

Military Resistance 9H6

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



In this picture taken May 15, 2011, A U.S. Army flight medic cares for seriously wounded Marine following an insurgent attack north of Sangin, Helmand Province, southern Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)

**The Second-Most Widely
Prescribed Antipsychotic Drug
For Combat Veterans With Post-
Traumatic Stress Disorder
Found To Be Useless:**

Risperdal “Did Not Reduce Symptoms In 267 Veterans Who Completed A Study On The Drug’s Efficacy”

“The Medication Also Failed To Quell Depression And Anxiety”

“The Data Should Be Helpful In Reducing The Likelihood That People Are Going To Be Treated With A Medication That Won’t Be Helpful”

[Thanks to Clancy Sigal, who sent this in.]

Aug 4, 2011 By Patricia Kime - Staff writer, Army Times & 8/2/2011 By Linda Carroll, MSNBC & By BENEDICT CAREY, New York Times [Excerpts]

The second-most widely prescribed antipsychotic drug for combat veterans with chronic post-traumatic stress disorder works no better than a placebo.

The medication also failed to quell depression and anxiety, researchers reported today in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The researchers also found that the medication was associated with side effects, such as weight gain, fatigue, sleepiness, and drowsiness.

The new study, published in The Journal of the American Medical Association, focused on one medication, Risperdal.

But experts said that its results most likely extend to the entire class, including drugs like Seroquel, Geodon and Abilify.

Veterans Affairs Department researchers found risperidone, a drug used to treat schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, and often prescribed for the most severe symptoms of PTSD, did not reduce symptoms in 267 veterans who completed a study on the drug’s efficacy for PTSD.

Lead author Dr. John Krystal, chairman of the Yale School of Medicine psychiatry department, said the research strongly suggests clinicians should “be cautious” about prescribing risperidone, also known by the brand name Risperdal, for PTSD.

Risperidone is one of a family of pharmaceuticals called “second-generation antipsychotics,” or SGAs, that are thought to block receptors in the brain for the chemical messenger dopamine, a neurotransmitter that affects movement, emotional response and the ability to feel pleasure or pain.

Drugs in the same family as risperidone include the brands Seroquel, Clozaril and Abilify.

“I think it’s a very important study” given how frequently the drugs have been prescribed, said Dr. Charles Hoge, a senior scientist at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, who was not involved in the study but wrote an editorial accompanying it.

He added, “It definitely calls into question the use of antipsychotics in general for PTSD.”

In 2009, nearly 87,000 veterans diagnosed with PTSD received an antipsychotic prescription, with nearly 94 percent of them for second-generation antipsychotics such as risperidone.

These medications often are prescribed to veterans suffering from chronic PTSD to alleviate a host of symptoms associated with the illness, although they haven’t been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for PTSD.

The only two FDA-approved medications for treating PTSD are the antidepressants Zoloft and Paxil.

Doctors often decide to prescribe antipsychotics for severe PTSD if patients haven’t responded to the approved medications, Krystal explained.

“It’s more of the art of psychiatry than the science,” he said.

Krystal suggested anyone taking risperidone for PTSD talk to their doctor about their cases to determine whether they should be weaned from it.

The researchers chose to test risperidone because it is widely prescribed, has a lower risk than other SGAs for side effects like weight gain and is relatively inexpensive, available as a generic drug.

Seroquel or quetiapine often is given to military personnel and veterans in combination with other medications to address the wide-ranging symptoms of PTSD.

A warning has recently been added to the drug’s label that it can be dangerous or fatal if used in conjunction with some painkillers.

Although the results of the risperidone study were negative, Krystal described them as “good news.”

“The data should be helpful in reducing the likelihood that people are going to be treated with a medication that won’t be helpful,” he said.

“It’s one of those cases where science can guide practice,” he said.

“So here we have the situation where one of the most commonly prescribed medications for the treatment of PTSD turns out not to be effective in reducing the overall severity of PTSD or improving other types of outcomes, such as quality of life,” Krystal said.

“Which really gives you pause.”

