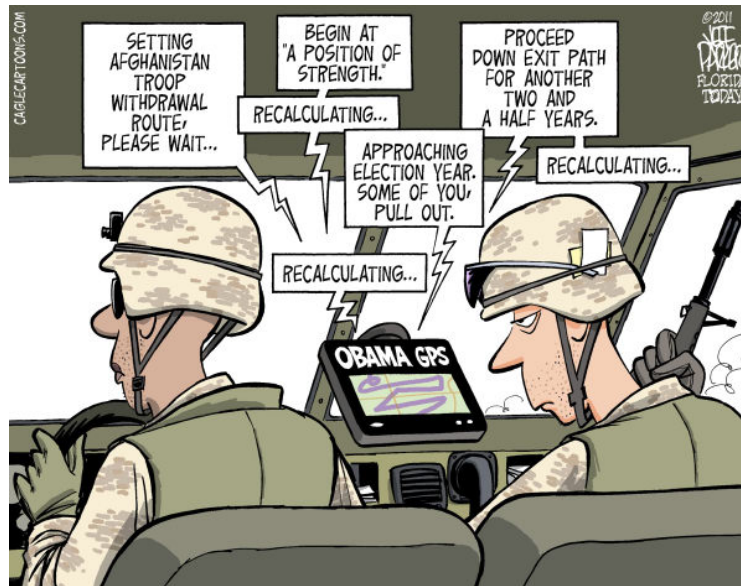


## **Military Resistance 9G6**



**Chaos And Bizarre  
Brain-Dead Trash-Talk  
Rule The U.S. Command  
In Afghanistan:  
Remember Last Year's Big  
Strategy Shift – Focus On The  
Cities And Abandon Hopeless,  
Deadly Mountain Warfare?**

# **Guess What: New Strategy: Go Back To Hopeless, Deadly Mountain Warfare: Silly Major Says “We’re Trying To Kill Every Terrorist In The Area” “Stitch Said Coalition Troops Were Fortifying Fighting Positions ‘With Rocks Or Whatever They Can Find’”**

Jun 28, 2011 By Carmen Gentile - Special for USA Today [Excerpts]

JALALABAD, Afghanistan — A large-scale operation airlifting hundreds of U.S. and Afghan soldiers into the rugged, insurgent-laced mountains of eastern Afghanistan is being met with fierce resistance by the Taliban and other armed groups, according to U.S. military officials in the region.

U.S. commanders say the aim is to wipe out a persistent insurgency in the northern part of Watahpur District in Kunar province, long a stronghold for armed factions both local and from nearby Pakistan, preparing the way for a takeover by the Afghanistan National Army.

**“We’re trying to kill every terrorist in the area,” said Maj. Pat Stitch, brigade operations officer for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.**

Stitch said the hope is that the Afghan army can “hold what we cleared” and patrol a region that has been dominated by insurgents from both Afghanistan and Pakistan. “The idea is that the ANA should be doing this by themselves,” he said, adding that ideally the Afghan National Police would join the ANA in its effort.

The offensive operation is the largest for the 3rd Brigade since its deployment to eastern Afghanistan in April. Brigade spokesman Maj. David Eastburn, said it was at least “five to seven times larger than any previous operation conducted by the brigade.”

**Taming this volatile area of Kunar is not an easy one, a lesson U.S. forces have learned in recent years in this region. American troops have sustained heavy casualties in Watahpur District and the surrounding area.**

**A small combat output in the restive Korengal Valley, just to the west of Watahpur, was overrun in 2009, leaving eight soldiers dead just weeks before it was scheduled to be closed.**

**Watahpur is bisected by the Pech River Valley, where in recent months several U.S. military bases and smaller combat outposts were handed over to the Afghan army.**

**Prior to the handover, a full battalion of American soldiers had a permanent presence in the region. Now there remains one Army company and an attached platoon.**

Unlike the battle in southern Afghanistan, where U.S. and Afghan forces have cleared large areas of Taliban militants over the last 12 months, the insurgency in eastern Afghanistan remains a difficult face-to-face fight.

**Insurgents have attacked military bases with mortar and rocket fire and planted narrow mountain roads where U.S. troops patrol by foot and armored vehicles with numerous improvised explosive devices, or IEDs.**

“It’s obvious we’re taking the fight to the enemy,” Stitch said. “We didn’t abandon the area, we just realigned U.S. forces.” **[No, this is not from The Onion. Stitch is real. Or, if not real, the quotes are real.]**

So far, the fight has proven particularly difficult. U.S. and Afghan forces were flown into a mountainous terrain as high as 10,000 feet where they are meeting the enemy sometimes at very close range.

**Stitch said coalition troops were fortifying fighting positions “with rocks or whatever they can find” and seeking out insurgents in tiny villages that dot the area.**

It’s a demanding fight, he said, with soldiers getting little rest and supplies being air dropped into the battlefield. Some firefights have been at “extremely close range,” he said. The operation in Watahpur is also a fight without a specific timeline.

**Soldiers are prepared to remain in the battle “until the enemy stops shooting,” Eastburn said.**

**[OK, it’s not just Stitch. The whole command in general is experiencing cerebral hemorrhoids and diarrhea of the mouth.]**

Since the operation began in earnest June 25, 30 U.S. troops have been injured and three killed.

