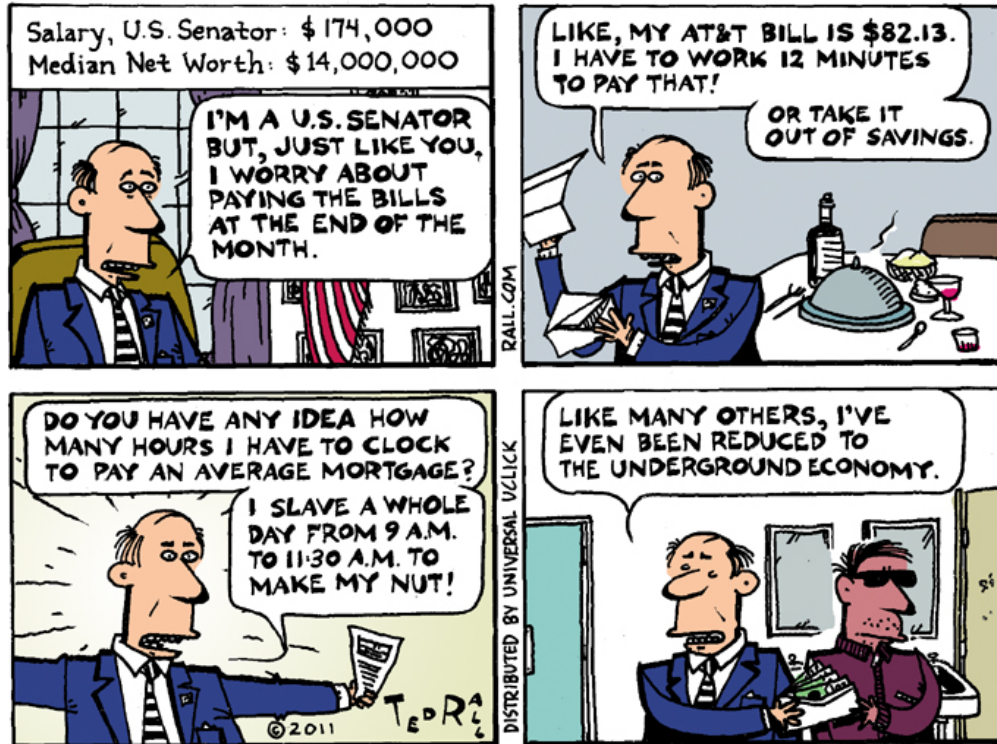


Military Resistance 9H16



“He Just Waits”

“Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lanier Has Entered What He Calls The ‘Vast Unknown’”

“He Can’t Remain In The Military Because Of A Serious Back Injury Earned In Iraq”

“He Can’t Yet Accept A Civilian Job Because He Doesn’t Know When The Military Will Discharge Him”
“He Has No Clue How Much The Government Will Pay Him In Disability Compensation Related To His Injury”



Army Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lanier bless' the meal with his family at his home Thursday, Aug. 11, 2011 in Hinesville, Ga. (AP Photo/Stephen Morton)

[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,563rd time, the enemy is not in Iraq or Afghanistan. Their citizens and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started these wars of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn't tell the truth: U.S. Imperial wars are about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. T]

Aug. 18, 2011 By KIMBERLY HEFLING, Associated Press [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lanier has entered what he calls the “vast unknown.” A combat veteran and father to four daughters, he can't remain in the military because of a serious back injury earned in Iraq.

But he can't yet accept a civilian job because he doesn't know when the military will discharge him.

He has no clue how much the government will pay him in disability compensation related to his injury, so he can't make a future budget.

He just waits.

"I don't have any idea what the end stat is going to be on the other side.

"When you have a family and you are trying to plan for the future, that's going to affect a lot of things," said Lanier, a 37-year-old soldier stationed at Fort Stewart, Ga., who walks with a limp because of related nerve damage.

"The only known is that it takes time."

Thousands of troops are like Lanier: not fully fit to serve but in limbo for about two years waiting to get discharged under a new system that was supposed to be more efficient than its predecessor.

The government determines the pay and benefits given to wounded, sick or injured troops for their military service.

Under the old system, a medical board would determine their level of military compensation and the service member would be discharged. Then the veteran essentially would have to go through the process again with the Veterans Affairs Department to determine benefits.

While they waited for their VA claim to be processed, many of the war wounded were going broke.

Under the new system, which started in 2007 and will be completely rolled out at military bases nationwide by the end of September, the service member essentially goes through both disability evaluation systems at the same time before leaving the military.

But the new, supposedly streamlined, system is still such a cumbersome process that it's leaving many service members in limbo, they say. A typical service member's case is handed off between the Defense Department and the VA nine times during the new integrated process.

It typically starts about a year after a service member is injured, after it's clear that remaining on duty isn't possible, with a goal of 295 days to complete after that initial year.

However, the average completion time after the initial year is more than 400 days, leaving the service member in limbo more than two years. Each snag in the process sets a service member back from knowing the extent of benefits and time of discharge from the military.

Troops have had to turn down job offers and delay starting college because they don't know when they can leave military service.

And it adds stress on an already vulnerable population.

Marine Cpl. Todd Nicely, 27, was wounded by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan in March 2010 and had both arms and legs amputated.

