

## **Military Resistance 8K25**

### **HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?**



U.S. Marines help their wounded comrade to a helicopter during a Medevac mission in southern Afghanistan's Helmand Province November 12, 2010. REUTERS/Peter Andrews

**“The Everyday Business Of The Taliban Administration Carries On Across The Street From The Fortified, Government-Run City Court And Police Station”**

**“‘The Resistance Is Stronger And Bolder Today,’ The Old Man Said”**

**“Two Years Ago We Were Just Trying To Defend Our Areas. Now We Control This Area”**



Haqqani Taliban fighters in their mountain camp in Khost, eastern Afghanistan.  
Photograph: Ghaith Abdul-Ahad for the Guardian

**“Now that our land has been liberated – thanks be to God – we walk around in the middle of the day and we fight in front of the people. We control our lands and our villages while [the Americans] can only come in by air.”**

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

26 November 2010 Ghaith Abdul-Ahad, Guardian News and Media Limited

**In the south-eastern city of Khost, the everyday business of the Taliban administration carries on across the street from the fortified, government-run city court and police station.**

The head of the Haqqani network’s civilian administration and his assistant hold their council in the grand mosque, which is also known as the Haqqani mosque because it was built with Taliban and Arab money.

When I met them, the two men – a frail-looking 60-year-old and his younger sidekick – gave the impression of being haggard peasants seeking work in the city rather than members of one of the organisations most feared by Britain and America.

Worshippers at the mosque greeted the Haqqani representatives with a mix of reverence and anxiety, some walking in a long circle to avoid them while others came forward and shook hands, pledging contributions for the movement. The mosque leader begged them to be his guests for the night.

“The resistance is stronger and bolder today,” the old man said. “A few years ago the Taliban could move only at night.

“Now that our land has been liberated – thanks be to God – we walk around in the middle of the day and we fight in front of the people. We control our lands and our villages while [the Americans] can only come in by air.”

The administrator was laden with messages to deliver. Among his many roles as a senior member of the civilian administration, the most important is as a conduit to the higher Taliban authority of Sirajuddin Haqqani and his base in the border region between Khost and Pakistan.

The old man carries edicts from the leadership in one direction and petitions and complaints in the other.

When the Taliban ruled in Kabul in the 1990s they closed schools, stopped women working and exposed themselves to ridicule by banning trivial pursuits such as kite flying.

Yes, the Taliban had made mistakes in the past, he admitted, and they were still making them. “Our men still do things that annoy the people, and that is part of my job, to convey the complaints,” he said.

“But the benefits of the Taliban outweigh the harm we do to the people. In our area there were thieves and bandits. It was chaos.

“People needed someone to monitor and rule and punish. They needed us to impose order.

**“The government is besieged in its fortresses and can’t come to the people, and corruption is paralysing it. One of the main reasons for our popularity is the failure of this government.”**

**In a striking parallel with what the Americans have been advocating as part of their counterinsurgency initiative, the Haqqanis have set up local shura (consultation) councils made up of village elders and clerics to run the affairs of villagers in the “liberated” areas and create local security. The old man’s job is to supervise these councils.**

“I am a representative of the movement and I walk among the people and everyone knows me. I move between the people and the commanders, watching the commanders’ behaviour. I listen to the people and convey the picture to the supreme leaders,” he said.

Had the Taliban changed? A future administration would be based on Islamic rule, which was what the Afghan people wanted, but it would be different in detail from the Taliban regime that had ruled in Kabul before. “We will not rule based on theory. The people want us to be more pragmatic.”

He quoted the Muslim poet Muhammad Iqbal. “When the painter works on the same old painting again, he will make it much better.

“The Taliban that will return will not be like the old Taliban. We have learned from the old mistakes. We will accept others. We are not and cannot be all of Afghanistan, but we are an important part of it.”

**“Two Years Ago We Were Just Trying To Defend Our Areas. Now We Control This Area”**

From Khost I travelled to nearby Ghazni province to meet a commander of the Quetta Taliban I had met two years before.

Last time I saw Mawlawa Halimi he was scared and kept a watch at the doors and window of the small hotel where we had lunch. He had just been promoted to lead a small unit and he moved around incognito, fearing government agents and police checkpoints.

In the intervening years he had become one of the most senior commanders in the province. He was a few pounds chubbier, his hair was longer and he had an air of authority. I waited for him in the bazaar. He arrived on a motorbike with an armed guard riding pillion and no one in the bazaar gave him a second glance. He drove ahead, leading us to a mud-walled compound.

As we followed him, an American patrol passed along the main road a hundred metres distant, three huge armoured trucks wrapped with mesh fences to counter RPG attacks, each with two sets of armoured wheels in front to detect and detonate improvised explosive devices and landmines. The soldiers in their gun turrets trained their weapons left and right.