**Pfc. Tyler Sankbeil, 20, was injured when a Chinook helicopter transporting troops made what U.S. military officials call a “hard landing,” or a landing done with greater speed and force than normal. Several others were injured.**

**Lying on a backboard, his neck in a brace, Sankbeil characterized the helicopter landing as a crash preceded by a series of loud bangs.**

**“I saw people’s feet flying around and people were getting ejected from their seats,” he said.**

The U.S. military said the crash was caused by a mechanical failure and not enemy fire.

MORE:

**[Now, In Contrast To The  
Unbelievably Stupid Bullshit  
From Command Above]**

**#1:**

**“It’s Worthless, And It’s  
Never Going To End”**

**“Pfc. Rob Nunez Was Gulping  
Miller Lite From A Plastic Cup  
When The Subject Of President  
Obama’s Plan For Withdrawing  
Troops From Afghanistan Came  
Up”**

**“Nunez Thinks Of Barawala Kalay  
— What He Came To See As A  
Painful Fight Of Uncertain Value,  
Hastily Planned And Quietly  
Abandoned”**

**“When The War Is Discussed Here,  
It’s Often Among Men Who Call  
Themselves Grunts, Who Discreetly,  
Or Not So Discreetly, Criticize High-  
Ranking Officers And Policymakers”  
“There’s This Gap Between What I Hear  
Now And What I Saw,” He Said. “And It  
Feels Like It’s Growing Every Day”**

But on the night he heard about Obama’s withdrawal, he tried his best to reconcile the Afghanistan of the president’s speech with the hills and valleys he grew to know.

He couldn’t do it.

“There’s this gap between what I hear now and what I saw,” he said.

“And it feels like it’s growing every day.”

June 26 By Kevin Sieff, The Washington Post Company [Excerpts]

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. — Pfc. Rob Nunez was gulping Miller Lite from a plastic cup when the subject of President Obama’s plan for withdrawing troops from Afghanistan came up: 10,000 troops were being pulled out this year, said a friend at a roadside bar on the fringes of the Fort Campbell Army base. The rest of the 33,000 “surge” troops would leave in 2012.

Nunez swallowed his beer, let out a stream of profanity before landing on a sentence that he repeats a lot these days.

“It’s worthless, and it’s never going to end.”

He had just returned from one of the war’s most terrifying corners to a base that has shouldered much of the U.S. troop surge. In the past 18 months, more than 20,000 Fort Campbell soldiers have cycled through Afghanistan; 131 have been killed.

Nunez, 21, who spent about a year in Konar province near the Pakistani border, cared little that the commander in chief had declared Wednesday night that the “tide of war is receding.”

He and his friends, some of the country’s youngest war veterans, have little interest in military policy anymore. Not after Konar.

The last mission is what did it. Nunez's regiment fought for days in early April to win control of a remote valley called Barawala Kalay. Six U.S. soldiers died, and Nunez still can't figure out why he wasn't one of them.

Bullets came from nowhere, hitting everything but his flesh.

"It was like fighting ghosts," he said.

When Obama outlined the beginning of the end of America's longest war — a phased withdrawal, a handoff to Afghan security forces, negotiations with the Taliban — television screens lit up at the base.

Nunez, and many of the men he fought with in Konar, had no interest in joining that debate.

When Obama stood in the White House's East Room, they played video games, watched the College World Series or slept. Nunez, a broad-shouldered, square-jawed soldier from Southern California, went to the gym.

He had joined the Army in 2008, ready to see what war was like after talking to friends who had returned from Iraq. But when he enlisted, resources began shifting. Fort Campbell found itself at the crossroads of two wars, and not much later, Nunez found himself in Konar.

**When Obama announced that he was adding 30,000 troops to the effort in Afghanistan — the surge ended up deploying 33,000 — U.S. commanders chose not to send any of them to Konar, a remote and violent area. Instead, commanders focused on pacifying larger population centers in the south.**

**But as insurgents flourished in valleys near Pakistan, brigades from Fort Campbell's 101st Airborne Division, which saw its first combat during the invasion of Normandy in World War II, fought some of the Afghanistan war's bloodiest battles along the hostile eastern spine, in places they never planned to hold.**

**Days after Nunez's regiment fought in the battle for Barawala Kalay, U.S. troops emptied out of the valley.**

The mission was to disrupt a Taliban haven, not to maintain a presence there. Nunez's tour was up. He flew back to Fort Campbell puzzling over the strategy.

**Now, 21/2 months later, when he hears the word "withdrawal," Nunez thinks of Barawala Kalay — what he came to see as a painful fight of uncertain value, hastily planned and quietly abandoned.**

He and his friends keep their posed photos from a visit by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates crumpled in glove compartments and stuffed in desk drawers.

**When al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was killed, their celebration was muted. They were unfazed when Obama came to Fort Campbell in May to congratulate the troops, including the Navy SEALs who killed bin Laden, on a job well done.**

**“We hear pep talks all the time,” Nunez said. “Doesn’t make the fight any easier.”**

More than 10,000 Fort Campbell soldiers, most with the 101st Airborne Division, have returned to the base in recent months, repopulating an entire city with veterans of Afghan provinces and valleys whose names they still can’t pronounce.

“The whole time I didn’t know why we were there. And now we’re leaving — after I’ve been shot in the leg,” said Pfc. Stephen Palu, who was also in Konar. He has since recovered from his leg wound.

