

Military Resistance 9G8



Scientists Say “The Pentagon Is Falsely Claiming Its Research Shows That Airborne Dust In Iraq And Afghanistan Poses No Health Risk To U.S. Troops”

“‘It Was Just Weird,’ Wexler Said. ‘Were There People In The Military Trying To Cover Up And Get Away With Something?’”

“It Is Simply Not True That Research Supports The Pentagon's Claim That Middle Eastern Dust Poses No Health Risks”

“They Know That, Realistically, The Data Does Not Support That Conclusion”

“When They Did Perform Analyses Correctly, They Did Not Release The Results”

7.6.11 By Kelly Kennedy, USA TODAY [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is falsely claiming its research shows that airborne dust in Iraq and Afghanistan poses no health risk to U.S. troops, say three scientists whose review of that research found it riddled with mistakes.

Military officials then falsely said the review of their research backed their conclusion that the dust in the two war zones is no different from that in California, scientists Philip Hopke, Mark Utell and Anthony Wexler say.

The scientists, who issued their report last year for the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences, were part of a team that reviewed a 2008 study at the request of the Pentagon.

The earlier report, which was conducted for the military by the Nevada-based Desert Research Institute, made a series of incorrect conclusions and used faulty research methods, the 2010 study showed.

It is simply not true that research supports the Pentagon's claim that Middle Eastern dust is similar to that in the United States or that it poses no health risks, says Hopke, a Clarkson University scientist who conducted the National Research Council study.

"It's a bit disappointing when they know that, realistically, the data does not support that conclusion," he says.

Both studies were conducted to better understand risks as the number of U.S. troops who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and developed mysterious and severe respiratory conditions skyrocketed after their service. Since the start of the wars in 2003 and 2001, neurological disorders per 10,000 active-duty servicemembers have risen by 251%, while respiratory issues jumped by 47%, according to a USA TODAY analysis of military morbidity records from 2001 to 2010.

In a series of interviews and written memos in recent months, Pentagon health officials have claimed that the 2008 study found nothing wrong with the dust from the Middle East.

"It is not noticeably different from samples collected in the Sahara Desert and desert regions in the U.S. and China," Craig Postlewaite, head of the Pentagon Force Protection and Readiness Office, told USA TODAY for a May story.

That USA TODAY report, Postlewaite and other Pentagon officials later said, "attempts to form a 'cause and effect' relationship" but there is "no evidence on which to base such a relationship."

In a blog on the Defense Department's website, Navy Capt. Patrick Laraby cited the NRC study directly: "After an exhaustive review, the NRC was unable to identify any health risks and indicated that they would need more data to determine whether there were any risks," Laraby wrote.

Utell, a professor at the University of Rochester School of Medicine who headed the National Research Council study, said it's incorrect for the Pentagon to claim the council's research found "no adverse health effects."

Instead, he said, the 2010 study found there could be negative health effects from the dust and that the 2008 research was so flawed "that they wouldn't be able to determine that with their study."

Utell, Hopke and Wexler, of the University of California-Davis, say their study found that the military's research in the 2008 report was flawed from the beginning, and the council made no statement that the dust is safe or similar to that back home.

In fact, they said the Army's research was so "ill-founded" that it couldn't be used to determine anything other than that the fine particulate matter levels in the Middle East far exceeded recommended World Health Organization levels.

Utell agreed that the military took on a big task that could lead to better surveillance, but he and Wexler said military medical command were told even before they began the 2008 study that it was faulty.

“It is troubling that they did not take the scientists’ recommendations to heart,” Utell said.

Wexler said these kinds of studies have been performed before, so researchers should have known that the sampling equipment they used would be overwhelmed by sandstorms, that samples should not be kept in plastic containers in a hot environment because they could become contaminated, and that samples should be taken every third day - as has been the EPA standard since 1997 - rather than every sixth day.

“It's not like it's rocket science,” Wexler said.

He said the researchers used “inappropriate” methods to test for metals, and that when they did perform analyses correctly, they did not release the results.

“It was just weird,” Wexler said. “Were there people in the military trying to cover up and get away with something? Who knows. It could also be the best they could do with the resources they have.”

