

# CURRENT NEWS

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## EARLY BIRD

May 5, 2012

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### PANETTA VISIT

1. **Panetta Warns Military Over Afghanistan Misconduct**  
(*New York Times*)....Thom Shanker  
Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta warned on Friday that the spate of high-profile episodes of misconduct by some troops in Afghanistan not only discredited the entire armed forces, but also damaged America's chances for battlefield success.
2. **Defense Secretary Leon Panetta Warns Troops About Misconduct**  
(*Los Angeles Times*)....Brian Bennett  
In a pointed response to images of Marines urinating on corpses and soldiers posing with body parts, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta appealed to American troops to refrain from misconduct that has complicated the war effort in Afghanistan.
3. **Secretary Of Defense Leon E. Panetta Urges Troops To Remember Character During Fort Benning Visit**  
(*Columbus (GA) Ledger-Enquirer*)....Ben Wright  
As the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division prepares to return to the Middle East, Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta thanked soldiers for their service but asked them to display the highest degree of character on the battlefield.
4. **Panetta Tells Troops That Bad Behavior Fuels The Enemy, Damages US Standing In The World**  
(*Washingtonpost.com*)....Associated Press  
Defense Secretary Leon Panetta warned troops Friday that it takes just seconds for misconduct to make headlines and said that enemy insurgents can use recent military scandals to fuel their fight.
5. **Afghan-Bound U.S. Soldiers Urged To Be On Best Behavior**  
(*Reuters.com*)....David Alexander, Reuters  
...Panetta said the international mission in Afghanistan was succeeding. He said Afghan troops would accept security responsibility for more provinces this month and by the end of the summer would be providing security for 80 percent of the population. But Taliban insurgents will use "any opportunity to damage us," Panetta said, including careless actions by U.S. troops.
6. **US Military Orders Troops To 'Fall In Line'**  
(*Yahoo.com*)....Dan De Luce, Agence France-Presse  
...Panetta's trip to Fort Benning followed a string of damaging incidents, including a video of Marines urinating on Taliban corpses, photos of soldiers posing with body parts and the burning of Korans that sparked deadly riots in Afghanistan. The high-profile public relations setbacks showed "a lack of judgment, a lack of professionalism, and a lack of leadership," he said.

7. **Enough Is Enough**

(CNN)....Barbara Starr

After a series of nasty scandals involving U.S. troops, especially in Afghanistan, the entire U.S. military has received a warning against bad behavior.

## MILITARY COMMISSIONS

8. **Military To Charge Five 9/11 Detainees**

(Washington Post)....Peter Finn

Khalid Sheik Mohammed and four co-defendants are expected to be arraigned on capital charges at 9 a.m.

Saturday at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, rekindling a military commission case that began under the George W. Bush administration in 2008.

9. **Taking On 9/11 Case, And Public Opinion**

(Washington Post)....Peter Finn

...Across the courtroom from Mohammed, facing him for the first time, will stand the tall, one-star general the Pentagon has entrusted with not only securing a death penalty conviction but also convincing a skeptical world that a military commission can deliver a fair trial.

10. **U.S. To Restart Tribunal, Aiming To Show It's Fair**

(New York Times)....Charlie Savage

As the United States restarts its effort to prosecute--and ultimately execute--five detainees accused of conspiring in the Sept. 11 attacks, it has fallen to Brig. Gen. Mark S. Martins both to prove them guilty and to show the world that the tribunal system is now legitimate.

11. **Sept. 11 Suspects Face Gitmo Hearing**

(Wall Street Journal)....Jess Bravin

...But the Obama administration's decision to use a military commission that denies defendants some rights they could claim in federal court makes it likely that the proceedings themselves will receive as much scrutiny as the accusations against the defendants.

12. **9/11 Trial Gears Up At Guantanamo Bay**

(Arizona Republic (Phoenix))....Ben Fox, Associated Press

The man who once bragged about planning Sept. 11 "from A to Z" may mount a defense after all to charges that he orchestrated the worst terror attack in U.S. history, with families of the dead watching intently from the U.S. on closed-circuit TV.

13. **Accused 9/11 Conspirators Don't Want To Plea, Lawyer Says**

(MiamiHerald.com)....Carol Rosenberg

Saturday's arraignment of the accused 9/11 conspirators means the process to hold a trial has restarted. Decisions the defendants make can alter the timeline.

## DEFENSE DEPARTMENT

14. **Panetta Says Drone Attacks Protect U.S. From Terrorists**

(Bloomberg.com)....Tony Capaccio, Bloomberg News

The U.S. will continue to launch drone strikes against militant sanctuaries in Pakistan even if that nation's government keeps opposing them, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said in an interview on Bloomberg Television's "Conversations with Judy Woodruff" airing this weekend.

15. **U.S. Special Forces Commander Seeks To Expand Operations**

(Los Angeles Times)....David S. Cloud

A top U.S. commander is seeking authority to expand clandestine operations against militants and insurgencies around the globe, a sign of shifting Pentagon tactics and priorities after a grueling decade of large-scale wars.

16. **Suit Hits Pentagon Over Huge 2011 Data Breach**  
(*Boston Globe*)....Bryan Bender  
Alleged lapses touch 4.7m tied to military.
17. **NSA's Gen. Alexander: Companies Should Be Required To Fortify Networks Against Cyberattack**  
(*Checkpoint Washington (Washingtonpost.com)*)....Ellen Nakashima  
...Further, he said, it is U.S. Cyber Command's role to defend the nation from a cyber attack. He said the president can delegate authority to the Defense Secretary to use Cyber Command's capabilities to defend the nation.
18. **Panetta Warns Climate Change Having 'Dramatic Impact' On National Security**  
(*TheHill.com*)....Carlo Munoz  
Climate change has had a direct effect on national security, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said this week.
19. **Military Payroll Systems Pose Challenge For TSP's Roth Option**  
(*FederalTimes.com*)....Stephen Losey  
The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's efforts to roll out a new Roth option for the Thrift Savings Plan are complicated by the balkanized, multiple pay and personnel systems its customer agencies use.

## ARMY

20. **Office Of Special Counsel Investigating Army Criminal Investigation Lab**  
(*McClatchy Newspapers (mcclatchydc.com)*)....Marisa Taylor, McClatchy Newspapers  
A federal agency in charge of investigating whistleblower complaints is scrutinizing the military's top crime lab, already troubled by sloppy evidence handling and botched analysis of DNA.
21. **South Carolina: Reinstatement At Drill Sergeant School**  
(*New York Times*)....Associated Press  
The first woman to lead the Army's prestigious drill sergeant school is being reinstated after she was suspended in November for reasons the Army has never explained, her lawyer and the Army said on Friday.
22. **Death Of Beaumont Army Medical Center Nurse During Skype Chat Not Combat-Related**  
(*El Paso Times*)....Aaron Bracamontes  
Capt. Bruce Kevin Clark, the 43-year-old Beaumont Army Medical Center nurse who died Monday in Afghanistan, was not injured during combat, officials said.

## MARINE CORPS

23. **When The Troops Were Very Young**  
(*Wall Street Journal*)....Michael M. Phillips  
The newest troops in Afghanistan are barely old enough to recall the event that sparked the long war.

## NAVY

24. **Iran Mine Threat Scares Navy; CNO Scrambles To Fix Decades Of Neglect**  
(*AOL Defense (defense.aol.com)*)....Sydney J. Freedberg Jr.  
Iran's threat to strangle oil tanker traffic through the Straits of Hormuz has the Navy scrambling to redress its decades-old neglect of mine warfare. Admirals from the Chief of Naval Operations on down have publicly admitted the service is not where it needs to be.
25. **Mercy Departs For Goodwill Mission After Delay**  
(*UTSanDiego.com*)....Jeanette Steele  
The Navy hospital ship Mercy departed San Diego this morning after a two-day delay caused by mechanical trouble. The ship is heading toward Asia for a medical goodwill mission called Pacific Partnership.

## CONGRESS

### 26. Chambliss' War Zone Visit Cut Short By Threats

(*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*)....Daniel Malloy

An overseas trip by Congress' intelligence chiefs -- including Georgia Republican Sen. Saxby Chambliss -- was cut short this week because of assassination threats tied to the anniversary of the death of Osama bin Laden.

## ASIA/PACIFIC

### 27. Visit To US Aims To Ease 'Misgivings' Between Militaries

(*China Daily*)....Hu Yinan

...Liang, the first Chinese defense minister to visit the US in nine years, will meet US counterpart Leon Panetta on Monday.

### 28. F-35 Order Tab Set At \$10 Billion

(*Japan Times*)....Kyodo

Japan will pay an estimated \$10 billion (¥802 billion) for its order of 42 F-35 stealth jets at a cost of roughly \$240 million (¥19.2 billion) per plane, the U.S. Defense Department reported to Congress, revealing price projections for the first time.

### 29. Hillary Clinton To Visit India, Bangladesh With Modest Agenda

(*Los Angeles Times*)....Mark Magnier

...Afghanistan will also be high on the agenda, analysts said, as U.S.-led NATO forces prepare to hand over security to their Afghan counterparts by the end of 2014, altering the regional power balance. Washington is now more inclined to welcome Indian aid, trade and training for Afghanistan after worrying about ruffling Pakistan's feathers.

### 30. Phil Needs 48 Fighter Jets, 6 Mini Submarines - Report

(*Philippine Star*)....Jose Katigbak

The Philippines needs up to four squadrons (48) of upgraded Lockheed Martin F-16 fighter jets, more well-armed frigates and corvette-size, fast to surface combatant vessels and minesweepers and four to six mini submarines, possibly obtained from Russia, to build a credible defense force in the face of China's increasing belligerence in the South China Sea, the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) said.

### 31. China Strikes A Deal On Chen

(*Washington Post*)....Keith B. Richburg, Jia Lynn Yang and William Wan

Capping a week of dramatic diplomacy, U.S. officials embraced on Friday a statement from China that blind activist Chen Guangcheng could seek permission to study abroad, saying Chinese officials have promised to quickly process his paperwork so he can leave for the United States.

## AFGHANISTAN

### 32. Americans Favor Limited U.S. Role In Afghanistan

(*Reuters.com*)....Deborah Charles, Reuters

Most Americans want U.S. troops out of Afghanistan and oppose a significant long-term commitment to support that nation's economy and security, a Reuters/Ipsos poll showed on Friday. But the poll also indicated that most Americans favor keeping some U.S. forces in Afghanistan to help train that nation's troops, and to continue missions targeting al-Qaeda.

### 33. A Personal Dispatch From Afghanistan

(*Financial Times*)....Andy McNab

Advised by the British, the Afghan National Army is now leading missions against the Taliban.

## PAKISTAN

### 34. Suicide Bomber Attacks Market In Pakistan, Killing At Least 26



(*New York Times*)....Ismail Khan and Declan Walsh

Dozens of people, including two senior security officers, were killed and scores were wounded in a suicide attack on a government checkpoint in a tribal district along the Afghan border, hospital and government officials said.

35. **Officials: US Drone Strike Kills 8 In Pakistan**

(*Atlanta Journal-Constitution (ajc.com)*)....Rasool Dawar, Associated Press

An American drone fired a volley of missiles into a house close to the Afghan border on Saturday, killing eight suspected militants and indicating U.S. resolve to continue with the attacks despite renewed Pakistani opposition, officials said.

36. **U.S. Doesn't Expect Pakistan To Reopen Afghan War Supply Routes Soon**

(*Reuters.com*)....Missy Ryan, Reuters

As the Taliban kicks off its spring fighting season in Afghanistan, an agreement with Pakistan that would help NATO supply its troops there could be weeks or months away, forcing military leaders to spend two-and-a-half times as much to ship some supplies through Central Asia.

## MIDEAST

37. **Iraq's Unity Tested By Rising Tensions Over Oil-Rich Kurdish Region**

(*Christian Science Monitor (csmonitor.com)*)....Jane Arraf

As Iraqi Kurdistan ramps up oil production that could soon surpass Libya's output, Kurdish leaders have warned they may seek independence if disputes over oil revenues, power-sharing aren't resolved.

38. **Iran Could Seek Short Build Time For Bomb: Israel**

(*Reuters.com*)....Dan Williams, Reuters

Iran's nuclear strategy could eventually allow it to build an atomic bomb with just 60 days' notice, Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak said on Friday.

## VETERANS

39. **Sounds Of The Sea Soften Memories Of War**

(*Miami Herald*)....Audra D.S. Burch

On the blue-green waters of the Florida Keys, some veterans find peace after deployment in an Outward Bound program.

## BUSINESS

40. **Fears Of Spying Hinder U.S. License For China Mobile**

(*Los Angeles Times*)....Ken Dilanian

Concerned about possible cyber spying, U.S. national security officials are debating whether to take the unprecedented step of recommending that a Chinese government-owned mobile phone giant be denied a license to offer international service to American customers.

## COMMENTARY

41. **The Corps, And Core Values**

(*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (post-gazette.com)*)....David M. Shribman

...MacArthur now is a figure of history, his life remembered by few, his achievements studied by fewer. But this speech, given 50 years ago this week, deserves to be remembered as one of the greatest delivered on these shores, and revered beyond West Point and by more than the Corps, the Corps, the Corps.

42. **Too Much Talk After Bin Laden Raid**

(*New York Daily News*)....Bob Kerrey

The operation that resulted in the death of Osama Bin Laden has been celebrated by everyone who understands the evil nature of this man, the suffering he caused and the threat he posed to all mankind.

43. **Telling The Enemy What We Know***(New York Post)*....James Jay Carafano

If the White House hoped that releasing documents scored by Seal Team Six at Osama's hideaway would ease anxiety about the threat of terrorism, it badly misjudged the value of reading bin Laden's mail.

44. **Powerless In Kabul?***(SmallWarsJournal.com)*....Robert Haddick

In my Foreign Policy column, I discuss the fragile assumptions behind the new Strategic Partnership Agreement with Afghanistan and explain why U.S. policymakers should have a Plan B ready.

45. **Obama's Military Connection***(Washingtonpost.com)*....David Maraniss

...Obama is the first president to whom Vietnam is ancient history. He carries none of the psychological baggage of that war, for better or worse. Every young man in the baby-boom generation of Bill Clinton and George W. Bush had to deal with Vietnam somehow, but by the time Obama came of age, the war and the draft were over.

46. **It's Time To Stop Rationalizing Torture***(St. Louis Post-Dispatch)*....Editorial

...Mr. Bush was right to withdraw authorization for the practices, albeit under pressure. Mr. Obama was right to prohibit them outright. Their use is a sorry chapter of American history, and apologists should stop trying to rewrite it.

## SATURDAY READING

47. **Remembering The Dead: New Names For A Wall That Keeps Growing***(At War (NYTimes.com))*....C.J. Chivers

Early this Saturday morning in the Florida Panhandle, in keeping with a schedule set in motion decades ago, a crowd will gather around a memorial for a solemn roll call – the names of a specialized group of American service members, 289 in all, who have died in the line of duty since 1942.

New York Times  
May 5, 2012  
Pg. 15

## 1. Panetta Warns Military Over Afghanistan Misconduct

By Thom Shanker

WASHINGTON

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta warned on Friday that the spate of high-profile episodes of misconduct by some troops in Afghanistan not only discredited the entire armed forces, but also damaged America's chances for battlefield success.

Mr. Panetta said episodes involving a few soldiers who "lack judgment, lack professionalism, lack leadership" could have far-reaching consequences.

"The reality is that our enemies are losing on the battlefield, and they will seek any opportunity to damage us," Mr. Panetta said. "In particular, they have sought to take advantage of a series of troubling incidents that involved misconduct."

The military has been stained by disclosures that young soldiers defiled insurgents' remains in Afghanistan, that Marines urinated on Taliban corpses and that other troops burned Korans in violation of Islamic practice. When added to the massacre of villagers attributed to an Army sergeant, these episodes have cast American soldiers in a harsh light before the Afghan public.

Addressing troops at Fort Benning, Ga., Mr. Panetta said these well-publicized episodes "can impact the mission that we're engaged in, they can put your fellow service members at risk, they can hurt morale and they can damage our standing in the world." He added, "And they can cost lives."

Those concerns were reiterated by the military's

top officer, Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who said Friday in an interview that such misconduct "diminishes the extraordinary work the rest of the force is doing."

He said the military had an ethos that "holds us to a higher standard," and he disclosed that, as chairman, he was studying how a decade of nonstop conflict had affected the military as a profession.

General Dempsey dismissed one explanation for the episodes: that the military is exhausted and stretched to the breaking point. Instead, he said the tempo of deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan — and the style of deployments — had disconnected the traditional chain of command.

Recent lapses in discipline "do not represent a tear in the fabric of the profession," General Dempsey said. He did acknowledge, though, that "mentoring has suffered a bit."

For example, the counterinsurgency mission in Afghanistan has pushed troops out of large bases — where they would serve under the supervision of senior officers — and distributed them to remote forward outposts under the watch of noncommissioned officers and junior leaders.

This decentralized deployment pattern has placed a "new burden on junior leaders to be even more observant, more aggressive, more responsible" for the performance and behavior of young soldiers under their command in the field, General Dempsey added. "We have to reconnect leader to led, and hold leaders accountable at every level," he said.

Both General Dempsey and Mr. Panetta stressed that the episodes represented only a tiny fraction of the force. But given the barrage of reports

of negative behavior by the ground forces, the top officers of the Army and the Marine Corps also have been meeting with their leadership to urge a renewed focus on discipline and adherence to orders.

Gen. James F. Amos, the Marine Corps commandant, wrote a letter to his service's generals, commanders, officers-in-charge and sergeants major on March 23 to emphasize the importance of taking action to halt episodes that discredit the military and damage the mission.

And Gen. Ray Odierno, the Army chief of staff, also has been speaking to his service's officers and noncommissioned officers about the urgent requirement for the Army to increase and sustain discipline among younger officers and enlisted personnel.

"I need every one of you, and all of your fellow service members, to always display the strongest character, the greatest discipline and the utmost integrity in everything you do," Mr. Panetta said at Fort Benning.

Los Angeles Times  
May 5, 2012

## 2. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta Warns Troops About Misconduct

*Images such as those of soldiers abusing corpses can damage U.S. standing and cost lives, he says at Ft. Benning, Ga.*

By Brian Bennett

WASHINGTON — In a pointed response to images of Marines urinating on corpses and soldiers posing with body parts, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta appealed to American troops to refrain from misconduct that has complicated the war effort in Afghanistan.

Panetta, speaking Friday to an Army brigade at Ft. Benning, Ga., was blunt in his assessment of the breakdown of discipline within the ranks, saying these incidents "show a lack of judgment, a lack of professionalism and a lack of leadership."

He reminded the troops that they represent the American people and must live up to strict military standards.

"These days it takes only seconds — seconds for a picture, a photo, to suddenly become an international headline," Panetta said, standing in front of one of the most battle-hardened units in the Army, the "Hammer Brigade" of the 3rd Infantry Division. The unit served four tours in Iraq and is preparing to deploy to Afghanistan.

"And those headlines can impact the mission that we're engaged in. They can put your fellow service members at risk. They can hurt morale. They can damage our standing in the world, and they can cost lives," Panetta said.

Panetta's admonition is part of a broader effort by military commanders to tighten discipline in the Army and Marine Corps. It follows revelations over the past four months of disturbing conduct by U.S. troops that played into Taliban propaganda and strained relations with Afghanistan's president, Hamid Karzai.

Last month, The Times reported that soldiers serving with the 82nd Airborne Division in Afghanistan in 2010 posed with the body parts of suicide bombers. The Times published a photograph showing soldiers standing with Afghan police who were holding up dismembered legs and another showing a soldier with a dead insurgent's hand on his shoulder.



The photographs were among 18 provided to The Times by a soldier who said he hoped that publication would call attention to what he described as a lack of discipline and leadership in the unit that he felt had compromised soldiers' safety.

In February, U.S. troops burned copies of the Koran at a base in Afghanistan. The incident, apparently the result of a miscommunication, inflamed emotions in the country and sparked more than a week of deadly riots. In January, a video became public that showed Marines urinating on the bodies of Afghan insurgents.

U.S. officials have denounced the conduct, and Panetta has promised that the individuals involved would be held accountable.

Army commanders around the country have met with junior officers to emphasize their responsibility to enforce standards of discipline. The Marine Corps may require every unit not in combat to take courses on ethics and conduct one day later this month.

In March, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Amos sent a letter to his commanders saying that recent incidents have "brought discredit on the Marine Corps."

"This conduct is particularly troubling in that it portends a lack of discipline and accountability by Marines; we are allowing our standards to erode," he wrote.

Panetta, who had trained in the slippery red mud at Ft. Benning as an Army lieutenant in 1964, told the auditorium full of men and women in uniform that the troubling incidents "represent a very, very small percentage of the great work that our men and women do every day across the world."

"They concern us because our enemies will seek to turn

these incidents in their favor," he said.

Columbus (GA) Ledger-Enquirer

May 5, 2012

### **3. Secretary Of Defense Leon E. Panetta Urges Troops To Remember Character During Fort Benning Visit**

By Ben Wright

As the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division prepares to return to the Middle East, Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta thanked soldiers for their service but asked them to display the highest degree of character on the battlefield.

"It is character and the standards that each of you bring to the battle that makes us strong," Panetta told more than 1,300 soldiers filling the auditorium at McGinnis-Wickam Hall on Fort Benning. "We can often be better than our words, but we can never be better than our actions."

Panetta didn't describe the incidents in the ranks, but he was referring to recent misconduct by soldiers, including urinating on enemy corpses, tasteless photos and other disturbing displays of behavior that have enraged villagers in Afghanistan.

The secretary of defense said the incidents represent a fraction of the brave men and women serving throughout the world.

"A very small percentage of the people sometimes make these terrible mistakes," said Panetta, who trained at Fort Benning as a young lieutenant in 1964.

He said with today's technology it only takes a second for a photo to make international headlines and impact the mission.

"It can hurt morale and damage our standing in the world," Panetta said. "They can cost lives."

During a visit to the National Infantry Museum & Soldier Center, Panetta said he was reminded about values such as loyalty, respect, selfless service, integrity and courage.

"Those are standards that mark the men and women who serve in our military," he said.

1st Lt. Andrew Walker said soldiers have focused on standards during their training.

"The strategic part of it is even how the lowest man on the totem pole can have an impact not just on his small unit mission, but the military mission in general," Walker said. "I understand to make sure my soldiers maintain discipline because the consequences are very far reaching."

Sgt. Robert Hart, a member of 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, said the message from Panetta was a good reminder for a non-commissioned officer.

"I try not to focus on strategic ideology," said Hart, who has been deployed to Iraq three times in nearly 10 years of service. "What I do know is my job is to train soldiers, prepare them for battle, and make sure they come home safely. I absolutely agreed with the speaker when he said nobody intends to do something that could hurt the mission but when things start to fall apart bad things happen. Non-commissioned officers need to train and discipline soldiers. It's a good reminder to me to make sure my men are ambassadors for America, 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Before leaving, Panetta took two questions from soldiers who were concerned about an Army in transition and facing cuts as the war ends in

Iraq and troops draw down in Afghanistan.

Walker, who asked a question about the future Army, said it was a good opportunity to hear what's ahead. Panetta assured soldiers the military would not face the cuts the nation experienced after World War II and the Korean and the Vietnam wars.

"It's good to know where we are going from here," said Walker, who returned to Kelley Hill in March after a month of training at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.

As 10 years of war end in Iraq and the draw-down starts in Afghanistan, Panetta said the nation had to look at the future force for now, 2020 and beyond. The Army of the future will be leaner, smaller, quickly deployable, technologically advanced and flexible.

With the new Army, the U.S. will continue to have a strong presence in the Pacific and the Middle East.

"We have to be able to engage and be able to defeat more than one enemy at a time," Panetta said.

He said there's a need to invest in technology against cyber attacks. An attack can create problems in the power grid and paralyze the entire continent.

"We have got to invest in cyber for the future," Panetta said.

Plans to cut 80,000 soldiers from the Army will reduce the force to 490,000, the level before the 911 terrorist attacks. Panetta said terrible mistakes were made after previous wars.

"What happened in the past, we cut across the board," he said. "We are not going to repeat that mistake."

Panetta told all the soldiers that they could expect the benefits promised when they enlisted.