Seven thousand Fort Campbell soldiers are still in Afghanistan, and more trickle back to base each month, greeted in a decorated airplane hangar and set free to navigate the bars, tattoo parlors and barbershops that pepper the base’s periphery.

Local stores and restaurants, some nearly driven out of business during the surge, are starting to fill up again. Family Readiness Groups of military spouses are waiting for husbands and wives to move back into neat subdivisions.

Many know that the pace of withdrawal means that thousands will return to Afghanistan before the combat mission ends in 2014.

**When the war is discussed here, it’s often among men who call themselves grunts, who discreetly, or not so discreetly, criticize high-ranking officers and policymakers.**

**Officers chide these soldiers for talking too much, for letting their narrow experiences inform opinions about the war’s prospects.**

“I was the same way when I was an infantry guy in Iraq. You grow out of it,” said Warrant Officer Jeremy Meyer, a medical evacuation pilot, who spent Saturday afternoon playing darts with a group of officers at the American Legion.

Nunez and his friends spend much of their time at O’Connor’s Irish Pub & Grill, where volleyball games and beanbag tosses are punctuated by harrowing stories about a war some have left forever and some expect to see again.

Nunez has two months left in the Army. As it has for many others, the war has shaken his marriage and haunts him in quiet moments.

At O’Connor’s last week, he asked his friends sheepishly, “Are any of you guys having trouble sleeping?” And then later, quietly, “It’s like the images keep playing over in my head.”

This week, men from his company will have their first mandatory meetings with mental health workers.

Through it all, Nunez is trying to adjust to life as an observer of military engagements rather than a participant. He says he'll try to dismiss big announcements and shifts in policy — messages “from guys who have no idea what it looks like over there.”

But on the night he heard about Obama's withdrawal, he tried his best to reconcile the Afghanistan of the president's speech with the hills and valleys he grew to know.

He couldn't do it.

“There's this gap between what I hear now and what I saw,” he said.

“And it feels like it's growing every day.”

**MORE:**

## **[Now, Another In Contrast To The Unbelievably Stupid Bullshit From Command In Lead Story Above]**

**“Lieutenant Ryan Peterson Saw  
The Blast That Killed The Men He  
Led And Loved”**

**“I Think That We've Done As Much  
As We Can. We've Done What We've  
Done Here”**

**“It's Time To Be Done’**

June 27, 2011 By Nick Paton Walsh, CNN, Kunar, Afghanistan. Transcription:  
<http://ebird.osd.mil>

The Situation Room (CNN), 5:00 PM

NICK PATON WALSH: Kunar Province on Afghanistan's eastern border is as alluring to outsiders as it is unwelcoming. It's a key transit route for militants from Pakistan, confronted by Americans in some of the fiercest fighting of this 10-year war. This tiny



outpost call portal king (phonetic) tests its mortars against an insurgency that they rarely see, but who frequently attack from all sides.

Sometimes, they watch the valley burn. Other times, they reach out to build. This neighbor [see in the TV transmission] is an ally against the Taliban, perhaps, because they built this house on his land.

While the Americans can build their way into the affections of these people, it's further south down the valley frankly the problems begin. The road pretty is much impassable because of the insurgency.

It was here the unit experienced its worst losses. A roadside bomb ripping through their armor, killing four soldiers.

Lieutenant Ryan Peterson saw the blast that killed the men he led and loved.

LT. RYAN PETERSON: When I walked up to it, there was a pair of legs like leaned out, like kind of crossed over, and they were hanging out of one of the doors. And that's always stuck with me. When I get by, if I ever think about it or dream about it, that's the first thing that comes to my head.

WALSH: Private Seth Blevins began dying in his arms.

PETERSON: We were trying to pull Blevins up, and as we were pulling him up, because he was upside down, he was in my lap, and so, that was when the whole -- the whole smell was the most intense -- that's probably the point that everything was the most intense was when I was trying to hold him and make sure his head was, like, stable, like a child, you know.

I was holding his head trying to make sure he didn't hurt his neck anymore.

At that point, he was still alive.

I felt like maybe he got to at least maybe hear me a little bit. And give him a little bit of encouragement that we were going to make sure he got out of there.

He was -- he was a little older. I think he was 24. I can't even remember his birthday right now.

WALSH: Death may become routine here, but grief does not. A memorial service for another loss nearby and a pep talk by the general.

But still, growing disillusion at home ... some here glad it's ending.

PETERSON: My gut feeling right now is that it's good. That it's time to be done.

I think that we've done as much as we can.

We've done what we've done here.

It's time to be done.

## **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

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

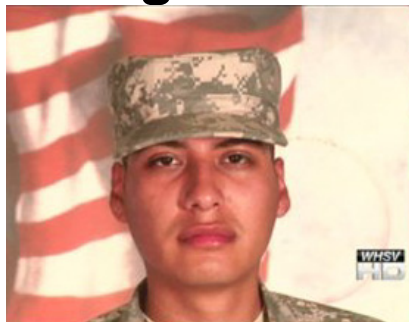
### **Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced**

July 4, 2011 AP

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

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### **Friends Remember Local Soldier Killed In Afghanistan**



Jun 24, 2011 Aubrey Urbanowicz, WHSV

Friends and loved ones are remembering a Harrisonburg soldier who was killed this week in Afghanistan. 24 year old Levi Nuncio died less than 48 hours ago when enemy forces attacked his unit.

Army Specialist Levi Nuncio was serving his country as a medic, something he enjoyed doing.

