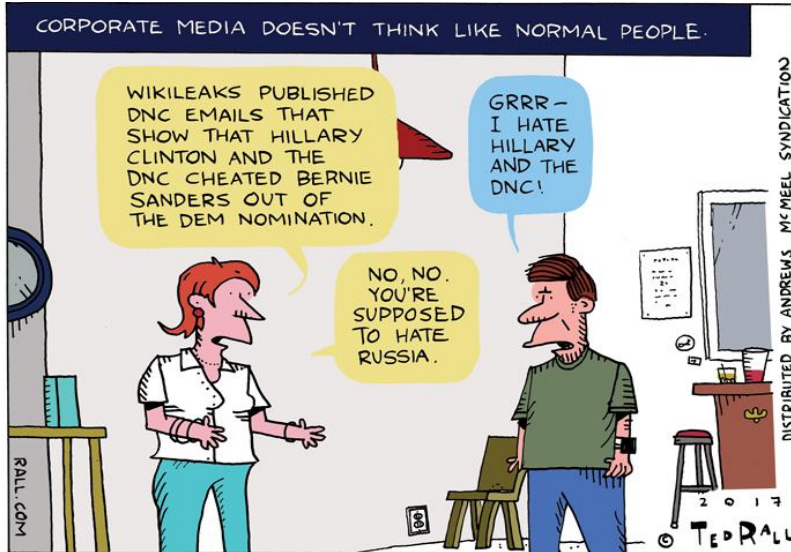


## **Military Resistance 15H1**



## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Insurgent Bomber Kills Two And Wounds Four U.S. Soldiers Near Kandahar**



A US military helicopter flies over the site of a bomb that struck a U.S. convoy in Kandahar south of Kabul, Afghanistan, Aug. 2, 2017, causing casualties. (AP Photo)

AUGUST 2, 2017 Reuters & By: Shawn Snow, Army Times & BY BILL ROGGIO [Excerpts]. Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of FDD's Long War Journal.

KABUL/WASHINGTON - A bomb attack killed two American troops and wounded four more in Afghanistan on Wednesday as they were traveling in a convoy near the airport in the southern city of Kandahar, the U.S. military said, in a strike claimed by the Taliban insurgency.

The attack was conducted using some form of improvised explosive device, but it is not known at this time if the explosive was buried in the road or vehicle-borne, said Capt. William Salvin, a spokesperson for Operation Resolute Support.

One U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there could also be several wounded in the attack but did not provide a number.

A local security official said the attacker drove an explosives-laden vehicle into the convoy. Photos of the site showed one partially destroyed armored vehicle, with the rear of the truck particularly badly damaged.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in an online post by spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid. He said the explosion destroyed two vehicles and killed 15 foreign soldiers, including two "high-ranking officers".

A Reuters witness said military helicopters landed at the site at least four times as responding troops secured the area and removed the damaged vehicle.

The Taliban, in a statement released on its official propaganda website, Voice of Jihad, said that Asadullah Kandahari, a member of its "martyrdom seeking squad," attacked the convoy after noon local Afghan time as it traveled in Police District 5 of Kandahar City. The Taliban claimed that two "tanks," which likely are armored HUMVEES, were destroyed in the blast and "15 invaders" were killed.

Eyewitnesses told Dawn that at least one armored vehicle was ablaze after the bombing, and several soldiers were seen being evacuated from the scene of the attack.

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## **Indiana Soldier Among 2 Killed In Afghanistan Attack**

INDIANAPOLIS

An Indiana soldier who was just 32 days into his first deployment was one of two American service members killed in a bombing attack in Afghanistan, military officials confirmed Thursday.

Mark Hunter said members of the Indiana National Guard informed him Wednesday night that his son, 23-year-old U.S. Army Sgt. Jonathon Michael Hunter, died in the attack on a U.S. convoy near the southern Afghan city of Kandahar.

The Department of Defense confirmed the deaths Thursday night. Officials also identified the second soldier killed as Army Spc. Christopher Michael Harris, 25, of Jackson Springs, North Carolina.



In this July 24, 2014, photo provided by Leah Marche, her cousin Mark Hunter's son Jonathon Hunter poses for a photo at a graduation ceremony at Fort Benning, Ga. Jonathon Hunter, an Indiana soldier who was just 32 days into his first deployment, was one of two American service members killed in a bombing attack in Afghanistan, his father said Thursday, Aug. 3, 2017. (Mark Hunter via AP)

The U.S. military in Afghanistan earlier said that four other American troops were wounded in Wednesday's attack.

Jonathon Hunter, who grew up about 40 miles south of Indianapolis in the central Indiana community of Columbus, left July 1 on his first deployment and was providing security for the convoy that was attacked, his father said. He joined the Army in 2014 and was a member of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Mark Hunter said his son was excited about his first deployment, but that he, as an Army veteran, was apprehensive.

"He had been there 32 days. I'm former military, me and his uncle both, so we know the dangers," Hunter told The Associated Press by phone from his home in Columbus.

He said his son, who got married last October and has an older brother and two stepsisters, was cheerful, loving and religious. "If you were down, he would cheer you up and he was God-loving. He was raised in the church," he said. The family later

issued a statement saying in part, “Jonathon loved his unit and serving his country and was excited about the opportunity to go to Afghanistan to do his part in fighting injustice.”

Hunter said he will travel Friday to Dover Air Force Base to retrieve his son's remains and that funeral plans were being determined by him, Jonathon's mother and Jonathon's wife, Whitney.