**“Last time we met, the atmosphere in this area was tense. The villages and markets you passed through were targeted by the Americans,” Halimi said.**

**“They used to come here a lot and life for people was difficult. Now, with Allah’s grace, this is all ours.**

**“The war has changed. I used to fear the government wherever I went. Now we move everywhere and carry our guns with us. Two years ago we were just trying to defend our areas. Now we control this area and we go to the main street to attack.”**

He highlighted another major difference with the Taliban of two years ago. Then, the foot soldiers had all been trained in the madrasas. Now they were less ideological.

**“It’s a mistake to call all of the fighters Taliban. The Taliban are madrasa students and I am a mullah, but most of my fighters are peasants and farmers and students who come from the government schools.**

“In winter we send them to Pakistan to get some religious training, but they are not Taliban,” Halimi said.

“When we sit and watch the news on TV we hear that the Taliban attacked here and there and destroyed tanks and killed soldiers. Then in the next news item you hear that

the Americans are calling for negotiations and of course you understand that these two news items are related. The second news item is the result of the first, and the Americans want to negotiate because they are losing.

“Why don’t they just leave?” he said. “What are they waiting for?”

**“They Don’t Belong Here,” He Said. “They Are Foreigners, Outsiders.”**

The fluffed-up sofas in the Kabul living room of Abdul Salam Zaeef, the former Taliban ambassador to Pakistan, have seated many high-ranking dignitaries in recent months as officials from the UN, the EU and NATO have come visiting.

It is a dramatic change of affairs for a man who spent three years from 2002 in prison in Guantánamo and who, until July this year, was on the UN list of known terrorists.

Zaeef is now a prolific writer and speaks five languages fluently. According to many Taliban insiders, if there are any negotiations between the Taliban and the Americans they will go through him.

**“The Americans came and sat here,” he said, pointing at one of the big sofas. “They said they needed to talk to the Taliban but couldn’t find them. They didn’t know who the Taliban were.**

**“I said go and look, they are everywhere, the Taliban have shadow governors and administrators, why don’t you go and talk to them?”**

**The real reason the Americans didn’t talk, he said, was that they had no respect for the Taliban.**

“I told the Americans to respect their enemy. You can’t negotiate with the Taliban from a position of strength, so why would the Taliban come and talk to you? If you want talks you have to treat the Taliban as equals.”

In any negotiation, the Taliban would assert that as long as their land was under occupation they would struggle to liberate it.

They would continue to fight until the foreigners left. Their argument was with the Americans, not the Afghan government. They did not want to bring down the government, they just wanted to renew it.

“The Taliban have no problem with the Afghan government. We have no problem with Karzai or the Afghans. The problem lies with the Americans,” he said.

**“Why would we negotiate with Karzai if he has no say in running his government? They are under occupation and all orders come from foreigners.”**

The Americans, he said, had not talked to any senior Taliban to his knowledge. However, “the government and the Taliban have been talking for two years on local matters, health-related issues, prisoner exchange, education.

“This is not a negotiation, this is a way to help and benefit our Afghan people and nation. Negotiations haven’t started yet.”

The Americans had a right to know that Afghanistan would not be used as a base for attacks against them, he said, but that was all.

“The Americans have one right only, and that is their right to be assured that Afghanistan will not be used against them and that is something the Taliban should give.

“Apart from that they have no rights, they have no right to tell us about democracy and human rights. That’s an Afghan issue and it will be decided by the Afghans.

“The Americans behave with arrogance and if they don’t want to be defeated in Afghanistan they should talk.

“They don’t belong here,” he said. “They are foreigners, outsiders.”

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **West Henderson Grad Killed In Action In Afghanistan**



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert S. Pigott

November 18, 2010 By Mark Schulman, Times-News staff writer

MILLS RIVER — A young Mills River soldier made the ultimate sacrifice this weekend while serving his country in Afghanistan.

U.S. Army Pfc. Christian M. Warriner, 19, died Sunday while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, the Department of Defense announced this week. His body was flown to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware on Tuesday.

Warriner was one of five Fort Campbell soldiers killed when insurgents attacked their unit with small-arms fire in the Kunar province, the DOD said.

They were among eight Fort Campbell soldiers killed over the weekend in Afghanistan — three others died Saturday when a suicide bomber detonated a vest bomb in southern Afghanistan.

Warriner was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 327th Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

The fallen soldier was a 2009 West Henderson High graduate, according to Principal Dean Jones. Warriner, known to those around him as Kade, married his high school sweetheart, Shelby Warriner, on March 28. Shelby also graduated from West.