Friends of his are grieving the loss of their friend saying that he joined the military because he wanted to better his life, and says that he wanted to come back and be a hero.

Donnie Widdowfield is Levi Nuncio's girlfriend and says Nuncio loved serving his country helping people as a medic.

Widdowfield says, "He was so happy, you know he was like you don't know who your with because I'm in the military and I have all this special stuff I can do."

Juan Moreno knew Nuncia for three years, and used to work with him at Mcdonalds in Shenandoah.

Moreno says, "He was outgoing, polite, had manners. He was just fun to be around."

Widdowfield says the last time she saw him in person was in April when she drove him to the airport as he prepared to deploy.

Widdowfield said, "He gave me a hug and he just looked so sad when he left. He was walking out the door and you could see the plane in the background, and he just stopped and he looked at me and he was like, you know, I love you but this is my job and I have to go. Then he just went."

Moreno says, "He just loved helping people out, I know the last time I talked to him he just said take care of my family, and take care of my baby girl."

Morano says his friend missed being here with his friends, family, and girlfriend. Moreno says, "I just miss him and I wish he was here."

Both of his friends tell me that Nuncio wanted to come back and be a dentist.

His girlfriend also says that he enjoyed writing poems and wanted to eventually put a book together.

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

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

# **“Security In Northern Afghanistan, Once Seen As A Success Story Compared With The More Troublesome South And East, Has Fallen Apart”**

## **“The Militants Have Taken Control Of Several Villages And Merged With Local Taliban Insurgents To Create A Deadly New Force”**

### **“It Wasn’t Supposed To Be This Way”**

Jun 28, 2011 By Kathy Gannon - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

KUNDUZ, Afghanistan — A phalanx of bodyguards protects Samiullah Qatra in his office — with good reason.

He got the job as police chief in this northern province after a suicide bomber killed his predecessor just down the street. Qatra narrowly escaped a bomber aiming for him a few weeks back.

Security in northern Afghanistan, once seen as a success story compared with the more troublesome south and east, has fallen apart under increasing attacks that intelligence and government officials say are fueled by a new influx of Central Asian Islamic militants moving in from bases in Pakistan’s tribal areas.

The militants have taken control of several villages and merged with local Taliban insurgents to create a deadly new force, said one Afghan intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the information on militants’ movements is classified.

The militants belong to the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, a radical faction made up of ethnic Uzbeks, Tajiks, Chechens and Turks, some with German citizenship.

It wasn’t supposed to be this way.

The north’s population is largely made up of ethnic Tajiks and Uzbeks who opposed the Taliban, whose support base are mostly ethnic Pashtuns.

The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan was largely crushed inside Afghanistan two years ago, and its militants were forced to flee into Pakistan.

But now they are returning to northern Afghanistan, driven from Pakistan's Waziristan tribal regions by U.S. drone strikes, said the intelligence official.

**The militants are mostly targeting government officials and security forces.**

**Attacks on government buildings and security recruitment stations have killed dozens. Bombers killed not only Qatra's predecessor in Kunduz province, but also the police chief of neighboring Takhar province.**

**"The Uzbeks of the IMU had a big hand in these killings as well as local Taliban, who helped them," said the intelligence official. The ideas and the planning are done by the Uzbeks, he said.**

This month, Qatra narrowly escaped an attack believed to be targeting him. Qatra was approaching a mosque where a memorial service was being held when guards stopped a suspicious person who detonated his explosives-laden vest, killing three policemen.

The intelligence official said up to 600 members of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan are based in Pakistan's tribal regions, allied with Pakistani Taliban leader Hakimullah Mehsud and aided by the deadly Haqqani network.

The drone strikes have caused many to leave North Waziristan for Pakistan's Kurram territory, a major crossing point, said the official, who was previously based in Kurram tracking their movements. The U.S. recently hit targets for the first time in Kurram, an indication that its intelligence is also reporting militant movement in the area.

The IMU militants then cross from Kurram into Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province, eventually making their way through the Tagaab Valley, which is currently patrolled by French soldiers.

From the Tagaab, it is a direct line into northern Afghanistan's Kunduz, Baghlan and Takhar provinces.

Once there, they blend in with local ethnic Uzbeks, said the intelligence official. The fighters at one point took over three district centers of Kunduz province, but German troops pushed them out and now they are hiding in smaller villages, backed by local Taliban and sheltered by residents in exchange for promises not to attack their area, he said.

Unlike most of the north, Kunduz and neighboring Baghlan province also have significant Pashtun populations.

**Disgruntled by poverty, unemployment and widespread corruption, many Pashtun youths have thrown outright or tacit support to the Taliban and their IMU partners, said Kunduz Gov. Mohammed Anwar Jigdalik.**

“They don’t necessarily support the Taliban but they are unhappy with the government,” Jigadilik said from inside his heavily fortified residence, protected by at least two steel barriers, barbed wire, blast-absorbing bags and a small army of guards.

**Residents say corrupt police and government officials also help the militants.**

Ahmed Fawad, a day laborer in Kunduz, said that earlier this year he saw a bomber cross a police checkpoint, handing the police 50 Afghanis — the equivalent of a dollar — to pass through unchecked. Farther down the road, he blew himself up near a contingent of troops.