After graduating from Columbus East High School in 2011, he said his son spent a short time in Nashville, Tennessee, pursuing his dream of becoming a music producer before he enrolled at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, where he studied criminology and business.

But Hunter said his son eventually left ISU and joined the Army in April 2014 because he didn't want to burden him with paying for his college.

“After he got into school — and of course we were struggling with bills, to pay for it — he decided to join. Local Soldier Killed in Afghanistan Attack He said, ‘Dad, I know that going into the military I can get a free education,’ Mark Hunter said.

He said his family has a history of military service that dates back to the Civil War.

“I'm just proud of him. He was a great soldier. He made (sergeant) in a little over three years, which is pretty rare, they tell me,” Hunter said.

Before Jonathon Hunter's death, 207 Indiana service members had died since 2002 in the war in Afghanistan and Iraq, or supporting those operations, said Tim Dyke, director of training and services Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. He said that's based on a tally produced by the agency's former director

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## Local Soldier Killed In Afghanistan Attack

Aug 3, 2017 David Sinclair/Managing Editor; The Pilot

Moore County native Chris Harris is being remembered as more than just a warrior who fought for his country but also as someone who always put others before himself.

Harris was one of the two 82nd Airborne Division members from Fort Bragg killed in an attack on a U.S. convoy near Kandahar in southern Afghanistan last week. A bomber struck the convoy Wednesday afternoon, and the Taliban took responsibility for the attack.

Harris, 25, of Jackson Springs, was on his first deployment after enlisting in the Army in October 2013. He and his wife, Britt — also a Moore County native — married last October. She shared in a Facebook post Thursday that she recently learned she was pregnant.

A GoFundMe.com campaign had raised more than \$49,000 by early Saturday afternoon, with more than 1,000 people making donations.

“He was the epitome of a perfect person,” said William Kerr, who was best friends with Harris in high school at Grace Christian School in Sanford. “He was a selfless guy. He always put others first no matter what.”

In addition to Harris, Sgt. Jonathan Michael Hunter, 23, of Columbus, Ind., was also killed in the attack. They belonged to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. They were part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, deployed in support of the Resolute Support Mission to train, advise and assist Afghan forces.

Their battalion was overseeing security for a tactical base in southern Afghanistan and serving as a quick reaction force to deal with nearby attacks, according to the Army.

“The entire Devil Brigade is deeply saddened by the loss of two beloved team members,” Col. Tobin Magsig, the brigade commander, said in a statement released Thursday night. “Spc. Christopher Harris was an extraordinary young man and a phenomenal paratrooper. He regularly displayed the type of courage, discipline and empathy that the nation expects from its warriors.”

Both of the soldiers were on their first deployment, officials said. They both attended Basic Combat Training, Advanced Individual Training and Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga., before being assigned to the 1st Brigade.

“Chris and Jon lived and died as warriors,” Magsig said. “They will always be a part of the legacy of the Devil Brigade and their memory lives on in the hearts and minds of their fellow paratroopers. Our thoughts and prayers are centered on the families and loved ones of these two great Americans.” Congressman Richard Hudson, whose district includes Fort Bragg and Moore County, also issued a statement of the deaths of the two soldiers. “When Americans hear the news that a soldier has died, we all grieve together,” he said. “Unfortunately, with the death of Chris Harris, it hits too close to home. My wife Renee and I join our community in mourning this overwhelming loss. Chris’s death has left a void for his family that can’t be filled, but we pray that God brings them peace and comfort. We also pray for the family of Jonathan Hunter and all of our Paratroopers with the 82nd Airborne Division.

“Chris and Jonathan gave their lives protecting our country, and for that we are eternally grateful. This is a grave reminder of the dangers our men and women in uniform face every day in the ongoing fight to defeat terrorism and protect the United States. We will never forget them or their sacrifice.”

Gov. Roy Cooper on Friday ordered that all U.S. and N.C. flags be lowered to half staff until Monday evening in memory of Harris and Hunter.

Before the military officially released the soldiers’ identities, Britt Harris confirmed her husband’s death through a post on her Facebook page early Thursday. She grew up in High Falls and went to North Moore High School.

“As the news spreads about the two soldiers killed in action yesterday in Afghanistan it is with a very heavy and broken heart that I confirm one of them was my ...husband Chris

Harris," she wrote. "We had recently discovered I am in the very early weeks of pregnancy.

"Right now that is my main concern and I want to try and make sure everything continues to be healthy considering these crushing circumstances. I know you will all be respectful as I ask to be left alone. Thank you."

Before enlisting in the Army, Chris Harris worked for about 14 months in public services for the village of Pinehurst, according to village officials.

Gregory Ryner, a longtime public services employee for the village who worked with Harris, said in a comment on The Pilot's Facebook page that he was a "very smart kid and respectful."

Harris graduated from Grace Christian School in Sanford in 2010, according to a post on its Facebook page. The school, located on U.S. 1, flew its flags at half staff in honor and memory of Harris.

The Pilot was able to reach someone with the school Friday for comment.

Kerr said he, his sister, Tali, and Harris "were inseparable." He said Harris was like a big brother to him.

"He was like family," he said. "If I ever had a problem with something, he would always help me. He really is going to be missed."

Kerr, who lives in Fayetteville but works at Texas Roadhouse in Aberdeen, said his employer has offered to do a benefit for Harris' family on Thursday, Aug. 10. A percentage of the sales will be donated. The restaurant opens at 4 p.m.

"We want to celebrate Chris' life and honor what he has done," said Jessica Wren, managing partner of the restaurant on U.S. 1 in Aberdeen. "We will have a table set up in his honor. This will be a night to honor and remember Chris."