During his senior year, Warriner spoke to Jones several times about joining the Army. "That was his goal," the principal said. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. We are deeply saddened but proud of the commitment he made. We are thankful for what he's done for our country."

The young man was a member of the JROTC program, Future Farmers of America and the football team.

"He will always be a Falcon," Jones added.

West Henderson's head football coach, Paul Whitaker, said Warriner was a "hard-working kid. Whatever you asked him to do, he would do it." Whitaker was an assistant coach when Warriner was a senior backup tight end/linebacker on the team in 2008.

"I remember Kade was big into the JROTC program at school. That's what he wanted to do was to go into the Army after he graduated, and that's what he did. He wasn't a starter on our team, but he was a key player at every practice, challenging the other players. He played the game just like he did his job in the Army, with no fear," Whitaker said.

Warriner's great-grandmother, Joyce Warriner of Pineola, said Kade was a typical teenager and was always fascinated with the military, especially the Army.

The soldier announced his safe arrival in Afghanistan in May on his Myspace page. Joyce said the last time she saw him was in September.

Warriner talked about going into hot spots all the time and had seen a lot of action, she said. "He loved what he was doing," Joyce added.

She said her great-grandson had been deployed to Afghanistan near the Pakistani border.

"I could tell he was nervous," Joyce said. "He was probably afraid, but he covered it up very well."

She's proud of her great-grandson and the other heroes who have served our country.

"I am praying and hoping the other men and women over there get to come home and don't have to give their lives," she said.

In high school, Warriner was well liked, according to his classmates.

"He knew who he was," said Sebastien Castellanos, a junior at West Henderson. "He was confident."

Castellanos, a kicker on the football team, was only a freshman when he attended school with Warriner, a senior at the time. The upperclassman treated Castellanos with respect.

"He was a really good guy," he said. "He had a lot of friends and was really sociable."

Henderson County Schools Superintendent David Jones said he was disheartened by the news.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, and we are saddened by the loss of this very fine young man," he said.

The four soldiers who died with Warriner were 27-year-old Spc. Scott Thomas Nagorski of Greenfield, Wis.; 25-year-old Spc. Jesse Adam Snow of Fairborn, Ohio; 26-year-old Spc. Nathan Edward Lillard of Knoxville, Tenn.; and 31-year-old Spc. Shane Hasan Ahmed of Chesterfield, Mich.

**Warriner is the second serviceman from Henderson County to die in Afghanistan.**

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Jessie Cassada, 19, of Hendersonville was killed in action Jan. 6, 2009, while serving his country in Afghanistan.

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

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



# Mother Of Fallen Soldier Cherishes Memories



Nov 19, 2010 WBIR.com

The mother of Army Specialist Nathan Lillard talked about her son who died Sunday when his unit came under fire in the Afghan province of Kunar. He was among five soldiers from Fort Campbell who died in the attack

Helen Hyatt had presents under her Christmas tree for her son and was waiting for him to come back home.

"I sent a letter to him saying, 'I have your Kasey Kahne stocking hanging up,'" Hyatt said. "I have your gifts under the tree, and I'm so ready for Christmas."

But now, instead of getting ready to celebrate with him, she will plan his funeral.

"I'll never get to hear, 'Mom, I love you,'" Hyatt said. "And feel his arms. He always threw his arms around my shoulder, you know."

Ever since the military mother found out her son was killed in Afghanistan, she said she has been remembering the times they shared.

One of them was a conversation the two had in her living room when Lillard was on leave for fifteen days in July.

"If something should happen, I'm going to a better place," Hyatt remembered her son said. "Please understand that. He said, 'I'm ready to fight for our freedom. We need to fight to keep our country free.' He said after 9-11 we need to fight harder."

A few days after that conversation, she said goodbye to her son at McGhee Tyson Airport.

This week, as she prepared to fly to Dover, Delaware for the arrival of her son's body, Hyatt passed by the spot where she last hugged him.

"Nathan had turned and waved," she said. "It was my last sight of him."

Hyatt said what she'll miss most about Lillard is a man who loved everyone and would not only give the shirt off his back to his friends but to the whole country.

"He was one of those people that just did not want anybody else to hurt or feel sorrow or pain, and he would literally lay his life down for anybody," Hyatt said.

She still thinks her son will be watching over her.

"He always said, 'Mom, I will be watching out that window and watching what's going on,'" she said.

The mother said funeral arrangements should be complete by Friday. Lillard's body has not been flown to East Tennessee just yet.

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## **Two Weeks Late, Press Reports Devastating Attack On Forward Operating Base Wright: 63,000 Gallons Of Fuel And 10 Mine Resistance Vehicles Destroyed**

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

**[ONE mention of this November 11 attack was published November 15 on an obscure website: <http://www.globalconflictmaps.com>. T]**

November 25, 2010 By Warren P. Strobel, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WRIGHT, Afghanistan — The insurgent took what he must have thought was a lucky shot. [Right. Couldn't possibly be weapons skill, could it?]