"We are not going to break faith with you in terms of the benefits we promised you," he said. "Those who are serving today are going to get the benefits promised them. We will do that."

The 3rd Brigade is scheduled to deploy to the Middle East by late spring or early summer. During the Iraq war, the brigade was deployed four times and last returned from Iraq in October 2010.

Washingtonpost.com  
May 4, 2012

#### **4. Panetta Tells Troops That Bad Behavior Fuels The Enemy, Damages US Standing In The World**

By Associated Press  
WASHINGTON

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta warned troops Friday that it takes just seconds for misconduct to make headlines and said that enemy insurgents can use recent military scandals to fuel their fight.

Speaking to soldiers at Fort Benning, Ga., where Panetta began his military career as an Army lieutenant nearly 50 years ago, the defense chief delivered a personal plea, urging troops to honor their military values.

"These days, it takes only seconds — seconds — for a picture, a photo, to suddenly become an international headline," Panetta said. "And those headlines can impact the mission that we're engaged in, they can put your fellow service members at risk, they can hurt morale, they can damage our standing in the world, and they can cost lives."

The message, which military leaders have also been pushing in recent meetings with their commanders, reflects a growing concern about the broader effects of the widely publicized episodes: the

mistaken burning of Qurans, images of Marines urinating on Afghan insurgents' corpses and photos showing U.S. soldiers posing with Afghan police holding the severed legs of a suicide bomber.

It's unclear, however, how the entreaties will reverberate across the military and what actual impact they may have on a young, battle-hardened force strained by 11 years of war. While there have been some quiet complaints and discussions by military leadership about flagging discipline, the more public campaign to raise awareness among the ranks has been slow to expand.

This is the first time Panetta has personally pressed the issue during a troop visit, and the Army and Marine Corps leaders have delivered similar messages during more private meetings with their midlevel officers.

Panetta was careful on Friday to stress that only a very small percentage of the force is involved in the scandals and that no one is deliberately acting to sabotage their mission or put fellow soldiers at risk.

But, he said, "these incidents concern me and they have to concern you ... because a few who lack judgment, lack professionalism, lack leadership can hurt all of us, and can hurt all of those men and women who serve this country with distinction."

The military service leaders have acknowledged that part of the problem may be leadership stumbles by the young officers who have shouldered much of the burden of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Maybe we've gotten overconfident and maybe we've gotten a little bit comfortable in our young leaders," Gen. Ray Odierno, the Army chief of staff, told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday.

"Realizing that they are young, they don't have a lot of experiences. We have to continue to assist them so they understand what is expected of them."

Marine Corps Commandant James Amos, in a blunt letter to his commanders, said, "We are allowing our standards to erode," and the incidents have "brought discredit on the Marine Corps and reverberated at the strategic level."

Senior leaders have warned for several years about a deterioration of discipline that may have contributed to increased substance abuse, suicides, domestic abuse and other problems.

Marine Gen. John Allen, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, has expressed concern about the impact that those incidents have had on the war, according to a senior defense official. Allen believes that a number of major setbacks in the past six months have resulted from moral, not operational, failures, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal assessments.

Insurgents have used the incidents to incite violence and undermine U.S. efforts to win over the Afghan people, considered critical to counterterrorism operations. The incidents have reinforced the perception of Americans as unfriendly or occupying forces who do not understand the culture or the religion of the people they are supposed to protect.

Reuters.com  
May 4, 2012

#### **5. Afghan-Bound U.S. Soldiers Urged To Be On Best Behavior**

By David Alexander, Reuters

WASHINGTON--Defense Secretary Leon Panetta urged a group of Afghanistan-bound soldiers on Friday to behave with integrity in the war zone, saying thoughtless photos and actions could provoke violence that would endanger their lives and their mission.

"These days it takes only seconds, seconds, for a picture, a photo, to suddenly become an international headline," Panetta told members of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team at Fort Benning, Georgia.

"Those headlines can impact the mission that we're engaged in. They can put your fellow service members at risk, they can hurt morale, they can damage our standing in the world and they can cost lives," a somber Panetta told troopers at the base where he served in 1964 as a young lieutenant.

Panetta's remarks came as the United States struggles to contain the damage from a series of incidents provoked by U.S. troops this year who burned Qurans and other religious material, took videos of each other urinating on what appeared to be corpses of insurgents and posed with Afghan body parts.

A U.S. soldier also went on a shooting rampage in Afghanistan, killing 17 civilians, nine of them children.

The incidents provoked outrage and violence among Afghans and heightened tensions with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. They also prompted U.S. President Barack Obama to issue an apology over the Koran burning and to call Karzai to express remorse over the civilian deaths.

"These incidents concern me and they have to concern you," Panetta said. "A few who lack judgment, lack professionalism, lack leadership can hurt all of us and can hurt all of those men and

women who serve this country with distinction."

Panetta said the international mission in Afghanistan was succeeding. He said Afghan troops would accept security responsibility for more provinces this month and by the end of the summer would be providing security for 80 percent of the population.

But Taliban insurgents will use "any opportunity to damage us," Panetta said, including careless actions by U.S. troops.

"Our enemies will seek to turn them, these incidents, in their favor at the very moment that they are losing the war," he said. "So I want all of you to always remember, always remember who you are and the great country that you serve."

The military's image was tarnished by another recent incident abroad that is still under investigation.

A dozen service members were caught up in a prostitution scandal in Colombia last month while serving on a Secret Service task force working on advance security arrangements for an Obama visit to Colombia.

Panetta urged the troopers to be on their best behavior while serving abroad.

"I need every one of you, every one of you, and all of your fellow service members to always display the strongest character, the greatest discipline and the utmost integrity in everything you do," he said.

"We've got great aircraft, we've got great tanks, we've got great technology, but let me tell you something, it is the character and the standards that each of you bring to the battle that makes us strong," Panetta added.

By Dan De Luce, Agence France-Presse

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta called on US troops to tighten up discipline and display "integrity" after a series of public relations disasters that he said could play into the hands of America's enemies.

Panetta, echoing a message from Army and Marine Corps leaders, on Friday said the misconduct related only to a small percentage of the force but that digital technology magnified any incident, posing a threat to the military's image.

"These days, it takes only seconds, seconds, for a picture, a photo to suddenly become an international headline," he told hundreds of troops at Fort Benning, Georgia.

"And those headlines can impact the mission that we're engaged in, they can put your fellow service members at risk, they can hurt morale, they can damage our standing in the world and they can cost lives."

The Pentagon chief appealed to the troops to uphold the highest standards of conduct.

"I need every one of you, every one of you, and all of your fellow service members, to always display the strongest character, the greatest discipline, and the utmost integrity in everything you do," he said in a televised speech.

Panetta's trip to Fort Benning followed a string of damaging incidents, including a video of Marines urinating on Taliban corpses, photos of soldiers posing with body parts and the burning of Korans that sparked deadly riots in Afghanistan.

The high-profile public relations setbacks showed "a lack of judgment, a lack of professionalism, and a lack of leadership," he said.

The Pentagon had previously portrayed the misconduct as isolated cases of bad behavior. But comments from military chiefs and Panetta signal the top brass believes discipline has to be bolstered across the armed forces.

Senior military officers have long voiced worries about the effect of years of protracted ground wars on the all-volunteer force, amid a spike in suicides, divorce, mental health problems, and substance abuse among troops.

The incidents in Afghanistan have not only aggravated relations with Kabul but threatened to undermine already declining support for the war in Afghanistan among Americans, according to former officers and analysts.

In his speech, Panetta said the US military's power ultimately depended not on weaponry but on the quality and behavior of people in uniform.

It is the "character and the standards that each of you bring to the battle that makes us strong," he said.

The commandant of the US Marine Corps, General James Amos, recently issued a bluntly-worded "white letter" to the entire chain of command on what he called a lack of discipline.

"We are allowing our standards to erode," Amos wrote in the letter, published by the Marine Corps Times. "A number of recent widely publicized incidents have brought discredit on the Marine Corps and reverberated at the strategic level."

Amos has since embarked on a tour of Marine bases across the country to hammer home his point, and will head to installations on the West Coast later this month, his spokesman said.

"He's going to be traveling around the Marine Corps

to address these issues personally," his spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Joe Plenzler told AFP.

"You have to bear in mind the Marine Corps and Army have borne the brunt of a lot of hard fighting on the ground in a fairly morally bruising environment for the last decade plus," he added.

"This is one effort to kind of grab everybody by the face masks, especially the leadership... and set that expectation, and just make sure we're all moving in the right direction."

CNN

May 4, 2012

## 7. Enough Is Enough

**The Situation Room (CNN), 5:00 P.M.**

WOLF BLITZER: After a series of nasty scandals involving U.S. troops, especially in Afghanistan, the entire U.S. military has received a warning against bad behavior. Our Pentagon correspondent Barbara Starr has the details.

BARBARA STARR: After a series of high-profile incidents of troops misbehaving, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta went to Ft. Benning, Georgia, on Friday to say enough is enough.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE LEON PANETTA: A few who lack judgment, lack professionalism, lack leadership, can hurt all of us.

STARR: In Afghanistan alone, one scandal after another. In January, video of Marines urinating on dead insurgents. In February, Marine snipers posing with a flag with SS initials. The Nazi overtone sparked an investigation. Then, riots broke out after U.S. troops inadvertently burned Korans. Last month, soldiers posing with dead insurgents. Panetta's Ft. Benning speech was broadcast to the entire U.S. military, warning bad behavior

Yahoo.com  
May 5, 2012

## 6. US Military Orders Troops To 'Fall In Line'



can lead to instant international headlines.

PANETTA: And those headlines can impact the mission that we are engaged in. It can put your fellow service members at risk. It can hurt morale. It can damage our standing in the world.

COLONEL CEDRIC LEIGHTON [U.S. Air Force Ret.]: Unfortunately, we are dealing in a situation where the image is everything. It is not all the good that we have done, which has been considerable in a lot of these places. But it also boils down to the fact that there are so many things that are perceived because of one bad image.

STARR: The investigation of a dozen service members in potential misconduct involving alcohol and prostitutes during President Obama's trip to Colombia brought the issue an even higher profile.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We are embarrassed by what occurred in Colombia.

NARRATOR: Remember, zero tolerance, zero.

STARR: Military broadcasts like this have warned troops for years about excessive drinking and soliciting prostitutes.

NARRATOR: Patronizing prostitutes can lead to dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of pay, and imprisonment.

STARR: But the strongest words came from Marine Corps Commandant General James Amos who told his commanders "recent widely publicized incidents have brought discredit on the Marine Corps." He called for an end to "undisciplined and embarrassing conduct."

And the Chief of Staff of the Army has also weighed in saying this has to end. The Marine Corps – pardon me – the Navy – the Navy has fired 47 commanders in the last

2.5 years for failure to meet standards but, Wolf, we must say one more time, the majority of the troops, of course, serve very honorably. Wolf.

BLITZER: Almost all of them, an overwhelming majority. Thanks very much, Barbara, for that.

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Washington Post  
May 5, 2012  
Pg. 2

## 8. Military To Charge Five 9/11 Detainees

*Guantanamo hearing restarts long-delayed terrorism case*  
By Peter Finn

Khalid Sheik Mohammed and four co-defendants are expected to be arraigned on capital charges at 9 a.m. Saturday at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, rekindling a military commission case that began under the George W. Bush administration in 2008.

The charges against Mohammed and his alleged co-conspirators in the planning of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks will be read, and the suspects will be asked by a military judge, Army Col. James Pohl, whether they understand them. The allegations include conspiracy, attacking civilians, intentionally causing serious bodily injury, murder in violation of the law of war, hijacking and terrorism.

Mohammed in the past expressed an interest in pleading guilty so that he could be swiftly executed, but there have been indications that he and the four others plan to fight the charges this time.

The case is likely to last a couple of years, followed by a lengthy appeals process. This would provide Mohammed, who seems to relish the spotlight, a stage from which to issue various pronouncements.

The case has generated a great deal of interest, with more

than 50 American and foreign journalists traveling to Cuba, as well as observers from major human rights groups.

The five defendants will probably indicate whether they wish to keep the military and civilian counsel that have been retained for them.

In the earlier trial, Mohammed had insisted on representing himself, a wish that a previous judge granted to him and two other defendants, Walid bin Attash, a Yemeni, and Abd al Aziz Ali, a Pakistani.

The ability of two other defendants – Ramzi Binalshibh, a Yemeni, and Mustafa Ahmed al Hawsawi, a Saudi – to represent themselves was still under review when proceedings in the case were suspended in January 2009.

Almost immediately after coming into office, President Obama halted proceedings at Guantanamo as part of his goal to close the detention center.

His administration hoped to move the Sept. 11 case to New York, but that effort collapsed in the face of local and congressional opposition.

In April 2011, Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. announced that the case would be returned to the military. Prosecutors renewed the charges against Mohammed last month, and a senior Pentagon official referred the case for trial.

Because of the complexity of trying five defendants simultaneously on capital charges, the selection of a jury of military officers and opening arguments could be a year or more away.

Staff writer Julie Tate contributed to this report.

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Washington Post  
May 5, 2012  
Pg. 1

## 9. Taking On 9/11 Case, And Public Opinion

*Lead prosecutor wants to show that military commissions can be fair*

By Peter Finn

When the biggest terrorism trial in U.S. history resumes this weekend at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Khalid Sheik Mohammed will retake his place at the defense table, the alpha dog among the five defendants accused of orchestrating the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Across the courtroom from Mohammed, facing him for the first time, will stand the tall, one-star general the Pentagon has entrusted with not only securing a death penalty conviction but also convincing a skeptical world that a military commission can deliver a fair trial.

In 2009, the Obama administration, working with Congress, modified military commissions in an effort to offer more due process to defendants. But more than a decade after the system was originally set up under George W. Bush, much of the human rights community continues to lambaste it as a sham — one that should not supplant federal criminal trials for terrorism suspects.

Now Army Brig. Gen. Mark Martins, who will be the lead trial prosecutor in the Sept. 11 case, wants to bolster support for the modified process, and he's in the fight of his career.

"If observers will withhold judgment for a time, the system they see will prove itself deserving of public confidence," Martins said last month in a speech at his alma mater, Harvard Law School.

The address, which Martins delivered in full dress uniform, was the third in a series of appeals he has made to the legal community since becoming

chief military prosecutor in October. Speaking in the particular language of the law and drawing on history and precedent, Martins has been urging the country's lawyers — and by extension the larger public — to reexamine what he knows is a deeply ingrained belief that the tribunals at Guantanamo can provide only second-class justice.

The hope, proponents of reformed military commissions say, is that the public will come to see the system as one that provides defendants with the resources to mount a robust defense — including expert counsel — while barring the use of evidence tainted by torture or abuse and treating classified information in much the same way as it is handled in federal court.

"Mark understands the need for public legitimation, and he's definitely making inroads," said Jack Goldsmith, a law professor at Harvard who was a senior Justice Department official during the Bush administration. "He's given [commissions] the appearance and the reality of more transparency."

Critics of the system acknowledge that he has brought a new willingness to engage with detractors and a commitment to opening up the proceedings. They are, for instance, now screened for journalists and the public via closed-circuit television at Fort Meade in Maryland.

"He has the power to get things done, and that's a change," said a military defense lawyer, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a superior officer. "If he says he will do something, it gets done."

Martins takes to a broader stage to make his case on Saturday, when Mohammed and his co-defendants will be

arraigned at Guantanamo and could indicate whether they plan to defend themselves.

Attorneys for the five defendants say their preparations for trial have been "crippled" by government interference with attorney-client communications. They also complain that they have been unable to obtain some classified evidence and do not have enough Arabic translators and investigators.

"The odds continue to be silently and deliberately stacked against a fair process," Navy Cmdr. Walter Ruiz, who represents one of the five men, Mustafa al-Hawsawi, said in a statement this week. "These men are represented on paper only, not in substance."

Andrea Prasow, senior counterterrorism counsel at Human Rights Watch, said she worked with Martins on detention issues in Afghanistan and found him to be "really interested in hearing our comments." And he oversaw improvements in the detention system at Bagram air base in Afghanistan, she said.

But Prasow insists that the justice system at Guantanamo is fundamentally flawed and cannot be salvaged by any one individual, no matter how well-intentioned. Federal court simply provides greater due process, she said, adding that any verdict that emerges from a military commission will never have the same legitimacy as one in a civilian criminal proceeding.

Prasow said commission proceedings could allow the admission of intelligence or information whose exact source is unknown — and whose origin the government would not have to divulge — leaving open the possibility that some of it was obtained through torture. She also said the commissions appear designed

to hide the history of the CIA's secret overseas prisons and that defendants might not be allowed to testify publicly about any mistreatment.

Martins said that, under the Military Commissions Act of 2009, prosecutors are barred from using any evidence derived from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and cases will be built on a host of other material.

Critics in the human rights community "perform an invaluable role of accountability," Martins said in a recent interview, adding that they are sometimes focused on "a vision of rights" that is not attainable. "I believe there is a narrow category of cases where military commissions are the appropriate choice and the best choice."

He said a hearing would be closed temporarily only to protect "sources and methods," not to shield the government from any embarrassment stemming from the past actions of any agency.

"I very much see the job in the tradition of the public prosecutor — dedicated to implementing the law, not winning at all costs," Martins said. "There is definitely a vigorous debate [about commissions], but I'm seeing people who are listening. I'm hearing people say, 'I didn't know that.'"

Last year, in the face of fierce congressional and local opposition, the Obama administration abandoned plans to move the trial of Mohammed and his alleged co-conspirators to Manhattan. Officials at the Pentagon immediately began to scout for what Goldsmith called a "game-changer" — a figure with the kind of national security and intellectual chops to engage with the civil liberties establishment.

"Mark Martins is one of the finest and smartest officers in the U.S. military," said Jeh Johnson, general counsel at the Defense Department. "I urged his appointment because Mark was involved in the reforms we developed in 2009, and I knew he would bring the right sense of military justice and care for the credibility of the system."

Martins, 51, grew up in the military, the son of an Army neurosurgeon who became the head of neurosurgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. After a year at the University of Maryland, Martins was admitted to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated at the top of the Class of 1983. He was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and went to Oxford University, where he studied politics, philosophy and economics from 1983 to 1985.

After a couple of years in the infantry and study at Harvard Law School, Martins rose through the ranks.

He served as trial counsel at Fort Campbell, Ky., where he was assigned to a battalion of the 101st Airborne Division — at the time commanded by a lieutenant colonel by the name of David H. Petraeus. The two have remained close since, and Martins served with Petraeus, who is now director of the CIA, in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In a statement, Petraeus described Martins as a "true national asset" and a "once-in-a-generation officer."

After returning to Washington, Martins served on an interagency task force created by President Obama to look at future policy and helped draft the Military Commissions Act of 2009. In August 2009, he went to Afghanistan, where he was deputy commander of a joint task force running detention operations.

"I've worked a lot of detention policy," said Martins,



noting that when his superiors offered him the Guantanamo position, "I could not parry the idea that I was well prepared for this."

Martins's role as chief prosecutor at Guantanamo will be his last military assignment. He would almost certainly have been promoted to a two-star position next year, but he said that leaving before the major trials at Guantanamo were over would be disruptive.

"To place myself beyond suspicion of self-advancing motives and to offer continuity to the prosecution team through at least the end of 2014," he announced at Harvard, "I have recently requested . . . that I not be considered for promotion."

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New York Times

May 5, 2012

Pg. 13

## **10. U.S. To Restart Tribunal, Aiming To Show It's Fair**

By Charlie Savage

**GUANTÁNAMO BAY, Cuba** — As the United States restarts its effort to prosecute—and ultimately execute—five detainees accused of conspiring in the Sept. 11 attacks, it has fallen to Brig. Gen. Mark S. Martins both to prove them guilty and to show the world that the tribunal system is now legitimate.

"We're going to have a fair trial," General Martins, the chief prosecutor in the military commissions system, said in an interview this week. "There are a lot of people who come to this with preconceptions about unfairness, and I would just ask people to withhold judgment. The initial version of commissions was flawed, but there has been a lot of work on reforms."

General Martins has assigned himself to lead the latest attempt to prosecute

Khalid Shaikh Mohammed — the architect of the terrorist attacks, which killed nearly 3,000 people — and four other detainees who are scheduled on Saturday to be arraigned on war crimes charges at the naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

The five had been arraigned at Guantánamo Bay before, in 2008, but the Obama administration shut that case down upon taking office, then tried to move it to federal court in New York, before surrendering to a political uproar.

Several family members of victims came to Guantánamo to watch the new arraignment, including Tara Henwood-Butzbaugh of Manhattan, whose brother, John Henwood, died in the attacks. She said she wanted "to bear witness to the process," adding that she had "absolutely" had confidence that the military system was appropriate.

"It's been a long time coming, and I do think it's in the right place because it was an act of war," she said.

As he reboots the case, General Martins is also trying to rebrand the system by emphasizing changes that Congress made in 2009 — notably, a higher bar to "hearsay" evidence and a prohibition against using statements made during cruel or degrading treatment. Obama administration officials echo those arguments, saying that the current tribunals are fair, unlike those during the Bush administration.

Military lawyers for the Sept. 11 defendants say that the improvements are exaggerated and that they intend to test the claims of fairness. They are starting by asking the judge, Col. James L. Pohl, to send the capital charges back to the Pentagon for reconsideration because of problems that,

they say, have crippled their ability to provide a meaningful defense. The effort could further delay the case — the arraignment is just the first step, and no trial date has been set — or create grounds for appeal.

"Mark Martins gives press conferences talking about how these men have been assigned experienced, qualified attorneys who have a background in death penalty defense, but what he doesn't get into is all the obstacles and inadequate resources and interference with our defense," said Cmdr. Walter Ruiz, a Navy lawyer representing another Sept. 11 defendant, Mustafa al-Hawsawi.

A defense motion notes that late in the Bush administration, the Pentagon official in charge of the commissions system decided to dismiss capital charges against a sixth suspect in the Sept. 11 plot because, she said, military interrogators had tortured him. (The remaining defendants were subjected to severe treatment by Central Intelligence Agency interrogators — Mr. Mohammed, for example, was repeatedly subjected to the suffocation technique called waterboarding — although their lawyers are prohibited from speaking publicly about that.)

But the defense lawyers said they were hindered from making the case that execution should be removed at the outset as a potential penalty for their clients, too. They cited delays in obtaining approvals and security clearances for interpreters and other specialists, a prison security policy of looking through privileged attorney-client material, and disputes over access to information.

General Martins said the government took seriously its need to ensure an adequate legal defense. He characterized

such complaints as positive because they demonstrated that the defendants were being represented zealously.

"I think it's healthy," he said. "We have an adversarial system. If I were the defense counsel, I'd never be fully happy with the resources the government gave me. But I think we've addressed it."

A Rhodes Scholar who graduated first in his class at West Point, General Martins served as an infantry officer before attending Harvard Law School. He was a year ahead of President Obama, and worked alongside him on the law review.

General Martins became a uniformed lawyer. Mr. Obama eventually became a senator. Aspiring to the Democratic presidential nomination, he criticized the Bush administration's original tribunals, which the Supreme Court struck down because Congress had not authorized them, and he voted against the Military Commissions Act of 2006, which revived them.

In January 2009, Mr. Obama shut down the tribunal cases then in progress — including a previous version of the Sept. 11 case, then in pretrial motions — and appointed a task force to review detainee policies. General Martins returned from Iraq to help lead the effort.

That May, Mr. Obama announced that detainees would be tried in civilian court whenever possible, but that he would keep commissions too — after Congress made them fairer. Lawmakers enacted a new Military Commissions Act modeled on an alternative version of the 2006 bill for which Mr. Obama had, to little notice, voted.

In November 2009, Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. announced that

the Sept. 11 case would be prosecuted before a federal court in Manhattan. But the plans collapsed amid an uproar over security — and as critics pressed the administration to explain why, if its overhauled commissions were legitimate, it could not try all terrorism cases there.

Divided internally, the administration entered a year of indecision. Congress imposed new obstacles to prosecuting Guantánamo detainees inside the United States. Last spring, Mr. Holder grudgingly conceded that the Sept. 11 case had to be tried before a commission after all, and a grand jury indictment against the defendants in New York was unsealed and dismissed.

In an interview last December, Mr. Holder called the failure to follow through on his plan a “missed opportunity,” saying, “We would not have closed down Lower Manhattan, we’d be finished with that trial by now, and it could be something we could point to and show that we can be fair even to those we despise.”