**For many residents, fear of bombers translates into fear of the troops they target.**

**“We are afraid always now of these bombers. The foreign forces bring them with them,” said Fawad.**

**“They should stay off the streets.”**

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## **The General Looks On The Bright Side**

28 Jun 2011 By MICHAEL HOFFMAN and GINA CAVALLARO, Defense News [Excerpt]

**MARJAH, Afghanistan - The U.S. Army three-star charged with training Afghanistan’s military is tired of hearing how the Afghan army’s supply chain is broken.**

**“It’s hard to break something that’s not built,” said Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell, head of NATO Training Mission–Afghanistan (NTMA).**

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## **Surprise Surprise! Tankers For Occupation Troops Torched In Afghanistan**

Jul 3, 2011 Press TV

A convoy of NATO tankers has come under attack in western Afghanistan as US-led forces face a climbing number of deadly attacks in the war-ravaged country.

The Afghan authorities say six oil tankers were destroyed in the attack, which took place in Herat Province, a Press TV correspondent reported on Sunday.

Taliban militants have claimed responsibility for the attack.

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# A Case History Of Infiltration: Interview With An Insurgent

Jun 27, 2011 By RAY RIVERA, New York Times [Excerpts]

**KABUL, Afghanistan — For someone who had once joined an insurgent group, and whose family was tied to a top Taliban commander, Akmal had a strikingly easy path into the Afghan National Army.**

The district governor who approved his paperwork had never met him. A village elder who was supposed to vouch for him — as required by recruiting mandates — did little more than verify his identity.

No red flags went up when, after just six weeks in the army, he deserted. He returned more than three months later with the skimpiest of explanations and was allowed to rejoin.

“I told them I got sick,” Akmal recalled.

Now Akmal, 18, who like many Afghans goes by one name, could face the death penalty for his admitted part in a bombing on May 22 that killed six people on the grounds of the Afghan national military hospital.

He also helped in another attack in February on a shopping mall in the capital, while he was absent without leave from the army, he said in an interview with The New York Times after his capture last month.

Interviews with intelligence officers, family members and other conspirators supported Akmal's account.

The Taliban never asked Akmal to join the Afghan National Army, he said. But once inside, he proved a useful tool.

“The army cannot do investigations for each individual person who joins,” said Gen. Zahir Azimi, a spokesman for the Defense Ministry.

This month, intelligence officials arrested a dozen people within the Defense and Interior Ministries, including an army colonel and a major, accusing them of aiding in an attack on the Defense Ministry headquarters in Kabul in April that left two soldiers dead.

“There's a major effort to turn Afghans once they're already inside the security forces, as well as a push to infiltrate existing militants into the ranks,” said a senior United States military officer who is helping to oversee the influx.

“They're even trying cold-calling on their cellphones to see who might be interested,” said the American officer, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

## **“His Heart Remained With The Insurgency”**

Akmal enlisted in the military for the same reason many people do: to escape poverty.

But his heart remained with the insurgency.

Though he was offered money, about \$290, to help in the hospital attack, he considered it supplemental income and not a motivating factor, he said.

His background offered hints of trouble.

He grew up in Shakar Dara, a small farming district north of Kabul that at one time had been a hotbed of Taliban activity.

His father had served under Anwar Dargar, a top Taliban commander, Akmal said. His uncle was Mr. Dargar's brother-in-law, though the uncle said in an interview that he had cut ties to the Dargar family.

That uncle raised Akmal and his older brother from the time they were young, after their mother died and their father disappeared. But last year, he kicked them out.

With nowhere to go, his brother joined the police.

Akmal went the opposite direction, following a friend named Waris — Mr. Dargar's nephew — to eastern Afghanistan, where they joined Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin, an insurgent group.

Frustrated that the group was not doing much fighting, Akmal returned to Kabul a month later and, desperate for work, joined the army.

Under guidelines established in September 2009, all army and police recruits must undergo criminal background checks, drug screening and biometric scans as part of an eight-step vetting process.

**But in a country where computers are rare and many criminal matters are handled through the informal justice system, background checks are difficult.**

**So a key step requires that two village elders or guarantors sign letters testifying to the recruit's “identity and motivation to serve.”**

**But both those who signed Akmal's letters said they knew little about him.**

“All I do is something like, ‘I confirm that this guy lives in this place and he is the son of this man,’ “ said Malik Mohammad Din, the head elder in Akmal's village. “And then I stamp it and sign it.”

He added that he did not know Akmal had ever joined the insurgency, or he would not have signed. The district governor, Mehrabudin, said, “I sign the letters because the elder knows that person well and so I give my approval.”



Akmal was assigned to the 53rd Health Battalion and began training as a combat medic at the national military hospital in Kabul.

**He shared his insurgent sympathies with no one.**

**But told his unit would be sent to the front lines after its training, he quickly deserted. “I didn’t want to fight the Taliban and kill them,” he said.**

By then, his friend Waris, with the help of Afghan associates in Pakistan, was plotting a bombing of Kabul City Center, a shopping mall. Akmal agreed to help stake out the target, instructing the bomber where to go to kill the most foreigners.

The plan called for the bomber to blow himself up deep inside the crowded mall, but security guards stopped him at the entrance and he set the vest off, killing himself and two guards.

Afterward, Akmal fled briefly to Pakistan, but returned to Kabul a month later. Finding himself homeless again, he rejoined the army, saying he had been hospitalized with an infectious disease to explain his absence.