Johann Engelbrecht, the Desert Research Institute scientist who led the 2008 study, called the council report “probably a fair judgment” and said he planned to use its recommendations for his upcoming report. That report is being paid for by a \$1.2 million earmark put in the defense budget by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Nevada Democrat.

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Bomb Outside Main American Base In Baghdad Kills 2 U.S. Soldiers

July 7 By Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.S. military says two American soldiers have been killed by a roadside bomb outside the main U.S. base in Baghdad.

Two military officials said Thursday's bomb at a checkpoint outside Victory Base Camp used armor-piercing explosives known as EFPs.

The two soldiers were not identified pending notification of next of kin.

Victory Base is the headquarters of the U.S. military in Iraq.

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(Graphic: London Financial Times)

July 05, 2011 VOA News & 7.6.11 AP & Kuna & 07 Jul 2011 Reuters

A car bomb targeted a military convoy in northwest Ba'qouba, a police source told KUNA here. The source identified the victims as 20 injured soldiers.

Two bombs have exploded outside a government building north of Baghdad, killing at least 35 people. Iraqi officials say a car bomb and another explosive went off Tuesday in the town of Taji, about 20 kilometers north of the capital. They say more than two dozen people were wounded in the blasts.

Iraqi officials say two police officers have been killed in a bombing outside a car dealership in eastern Iraq. Diyala province police spokesman Maj. Ghalib al-Karkhi says the bomber drove up to a security patrol as it passed by the dealership and detonated his explosives-packed vehicle. Wednesday's blast in al-Hedaid, just outside the provincial capital Baqouba, killed two policemen and wounded five policemen.

MOSUL - A roadside bomb went off near a police patrol and one policeman, in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

3 Hohenfels-Based Soldiers Die In IED Attack

Jul 7, 2011 Army Times

Three Germany-based soldiers were killed Tuesday in Afghanistan when militants attacked their unit, the Defense Department said Thursday.

The soldiers killed were

- Staff Sgt. Joshua A. Throckmorton, 28, of Battle Creek Mich.
- Spc. Jordan C. Schumann, 24, of Port St. Lucie, Fla.
- Spc. Preston J. Suter, 22, of Sandy, Utah.

They died of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device blast in Paktia province, officials said.

The soldiers were assigned to the 709th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, out of Hohenfels, Germany.

Louisiana SSG Killed In Logar

July 05, 2011 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 581-11

Staff Sgt. Michael J. Garcia, 27, of Bossier City, La., died July 4 in Logar province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit using an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 63rd Ordnance Battalion, 52nd Ordnance Group (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), 20th Support Command (CBRNE), Fort Polk, La.

Improvised Explosive Device Kills Harvey Native In Afghanistan

June 27, 2011 By Danny Monteverde, The Times-Picayune

A Harvey native who returned last month to Afghanistan for his second tour of duty in the war-torn country was killed Sunday in the dangerous Nad 'Ali district, the Department of Defense said.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Daniel L. Douville, a 33-year-old career airman, died from injuries he suffered from an improvised explosive device.

Douville spent the last seven months with his family vacationing in the Bahamas and cheering on his three children at sporting events near their Fort Walton Beach, Fla., home before his redeployment.

Family was the only thing Douville loved more than his military life, said LaShana Douville, his wife of 14 years.

Daniel Douville joined the service to build a good life for his family, LaShana Douville, 33, said by phone Monday night. "His job was really strictly to take care of us."

While he was an intensely focused airman, he was just as focused on his family when not deployed.

He was passionate about cheering on his children, 14-year-old Jadelynn, 12-year-old Ayjah-Danielle, and 9-year-old Daniel "Deuce" Jr., as they took to the field for athletic events.

"He focused on us," while at home, his wife said. "He said work is work. Home is home."

While his wife and children were his world, the West Jefferson High School class of 1995 graduate also kept busy with various hobbies he developed.

The man who originally worked toward a pre-med biology degree at Southeastern University in order to fulfill a dream of practicing sports medicine also loved to play the keyboard.

"One of the biggest things he was into was music," LaShana Douville said. "It was in his blood." In fact, he was in the process of building himself a recording studio at his home, his wife — his high-school sweetheart — said.