A piece of paper needing a signature as part of the disability evaluation process sat on a government official's desk for nearly 70 days until Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Patty Murray intervened, Nicely's wife, Crystal, told Murray's committee.

"The process of transitioning out of the military has been particularly difficult," Crystal Nicely said.

"I understand it's supposed to be a faster, more efficient way to complete evaluations and transition out of the military service. That has not been our experience."

The Army alone currently has more than 11,730 Guard, Reserve and active duty soldiers who are going through the new process, and more than a thousand soldiers from the three components enter the new system each month faster than troops are completing it.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**FUTILE EXERCISE:
ONLY 15 MILLION MORE TO GO:
ALL HOME NOW!**



ISKANDARIYA, IRAQ - JULY 15: U.S. soldiers with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment patrol in Iskandariya, Babil Province, Iraq. (Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Friends, Neighbors Mourn Sgt. Daniel Patron



The remains of Sgt. Daniel J. Patron Aug. 8, 2011, at Dover Air Force Base, Del. AP / Steve Ruark

Aug 08, 2011 By Matthew Rink, CantonRep

PERRY TWP. — As the sun dims, Katie Rowbotham gazes upon the collection of flowers and handwritten notes addressed to her cousin that accumulate at the Perry Veterans Memorial.

“He’s our hero,” she says. “A lot of us take jobs where we hope to give back in some way. A lot of us are teachers in our family. A lot of us are in the medical field. But there’s no greater hero than Danny.”

She gasps. Eyes fill with tears. Her voice shakes.

“He did the ultimate,” she says. “It’s amazing. And he’s such a young man.”

Mourners congregated at the Perry Veterans Memorial over the last two days to reflect, to weep, to pay tribute. They sought solace amid the tragedy that claimed their friend, Sgt. Daniel J. Patron, 26. Devoid of answers, they weighed on memories of Patron to ease the heart wrenching.

Patron was killed Saturday in Sangin, Afghanistan, trying to defuse a roadside bomb. After tours of duty in Iraq in 2005 and 2009, Patron voluntarily extended his service earlier this year, extending his mission in Afghanistan by four more months. He left in April and was due home in November.

In a flag-draped casket, Patron's body returned home Sunday night under the floodlights of Dover Air Force Base, where his family journeyed so they could be with their son and brother.

Patron was assigned to 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force, in Camp Lejeune, N.C., according to the Department of Defense. Patron enlisted after graduating from Perry High in 2003. The son of Kathy and Frank Patron, he was inspired to serve following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

He spent the first four years in the military band, which he brought back home with him in 2004 to perform in the Pro Football Hall of Fame Parade. But he "wanted something more challenging," so he trained for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company in Florida, according to his mother.

In 2007, his older brother, Matthew, wrote and illustrated a book in his honor. It is titled, "I Love You, Dan, Good Night."

The first page reads "For Dan, remembering the day your boots touched down, and knowing deep within that love can overcome any distance."

The story tells how Matthew cared for his younger brother as a kid, carrying him to bed when he would fall asleep in front of the television, and charts their way through childhood to the day Dan chose to enter the military.

Patron was funny and unpredictable. He was brilliant and talented. He was in the choir and a member of the speech and debate team. He played drums in the marching band, and also knew how to play the bagpipes. Occasionally, he would wear a kilt.

Perry English teacher Cindy Whetstone, who created the veterans memorial in 2006, had Patron in class and is a friend of the family.

"Just funny," she said of her former student. "You never knew what he was going to say. He was just off the wall. If it was something daring, he was willing to do it."

He was president the school's theater group, The Perry Players, a member of the National Thespian Society, and played the lead role in the production of "The Pajama Game" his senior year. He even won the school's theater hall-of-fame award. Perry theater director Louie Mattachione called him a "gem."

"These are tough times for Perry," Mattachione said. "Dan was the biggest little guy I know. He had a real unique, funny way about him. You had to love it. You wanted to hug him every time you saw him. He was stubborn, but stubborn in a good way. I'm honored to have had a role in nurturing him."

John Marino, a classmate, played alongside Patron in their senior-year theater production. Marino said his friend "shined" in the performance. He called Patron a "true American hero."

"He's one of the greatest people I've met on this Earth," Marino said.

Okla. Soldier Killed In Afghanistan Laid To Rest

8/16 Reported by: Sharon Phillips, FOX23

Friends and family are remembering Army Sgt. Anthony Peterson.

The Oklahoma National Guard soldier's funeral was held today in Claremore. The Patriot Guard attended the service.

Peterson is one of six Okla. soldiers killed in Afghanistan in recent weeks.

Peterson was an infantryman with Company B, 1st battalion of the 279th Infantry. He died in combat on August 3rd.

"His sister posted online that he had passed away during combat this morning," says friend David Brace.

David says he was shocked to hear the news his friend had died. He says he will remember his zest for life and Anthony's passion to lead others to Christ.

"One of those things that he put together was a group called "Rescued" and it was primarily just to go out and do good things to people who need help," says Brace.

As Anthony prepared for deployment to Afghanistan, he told David how excited he was.

"We just talked it up about the opportunity to be able to serve the country, and serve people and do something that he had never done before."

But then on July 30th, Anthony posted this on his facebook page.

"I don't know that many people my own age, and now I'm so old on the inside now. This war stuff doesn't get easier."

Friends say he was ready to serve, but the daily grind of combat and being away from family started to take its toll.