Meanwhile, as the tribunals geared back up, the Pentagon general counsel, Jeh Johnson, asked General Martins — then leading a project to spread the rule of law in Afghan society — to take over as lead prosecutor.

In preparing for the Sept. 11 case, he increased efforts to strike plea deals with detainees accused of lesser crimes in exchange for voluntary testimony against more significant suspects.

He has also delivered speeches urging critics to give the tribunal system another chance, arguing that its rules are now closer to those in federal civilian court and that it comports with the rule of law. He frequently notes that Congress and the executive branch, under both parties,

have reached a consensus that tribunals are appropriate for holding terrorists accountable.

Some continue to favor civilian courts, whose legitimacy is unquestioned and which have handled hundreds of terrorism cases, lowering the risk that a judgment will be overturned on appeal. This week, a man who plotted suicide bombings on the New York subway was found guilty in federal court.

Such skeptics include Donald Guter, a retired rear admiral who was the top Navy lawyer after the Sept. 11 attacks and fought the Bush administration’s push for draconian tribunals. Admiral Guter, who will attend the arraignment on behalf of Human Rights First, said he doubted that the system would “ever get credibility back” despite the improvements, but he praised General Martins.

“If you’re going to do this, he’s the right guy to be doing it,” Admiral Guter said. “But you’re still left with a system that is less than the proven federal system, and unnecessarily so.”

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Wall Street Journal  
May 5, 2012  
Pg. 3

## **11. Sept. 11 Suspects Face Gitmo Hearing**

By Jess Bravin

The government’s halting effort to prosecute alleged organizers of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks resumes Saturday at the military base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, with the planned arraignment of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four co-defendants before a military judge.

But the Obama administration’s decision to use a military commission that denies defendants some rights they could claim in federal

court makes it likely that the proceedings themselves will receive as much scrutiny as the accusations against the defendants.

Since Mr. Mohammed’s capture in Pakistan nine years ago, it has been widely assumed that he eventually would face execution for organizing the Sept. 11 attacks, which killed nearly 3,000 people.

Mr. Mohammed has boasted of conceiving not only the simultaneous hijacking that day of four airliners that were crashed into the two World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field, but myriad other acts, including the murder of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl.

But the prosecution repeatedly has stalled over obstacles of the government’s own creation, in particular the uncertain legal consequences of the brutal treatment inflicted upon defendants such as Mr. Mohammed, who was waterboarded 183 times by the Central Intelligence Agency.

By 2008, the Bush administration had begun pretrial proceedings against the Sept. 11 defendants before a military commission authorized by Congress to consider some statements obtained through “cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.”

Those proceedings were halted after the election of President Barack Obama, who as a senator had voted against the Military Commissions Act of 2006. After a review of detainee policies, Attorney General Eric Holder decided that the Sept. 11 defendants should be tried in federal court in New York, but reversed course under pressure from Republicans who argued that a military trial was more appropriate for an attack akin to an act of war, and local

politicians who raised safety and cost concerns.

The Sept. 11 case was sent back to Guantánamo, where military-commission procedures by then had been amended to provide some additional protections for defendants, and the staff bolstered by the appointment of a respected brigadier general, Mark Martins, as chief prosecutor.

Moreover, the Obama administration has taken steps to make proceedings at the remote facility more accessible, providing closed-circuit feeds that the public, the media and relatives of Sept. 11 victims can view at several stateside military bases, including Fort Meade near Washington.

Still, many of the legal filings remain secret and the government can call closed sessions or block the audio feed should the defendants say anything officials wish to conceal.

Defense lawyers maintain that the proceedings against their clients have been so flawed that charges should be dismissed. Navy Cmdr. Walter Ruiz, a defense lawyer, has asked that his motion seeking dismissal be heard at Saturday’s session.

The charges, which carry a potential death penalty, were approved by the Pentagon a month ago. The Saturday hearing was scheduled to ensure the arraignment took place within the required 30 days.

In addition to Mr. Mohammed, those scheduled for arraignment include four men accused of various roles in the Sept. 11 operation, from attempting to join the hijackers in the U.S. to moving funds to the hijackers. They are Walid bin Attash, Ramzi Binalshibh, Ali Abdul Aziz Ali and Mustafa al Hawsawi.



Arizona Republic (Phoenix)  
May 5, 2012  
Pg. 1

## 12. 9/11 Trial Gears Up At Guantanamo Bay

*Arraignment is today for  
alleged mastermind*

By Ben Fox, Associated Press

**GUANTANAMO BAY**  
NAVAL BASE, Cuba - The man who once bragged about planning Sept. 11 "from A to Z" may mount a defense after all to charges that he orchestrated the worst terror attack in U.S. history, with families of the dead watching intently from the U.S. on closed-circuit TV.

Khalid Sheik Mohammed, charged with four others with planning and helping to carry out the 2001 terror attacks that sent hijacked jetliners into the World Trade Center and Pentagon, will be arraigned today at the U.S. military base in Cuba.

Mohammed had previously mocked the military tribunal and said he would welcome the death penalty. His co-defendant, Ramzi Binalshibh, also told the court he was proud of the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people in New York, Washington and Shanksville, Pa.

"(But) I don't think anyone is going to plead guilty," said Jim Harrington, Binalshibh's civilian lawyer, who added that the defendants are expected to fight the charges against them, which include murder and terrorism and carry a potential death penalty.

Harrington declined to say what would be the basis of his defense, and lawyers for Mohammed did not respond to messages seeking comment.

The men, held at a secret prison in Guantanamo that is under such tight security that even its exact location on the base is classified, have not been seen in public since a pretrial hearing the day after

Barack Obama's Jan. 20, 2009, inauguration.

Their arraignment comes more than three years after the Obama administration's failed effort to try the suspects in a federal civilian court and close the prison at the U.S. base in Cuba.

Attorney General Eric Holder announced in 2009 that Mohammed and his co-defendants would be tried blocks from the site of the destroyed Trade Center in downtown Manhattan, but the plan was shelved after New York officials cited huge costs to secure the neighborhood and family opposition to trying the defendants in the U.S.

Six family members who won a lottery to attend the proceedings will face Mohammed and other men in court; others were watching on closed-circuit video at military bases in New York City and the eastern U.S.

Cliff and Christina Russell traveled from their Rockaway Beach neighborhood in New York to honor the memory of Cliff's younger brother, Stephen, a firefighter killed responding to the attacks. Cliff said he hopes the tribunal will end with the death penalty for Mohammed and his co-defendants.

"I'm not looking forward to ending someone else's life and taking satisfaction in it, but it's the most disgusting, hateful, awful thing I ever could think of if you think about what was perpetrated," he said.

The men never entered formal pleas in previous hearings, but Mohammed had told the court that he would confess to planning the attacks and hoped to be a "martyr." He dismissed the military-justice system, saying, "After torturing, they transferred us to inquisition land in Guantanamo."

The arraignment is expected to be followed by a hearing on defense motions that challenge the charges and extreme secrecy rules imposed to prevent the release of information about U.S. counterterrorism methods and strategy.

New rules adopted by Congress and Obama forbid the use of testimony obtained through cruel treatment or torture. The defendants were held at secret CIA prisons overseas where they were subjected to what the government called "enhanced interrogation techniques." Mohammed was waterboarded 183 times, officials have said.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a motion Friday asking the judge to prohibit the government's use of a 40-second delay and a white-noise machine to prevent any spectators from hearing classified information, including details about the harsh treatment in the secret CIA detention sites overseas.

"If the defendants are unable to express themselves directly to the American public, then how are we to know whether justice is being served?" ACLU Director Anthony Romero asked.

Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch and a former federal prosecutor, said coerced testimony from witnesses is still admissible, even if it isn't from defendants, and the case would be better off in civilian court instead of being heard by a judge and jury panel picked by the Pentagon.

"There still are major problems in terms of whether the trial will be fair and, more important, will they be perceived as fair," Roth said.

The government has pledged to make the

proceedings more transparent by broadcasting the hearing to families at U.S. military bases. News cameras, however, are still not permitted inside the courtroom, where the media and other observers are kept behind double-paned, soundproof glass.

Lawyers for the defendants had opposed the government's plan to show the hearings just to the families.

"We believe that the world needs to see what's happening," said Cheryl Bormann, a civilian attorney appointed to represent defendant Walid bin Attash.

Prisoners now have access, at government expense, to civilian defense attorneys who specialize in complex death-penalty cases. But human-rights groups and defense lawyers still condemn the proceedings as fundamentally unfair.

Lawyers appointed to represent the men say they face hurdles they would never encounter in a civilian court, including strict limits on what they can say about their clients, whose every utterance is treated as presumptively classified.

"All I can do is try and protect my client's rights to every extent I can and try and hold the government to their burden to provide a fair and transparent justice system and to actually mean it," Bormann said.

Mohammed and his co-defendants were first arraigned on the U.S. base in Cuba in June 2008. The case quickly bogged down in pretrial motions and was put on hold as Obama sought to move the case to the federal court in New York.

But members of Congress balked and blocked the administration from transferring prisoners from the base to the mainland. That prevented the closure of the prison, where the U.S. still holds 169 prisoners.

MiamiHerald.com  
May 4, 2012

### 13. Accused 9/11 Conspirators Don't Want To Plea, Lawyer Says

*Saturday's arraignment of the accused 9/11 conspirators means the process to hold a trial has restarted. Decisions the defendants make can alter the timeline.*

By Carol Rosenberg

GUANTANAMO NAVY BASE, Cuba -- When Khalid Sheik Mohammed and his four alleged 9/11 co-conspirators are brought before the war court Saturday to face arraignment, they'll have three ways to answer to the charges: Plead innocent. Plead guilty. Or no plea at all.

In the short history of the military commissions, since President George W. Bush had them created, most have not pleaded at all.

That's because, just like at a military court martial, entering a plea at a military commission cuts short an accused war criminal's rights at the Guantánamo war court — the right, for example, to argue that some charges are not lawful, and to see at least some of the evidence the prosecution has built.

And of the few men who did plead guilty, none was facing a death penalty trial. Each came to court to enter the plea after protracted negotiations that traded the convict's cooperation with the U.S. government for short sentences, or other considerations.

In the case of the Sept. 11 accused, each is facing a death penalty for allegedly planning, funding or training the hijackers for the terror attacks that killed 2,976 people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania

— al Qaida's strike at the heart of America.

Each of the men got to Guantánamo after five years of secret and at times harsh CIA interrogations, some using the techniques that President Barack Obama outlawed as torture.

And legal sources say there has been no effort to negotiate behind the scenes for any way to enter a plea.

"Our clients are not interested in negotiating a plea," said veteran criminal defense attorney Jim Harrington Friday. "And the government, as far as I know, is not interested in negotiating a plea, either."

Saturday's hearing, held in a top-security court compound, restarts a process that confounded the court during the Bush years when Mohammed announced that he and the other four yearned for martyrdom and were ready to confess their crimes. It was something the Bush-era formula for military commissions hadn't anticipated. But before the judge at the time could sort it out, Obama stopped the court, and worked with Congress to reform it.

Now the five men go back to court with greater protections. Evidence gleaned through coercion is nearly always off limits, "with a small carve-out for battlefield exceptions," says the chief war crimes prosecutor, Army Brig. Gen. Mark Martins. Voluntariness is the standard.

Concurrently, media and legal groups are maneuvering to hear directly from the accused what the CIA did to them. Mohammed has called it "the torture."

The rules do allow for a guilty plea. But nothing like the speedy path to 9/11 justice the victims seek.

"I'd like them all to be killed," said New Yorker Cliff

Russell, 58, whose firefighter brother Stephen, then 40, died rescuing people at the World Trade Center. "I think I have all the evidence I need."

Were the five men to enter pleas, it would be up to the new chief Guantánamo judge, Army Col. James L. Pohl, to question these men on the elements of each crime, to take them step by step through the government's case and admit their guilt. And acknowledge it was wrongful.

Not recite manifestos. Not challenge the authority of the court to judge them, as Mohammed did at his first arraignment.

"I will not accept anybody, even if he would be Muslim," he told the judge June 5, 2008. "I believe only in the law of God. In Allah, my shield is Allah most high. God, he is real judge."

Were the judge to confirm a guilty plea, he does not decide the penalty of incarceration or death.

Rather, that's the role of the commission. At least 12 U.S. military officers are chosen, first to hear the prosecution present its case. Then the Pentagon-paid defense lawyers could present mitigating circumstances for the officers to consider while deliberating the sentence.

If the opposite were to occur, and the men plead not guilty, the judge would then be required to assemble the commission and hold a trial. By pleading not guilty at arraignment, the accused forfeit the right to challenge many of the contours of the trial — to challenge the evidence in advance, to press for more discovery, to argue that the government piled on charges. Under the rules, the judge has 120 days to bring in a jury and start the trial.

Bloomberg.com

May 4, 2012

### 14. Panetta Says Drone Attacks Protect U.S. From Terrorists

By Tony Capaccio, Bloomberg News

The U.S. will continue to launch drone strikes against militant sanctuaries in Pakistan even if that nation's government keeps opposing them, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said.

While Panetta declined to be more specific when asked about the unmanned vehicles because they "remain covert operations," he said in an interview on Bloomberg Television's "Conversations with Judy Woodruff" airing this weekend, "The United States was attacked on 9/11, and we know who attacked us."

"We know that al-Qaeda was behind it," Panetta said. "And we are going to do everything we can, use whatever operations we have to, in order to make sure that we protect this country and make sure that that kind of attack never happens again."

Told that sounded as if he meant drone attacks will continue, Panetta said simply, "The United States is going to defend itself under any circumstances."

Drone attacks against sanctuaries of the Taliban and other militant groups in Pakistan are carried out by the Central Intelligence Agency, which Panetta previously headed. Pakistani officials have opposed the strikes, saying they violate their nation's sovereignty and have killed civilians.

#### Stability in Afghanistan

The attacks are part of the Obama administration's efforts in neighboring Afghanistan, which Panetta said is on the path toward stability so that U.S. and coalition forces can withdraw.

The country's military and police forces last year "were



operational, they were involved in the battle and they've continued to do a great job in providing security," Panetta said in the interview.

Progress in Afghanistan comes against the backdrop of corruption in the country's government and the persistent challenge of the militant sanctuaries in Pakistan, as cited in an April 30 report from Panetta's own department.

"The Taliban is resilient," Panetta said. "They're going to be there. They're going to continue to attack. We do have problems obviously with Afghanistan corruption. So I don't think we ought to take anything for granted."

Coalition partners are counting on Afghan security forces and governing authorities to take over as they move toward recalling most of the 88,000 U.S. troops and their 40,000 counterparts from other nations by December 2014. The Afghan Army, as of March 31, reached 194,466 personnel, close to its 195,000 goal for October. The police stood at 149,642 with a goal of 157,000.

#### **'Glimmer' on Iran**

On Iran, Panetta said he was hopeful a solution would be found to prevent the nation from getting a nuclear weapon.

Recent global pressure on Iran indicates "there is now at least some glimmer there could be a diplomatic effort to try and see if we can resolve these issues," Panetta said. "There are serious talks going on." The discussions have the backing of Russia and China, which previously opposed such moves.

Representatives of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the U.S. -- plus Germany will meet with Iranian officials in Baghdad on May 23.

"The bottom line here is that Iran has to make clear that they're going to suspend any kind of nuclear enrichment, and that they will make no efforts to develop any kind of nuclear weapon," Panetta said.

#### **China's Defense Minister**

Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie will meet with Panetta on May 7, an opportunity for improving military-to-military relations, Panetta said.

"There are a lot of issues we have to discuss: talk about North Korea, talk about the ability to have free trade in that region, talk about trying to keep our sea lanes open, talk about humanitarian assistance, talk about proliferation of nuclear weapons," Panetta said.

"And I guess what I'm hoping is that we can establish at least a process whereby we can communicate with one another on a peaceful basis," he said.

The Pentagon intends to cut about \$490 billion from previously planned spending over the next 10 years as part of deficit-reduction efforts. The defense budget faces an additional \$500 billion in automatic cuts starting in January unless Congress and the president agree on legislation to block the process known as sequestration.

#### **Congressional Leadership**

"I'm very concerned that the Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, have to show leadership here," Panetta said in the interview. "The whole purpose of sequestration, or even developing a crazy vehicle like that, was to ensure that they would exercise leadership to prevent it from happening."

Panetta, a former Democratic House member from California, said the failure so far to reverse sequestration reflects the most virulent

partisanship he has seen in 40 years working in Washington.

"Today, I think the attitude is that governing is not necessarily good politics, and the result is that it's much more partisan and much more divided," he said. "And we're paying a high price for that."

Los Angeles Times

May 5, 2012

### **15. U.S. Special Forces Commander Seeks To Expand Operations**

*In a sign of shifting Pentagon tactics and priorities, draft plans indicate a push to expand clandestine units to fight terrorism and other 'emerging threats' around the globe.*

By David S. Cloud, Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — A top U.S. commander is seeking authority to expand clandestine operations against militants and insurgencies around the globe, a sign of shifting Pentagon tactics and priorities after a grueling decade of large-scale wars.

Adm. William H. McRaven, a Navy SEAL and commander of the raid that killed Osama bin Laden, has developed plans that would provide far-reaching new powers to make special operations units "the force of choice" against "emerging threats" over the next decade, internal Defense Department documents show.

America's secret military forces have grown dramatically over the last decade as the Pentagon and the U.S. intelligence community have increasingly merged missions, including drone strikes and counter-terrorism operations.

But some Pentagon officials and outside experts warn that giving secret soldiers too much additional authority

outside the normal chain of command might lead to abuses.

The little-known Special Operations Command, which McRaven heads from his headquarters in Tampa, Fla., oversees more than 60,000 military personnel and civilians.

The command includes Army Green Berets who specialize in training foreign military forces; Ranger light infantry units; Navy SEALs; Air Force squadrons flying drones and aerial gunships; and the Pentagon's most elite combat units, Delta Force and the Naval Special Warfare Development Group, known as DEVGRU, which conducted the Bin Laden raid.

Congress has ordered the Pentagon to cut its budget growth, and President Obama has proposed reducing ground forces by 80,000 soldiers and 20,000 Marines. The White House has proposed increasing the 2013 Pentagon budget in only two areas: putting more forces in the western Pacific to counter China's growing clout, and expanding special operations.

McRaven's ideas, outlined in draft plans obtained by The Times, provide the first unclassified blueprint of how the Pentagon would achieve that goal.

"We are in a generational struggle," McRaven says in a draft paper circulating at the Pentagon. "For the foreseeable future, the United States will have to deal with various manifestations of inflamed violent extremism. In order to conduct sustained operations around the globe, our special operations forces must adapt."

His proposals parallel Obama's preference for using SEALs and other secretive forces, using remotely piloted Predator drones to launch missile strikes, and other unconventional tactics

whenever possible, an approach the White House endorsed in a new defense strategy early this year.

But the draft plans appear to challenge assertions by Obama administration officials that the threat from Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups has significantly diminished after a decade of unrelenting pressure by America and its allies.

"Non-state actors, such as [Al Qaeda], will increasingly threaten our national security," notes an unsigned staff memo attached to the documents. "They will establish bases in places not under sovereign control. Moving easily across political boundaries and merging with indigenous populations, these non-state actors will seek to exploit our vulnerabilities."

The draft plans do not specify where special operations would be increased, but officers and officials familiar with Pentagon thinking say it probably would include remote and chaotic areas of the Middle East, such as Yemen, parts of northern Africa stretching from Somalia to Nigeria and the Maghreb, and to a lesser extent, parts of Asia and Latin America.

If the plan is adopted, McRaven would be given additional authority to move special operations units quickly from country to country, to train foreign military units and to maintain a continual presence in parts of the globe where militants and terrorism networks are deemed a threat to U.S. interests.

Special operations forces already are deployed in at least 71 countries, although most are involved in training.

Some current and former officers worry that such broad authority could lead to special operations teams carrying out unilateral raids or

training proxy military forces without the knowledge of other U.S. commanders, diplomats or civilian officials at the Pentagon.

"It's a terrible idea," said a recently retired four-star commander who agreed to discuss the proposal in return for anonymity. Special operations units "are wonderful, but they are focused on grabbing a terrorist or some other mission of the moment, and they don't want to be slowed down by anything."

McRaven's aides insist that the elite teams would remain under the direct day-to-day control of Pentagon regional commanders once deployed. But under his plan, McRaven would have greater authority to move forces and resources instead of merely responding to requests from regional commanders.

"Who better to say where special operations forces should be than the commander of Special Operations Command, with years of experience behind him?" asked one aide, defending the plan.

Currently, U.S. commanders responsible for each region of the world, or theater commanders, largely control how many special operations troops are sent to their areas and what missions they undertake. In the Middle East, for instance, such decisions now rest with Gen. James Mattis, the head of Central Command, and with Gen. John Allen, the top commander in Afghanistan.

McRaven's blueprint is still in the planning stages. He is scheduled to brief Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and civilian officials at the Pentagon on the plan in the next month, according to several senior officers.

It was Dempsey who requested that McRaven develop options "for the future of [special operations forces] based on the lessons of the past 10 years of war and on the principles as outlined in our new defense strategy," according to Col. Dave Lapan, a spokesman for Dempsey.

In a draft "Commander's Estimate" that is part of the documents, McRaven's staff wrote that Special Operations Command "requires authorities that fully enable global ... operations."

The plan faces "major bureaucratic obstacles to obtain the authorities" to expand Special Operations Command, the Commander's Estimate acknowledges. Not only the geographic commanders but the Pentagon's powerful Joint Staff, which plays a central role in recommending where and when special forces units will be deployed, are likely to have reservations, several officers said.

McRaven may be hoping in part on pushing the plan through with support from Obama.

The plan also calls for creating special operations "coordinating centers" around the world that would work with U.S. embassies, friendly governments and intelligence agencies to identify threats, the documents say.

McRaven's aides played down the idea that the additional powers are aimed at increasing unilateral raids against suspected terrorists, arguing that the real aim is to gather intelligence and build the capabilities of foreign allies to defeat terrorist networks.

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Boston Globe  
May 5, 2012  
Pg. 1

## 16. Suit Hits Pentagon Over Huge 2011 Data Breach

*Alleged lapses touch 4.7m tied to military*

By Bryan Bender, Globe Staff

WASHINGTON - The bad news piled up quickly for Carol Keller late last year. She was informed in December that her personal and medical information had been stolen nearly four months earlier when a Pentagon contractor left 25 computer tapes in the back seat of a Honda Civic in Texas. That explained the fraudulent purchases from her debit account, the Revere woman contends.

Keller, who is married to a disabled Air Force veteran and relies on the Pentagon-run health insurance program called TRICARE, is among 70,000 military personnel, retirees, and their families across New England who are grappling with the potential fallout of one of the largest-ever breaches of medical data. Nationally, as many as 4.7 million people may be vulnerable.

Keller insists the theft and unauthorized purchases are related and has joined nearly a dozen others in a class-action lawsuit seeking unspecified damages. Frustrated lawmakers and privacy specialists say the case spotlights what they contend is an ill-designed health system, in which the Pentagon relies on contractors and outdated computer storage technologies to house and transport personal information.

As a result of the outdated system, they say, those who risk their lives for the nation face undue risk of invasion of privacy and identity theft, and national security could be compromised.

"The bottom line is that people in charge of safeguarding our service members' personal data need



to transition from the 20th century to the era of iPads,” said Representative Edward J. Markey, who is demanding more answers from the Pentagon on its medical privacy policies. “TRICARE had given me no assurance that it is moving toward such a modern system.”

Many of the questions concerning standards and technology center on the Pentagon’s use of contractor Science Applications International Corp. The contractor alerted Keller to the September breach weeks later - in a letter titled “urgent.”

According to the lawsuit filed in federal court in Washington, one of three pending across the country, the breach was the latest involving the contractor, which receives about \$20 billion a year in Pentagon contracts.

The contractor “has experienced no fewer than six security failures” since 2005 involving privacy data, the suit alleges, including a break-in at a company facility in California in 2005 in which the Social Security numbers and financial transactions of 45,000 top military and intelligence officials were stolen.

Two years later, the company announced that the health records of nearly 900,000 soldiers, their family members, and other government employees were compromised when they were transmitted online without encryption.