Jenny Ann Stone set up the GoFundMe.com page Thursday morning for Harris' wife. A similar page was also established for Hunter in Indiana.

"This account is being made for the wife of a true war hero named Chris Harris," Stone wrote in a message on the page.

"These funds will go towards helping Britt, his loving wife, keep a steady handle on bills and expenses as they arise. Chris lost his life by a Taliban suicide bomber in Afghanistan on August 2, 2017 along with another great American soldier.

"Britt has recently discovered that she and Chris were expecting their first child. During this time, money should be the absolute least important thing on her mind. If you feel it in your heart to donate to this cause, it would be kindly appreciated. Thank you all for reading our story."

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WAR**

## **Afghan Policeman Wounds Romanian Soldier In Latest Insider Attack**

August 5, 2017 By Bill Roggio [Excerpt]. Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of FDD's Long War Journal.

An Afghan policeman opened fire on Romanian soldiers and wounded one before being killed in return fire. The insider, or "green-on-blue," attack took place near Kandahar Air Field, and is the fourth of its kind recorded so far this year.

Resolute Support, NATO's mission in Afghanistan, confirmed that a member of the Afghan National Civil Order Police opened fire on coalition advisors and their security detail after they "had completed scheduled law enforcement training and were preparing to return to base."

"Romanian soldiers, who were providing security, along with Train, Advise and Assist Command South advisors returned fire and killed the gunman," Resolute Support noted in its press release. Another Afghan policeman was "wounded in the crossfire."

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## **US Helicopter Down In Afghanistan**

Aug 01 2017 By Khaama Press

At least two US soldiers sustained minor injuries after their helicopter made a hard landing in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan earlier today.

The Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan in a statement said "A U.S. HH-60 Black Hawk suffered a mechanical issue that resulted in a hard landing during operations near Achin, Nangarhar early this morning. "

The statement further added "Rescue personnel safely recovered the crew. Two crew members suffered minor injuries in the landing and are receiving treatment at a coalition medical facility."

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# **Taliban Wipe Out Regime Soldiers In Pattern Of Attacks In Kandahar:**

**“The Taliban Routed An Afghan  
Army Outpost, Killing Dozens Of  
Soldiers”**

**“The Taliban Fooled The Officials —  
They Split Into Three Groups, And  
Launched Simultaneous Attacks”**

**“Things Are Really Bad”**

JULY 26, 2017 By TAIMOOR SHAH and MUJIB MASHAL, New York Times [Excerpts]

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — In a bloody overnight attack in Kandahar Province in Afghanistan on Wednesday, the Taliban routed an Afghan Army outpost, killing dozens of soldiers and raising fears of a concerted insurgent offensive in the province, a former seat of Taliban power that took years of effort by coalition and Afghan forces to secure.

The attack happened in Khakrez District, about 30 miles from Kandahar city, and the large number of casualties has raised concerns about new Taliban tactics against an Afghan force already losing men in record numbers.

**One senior security official said 39 Afghan Army soldiers were killed in the attack, which began at 10 p.m. on Tuesday and lasted for three hours. The official said that 17 other soldiers were wounded, and that a dozen more had not been accounted for.**

The Afghan government’s media and information center said 26 soldiers were killed and 13 others wounded. Army officials in Kandahar confirmed the attack but would not provide details of casualties.

Mohammed Yousuf Younusi, a member of Kandahar’s provincial council, described the episode as “a massacre” and said there was prior intelligence that the Taliban would attack in large numbers.

**“The Taliban fooled the officials — they split into three groups, and launched simultaneous attacks,” Mr. Younusi said. “One group attacked Shah Wali Kot**



**District, another attacked Nish District, and a third group attacked this Afghan Army base, which is not far from the district center. Things are really bad, and this is a shame.”**

Kandahar was the original seat of the Taliban government when it controlled Afghanistan from the mid-1990s until its ouster by the United States invasion in 2001. More than 550 NATO coalition troops have died in the province, and it became relatively secure only after a strong push during President Barack Obama’s troop surge starting in 2010.

The gains in Kandahar have been solidified in recent years by a strongman police chief, Gen. Abdul Raziq, a favorite of American commanders who has also been accused of abuses by human rights groups.

**The province’s dependence on one individual for security — with no Plan B and at the cost of reforming the police as an accountable force — has long worried diplomats and Afghan officials.**

The Taliban have steadily been making gains in surrounding provinces, but in Kandahar, General Raziq’s forces have long been successful in keeping the insurgents at bay.

But the general’s control is being tested by this new wave of attacks.

In recent weeks, in addition to firing on security outposts in most of the province’s districts, the Taliban have also carried out heavier assaults and ambushes in at least six districts, often inflicting casualties on Afghan forces.

“For the last two weeks, the Taliban have been attacking the northern districts of Kandahar and have killed many Afghan security forces,” said Noor Nawaz Piawari, a military analyst in Kandahar.

“The northern districts are close to Helmand and Uruzgan, which they control in large parts. They are after expanding their territory to create routes that connect to Pakistan,” where most of the insurgency’s leadership is based.

Mr. Piawari said General Raziq would struggle to maintain security as his police forces are stretched and face casualties, with the Taliban often attacking isolated outposts across several districts.

**For an Afghan force that lost men in record numbers last year, the past month has proved particularly deadly.**

**The Taliban have overrun three districts across the country in the last week, and the pattern suggests they are focused on inflicting heavy casualties on Afghan forces, rather than holding the territory they take over.**

When they overrun outposts and police stations, they often capture even more weapons and ammunition, most of it paid for by the United States and its allies to help bolster the Afghan forces.