The study was published in the Aug. 1 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The new study followed 247 veterans with military-related PTSD, half of whom received risperidone while the other half got placebos. If patients were already taking PTSD medications such as antidepressants, they continued to take these medications along with the risperidone.

At the end of the study, the researchers were surprised to see that risperidone was no more effective in reducing the severity of PTSD than placebos.

“We fully expected we would find it to be effective on the basis of preliminary studies that found risperidone effective and because it was so widely prescribed,” Krystal said.

“But we found that it was not only not better than placebo at reducing overall symptoms, but also it was not better in reducing anxiety, depression, or in improving quality of life.”

MORE:

**[Just In Case You
Missed It The First
Seven Times This Has
Run:]
Confirmed!**

**“Only One Treatment Method —
Exposure Therapy — Has Been**

Proven To Help PTSD In Studies By Objective Researchers” Previous Research Finding Confirmed By Atlanta V.A. Test Program; “81% Showing ‘Clinically Significant Improvement,’ Which Was Still At 81 % Six Months Later”

[From GI SPECIAL 6G17: 7.29.08]

July 28, 2008 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times

Three new studies looking at combat stress have found group exposure therapy seems to work, that troops with traumatic brain injuries are more likely to have post-traumatic stress disorder, and that stress debriefings held after traumatic events don't appear to prevent PTSD.

The research comes as the Department of Veterans Affairs works to find the best treatment methods for combat veterans.

It follows a report by Rand Corp. that showed only one treatment method — exposure therapy — has been proven to help PTSD in studies by objective researchers.

The first study looked at a program that had been in place for four years at the Atlanta VA Medical Center. The center's Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team began researching group-based exposure treatment.

Past studies have shown group therapy to be ineffective on veterans with PTSD, but authors of this study, published in the April issue of the Journal of Traumatic Stress, said the amount of exposure therapy — 60 hours — in this group may be the key to why it works.

First, nine to 11 people get to know each other and talk about their experiences before they joined the military. Then, they spend several weeks talking about their wartime experiences.

A total of 93 Vietnam veterans, four Gulf War veterans, one Korean War veteran and two Iraq war veterans took part in the study, with 81 percent showing

“clinically significant improvement,” which was still at 81 percent six months later.

And the study found something else: VA clinicians indicated to researchers that they do not use exposure therapy out of concern for possible increases in suicide ideation, hospitalizations and dropout rates, but “we found the opposite to be true,” the study’s authors said.

Many patients said hearing others’ traumatic experiences evoked painful recall of what had happened to them, but “none reported any negative lasting effects, and many indicated that this process helped them put their own experience into better perspective,” the study said.

For example, one-third of the group members said they had frozen under fire. “Learning how common this was helped reduce the shame and guilt that many patients had felt for decades,” researchers said.

MORE: From GI SPECIAL 6E15: 5.24.08:

This Information Could Save Your Sanity, Or Your Life: If Somebody Tries To Drug You Or A Buddy Or Family Member, The Fact The Information Below Appeared In Army Times Can Be A Powerful Weapon Of Self-Defense

Comment: T

Because of the extreme importance of this information to every member of the armed forces, for or against the war, it is being reprinted again from a previous GI Special.

This news report below makes clear that there is now new evidence based research about what works and what doesn’t work for troops experiencing PTSD.

The credibility and importance of this research -- initiated by the Department of Veterans Affairs – is underlined by publication of the findings in Army Times, rather than appearing on some obscure web site or other as somebody or other’s opinion.

The V.A. has long practiced drugging troops with all kinds of very dangerous pills as a “treatment” for PTSD. As this article documents, that’s useless. And dangerous: overdoses can kill. Benzodiazepines [Valium & Librium are well known examples] are viscously addictive and potentially deadly drugs handed out to troops like bags of popcorn.

As the article below reports, the only effective treatment for PTSD so far is “exposure therapy; reliving a traumatic experience by writing or talking about it.”

A lot of quacks, including at V.A. facilities as well as privately, are hustling other bullshit phony treatments, ranging from moving your eyeballs around to eating herbs and weeds.