"We can't relate to how these families are grieving over their loved ones, but we can do the best we can to support those who are remaining," says Oklahoma Blue Star Mother's volunteer, Kathy Burns.

Anthony Peterson leaves behind a son.

Fallen Navy SEAL Remembered As Adventurous, Athletic

Aug. 9, 2011 by DANIEL P. FINNEY, Des Moines Register

Rockford, Ia. - Floyd County is known for bricks and marble, but perhaps the toughest thing to come out of this region was delivered in July 1976, the same year they closed the clay pit here.

The package came to the home of George and Kathleen Tumilson, not in stone, but in the shape of their newborn son, Jon Thomas Tumilson.

Tumilson grew up to be a U.S. Navy SEAL, one of the most highly trained and elite members of the nation's military. He was among 30 Americans killed when a Taliban rocket-propelled grenade shot down a helicopter in Afghanistan Saturday. Tumilson was 35.

Rockford is a town of about 850 people. And when the news came that their native son died in the decade-long war, that town known for bricks and tiles cracked a little. Even those who didn't know Tumilson personally feel the loss.

"It doesn't really hit you until it hits home," said Paul Bisgard, superintendent of Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock schools, where Tumilson graduated in 1995. "I'm a patriotic supporter of all our military men and women, but it isn't like World War II or Vietnam. Then, everybody knew somebody who died in the war. Now, that isn't true. This wakes you up."

Tumilson was the last of George and Kathleen Tumilson's three children. They had two older daughters, Joy and Kristie.

Jon Tumilson was remembered as an adventurous small-town boy.

Mark Biggs, neighbor to the Tumilsons for 30 years, got to know Jon Tumilson as a toddler. Biggs' father worked on motorcycles in his spare time and had a garage full of bikes.

The boy liked to climb atop the bikes and pretend he was roaring down the highway, Biggs recalled. Biggs' father occasionally turned the key and let the boy beep the bike's horn.

"One day, Jon would've been about 3, Dad turned the key, but instead of hitting the horn, he hit the start button," Biggs said.

The bike lurched forward off its kickstand and fell over on the lad. Father and son Biggs quickly extracted the wailing Tumilson from the mess. He howled all the way home.

The boy grew up to master his own three-wheel ATV, running it all over town and in nearby fields.

Tumilson worked alongside his father on construction jobs in the summer. George and Jon Tumilson helped build Biggs' auto repair shop. Biggs and Jon Tumilson screwed bolts into the rafters of the steel building on the southeast edge of town.

"It would get so hot up on that roof, and he never complained, not once," Biggs said. "I never heard him complain about hard work, or ball practice or cutting weight for wrestling or even basic training in the Navy. Nothing. You asked him to do something, he did it."

Tumilson played football for the Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock High School Warriors. He was popular enough to be elected homecoming king in the fall of 1994. His season on the field earned him all-district honors.

He wrestled his way to conference and sectional championships. He also ran track.

Probably the biggest event of his high school years was when a Navy recruiter visited his junior year. His path to the best of the best began there.

"I remember when he was recruited," Biggs said. "He was so proud. It was exactly what he wanted to do."

After he made SEAL, townsfolk recall the lean, sinewy man running the streets of town - and nearby towns - for hours on end each day.

"He was always running," said Dennis Ginther, 68, a Rockford native who grew up with Tumilson's father. "He would say hello, but he was always staying in shape."

Biggs remembered seeing Tumilson hustling along the shoulder of Iowa Highway 14 between Rockford and Charles City, which is about 15 miles east of Rockford.

Biggs rolled down his window and hollered at his young friend. Tumilson plucked his headphones out of his ears, but kept running in stride. Briggs slowed down his truck. They chatted for a bit.

"He wasn't breathless," Briggs said. "He was just talking like he was sitting down at rest. It was hotter than heck that day, and he's just chugging along."

Briggs offered him a ride.

"Heck, no," Briggs recalled Tumilson saying. "I've got another 30 miles to go."

Few in Rockford knew what Tumilson did as a SEAL. The unit works top-secret missions, and Tumilson told few tales other than from training. In one section of the training, Tumilson and fellow SEAL recruits were taken airborne, blindfolded and flown in circles until completely disoriented. The plane flew the recruits off shore until they were out of sight of land. They were ordered to jump out of the plane and find their way back to base.

How did he do it? "You just do it," Biggs recalled Tumilson saying.

In recent trips home, Tumilson talked of retiring from the Navy. He would have had 20 years in by 2014. He discussed applying to the CIA or U.S. Secret Service.

That day will never come.

George and Kathleen Tumilson were traveling to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to collect their son's remains Monday, friends and family said. Funeral arrangements were pending. This is not how Biggs thought the town hero would return.

Biggs looked up at the roof of his auto shop and remembered happier times.

"I just expect him to drive up in that ATV," Biggs said, tears welling in his eyes, "and I know that isn't the way it's going to be."

Eyewitnesses Report -- The Slaughter At Watapur: "In Terms Of American Fatalities, Operation Bulldog Bite Ranks Among The Bloodiest Battles Of The Afghanistan War, Though Few At Home Ever Heard About It" 'According To After-Action Reports, Only Eight Men From The Platoon Were Not Wounded In The Engagement'



Source: ESRI, AMS. Graphic: Robert Dorrell / 2011 MCT
PAMELA DUNLAP-BROWN, / Anchorage Daily News

Sparks tried to lift him; he felt his hand slip into the back of the man's head. He then tried to rouse the prone man he thought was on guard. He, too, was dead, with massive wounds to his face and chest.