“We don’t know what specific instances that they are talking about, whether they are SAIC, whether they might be a vendor of some kind to us, and we don’t want to get into a dialogue about pending litigation,” said Vernon Guidry, a spokesman for Science Applications

International Corp., also known by its acronym.

But he insisted that the company has no evidence that the information on the computer tapes stolen last year from a San Antonio parking garage was accessed by outsiders. Moreover, Guidry maintained it would be difficult to decipher the tapes.

“Reading the data on the tapes would require knowledge of and access to specific hardware and software, which is commercially available, but would also require knowledge of the system and data structure on the tapes,” Guidry said.

Some privacy specialists, however, said that would not be much of a barrier for those seeking a high payoff. In the rapidly advancing world of data protection, computer tapes are considered archaic.

“To read that, you need to get your hands on the proper equipment, but the value of the data itself makes it worth the effort for identity thieves,” said Lillie Coney, associate director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center, a public interest research group in Washington.

The contractor uses portable reel-to-reel tapes to store the data, relying on an operating system originally designed in 1977. Such technology is so outdated that there is no way to encrypt the data - standard procedure for storage systems today.

That detail infuriates Markey. “At minimum, TRICARE should require that its contractors, including SAIC, encrypt data before transporting it to a different location,” he said. “Yet even after experiencing multiple instances of physical data theft ... TRICARE still does not mandate that its contractors handling sensitive information

implement such a common sense risk mitigation practice.

“This is unacceptable,” Markey told TRICARE director Jonathan Woodson in a letter.

The backup tapes, which were being transferred by a Science Applications International employee, contained Social Security numbers, names, addresses, and phone numbers, as well as health data such as clinical notes, laboratory tests, and prescriptions for members of the military, veterans, and their families who received care from the military health system between 1992 and Sept. 7, 2011.

The lawsuit, which names Science Applications International Corp. and the Department of Defense as defendants, also contends that leaving the tapes unguarded in a vehicle, rather than transporting them in an armored car, violated industry practice in the data security field.

The Pentagon and the contractor have insisted that the data did not include credit card, banking, or other financial information. Yet identity theft specialists said that determined thieves could use the information on the tapes - such as Social Security numbers - to access bank accounts or credit card numbers.

“It could be used as breeding information,” Robert Siciliano, a consultant for software security giant McAfee, told the Globe. “You could use the data to make a phone call and pose as that person to fool someone to allow access to a bank account.”

He cautioned, however, that there is no way to know at this point whether the fraudulent transactions asserted in the lawsuit were connected to the data theft. “Debit cards and credit cards are compromised all the time,” said Siciliano.

Cynthia Smith, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said military health officials would not comment on the claims of identity theft, citing the ongoing legal cases.

Keller’s fellow plaintiffs include the spouse of a decorated war veteran, the 5-year-old daughter of an Air Force officer, and a retired major. They contend that their credit cards were canceled without their knowledge for suspicious transactions; unauthorized withdrawals were made from their bank accounts; and telemarketers hound them.

“Mrs. Keller and her husband have spent many hours remedying these fraudulent charges and communicating with her debit cards’ banks,” according to the complaint. “Additionally, Mrs. Keller has a sensitive medical condition which had been disclosed as a result of the security breach, and the revelation of her condition has caused her and her spouse to suffer on inordinate amount of emotional distress.”

Keller did not respond to requests for an interview and her lawyer, Jeremiah Freiperson said he could not comment on the lawsuit.

Coney said concerns about the breach extend to issues of national security.

“This involves military personnel and their families,” Coney said. The data “reveals a lot of information that shouldn’t be in the hands of anyone.”

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Checkpoint Washington  
(Washingtonpost.com)  
May 4, 2012

## **17. NSA's Gen. Alexander: Companies Should Be Required To Fortify Networks Against Cyberattack**

By Ellen Nakashima

Gen. Keith Alexander, the head of the nation's largest spy

agency and its cyberwarfare command, is urging adoption of legislation to require companies providing critical services such as power and transportation to fortify their computer networks against cyber attacks.

Though he did not specify a particular bill, Alexander, commander of the U.S. Cyber Command and director of the National Security Agency, said in a letter Friday to Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) that "recent events have shown that a purely voluntary and market driven system is not sufficient" to protect such networks.

The words are likely to disappoint GOP opponents of government regulation and in particular of legislation pending in the Senate that would authorize the Department of Homeland Security to ensure certain critical networks meet minimum security requirements.

"Some minimum security requirements will be necessary to ensure that the core critical infrastructure is taking appropriate measures to harden its networks to dissuade adversaries and make it more difficult for them to penetrate those networks," Alexander wrote, adopting the Obama administration's position on the need cybersecurity legislation.

A legislative package cosponsored by Sens. Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine), among others, is pending in the Senate that would do just that. But the Cybersecurity Act of 2012 faces stiff opposition from Republicans such as McCain, who have decried it as too burdensome on business. At a hearing earlier this year, McCain blasted the bill as turning DHS into a "super-regulator." He warned it would lead to "unelected bureaucrats" foisting rules on companies would divert

resources from developing security to complying with mandates.

But Alexander, who also stressed that the requirements not be too burdensome, pointed out that the Department of Defense relies on key industries such as power, transportation and telecommunications. Last year, he stated that the power sector is "at the bottom" of the list in cybersecurity. "It's not a priority for them," he said at a speech last year at the University of Rhode Island. "They don't have expertise. They need government assistance."

Further, he said, it is U.S. Cyber Command's role to defend the nation from a cyber attack. He said the president can delegate authority to the Defense Secretary to use Cyber Command's capabilities to defend the nation. And, he said, "much work remains to be done across both the public and private sectors" to deter adversaries in cyberspace.

Alexander also noted in his letter the need for greater sharing of cyber threat data from the private sector with the government. Several bills in both the House and the Senate would enable that. Right now, he said, "the limited, voluntary information sharing by the private sector inhibits the government's ability to protect domestic cyberspace."

Other administration officials have explicitly endorsed the Lieberman-Collins bill. They include Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin E. Dempsey and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

TheHill.com  
May 4, 2012

## 18. Panetta Warns Climate Change Having 'Dramatic Impact' On National Security

By Carlo Munoz

Climate change has had a direct effect on national security, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said this week.

Panetta told an audience at the Environmental Defense Fund that climate change has raised the need for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, hitting national security in the process.

"The area of climate change has a dramatic impact on national security," Panetta said. "Rising sea levels, severe droughts, the melting of the polar caps, the more frequent and devastating natural disasters all raise demand for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief."

Panetta spoke to the Environmental Defense Fund on Tuesday at an event honoring the Defense Department for advancing clean-energy initiatives.

In recent years, the Defense Department and the services have spearheaded a number of alternative-energy initiatives and seemingly embraced environmentally friendly practices on the battlefield.

President Obama effectively put the Pentagon at the forefront of an ambitious alternative energy strategy during the State of the Union speech in January. The Navy and Air Force have already spent billions to integrate biofuels into their fleets of fighter jets and warships.

Marine Corps combat units in Afghanistan are using mobile solar panels to recharge batteries for their night vision and communications in the field. Solar power is also helping to run a number of

Marine Corps combat outposts in the country.

But the Pentagon's adoption of environmentally sensitive practices was driven more by the department's dire fiscal situation than politics, Panetta said on Tuesday.

DOD spent roughly \$15 billion to fuel its fighters, tanks and ships in 2012, the Defense chief said. The Pentagon spends \$50 million on fuel each month to keep combat operations in Afghanistan going, Panetta added.

As oil prices continue to skyrocket, the department "now [faces] a shortfall exceeding \$3 billion of higher-than-expected fuel costs this year," according to Panetta.

In order to dig its way out of that financial hole, DOD has no choice but to look to alternative fuel technologies. Pentagon officials plan to invest more than \$1 billion into developing those technologies in fiscal 2013, he said.

However, Republicans on Capitol Hill have taken issue with that decision, arguing the department will be sacrificing needed much-needed combat systems in favor of alternative energy work.

In March, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) claimed the Navy's ongoing biofuels work was devolving into another "Solyndra situation."

During a March 13 hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee, McCain compared the now-bankrupt solar-energy company, into which the White House sank \$535 million in loan guarantees, to Navy-led efforts in alternative energy.

Rep. Randy Forbes (R-Va.), a member of the House Armed Services subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, took Navy Secretary Ray Mabus to task in February over the service's plans.



"Shouldn't we refocus our priorities and make those things our priorities instead of advancing a biofuels market?" Forbes asked at the time.

Before Mabus could respond, the Virginia Republican took a clear shot at the secretary: "You're not the secretary of the Energy. You're the secretary of the Navy."

FederalTimes.com

May 3, 2012

## 19. Military Payroll Systems Pose Challenge For TSP's Roth Option

By Stephen Losey

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's efforts to roll out a new Roth option for the Thrift Savings Plan are complicated by the balkanized, multiple pay and personnel systems its customer agencies use.

The Roth option — under which TSP participants invest after-tax dollars, instead of the standard before-tax contributions — will be available to many federal employees May 7. But military service members and federal civilians whose pay is handled by DFAS will have to wait. The Roth option is expected to be rolled out to Marine Corps service members in June, to DFAS-covered civilians in July, and to Army, Navy and Air Force service members in October.

DFAS has to make sure it keeps pre-tax and post-tax investments separate as it works with computer systems throughout the Defense Department and a handful of other agencies, David McDermott, DFAS deputy director of operations, said in an interview with Federal Times.

The Defense Joint Military Pay System (DJMS), which manages pay for Army, Navy and Air Force service members,

is an especially thorny case. McDermott said that pay system must interface with several different personnel systems, such as the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System, and make sure they are sending accurate information on employees' pay and TSP elections. That's not easy, he said, especially since DJMS is an older system that runs on the COBOL programming language.

Many unique facets of military pay — such as Basic Allowance for Housing payments, hazardous pay, combat pay, and tax exclusions for serving in combat — must be considered when calculating TSP investments, and that makes the military's Roth option rollout much trickier, McDermott said.

DFAS also has to track whether an employee's pay is being garnished to pay debts or child support, McDermott said.

The Marine Corps Total Force System's pay and personnel components are more integrated than the Army, Navy and Air Force system, McDermott said. That simpler design will allow DFAS to roll the Roth option out faster to Marines, even though Marines also have the same complex pay authorities.

"Because they're paying a single service, they're more nimble," McDermott said. "They're able to make changes more quickly."

Setting the Roth up for civilians is complicated by the fact that DFAS handles more than just Defense employees. The Veterans Affairs, Energy and Health and Human Services departments, Environmental Protection Agency, Broadcasting Board of Governors and Executive Office of the President's all have their payroll handled by DFAS.

Most of the 1.1 million civilian employees DFAS covers fall under standard Title V rules governing federal pay. But McDermott said DFAS has to factor in the exceptions, such as some health care providers at VA and HHS who are under different pay authorities.

DFAS also has to interface with multiple personnel systems from those civilian agencies, though McDermott said they are not as varied as the Army, Navy and Air Force's systems.

Once the Roth option is set up, active-duty service members will be able to choose to invest in it through the online MyPay system, McDermott said. Civilians will also be able to choose the Roth option online. But that option will not be open to reservists at first, and they will have to visit their local finance offices in person.

McClatchy Newspapers

(mcclatchydc.com)

May 4, 2012

## 20. Office Of Special Counsel Investigating Army Criminal Investigation Lab

By Marisa Taylor, McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — A federal agency in charge of investigating whistleblower complaints is scrutinizing the military's top crime lab, already troubled by sloppy evidence handling and botched analysis of DNA.

The Office of Special Counsel agreed last month to look into claims that the lab had retaliated against its former firearms-branch chief, in part for cooperating with investigators who were looking into allegations of misconduct by lab officials.

The branch chief, Donald Mikko, resigned last week after 21 years at the lab and 10 years as a manager. His lawyer, Peter

Lown, said his client felt forced to leave.

"He's undergone what is approaching two years of escalating harassment and retaliation," Lown said. "The environment at the lab has become so hostile that in the interest of his well-being he had to leave."

The upheaval comes as the lab's director, Larry Chelko, also announced last week that he's retiring after more than 18 years, the Army Criminal Investigation Command confirmed. The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory is the military's most important forensics facility, handling more than 3,000 criminal cases a year.

"Mr. Chelko is retiring after a distinguished 36 years of dedicated and valuable service to this nation, the Army and USACIL," command officials said in an emailed statement. "We strongly reject any suggestion that his retirement is connected to anything beyond normal career progression and a well-deserved retirement."

During Chelko's recent tenure, the lab has been the target of numerous investigations, including an ongoing Pentagon inspector general inquiry that was launched last year in response to McClatchy's series of stories on problems with evidence-handling at the lab. Through it all, the command continued to support his leadership. Before the scrutiny, the secretary of the Army gave Chelko a 2010 Exceptional Civilian Service Award, which recognizes a pattern of excellence and achievement.

McClatchy has written more than a dozen stories about the lab since March 2011 detailing the misconduct of two former analysts, who made serious errors during DNA and firearms testing and who later

were found to have falsified and destroyed documents when confronted with the problems.

Meanwhile, a growing number of employees have filed complaints against Chelko and other leaders at the lab. In less than four years, at least seven internal investigations have been launched and eight complaints filed against managers. Employees say the turmoil has distracted them from their mission of analyzing evidence. An employee satisfaction survey was conducted in the wake of the complaints. The command refused to release a copy to McClatchy immediately, saying a reporter would have to file an open records request for it.

In one of the latest internal inquiries, Mikko was interrogated for about four hours and questioned about his contacts with McClatchy, according to Lown. The command launched the inquiry after McClatchy published a story late last year about the lab losing evidence. In March, his supervisor recommended Mikko's firing as a result of the inquiry, even though investigators didn't determine who'd spoken to McClatchy about the problems.

The Criminal Investigation Command says it's never targeted anyone for talking to the news media, and it asserts that McClatchy's stories have overblown isolated mistakes and misconduct that shouldn't reflect on the lab's overall reputation.

But in his complaint to the Office of Special Counsel, Mikko alleged that lab officials punished him for cooperating with a complaint of racial discrimination filed by a black employee. Mikko also accused lab officials of retaliating against him for cooperating with an internal investigation into whether his supervisor

had a conflict of interest. The supervisor was cleared of wrongdoing.

Recently, the lab agreed to settle allegations by its former attorney Lisa Kreeger that she was retaliated against for cooperating with the same racial discrimination complaint. Her attorney Charles Evans said he couldn't disclose the terms of the settlement. Mikko's retaliation compliant, meanwhile, is proceeding before a judge who oversees employment discrimination disputes.

The Criminal Investigation Command, abbreviated as CID, declined to comment on the allegations by its former branch manager and attorney, saying privacy laws prevented it from discussing the complaints.

"In short, individuals may bring their side of the story to the media, but CID cannot respond," command officials said in a statement.

New York Times  
May 5, 2012  
Pg. 16

## **21. South Carolina: Reinstatement At Drill Sergeant School**

By Associated Press

The first woman to lead the Army's prestigious drill sergeant school is being reinstated after she was suspended in November for reasons the Army has never explained, her lawyer and the Army said on Friday. Command Sgt. Maj. Teresa King, who is black, filed a military legal complaint over the suspension, arguing that it was a result of racism and sexism from soldiers who resented her promotion and the national attention it attracted. "To the Army leadership, I have devoted my life to train American soldiers," Sergeant Major King said on Friday. "My removal

was without justification." Her lawyer, James Smith, said she would return to her job as commandant of the drill sergeant school at Fort Jackson, the nation's largest military training installation.

El Paso Times  
May 5, 2012

## **22. Death Of Beaumont Army Medical Center Nurse During Skype Chat Not Combat-Related**

By Aaron Bracamontes, El Paso Times

Capt. Bruce Kevin Clark, the 43-year-old Beaumont Army Medical Center nurse who died Monday in Afghanistan, was not injured during combat, officials said.

A Beaumont spokesman said his death was not a result of enemy attack.

"It wasn't a result of hostile action," said public affairs officer Clarence Davis. "He was not wounded."

Clark, 43, was talking to his wife on Skype at the time of his death, the wife's family said in a prepared statement.

"Bruce's wife tragically witnessed her husband's death during one of their regular Skype video chats," the statement said.

His wife had hoped that Clark would be revived by medical personnel, but he died on Monday.

"Although the circumstances were unimaginable, Bruce's wife and extended family will be forever thankful that he and his wife were together in his last moments," the statement said.

His brother, Justin Hallenbeck, said the family is waiting for the Department of Defense to determine the cause of death.

Clark's body is being transported to Spenserport,

N.Y., where he lived with his wife.

A memorial service is being scheduled in his hometown, Addison, Mich., said Hallenbeck.

"He was a great guy and a loving brother," Hallenbeck said. "He always had a smile and was having a good time."

Clark grew up on a farm and always enjoyed outdoor activities, Hallenbeck said. The oldest of eight, he had four sisters and three brothers.

Hallenbeck looked up to his brother, who even spent time as a volunteer firefighter, he said.

Clark was a part of A Company, Troop Command at Beaumont, and he deployed to Afghanistan in March.

He was stationed in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan, which was described by Army officials as a town of about 10,000 people.

His awards include the Army Commendation Award, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Service Medal.

Clark had two children.

Wall Street Journal  
May 5, 2012  
Pg. C2

## **23. When The Troops Were Very Young**

*The newest troops in Afghanistan are barely old enough to recall the event that sparked the long war*

By Michael M. Phillips

On Sept. 11, 2001, Corey Shaffer was in fourth grade at Cutler Ridge Christian Academy in Miami. Because his mother was cafeteria manager, he was at school early and was enjoying a bowl of Lucky Charms when news of the terrorist hijackings flashed on the television screen. He remembers being confused. "I



wasn't sure what it meant," he said.

It wasn't until he was in middle school that the significance became clear, when he read about the attacks in his history book. Now he's 19 years old and a Marine infantryman, fighting in the longest war in his nation's history.

The conflict in Afghanistan has dragged on so long that the young Americans fighting on the front lines today often have little personal memory of the event that sparked it in the first place. Since the 9/11 attacks, President George W. Bush has completed two terms and retreated to private life. The World Trade Center is again New York's tallest building and Osama bin Laden has been dead for almost exactly one year.

The newest wave of troops hitting the Afghan battlefields are 19 or 20 years old, meaning they were roughly between 8 and 10 when al Qaeda crashed planes into the World Trade Center, Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field. The fourth- and fifth-graders knew something big had happened but were often unable to understand why it mattered until years later. Such a mismatch hasn't happened since the country was founded, largely because its greatest wars have tended to be brief interludes, not semipermanent features.

Of the 44 men in Lance Cpl. Shaffer's unit at Combat Outpost Pennsylvania in Afghanistan—3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment—half are 22 years old or younger. Some 20% of the Marine Corps turns over each year, meaning that since Sept. 11 the service has had to find 35,000 or 40,000 new recruits annually, the bulk of them young men fresh out of high school.

Their vague memories of 9/11 have a flip side in Afghanistan, where many, especially in rural areas where television and literacy are both rare, have never heard of the Sept. 11 attacks or their connection to Afghanistan. For them, the presence of tens of thousands of U.S. and allied troops remains a mystery.

The Marines at Combat Outpost Pennsylvania, in the contentious Helmand Province, are charged with rooting out insurgents along the highway that shadows the Helmand River up to the vital Kajaki Dam.

Lance Cpl. Tyler Hopkins of Las Cruces, N.M., was expecting his mother to deliver cupcakes to his fourth-grade classroom on Sept. 11, his ninth birthday. The school was on lockdown so she couldn't get in.

These days he never celebrates on his actual birth date; it seems inappropriate to him. Last year he flew home and celebrated on Sept. 6, shortly before he went to war. His mom made apple pie.

Lance Cpl. Dave Long, 20, a machine-gunner from Pottstown, Pa., vaguely recalls hearing something about 9/11 on TV. "I was kind of young at the time," he says. "It didn't really affect me much."

Lance Cpl. Graydon Phillips, a 19-year-old rifleman from Ozark, Ala., was in reading class when his teacher got the news. "The Twin Towers have been bombed by terrorists," he recalls her saying. He wasn't clear what that meant. But he remembers being scared that terrorists would go after Ozark next.

Third Platoon's commander, 1st Lt. Gardea Christian, is just 24. But he is practically a generation apart from his youngest troops. He was 13, in Spanish class at St. Thomas More Academy in

Magnolia, Del., on Sept. 11. A voice came over the intercom telling the teacher to turn on the television. The students saw the second plane hit. Then they went to the gym and prayed for the victims.

Parents came to pick up their kids. Stores closed. Some of his fellow students lost family members that day.

"I was angry and I wanted to exact revenge on whoever did it," Lt. Christian recalls.

Some of his friends talked about getting guns and fighting against someone, in the style of "Red Dawn," a movie about Colorado high-school students resisting a Soviet-Cuban invasion of the U.S. A week later, Lt. Christian went online to see if he could enlist. He filled out a form and was automatically rejected for being too young. He ended up at the U.S. Naval Academy, class of 2009.

In December, shortly before the battalion shipped out for Afghanistan, Bravo Company commander Brent Jones gathered his 170 men outside the brick headquarters building at Camp Lejeune, N.C. A Jacksonville, N.C., native, the 33-year-old Capt. Jones was waiting for a slot at the Marine Corps officer-candidate school when the planes hit the towers. By the time he took command of Bravo Company, he already had four combat tours under his belt.

"Obviously we're going to Afghanistan," he recalls telling his men. "Does everyone understand why?"

"September 11," someone shouted back.

The captain explained that al Qaeda militants who hijacked the planes had been based in Afghanistan. "Over the course of 10 years, our national objective has been that this country would never be ripe or have the conditions to allow

that to happen again," he recalls telling his company.

Among the captain's men was Lance Cpl. Brian Richards, a 20-year-old from Woodruff, S.C. His stepmother was home schooling him at the kitchen table when the planes hit. He came from a family with a long military tradition, and he had always wanted to be a Marine.

He signed up as soon as he was old enough, which was only after his father had served two tours in Afghanistan.

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AOL Defense  
(defense.aol.com)  
May 4, 2012

## **24. Iran Mine Threat Scares Navy; CNO Scrambles To Fix Decades Of Neglect**

By Sydney J. Freedberg Jr.

WASHINGTON--Iran's threat to strangle oil tanker traffic through the Straits of Hormuz has the Navy scrambling to redress its decades-old neglect of mine warfare. Admirals from the Chief of Naval Operations on down have publicly admitted the service is not where it needs to be.

"What I find amazing is the amount of interest that's being afforded mine warfare by the senior navy leadership," said Scott Truver, a naval analyst and author. "It's all due to the Iranian threat to close -- if indeed it is possible to close -- the Hormuz Straits."

When asked point-blank whether he was "comfortable" with the Navy's mine-clearing capabilities, the Chief of Naval Operations said bluntly, "No." But, Adm. Jonathan Greenert went on in remarks at the Navy League's Sea-Air-Space symposium last month, "I feel much better than I did six months ago. We've moved about a billion dollars total" from various accounts



to weaponry for shallow-water warfare in places like the Gulf, and "a lot of that was in mine warfare," Greenert said. "But we have more work to do," he went on. "It's not just the near term issue."

The Navy's long-term solution is a high-tech concept centered around the controversial Littoral Combat Ship, which will serve as a fast, albeit vulnerable, mothership for mine-hunting helicopters and a host of unmanned vehicles. That's definitely more attractive than the traditional approach of sending minesweeping ships, divers, and even trained dolphins straight into the minefield. But the much-delayed mine-countermeasures module for the LCS is still in development, with extensive testing about LCS-2, the *Independence*, scheduled for this summer. Until it's operational, the Navy's counter-mine capacity remains distinctly limited.

"We've been doing mine countermeasures since 1917 and we still can't get that package ready for production," lamented naval historian and analyst Norman Polmar. For now, "14 minesweepers and two squadrons of helicopters are our nation's entire mine countermeasures capability." In March, Adm. Greenert made a very public point of ordering more mine-hunting helicopters and ships to the Gulf, noting that the deployment would double the number of *Avenger*-class minesweepers operating out of Bahrain from four to eight. What he didn't emphasize was that's more than half the nation's entire minesweeper force, leaving just two ships for training in the States and four in Japan to keep an eye on China's estimated arsenal of 100,000 naval mines.

