war that has tied down at least two U.S. Marine battalions and hordes of Afghan police and army troops.

The result, so far at least: Residents say the town is more insecure than ever.

"There was peace here before you came," farmer Khari Badar told one Marine patrol that recently visited his home. "Today, there is only fighting."

Marines say the Taliban can no longer move freely through the town with fighters and weapons.

But the militants are still doing so clandestinely — so much so, that "we have areas where every time we go in, we know we're going to become engaged" in fighting, Anklam said.

On their way to Badar's home, Marines snatched cell phones from suspicious men believed to have been spotting for insurgents

"The presence is that consistent and that heavy of enemy," Anklam said.

Marjah always had a long way to go, even before the Taliban took it over. More than 50,000 people are still thought to live here, but it's more a vast patchwork of fields and dried mud homes than a town. There's no electricity, running water or paved roads.

The coalition has succeeded in setting up a nascent government in the town's district center.

But the local officials' connection to the people they govern is thin. The most visible signs of authority today are sandbagged police checkpoints that frequently come under attack.

Coalition forces are also trying to win over the population by organizing the delivery of solar panels to businessmen, and refurbishing shops, wells and mosques, Anklam said.

But residents are wary: One Marine simply trying to give away a lollipop to children at a checkpoint tried three times before finding one who would take it.

Anklam said the Taliban enjoy “the tacit support of probably the vast majority of the population,” but said they had known little other rule for years and were still too scared to stand up to them. **[Anklam almost gets the lame, whining bullshit award of the year, so far. But he forgot to explain that the local dogs ate up the villagers love for U.S. occupation troops along with his homework.]**

Anklam has spread the Marines of Echo company as much as possible. The squads are now based at 13 small outposts — twice as many as in July. As a result, Marines say that although firefights occur daily, violence has decreased overall.

Maj. Dallas Shah, the 2/9 Marines’ 42-year-old operations commander from Fairfax, Virginia, confirmed that assessment, but said firefights were on the rise in another company’s part of Marjah to the north.

“As you lock down one area,” Shaw said, “you have to accept that they’re going to move into another area.” [The Major has a firm grip on reality. Better watch out: the Pentagon hates officers with a firm grip on reality. They want ass-kissing idiots spewing out happy talk about how wonderfully everything is going. T]

While U.S. Troops Die:

18 Billion Dollars Paid To War Profiteers For Afghanistan “Reconstruction” Unaccounted For: “We Don’t Even Know Who We’re Giving Money To”

Oct 28 AFP

Nearly 18 billion dollars earmarked for reconstruction in Afghanistan remain unaccounted for, snagged in a "labyrinth" of contract bureaucracy, a sweeping US government audit has shown.

The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) said 17.7 billion dollars was obligated over three years to nearly 7,000 contractors, but the Pentagon, State Department and US Agency for International Development were unable to say how much money has been spent.

And years into the reconstruction there is still no central government database to monitor the projects from various US agencies and departments, SIGAR found in its report, which was seen Thursday by AFP.

"Prior to this audit report there was no comprehensive study on contractors and the money the US is spending through contractors on Afghan reconstruction," said special inspector general Arnold Fields in the first such snapshot of the reconstruction contracting environment in war-torn Afghanistan.

"This audit is crucial because if we don't even know who we're giving money to, it is nearly impossible to conduct system-wide oversight."

Among the largest contracts, it said, is a deal worth 1.8 billion dollars to a US-based company to train Afghanistan's national police forces, and 691 million dollars to an Afghan construction firm to build military facilities.



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

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW



Oct. 10, 2010: U.S. soldiers carry the body of a fellow soldier, killed in a roadside bomb attack in Afghanistan's Kandahar province, to a U.S. Air Force medical evacuation helicopter. Pararescuemen and pilots from the 46th and 26th Expeditionary Rescue Squadrons responded to the attack which killed two American soldiers and wounded three others. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Resistance Forces Stage Military Parade Of “Thousands Of Trained Fighters” In The Somali Capital: “Al-Shabaab Has Trapped The Country’s UN And U.S. Backed Transitional Federal Government Into A Small Part Of Mogadishu”

“Am Sending A Message To Americans You Are Enemies Of Islam And These Fighters Are Ready To Battle You”

Oct 21, 2010 Garowe Online

In a show of defiance Al-Shabaab has paraded thousands of trained fighters in the Somali capital, Mogadishu to fight against the African Union troops, AMISOM and the Transitional Federal Government soldiers, Radio Garowe Reports.