**That he was allowed back was troubling but not unusual, Afghan and NATO officials said. Afghan soldiers often leave without permission to help their families.**

**In fact, there is no penalty for desertion, according to the Defense Ministry.**

“There is not yet a culture in the military that says you can’t go away and do harvests and come back,” said Maj. Gen. D. Michael Day, deputy commander of the NATO Training Mission in Afghanistan.

A few weeks after Akmal rejoined, Waris called with a new target: the national military hospital. Akmal’s job would be to supply an army uniform and arrange for the bomber to get past the guards at the heavily fortified complex.

Akmal called his brother, the police officer, who is also now in custody, for help.

Two days before the attack, Akmal went to the home of another of the conspirators in Shakar Dara and met the bomber, a burly Pakistani, for the first time.

That night Akmal taught him how to walk like a soldier and gave him his army uniform and boots. As a final preparation, they rigged a grenade fuse to the vest.

The next morning, Waris and Akmal escorted the bomber by taxi into Kabul.

Inside a restroom at the Pul-e-Khesthi Mosque downtown, the bomber changed into the uniform, the vest hidden underneath. Outside the hospital, where Akmal’s brother had arranged for the bomber to pass through, Akmal gave the bomber a cellphone and they left him.

A few minutes later, Akmal called. The bomber told him he was seated under a tree outside a hospital dining tent, where dozens of medical trainees were just sitting down to lunch.

As Akmal and Waris's taxi weaved through downtown traffic, a report of a blast at the hospital blared over the radio.

Akmal dialed the phone again.

This time, no one answered.

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## **“Washington Has Given Up Its Hopes Of Turning Afghanistan Into The Switzerland Of Central Asia – Now It Wants To Make The Country Into The Region’s Belgium” [No, Not From The Onion] [Yet]**

June 27, 2011 By Daniel Dombey in Washington and Matthew Green in Islamabad  
[Excerpts]

Washington has given up its hopes of turning Afghanistan into the Switzerland of Central Asia – now it wants to make the country into the region's Belgium.

In little-noticed comments, Hillary Clinton, US Secretary of State, recently suggested that to address the problem the US could look to the past, namely to the 1814-15 Congress of Vienna, which established Belgium as a neutral buffer state and ushered in a century of relative stability.

Asked by Richard Lugar, the senior Republican Senator, about the importance of bringing countries such as India, Russia and central Asian states to the table, Mrs Clinton endorsed his suggestion that the Congress of Vienna be a model.

“The Congress of Vienna is an interesting historical example because there was a pact made among regional powers that in effect left the Benelux countries as a free zone,” she said.

“If we could get to that point with the regional powers in South Asia, that would not recommence with the great game in Afghanistan, that would be a very worthy outcome.”

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## **BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: HOME, NOW**



A US soldier from 1-26 Infantry during a patrol at Combat Outpost Sabari in Khost province in the east of Afghanistan on June 22. (AFP/File/Ted Aljibe)

### **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/))**

## MILITARY NEWS

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



The remains of Capt. Matthew G. Nielson Saturday, July 2, 2011, at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Nielson, 27, of Jefferson, Iowa, died June 29, 2011, in Badrah, Iraq of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with indirect fire. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark)

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## Welfare For Dictators: Pentagon Billions Are Flowing To Tyrants In The Middle East

June 26, 2011 by Aram Roston, Newsweek [Excerpts]

Officially, the U.S. does not pay other governments for rights to military bases.

The logic is straightforward: funneling money to the treasuries of foreign dictators cannot form the foundation of genuine strategic alliances.

Yet, to fight wars in Iraq and Afghanistan while staring down the mullahs in Iran, over the last decade the Pentagon has come to rely in an unprecedented way on a web of bases across the Middle East.

**And a NEWSWEEK investigation of Pentagon contracting practices in Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, and Bahrain has uncovered more than \$14 billion paid mostly in sole-**

**source contracts to companies controlled by ruling families across the Persian Gulf.**

Take a look at Abu Dhabi.

The wealthiest of the United Arab Emirates, it hosts a U.S. Air Force base at Al Dhafra, which is a vital refueling hub in the region.

**As is the case in most Gulf states, Abu Dhabi is ruled by a single family that dominates both government and business.**

**Here it is the Nahyan family, and the emir is 63-year-old Sheik Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who is known for his interest in camel racing, is worth \$15 billion, and controls the country's national oil company, ADNOC.**

**As it turns out, every drop of fuel America buys for its planes at Al Dhafra — more than 200 million gallons a year, costing \$5.2 billion since 2005 — is purchased from the Al Nahyan—controlled ADNOC.**

**Yet, according to contract documents, that money has bypassed the competitive bidding process that is supposed to accompany any -purchase—of firearms, flak jackets, or fuel—by the Pentagon.**

In Abu Dhabi, “we may be essentially buying our presence,” says Alexander Cooley, a professor at Barnard College who studies U.S. basing strategy.

The U.S. regularly pays rents to foreign landowners, but those payments are separate from base rights, which are government-to-government agreements. On bases, Cooley says, “there is a quid pro quo that is tacit.”

Nearly three decades ago, after a spree of spending scandals — there was a \$436 hammer and a toilet seat that cost \$640 — Congress passed the 1984 Competition in Contracting Act requiring competitive bidding.

The principle is simple: competition drives down prices and increases quality. According to Charles Tiefer, a member of the federal Commission on Wartime Contracting, “The law mandates competition with very limited exceptions.”