At the moment, moreover, the reinforcements for the Gulf

are still en route -- not under their own power but hauled aboard heavy-lift ships, since the small minesweepers aren't well-suited to cross oceans on their own. The Navy continues to upgrade the 1980s-vintage minesweepers, recently improving their sonar for example. Overall, however, the Avengers are slow, vulnerable, and increasingly difficult to maintain.

By contrast, the LCS is brand new, much faster, and at least as survivable as the Avengers. The Navy rates both ships' resistance to battle damage as "level one," compared to the more resilient level two for the similar-sized *Perry*-class frigates and level three for the much larger *Arleigh Burke*-class Aegis destroyers. The LCS also has an anti-missile system and other self-defense capabilities the Avengers lack to keep from being hit. Moreover, the whole LCS concept of sending out unmanned submersibles and helicopters -- the Avenger cannot do either -- is meant to keep it further from danger in the first place. While the Pentagon's own independent Director of Operational Testing & Evaluation has questioned the LCS's ability to survive in a "combat environment," even LCS skeptic Polmar admits it's an improvement over the geriatric Avenger.

In the strategic big picture, however, the most important difference is that whereas the Navy has just 14 Avengers, it has committed to buying 55 Littoral Combat Ships. Not all 55 will be minesweepers: The LCS concept is "modular," with each ship capable of being quickly re-outfitted to deal with either mines, submarines, or swarms of fast attack boats (all three are part of the Iranian arsenal, incidentally). The Navy plans to

buy 24 mine-countermeasures modules, almost double the number of Avengers.

The devil is in the modules, however. Only the small-boat-fighting module has actually been deployed on a real-world operation, without its full complement of weapons. Work on the anti-submarine module was "reset" after the Navy changed its concept to better exploit LCS's speed; delivery is not expected until 2016. Then there's the mine countermeasures module, with two prototypes in testing and formal assessment by the Director of Operational Testing & Evaluation scheduled for 2014.

"The key piece for us is we now have the software that works," said the Navy's program manager for LCS modules, Capt. John Ailes, in a briefing at last month's Sea-Air-Space convention. With the underlying software in place, he said, the Navy can keep plugging new capabilities into the module as they become available in a continuous cycle of upgrades. In May, for example, the Navy announced it was adding the "KnifeFish," an unmanned submersible specifically designed to look for mines that are buried on the sea floor instead of floating, a task right now that can only be accomplished by trained dolphins and divers.

In the longer term, Navy officials talk about having unmanned mini-sub that can "porpoise," briefly surfacing to transmit data back to the LCS for analysis before returning to their underwater hunt. With current technology, however, sailors with winches have to physically haul the drones back aboard to download the data. So at the moment, said Capt. Ailes, "the biggest challenge we have is launch and recovery" of the main unmanned mine-hunting

submersible, the Remote Multi-Mission Vehicle (RMMV). "We can safely pick it up, we can safely put it down," said Ailes "[but] we want to make it routine."

Another mundane obstacle to the high-tech approach is that the LCS's MH-60 Sea Hawk helicopter is simply a lot smaller than the MH-53E Sea Dragon that makes up the Navy's existing -- and highly regarded -- airborne mine-hunting squadrons, which operate off big-deck amphibious warfare ships and carriers. Equipment optimized for the MH-53 needs to be resized for the MH-60, with inevitable losses in capability. Nevertheless, given that the LCS-based MH-60s will supplement the existing MH-53 units rather than replace them, the Navy's mine-clearing capacity will still increase overall.

The nascent LCS fleet will face a complex juggling act learning how to use all these new mine-hunting capabilities and its anti-small-boat module and the sub-hunting system, whenever that is operational. In theory, a specialist mine warfare ship would be ideal. In practice, it's only the multi-role potential of the LCS that convinced the Navy to buy them in numbers, and it's only in numbers that a ship can create critical institutional mass.

Historically, mine warfare has been a marginal activity, conducted by a few sailors in a few ships far from the Navy's power centers, aircraft carriers, submarines, and amphibious warfare ships. The fleet has occasionally had mine-warfare panics in the past -- in 1950 after North Korean mines laid by wooden sailing junks kept Douglas MacArthur's invasion force out of Wonsan; in 1991 after Iraqi mines damaged the ships *Tripoli* and *Princeton* -- but the effort has always

quickly flagged. "There was a lot of money thrown into mine warfare for three or four years and then attention turned elsewhere," said Truver. "That's my concern: That mine warfare's going to be getting money but then, as priorities change, it's going to be a backwater."

UTSanDiego.com  
May 3, 2012

## 25. Mercy Departs For Goodwill Mission After Delay

*Next stop: Hawaii, to pick up supplies and people*

By Jeanette Steele

The Navy hospital ship Mercy departed San Diego this morning after a two-day delay caused by mechanical trouble.

The ship is heading toward Asia for a medical goodwill mission called Pacific Partnership.

The San Diego-based ship, an oil tanker converted into a floating medical clinic in 1986, has deployed on this mission every two years, starting in 2006.

About 400 Navy medical personnel aboard the ship will offer care to patients in Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia during the four-month effort.

The Mercy is expected to return to San Diego in mid September.

Trouble with the ship's forward propulsion system kept it from hitting its expected departure time of 10 a.m. Tuesday.

Atlanta Journal-Constitution  
May 5, 2012

## 26. Chambliss' War Zone Visit Cut Short By Threats

By Daniel Malloy, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

WASHINGTON -- An overseas trip by Congress' intelligence chiefs -- including Georgia Republican Sen. Saxby Chambliss -- was cut short this week because of assassination threats tied to the anniversary of the death of Osama bin Laden.

In a phone interview Friday after returning home to Georgia, Chambliss said the group was scheduled to visit Pakistan and India, but only made it to Afghanistan because of concerns that the Taliban would be targeting Americans.

Intelligence officials "had some specific information as to not only who they were targeting but they were looking for additional VIPs," Chambliss said. "Needless to say, it bothered us." As a result, the group canceled its trip from Afghanistan to Pakistan.

A suicide bomber killed 20 people Friday in a Pakistani market near the Afghan border. Chambliss said the congressional delegation -- which consisted of the leaders of the intelligence committees in both chambers: Chambliss; Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.; Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich.; and Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger, D-Md. -- was heading to Islamabad, nowhere near the attack. But the bombing illustrated that "it was probably the right decision" to cut off the trip, he said.

The delegation spent two days in Afghanistan visiting with military and intelligence personnel in Kabul and rural areas around the country. Their visit overlapped with President Barack Obama's surprise trip to announce a new accord with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, but Chambliss said no one in his group was invited to Obama's events "even though we had a couple of Democrats with us."

A Taliban suicide attack in Kabul, which The Associated

Press said killed at least seven people, occurred just hours after Obama left Afghanistan and again showed the security risks in the area.

Chambliss said the strategic partnership agreement between the U.S. and Afghanistan is a positive step. It commits U.S. help for security and development in Afghanistan through 2024, though the bulk of NATO troops are scheduled to withdraw and hand over control to the Afghans in 2014.

But the agreement is thin on specifics, and Chambliss has particular concern with the handling of about 3,000 detainees at Bagram prison near Kabul.

"With the recidivism rate we've seen out of [Guantanamo Bay prison], it will be even higher than that coming out of this prison," Chambliss said. "They will be sent back to their hometowns where they came from. We need to make sure that we maintain some control over the decision-making process."

Chambliss said he continues to believe the public withdrawal schedule undermines any attempt to provide lasting security. Of the Taliban, Chambliss said, "to a certain extent, they're still fighting but saving their best lick for when we pull out in 2014."

Obama's handling of the anniversary of bin Laden's death also has proved controversial. His re-election campaign has questioned whether Republican foe Mitt Romney would have authorized the same kind of bold raid on the bin Laden compound in Pakistan. Many Republicans have accused Obama of a crass effort to use the death of the notorious terrorist for political gain.

Chambliss said the true credit goes to intelligence personnel under both President

George W. Bush and Obama for tracking down bin Laden and executing the mission last year. As for Obama's trip to Afghanistan, which drew some flak for being too political, Chambliss said he was fine with it.

"I think it's important for the commander in chief to go into the field and visit the troops on occasion, and certainly there was every reason on this anniversary for the president to be there," Chambliss said.

"Sure it's political. Everything this president does is political. But still I don't have a problem with him going into theater and visiting with folks. And one reason we go is to have a chance to look those men and women in uniform in the eye and tell them how much we appreciate their service."

China Daily  
May 5, 2012  
Pg. 8

## 27. Visit To US Aims To Ease 'Misgivings' Between Militaries

By Hu Yinan

Defense Minister Liang Guanglie began a landmark six-day visit to the United States on Friday, which experts say will help reduce misunderstandings between the world's two largest economies and major military powers.

Liang, the first Chinese defense minister to visit the US in nine years, will meet US counterpart Leon Panetta on Monday.

The defense minister's visit follows a day after meeting James Miller, US acting under secretary of defense for policy, in Beijing amid tense bilateral relations.

Poor Sino-US military relations, in particular, have been a thorn in bilateral relations, said Jin Canrong, deputy dean of the School



of International Studies at Renmin University of China. "It lags behind economic, political and cultural relations (between China and the US). If it can be improved, it will benefit the stability of Sino-US relations as a whole," he said.

"The Defense Minister's visit is projected to deepen trust and reduce misgivings on both sides," Jin said.

On Thursday at the China-US Strategic and Economic Dialogue, President Hu Jintao said that Beijing and Washington should escape from the outdated belief that major powers are destined to clash with one another.

The lack of mutual respect and trust between the two nations may lead to difficulties in resolving the issues in Iran, the Korean Peninsula and Syria, as well as the ongoing standoff between China and the Philippines in the South China Sea, said Jiang Chunliang, a researcher at the PLA Academy of Military Sciences.

Liang's meetings with top military officials in Washington are significant in facilitating high-level communications, particularly at a time when reducing tensions and conflicts between China and the US are imperative to safeguarding global peace, Jiang said.

Liang is expected to further discuss Beijing's stance on the South China Sea during his US visit, said Shi Yinhong, head of the Center for American Studies of Renmin University.

The defense minister will also visit Naval Base San Diego, US Southern Command in Florida, Fort Benning in Georgia, Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, West Point academy and other military sites.

In the US, Pentagon spokesman George Little said earlier that Liang's visit will help to "further strengthen our

military relation and contacts with the Chinese".

It "follows on the heels of Vice-President Xi's recent visit to the Pentagon and we believe this is an important point on the trajectory of increased cooperation with our Chinese counterparts", he said.

Panetta is also due to make a trip to Beijing "in a not too distant future", Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said.

Military relations between China and the US soured after the Obama administration announced plans to sell \$6.4 billion worth of arms to Taiwan in January 2010. A US deal to sell \$5.85 billion in military hardware to the island in September 2011 again disrupted Sino-US military relations.

In late April, the White House again pledged to give "serious consideration" to sell new F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan.

Japan Times  
May 5, 2012

## **28. F-35 Order Tab Set At \$10 Billion**

By Kyodo

WASHINGTON — Japan will pay an estimated \$10 billion (¥802 billion) for its order of 42 F-35 stealth jets at a cost of roughly \$240 million (¥19.2 billion) per plane, the U.S. Defense Department reported to Congress, revealing price projections for the first time.

Tokyo has selected the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter produced by a U.S.-led consortium as its next-generation mainstay fighter over various other candidates, including the Eurofighter Typhoon that was aggressively promoted by a European group.

Japan is hoping to procure four F-35s by March 2017, and the Pentagon is expected to start mass producing them at

domestic plants in 2019 at the earliest.

While the final, official sales price has yet to be disclosed, the Defense Ministry estimates the fuselage alone will cost around ¥8.9 billion. The sales price per unit includes training and other costs.

Defense Minister Naoki Tanaka has already said Tokyo may cancel the order if the jets' delivery is delayed or the price tag hiked.

Los Angeles Times  
May 5, 2012

## **29. Hillary Clinton To Visit India, Bangladesh With Modest Agenda**

*Politics and other factors have reduced expectations for U.S. relations with India, where Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will spend three days after a rare stop in Bangladesh.*

By Mark Magnier, Los Angeles Times

NEW DELHI--Hopes were high after Congress passed a U.S.-India civilian nuclear agreement in 2008 that the two countries would forge a close military and strategic partnership.

But Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's three-day trip to India, starting Sunday after a weekend stop in Bangladesh, comes amid reduced expectations and political distraction on both sides and a relationship increasingly marked by incremental movement on a variety of issues.

Though India remains an important ally, few big-ticket nuclear and defense deals that the United States had hoped for have materialized. India is wary of becoming too closely aligned with the U.S. to the detriment of its relations with Russia and Iran. And politics, including the U.S. presidential campaign

and the growing weakness of India's Congress Party-led government, has limited the scope of agreements.

"There's a broad consensus that India-U.S. relations are still in a state of drift," said Dhruva Jaishankar, Asia program officer with Washington's German Marshall Fund of the United States. "The two countries are talking more about more issues than any time in the past. That said, there's no room in either capital for anything very ambitious."

China, which Clinton has been visiting this week, is expected to be a key topic of discussion when she meets with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Foreign Minister S.M. Krishna, starting Monday, analysts said. In April, India test-fired a long-range missile capable of hitting Beijing.

Afghanistan will also be high on the agenda, analysts said, as U.S.-led NATO forces prepare to hand over security to their Afghan counterparts by the end of 2014, altering the regional power balance.

Washington is now more inclined to welcome Indian aid, trade and training for Afghanistan after worrying about ruffling Pakistan's feathers. "It was quite idiotic, the U.S. reluctance to let us get involved," said K. Shankar Bajpai, former ambassador to China, Pakistan and the U.S. and now an analyst with the Delhi Policy Group think tank. "It's only natural we'd want good relations with Afghanistan."

Indian officials are likely to push for greater access to U.S. technology, analysts said, and to seek assurances that their regional interests will be protected under a new U.S.-Afghan partnership agreement. The U.S. is looking for progress on a variety of commercial issues, including access to



India's retail and financial markets, and assurances that India will reduce its links with Iran and Syria.

"Both sides are doing many things, and doing them right," said Ashley J. Tellis, senior associate at Washington's Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "But these are often not the sexy things, so they get taken for granted."

Between stops in China and India, Clinton will spend Saturday night in Bangladesh, the first visit to that country by a senior U.S. official in 12 years. She's expected to meet in Dhaka, the capital, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed, among others, and discuss terrorism, security, energy, aid and technology transfers.

Clinton's visit will follow several days of strikes and violence in Bangladesh after the disappearance of a senior opposition figure. It also comes as the government juggles relations with India, China, Russia and a new Myanmar.

"Recent political problems have created a crisis for the present government," said Ataur Rahman, a political science professor at the University of Dhaka. "The government seems to be vacillating and undecided about the future course of its foreign policy direction. There is a concern therefore whether it can take advantage of Hillary's visit."

Clinton is scheduled to spend Sunday night in India's eastern state of West Bengal, where she'll meet with the state's mercurial elected leader, Mamata Banerjee, before flying to New Delhi on Monday. This will be a chance to push Wal-Mart's bid to enter the market given Banerjee's opposition to large foreign retailers in India.

More fundamentally, however, the stop reflects a shift

in political power to the state level in India.

"It is part of the larger recognition that power in India no longer resides simply in New Delhi," Tellis said. "The U.S. must engage with regional leaders, and all senior U.S. officials will do so going forward."

Philippine Star

May 5, 2012

### **30. Phl Needs 48 Fighter Jets, 6 Mini Submarines - Report**

By Jose Katigbak, STAR  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Philippines needs up to four squadrons (48) of upgraded Lockheed Martin F-16 fighter jets, more well-armed frigates and corvette-size, fast to surface combatant vessels and minesweepers and four to six mini submarines, possibly obtained from Russia, to build a credible defense force in the face of China's increasing belligerence in the South China Sea, the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) said.

This level of capability would far exceed current Philippine planning and finances and it would be in Washington's interest to make it easier for Manila to acquire excess US fighters, frigates and other weapons system and encourage other countries such as Japan and South Korea to help modernize the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), it said in an article "Defending the Philippines: Military modernization and the challenges ahead."

The CNAS article on Thursday written by Richard Fisher said the AFP's modernization program was estimated to cost about \$1 billion over the course of President Aquino's six-year

term — an amount that pales in comparison to China's 2012 official military budget of more than \$100 billion.

A high-level Philippine delegation led by Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario and Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin was in Washington this week for discussions on each other's needs to ensure freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

A Hamilton-class frigate, now the flagship of the Philippine Navy, was turned over by the US last year and a second one is forthcoming. A third frigate is being sought.

The article lauded Aquino's determination to build up his country's military forces and said he has spent more than \$395 million on AFP modernization since coming into office, compared with \$51 million annually in the previous 15 years.

It said he is seeking to purchase a small number of F-16s supported by six to 12 Surface Attack Aircraft (SAA)/Lead-In Fighter Training (LIFT) aircraft such as the subsonic Italian Aermacchi T-346 or the supersonic Korean Aerospace Industries (KAI) T/A-50, both of which could be modified to perform secondary combat missions.

A considerable investment in training, logistical support and basing will have to precede the aircrafts' service entry, estimated to be in 2016, the article said.

In 2011, the Philippine Navy (PN) restored a program to acquire two multi-role vessels in the form of 5,000-to-10,000-ton Landing Platform Deck (LPD) ships capable of supporting Marine amphibious operations supplying outposts in the Spratly Islands or conducting disaster relief operations.

The PN is also looking for a land-based anti-ship cruise missile like a version of the US Boeing AMG-84 Harpoon which has a range of 120 kms and could also be used by frigates and F-16s, said Fisher, a senior fellow with the International Assessment and Strategy Center, in his article.

"Finally, the PN would like to acquire a submarine by 2020, which would become its most ambitious and expensive program to date," the article said.

Given the economic and political stakes in ensuring that all East Asian countries maintain unimpeded access to the sea lanes near the Philippines, both those nations and the United States now share a real interest in the success of the AFP modernization.

The timing is also fortuitous, the article said, because "the United States now has a pragmatic partner in President Aquino who has proved his intention to invest in national defense and is willing to rise above nationalist resentments from the bases era."

The Philippines booted the Americans from Clark Air Base and Subic Bay in 1992.

Washington Post

May 5, 2012

Pg. 1

### **31. China Strikes A Deal On Chen**

*But obstacles, questions remain; U.S. hopeful over plan for him to study abroad*

By Keith B. Richburg, Jia Lynn Yang and William Wan

BEIJING — Capping a week of dramatic diplomacy, U.S. officials embraced on Friday a statement from China that blind activist Chen Guangcheng could seek permission to study abroad, saying Chinese officials have

promised to quickly process his paperwork so he can leave for the United States.

But the deal — struck less than 24 hours before Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was set to depart Beijing — left Chen and U.S. officials in the same position they have been stuck in for days: relying on the word of the Chinese government.

A previous deal reached with Chinese officials Wednesday fell apart within hours, after U.S. diplomats were barred from visiting Chen in Beijing's Chaoyang hospital. He was taken there after leaving the protection of the U.S. Embassy compound. U.S. diplomats, as well as Chen, thought they had been promised regular and easy access to him.

As with that deal, the new agreement leaves significant obstacles and numerous questions unanswered. In the balance hangs the Obama administration's record on human rights, which is under heavy criticism, as well as the health of relations between the world's two leading powers. Most pressingly at stake is the safety of the 40-year-old Chen and his family.

There was evidence Friday to suggest that China may not uphold its end of the bargain, even though allowing Chen to study in the United States could permit Beijing a face-saving way out of the standoff.

Supporters trying to visit Chen at the hospital were roughly turned away, with some saying they were severely beaten by plainclothes police. China's state-controlled newspapers also launched scathing attacks on Chen and U.S. Ambassador Gary Locke, who helped Chen enter the embassy April 26 after his dramatic escape from de facto house arrest in his village in Shandong province. In addition,

some of Chen's allies remain under house arrest.

The public backlash against the anti-Chen, anti-Locke editorials was so fierce that, in a bizarre and unusual move, one newspaper, The Beijing News, seemed to apologize later on its Sina Weibo microblogging account. The Beijing News, sister paper of the Beijing Daily, posted a black-and-white photograph of a sad-looking clown, and the words; "In the still of the deep night, removing that mask of insincerity, we say to our true selves, 'I am sorry.' Goodnight."

Media analysts said the words, and the photo of someone in clown makeup, indicated the paper's editors were telling readers they were forced to write the offending editorial.

In a news conference Friday, the top Foreign Ministry official in charge of U.S. affairs, Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai, twice refused to discuss Chen's case or even acknowledge a deal on the dissident's future, even though Cui is thought to have been China's lead negotiator. China gave no assurances about when Chen might be able to leave, or whether he could return.

"The disparity between high-level assurances and the reality on the ground is stark," said Catherine Baber, Amnesty International's Asia-Pacific deputy director. "While the Chinese and the U.S. negotiated on Chen and his family, Chinese authorities were targeting his friends and supporters — including beating Jiang Tianyong," who tried to visit Chen in the hospital.

Jiang, a human rights lawyer, described in an interview how he visited Chaoyang hospital to try to see Chen on Thursday night but was immediately hustled into an unmarked car by plainclothes

officers from Beijing's Haidan district public security branch.

Jiang said the agents took him to a hotel room where they repeatedly berated him. Then one of the agents "suddenly jumped on me and punched me heavily three times, on my left ear, my right ear and my chest," Jiang said, adding that he "instantly felt a severe hearing loss." He said he was detained until 3 a.m. Friday and has since been placed under house arrest.

With Clinton set to depart Saturday, there were no indications that Chen would be leaving with her, as he at one point had said he would like to do. Chen's own changing wishes and ability to broadcast them through the media have repeatedly flipped carefully scripted plans and scrambled the negotiations.

For Chen and his relatives, the stakes of his decisions could not be higher, given the threat they face. While Chen's immediate family — his wife and two children — may be allowed to leave under the new deal, Chen has repeatedly expressed worries for the safety of his mother and brother.

"It would be pretty hard to have all these other people" leave with him, said New York University law professor Jerome A. Cohen, a friend of Chen's who helped arrange a fellowship for him at NYU that became a crucial component of the deal. As someone traveling to the United States to study, Chen would be leaving ostensibly "for a few months of rest and study" and not to emigrate, he noted.

Chen's lack of a passport may also prove to be an obstacle. The Foreign Ministry, in its Friday statement, said that if Chen "wants to study abroad, he can apply through normal channels to the relevant departments, according to the

law, just like any other Chinese citizen." But in Chen's case, that would mean having to return to his home province, Shandong, to obtain the necessary documents. Chen was beaten severely in Shandong and kept under unlawful house arrest for more than a year and a half.

U.S. officials expressed hope for the new deal, but some also displayed caution.

In a closed phone briefing with human rights groups, one high-level State Department official acknowledged that Washington was relying on "good-faith assurances" from the Chinese government, according to several who were on the call.

"They were very careful not to describe it as a guarantee," said one of those briefed, who requested anonymity in order to describe the conversation. "There seems to be a lot of caution given what happened the first time around."

But in Beijing, a senior administration official told reporters: "We believe that this process will proceed accordingly, and we have high confidence in its course."

State Department officials said they were encouraged because diplomats had much better telephone access to Chen on Friday than the previous day. Chen spoke with Locke for 20 minutes, officials said, and met in his hospital room with an embassy doctor. The doctor saw a cast that had been placed on Chen's right foot for three bones that were broken when he fled his village.

Analysts said it would make sense strategically for China to allow Chen to leave the country, because his departure would probably lessen his international visibility. Using the excuse of study abroad would also enable China's leaders to avoid the perception



of having caved to foreign pressure.

But the tentative agreement did not silence criticism by some over the Obama administration's handling of the crisis. Among the complaints by Republicans and human rights groups was that U.S. officials were too trusting in that they neither secured adequate protections for Chen before escorting him off embassy grounds nor did they stay with him at the hospital.

Some rights advocates also noted that the original deal struck for Chen was unique in that he would have stayed in China rather than fled abroad, as many had expected.

"That was something no one had seen before," said one human rights advocate, who requested anonymity to talk frankly about Chen's case. "Would it have been better for the cause for him to stay in China under this unprecedented deal and struggle with the backing of the U.S.? Maybe, but the correct question is: Would it have been better for Chen and his family?"