He also developed an interesting in brewing his own beer in recent years.

"He did a lot ... to pass the time," LaShana Douville said. "But one his main hobbies were the kids."

Douville was assigned to the 96th Civil Engineer Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Douville joined the Air Force after graduating from the Community College of the Air Force, LaShana Douville said.

Helmand is the most dangerous province in Afghanistan; 734 soldiers in the NATO mission have died since the war began.

Since the war began in Afghanistan in late 2001, 2,554 NATO-affiliated soldiers have died there. Of those, 1,638 were from the United States.

This year, 273 U.S. soldiers have died in Afghanistan.

In 2009, Helmand was the center of the surge of U.S. forces to try and blunt a Taliban offensive in their traditional homeland.

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

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

Resistance Action

Jul. 2, 2011 The Associated Press & July 3, 2011 AP & July 05, 2011 VOA News & Korean Times

Five rocket-propelled grenades were fired at the South Korean base in the northern city of Charika, Afghanistan, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

Three Afghan police officers were wounded in a bomb explosion in Kabul, police official said.

In the south on Saturday, two insurgents on a motorcycle killed Wakil Mohammad Khan, a member of the local council in Nahri Sarraj district of Helmand province, the interior ministry said.

**Great Moments In U.S. Military
History:
Three Women And Eight Kids
Butchered In Domandera
Hundreds Of People In The District
Chanted, "Death To The United States"
And "Death To NATO"**

July 7, 2011 CNN

Eight children and three women died in eastern Afghanistan when U.S., forces bombarded houses, a provincial official told CNN Thursday.

The incident took place Wednesday in Khost province's Domandera district, according to Khost upper house member and foreign relations chief Arifullah Pashton.

There was no immediate reaction from NATO's International Security Assistance Force about civilian casualties in Khost. But ISAF said it was investigating allegations of civilian casualties in an airstrike targeting an insurgent in Ghazni province, in the southeast.

Pashton said hundreds of people in the district demonstrated against the alliance Thursday and chanted, "Death to the United States" and "Death to NATO."

**NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1:
PACK UP
GO HOME
THIS IS NOT A PRODUCTIVE USE OF TIME**



U.S. Marines of Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, unload spare tire at the Camp Gorgak in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, June 29, 2011.
REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov

MILITARY NEWS

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



The remains of Army Staff Sgt. Michael J. Garcia of Bossier City, La. upon arrival at Dover Air Force Base, Del., July 6, 2011. Garcia died of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit using an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)...

“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

Leading By Example: Army Officer Arrested In Adult Store Closet Having Sex With Blowup Doll

Jul 6, 2011 The Associated Press

WOODBIDGE, Va. — A Woodbridge man has been charged with burglary and destruction of property after he was arrested in the closet of an adult video store with a blowup doll.

Prince William County police say the man, 28-year-old Justin Dale Little Jim, is an officer in the Army.

Police responded to a burglary at the MVC Late Night adult store in Woodbridge about 2:45 a.m. Tuesday and found the glass front door shattered and unlocked.

A police dog was sent in and led officers to a closet. Prosecutors told the News & Messenger of Manassas that Little Jim was attempting to have sexual relations with the doll.

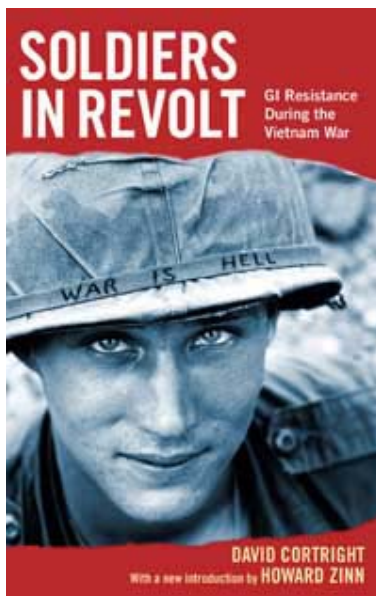
An initial court appearance was continued Wednesday. Court records show that Little Jim remained in custody Wednesday and did not list a lawyer.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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Vietnam GI: Reprints Available



Vietnam: They Stopped An Imperial War

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command.

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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/)



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