Both in Janikhel District of Paktia Province, and in Kohistan District of Faryab Province, the Taliban looted all the weapons and equipment left behind by the Afghan forces. In

Taiwara District, in western Ghor Province, the Taliban killed as many as 30 government forces.

**When Afghan forces took back the district center of Kohistan on Tuesday, they estimated that the Taliban had seized some 40,000 rounds of machine gun ammunition, a mortar with 20 rounds and 30 rocket-propelled grenades, according to Sulaiman Rahmani, a militia commander in the district.**

After overrunning the district center of Janikhel, and seizing four pickup trucks, one Humvee and whatever weapons they could get their hands on, the Taliban withdrew again, officials there said.

“They have taken position in the mountains above the district center to strike on the Afghan forces, in case they plan to move ahead to retake the district,” said Shakeela Mangal, a member of the Paktia provincial council.

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## **Taliban Using U.S. Weaponry And Military Equipment To Fight U.S. Occupation:**

**“Armored Vehicles, Night Vision  
Devices, M-4s, Laser Illuminators  
And Scoped Optics Have All  
Found The Way Into Taliban  
Hands”**

**“The Afghan National Army Is Afraid  
To Conduct Night Operations,  
Impacting Its Ability To Hold Re-  
Captured Terrain”**

# “Soldiers Have Sold Ammunition To Locals In The Villages, Including Taliban Commanders”



Photo: Long War Journal

7.25.17 By: Shawn Snow, Marine Corps Times

WASHINGTON — Weaponry provided to the Afghan military over the last 16 years has slowly trickled down to the Taliban through corruption and battlefield losses.

Armored vehicles, night vision devices, M-4s, laser illuminators and scoped optics have all found the way into Taliban hands over the years.

And at times the U.S. has been forced to combat its own armored vehicles and weapons.

For instance, captured U.S. up-armored Humvees are being used as vehicle borne improvised explosive devices, or SVBIEDs. This tactic has also been a favorite of ISIS fighters in Iraq and Mosul, causing coalition forces to supply anti-tank weaponry to defeat the heavily armored mobile bombs.

According to Maj. Kendra Motz— the spokeswoman for the 300-person Task Force Southwest — the Marine unit has launched “strikes” to destroy stolen Humvees, to prevent the resurgent Taliban threat from using them as SVBIEDs.

“There are reports of Taliban with some night-vision capabilities,” Motz told Military Times. A senior Afghan defense official also confirmed that some Taliban fighters have night vision capabilities.

Pictures of a few Taliban with older generation AN/PVS 7b night vision have also appeared on Taliban propaganda videos posted to the group’s official website.

The U.S. has spent billions in military aid to the Afghan military over the last 16 years. This year’s request through the Afghan Security Forces Fund stands at nearly \$5 billion,

an increase of nearly \$800 million from last year and almost \$1.5 billion more than FY2016.

In areas of Uruzgan province, the Afghan National Army, or ANA, is afraid to conduct night operations, impacting its ability to hold re-captured terrain, a U.S. military official told Military Times.

Large numbers of Taliban fighters in the area have night vision, ACOGs, and M-4s, and they are fighting an ANA force supplied with only M-16s, helmets and flak jackets, the official said.

**In one instance, an ANA night patrol in the region experienced nearly 20 casualties because the opponent was better equipped, the official said.**

Corruption also plays a prominent role.

In Uruzgan for instance, ANA soldiers have sold ammunition to locals in the villages, including Taliban commanders, to bridge the gap of wage theft committed by commanding officers, the official explained.

The White House is still considering a proposal to increase troops in America's longest war by nearly 4,000.

**The budget proposal submitted by the Defense Department seeks to revitalize Afghan forces battlefield edge while boosting offensive capabilities.**

**But neither proposal addresses corruption and low morale among Afghan army troops.**

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**Taliban Bomb Kills 24 Regime  
Staff Members “In A  
Neighborhood Where Prominent  
Politicians Reside”  
“You Can Bring Any Amount Of  
Explosives Into The City If You Have  
Money. Corruption Is The Big  
Problem”**

# **“The Taliban Spokesman Said Insurgents Had Spent The Last Two Months In Kabul Shadowing Intelligence Services Employees Before Striking”**

Jul 24 By KATHY GANNON and AMIR SHAH, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan -- A Taliban bomber killed 24 people in a horrific early morning assault in a neighborhood where prominent politicians reside, causing residents and analysts to question the government's ability to protect Afghanistan's capital.

Another 42 people were injured in the attack that took place during morning rush hour as government employees and students made their way to work and school. Plumes of black smoke were seen billowing skyward outside the entrance to a private high school. Students in nearby dormitories were injured by flying glass.

Several cars were destroyed and small shops that lined the busy street were decimated and many of the occupants within killed.

The bomber had rammed his explosive laden car into a minibus carrying employees of the mines and petroleum ministry, said Kabul police chief spokesman Basir Mujahed.

In a statement to the media the Taliban took responsibility for the bombing saying the target was the employees of the intelligence services.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban spokesman, said insurgents had spent the last two months in Kabul shadowing intelligence services employees before striking early Monday.

Analysts said widespread corruption, rife within the government and the security forces, makes keeping Kabul safe a difficult job.

“You can bring any amount of explosives into the city if you have money. Corruption is the big problem,” Kabul-based security analyst Waheed Muzhda told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. “Any group, even a small group, can bring weapons, ammunition to anywhere in the city.”

Last year Afghanistan was ranked as one of the world's most corrupt countries according to Transparency International.