*Wan reported from Washington. Staff writer Dan de Vise in Washington and researchers Zhang Jie and Liu Liu in Beijing contributed to this report.*

Reuters.com

May 4, 2012

## 32. Americans Favor Limited U.S. Role In Afghanistan

By Deborah Charles, Reuters

WASHINGTON--Most Americans want U.S. troops out of Afghanistan and oppose a significant long-term commitment to support that nation's economy and security, a Reuters/Ipsos poll showed on Friday.

But the poll also indicated that most Americans favor

keeping some U.S. forces in Afghanistan to help train that nation's troops, and to continue missions targeting al-Qaeda.

Taken together, the findings suggest "Americans essentially want to be done with Afghanistan," said Ipsos pollster Chris Jackson.

NATO's roughly 130,000 troops there - of which about 99,000 are from the United States - are scheduled to withdraw by 2014. U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has said the Obama administration would like to remove most U.S. combat troops by the end of next year.

The poll was conducted in the days after President Barack Obama marked the one-year anniversary of Osama bin Laden's death with a surprise trip to Afghanistan and the signing of an agreement laying out a long-term U.S. role in Afghanistan.

The agreement is not particularly specific, but it calls for the United States to provide training for Afghan troops and other aid through 2024.

Almost two-thirds of the 776 Americans surveyed in the online poll said they did not want Washington to be committed to supporting Afghan economic and security development that long.

Seventy-seven percent said they wanted all U.S. combat troops - excluding trainers and special forces - to leave Afghanistan by the end of 2012. Nearly the same amount, 73 percent, said they did not want the United States to establish any permanent military bases in Afghanistan.

"But if you start to talk about some specifics like hunting down al-Qaeda or even providing trainers for the Afghan security forces, you have a small majority of people who support those notions," Jackson said.

Six out of ten Americans said they favored having the United States keep forces in Afghanistan to conduct missions targeting al-Qaeda and 57 percent were in favor of having troops in the country to help with training.

"Basically since before the 2008 election there's been an increasing sense of war fatigue with the American population," Jackson said. "They want things to be done with but they don't want them to be done in a way that makes it seem like we've lost or were defeated. They want to end it with a win."

During a surprise trip to Afghanistan on Wednesday, Obama and Afghan President Hamid Karzai signed the strategic partnership agreement, which was aimed at offering Afghans reassurances that they would not be abandoned when most NATO combat troops leave.

In a televised speech, Obama said there was a "clear path" to fulfilling the U.S. mission in Afghanistan and said the defeat of al-Qaeda was "within reach."

The Reuters/Ipsos poll was conducted from May 2-4. The precision of the online polls is measured using a credibility interval, similar to a margin of error. This poll had a credibility interval of plus or minus 4.1 percentage points.

Financial Times

April 28, 2012

Pg. B1

## 33. A Personal Dispatch From Afghanistan

*Advised by the British, the Afghan National Army is now leading missions against the Taliban*

By Andy McNab

I'm lying in the dust using a mud wall as cover and overlooking a wide valley in Helmand province,

Afghanistan. In front of me, the Afghan National Army is returning fire as the Taliban try to halt their advance south: it is a massive demonstration of firepower. The incoming attack stops immediately, meaning the Taliban fighters are either dead or running for cover.

I am taking part in Operation Now Roz (from "nowruz", meaning "new year" in Dari) the largest, most dangerous and most complex operation the nascent Afghan National Army (ANA) has ever conducted. The action involves more than 1,000 ANA and Afghan police, working together with 1,000 British soldiers in the Gereshk area of Helmand province.

The Yakchal valley stretching out before us is the nexus of Taliban activity in Helmand. Many of the Taliban's IEDs (improvised explosive devices) are made here, and insurgent fighters plan their operations in the valley before heading out to other parts of the province. The aim of the ANA's mission is, quite simply, to clear the Taliban out of the Yakchal. The ANA is fighting under the watchful eyes of UK soldiers, who have spent the past six months advising them on how to become an army. It is a key test to determine the Afghans' ability to fight for themselves.

After a decade in Afghanistan, Nato's 140,000 combat troops - mainly from the US and UK, but also from countries such as Germany and Georgia - are preparing to leave. If, before their departure by the end of 2014, they fail to train a robust Afghan army and police force, Afghanistan risks sliding back into the internecine conflict that tore the country apart. It was this conflict during the 1990s that created the fertile ground in which Osama bin Laden expanded al-



Qaeda and pulled the US, UK and other Nato countries into perhaps their last big infantry conflict in history. The war in Afghanistan has taught western politicians that it costs too many lives, too much money and too much political capital to get involved in such messy and lengthy military operations. But, for the British soldiers I am accompanying, failure would mean the unthinkable: squandering the lives and limbs of their comrades and those of the nearly 3,000 coalition soldiers who have already died in Afghanistan.

The Afghan soldiers are a mixed group from various tribal backgrounds – some loyal to the current government, some not. Others are deeply pragmatic, with families sending one son off to fight with the Taliban and another into the ANA so as to hedge their bets on the final outcome of the insurgency. Many are here for the money – \$240 a month in Helmand, \$20 more than the earnings of those in less dangerous provinces. The Afghan government pays well considering the per capita income in the country is \$614 per year. Just like any other army, soldiers are paid by electronic bank transfer. But unlike other armies, biometrics are used to identify each soldier before he gets his salary.

I have met many ANA on my visits to Afghanistan during the past five years, and have found their concerns to be similar to most other young soldiers. They complain about everything – part of any soldier's job description – and always want to know when they will next be fed. But what I have witnessed above all is that the ANA are beginning to look more like soldiers. They now have body armour and helmets, even though some of them still choose not to wear them. There is no doubting their toughness.

Speaking through an interpreter to a group waiting for the order to move forward, they tell me they aren't too keen on the M16 assault rifles issued to them by the Americans – the Russian AKs they used to have didn't break when they hit people with them.

The ANA radio traffic sounds like a high-octane family argument as we watch them take control of several compounds before moving on. These buildings, made of mud and wood and surrounded by high mud walls, belong to farming families and their animals. They are the areas of habitation that the Taliban want to take over – and frequently do. I watch ANA soldiers round up all men of fighting age for questioning and, before releasing them, record their biometric details to determine if any are Taliban members. Fingerprints, irises and faces are all scanned by a hand-held device that looks like an oversized camera. (In many cases, fingerprints found on the remains of IEDs have identified the person who made them.)

Already about six IEDs have gone off around us. As we move past one particular compound the ANA has just cleared, our front man Kevin Cooper, who is holding a Vallon mine detector, yells: "Stop!" We dive down among the rocks and it isn't long before he finds the collection of buried plastic containers – "pop-and-drops" – filled with homemade explosives. These are the Taliban's weapons of choice, responsible for hundreds of Nato deaths and injuries. Our patrol was just three steps away from becoming part of the casualty statistics, and I was just three men from the front.

The British approach – letting the Afghans lead operations and acting as advisers rather than instructors

– is about 18 months ahead of the US military's efforts to train the ANA. With so little time left before the bulk of troops leave Afghanistan, the US is now considering adopting the UK model even though it would entail a cultural change among US soldiers, who see themselves more as natural commanders than management consultants.

Sitting in the dust waiting for the bomb disposal unit gives me a chance to chat with Captain Terry Williams. He is the 28-year-old adviser-patrol commander whose toothy staccato laugh later helps me identify him back at camp, the only place he takes off the helmet and ballistic glasses that now hide his face.

He tells me he has seen great improvement in his Afghan counterparts and attributes a good part of that success to British adviser patrols such as his letting the ANA learn through failure.

"They are great fighters, but if they do not organise their own rations, for example, I do not help them by calling some in," he says, adding that one lesson the Afghan recruits have learned is that trigger-happiness means running out of ammunition dangerously early in an operation.

The ANA bomb disposal team finally arrives. In the dimming light of early evening, the IED is detonated and the patrol cheers in relief. The observing British bomb disposal adviser gives his opinion on the size of the device: "That's 40 K-Gs, easy. You wouldn't want to step on that, would you? Well, if you did, you wouldn't be stepping anywhere else." It was the 15th IED the bomb disposal team's Afghan officer had made safe that day. The ANA now disarms all of the Taliban's explosive

devices, leaving the British to train and advise them.

Before darkness falls completely, I survey my surroundings. In twilight the valley is a picture-postcard desert scene. It is March so the heat is not oppressive, but there is a layer of sweat under my Osprey body armour and helmet. My nostrils are caked with dust, as is my skin, and my hair feels like a Brillo pad.

The Yakchal's 27sq km rectangle of battle space is also poppy country: the green patches of shoots look like fields of young thistles. Helmand is the world's largest opium-producing region, responsible for 75 per cent of the world's opium. Thus the Taliban fights here to protect its lucrative crop: this is an insurgency of politics, guns, drugs and power, not one of ideology.

For the UK government, Helmand has a wider significance. If the Taliban control the country it won't just be poppy that will be free to grow but also al-Qaeda, which would once again have a safe haven from which to launch attacks against Britain. Or, as one of the ANA commanders puts it to me: "Taliban in Helmand means bombs in London".

I have come here from London thanks to an invitation from Lt. Col. Bill Wright, the commanding officer of 2nd Battalion The Rifles (or 2 Rifles), the infantry battalion advising the ANA. Back in my day the Rifles was called the Royal Green Jackets and I spent eight years with the regiment before joining the Special Air Service, serving for a further 10 years. During my time in the SAS I was involved in operations in the Gulf, Northern Ireland, South and central America, south-east and central Asia and Africa. I

met Wright in 2007 in Iraq, well after I had retired from the SAS and written *Bravo Two Zero*, my personal account of an ill-fated mission I led behind enemy lines in that country in the early 1990s.

Wright is now sitting in his office, a Portakabin in Camp Tombstone, which is part of Camp Bastion. The sprawling main British base in Helmand is equivalent in size to a city like Reading, with walls constructed from enormous sandbags. Wright joined the infantry in 1988 and is married with two children. Everything he says carries an air of infectious confidence, which probably comes with having a 300-year-old military family tree.

Wright's role is to shadow ANA leader Sheren Shah and his brigade of six *kandaks* (Pashto for battalions), letting the Afghans lead. The 2 Rifles Brigade Advisory Group, BAG for short, brings to the table brigade-level tactical advice and the high-end military capabilities that the ANA does not have. This includes provision of US Marines capable of calling down artillery, precision-guided munitions, mortars – in fact anything that flies through the air and detonates when it lands. The 2 Rifles BAG has been advising for six months; other battalions filled the same role for 12 months prior to that.

Wright says that personal relationships and respect are crucial to getting things done. "We could have been seen as a threat to Sheren Shah and his *kandaks*. After all we are better trained and better equipped," he tells me. "The BAG have to take that threat out of the equation, immediately, at all levels. For example, I call Sheren Shah 'Sir' and treat him the same as I would any other general. Besides, he has

over 30 years of continuous war fighting experience and that alone commands huge respect."

Brigadier General Sheren Shah Kobadi, who is 48 (though accounts of his age vary) and married with six children, is a legend in Afghanistan. He fought alongside the Russians against the Mujahideen, but revolted after becoming disillusioned with the Russian occupation of Afghanistan – a move that landed him in jail for a year. On his release, he immediately joined the Mujahideen and fought against the Russians. After the Russians were finally defeated, he rejoined the government army and served as a *kandak* commander against the Taliban during the civil war that followed.

When the Taliban took control of the country, Sheren Shah then fought against them alongside the Northern Alliance, the group to which Nato would lend overwhelming support in 2001 to rid Afghanistan of Taliban rule. He was then appointed to the fledgling Afghan ministry of defence before returning to operations as commander of the ANA in Helmand.

When I meet Sheren Shah the day before Operation Now Roz begins, I can see his appearance fits his warring background. He is so large and imposing that when we shake hands, mine looks the size of a baby's. However, his demeanour is laidback to say the least. As we talk through his interpreter, he flings his arms over the chair and cracks pistachio nuts. His eyes keep straying over to the TV in his office, which is showing a Pakistani soap show.

It is obvious that he enjoys being in the company of soldiers and he clearly likes the fact that I am ex-SAS. Most of our conversation

is about the operations the SAS carried out alongside the Mujahideen. From the late 1980s we supplied and trained the Muj on Stinger missiles to destroy Russian Hind gunships. I answer his questions as best I can. Knowing that at some point he had switched allegiances, I have to be careful to get my dates right to ensure the SAS was on his side.

He tells me he has been wounded seven times in combat and I see the results of one of those fire fights in the scar running down his chin. Over our third cup of black tea, we finally get to talking about Now Roz – or rather he tells me what is going to happen: "We will make the Taliban understand they no longer own the Yakchal. We do."

Fair enough. But Now Roz, big as it is, is just one battle, and one during which the ANA still benefits from having the Brits in the wings. "What about the long term?" I ask. He takes a boiled sweet from one of the jars that are never more than an arm's reach away and tells me his biggest concern is losing the UK's support too soon. "It will take time to develop. Do not leave us too early," is his blunt message.

I leave Sheren Shah to visit one of the patrol bases near the Yakchal as the ANA and 2 Rifles BAG prepare for the operation. I see rows upon rows of tents and shipping containers lined up as if on the set of a Vietnam war film. There is apprehension in the air because this is to be the BAG's last big operation before their six-month tour ends. No one wants to get killed less than a week before going home.

The patrol base is Camp Bastion in miniature but much more brutal. A layer of dust and sand covers everything and everyone. There are no air-conditioned gyms, no hot or

cold running water, and no purpose-built toilets. A "Desert Rose" (basically a hole in the ground) is used to urinate in, with anything else done in a Disposa-John – a plastic bag that is then placed into a binliner for burning after use. Showers are black plastic solar bags that heat up in the sun, and any furniture is made out of wooden freight pallets or steel wire sandbag frames.

When the riflemen are not on patrol, they sleep, eat, and train in their make-shift gyms. I meet 20-year-old Rifleman David James Goodwin pumping iron. He joined the army at 16 as a junior soldier after listening to a presentation at his school in Liverpool.

It is obvious he likes being an infantry soldier and gets "good press" among his peers in the Reconnaissance (Recce) Platoon. He doesn't want to talk about Now Roz, but rather uses our chat to vent frustration about the way people like him are portrayed by the media. He complains about soldiers being seen as victims, even when they are not wounded. It's a war they freely choose to go and fight. They are neither hero nor victim; they are doing their job.

He says he is glad he joined up, especially as many of his mates are now in prison or unemployed. "I love it. I like getting out on patrol and when I'm not, I hit the weights. I like being a soldier and I like going home with money in my pocket as well." As for many Afghan soldiers, the money the army pays is an important part of the equation. Goodwin's take-home pay is £1,600 per month, plus a £5,000 bonus at the end of his six-month tour and another £1,800 for taking a 10-week course to learn Dari.

Goodwin, who is on his first tour in Afghanistan, tells me his relationship with the Afghan soldiers is good. "I



like eating with the ANA and practising the language. They make me laugh. They are funny f\*\*\*\*\*s when they all get together," he says.

Not all relationships between Nato soldiers and their trainers have developed so amicably. The past months have been marred by Afghan soldiers attacking the UK and US troops who are training them. At least 16 Nato troops have died at the hands of Afghan soldiers, or insurgents who have infiltrated the ANA, since the start of the year. Afghans have also been killed by members of their own units, although the UK does not release body counts.

The Taliban has taken credit for some of the killings, which have come amid a series of serious setbacks that include a US army sergeant shooting 17 Afghan civilians and American soldiers burning Korans at Bagram air base. The US has insisted the burnings were unintentional. Even so, they prompted widespread riots in Afghanistan and there were suggestions that some of the shootings of US soldiers by Afghan recruits were a result of the incident.

But those "green on blue" shootings have left many soldiers I talked to, including Serjeant Tom Reilly, unfazed and unapologetic. His misshapen nose and missing teeth instantly identify Reilly as one of 2 Rifles' "old sweats". Married with two children and in his mid-thirties, Reilly has seen it all before. Having served numerous tours of Northern Ireland, Kosovo, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan, he believes that fighting an insurgency means some bad guys always get under the wire either physically or by turning ordinary soldiers against their trainers through blackmail and intimidation.

But there is another, simpler reason, he adds, noting that Afghans don't always settle their differences diplomatically. "People have to remember these people know nothing but fighting. If they are pissed off about something, they sort it out the Afghan way. There are no anger management classes here. This isn't Hampshire, it's Helmand," he says.

That is more than evident on the patrol base where all troops carry weapons. They even take them to the showers. They also carry tourniquets so they can stop any major bleed immediately. It is likely that the ANA soldier who killed two Nato soldiers in the Lashkar Gah Main Operating Base on March 26 would have claimed many more victims had the base not been armed. But it is not just the British who are targets. Sheren Shah never moves within bases without his Close Protection personnel.

I leave the patrol base and head to one of the ANA checkpoints at the northern end of the Yakchal valley battle space for the start of the operation. As I enter the operations room to meet Sheren Shah, I find he and Wright have set themselves up with tables and chairs on the roof. The third man at the table is Brigadier Patrick Saunders, Commander Task Force Helmand and the most senior British officer in the province. Sheren Shah, Saunders and Wright make up the triangle of power that is transforming the way the war is being fought in Helmand.

Saunders has a liking for Old Virginia roll-ups and continuously packs tobacco into brown cigarette papers, producing something that looks like a prop for a Mexican gangster movie. As the three men listen to ANA radio traffic, pore over their maps and drink black tea, it becomes clear that

Sheren Shah is the dominant force among the three. More than anything else I have witnessed during this trip, this speaks volumes about the self-confidence of the two high-ranking British officers at the table. Saunders stands up and pats his pockets for a lighter and I get the chance to ask him how he sees things.

"Sheren Shah is our boss, it is as simple as that. We are not here to produce British soldiers. We are not here to replicate the British Army. We are preparing the ANA to function without us," he tells me, giving away that his and Sheren Shah's mutual respect has developed into friendship, with the ANA leader staying at his family home in Wiltshire. "There are problems, of course," Saunders adds as he lights his roll-up. "All armies have them, and a particular one for the ANA is their line of supply. But that's what we are here for – to get things sorted out."

He says there has been an increase in fighting as the ANA has ventured to areas the British had not patrolled in the past, doing things "the Afghan way" with little regard for health and safety and unencumbered by western technology.

I leave Saunders up on the roof of the Yakchal checkpoint and move down below into the Improvised Operations Room as reports come in of IEDs and Taliban activity.

An American army major in rectangular reading glasses and a "whitewall" haircut sits in the background, his chest tag displaying the name Redfield. He hangs back from all the radio checks and map plotting going on in the room and I become curious about what he is doing there, just looking, listening and jotting the occasional thought on his notepad.

I discover that it is Jerry Redfield's job

to advise American General John R. Allen, Commander International Security Assistance Force (COMISAF), on strategic priority areas and to help improve Nato's efforts across the entire ISAF operation. In other words he is like an Ofsted school inspector. What he tells me about Britain's efforts to train the ANA leads to the biggest revelation of my trip. "This BAG, the Brit structure, is 18 months ahead of anything else in country," he says. He puts it down to the British willingness not to impose a foreign structure on the Afghans, but to learn instead how best to let them do it the Afghan way.

"This method will be recommended to COMISAF to adopt for the post-2014 planning," he says. In other words, the US – to whom the UK is often the little cousin out here – may end up doing the most important job left in Afghanistan, according to the British model. I suggest this may well prove a hard sell to US commanders accustomed to being in charge. Redfield doesn't think long before coming up with an answer:

"We will have to re-educate people or they will just have to take a salt pill and say 'Yes sir'".

Reflecting on his words as I return to the Yakchal valley, I narrowly escape an IED. Others are not so lucky. While I am in Afghanistan, the BAG suffers casualties at the hands of the Taliban. There is one fatality, two young men lose limbs, and two more suffer gunshot wounds. Each of these men had only four to seven days left before they were due to return home.

Despite the heartache of those losses, I realise Sheren Shah has been proved right: the ANA do "own" the Yakchal



– for now. During Now Roz, numerous Taliban were killed, 86 explosive devices were discovered, including a motorbike packed with high explosives for a suicide attack, and the ANA seized multiple explosives and bomb-making equipment.

Given the steady flow of bad publicity and the general war weariness in the UK and other Nato countries, it is not a level of success I had been expecting to encounter. But in spite of the progress in Helmand, and the killing last year of bin Laden by US special forces, much can still go wrong. Afghanistan could indeed fall back into the hands of the Taliban – and the past decade could prove a waste of thousands of lives and thousands of billions of dollars. The recent spate of deadly Taliban attacks painfully highlights that Sheren Shah and his men stand little chance if he and other ANA leaders do not get the continued support they need to pose a credible threat to the insurgents.

But, as it looks from here in Helmand, that failure is more likely to come at the hands of politicians eager to extract themselves from a war they can no longer afford than from the combat boots on the ground. Training Afghans to fight like an army only gets you so far. Western heads of state at Nato's summit in Chicago next month will need to deliver sustained support to the ANA and Afghanistan as a whole if the ANA is to keep the Taliban at bay once the west's troops head home for good.

*Andy McNab is a pseudonym. The author's book 'Bravo Two Zero' was a bestselling military memoir. His latest thriller is published this summer.*

May 5, 2012

Pg. 5

### **34. Suicide Bomber Attacks Market In Pakistan, Killing At Least 26**

By Ismail Khan and Declan Walsh

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Dozens of people, including two senior security officers, were killed and scores were wounded in a suicide attack on a government checkpoint in a tribal district along the Afghan border, hospital and government officials said.

A bomber, described by witnesses as a teenager who arrived on foot, killed the commander and deputy commander of the Bajaur Levies, a security force drawn from local Pashtun tribesmen, according to an official with the local tribal administration. As of Friday night, Pakistani health officials reported that 26 people had been killed and 75 wounded.

The Pakistani Taliban took credit for the attack and a spokesman said the two officials had been targeted in retaliation for the death of Sheik Marwan, a Qaeda commander killed by security forces in Bajaur last year.

"We will continue to attack government-sponsored militias and security forces," the spokesman, Ihsanullah Ihsan, said in a statement delivered through an intermediary.

The attack came one day after the United States released 17 letters seized from the compound of Osama bin Laden, who was killed by American forces in May 2011. Some of the letters indicated the Qaeda leader's concern for the high civilian toll from Pakistani Taliban attacks.

Friday's attack took place in Khar, the capital of Bajaur District. Witnesses said the bomber struck at a crossroads

just before 8 a.m. as markets were opening.

The two senior security officers were visiting the area in response to intelligence reports of a possible assault.

"They were checking up on their men. There had been a security high alert due to an intercept about an impending attack," the tribal official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

The explosion ripped through more than a dozen shops in the local market; afterward the streets were littered with debris and the belongings of the dead and wounded, reporters at the scene said. At least five members of the security forces were among the dead.

It was the first major militant attack in Bajaur since December 2010, when a suicide bomber killed at least 40 people in an attack on a food distribution point run by the United Nations World Food Program. The Pakistani Army has been operating in the region, which borders Afghanistan, since 2008 in a bid to oust fighters loyal to the local warlord, Faqir Muhammad, a former deputy leader of the main Taliban group in Pakistan, Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan.

Fierce fighting drove Mr. Muhammad across the border into Kunar Province in Afghanistan, where his fighters have taken advantage of the vacuum left by departing American troops to coordinate attacks inside Pakistan.

In recent months Mr. Muhammad has been seen as a declining force inside the Pakistani Taliban after he was deposed as second in command. Militant sources said Mr. Muhammad has been replaced in Bajaur by Dadullah, a Taliban commander who goes by one name, and who was

believed to be responsible for Friday's attack.

*Ismail Khan reported from Peshawar, and Declan Walsh from Islamabad, Pakistan. Ihsanullah Tipu Mehsud contributed reporting from Islamabad.*

Atlanta Journal-Constitution (ajc.com)

May 5, 2012

### **35. Officials: US Drone Strike Kills 8 In Pakistan**

By Rasool Dawar, Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — An American drone fired a volley of missiles into a house close to the Afghan border on Saturday, killing eight suspected militants and indicating U.S. resolve to continue with the attacks despite renewed Pakistani opposition, officials said.

The strike in North Waziristan was the second American drone operation in Pakistan this week.