Abu Dhabi has exploited one of those exemptions brilliantly.

Five years ago, at the height of the Iraq War, an American fuel contractor based in Florida called IOTC challenged a \$500 million sole-source contract teed up for ADNOC. The award “must be open to full competition,” a contract lawyer, Ronald Uscher, wrote in a protest letter to the federal Government Accountability Office.

**The Pentagon fought back, citing what it said was U.A.E. law, but IOTC's lawyer says the military “was unable to produce any such law or decree.”**

Internal Pentagon emails obtained by NEWSWEEK under the Freedom of Information Act show confusion even inside the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), which handles procurement for the military.

After a colonel questioned the sole-source process with ADNOC in 2008, the acting division chief of the agency responded, “Basically, it’s the only company we are allowed to source fuel from as per the local gov’t.”

Later, a U.S. contracting officer asked, “Is there any documentation or history” about the Abu Dhabi law?

**Even the U.S. Embassy in Abu Dhabi said that it could not actually find a copy of the law.**

**Only a few months later, the Pentagon issued another \$918 million sole-source contract to ADNOC. In Tiefer’s estimation, “you are turning the keys to the treasury over to the sheikdom.”**

The Pentagon says it did what it had to.

“We have an option,” a DLA official told NEWSWEEK. “Do you want to be in that country and fly out of the airfield and use the fuel they provide, or not?” (ADNOC would not comment.)

**Ruling families hosting other U.S. bases in the Gulf seem to be profiting in the same way.**

Consider Kuwait, where Arifjan, the major U.S. base, serves as the chief military supply route to Iraq.

**Like the Al Nahyan family in Abu Dhabi, the al-Sabah clan runs Kuwait, as well as its national oil concern, Kuwait Petroleum Co., which has received some \$4 billion in Pentagon contracts since 2005, much of it in sole-source contracts.**

The DLA explains, “Contracts providing fuel destined for Iraq are sole source due to Kuwaiti restrictions.”

Or look at the kingdom of Bahrain, where Arab Spring protests have raged this past month. It’s also home to the 60-acre headquarters of the U.S.’s Fifth Fleet. King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa rules the country, and as it happens, Bahrain is also host to the regional headquarters for the DLA’s energy operations—the office that buys all fuel for the U.S. military in the first place.

Every year Bahrain’s national oil company routinely wins a chunk of a huge Pentagon contract, called WestPac, to provide fuel to U.S. military operations in the western Pacific.

**Bahrain’s national fuel company has achieved a rare status: the kingdom, which has a population of barely more than 1 million people, has become one of the American military’s chief fuel suppliers, taking in billions.**

The DLA points out that Bahrain’s fuel sales are not a sole-source contract like the ones in Abu Dhabi.

Instead, the Pentagon says, Bahrain always wins because its bid is low; it offers vast quantities of fuel; and it has few, if any, competitors among the “traditional suppliers” in the region.

David Kirsh, a director at the oil--consulting firm PFC Energy, says, “The Bahrain Petroleum Co. probably would not be winning these contracts if not for the base.”

The question remains whether these strategic alliances are floating on more than a fast-flowing river of taxpayer money.

**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.**

## **Gold Star Mother: 1 Stupid Bureaucrats: 0**

Jun 30 The Associated Press

CATO, N.Y. — An 89-year-old Gold Star mother from central New York is getting back the special license plate she was forced to relinquish.

When she took her car off the road in May, Ethel Barnes of Cato asked the state Department of Motor Vehicles office if she could keep the plate that paid tribute to her son Robert Barnes, an Army infantryman who died in Vietnam 44 years ago at age 21. She was dismayed when told it was impossible.

The Syracuse Post-Standard reports that state Sen. Patty Ritchie stepped in and persuaded DMV to recreate the license plate. The replica will be presented to Barnes Thursday afternoon. She plans to display it with her son’s medals.

Gold Star Mothers is a national group for mothers who have lost children in battle.

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## **Vet Wins \$925K From V.A. For Exploding Eyeball**

Jun 27, 2011 By John Christoffersen - The Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — A 60-year-old Army veteran won a \$925,000 settlement with the Department of Veterans Affairs after he was blinded in one eye during a routine outpatient cataract operation, his attorney said Monday.

Jose Goncalves of Hartford was blinded in his right eye when a third-year resident at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in West Haven incorrectly administered an anesthetic during the procedure in 2007, attorney Christopher Bernard said.

The resident then injected too much anesthetic, causing his eyeball to explode, Bernard said.

"Jose suffered excruciating pain after that botched surgery and continued to have severe pain for months afterward," Bernard said. "The damage to the eye is obvious because his iris is missing and his eyelid droops. If anything should ever happen to the undamaged left eye, he could face total blindness."

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Bridgeport in 2009 against the VA, argued that Goncalves' injuries were a result of carelessness and negligence by the doctors at the Veterans' Administration facility and that he "has been permanently deprived of his ability to carry on and enjoy life's activities."

Goncalves suffers from a significant lack of depth perception that makes him unable to resume his previous job as a roofer, his attorney said. He works in the maintenance department at Central Connecticut State University.

He is unable to drive except for short distances. Reading, watching television and going to movies are difficult because the undamaged eye tires so quickly, Bernard said.