The western Kabul neighborhood where the attack occurred is home to many prominent political leaders, such as Hazara leader Mohammad Mohaqiq. It has also been the site of several previous attacks, including the attack last month that killed prominent Shiite Muslim cleric Ramazan Hussainzada, who was also a senior leader of the ethnic Hazara community.

Amir Helam, whose friend died in the explosion, told Afghanistan's Tolo TV that “every day people are dying.” Addressing the government Helam said: “If you cannot bring peace then please leave and bring other people.” And to the insurgents, he said: “If you are the Taliban opposition please come and talk with the government. It is enough, stop killing the people.”

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## **Taliban Captures 2 Districts In Central Afghanistan: “200 Afghan Security Forces Have Been Cornered In A Remote Village In The District Also Known As Lawlash”**



July 23, 2017 by Ayaz Gul, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

ISLAMABAD —

Heavy fighting is raging in central Afghanistan where officials say the Islamist Taliban has captured two key district headquarters and is assaulting government outposts in nearby areas.

Insurgents stormed Taywara district in Ghor province early Sunday, after seizing control of the border district of Kohistan in the adjoining northern province of Faryab, according to Afghan and Taliban officials.

Ghor's governor Nasir Khazay told VOA thousands of Taliban fighters participated in the pre-dawn attack on Taywara and faced strong resistance from Afghan forces before overrunning it.

A government spokesman in Faryab told VOA around 700 Taliban insurgents overnight attacked Kohistan and swiftly captured key installations, including the police headquarters, before establishing control over the entire district.

Abdul Karim Youresh said that as many as 200 Afghan security forces have been cornered in a remote village in the district also known as Lawlash, and urgently need reinforcements.

Insurgents are attacking government positions in eight other districts of Faryab, according to Afghan media.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, claimed rebels inflicted heavy casualties on government forces and killed dozens of them in the fighting for the control of the two districts.

It was not possible to independently verify the claims and Afghan officials would not discuss casualty details saying clashes were still underway in the area.

Taliban insurgents have also besieged the Khanabad district of the northern Kunduz province.

**Afghan officials, meanwhile, have confirmed insurgents ambushed and killed at least 35 Afghan forces in the neighboring northeastern Badakhshan province Friday.**

**Clashes are also raging in volatile southern Helmand province where an American drone strike mistakenly killed at least 15 Afghan security forces during Friday's clashes in the Gereshk district.**

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## **Afghan Taliban Captures Third District In Three Days**

July 25, 2017 Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

An Afghan official says the Taliban has seized control of a district in southeastern Afghanistan, the third to fall to the militants in as many days.

The Taliban's apparent capture of Jani Khel district in Paktia Province, along the porous border with Pakistan, came after days of heavy fighting.

Sardar Khan Malangzoi, head of the provincial council, told Germany's DPA news agency that the district fell early on July 25 after fierce gunbattles with government forces in the district center.

Malangozi said the Taliban torched the district governor's compound, the police headquarters, and a health clinic.

In a statement, the Taliban claimed it had captured the district.

On July 23, the Taliban seized control of Taywara district in central Ghor Province and Kohistan district in northern Faryab Province.

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## Islamic State's Khorasan 'Province' Assaults Iraqi Embassy In Kabul



Afghanistan's Ministry of Interior Affairs released this photo of the Iraqi embassy in Kabul after it was attacked this morning.

July 31, 2017 By Thomas Joscelyn, Long War Journal & WAND TV [Excerpt]. Thomas Joscelyn is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Senior Editor for FDD's Long War Journal.

The Islamic State's Wilayah Khorasan (or Khorasan province) attacked the Iraqi embassy in Kabul earlier today. The self-declared caliphate claimed the assault via short messages from its Amaq News Agency and then released a longer statement on social media channels.

Afghanistan's Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish has said that two Afghan employees died in an attack on the Iraq Embassy. Three police were injured, he said.

The "inghimasi attack" was carried out by two "brothers," identified as Abu Julaybib al-Khurasani and Abu Talhah al-Balkhi, according to the group. Inghimasis are generally well-trained commandos who are prepared to die in battle.

The two terrorists were armed with explosive vests and light arms. Amaq claims that one of the two detonated his vest on security guards and the other opened fire on personnel inside the embassy.

The Afghan government's account of the raid differs slightly from the Islamic State's, saying that four jihadists were responsible, not two. A shootout lasting several hours then ensued.



This is a standard jihadist tactic, as the Islamic State and other groups frequently use bombers to clear the path for their comrades.

The Islamic State claims that seven guards outside the building were killed and another 20 “apostates” perished inside. These casualty figures have not been confirmed by independent sources.

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## **U.S. Air Strike On Funeral Prayer Service Kills Women, Children**

Jul 23, 2017 By Yousuf Zarifi, Pajhwok

JALALABAD:

Government officials on Sunday provided different accounts about casualties after a US drone struck participants of a prayer service in the Haska Mena district of eastern Nangarhar province.

The airstrike took place this afternoon in Mianji Baba village of Mariz Kandaw area of the district after Daesh militants fired at security forces from nearby homes.

An official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the casualty toll from the airstrike had climbed and could further rise.

He said so far six bodies had been recognized and a search in this regard was underway. He confirmed sustaining injuries by six people, including three children and one woman, in the strike.

He said a service member of the Afghan army’s engineering unit was also injured in the incident. However, he did not elaborate.

He said the drone strike hit a crowd of people and casualties could increase until Monday morning.