The loss of three patients in minutes hit him hard.

The loss of three patients in minutes hit him hard.

August 21st, 2011 By MIKE DUNHAM, The Anchorage Daily News [Excerpts]

On Nov. 14, 2010, on a rescue mission in Afghanistan, Master Sgt. Roger Sparks and Capt. Koaalii Bailey stepped out of a hovering helicopter and into a blizzard of gunfire.

"I thought we had three seconds to live," Sparks said.

The two men, members of the 212th Rescue Squadron of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing, hung from a cable lowering them 40 feet to a rocky mountainside. Bullets flew from every direction. Three struck the cable.

Just as Sparks' feet touched ground, a rocket-propelled grenade exploded about 20 feet from him.

"The world just turned orange," he said.

The 176th Wing is headquartered at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. It's one of the largest Air Guard units in the country. Some of the 1,400 members are traditional "citizen-soldiers" with civilian jobs who train a weekend a month and pull full-time duty two weeks a year.

A significant part of the force, however, consists of career military professionals. That's particularly the case with the "rescue triangle" -- the 210th and 211th Rescue Squadrons, which fly helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft, and the pararescuemen, or "PJs," of the 212th.

These units are well known in Alaska for daring rescues of civilian hikers, hunters, sailors and climbers in perilous weather in extreme places. The Wing's 11th Rescue Coordination Center, which oversees their operations, is credited with saving more than 1,500 lives in or near Alaska over the past two decades.

But the squadrons' primary mission is combat search and rescue -- getting wounded soldiers to safety while under fire.

Elements of the Wing have been rotated in and out of the Afghanistan conflict many times since 2003. Deployments can last as little as 30 days or as long as a year.

The most recent deployment of the 212th to Afghanistan began last September.

Coalition casualties had hit an all-time high that summer, so the assignment wasn't expected to be easy.

But PJs aren't shopping for easy assignments, least of all 38-year-old Sparks. He enlisted in the Marines in 1991, right after graduating from high school in Watauga, Texas. He took part in serious fighting as part of an elite Force Reconnaissance company, often working far behind enemy lines.

A lanky, powerfully built 6-foot-8, Sparks, whose nickname is "Big Frog," has a gentle demeanor and a lively sense of humor. He said he worried that the Marines might move him to a desk job as he gained seniority, so he switched to the pararescue service and moved to Alaska in 2004. Being a PJ "let me keep my hands dirty" -- actively parachuting into wilderness, scuba diving in freezing waters, and hanging from helicopters in war zones.

"I guess I'm a glutton for punishment," he said.

But Sparks said he had never seen action as furious as that in Afghanistan in November. "Not in combat, not in movies, not anywhere."

In terms of American fatalities, Operation Bulldog Bite ranks among the bloodiest battles of the Afghanistan war, though few at home ever heard about it.

Sparks recently sat at the kitchen table of his house in a quiet Eagle River subdivision, sipping a cup of green tea with milk and honey, gazing at a peaceful vista of Chugach State Park, and told the story.

"The Number Of Reported Casualties Jumped To Six. 'The Guy On The Radio Was Super Emotional,' Sparks Said, "Cursing, Freaking Out'"

The Watapur Valley lies along the northeast edge of Afghanistan, on the border with Pakistan. The valley is surrounded by a steep, rocky, mountainous high desert, one broken by ravines and gullies with sparse vegetation and a few small trees.

Sparks described it as "extremely exposed."

Because the region has little strategic importance, U.S. and coalition forces have generally stayed away.

But when it became known that insurgents were using the area for training camps and weapons depots, U.S. commanders decided to strike, to, in Sparks' words, "stomp the foot, show that we had the ability to go anywhere, any time."

The operation was Bulldog Bite.

It started on Nov. 12 with the Army's storied 101st Airborne Division going in. PJs were stationed nearby to answer the soldiers' calls for help.

It was supposed to last three days.

Insurgent resistance proved much stiffer than anticipated, however. In the Alaska PJs' first mission, on the second day of the fight, Airman Jimmy Settle of Anchorage, a West High graduate, was injured by shrapnel, which lodged in his head.

The rescue helicopters had been stripped of their heavy armor to make it easier to reach the fighting at about 7,000 feet.

Without armor, bullets popped through the floor as the craft flew in and out. They were quickly patched with the equivalent of metal duct tape and sent back up.

At 4:11 p.m. on Nov. 14, day three, Sparks and Bailey were called in to pick up one man killed in action, two seriously wounded and one less seriously wounded.

(If the name Koa Bailey sounds familiar, he was a record-setting star quarterback at Chugiak High School in the 1990s. In military terminology, he's not a PJ, the shorthand used here, but a Combat Rescue Officer or "CRO.")

It was a fairly routine call, Sparks said. "I thought, no big deal."

But on the five-minute flight into the zone, he began to feel that something was wrong. The number of reported casualties jumped to six.

"The guy on the radio was super emotional," Sparks said, "cursing, freaking out."