His rocket-propelled grenade smashed into a bladder full of 63,000 gallons of diesel fuel, sending a fireball 1,000 feet skyward, destroying 10 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles and raining metal over the base.

At times knifing open bags to douse the fire with sand, troops on this base in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar province labored in a 6-inch-deep river of slowly igniting fuel to prevent broader damage. Miraculously, no one was seriously hurt.

"There was a higher being watching out for us that day," said Army 1st Lt. Anthony Goble, who watched as ammunition in the MRAPs cooked off and a roughly 300-pound vehicle door went flying overhead 50 yards away.

Goble, of Gadsden, Ala., was on the flight line at the time of the attack, and rushed his men to the temporary safety of a hardened structure, before going back outside to check on others' safety and push parked, locked vehicles away from the fire. A second rocket-propelled grenade flew 10 feet overhead, he said.

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## **Five Days Inside A Taliban Jail:**

**“Security In These Areas Is For  
The Taliban”**

**“In The Northern Province Of  
Baghlan, Like Much Of The Rest Of  
Afghanistan, Government Authority  
Stops A Few Metres From The  
Highway”**

**“Even The People From The Government  
Come To The Taliban To Solve Their  
Problems”**

**“In the courts of the Taliban there are no bribes and no corruption. Even the people from the government come to the Taliban to solve their problems. Problems that take years to be solved in government courts take a few days in the Taliban courts.**

25 November 2010 Ghaith Abdul-Ahad, Guardian News and Media Limited

After the battle with US special forces, helicopter gunships and Afghan government troops, two Talibs were dead and several more injured.

We had been asleep in a guest room belonging to a man from east London who was a mullah and a fighter when the attack happened.

But the timing of the firefight made the Taliban suspicious and Bilal, one of the senior commanders in this district of Baghlan province, told us politely that we would have to answer some questions. Our phones, bags and cameras were confiscated.

They detained us first in a madrassa – a religious school – a compound-style building flanked on one side by a mosque and on the other by a government school. In the

courtyard there were pools of congealed blood where some of the casualties had been brought that morning. We were led into a room where Amanulah, a bespectacled teacher in his 30s, sat with his students, who ranged from seven-year-olds to fuzzy-bearded teenagers with turbans and guns.

Amanulah's handsome face was dwarfed by his oversized turban and his eyes were red from lack of sleep. He and his older students had spent the night fighting with the rest of the district chief Lal Muhammad's Taliban.

One madrassa teacher had been hurt in the fighting. His son had lost his eye.

Amanulah sat beneath the school emblem, a black curtain embroidered with Quranic verses in golden and white threads and covered with the emblems of the Taliban fighter: a Kalashnikov assault rifle with a shining bayonet, RPG launchers, grenades and knives of different shapes and sizes. Among the embroidered words were: "By the name of God the most gracious the most merciful."

"I learned English for 12 years in Pakistan," Amanulah said in correct but extremely slow English. "But here I haven't used English for a long time." He had come to the school three years ago because it had a good reputation.

"There are very few good schools now in Afghanistan," he said. "We had many during the Taliban rule but they are closed now or under government control.

"I didn't want to be a Talib," he said in a softer voice. "I was just a student. I came here to study. But all my brothers in the school, the teachers and students, were already fighting (with Lal Muhammad's Taliban) and they asked me if I wanted to join and I said yes."

In the thousand-year-old madrassa system, men like Amanulah are both students and teachers. While he studies the texts needed for him to become a mullah he taught the younger children the essentials of the Taliban's particular brand of Islam.

"You join at the age of six or seven, depending on your family. You are taught the basics of belief, religious rituals and grammar. Later you study Persian language and poetry, then you go into basic Islamic law and all along you study and memorise the Qur'an and Arabic grammar."

Around 8am the smaller children left the room to prepare breakfast. Two of them picked up a blackened teapot while two others went outside to collect food donations.

They spread the breakfast out on a cloth on the floor: tea, a cold flat loaf of bread, some smaller bits of stale bread and one warm piece of bread cooked in butter. The younger students didn't touch the hot buttery loaf but politely munched on the old bread.

When breakfast was tidied away, Amanullah picked up his books and went to study with one of his teachers. One of the small boys started sweeping the yard while the rest moved into another room of the madrassa.

The second room resembled the type of classroom I have seen all over the developing world. Its walls were mottled with patches of paint and chipped plaster, the floor covered

with torn bits of carpet. There was a soiled mattress, a very low desk and a bookshelf lined neatly with copies of the Qur'an covered in green embroidered fabrics.