Nangarhar public health director Dr. Najibullah Kamawal said eight injured people had been brought to the civil hospital in Jalalabad from Haska Mena district.

He said one of them was discharged after treatment and seven remained hospitalized, including six women.

One of the injured persons, Chaman Gul, from his hospital bed said the airstrike took place when people were attending a prayer service for a deceased tribal elder, Haji Aman.

He said a large number of people were in attendance, but he did not know how many suffered casualties in the strike.

Earlier, Haska Mena district administrative chief, Sazoli Shinwari, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place in Mariz Kandaw area around 3pm today.

He said the payer ceremony for the deceased local tribal elder was being offered when all of a sudden an unmanned aircraft fired missiles at the participants.

Sixteen Daesh or so-called Islamic State (IS) rebels and eight civilians including children were killed and a number of people were injured in the strike, he said. Daesh militants were firing at security forces from homes near the funeral and the drone targeted them, Shinwari said.

Sayed Shinwari, a resident of the area, said his uncle and one of his cousins were killed in the drone strike and a number of people were still believed to be buried under rubble.

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## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

# **Shabaab Hits Occupation Forces In Southern Somalia: Occupation “Initially Claimed That 12 Soldiers Were Killed And Several Others Wounded, But Subsequent Reporting Indicates That The Death Toll May Be Higher”**

July 31st, 2017 By Thomas Joscelyn, The Long War Journal. Thomas Joscelyn is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Senior Editor for FDD's Long War Journal.

AMISOM [African Union Mission] initially claimed that 12 soldiers were killed and several others wounded, but subsequent reporting indicates that the death toll may be higher.

Shabaab has trumpeted the operation on social media sites and via its Shahada News Agency. In a statement yesterday, Abdul Aziz Abu Musab, the group's spokesman, claimed that the jihadists had the bodies of some of the dead in their possession. “The Mujahideen today set up a series of ambushes for the convoy of the Ugandan Crusader forces and more than 39 soldiers were killed,” Abdul Aziz Abu Musab said.

He added that Shabaab had also captured AMISOM weapons.

In a subsequent posting on Shahada News, Shabaab alleged that the number of dead was even higher, with 51 Ugandan troops perishing in the assault.

Earlier today, AMISOM reported fewer casualties, saying that “12 gallant AMISOM soldiers lost their lives while seven others sustained injuries and are currently receiving treatment.” The “troops were ambushed during a regular patrol to secure the Mogadishu-Barawe Main Supply Route.” AMISOM added that the attack involved an improvised explosive device (IED).

**But Somali officials told the press that the casualties were higher than AMISOM indicated. “We have carried 23 dead AMISOM soldiers and a dead Somali soldier from the scene where (Shabaab) ambushed AMISOM today,” Reuters quoted Ali Nur, the deputy governor of Lower Shabelle region, as saying.**

**It is often difficult to confirm the number of fatalities resulting from Shabaab’s attacks. For instance, the UN found that 150 Kenyan soldiers were killed during the Jan. 15, 2016 surprise assault on an AFRICOM base in the town of El Adde. However, the Kenyan government was not forthcoming when it came to its losses, which the UN described as “the largest military defeat in Kenyan history.”**

The latest Shabaab ambush occurred in or near Bulo Marer, which is approximately 140 to 150 kilometers south of Mogadishu.

The town was freed from Shabaab’s control by Somali and AMISOM fighters in Aug. 2014. Bulo Marer had served “as a major route for (Shabaab) insurgents and provided them with steady income obtained through extortion and forceful taxation of residents and travellers,” the UN explained at the time.

The town was also part of “a major route” used by Shabaab to move “deadly explosive devices” into “the rest of Somalia.”

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

They treasured up wrath for the time to come.

-- Edward, Earl of Clarendon, on the growing discontent emerging from below that led to the revolutionary overthrow of the English feudal oligarchy and beheading of Charles I, King of England.

## Palestinian Child Holding the Truth



Photo by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: August 03, 2017  
Subject: Palestinian Child Holding the Truth

**March in Portland, Oregon on December 30, 2008  
Operation Cast Lead 2008-09  
Resisting the “Israeli Eraser” day in and day out,  
until the eraser becomes obvious to the world.**

**Palestine is the anvil of our souls.  
Clovis Maksoud**

**Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact [hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net))**

**One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004**

## **Terrorist Leaders Surrender After Trump Bans Transgender Troops From Serving In The Military**



Jul 27, 2017 By Justin Coates, Duffle Blog

WASHINGTON — Terrorist leaders around the world began offering their unconditional surrender after President Donald Trump declared Wednesday that transgender people would no longer be “allowed or accepted” in the U.S. military.

“For the past 16 years we have kept the infidels at bay,” said Taliban leader Mullah Yaqoub, from his jail cell in Kabul.

“But now that they have purged the degenerates from their ranks, they will surely accomplish their mission after over a decade of failure.”

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of ISIS, turned himself into Iraqi government forces upon hearing the news, revealing that the group’s “victories were only due to the Americans being distracted by the lady-men hiding in their midst,” he said. “Now our damnation is assured.”

Thousands of insurgents in Syria, Yemen, and Libya reportedly quit the battlefield after learning that transgender service members would no longer be allowed to bog down the rest of the military. Some, however, vowed to continue the fight.

“It is extremely demoralizing,” admitted Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of global terrorist group al-Qaeda. “At least we still have gays, women and black people to ruin the American military for us.”

President Trump’s decision was met with praise by several high-ranking officers at the Pentagon.