The PJs were told that the area had been calm for 15 minutes, however. So Sparks and Bailey prepared to be lowered by cable from the hovering chopper. As they crouched in the doorway, 40 feet in the air, the area just exploded.

"I Thought You Were Going To Die On Your Way In"

As soon as they touched down, the blast of the RPG knocked both men off their feet.

"I don't know how we didn't get killed," Sparks said, or "the helicopter didn't get hit and come crashing down on us."

Heavy "crew-fed" machine-gun fire raked the area. The helicopter crew shot back, showering the two prostrate guardsmen with empty shell casings.

"I cannot imagine a more comforting sound than the .50-caliber firing and casings raining down on us," Sparks said.

But the comfort was short-lived.

Soldiers of the 101st were gathered near a tree about 100 yards from where the rescuers had put down. Accompanied by the sound of constant incoming fire, they ran for the tree and were nearly there when it was obliterated by an RPG.

They got back on their feet and ran to the soldiers.

One man, his helmet and teeth missing from the blast, appeared to be in charge. "Smoke?" he said.

Sparks thought he meant signal flares, so he said, "We have two red and two green."

"No. Cigarette."

The man -- most likely a sergeant -- indicated that the platoon commander was incapacitated or possibly dead and that he was in charge.

"I thought you were going to die on your way in," he said.

The helicopter, by then low on fuel and ammunition, left to return to base. In the chopper were a third PJ and their medical supplies.

The incoming fire had made it impossible to lower them to the ground.

Sparks tried to assess the situation as machine-gun bullets "continued to engulf the area, a maze of tracer fire interlocking around us."

The Americans were surrounded, being shot at incessantly from at least three positions.

What Sparks didn't immediately realize was that all the fire was coming from the enemy.

The 101st was out of ammunition for their own heavy machine guns, the muscle of modern ground warfare. Sparks had a light rifle with him, but using it against big weapons in hidden positions would have been "like throwing rocks."

He realized the insurgents were maneuvering, preparing to overrun the Americans.

The ground shook from incoming rounds as a soldier came rolling over a knoll. He told the PJs that the wounded were 20 yards over the hill. "Don't go there," he said. "You'll be killed, too."

It took 20 minutes, Sparks thinks, to get approval for Apache gunships to send Hellfire missiles whistling over their shoulders to strike the most troublesome enemy positions. A jet followed up, dropping a 2,000-pound bomb.

The bomb hit extremely close to the Americans. "I don't know how the percussion didn't kill us all," Sparks said. "But that settled (the enemy) down enough that we could move the casualties."

"Guys Tossed Everywhere, Screaming And Moaning"

While rubble from the U.S. bomb was still raining down, the PJs sprinted over the hill. They saw wounded soldiers strung out over a landscape that Sparks described as "Turnagain Arm steep," what the military calls class 4 and 5 terrain (ropes being recommended for maneuvering in the latter).

“Guys tossed everywhere, screaming and moaning,” he recalled. “Cordite, burning bushes, blown up rucks, armor blown off guys, chewed up earth. Everything was naked and raw.”

Without the medical supplies that were supposed to follow them out of the helicopter, the PJs were limited to the one-man first aid packs they carried on them.

Sporadic fire continued as Sparks reached the first man, struggling for breath with “a triangular wound on his right side big enough that you could fit a fist through.”

He grabbed a chest seal package -- “duct tape that would stick on a sweating gorilla” -- and put it inside the cavity to keep air from collapsing the lung. He used a giant needle to relieve air pressure in the chest and gave his patient a fentanyl “lollipop” (a painkiller 80 to 100 times stronger than morphine).

The man lay in a somewhat defensible depression from which casualties could be hoisted out. The spot became the casualty collection point.

Bailey, in combat for the first time, created a mini-command post, coordinating communications and organizing the soldiers to secure a perimeter. Sparks clambered up the steep slope to check on other wounded soldiers.

The first man had one of his triceps blown off. He was screaming. Sparks applied a tourniquet.

The next had a massive wound in his buttocks and hip. Sparks applied a field dressing.

A third man, dangling upside down from a scrub tree, was eviscerated.

“I stuffed his guts back into his body, ripped off his shirt and shoved it on top of his evisceration. I was out of anything plastic,” the standard field dressing to keep exposed internal organs from drying out.

He passed a prone man with a gun, apparently on guard, and another “just kicked back with his helmet off, asking if his buddies would be all right.”

Sparks returned to the first man, who was spitting blood and slipping away. “He died clutching and looking me in the eyes.”

Sparks removed the chest pack and a fentanyl pop to use on other wounded men. He began to drag them, one by one, down to the collection point.

“I was a one-man wrecking crew,” he said.

Looking for help, he returned to the man without a helmet and found him talking, maybe about his daughter, “then just mumbling off into babbling nothingness.”

Sparks tried to lift him; he felt his hand slip into the back of the man’s head.

He then tried to rouse the prone man he thought was on guard. He, too, was dead, with massive wounds to his face and chest.

The loss of three patients in minutes hit him hard. He remembered his emotions racing between extremes of frustration, anger and grief.

“The Soldiers, Who Had Endured Three Days Of Persistent Ambushes Before This Engagement, Were Bordering On Shock”

The counterassault from the air and, crucially, the coming of night, brought a relative calm.

Still, the fog of war remained thick.