Students came in and out of the classroom, picking up books to kiss them, read, then talk and joke.

One eight-year-old boy crouched in front of the desk reading a book about fasting and prayers. Then he picked up a Kalashnikov that was laid against the wall and rested it on the desk.

He started fiddling with it, trying to cock it and lift it but the gun was too heavy, so he rested it on the desk, closed an eye and whispered tatatatata at an imaginary enemy on the wall. I asked some of the students why they were here in the madrassa. They answered that they were fighting the holy war.

### **“In The Taliban Concept Of A Jail, The Gate Doesn't Exist. The Jailer Was The Gate”**

We spent most of the day in that room. From time to time we were questioned and told that we would be released once the military Komissyon – the Taliban council – had finished its investigation.

Bilal came in the late afternoon to tell us our release was imminent, but two hours later we were told the area was not safe because of drone activity. That evening, they moved us to the jail.

We were given a change of clothes and allowed to keep a book, a pack of cigarettes and some worry beads, then we were blindfolded and handcuffed and put in a car which followed a winding, climbing road. After an hour the car came to a halt and with our eyes still covered and our hands tied we were led up a steep slope.

After some time thick fingers untied my blindfold and in the light of the moon a majestic view unfolded of a wide path framed by two dark mountains which appeared like giant gate posts.

“Walk!” hissed one of the shadows behind us. I heard the metallic click of the safety catch being released and the clank of a bullet being pulled into the chamber. I waited for the shot to come, but it never did.

Led by two men in thick military jackets, we climbed the ragged mountain path for nine hours, our hands still tied behind our backs. Shortly before daybreak we reached a barn on top of a mountain. This was where we would be incarcerated for the following days.

The word prison usually implies a thick-walled building with gates, padlocks and guards. But in the Taliban concept of a jail, the gate doesn't exist. The jailer was the gate, the prison cell, the executioner and sometimes, if you were lucky, your friend.

The jailer in Dhani Ghorri was a short man with bent legs, a chest-long beard and vicious eyes. Taliban commanders from different groups and factions in the area handed him

their captives and he would keep them, interrogate them and execute them if the orders were given.

Wherever he was, the cell went with him.

It could be a cave or a room in a farmer's house. In our case it was a barn somewhere between Baghlan and Kunduz. It measured two metres by four, with no windows and a very low ceiling. Inside it was dark most of the time. The dirt floor was covered with goat and sheep droppings.

The prisoners and the guards lived in the same room, divided by an invisible line. Both groups slept on flimsy mattresses covered with an almost black layer of shining grime.

For the first night we were blindfolded with chequered Afghan scarves that reeked of grease and which served as our towels and prayer mats. After that night, we were only blindfolded when we were led into the adjacent barn to wash and relieve ourselves. The floor of this barn was covered with droppings of goats and humans.

Our feet were held by a thick cast-iron chain and padlocks.

We ate three times a day: green tea and dark bread for breakfast and dinner. Lunch was the notorious Afghan shorba, bread soaked in meat broth.

Many people had passed through this cell in the past few months, the jailer said.

There was a truck driver whose crime was to transport goods for NATO from the northern border of Afghanistan to Kabul. His truck was burned along with several others when the Taliban ambushed the convoy on the road. "We released him after 10 days, but he paid a big fine."

Then there was an Afghan National Army officer who was also released after his tribesmen pledged that he wouldn't go back to the army.

But not all of the prisoners were let go. "We don't beat the prisoners unless we get orders to question them," he said solemnly. "Then we beat them to get them to tell us the truth.

"Before the truck driver we had a spy who stayed here for two months. We beat him every day until he confessed and finally he was executed. I hanged him myself."

Hanging has become the Taliban's favoured method of execution after Mullah Omar, the Taliban's spiritual leader, issued orders banning beheading, which had generated bad coverage in the media.

The jailer sometimes came into the cell with gifts. One day he brought us a small plastic bag of sweets, another day it would be an old toothbrush or even a bar of soap.

Apart from the jailer, I counted seven guards in all, from frail teenagers to big, tough fighters. They lived in conditions that were not much better than the prisoners. They were not allowed to leave or carry mobile phones and had to spend the night in the cell

with the prisoners, often with their feet tied to those of their prisoners. They were fed the same meager food.

Most of them were the lowest ranking Taliban fighters, all poor and illiterate. The only privilege they had was their authority over their captives. They sometimes relished that petty power, moving prisoners away from the light, unnecessarily blindfolding their captives, or just being rough.

The jailer himself was no stranger to prisons. Two years before he had been detained in Pakistan while visiting some Taliban commanders. "They beat me only on the first day and for three months after that they kept me chained and blindfolded in a dark cell," he said. "My brother is still there."