Excuse a personal note, but I’ve been working professionally with traumatic stress survivors for over 30 years, both military and civilian, both at VA and private facilities, and can testify that the research finding reported in this article is 100% right: the only effective treatment for PTSD so far is “reliving a traumatic experience by writing or talking about it.”

But you don’t have to believe that.

Here’s the report, from Army Times.

Assuming you give a shit about whether troops live or die, send it around, word for word, and be sure to mention it comes from Army Times in case some idiot thinks you sucked it out of your thumb.

Most important, if somebody in command or at the V.A. tries to drug you or a buddy or family member, the fact this information appeared in Army Times can be a powerful weapon of self-defense:

MORE:

**“Research Has Not Shown Serotonin Re-Uptake Inhibitors, Such As Prozac, Zoloft Or Celexa, To Be Effective In Treating PTSD”
“Exposure Therapy -- Reliving A Traumatic Experience By Writing Or Talking About It -- Is The Only Therapy**

Proved Effective By Independent Research”

April 14, 2008 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times [Excerpts]

“Problems related to getting troops adequate mental health treatment cannot be resolved unless two issues — stigma and access — are addressed,” Todd Bowers, director of government affairs for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, told the House Veterans’ Affairs subcommittee on health on April 1.

Almost 59,000 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been diagnosed with PTSD by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Army post-deployment health assessments have found that 20 percent of active-duty and 40 percent of reserve-component troops had symptoms of PTSD, and some experts say the real numbers could be much higher.

But because PTSD hasn’t been addressed until fairly recently — the first scientific paper about the disorder in veterans of the 1991 Persian Gulf War didn’t come out until five years after that war ended — VA and Pentagon officials say much needs to be done to determine good screening techniques and therapies.

“This is the first war where DoD and VA recognized the psychological impact going in,” said Army Col. Charles Hoge, chief of psychiatry and neuroscience at the Walter Reed Institute of Research.

Combat vets are not sleeping, experience startle reactions and are hyper-alert.

“All of these things that we label as symptoms are things they need in combat,” Hoge said. “No sooner are they transitioned back home than they’re right back in rotation.”

At the House hearing, Hoge said an Army assessment last summer showed that the numbers of soldiers with PTSD is going up with each deployment.

“There’s a direct connection between mental health and multiple deployments,” he said, adding that troops also need more time between deployments.

David Matcher, of the Institute of Medicine’s Committee on Treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, said a recent study found that research has not shown serotonin re-uptake inhibitors, such as Prozac, Zoloft or Celexa, to be effective in treating PTSD.

Exposure therapy — reliving a traumatic experience by writing or talking about it — is the only therapy proved effective by independent research, he said.

Other treatments exist, but they have been tested mainly by the same people who developed them.

That’s an important point because the Defense Department and VA use several such methods, including group and drug therapy, to treat combat veterans.

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**Iraq Nationalist Politician Sends
Message To U.S. Troops:
“Go Forth From Our Holy Land And
Go Back To Your Families”
“We Will Resist And Struggle Firmly And
Strongly As Before, Until You Leave Our
Land, Even As You Would Resist And
Struggle If Your Country Were Exposed
To Invasion”**

8.9.11 AFP

Radical anti-US cleric [*translation: somewhat radical anti-U.S.- occupation nationalist politician*] Moqtada al-Sadr has called for US forces to return home to their families in a rare English message that threatens violence but also appeals to Christian sentiment.

“Go forth from our holy land and go back to your families who are waiting for your arrival impatiently, that you and we, as well, lead a peaceful life together,” Sadr said in the message addressed to US troops, which was posted on the website of the political committee of his movement on Monday night.

It is the third message from Sadr since Saturday calling on US forces to go, following an agreement by Iraqi political leaders on Wednesday to start negotiations with Washington on a US military mission to train Iraqi security forces.

“Is the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, pleased with degradation, invasion and oppression? Or are the heavenly revealed laws and divine prophets pleased therewith?” Sadr said in the message.

“Nay, your laws and principles will never be pleased whatsoever. If you claim you have come to free us, spare us of your claims and release us of your wrongdoing,” he said.