“The military is meant to win wars,” said Lt. Gen. Bob Hogan. “This isn’t some snowflake social experiment, where anyone can join as long as they’ve got the guts and the skill. Besides, the money we’d spend on this would take away from all the other pointless bullshit we usually blow it on.”

The transgender policy change was announced by the President with a series of morning tweets, in which he explained that he came to the decision after “consultation with my generals and military experts.” Sources close to the White House say that these experts consisted of campaign strategist Steve Bannon, the President’s son Donald Trump Jr., and a GI Joe action figure.

“The President is making sure the military is focused on winning,” a current U.S. President told Duffel Blog, on condition of anonymity.

“We have to get back to winning. We’re losing all the time. Everyone is saying, ‘Hey, America, remember when you used to win? Before you got all politically correct?’ It’s incredible. It’s hugely unbelievable. We have to win again, and we have to focus on winning.”

U.S. military spokesmen in Afghanistan were unavailable for comment.

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**“It Is Possible To Imagine That One Day This Phantom-Like 86% Pro-Putin Majority Could Suddenly And Swiftly Turn Into An 86% Anti-Putin Majority”**

**“They Are Not Satisfied With Current Social Policy, They Do Not Like Russian Police, They Do Not Believe In The Independence Of The Courts, They Are Extremely Unsatisfied With The Situation In Health Care And Education, Etc.”**

July 24, 2017 by Ilya Budraitskis, LeftEast [Excerpt]

Ilya Budraitskis(1981) is a historian, cultural and political activist. Since 2009 he has been a Ph.D. student at the Institute for World History, Russian Academy of Science, Moscow. In 2001-2004 he organized Russian activists in mobilizations against the G8, in European and World Social Forums.

Since 2011 he has been an activist and spokesperson for Russian Socialist Movement. Editor of OpenLeft.ru and member of the editorial board of “Moscow Art Magazine”. Regular contributor to the number of political and cultural websites.

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One of the main system-forming myths of the modern Russian political regime is the myth of the identity of the country, the state, and the people.

A myth expressed through the famous formula “Russia is Putin. Putin is Russia.”

The main and defining feature of this mythical majority is its passivity. It is assumed that this majority is not able to assemble and express itself independently, and therefore its only representative, its only voice, is Putin.

And this is the strong point of this myth: it insists that everyone by him- or herself is powerless. Therefore, we need to recognize ourselves, via television, in Putin, to contemplatively accept his active will, his activity, as the positive side of our own inactivity and impotence. This pessimistic philosophy has, of course, an impact on the consciousness of many people in Russia.

But its weakness stems from the same source as its strength— from passivity.

Support for power is not measured by anything other than sociological surveys.

**How, for example, do we know that the people trust Putin? We can no longer learn this from elections, since turnout is constantly decreasing, and their results do not represent the actual opinion of the majority.**

**Also, naturally, we do not know anything about the majority's support of Putin through mass demonstrations, rallies, etc.**

**We see that people do not participate voluntarily in these rallies of celebration and unity with the regime.**

**Administrative power has to be put to work to gather a more or less sizeable demonstration of support for any state actions.**

The only way to confirm the support of the people remains the sociological survey. But these questionable surveys do not focus on what specific elements of public policy people support.

The main paradox of Putin's "Crimea Is Ours" majority is that people who support Putin can simultaneously be extremely critical of all the concrete manifestations of the state that are present in their own lives.

**At the level of personal life experience they are not satisfied with current social policy, they do not like Russian police, they do not believe in the independence of the courts, they are extremely unsatisfied with the situation in health care and education, etc.**

**But at the same time they support Putin. And these people are included in the 86% that, according to the pro-Kremlin mass media and sociologists, support Putin.**

**And it is very likely that at some point this qualitative, concrete discontent connected with people's real life experience will pass to the abstract figure of the leader with which this state associates itself.**

**Therefore, it is possible to imagine that one day this phantom-like 86% pro-Putin majority could suddenly and swiftly turn into an 86% anti-Putin majority.**

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## **ANNIVERSARIES**

### **August 1913: Horrible Anniversary The Wheatland Massacre**



Carl Bunin Peace History July 30-Aug 5

Four died in the Wheatland riots when police fired into a crowd of California Hop pickers trying to organize (with the help of the IWW, or Industrial Workers of the World) at the Durst Ranch in Wheatland, California.

Hundreds of workers — whites, Mexicans, and Filipinos — lay down their tools because of terrible working conditions, low wages, and an almost complete lack of sanitation and decent housing.

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## **August 1964: Lying Lyndon Johnson Fakes The USA Into Escalation In Vietnam**

Carl Bunin Peace History July 30-Aug 5

**A second attack on U.S. naval ships in Vietnam's Gulf of Tonkin was reported by the Pentagon.**

**But there was no such activity reported by the task force commander in the Gulf, Captain John J. Herrick.**

One of the Navy pilots flying overhead that night was squadron commander James Stockdale, later held as a POW by the North Vietnamese for more than seven years, and Ross Perot's vice presidential candidate in 1992.

**"I had the best seat in the house to watch that event," recalled Stockdale, "and our destroyers were just shooting at phantom targets — there were no PT boats there.... There was nothing there but black water and American firepower."**

Nearly three decades later, during the Gulf War, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Sydney Schanberg warned journalists not to forget "our unquestioning chorus of agreeability when Lyndon Johnson bamboozled us with his fabrication of the Gulf of Tonkin incident"

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**DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK**

**Your Money Or Your Life:**

**“If Anything Shows Just How Rotten The Republicans Are, It Is Their Plan To Carry Out Massive Cuts To Health Care Spending, Depriving Tens Of Millions Of People Of Vital Health Care”**

**“The Democrats’ Plan Was Written By The Health Insurance Companies And Big Hospital Groups As A Way To Assure Them More Paying Customers And Greater Profits”**

**“The ACA Was Simply Built On Top Of The Same, Rotten Profit-Driven Health Care System”**

Jul 11, 2017 The Spark

The Republicans made the repeal of what they call “Obamacare” a main theme of their electoral campaign – for seven years they promised to get rid of it. Trump himself declared he would replace it with the best medical care anyone had ever seen and it would cover everyone.