We were in the jail-cum-barn for five days before our credentials were verified by Taliban leaders in Quetta and local commanders.

Word came that we were to be released and we walked the long path down the mountain.

Lal Muhamad and the rest of his command council had gathered in the madrassa at Dhani Ghorri. They apologised to us and returned our equipment.

As we were about to leave, Lal Muhamad produced a thick bundle of dollar bills and tried to give us a hundred each. "This for your trouble," he said.

We refused, and began the long journey back to Kabul.

**In the northern province of Baghlan, like much of the rest of Afghanistan, government authority stops a few metres from the highway.**

**The Taliban who control the area follow a well practised method: attacks on police checkpoints and government institutions drive the demoralised and corrupt government officials out; improvised explosive devices are set up and suicide bombers sent to attack targets on the main highway and district centres; trucks carrying supplies for the government and Nato forces are hijacked and burned, taxes levied and a sharia-based administration established.**

"Security in these areas is for the Taliban," an elder from the Dhani Ghorri district told the Guardian.

"In the courts of the Taliban there are no bribes and no corruption. Even the people from the government come to the Taliban to solve their problems. Problems that take years to be solved in government courts take a few days in the Taliban courts.

"There is corruption in the government and they don't solve the problems according to the sharia of God and people just want sharia."

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## **“Taliban? Yeah, They Went That Way. Lots Of Luck.”**



Nov. 10, 2010: U.S. Marines from 3rd Battalion 5th Marines, First Marine Division, talk to a man in Sangin, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)

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## **Neutral Aid Groups Receive Clearance From Taliban To Serve Civilians In Liberated Areas: Aid Personnel Affiliated With The Occupation Will Continue To Be Attacked And Killed**

**Agreements with insurgents were once needed only in the Taliban hotspots in the south and the east. As the insurgency spread, they've become necessary for NGOs to operate pretty much anywhere in the country.**

NOVEMBER 22, 2010 By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV And HABIB KHAN TOTAKHIL, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

KABUL—Independent aid groups operating in Afghanistan are increasingly distancing themselves from the U.S.-led coalition and trying to forge safe-passage agreements with insurgents, betting that a show of neutrality will protect their work amid an intensifying war.



**The Taliban are reciprocating with a more moderate approach to some aid workers, while continuing attacks on those seen as affiliated with the coalition.**

**Mullah Mohammed Omar, the Taliban's supreme leader, recently issued formal instructions to help nongovernment organizations that register with them, Taliban officials say.**

The Taliban have begun displaying a more pragmatic approach over the past six to 12 months, prompting other NGOs to seek access accords, says Laurent Saillard, director of the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief, an umbrella organization of 106 foreign and local NGOs.

These groups usually refuse to discuss the accords in public because they lack a formal agreement on neutrality with Afghan authorities and often receive Western government funding.

"It's a very thin line to walk—you're taking money from countries with a very clear political agenda, and yet pretending to be impartial and neutral," says Mr. Saillard.

"But it's feasible because the Taliban have learned to be pragmatic. If a project is supported by the community, they let the NGO to keep working as long as it doesn't conduct any political activity."

NGO representatives say they don't see themselves as the Taliban's enemies because their efforts focus on helping Afghan civilians rather than on shoring up the government or furthering Western political goals.

Agreements with insurgents were once needed only in the Taliban hotspots in the south and the east. As the insurgency spread, they've become necessary for NGOs to operate pretty much anywhere in the country.

**Usually, these deals are negotiated by local staff through village elders, who act as intermediaries with the Taliban to work out verbal agreements on when workers can enter territory, what kind of work they will perform, and other matters.**

The Taliban softened their approach in 2007, agreeing through the ICRC to facilitate United Nations-backed polio vaccination teams composed of local Afghans.

In recent months, the Taliban have specified that they make a clear distinction between independent NGOs and coalition implementing partners, which they view as legitimate military targets.

**The two kinds of aid workers are easy to tell apart, as coalition partners usually live in military-like compounds, travel in heavily armed convoys and often wear body armor.**

Mullah Saifullah Hanafi, a Taliban commander operating in the eastern Paktia province, says he welcomes the unaligned aid groups. "We have a commission for welfare organizations, and those organizations must be permitted by the commission to start operations in the areas under our control," he says.

Agha Saib, a Taliban commander in northern Baghlan province, said that, in the past, his men “captured some NGO staff who entered our area without our permission—but then, after the investigation, we let them go.”

The only independent aid groups that are routinely targeted are those working on demining, which is seen as contrary to Taliban military tactics.

This relative tolerance extends to groups that accept funding from governments whose armed forces are battling the Taliban. Most aid groups in Afghanistan fall into that category.