“Know that we will resist and struggle firmly and strongly as before, until you leave our land, even as you would resist and struggle if your country were exposed to invasion,” he said.

About 47,000 US troops are still stationed in Iraq, all of whom must leave by the end of the year under the terms of a 2008 bilateral security pact, which would remain in force if a training deal is not agreed.

Sadr's movement has 40 deputies in parliament and seven ministers in Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's national unity government.

And before it was disbanded in 2008, Sadr's Mahdi Army numbered some 60,000 fighters with fierce loyalty to the cleric.

It fought bloody battles with the US army in the years following the 2003 invasion which ousted Saddam Hussein.

Resistance Action

04 Aug 2011 Reuters & 8.7.11 AFP & 07 Aug 2011 Reuters & 08 Aug 2011 Reuters & 09 Aug 2011 Reuters

BAGHDAD - A Katyusha rocket landed inside the heavily fortified area of the Green Zone, home of Iraqi government offices and the U.S. embassy, after midnight with no reports of casualties, an interior ministry source said.

HASWA - A bomb planted inside a policeman's house in Haswa, 50 km (30 miles) south of Baghdad, wounded four of his family members, a police source said. The policeman was not around at the time of the blast.

MOSUL - A roadside bomb went off near an Iraqi army patrol, wounding a soldier in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad.

BAGHDAD- Two bombs exploded in succession, late on Sunday, and wounded three soldiers, in Amiriya district of western Baghdad.

TUZ KHURMATU - Two roadside bombs exploded near a police patrol, wounding five policemen in the town of Tuz Khurmato, 170 km (105 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - A sniper attacked a police checkpoint and killed a policeman in the Zayouna district of eastern Baghdad, an interior ministry source said.

A parked car bomb targeting an Iraqi police patrol wounded six policemen, when it went off in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, a police source from Nineveh police operations room said.

In Diyala, an Iraqi soldier was killed in front of his home in the town of Khales,

KIRKUK - A roadside bomb went off near a police patrol, wounding a policeman on Saturday in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Colorado Chief Killed In Afghanistan



Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 David R. Carter, a 47-year-old pilot from Aurora, Colo., is believed to be among 30 U.S. service members killed in the crash of a U.S. helicopter in Afghanistan. The Colorado National Guard said he was the co-pilot of the CH-47 Chinook. (AP Photo/Colorado National Guard)

Brian Keith Mowery

July 30 Pennlive

HALIFAX - Brian Keith Mowery, SSG, 49, of Halifax, was killed July 18th, 2011 near Bagram, Afghanistan, while proudly and bravely serving with the 131st Transportation Company of the PA National Guard. His convoy was attacked while transporting needed supplies.

He was born on December 30, 1961 the son of Harry E. Mowery of Harrisburg and the late Patricia (McGrath) Mowery.

He graduated from Central Dauphin High School, class of 1980. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1979-1985, the PA Army National Guard - Kutztown from 2000-2006, PA Army National Guard - Williamstown from 2010 to the present.

He was active during the Kosovo Peacekeeping Mission from 2003-2004, Katrina Relief in 2005, and in Afghanistan, since January 2011. He was posthumously promoted to Staff Sergeant and was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Brian is survived by his wife of 32 years, Sharon E. Mowery, his sons Brian K. Mowery, II and his wife Emily, and Brandon A. Mowery, both of Halifax his daughters Nichole E. and her husband Samuel Haverl of Tampa, FL, and Kaitlyn N. Mowery of Halifax, grandchildren Ella E. and Harper J. Mowery of Halifax, Mia S. and Ezra K. Haverl of Tampa, FL, brothers Shawn and Michael D. Mowery of Harrisburg, sisters Terry E. Anderson of Harrisburg and Kathy Keifer of Elizabethtown, and many nieces and nephews.

There will be a visitation on Monday, August 1st, from 6 - 8:00 p.m., at Hoover - Boyer Funeral Homes, Inc., Millersburg.