The attacks come amid American efforts to rebuild its relationship with Pakistan, which in November blocked the passage of U.S. and NATO war supplies to neighboring Afghanistan. The country's parliament has called for an end to the drone strikes, which many here regard as an unacceptable violation of sovereignty.

Up to eight missiles were fired at a house in the Dra Nishtar area of North Waziristan early Saturday, Pakistani intelligence officials said. They didn't give their names because they were not authorized to be named in the media.

America is unwilling to stop the drone attacks because they have weakened al-Qaida and associated groups in Pakistan's tribal regions, large parts of which are not under the

control of the Pakistani state. In the past, Pakistan's intelligence agency has cooperated with the attacks, but the government has not publicly acknowledged this.

North Waziristan is a haven for Islamist militants from many parts of the world. It is also believed to be a key command and control center for insurgents fighting American troops in neighboring Afghanistan. The identities and affiliations of those killed Saturday were not immediately known.

Civilians have also been killed in the drone attacks, but the United States doesn't publicly investigate or apologize for any mistakes it makes. The frequency of the strikes has significantly dropped this year.

Reuters.com  
May 4, 2012

### **36. U.S. Doesn't Expect Pakistan To Reopen Afghan War Supply Routes Soon**

By Missy Ryan, Reuters

WASHINGTON--As the Taliban kicks off its spring fighting season in Afghanistan, an agreement with Pakistan that would help NATO supply its troops there could be weeks or months away, forcing military leaders to spend two-and-a-half times as much to ship some supplies through Central Asia.

The Obama administration remains locked in negotiations with Pakistan to reopen the key supply routes into Afghanistan, and officials do not expect talks bogged down over proposed tariffs and U.S. military assistance to reach resolution anytime soon.

The continued closure of ground routes, which Islamabad shut after two dozen of its soldiers were killed by NATO aircraft in November, poses one more challenge to U.S. President Barack Obama's

already troubled campaign in Afghanistan.

A deal is almost certainly impossible before May 20-21, when Obama will host NATO leaders in his hometown of Chicago. There, Western leaders will define plans for moving out of Afghanistan and for funding local troops they hope can contain a resilient insurgency when NATO withdraws.

A U.S. defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that talks in Islamabad between Pakistani and U.S. officials on supply routes, were continuing this week, but "no decisions are imminent."

"There's value in continuing to have those discussions, but there's no sense those talks are going to turn into decisions" shortly, the official said.

A deal would require agreement on Pakistan's proposal to impose tariffs on NATO supplies, including how tariffs would be formulated, where that money would go, and how the West would ensure those funds were being used appropriately.

Another issue stalling the talks is disagreement over how much the United States should reimburse Pakistan for counter-terrorism activity by Pakistani forces.

The United States believes it owes Pakistan about \$1 billion in arrears for that program, called Coalition Support Funds, while Pakistan contends the figure is much higher, perhaps over three times as much. The Pentagon has approved over \$8.8 billion in military reimbursements for Pakistan since 2002.

#### **New arrangement**

Once those arrears have been paid, both countries appear to want to set up a new arrangement for providing U.S.

financial support for Pakistan's anti-militant activities.

Pakistan's supply routes have been closed since the November 26 cross-border NATO air attack that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers and plunged already tumultuous ties between the two uneasy allies to their lowest point in years.

Before their closure, the two land supply routes through Pakistan accounted for just under a third of all cargo that the NATO-led force in Afghanistan shipped there. The closure has held up thousands of tons of equipment.

Pakistan has said it will impose tariffs on ports and roads used by NATO, in part to express Pakistani outrage over the border deaths and in part to shore up funding for its fight against militants that target the Pakistani state.

The Pentagon says the route closure has not yet had a real impact on the fight in Afghanistan. "Obviously it gets more challenging as we get closer to 2014," the U.S. official said, when most foreign combat troops will make their way home.

In a report released this week, the Defense Department warned that a prolonged closure of the supply routes could "significantly degrade" withdrawal operations as NATO nations try to establish a modicum of stability in Afghanistan before most of their troops are pulled out at the end of 2014.

While the Taliban has been pushed out of some areas since 2009, when Obama began a troop surge designed to turn around a long-neglected war, the insurgency remains resilient.

The talks come as the Obama administration tries to repair ties with Pakistan also damaged by U.S. drone strikes in Pakistani tribal areas and the

U.S. raid that killed al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in Pakistan last year.

They also come at a sensitive moment in Pakistan, where the parliament has approved recommendations from its national security committee on ties with the United States, including a demand to end drone strikes and an apology for the soldiers' deaths.

"Certainly the domestic situation in Pakistan has a role to play" in the negotiations, the U.S. official said.

Christian Science Monitor  
(csmonitor.com)

May 4, 2012

### **37. Iraq's Unity Tested By Rising Tensions Over Oil-Rich Kurdish Region**

*As Iraqi Kurdistan ramps up oil production that could soon surpass Libya's output, Kurdish leaders have warned they may seek independence if disputes over oil revenues, power-sharing aren't resolved.*

By Jane Arraf, Staff writer

ERBIL, Iraq--In the capital of the Kurdish region, a gleaming new international airport welcomes visitors to a part of the country that is increasingly striking out on its own amid mounting questions over whether a united Iraq will survive.

Unlike Baghdad, foreign visitors landing on one of the ever-growing number of international flights to Erbil need no prior visa. That's just one of the signs of autonomy in Iraqi Kurdistan, the country's most prosperous and secure region.

Newly discovered oil has fueled the prosperity underpinning Kurdistan's boldness. But it has also heightened tensions with Baghdad that have simmered



for decades over land and identity. As Iraqi Kurdistan ramps up oil production that officials say could surpass Libya's output by 2019, Kurdish leaders have warned they could seek full independence if disputes over oil revenues and power-sharing aren't resolved.

"The Kurds will not live in the shadow of a dictatorial regime," Massoud Barzani, the powerful president of the Kurdish region said in a speech in Erbil Friday. "The right to decide our destiny is a legitimate one and we ask others not to try to take this right from us."

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, told the Monitor in a recent interview he believes differences between Baghdad and Erbil can be solved.

"We can reach agreement on this," he said, referring to the wider issue of Iraq's fragile coalition government and increasingly bitter relations between Kurdish President Barzani and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. "We Iraqis had experiences many times on the brink of civil war – we retreated from that and we came back to dialogue and national unity."

Not everyone agrees with the president's assessment, however. Maliki's far-reaching consolidation of power has rankled other regions and even his political allies, with Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr recently visiting Erbil for the first time in a sign of solidarity with the Kurds.

#### **Southern, oil-rich regions also pressing for more control**

Nine years after Saddam Hussein was toppled, and two decades after breaking away from Baghdad, Iraqi Kurdistan is far more prosperous and secure than any other part of the country. Security has

been maintained by the regional government's strict controls on its de facto borders, including those ostensibly under the jurisdiction of the central government.

Kurdish support two years ago for Maliki's coalition government was essential to the Shiite prime minister retaining his post after failing to win a majority of seats. Since then a power-sharing agreement which included the Kurds and the major Sunni political bloc has fallen apart with almost none of the provisions implemented.

Because of the political wrangling, Iraq has no interior or defense minister. Instead Maliki effectively oversees both, as well as an increasing number of intelligence and security services reorganized to fall directly under his command. In a country with some of the world's biggest oil reserves, a proposed oil law mandating how revenue is shared between the provinces has never reached Parliament for a vote.

"We have to clearly define the oil law," says Latif Rasheed, senior adviser to President Talabani. "Not only regarding central authorities but regional authorities – this is happening in Kurdistan now; tomorrow it might happen in Basra if it's not clear."

In addition to Kurdistan, other regions, including the south – which has seen little benefit from its vast oil reserves – have been pressing for more control. Some local government officials in Basra and Diyala have even raised the prospect of seeking autonomy.

Mr. Barzani, who next to Mr. Maliki has emerged as the most powerful politician in Iraq, has warned that the Kurds could "resort to other decisions" if the prime minister does not follow through on a power-sharing

agreement. Barzani's comments are widely seen as an implied threat to seek independence.

#### **Legacy of Saddam's genocidal campaign**

The legacy of Saddam Hussein's military campaigns against the Kurds in the 1970s and 1980s has rekindled fears in Iraqi Kurdistan that a central government with unchecked powers could again pose a threat. That worry has been heightened by the withdrawal of US troops that served as a buffer between Erbil and Baghdad.

American protection in the form of a no-fly zone in 1991 created the semi-autonomous Kurdish region after the Kurds rose up against Mr. Hussein's weakened regime when he was driven out of Kuwait. Deeply traumatized by Saddam's genocidal campaign, two decades later Kurdish leaders have raised concerns in Washington over Iraq's purchase of American F-16 fighter jets.

"It's normal for Iraq to have an army, to have advanced weaponry but the concept of against whom that would be used this is what worries us," says Falah Mustafa, the Kurdish regional government's de facto foreign minister. "When we have worries about the nature of that army and the loyalty of that army we have all the right to be afraid because planes have been used against Kurdish people ... so our tragic history tells us to be careful."

Kurdish officials are adamant that they won't seek the breakup of Iraq but many seem prepared for the possibility that Sunni-Shiite tension could splinter the country on its own.

Feeding into Iraq's sectarian tensions, Sunni vice president Tariq al-Hashemi, wanted on terrorism charges, was given refuge in Iraqi Kurdistan and then allowed

by the Kurdish government to leave the country, despite a no-travel order. He is now being tried in absentia in Baghdad.

As Kurdish political and economic power grows, ties with the rest of Iraq weaken. Most younger Kurds don't speak Arabic and few feel a strong connection to the rest of the country.

"What is not independent about Kurdistan today?" says one Kurdish official speaking on condition of anonymity. "The fact that we get our money from Baghdad – that's the only thing that's left."

#### **Kurdish ties with Turkey improve**

Kurds are looking at the possibility of replacing that revenue from an unlikely source. Opposition from powerful Turkey has been one of the main reasons the Kurds have not sought more autonomy. But as Baghdad's relations with Ankara have soured over accusations of Turkish interference in Iraqi affairs, Erbil's ties with Turkey have improved dramatically.

Kurdish officials maintain they are discussing with Turkey plans to build crude oil and natural gas pipelines that would carry fuel directly from Iraqi Kurdistan to the neighboring country.

Talabani, who last month hosted Baghdad's first Arab League summit in more than 20 years, maintains that it would be unrealistic for Kurds to push for independence despite calls by the younger generation to seek it.

The older Kurdish political elite spent years as mountain fighters followed by years in exile but Talabani says that for all Kurds in the region seeking control over their destiny, that era is over.

"Armed struggle is past – now we are in a parliamentary struggle ... we are always telling

this to our [Kurdish] brothers in Turkey to understand the spirit of a new era," he says. "This is not the time of partisan war or armed struggle. Look to the countries that use popular struggle; even they get freedom from dictatorship from other places, so through this kind of struggle people can achieve their goals."

2 million barrels per day by 2019

The dispute over oil – potentially worth billions of dollars as new fields come on stream in Iraqi Kurdistan – is entangled in the wider issue of land, towns, and cities claimed by both the Iraqi and Kurdish governments – including the disputed city of Kirkuk. Kurds claim oil-rich Kirkuk as their historic capital, as do the Turkmen and other groups. Tens of thousands of non-Arabs were expelled from that city during Hussein's campaign to Arabize the country.

"There are a number of issues that have to be sorted out – one is the disputed territories, which I think is much more serious than the oil," says Mr. Rasheed, the Iraqi president's adviser.

Oil though has become the driving force behind Kurdish aspirations. Since Barzani turned the tap on the first oil well in the Taq Taq field three years ago, Kurdish officials expect production to rise to 500,000 barrels per day in the next 1-1/2 years. They say it could reach 2 million barrels per day by 2019 – a higher output than oil producers such as Libya.

Reflecting the rising tension, the Kurdish government in April shut off oil exports bound for the Iraqi government pipeline to Turkey. Foreign companies have cut back production and are selling the remaining fuel within Iraqi Kurdistan

– a move that contravenes long-standing agreement under which oil revenue is distributed by Baghdad. The companies and Kurdish authorities say it's a necessary step to recover their costs after months of not being paid under existing agreements with the central government.

For many Iraqi Kurds, the question is whether the autonomy they have gained is enough or whether they should aim for more and risk losing it.

"It's a tough one for any Kurd to balance their natural desire for any independence, which every Kurd has deep down, even Jalal Talabani, with a reality that puts what we have today in danger," says Qubad Talabani, the Kurdish government's representative in Washington and the president's son. "I think that's what every Kurd grapples with – what their heart tells them and what their head tells them."

Reuters.com

May 4, 2012

### **38. Iran Could Seek Short Build Time For Bomb: Israel**

By Dan Williams, Reuters

JERUSALEM--Iran's nuclear strategy could eventually allow it to build an atomic bomb with just 60 days' notice, Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak said on Friday.

His remarks elaborated on long-held Israeli concerns that Iran is playing for time even as it engages world powers in negotiations aimed at curbing its uranium enrichment drive. Talks are due to resume in Baghdad on May 23.

"They are currently trying to achieve immunity for the nuclear program," Barak told the Israel Hayom newspaper.

"If they arrive at military nuclear capability, at a weapon, or a demonstrated capability, or a threshold status in which

they could manufacture a bomb within 60 days - they will achieve a different kind of immunity, regime immunity."

Iran insists that its often secretive uranium enrichment is for peaceful energy and medical needs. At higher levels of purification, such projects can yield fuel for warheads, but Israel and the United States agree Iran has not taken that step.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) last year issued a report detailing alleged Iranian research and development activities that were relevant to nuclear weapons, lending independent weight to Western suspicions.

Barak has said Iran is holding off until it can dig in behind defenses sufficient to withstand threatened Israeli or U.S. air strikes on its nuclear facilities.

His 60-day timeline for potential Iranian warhead production appeared aimed at skeptics both at home and abroad of Israel's alarm who say it is too early to rattle sabres.

Israeli leaders believe the diplomatic drive, which involves the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, has a low chance of success, and suggest that Iran's rulers seek an atomic bomb as insurance against outside intervention.

#### **Confronting sceptics**

Some prominent Israelis have questioned the strategic value of a pre-emptive strike, with former spy chief Yuval Diskin last week accusing the government of promulgating the "false impression" it had the means of halting Iran.

"This is not so. We have been talking all the time about a delay," said Barak, indicating that Israel could not eradicate Iran's nuclear program, but saw value in forestalling it.

In an interview with Canada's Globe and Mail newspaper, Israeli President Shimon Peres said those advocating an attack on Iran had to figure out what would happen after a strike.

"Some people say it will make Iran powerless for two to three years. That's not good enough," he said.

Israel is reputed to have the region's only atomic arsenal, but many experts - including U.S. military chief, General Martin Dempsey - have voiced doubt that its conventional forces would be able to deliver lasting damage to Iran's distant, dispersed and fortified facilities.

The idea that some countries with civilian atomic projects might then use them for military purposes is commonplace, letting states keep their options open while not necessarily violating their non-proliferation commitments.

A leaked diplomatic cable from 2008 quoted senior U.S. State Department official John Rood saying Japan was "not a nuclear threshold country ... but rather is 'over the threshold' and could develop nuclear weapons quickly if it wanted to" should it feel the need to vie with its nuclear-armed Asian neighbors.

Barak, who leads the sole centrist party in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's conservative coalition government, has in the past sounded sanguine about Israel's ability to deter a nuclear-armed Iran from attacking.

But with an Israeli election expected in September, and given Iran's nuclear advances as well as Western war jitters, Barak has publicly closed ranks with the hawkish Netanyahu.

In Friday's interview with the pro-government daily, Barak said Iran might regard trying to destroy Israel with



nuclear weapons as worth the risk of catastrophic retaliation.

Under such thinking, he said, "after the exchange of strikes, Islam would remain and Israel would no longer be what it was."

*Additional reporting by David Ljunggren in Ottawa*

Miami Herald

May 5, 2012

Pg. 1

### **39. Sounds Of The Sea Soften Memories Of War**

*On the blue-green waters of the Florida Keys, some veterans find peace after deployment in an Outward Bound program.*

By Audra D.S. Burch

KEY LARGO -- The healing began on two, 30-foot wooden boats modeled after those used by merchant mariners of World War II. Twenty veterans — returned from Iraq or Afghanistan or both, some with post-traumatic stress disorder — spent six days on the vessels, sailing the sounds and bays and passes of the Upper Keys.

On the Outward Bound expedition for veterans, the former soldiers learned how to sail a boat. They fished. They bonded. And they talked about what it means to be part of two wars that have raged more than a decade. Somehow, the quiet of the sea softens the memories of war.

"It's not therapy, but therapeutic," said Stephen Summers, an Outward Bound course director who helped coordinate the Florida trip. "They learn new skills, make new friends and have those conversations they need to have about war and coming home. They have been in wars fought overseas and when they return, those experiences are not something

they can really explain, it's just something that those who have been understand. In a way, they create a whole new community."

The veterans are bound together by service to the country and war experiences that range from losing a friend in a roadside bomb in Ramadi to securing the bridges of Fallujah. Each returning soldier suffers in some way from the wrath of war, but the veterans-only week on Florida's waters — or canoeing in the Everglades or spending time in another peaceful outdoor setting — is designed to ease some of the stresses of returning to civilian life: unemployment, mental and physical injuries, failed relationships. Emotionally, veterans often feel isolated and face bouts of sleeplessness and depression.

"The transition back is difficult, especially for young vets," said SFC Kris Holmgren, 48, of the Massachusetts Army National Guard, who completed four tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan and returned for good in February. As the oldest and highest ranking member of the group, he became a mentor to some of the younger veterans on the trip. "This was an opportunity to check out of the real world for a while."

Outward Bound is an adventure-based educational organization first created during World War II to train young merchant marine sailors how to survive the rigors of life at sea during wartime. In 1986, an extension of the program was offered free to veterans and was expanded in 2007 to accommodate the thousands returning from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since then, the nonprofit organization has partnered with author Sebastian Junger to help promote the program. Junger's

experience as a journalist embedded in the military while on assignment for Vanity Fair, eventually became the 2010 Oscar-nominated documentary, *Restrepo*. Outward Bound sponsored 13 veterans in 2007. The 2012 goal: 600 veterans.

Today, 12 outdoor courses, financed through corporate and private donations, are offered in remote locations across the country — dog sledding in northern Minnesota, rafting in Utah, kayaking around Mississippi's barrier islands. In Florida, along with the sailing course, a canoeing trip is offered in the Everglades.

The idea is to offer a safe space for veterans to bond, engage in honest discussions about the challenges of reintegrating and, perhaps, make self-discoveries. Organizers hope that by the time the trip ends, the veterans have been restored in some way.

"The thing about combat is that you have a small group of people who are completely inter-reliant on each other in a very difficult environment. And once you get used to being in a small group like that, where you really can count on everyone else's help and support in the very worse kind of circumstances ... actually, it's very hard to give it up.

"And a lot of soldiers actually miss the war that they were in. Not that they miss war, but they miss being in a small group where they feel so safely protected by their brothers and sisters," Junger said in a video shown during an Outward Bound dinner in October. "Outward Bound is able to recreate that environment except in a noncombat setting in the wilderness."

Reexperiencing that closeness, even for a week on a boat, can help veterans return to civilian life with more confidence and control, Junger

said. Instead of fighting the enemy or worrying about sniper fire, veterans are faced with the task of learning to sail or kayak, or climb mountains, or biking.

"You sit out there with people you didn't serve with, but the experiences are similar, the conversations are similar," said Army 1st Lt. Adam Cotton, 29, who enrolled in graduate school in Cleveland after returning from Iraq in 2009. "You create a support group and that in itself is healing."

On the Florida sailing trip in March, the veterans came from as near as Jacksonville and Tampa and as far as South Dakota and San Diego. They were shuttled by bus from Miami International Airport to John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park about 60 miles away. Before the trip was over, they had sailed and anchored in Calusa, Rabbit and Crane Keys.

But first, they gave up all modern technology: no cellphones, laptops, tablets. No iPads or iPods.

The group was divided into two units consisting of 10 veterans and two sailing instructors. The first days were spent assigning responsibilities and learning the basics of sailing. Sometimes they let the boat move at the will of the wind, other times they used oars, and sang Row, Row, Row Your Boat.

Lunch typically consisted of sandwiches — peanut butter and jelly on bagels — passed hand to hand, bow to stern. Dinners were more creative: Thai veggie stir fry, black bean burritos, pasta marinara.

In six days, 20 veterans, almost all strangers, experienced the Keys together. They caught lizardfish and Spanish mackerel and made ceviche, a first for many vets. They saw dolphins. They celebrated St. Patrick's Day and

the 31st birthday of a Marine from Pasadena, Calif.

Sgt. Jonathan Hart, 29, a Marine who deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, returned to the United States for good in 2007. After bouts of depression, sleeplessness, anxiety attacks and nightmares about being ambushed by the enemy, he was diagnosed with PTSD.

For the sailing trip, Hart — whose roommate was killed by a roadside bomb in Ramadi — invited two Marine buddies along. They had served in the same company and, like Hart, were diagnosed with PTSD. He hoped the trip would give him some balance, a chance to relax, make new friends and reconnect with old ones.

"War memories can be a permanent scar on your brain. But being away from society, away from noises, helps to clear your head," said Hart, who grew up in Spearfish, S.D., and is moving to Colorado to pursue a career as a ceramic artist. "I met a lot of good people. We are in close quarters so you get to know people and really talk. So many veterans come home and don't want to talk much about what happened. They try to forget and sweep it under the rug."

He found there was power in the silence.

"When you weren't doing a task on the boat, there was plenty of time to self-reflect and watch the ocean go by," he said. "It helped to ground you."

Each night, one veteran was assigned to anchor watch, staying up overnight to make sure the boat and its passengers were safe. During that time, they wrote in journals.

Sgt. Travis Tipton, an Army National Guard Iraq veteran from Pierre, S.D., took several shifts. On one of the final nights, Tipton — who had participated in an earlier Outward Bound trip — wrote:

*A lot has changed this time, some good, some maybe not good. I am still the same me, but in a completely different place now. Maybe one step forward and three steps back ... the goal of this trip is completely different but the outcome will be the same. We will sail, we will build a good team, we will laugh, maybe cry a little, but in the end, we will all have changed. Pieces put back together, fences mended, lives forever changed.*

Los Angeles Times  
May 5, 2012

#### **40. Fears Of Spying Hinder U.S. License For China Mobile**

*Law enforcement officials say a license for the telecom giant to offer international service to American customers could allow theft of intellectual property and espionage.*

By Ken Dilanian, Los Angeles Times

##### **WASHINGTON**

Concerned about possible cyber spying, U.S. national security officials are debating whether to take the unprecedented step of recommending that a Chinese government-owned mobile phone giant be denied a license to offer international service to American customers.

China Mobile, the world's largest mobile provider, applied in October for a license from the Federal Communications Commission to provide service between China and the United States and to build facilities on American soil.

Officials from the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security and the Justice Department's national security division are concerned that the move would give the company access to physical infrastructure and Internet traffic that might allow China to spy more easily on the U.S. government

and steal intellectual property from American companies, according to people familiar with the process who declined to be identified because the deliberations are secret.

Those officials, known collectively as "Team Telecom," review FCC applications by foreign-owned companies. They could advise the FCC not to issue the license, but may instead demand a signed agreement designed to satisfy security concerns, the people said.

The review is being led by the Justice Department, which declined to comment, as did the FBI and DHS.

A move to block the license could provoke a lawsuit by China Mobile, officials said. But lately, the U.S. government's focus on cyber espionage has sharpened considerably.

China Mobile, which has nearly 670 million subscribers, is not applying to provide domestic U.S. telephone or Internet service. But traffic from U.S. carriers, such as Verizon Communications Inc. or AT&T Inc., could be routed to the China-owned network should a license be granted.

"Suddenly, you've got a perfect ability to exfiltrate information out of the country," said Scott Aken, a former FBI cyber security investigator.

A U.S. representative for China Mobile, who declined to be quoted by name, said the company is cooperating with Team Telecom's inquiries and expects to satisfy any concerns through a national security agreement. The firm declined to address allegations about Chinese spying.