In return, the Taliban expect these aid groups to focus on humanitarian activities, and to abstain from involvement with government or coalition projects.

Coalition officials say they recognize the aid groups’ right to contact the insurgents to negotiate safe passage, as long as the deals don’t aid the Taliban financially or with information.

“I don’t see anything improper with an NGO negotiating safe passage with the Taliban so they can assist the Afghan people,” said U.S. Navy Rear-Adm. Gregory Smith, the international forces’ deputy chief of staff for communications.

**MORE:**

**“The Reason There’s No Fear Is  
That The Taliban Authorized The  
Work”**

**“God Bless The Taliban For Giving  
Us Permission To Work On This  
Road”**

**“Otherwise Who Would Have Dared  
Work Here?”**

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

Nov. 24, 2010 By MAIWAND SAFI, The Institute for War & Peace Reporting

KAPISA PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- Anywhere else in the world, it would be a routine scene: About a dozen men hard at work on a road construction crew. But here in Afghanistan, the sight of workers completing work on a highway intended to link this province located north of Kabul with the capital is considered extraordinary.

“This is a very happy occasion, to see the young people working so devotedly on this road,” said Mohammad Qais, a truck driver who had just delivered supplies to the construction crew.

“Soon we will have a paved road. In the past, we had to put a sick person on the back of a donkey or on a stretcher and walk for hours to reach a hospital, always uncertain whether the patient would get there in time,” he said.

But it’s neither the central government nor foreign assistance that Qais credits for the development project. Instead, he thanks the Taliban for allowing the work to go forward.

“God bless the Taliban for giving us permission to work on this road,” he said. “Otherwise who would have dared work here?”

Amirullah, a local tribal leader in the Tageb district of the province, also says it’s the Taliban who are ultimately responsible for the success of the project.

“The reason there’s no fear is that the Taliban authorized the work. If they’d opposed it you wouldn’t find a soul here right now,” he said. “This is a very good thing the Taliban have done, because winter is coming and people in Tagab are illiterate and unemployed. This project means the area will see construction and people can earn a living.”

The Taliban themselves say they’ve allow the work to proceed as a goodwill gesture to local residents. Whatever the reason, the road project marks a sharp change in the insurgents’ tactics.

In the past, Kapisa province experienced its fair share of insurgent attacks on projects associated with the government or its international allies.

The acting governor of Kapisa province, Mohammad Sharif, said he is satisfied with the outcome of the talks: The Taliban have agreed to allow public works projects to proceed in Alasay, Tagab and Nejrab districts, and more development projects may soon get under way.

“The Taliban realize that these projects benefit them, too, so they are no longer interfering in and obstructing public welfare projects. The engineers, laborers and drivers can work with peace of mind and without fear,” he said.

“The real problem was because we opposed public welfare projects, some people in Tagab turned against us. The Taliban don’t want people to be unhappy with them,” said one local commander who spoke on condition that his name not be used.

The Taliban were not opposed to public construction projects, he said, and attacked schools, health clinics and other sites because of the presence of Afghan troops.

Now, he said, “we have a plan under which permission has been granted to public welfare projects. We only oppose projects that are connected to the military. Those we will never allow.”

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

## **U.S. Sending Tanks To Afghanistan For The First Time: [Resistance Warriors Been There, Done That]**



In this 1987 file photo, Afghan guerrillas sit atop a captured Russian T-55 tank. (AP Photo/File)

November 19, 2010 By Barbara Starr and Moni Basu, CNN

The United States is beefing up its firepower in Afghanistan by employing heavily armored tanks in Afghanistan for the first time in the nine-year war, a military spokesman said Friday.

The U.S. Marine Corps plans to use a company of M1A1 Abrams tanks in restive Helmand province by early spring, Marine Maj. Gabrielle Chapin said.

The M1A1 tank is the fastest and most deadly ground combat weapons system available. It will allow for more aggressive missions while mitigating risks to U.S. forces, the military said.



Russian tank destroyed by Afghan resistance fighters outside Herat, west of Kabul, Afghanistan, Nov. 25, 2010. (AP Photo/Reza Shirmohammadi)

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## **Fucked Then Fucked Now**



In this late April 1988 file photo, Russian soldiers observe the highlands, while fighting guerrillas in Afghanistan. Russia couldn't win in Afghanistan, and now the United States is about to have something in common with that futile campaign: nine years, 50 days. The U.S. has now been fighting for as long as the Russian Army did. (AP Photo/Alexander Sekretarev, File)

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**Statement From The Afghan  
Resistance:  
“The Americans Can No Longer  
Conceal Their Defeat”  
“The White House, Instead Of Counting  
Their Mounting Casualties In  
Afghanistan, Would Be Better Advised  
To Formulate A Withdrawal Plan, To At  
Least Save Those Troops, Which Are  
Still Alive”**

Nov 21st, 2010 The Muslim

Statement From The Afghan Resistance [Excerpts]

For the past nine months the Americans have been attempting their utmost to achieve some sort of military or political gain in Afghanistan. They employed all the propaganda tools at their disposal to turn the people away from the Mujahideen.