A funeral service will be held at Ft. Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, on Tuesday, August 2nd, at 11:00 a.m. A funeral procession will form at the Halifax High School parking lot Tuesday morning and will depart there at 10:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers the family has requested that donations be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, 4899 Belfort Road, Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

To sign the guestbook go to www.hbfuneralhomes.com

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

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

**Afghan Collaborators Lied To,
Betrayed And Abandoned To
Die By The U .S. Government:
“Since The Afghan Allies Program
Began In 2009, Not A Single Visa
Has Been Handed Out”
“Insurgents Took His Picture And
Said They Were Going To Kill Him”
“He Was Told That It Was Up To Him To
Defuse The Tension And Just Act
Friendly Next Time”**

A document obtained by The Associated Press suggests the delays may not be a matter of bureaucracy, but reflect a worry among U.S. officials over holding on to hard-to-replace employees.

“This act could drain this country of our very best civilian and military partners: our Afghan employees,” former Ambassador Karl Eikenberry wrote in a February 2010 cable to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

August 9, 2011 : HEIDI VOGT, Associated Press [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan - Ahmad Taki is desperate to get out of Afghanistan, fearing for his life after receiving death threats in midnight phone calls because he works for the Americans.

Nine months after applying for a visa to the U.S. designed for cases like his, he's heard nothing and feels abandoned by the people for whom he's risked his life.

Taki is one of about 2,300 Afghans who have applied to a special program that awards U.S. visas to Afghans who have worked for the U.S. government for at least a year and are in danger because of this work.

But since the Afghan Allies program began in 2009, not a single visa has been handed out.

A document obtained by The Associated Press suggests the delays may not be a matter of bureaucracy, but reflect a worry among U.S. officials over holding on to hard-to-replace employees.

“This act could drain this country of our very best civilian and military partners: our Afghan employees,” former Ambassador Karl Eikenberry wrote in a February 2010 cable to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

“If we are not careful the SIV (Special Immigrant Visa) program will have a significant deleterious impact on staffing and morale, as well as undermining our overall mission in Afghanistan. Local staff are not easily replenished in a society at 28 percent literacy,” wrote Eikenberry, who finished his tour in July.

The Afghan Allies program is supposed to award up to 1,500 visas each year through 2013. So far, only two applications have been vetted.

One was denied, and the other was approved and is going through processing, Ellis said.

The application form for the program says a response should be expected within eight weeks.

But Eikenberry's letter underlines a central dilemma.

The U.S. needs qualified Afghan staff to accomplish its mission.

On the other hand, the Taliban and other insurgents have directly threatened Afghans working for the U.S. as “traitors” and “collaborators” and — as in Iraq — Washington is under pressure to give asylum to those who helped it.

In his memo, Eikenberry warned that 80 percent of the U.S. Embassy's Afghan staffers could potentially seek visas.

Taki began working for the Americans in 2006, at age 17, as an interpreter for U.S. forces in Kabul. Now he is a human resources manager at an international military base in the capital, recruiting Afghans.

He has received phone calls from strangers in the middle of the night saying that they are after him. He worries because so many people have his number and know he works for the international forces. So he wants out.

“I've risked my life. It's been more than four years and now I can't apply for other jobs,” because private companies are reluctant to hire people who have worked for the international forces because they're treated as spies, he said.

Some Afghan visa applicants have banded together to make their plight known. Last month, dozens of anonymous visa applicants sent two open letters to media and U.S. officials protesting the delays.

Afghan applicants worry insurgents will make good on the threats before they ever see a visa.

U.S. officials say any immediate security threats should be addressed with supervisors. But some Afghans say their bosses have brushed aside their reports of threats.

One man who works in psychological operations at a Kabul military base said he went to his superiors after insurgents took his picture and said they were going to kill him.

The man, who spoke anonymously to protect his job and his visa application, said he was told that it was up to him to defuse the tension and just act friendly next time.

This man said he lies to his relatives about where he works and can no longer go to his hometown, in an insurgent-held part of eastern Afghanistan.

He applied for an Afghan Allies visa in January and has heard nothing back.

Some Afghans have given up on the wait for a visa and decided to migrate illegally.

Rafi Hottak, a 25-year-old who worked for the American and British militaries since 2006, waited four years for an interpreter visa. Finally, he paid a trafficker about \$15,000 to smuggle him to Britain. He made it to London about two months ago and has applied for asylum.