So far, it hasn’t worked, even though Trump, the spoiled billionaire, is throwing his usual political tantrum, threatening to leave parts of the health care system to crash and burn, and telling the Republicans to practically blow apart the health care system.

If anything shows just how rotten the Republicans are, it is their plan to carry out massive cuts to health care spending, depriving tens of millions of people of vital health care, in order to turn that money over to the very wealthiest parts of the population and the big companies.

And if anything shows just how inhumane and cynical the Republicans are, it is how ready they are to play politics with the entire health care system, on which much of the population depends.

This puts the Democrats in a position to denounce and expose Republican maneuvers. But the Democrats certainly haven't offered real medical care reform to working people.

Under Obama, the Democrats did pass a big health care law, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which they promised would greatly extend health insurance to much of the uninsured, and improve health care to those who already had insurance. They extended Medicaid and set up health insurance exchanges run by the government.

But the 10 million working poor who got Medicaid coverage found that Medicaid coverage was severely limited. They had no access to doctors and hospitals they wanted to see or treatment they needed.

As for the 10 million who went into the exchanges, they found that the system was so complicated and convoluted at every level, it was hard to get care, especially care that they could afford. And many resented the new government mandate that if they didn't buy private insurance, the government would fine them.

The ACA didn't come close to fulfilling all those promises that the Democrats made to the uninsured. This was not surprising, since the Democrats' plan was written by the health insurance companies and big hospital groups as a way to assure them more paying customers and greater profits – while the costs that they imposed on the population skyrocketed. The ACA was simply built on top of the same, rotten profit-driven health care system.

And that's the problem – profit.

That's what's really driving the skyrocketing cost of medical care: insurance company profits, pharmaceutical profits, doctor group profits, hospital company profits, various facility profits, etc.

**This is a system in which insurance companies take 25 or 30 cents of every dollar that people spend on health care, and then put up all kinds of barriers for people to actually get the treatment they need.**

**In this system, drug companies often charge hundreds of thousands of dollars per year for a life saving treatment, and if someone can't afford it, they can very easily be left to die.**

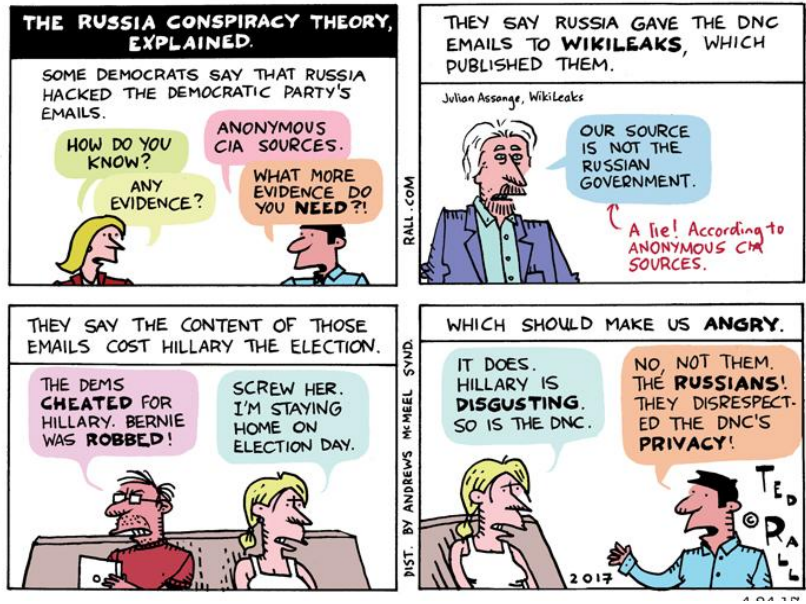
**It is one more way the capitalist class holds the working population hostage. In medical care, it truly is: "your money or your life."**

Every single person in this country could have decent access to good medical care: good doctors, competent technicians, hospitals whose concern is the patient, etc. Remove profit from the system, and we would be a big step along the way to getting that.

**This country spends two or three times as much on health care per person than does any other country, but we have much worse medical outcomes than any other developed country. Much worse.**

Get rid of profit – it really is a case of “money or your life.” Their money – our lives.

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

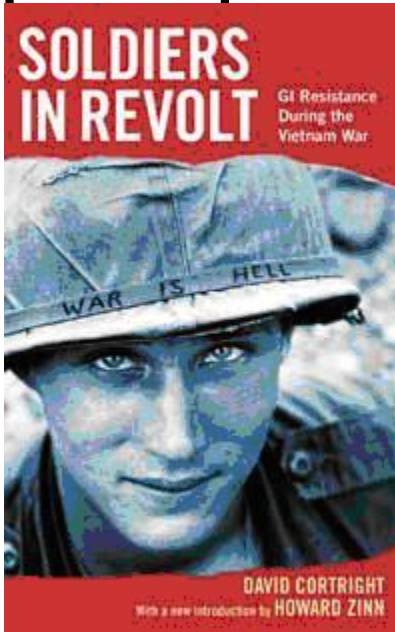


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