However, failing to win the support of the people, the invaders resorted to the indiscriminate carpet bombings of the people's lands and the mass murders of the innocent civilians. All this has caused the displacement of thousands of families from their lands and villages.

However, despite all their trickeries and force, the battle for Kandahar has settled steadily in the Mujahideen's favour.

The Mujahideen were, from the start of these operations, to carry out precise Commando-led operations against the nerve centres of the foreign forces and their puppet partners, thus seizing the initiative from the foreign occupiers.

Not only did the Mujahideen conduct these operations in Kandahar city, but also extending to surrounding areas such as the airport, Dand, Arghandab, Zhiri, Panjwae, and Maiwand districts.

This is mostly because the enemy neither knows the military strength of the Mujahideen nor their main bases. The Mujahideen, profiting from the Dagger and Marjah operations, were able to introduce several new tactics that have completely demoralised the invader forces.

These tactics are the main reason why the Mujahideen have not abated their operations in the area in the winter season. These new tactics have placed the foreign invaders under significant military and domestic pressure.

Also due to their failures in the Kandahar operations, Obama's approval ratings in America have sunk to 46% while the myth of America's military superiority globally has been shattered.

In summary it has become clear that after nine years of occupation, the invaders are doomed towards the same fate as those that tread this path before them.

Their troop surges, their new strategies, their new generals, their new negotiations, and their new propandas have been of no avail.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan opines that the Americans have exhausted themselves in Afghanistan over the last nine years, and now will not stay long in our beloved country.

It is becoming manifest that the Americans will not be able to conceal their defeat in Afghanistan for too long.

Therefore, the White House, instead of counting their mounting casualties in Afghanistan, would be better advised to formulate a withdrawal plan, to at least save those troops, which are still alive.

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## **FUTILE EXERCISE: ALL HOME NOW!**



U.S. soldiers walk past the scattered parts of a vehicle used in an explosion on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, Nov. 12, 2010. A car bomber blew himself up as a foreign military convoy passed by his vehicle on the outskirts of the Afghan capital on Friday, wounding two troops, officials said. (AP Photo/Altaf Qadri)



US soldiers from 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division patrol in Panjwai district, Afghanistan's Kandahar province, Nov. 23, 2010. (AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)

**“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**

## **MILITARY NEWS**

### **THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THEM HOME --- ONE CASKET FOR SEVEN: ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE!**

The casket containing the remains of Army Sgt. 1st Class Luis M. Gonzalez, of South Ozone Park, N.Y.; Sgt. Dale R. Griffin, of Terre Haute, Ind.; Sgt. Isaac B. Jackson, of Plattsburg, Mo.; Sgt. Patrick O. Williamson, of Broussard, La.; Spc. Jared D. Stanker, of Evergreen Park, Ill.; Pfc. Christopher I. Walz, of Vancouver, Wash.; and Sgt. Fernando de la Rosa, of Alamo, Texas.; Nov. 18, 2010, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

The group died by a roadside bomb, Oct. 27, 2009, southern Afghan province of Kandahar.

(AP Photos/Jose Luis Magana)







## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



**“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”**

**“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**

**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**

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

# **November 27, 1969: Fast Against The War “Spread To Units All Over Vietnam”**

Carl Bunin Peace History Dec 26 - Dec 3

Over one hundred members of the U.S. 71st Evacuation Hospital and the 44th Medical Detachment at Pleiku, Vietnam, organized a protest fast called the “John Turkey movement.”

*In Home Before Morning: The Story of an Army Nurse in Vietnam*, nurse Lynda Van Devanter recalled her change in attitude.

**“Earlier in my tour, when I had heard about the war protesters, I had felt angry at them for not supporting us. Now I wished I could march with them. . .**

**“Most others in Pleiku felt the same way.**

“We even held our own Thanksgiving Day fast—the John Turkey movement — as a show of support for those who were trying to end the war through protests and moratoriums.

We heard that the fast had spread to units all over Vietnam.”

**The fast received considerable media coverage when Denise Murray, a nurse at Pleiku and daughter of a distinguished admiral, made antiwar statements to the press.**

## **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**

**Military Resistance Available In PDF Format**

**If you prefer PDF to Word format, email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org)**

### 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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

## 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/](http://www.ivaw.org/))

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