The soldiers, who had endured three days of persistent ambushes before this engagement, were bordering on shock, “sputtering, just cooked. They seemed like ghosts,” Sparks said.

The guardsmen had essentially taken command of the platoon. Soldiers who could still move brought the injured to the collection point.

Sparks worried that the position might be overrun at any time. He removed weapons and armor from the dead and sorted it for use by the living.

He and Bailey had now been on the ground about two hours. They struggled to keep their traumatized patients alive, performing triage while “pot shots” continued to fly.

The temperature had dropped to near freezing when the refueled helicopters returned with medical supplies and help -- including the injured Jimmy Settle. The Alaska PJ had had the shrapnel stitched in place in his scalp so he could get back into action. He would get it removed a week later.

The most critically injured were hoisted into two helicopters and flown out first. Another chopper lifted the dead, along with Bailey and Sparks. The PJs had to ride sitting on the bodies of four men killed in action.

“We wanted to treat them with as much respect as possible,” Sparks said, “but we were just crammed in the back of the chopper.”

Sparks said he felt overwhelmed by a sense of personal responsibility and guilt.

“These were men who were counting on me and died,” he said. “I have to live with that. That’s not something that goes away.”

Upon landing, they somberly placed the dead men into body bags and draped them with flags.

Though it was night, there was no rest. Thirty minutes after delivering the bodies, the 212th PJs took off on another mission. During the week of Bulldog Bite, team members averaged no more than a couple of hours of sleep a day.

“According To After-Action Reports, Only Eight Men From The Platoon Were Not Wounded In The Engagement”

According to after-action reports, only eight men from the platoon were not wounded in the engagement.

Over the course of the operation the rescue team pulled out 60 soldiers, 49 of whom were wounded. Most required hoisting into a hovering helicopter. Almost every lift was, in Sparks' words, “contested by the enemy.”

After a week of constant action, the PJs arrived at Bagram Airfield, a major coalition base. The press was waiting.

The exhausted PJs didn't feel like talking with reporters, but they made an exception for Casey Neistat, a self-described “punk artist from New York City.”

Neistat is half of “The Neistat Brothers” show, which debuted on HBO last year. He is an award-winning filmmaker whose work has been featured at the Sundance and Cannes festivals. He may be best known for the industry-rattling online video expose, “iPod's Dirty Secret.”

Neistat was in Afghanistan hoping to make a documentary about tattoo culture in the military. With him was Scott Campbell, a tattoo artist who has shown his work in fine art galleries in London and New York, and been the subject of a New York Times profile.

Neistat approached Sparks as he was getting off the helicopter and the two immediately connected.

Campbell, who had brought his needles and ink, offered to decorate any man who wanted a tattoo with any design he wanted. The paramedics lined up.

Sparks had the names of his sons, Orion and Ozric, tattooed on his chest.

On his right arm, he had Campbell put the date, time and coordinates of the Watapur fight.

The business is not really finished for the PJs, however.

Sparks, for one, continues to grieve.

“Four men died in my arms that night,” he said. “Sometimes what we can provide will never be enough.”

Still, he finds solace in the patients who survived. “When you see those young guys on the ground, the bone marrow of America, and to be able to take our years of experience when they needed us and know that we saved four guys' lives, it makes me feel that my efforts were repaid.

“I know we did everything we could for those men. It's the only closure I have found.”

“What Is More Pure Than Trying To Save Another’s Life?”

The 212th, back in Alaska, has returned to business as usual: plucking bear-mauled campers out of the Talkeetna Mountains, or getting mothers with problem pregnancies off Little Diomed Island. They go out on about three such calls every week.

Sparks has been recommended for a Silver Star. The names of five other men of the 212th who took part in the action -- Senior Master Sgt. Doug Widener, Tech Sgt. Brandon Stuemke, (now) Staff Sgt. Jimmy Settle, Sr. Airmen Aaron Parcha and Staff Sgt. Ted Sierocinski -- have been recommended for Distinguished Flying Crosses.

The military has sent Sparks and Bailey to tell their story to other PJ units to help prepare them for intense situations.

In April, Sparks addressed the graduating class at the Air Force Pararescue School at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico. The graduates had just finished one of the most rigorous training regimes in the world. Like the Army Rangers and Navy SEALs, PJs are counted among the military’s “special services.” The attrition rate for candidates is more than 90 percent.

Like other elite troops, they can kill using their bare hands. But in a profession that necessarily concentrates on ways to cause death, their mission uniquely focuses on keeping people alive under extreme conditions.

Two things are necessary to accomplish that mission, Sparks told the graduates.

One is resolve.

“Training can take us only so far,” he said. “I have seen equipment and knowledge fail men in combat, but there is nothing as tragic as when a man’s resolve falters.”

The other requirement is to work with the right intention.

“I feel that we have this one on our side. What is more pure than trying to save another’s life?”

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

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

US Drone Down In Eastern Afghanistan

21 August 2011 TOLONews

A US drone has crashed due to “technical faults” during a reconnaissance mission in Eastern Nangarhar province on Saturday night, Nato said.

A statement released by the media office of the Nato forces confirmed the crash, attributing the incident to technical problems.

Resistance Action



An Afghan man, right, looks out from his house as the body of an Afghan intelligence agent lies in his car damaged in an explosion in the city of Jalalabad, the provincial capital of Nangarhar province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Aug. 20, 2011. An explosives-packed rickshaw exploded near the car, killing the intelligence agent and wounding four people, provincial spokesman Ahmad Zia Abdulzai said. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)...