“There was intimidation and threats against me and my family,” he said in a phone interview from London. “I had to take a decision and get away.”

**Somebody Got \$10 Million To
Build A Useless Piece Of Shit In
The Middle Of The Desert And
Call It A Resettlement Village:
“Most Of Its 1,100 Houses Have
Been Abandoned To Vandals And
The Lashing Winds”
““It Is Better To Leave This Place,
Said Amir Mohammed, The Elder”**

“It Is A Desert. There Is Nothing”



Alice-Ghan lacks running water, so children go several times a day to fetch water in jugs. [Lynsey Addario for The New York Times]

August 8, 2011 By JACK HEALY, The New York Times Company. Sharifullah Sahak contributed reporting. [Excerpts]

ALICE-GHAN, Afghanistan — This tiny village rose from the rocky soil with great hopes and \$10 million in foreign aid, a Levittown of identical mud-walled houses built to shelter some of the hundreds of thousands of Afghans set adrift by war and flight.

Five years later, the village of Alice-Ghan and those good intentions are tilting toward ruin.

Most of its 1,100 houses have been abandoned to vandals and the lashing winds.

With few services or jobs within reach, hundreds of residents have moved away — sometimes even to the slums and temporary shelters they had sought to escape.

“No people,” said Amir Mohammed, a village elder, as he threaded through the grid of dirt roads, pointing at the vacant, identically built two-room houses.

The settlement, a little more than an hour’s drive north of the capital, Kabul, on the border with Parwan Province, is one of 60 scattered across the country.

It has become a demonstration of the miscalculations and obstacles that have thwarted so many similar efforts to tackle huge problems like poverty, hunger, illness and dislocation in Afghanistan.

Most of the families that moved to Alice-Ghan had fled to Iran or Pakistan during the chaotic civil war that ended when the Taliban took control in 1996. Sensing opportunity, the refugees were among millions of Afghans who returned after the American-led invasion.

A new village, built fresh, seemed like a chance to start again.

“At the beginning, when we first came here, we thought the government finally understood us, that we finally had a chance,” said Nuragah, a resident who uses only one name. “But the problems just added up.”

These returning families have since failed to gain a foothold in an Afghanistan that nearly a decade later is still struggling to get on its feet.

While the number of displaced Afghans has fallen since the early days of the war, refugee advocates warn that growing numbers of civilians are now fleeing their homes because of the country’s continuing violence and instability.

More than 150,000 Afghans were displaced during the past 12 months, a 68 percent increase compared with the same period a year earlier, according to the United Nations refugee agency.

Many trickle back home once the shooting stops. Others end up with relatives, in district and provincial centers, or inside tent cities and shantytowns on the edges of Kabul’s sprawl. In all, there are about 437,810 displaced Afghans within the country.

A lack of electricity and running water has driven residents away.

Many of the sites are deep in the countryside, far from any reliable source of work, and few people have cars. The land is often rocky and dry, with little irrigation. Traveling into town to buy groceries can take more than an hour.

“We have received no clean water, no jobs, no roads,” said Salam Khan, an elder in the Barikab settlement, a short drive from Alice-Ghan.

He said its population of 640 families had fallen by more than half in the past two years. “We still have not received anything.”

Corruption has also dogged the program.

Families with homes have fraudulently acquired free plots of land with the hopes of flipping them later.

Some of the government officials who gave out the home sites were accused of fraud, and a few ended up in jail, according to the United Nations.

The Afghan government provided the land. The Australian government gave nearly \$9 million. The United Nations Development Program took the lead in building homes, schools, roads and water tanks.

But today water is trucked in, while efforts to build a permanent water-storage facility progress only haltingly. Several times a day, children push wheelbarrows to storage tanks to fill plastic jugs for laundry and cooking.

A mobile health clinic visits on Tuesdays, but residents said there was no reliable health care within miles for emergencies.

The district center is about five miles away, a 30-minute drive across bone-jarring dirt roads. A newly paved highway now offers a quicker path to Kabul's markets and employers, but most of the men in the village do not have cars.