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## **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.”**

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

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**“The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it.”**

**-- Karl Marx, “Theses on Feuerbach”**

## **Insurrection:**

**“Even In The Classic Time Of Street Fighting, Therefore, The Barricade Produced More Of A Moral Than A Material Effect”**

**“In All Cases The Fight Was Won Because The Troops Failed To Obey, Because The Officers Lost Their Power Of Decision Or Because Their Hands Were Tied”**

1895; Friedrich Engels; The Road To Power [Excerpts]

Let us have no illusions about it: a real victory of an insurrection over the military in street fighting, a victory as between two armies, is one of the rarest exceptions.

But the insurgents, also, counted on it just as rarely.

For them it was solely a question of making the troops yield to moral influences, which, in a fight between the armies of two warring countries do not come into play at all, or do so to a much less degree.

**If they succeed in this, then the troops fail to act, or the commanding officers lose their heads, and the insurrection wins.**

**If they do not succeed in this, then, even where the military are in the minority, the superiority of better equipment and training, of unified leadership, of the planned employment of the military forces and of discipline makes itself felt.**

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The numerous successes of the insurgents up to 1848 were due to a great variety of causes.

In Paris in July, 1830 and February, 1848, as in most of the Spanish street fights, there stood between the insurgents and the military a civic militia, which either directly took the side of the insurrection, or else by its lukewarm, indecisive attitude caused the troops likewise to vacillate and supplied the insurrection with arms into the bargain.

Where this citizens' guard opposed the insurrection from the outset as in June, 1848, in Paris, the insurrection was vanquished.

In Berlin in 1848, the people were victorious partly through a considerable accession of new fighting forces during the night and the morning of the 19th, partly as a result of the exhaustion and bad victualing of the troops, and, finally, partly as a result of the paralysed command.

But in all cases the fight was won because the troops failed to obey, because the officers lost their power of decision or because their hands were tied.

Even in the classic time of street fighting, therefore, the barricade produced more of a moral than a material effect.

It was a means of shaking the steadfastness of the military.

If it held out until this was attained, then victory was won; if not, there was defeat

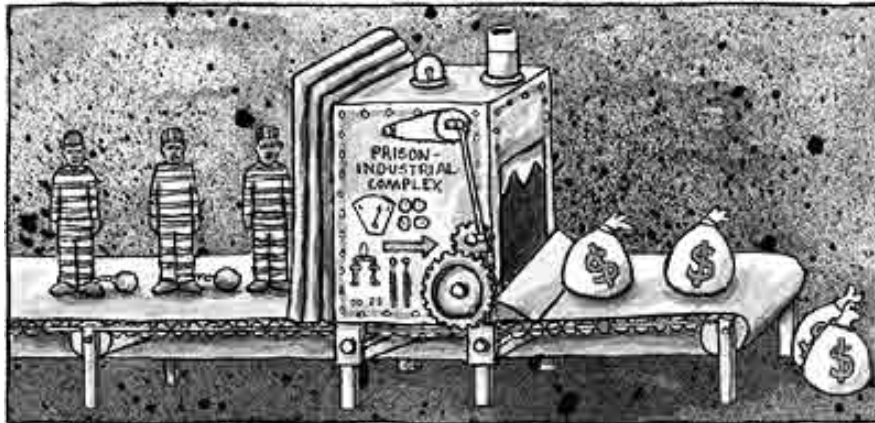
This is the main point, which must be kept in view, likewise when the chances of contingent future street fights are examined.

**“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**

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



## CLASS WAR REPORTS



# **Thousands March In Morocco Against The Royal Dictators' Fake Vote On Fake New Constitution: “The Interior Minister Is A Liar!” “Empty, Empty, The Ballot Boxes Were Empty!”**

Jul 3, 2011 By Souhail Karam, Reuters [Excerpts]

Thousands of people protested in Morocco on Sunday over constitutional reforms they said did not go far enough, but an official said they were out-numbered by people demonstrating in support of the changes.

Morocco's King Mohammed handed over some of his powers to elected officials in a referendum viewed in other Arab monarchies as a test case for whether reform can hold back the wave of "Arab Spring" uprisings sweeping the region.

**The king's reforms were endorsed by 98.5 percent of people who voted in the referendum on Friday, according to the interior ministry, but opponents say the figures were inflated.**

**Protesters marched through a working class district of Tangier, about 450 km (280 miles) north of the capital, chanting "The Interior Minister is a liar!"**

**They also carried empty boxes and shouted "Empty, empty, the ballot boxes were empty!"**

A Reuters reporter estimated the protesters, in the Beni Mekada suburb of Tangier, numbered about 10,000.

"We wanted to send a message that even after the fraudulent referendum, we are still here," said Khalid Laasri, who was taking part in the opposition march.

There was no sign of uniformed police officers around the march.

The February 20 opposition movement -- inspired by uprisings which ousted leaders in Tunisia and Egypt -- has been holding regular protests for months, but Sunday's demonstrations were the first since the referendum.

Opponents said the changes did not go far enough because they left the palace in control of security, defense and religious issues and did not tackle graft in the government.

The February 20 movement also organised demonstrations on Sunday in the capital, Rabat, and in Casablanca, Morocco's biggest city. There were contradictory accounts of the numbers involved.

A Reuters reporter in Rabat said he saw about 4,000 protesters, with police keeping them apart from several hundred government supporters.

In Casablanca, February 20 activists said 20,000 people turned out to protest the referendum. A local council member said there were 8,000 demonstrators with a few hundred counter-protesters.

## **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**



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