August 19, 2011 Reuters & Aug. 20, 2011 Reuters & Aug 21, 2011 DPA

Kabul - Two insurgents on a motorcycle killed a prosecutor in the southern Afghan province of Helmand. Prosecutor Mohammad Azeem was shot dead in Gereshk district on his way to work.

The Taliban, in a statement posted on their website, claimed responsibility for the killing.

The education director of Omany district in Paktika province was shot dead Sunday while he was on his way to work. Two tribal leaders were also killed.

Also killed Sunday was Mohammad Shah Khan, an official in the Agriculture Department, in southern Kandahar city. He was also on his way to work.

Herat, Afghanistan,: A rickshaw-bomb detonated near an Afghan army truck, killing two soldiers and injuring three, Afghan army spokesman Najibullah Majibi said.

An explosion in Jalalabad city in the eastern Nangarhar province killed a National Directorate official and wounded two of his bodyguards on Saturday, a police detective said.

A bomber who tried to get inside the Helmand provincial governor's compound blew himself up as police began firing at him after he refused to stop, wounding five police officers.

MILITARY NEWS

NOT ANOTHER DAY NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR NOT ANOTHER LIFE



The remains of Sgt. Anthony Del Mar Peterson Aug. 5, 2011 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Peterson, 24, of Chelsea, Okla., died Aug. 4 in Paktia province, Afghanistan of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark)...

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

Re: Independence Day (Military Resistance 9H15)

**“The Attack On The British Council In
Kabul On 19th August Further
Underlined How Unwelcome The
Occupiers Are, In A Country In Which
They Should Never Have Been In The
First Place”
“Eight-Hour Assault” On British
Occupation Building**



The British Council building in Kabul, Afghanistan, Aug. 20, 2011. An eight-hour assault on the British compound a day earlier killed nine, including four police officers, two Afghan security guards, two foreign security guards and a foreign soldier, wounding dozens. (AP Photo/Dar Yasin)...

From: Felicity Arbuthnot
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: August 21, 2011
Subject: Independence Day

By Felicity Arbuthnot.

Re: Independence Day (Military Resistance 9H15.)

The attack on the British Council in Kabul on 19th August, resulting in twelve deaths and many injuries, further underlined how unwelcome the occupiers are, in a country in which they should never have been in the first place.

Further tragedies, heaped on tragedies, also illustrated how out of touch those both on the ground in country - and those in high places abroad are.

Martin Davidson, Chief Executive of the British Council, said in London, the Council had been taken: “completely by surprise.”

They had seemingly had a (albeit uninvited) presence in the region, yet learned nothing of the huge significance of dates and anniversaries.

The day of the attack was both the Sabbath (Friday) and national holiday marking the 92nd anniversary of Afghanistan’s independence from Britain in 1919 and of course, the 19th: 19 -1919.

The British Council, says Davidson, will: “continue its educational work in Afghanistan.”

Seems it has a bit to learn itself.

The Council, incidentally, also teaches English.

They cynic might wonder whether that includes the meaning of: “Lie down with your hands above your head”; “We’re coming in - sorry about the door”; “A ‘tragic mistake’, there will be an enquiry at the highest level to establish what went wrong.

Will \$50 cover the costs of the funerals?”

Prime Minister Cameron called New Zealand's Prime Minister to express his thanks, sympathy and regret for the loss of life of a member of that country's special forces in a “dreadful incident”, belatedly remembering the maybe twelve Afghans killed, and condemned the act as “vicious and cowardly.”

Whatever else, people strapped with explosives, so desperate to regain their country, that they “aim the only thing I have left”, as described by Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, are not “cowardly.”

Cameron and his Ministers talked the usual platitudes about monitoring closely, lessons learned, enquiries, tightened security, then, as the buildings still smouldered, the Afghans continued to damp it down, carried away their dead in woven blankets, and their wounded over their shoulders, Cameron was driven in his reinforced limo, with his security detail, to spent the afternoon watching cricket in the rarified atmosphere of London’s elite Lord’s Cricket Ground (founded 1787.)

Then he resumed the holiday he seemingly only reluctantly returned from, as much of London and other English cities, burned.

“Brutal attacks such as this will not lessen our resolve”, said Secretary of State Clinton from sanitised safety, exactly ten days after the bodies of thirty US servicemen killed in Afghanistan were repatriated to Dover Air Force Base.

President Obama had left for his holidays the day before.

The Clintons, reportedly, leave for theirs on 22nd August, at a \$25 million mansion in the Hamptons.

Words are indeed cheap, but seemingly not as cheap the lives of others.

Mahmoud Darwish did have words, however, they should all heed.