They rely on a bus donated by the United Nations development wing that makes the trip four times a day.

Cultural blind spots also angered residents. With no high exterior walls built around each home, women in this deeply conservative village could not walk outside their small houses or to backyard outhouses without risking the shame of public exposure.

Hanifa Shamsala, a widow with orange streaks in her hair and three children, said she had no choice but to stay. She could not afford rent in Kabul, and had nothing but the home she was given. "Where would I go?" she said. "What would I do?"

Most residents, however, are ready to go.

"It is better to leave this place," said Amir Mohammed, the elder. "It is a desert. There is nothing."

NO MISSION; POINTLESS WAR: ALL HOME NOW



Spc. Jacob Green, 22, of Shreveport, La., with the U.S. Army's 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion 27th Infantry Regiment based in Hawaii, wraps up an overnight guard shift in a tower at dawn July 10, 2011 at Observation Point Mustang, elevation 6,000 feet, in Kunar province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/David Goldman)...



U.S. Marine Sgt. Jared Webb, 25, of Auburn, Ohio, right, with the 2nd Battalion 12th Marines based in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, patrols along a makeshift power line pole in northern Kajaki, Helmand province, Afghanistan, July 29, 2011. (AP Photo/David Goldman)...



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Kyle Delany, 21, of Milford, Mich., with the 2nd Battalion 12th Marines based in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, hikes up to a mountain top observation point, Helmand River reservoir in the background, July 30, 2011 in Kajaki, Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/David Goldman)...

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

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

A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.

-- Leon Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution

While U.S. Troops Died:

**How General Betrayus Fucked
Up The Afghan Surge:
“The General May Have Been More
Successful At Advancing His
Career Than At Bringing The War
To A Successful Conclusion”
“The Surge Has Not Worked, Despite
All The Statistics Doled Out”
“The Consensus Is That The Surge Has
Failed As A General Strategy”**

Aug. 08, 2011 By John Wendle, Time Magazine [Excerpts]

Kabul

The influx of troops, requested by General Stanley McChrystal, approved by President Barack Obama and overseen by General David Petraeus, brought stability to some areas in the south.

And that is part of the narrative Petraeus, who has given up command of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan to become head of the CIA, wants as his legacy.

But the surge — and other initiatives of the general — have not been the unalloyed successes they have been made out to be.

“The surge has not worked, despite all the statistics doled out, which I think very often are selective,” says Thomas Ruttig of the Afghanistan Analysts Network.

Others acknowledge some progress, but in general, the consensus is that the surge has failed as a general strategy.

“There have been improvements in the military situation in the south.

“But what about the military situation in the east and the north and across the border in Pakistan? Those areas are unraveling.

“If you look from two years ago to now, the situation has deteriorated,” says a foreign analyst working in Afghanistan who asked to remain anonymous in order to speak freely.

In part, the surge has failed because the U.S. civilian side, under U.S. Ambassador Karl Eikenberry, was never brought to the table.

“Petraeus came at a time when the policy here was in crisis, in large part because the players were unclear on the boundaries of the chain of command, and he did nothing to change that element of the relationship with the White House,” says another foreign analyst working in Afghanistan.

Because Petraeus' “inner circle pretty much disregarded the civilian side,” says Mike Capstick, a retired colonel in the Canadian army and analyst with experience in Afghanistan, the interlocking mantra of counterinsurgency — “clear, hold, build” — could not be carried through to completion.

“The surge cleared quite a few districts. They did 'clear and hold,' but they were not able to do the transfer, 'build' part,” says the first analyst.

“So, you'd give Petraeus good marks on managing the surge and, from a military point of view, 'clear, hold.' But 'transfer, build' has not been really successful. It is really a civilian-surge point and the civilian surge never really showed up.”

Douglas Macgregor, a retired U.S. Army colonel who is a leading critic of counterinsurgency theory and who attended West Point with McChrystal, says, “These observations directly and obviously contradict the popular counterinsurgency mantra of 'protect the population and rally the people to their government.'”

“In truth, Petraeus and his generals moved in the opposite direction.”