Senior Al-Shabaab officials, Ali Mohamad Rage commonly referred to as 'Ali Dere' and Muktar Robow Ali 'Abu-Mansor' claimed the fighters will defend Somali from external intervention by AMISOM and the TFG government backed by Ethiopia and international community.

Al-Shabaab alleged the trainees were ready to take part in their quest to free Somali from foreign intervention and has urged the public to endorse the fighter.

Abu-Mansor on the hand emphasized that the fighters will avenge the death of Sheikh Muktar Abu-Yazid who was killed by Americans in Afghanistan.

“Am sending a message to Americans you are enemies of Islam and these fighters are ready to battle you” said Abu-Mansor.

Along with other insurgent groups such as Hisbul Islam, al-Shabaab has trapped the country's UN and U.S. backed Transitional Federal Government into a small part of Mogadishu, the Somali capital.

Resistance Forces Take Beled Hawo: Government Soldiers “Run Away” “Al-Shabaab Spokesman Sheikh Ali Dere Said They Have Killed Several Pro-Government Soldiers”

Oct 25, 2010 GAROWEONLINE & 10.30. 2010 Mareeg.com

BELET HAWO – Al-shabab fighters in Gedo region have Friday said that they had peacefully taken over the control of Beled-hawo town in southern Somalia shortly after Ahlu Sunna Waljama'a and government troops vacated from the town.

"Now we are in Beled-hawo town. We seized the town by no fighting with government soldiers and Ahlu Sunna Waljama'a. They had left away from the town. They had the fears of big offensive against them and they run away," said Sheik Bashir, a governor of Al-shab fighters in Gedo region of southern Somalia.

Sheik Mohamud Hussein, one of the officers of Ahlu Sunna forces said that they left from the town for reasons respecting the people of the town to cause civilian casualties adding that they were in a village about 15 kilometers in out of the town. He said they would attack the town and would seize it quickly. **[This guy should be writing happy talk for the Pentagon about Afghanistan. His soldiers ran away to avoid civilian casualties, but will "quickly" attack and recapture the town --- no doubt after all civilians have been removed to safety first by a secret magic transporter device that just happened to be inoperative when his soldiers ran away. T]**

There is no comment from the transitional government officials in the region.

Both the government soldiers and Ahlu Sunna Waljama'a had seized the town from Al-shabab forces in the past two weeks.

At least 10 people have been killed and dozens others injured in fresh wave of violence between Somali government forces and insurgent group that engulfed parts of war-torn Somalia capital Mogadishu, witnesses and Medical official said.

Fierce gunbattle and shelling rocked Mogadishu's northern districts of Hodan where fighters from rebels attacked positions of pro-government forces backed by African Union peacekeepers [translation: U.S. Government-backed occupation troops].

No comment from Pro-government side but the Al-Shabaab spokesman Sheikh Ali Dere said they have killed several pro-government soldiers.

"We have killed many government include AU soldiers, the attack was carried by the newly Al-Shabaab forces, Sheikh Mustafa Abu-Yazid," Ali Dere told the reporter while pointing one of the government soldier who was killed in the combat, adding "one of the soldier who was killed by our soldier is here."

Ali Dere claimed to seize weapon and government document in the fighting.

Insurgents Attack Somalia Presidential Palace After Deploying One Thousand More Soldiers In Mogadishu

Oct 23, 2010 GAROWEONLINE

Fierce fighting between Somalia's insurgent group and pro-government militia have killed 12 people and injured 20 others in north of Somali capital Mogadishu, witnesses said.

The clashes erupted Saturday in Boondere after the insurgent group attack government bases.

"The attack occur government bases in Boondere district, I witnesses many dead bodies lying in the street and dozen others injured," said witness adding many mortars landed in the town.

Meanwhile, another attack killed at least 5 people after Al-Shabaab attack presidential palace, Villa Somalia in Mogadishu.

Al-Shabaab put on the ground Friday thousand fighters in the Somali capital, Mogadishu to fight against the African Union [occupation] troops, AMISOM and the Transitional Federal Government soldiers.

MILITARY NEWS

THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE



Two Marines gravely wounded in an IED blast near the town of Marjah in Helmand Province being evacuated August 22, 2010. REUTERS/Bob Strong

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

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

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**

October 31, 1978: Honorable Anniversary



Striking Iranian oil workers: Photo: December 1978 issue of Resistance, A publication of the Iranian Students Association in the U.S. (ISAUS)

Carl Bunin Peace History Oct 29-Nov 4

Thirty thousand Iranian oil workers went on strike against the repressive rule of the U.S.-installed Shah and for democracy, civil and human rights.

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/)

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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CLASS WAR REPORTS



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.

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