He understood the longing for plowing one’s own furrow, in one’s own, unoccupied land, a fight no people will ever relinquish:

***“When the planes disappear, the white, white doves
Fly off and wash the cheeks of heaven
With unbound wings taking radiance back again, taking possession
Of the ether and of play. Higher, higher still, the white, white doves
Fly off. Ah, if only the sky
Were real (a man passing between two bombs said to me).”***



8.20.2011: Daily Mirror: David Cameron watches the action between England and India on the second day of the fourth test match at The Oval. Photo: AFP

MORE:

[Message Of Felicitation Regarding The 92nd

Anniversary Of Independence Of Afghanistan From British Aggression]

**“The Eighty Years Struggle And
Resistance Of Afghan Nation For
Freedom Is One Of The Significant
And Admonitory Chapters Of Our
History”**

**“Thus The Afghan Nation Obtained
Their Independence After Wars And
Struggles”**

**“Unfortunately, The American Invaders
Are Repeating The Same Experience”**

**“We Have To Remind To Our People That
Freedom Is Our Natural, Human And
Religious Right”**



[The point of view of one of the armed nationalist organizations in Afghanistan. T]

**Message Of Felicitation Regarding The 92nd Anniversary Of Independence Of
Afghanistan From British Aggression**

18 August, The supreme council of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Islamic Emirat Of
Afghanistan. [Via Uruknet]

On 28th of Asad 1298 (Gregorian calendar, 1919), the imperialist power of 19th and 20th centuries, the British empire officially recognized the independence of Afghanistan, and thus the Afghan nation obtained their great desire of independence after several decades of wars and struggles.

On the occasion of this historical and great day, the leadership of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan submits felicitations to their faithful and freedom loving people.

May Allah the Almighty, bestow upon us the gift of full independence from on going American aggression soon.

The eighty years struggle and resistance of Afghan nation for freedom is one of the significant and admonitory chapters of our history.

If we deeply study the history of several decades long battles, invasions, defeats and victories take place between the British invaders and Afghan freedom fighters, we can find out many things for the solution of current crisis.

The British invaders of Afghanistan, repeatedly faced defeats and the headache of the British extended to several decades of war, the basic factor was that also at that time the enemy [in] despite of common Afghan intentions and desires they [the British occupiers] pay consideration to [a] few of their hireling puppets.

British, despite the response and reaction of Afghans nation regarding their invasion, they only deal with their puppets and through their guarantees they envision dreams of invasion of the country.

Unfortunately, the American invaders are repeating the same experience.

They think that their bargaining with some puppets and the agreement for their permanent presence will weaken the moral rights of resistance against them.

They should understand that a few hireling puppets cannot take up decision about such kind of important issues regarding the country's future and this brave nation will not accept such deals.

The Afghan nation is still engage in the resistance for independence across the country and has given so many sacrifices for the cause in the past ten years.

If the enemies of Afghan nation want to rescue themselves from this trouble they should pay respect to the nation's aspirations and recognize the independence of Afghan nation.

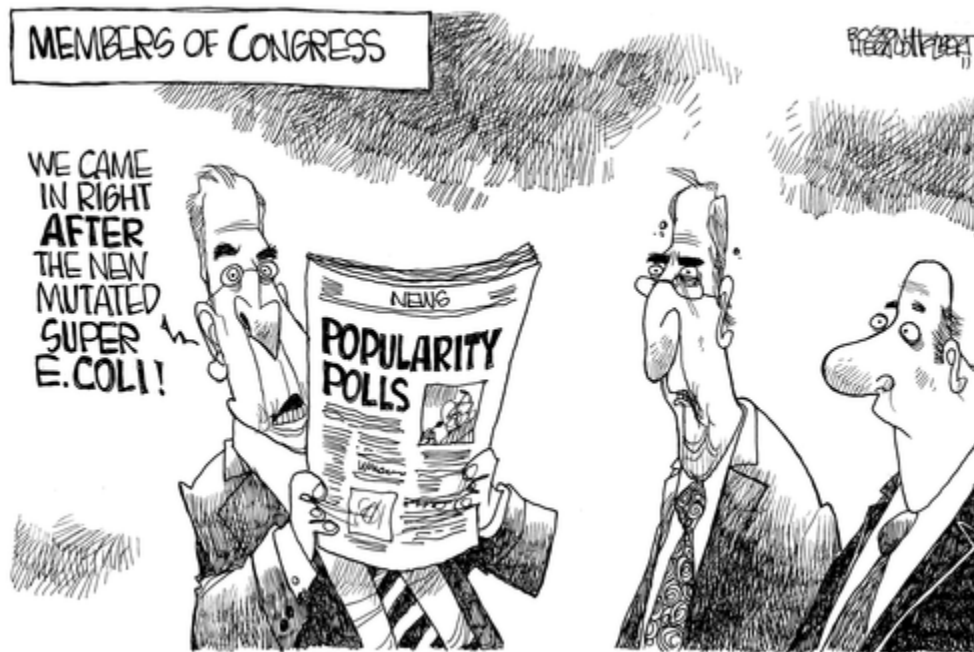
If they stress on their ridiculous politics, soon or later they will face the same outcome, have not looked for else.

On the occasion of 28 of Asad (Persian calendar), we have to remind to our people that freedom is our natural, human and religious right.

We are the only servants of Allah the Almighty and no power has the authority to implement their superiority on us.

Waging Jihad against arrogant invading infidels is our religious obligation. Every kind of outcome we receives, it will be a reassurance of pride for us in this world and the world to come. So it is important that we focus more on our ongoing struggle for freedom, by the elegance of Allah the Almighty, the invaders who has raided on our home will be ruined.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Troops Invited:

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

**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/)



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

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATIONS

Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

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

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

<http://williambowles.info/military-resistance-archives/>; news@uruknet.info;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;

<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.