Macgregor has more criticism.

“Petraeus and his staff frequently complained about the shortage of NATO trainers by at least 900 men,” he says.

“This continued after the arrival of an additional 40,000 troops. However, the truth is this: Petraeus is responsible for the shortfall. He could have committed an additional 10,000 troops to the NATO training mission had he wanted to do so. In the view of many officers on the ground in Afghanistan, using the general-purpose troops in this way would have provided a greater return on investment than the way the 40,000 were employed.

“The International Security Assistance Force and the NATO mission were short 900 trainers because Petraeus chose not to utilize the troops at his disposal in support of that mission,” says Macgregor.

Interestingly, some believe that the perception of Petraeus having had many successes during the war in Iraq — such as the surge there and the Sunni Awakening movement — has played a part in his continued problems in Afghanistan.

“It may have taken Petraeus time to understand that Afghanistan is not Iraq and that it is, in fact, a hell of a lot more complicated,” Capstick tells TIME.

“For the first few months after he arrived, almost every member of his new team in ISAF headquarters would drop the phrase, 'in Iraq we ... ' into conversations — a recipe for disaster in Afghanistan.”

In the end, although Petraeus' time was more positive than Ambassador Eikenberry's, the general may have been more successful at advancing his career than at bringing the war to a successful conclusion.

ANNIVERSARIES

August 11, 1894: Dishonorable Day: Federal Troops Forced Some 1,200 Jobless Workers Across The Potomac River And Out Of Washington, D.C.

[If they try that shit again today, time to turn the weapons around on the real enemies, and it's not the unemployed. T]

Carl Bunin Peace History August 9-15

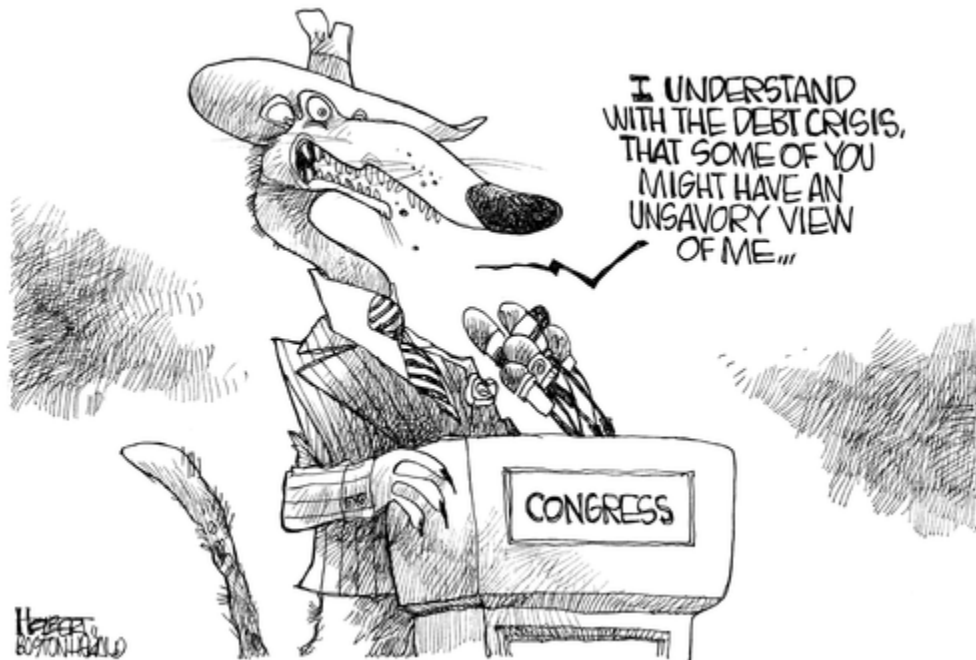
Federal troops forced some 1,200 jobless workers across the Potomac River and out of Washington, D.C.

Led by an unemployed activist, “General” Charles “Hobo” Kelly, the jobless group’s “soldiers” included young journalist Jack London, known for writing about social issues, and miner/cowboy William “Big Bill” Haywood who later organized western miners and the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

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Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

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