Team Telecom's review of China Mobile's application is complicated by the fact that two other Chinese government-owned firms, China Telecom and China Unicom, were

granted similar licenses in 2002 and 2003, respectively, well before Chinese cyber espionage was viewed as a pressing concern. Both carry phone and Internet traffic between the U.S. and China.

In neither case did Team Telecom require a national security agreement that specifies, for example, how the company must protect U.S. classified information that could traverse its network.

In recent years, Team Telecom has required foreign-owned firms to sign extremely detailed agreements.

One signed in September by Level 3 Communications, a Broomfield, Colo., carrier, requires the company to provide the manufacturer name and model number of all equipment relating to the undersea cables used to carry traffic to and from the United States. According to the FCC, 43.5% of the company is indirectly owned by foreign interests.

U.S. officials in recent months have warned repeatedly that cyber espionage, in some cases authorized at the highest levels of the Chinese government, has become a grave threat to U.S. economic and national security.

Tens of billions of dollars in U.S. intellectual property has been stolen, much of it through hacking originating in China, U.S. intelligence officials have said. In addition, China has obtained national defense information, the officials have said.

On April 8, 2010, China Telecom, China's largest fixed-line telephone company, rerouted 15% of the world's Internet's traffic through Chinese servers for 18 minutes, according to the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

China Telecom denied hijacking Internet traffic, but



did not explain how erroneous instructions were issued in a global Internet routing system based largely on trust.

In February 2011, the U.S. government blocked a deal by another Chinese telecom company, Huawei Technologies, to purchase 3Leaf Systems, an insolvent technology firm based in Santa Clara, Calif. Huawei is privately owned, but American officials alleged that it has ties to the Chinese military.

Last month, Australia barred Huawei from bidding for work on its national broadband network because of security concerns. Also last month, U.S. cyber security firm Symantec Corp. unwound its joint venture with Huawei, reportedly over concerns the U.S. government would stop sharing information with Symantec.

The House intelligence committee is investigating the role of Chinese telecommunications companies in espionage, with a focus on Huawei and ZTE Corp., which makes switches, routers and other products.

Sean McGurk, a former senior DHS cyber security official, said China Mobile's entrance into the U.S. market "would pose a concern to most people. We're not really sure, not only where the information is flowing, but what potentially is being left behind."

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (post-gazette.com)

May 5, 2012

## 41. The Corps, And Core Values

By David M. Shribman

Where to start with Douglas MacArthur? To say that he was general of the Army? To note that he was superintendent of West Point? To recall his famous exit from the Philippines and his even

more famous return? To cite his role in the occupation of Japan? To refer to his time commanding U.N. troops in the Korean War? To reflect on his firing by Harry Truman? To quote his remarkable "just fade away" speech, interrupted numerous times by applause, on Capitol Hill?

We may not know where to start, but we surely know where to end -- where MacArthur effectively ended his public career, 50 years ago this coming Saturday, when he appeared among the ghosts and memories of West Point and spoke to the sparkling young men who could have known only vaguely on that day in May 1962 how Vietnam would shape and, in some tragic cases end, their lives.

On the surface, he was there to accept the Sylvanus Thayer Award, a coveted honor named for the father of the military academy. But in truth he was there to take his leave, to share the perspective of a man who was forged in the fire of battle, who thrived on military, moral and political conflict, who had grown weary of war and impatient with the conventions of diplomacy that led nations into armed confrontations that seemed ever more senseless and remorseless.

MacArthur was there to say goodbye to the world stage and to the millions whose lives he touched and commanded and whose spirits he lifted -- or repulsed. He did so with his customary flourish and flair and in the florid language that was as much a hallmark of his personality as his corn-cob pipe, always jutting from his teeth at a crisp 90-degree angle:

*Duty ... Honor ... Country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying points: to build*

*courage when courage seems to fail; to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith; to create hope when hope becomes forlorn.*

These are the three words most commonly associated with MacArthur, but they trace their provenance back to Sylvanus Thayer himself, and thus when MacArthur chose to make these words the leitmotif of his acceptance speech, he was identifying himself firmly with the grandest traditions of West Point.

*Let civilian voices argue the merits or demerits of our processes of government; whether our strength is being sapped by deficit financing, indulged in too long by federal paternalism grown too mighty, by power groups grown too arrogant, by politics grown too corrupt, by crime grown too rampant, by morals grown too low, by taxes grown too high, by extremists grown too violent; whether our personal liberties are as thorough and complete as they should be. These great national problems are not for your professional participation or military solution.*

This is, in many ways, the most remarkable element of this remarkable speech, for MacArthur is the best-known violator of the most sacred element of the relationship between the military and civilian lives of our nation -- the notion that policy is made by civilians and prosecuted by soldiers. It was MacArthur's criticism of Truman, in a letter read on the floor of the House, that led to his dismissal and here, in the late autumn of a life that would end two years later, he presented an unmistakable critique of his greatest failure as a general.

*The shadows are lengthening for me. The twilight is here. My days of old have vanished tone and tint; they*

*have gone glimmering through the dreams of things that were. Their memory is one of wondrous beauty, watered by tears, and coaxed and caressed by the smiles of yesterday. I listen vainly for the witching melody of faint bugles blowing reveille, of far drums beating the long roll. In my dreams I hear again the crash of guns, the rattle of musketry, the strange, mournful mutter of the battlefield.*

He spoke this passage without notes, leaning and bobbing in his customary fashion, deliberately creating the impression that he was no longer speaking from his head, but instead from his deepest sentiments. This was MacArthur showmanship at its greatest, for he had worked for days to memorize these words.

"No one could improvise such rhetoric," wrote biographer William Manchester. "The awed cadets thought that he was coining the phrases as he trod the platform before them, but what they had actually witnessed was the last performance of a consummate actor."

*Today marks my final roll call with you, but I want you to know that when I cross the river my last conscious thoughts will be of the Corps, and the Corps, and the Corps.*

These are the final words of the speech, set up by his remark that in his dreams, "I hear again the crash of guns, the rattle of musketry, the strange, mournful mutter of the battlefield." To our ears this sort of rhetoric is antiquarian, more suited to the days of Rudyard Kipling than to the era of Norman Mailer.

But there remains something intoxicating about the final passage: "the Corps, and the Corps, and the Corps." It possesses a martial rhythm, echoing like shots in the very night that occasioned

MacArthur's dreams of guns crashing and musketry rattling.

Glenn Edward Schembechler was 33 years old and still an assistant football coach at Ohio State when MacArthur delivered this West Point valedictory. In 1969, five years after MacArthur's death, he would ascend to the top coaching job at Michigan, where he would coach for 21 seasons.

It cannot be a coincidence that the remarks for which Schembechler is most famous -- indeed some of the most enduring words ever uttered by a football coach -- carry eerie echoes of MacArthur. Some 21 years after the West Point speech, Schembechler spoke of "the Team, the Team, the Team."

MacArthur now is a figure of history, his life remembered by few, his achievements studied by fewer. But this speech, given 50 years ago this week, deserves to be remembered as one of the greatest delivered on these shores, and revered beyond West Point and by more than the Corps, the Corps, the Corps.

New York Daily News  
May 4, 2012  
Pg. 32

## 42. Too Much Talk After Bin Laden Raid

By Bob Kerrey

The operation that resulted in the death of Osama Bin Laden has been celebrated by everyone who understands the evil nature of this man, the suffering he caused and the threat he posed to all mankind.

The praise given to President Obama and his national security team is well deserved. The President made the decision knowing that failure was a real possibility. I salute him for this impressive accomplishment.

However, I believe the President made a serious mistake by announcing many details of the operation a year ago. And he compounded the error by enlisting former President Bill Clinton to record a political advertisement suggesting that Mitt Romney, the presumptive Republican nominee for President, might not have made the same decision.

This was and is one of those situations where the less said by the President, the better. Before explaining why I feel this way, there are three facts about Abbottabad that deserve some attention.

First, this President has wisely continued President George W. Bush's policy of declaring that the United States will not grant sanctuary to anyone who organizes acts of violence against us.

Second, the Bin Laden raid was a demonstration that what had been two mutually distrustful organizations, the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency, have learned from the mistakes that led to 9/11.

Third, the joint nature of this operation and the work of the Special Operations Command is a result of an under-appreciated success story: the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986, which reworked the command structure of the American military.

Now, to my disagreement with the President's understandable but mistaken decision to disclose some details of the operation.

By describing certain methods - the name of the unit involved, the kinds of equipment employed, the nature of intelligence collected and techniques of insertion and extraction used in the operation - the President violated a key rule of clandestine work.

Soon after the operation, the U.S. made it clear it had identified Bin Laden's body using DNA. Not long thereafter, Pakistani intelligence had arrested an apparent CIA informant, a doctor named Shakil Afridi, who allegedly helped run a fake vaccine program in Abbottabad designed to confirm Bin Laden's presence by collecting DNA samples. Was the revelation connected to this man's apprehension?

By June 2011, Pakistan's military spy agency had arrested a handful of informants who had allegedly helped make the CIA raid possible. Would they have been identified if the White House had been more tight-lipped from the start? We will never know.

In addition, by shining a celebratory spotlight on one branch of special ops at the expense of others, we undercut the camaraderie of inter-service collaboration that has been the hallmark of this command since 1986.

Perhaps most important, because of the way the President rushed to tell the American people about the raid, I believe he made the already difficult relationship with Pakistan, an important ally of NATO in Afghanistan's fight against the Taliban, even more difficult.

It would have been better if the President had allowed the Pakistanis to make the announcement to their people first. And it would certainly have been better if we weren't reminding them of their weakness with celebrations and political advertisements at the very moment we are trying to get them to help plan the next phase of the war against the Taliban.

President Obama deserves full credit for the decision to authorize this operation. The risks of failure were great. The

benefits of success are large. I only wish he had handled the announcement with more caution to protect the ongoing war against Al Qaeda.

*Kerrey, a former U.S. senator from Nebraska, is again a Democratic candidate for Senate there. He was a member of the 9/11 Commission.*

New York Post  
May 4, 2012  
Pg. 29

## 43. Telling The Enemy What We Know

By James Jay Carafano

If the White House hoped that releasing documents scored by Seal Team Six at Osama's hideaway would ease anxiety about the threat of terrorism, it badly misjudged the value of reading bin Laden's mail.

The government turned over a cache of the captured documents to the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point for translation, analysis and publication. The center is a crackerjack outfit that turns out some of the world's best analysis on global terrorism. And it did a bang-up job with the 17 declassified documents released yesterday.

But one question has intelligence experts scratching their heads: Why would the government publish these documents in the first place?

There's a straightforward political answer, of course: The White House has been preening all week over how it has neutered al Qaeda, and these documents support that point. They suggest an al Qaeda central frustrated and flummoxed as it tries to control the movement it helped create.

So what?

Al Qaeda central was on the ropes *before* President Obama came into office. Getting bin Laden actually had marginal



impact on the global threat. It didn't make us safer.

Moreover, the letters suggest we still have good reason to be afraid, very afraid. For one thing, they affirm that, from South Asia to North Africa, the landscape is dotted with bloodthirsty, fanatical terrorist groups.

Yes, bin Laden complained that his "brothers" aren't doing enough to attack us. But there's nothing to suggest they won't get around to it.

Some already have. At least three attacks aimed at America can be linked to the late Anwar al-Awlaki, part of the "Foreign Operations Unit" of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, headquartered in Yemen.

Further, these children of Satan are as great a threat to their own communities as they are to us. Bin Laden's letters are laced with complaints that "affiliates" are killing too many Muslims.

He's not upset about it on humanitarian grounds, mind you. He just rues the fact that slaughtering innocents in Islam's backyard has generated bad press for his team.

So, there's much to be alarmed about in the documents. But even scarier is the fact that the government decided to make them public. What was it thinking? We're in the middle of war. Why are we telling the enemy what we know about what the enemy knows?

In releasing these documents and our analysis, we're telegraphing to our enemies how we see them and how we interpret their strengths and weaknesses. Why don't we just invite them to sit in on briefings at the National Counterterrorism Center?

Even if the government sat on the documents for years, even if experts believed they'd mined bin Laden's letters for every ounce of

actionable intelligence, even if they carefully cherry-picked what they sent to the Combating Terrorism Center — there is still the question of why bother to release anything. Did al Qaeda send in a Freedom of Information Act request?

The first rule of intelligence is this: Don't tell the enemy *anything* if you don't have to. It would be like FDR releasing the messages captured by ULTRA, the US-British signals-intelligence program that broke the Nazis' most secret codes.

Rather than giving us cause not to worry about al Qaeda, the government's decision to release these documents raises questions about its commitment and competency to win this war.

On top of the president's speech in Kabul, layered with half-truths about the challenges of his risky course of winding down the US effort too soon, the letter release suggests that Washington is becoming increasingly lackadaisical in its efforts to combat transnational terrorism.

*James Jay Carafano is a national-security expert at The Heritage Foundation.*

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SmallWarsJournal.com

May 4, 2012

**This Week at War**

#### **44. Powerless In Kabul?**

By Robert Haddick

In my *Foreign Policy* column, I discuss the fragile assumptions behind the new Strategic Partnership Agreement with Afghanistan and explain why U.S. policymakers should have a Plan B ready.

President Barack Obama's sudden appearance in Afghanistan on May 1, a calculated attempt to display his administration's foreign-policy expertise and showcase his plan for ending U.S. involvement in that country's war, was

overshadowed by another drama in Beijing, the U.S. Embassy's fumbling of Chinese dissident Chen Guangcheng. The global attention directed on the Chen affair showed that U.S. presidents sometimes have less power than they might presume to dominate the news. Obama and his advisors are similarly assuming that they will have the power to steer Afghanistan toward the slimmed-down objectives that remain for the U.S. campaign there. That assumption may be just as flimsy.

Obama and his advisors believe that a long-term public commitment to Afghanistan, combined with a steady drawdown of U.S. troops, will keep Afghan powerbrokers on their side, convince the Taliban and Pakistan to cooperate, and, perhaps most importantly, show the U.S. public that the troops are on their way home. What remains to be seen is whether Obama and his team will have as much long-term influence over events in the region as they assume they will. There are some reasons to expect that they won't. If that's the case, Afghanistan will remain a burden on the next administration and the U.S. Army for many more years.

While in Afghanistan, Obama and Afghan President Hamid Karzai signed a strategic partnership agreement, which outlines a plan for cooperation through 2024. Although vague and recognizing that future U.S. congresses and policymakers will make their own decisions regarding Afghanistan, the agreement, combined with a commitment of support from NATO at its upcoming summit in Chicago, may influence the calculations of allies and adversaries alike. In addition, U.S. policymakers are haunted by the chaos that descended on Afghanistan after the United

States walked away in 1990 in the wake of the mujahedeen triumph over the Soviet army. Obama and his team apparently assume that if they do the opposite, they will also get an opposite, and more favorable, result.

In his speech at Bagram Air Base, Obama attempted to explain how modest, and therefore feasible, his objectives are for a country so famous at spoiling the designs of outsiders. Obama said, "Our goal is not to build a country in America's image, or to eradicate every vestige of the Taliban. These objectives would require many more years, many more dollars, and most importantly, many more American lives. Our goal is to destroy al Qaeda, and we are on a path to do exactly that." But sustaining this seemingly modest objective within Afghanistan's territory would seem to require a functional Afghan national government over the long term. A strong central government is a somewhat alien concept to Afghan history and U.S. plans based on such an assumption may prove fragile.

The success of the agreement is also entirely dependent on the quality of the relationships between the U.S. and Afghan leaders over the next decade. The recent trend in this regard is not encouraging. Karzai's behavior over the past few years reveals a man whose political survival seems dependent on ever-increasing anti-Americanism. Karzai's replacement, assuming the country can find one not objectionable to its ethnic factions, will very likely face the same internal pressure Karzai feels. The United States has other functioning transactional relationships with leaders from viscerally anti-American societies. But Afghanistan is now a higher

visibility case inside the United States. The U.S. public and Congress, which will be asked to finance substantial assistance to an erratic and avowedly anti-American leader, may find their patience wearing thin in the years ahead. If Afghanistan's central government weakens or becomes too difficult to support, the strategic framework agreement's value will have expired. At that point, the United States will need a backup plan.

Standing up Afghan security forces has proven to be a tremendous challenge for NATO and the U.S. military. The Pentagon's latest semi-annual report on the Afghan army and national police describes both their achievements and ongoing struggles. Although the size of the Afghan army and national police has expanded rapidly (now numbering over 344,000), quality remains uneven and is especially dodgy among the police. Afghan security forces are responsible for leading security operations for half of Afghanistan's population. But armies and police forces require institutional support. Due to corruption and a lack of trained capacity, Afghanistan's government is far from being able to sustain its security forces on its own.

The long-term burden of keeping the Afghan army and police on their feet will fall most heavily on the U.S. Army (the Marine Corps is moving on to the Pacific). The campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan reminded policymakers and planners that a successful exit can happen only as fast as friendly indigenous forces are in place to provide security. Because of its poverty, illiteracy, and ethnic divisions, Afghanistan has been an especially tough mission for the Army's trainers and advisers. The murder of

at least 78 coalition trainers since 2007 by their Afghan students has undermined public support for the campaign. The strategic partnership agreement is recognition that this work will not be complete by the end of 2014, even if the rest of NATO's combat troops are gone by that time. The U.S. Army's obligation to security-force assistance, not only in Afghanistan but elsewhere in the world, will remain large for many years.

At Bagram, Obama once again invited Pakistan to play a positive role in helping Afghanistan achieve stable sovereignty. His plea will again almost certainly fall on deaf ears in Islamabad. As the Pentagon's report mentioned countless times, the existence of Taliban sanctuaries in Pakistan and the support by Pakistani intelligence of groups like the Haqqani network mean there is no foreseeable end to Afghanistan's war. The report notes that violence has declined for several years. But we have no way of knowing whether the Taliban are merely waiting in their sanctuaries for NATO's departure in 2014 before reaccelerating their military operations.

As predicted, the U.S. raid a year ago on Osama bin Laden's compound resulted in the collapse of the U.S.-Pakistan relationship. After a mistaken cross-border clash in November that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers, little remains; Pakistan has closed the NATO supply lines into Afghanistan while the United States has suspended its aid to the Pakistani military. Talks to repair the relationship failed this week.

Leaders in both the Bush and Obama administrations have been fully aware of Pakistan's support for the Taliban and its preference for

a weak Afghanistan. Yet these policymakers have assumed that they could achieve their goals in spite of these facts. The open-ended slog in Afghanistan reveals the flaw in these assumptions.

Obama's plan to withdraw U.S. combat troops by 2014 may be a nod to the intractable nature of both Afghan culture and Pakistan's unflinching obstinacy regarding Afghan sovereignty. If Obama is serious about destroying al Qaeda, the Abbottabad raid showed that U.S. military power will continue to be required. Diplomacy and aid, especially to very dubious partners like Pakistan, will be insufficient and often unwarranted.

Obama and his successors would be wise to double-check their assumptions regarding their relationships with Afghanistan's future leaders, the stability of its national government, and the fragility of its security forces. If any of those assumptions collapses, there won't be much left of the new strategic partnership agreement. If the U.S. government still wants to keep al Qaeda dead, it will then need a whole new plan.

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*In addition to Foreign Policy and Small Wars Journal, Haddick's writing has been published in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Air & Space Power Journal, and other publications. He has appeared in many radio and television interviews.*

Washingtonpost.com  
May 5, 2012

## 45. Obama's Military Connection

By David Maraniss

Before his first speech at an antiwar rally, the one that helped propel him toward the presidency, Barack Obama shifted uneasily in his chair waiting for the program to begin. Something was bugging him. The date was Oct. 2, 2002, when the drums for war in Iraq were growing louder. The scene was Federal Plaza in Chicago's Loop, where a thousand or so people had gathered at noon, some holding placards that proclaimed "War Is Not an Option." On stage with the state senator from Hyde Park were religious leaders, union officials, students and peace activists.

Obama sat near Bettylu Saltzman and Marilyn Katz, key figures in Chicago's liberal network. Katz moderated the rally. Saltzman, in charge of rounding up speakers, had placed the call that brought in Obama, who was already plotting his rise out of Springfield to the U.S. Senate. Whether his appearance at the rally would help or hurt his political fortunes was a topic he and his advisers had discussed intently, but that was not bothering him now. It was the music that was getting to him. One after another came the baby-boom anthems of the



Vietnam era — “Blowin’ in the Wind” and “Where Have All the Flowers Gone?” and “Give Peace a Chance.”

At one point Obama turned to Saltzman and Katz and asked plaintively, “Couldn’t they think of something else to play?”

That moment 10 years ago illuminated more than musical tastes. It offers another way to understand President Obama’s relationship with war and peace and the military. The simple fact that he was there, speaking out against Iraq so early, proved crucial to his support among MoveOn.org and other antiwar groups during the 2008 presidential primary. But his lament about the music, along with the content of his speech (he pointedly said he was not against all wars, just a war in Iraq), offered more predictive insight into his behavior as president. On a personal level, he seems at ease in the presence of soldiers and sailors, more so than he would be in the midst of an antiwar rally; on a policy level he seems increasingly comfortable wielding the powers of a commander in chief.

Obama is the first president to whom Vietnam is ancient history. He carries none of the psychological baggage of that war, for better or worse. Every young man in the baby-boom generation of Bill Clinton and George W. Bush had to deal with Vietnam somehow, but by the time Obama came of age, the war and the draft were over. His liberal mother felt at home in the peace movement, and he took many characteristics from her, but he also chafed at her idealistic naivete, which he viewed as a relic of the ’60s. From an early age he wanted to be harder and cooler than his mother, less Pollyannaish, more pragmatic. His use of the military option in

his foreign policy reflects that dual sensibility. Clinton grew up wanting to be JFK, but Obama thinks more like him.

It was no accident that, during his surprise visit to Afghanistan a few days ago, the president referred to the military men and women there as the new “greatest generation,” skipping over Vietnam again. Obama feels more affinity toward his grandfather’s generation (Stan Dunham fought in Europe during World War II) than to his mother’s, or he at least finds it more culturally appealing. He is an avid viewer of the television show “Mad Men” and told me that some of the characters remind him of his grandparents, with whom he lived as a teenager.

The cultural geography of those formative years also shaped his perspective. Obama was in Honolulu then, surrounded by military installations. Hickam Air Force Base, Schofield Barracks, Fort Shafter, Pearl Harbor Naval Station and Hawaii Marine Corps Base were all part of his adolescent environment. He grew up comfortable with the military culture, not alienated from it. Some friends came from military families. One of his buddies dated an admiral’s daughter, and they would borrow the old man’s car to tool around the island.

Which leads to the least-appreciated aspect of Obama’s connection to the military — race. That buddy was known as a hapa, the Hawaiian term for someone of mixed heritage; like Obama, he had one black parent. Oahu was a diverse and colorful place, a mix of cultures and languages, but fewer than 1 percent of its residents were black, and almost all of those were connected to the military.

In Hawaii as in the rest of the country, the military served

as an important tool of racial advancement, better integrated and offering a more level playing field than any other large institution. Look into the faces of the soldiers who greeted Obama in Afghanistan this month, black and Latino and white, and you can almost feel the visceral connection with a president who has a diverse background. No more “Blowin’ in the Wind.” To get Obama grooving to an antiwar anthem, Marvin Gaye’s “What’s Going On?” would have been a better choice.

*David Maraniss, an associate editor of The Post, is the author of “First in His Class: A Biography of Bill Clinton” and the forthcoming “Barack Obama: The Story.” This is the fourth column in an occasional series on the 2012 presidential candidates’ political lives.*

St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
May 4, 2012

## 46. It's Time To Stop Rationalizing Torture

Given the national obsession with anniversaries, it was neither surprising nor inappropriate to observe with great satisfaction Tuesday’s first anniversary of the daring mission by members of SEAL Team 6 that ended the life of Osama bin Laden.

And given that this is an election year, it was hardly startling to see the considerably less impressive teams of President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney trying to wring whatever political advantage they could from the event.

It was, however, both disappointing and distasteful to witness the return of last year’s revisionist claims that tracking bin Laden to a compound in Pakistan was aided by information

extracted from certain al-Qaida prisoners through torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment — thus affirming the value of such tactics.

The so-called enhanced techniques are criminal under U.S. and international law. They produce false, misleading and counterproductive results and stain the honor of nations that practice them. And the claims for their usefulness are no truer today than they were a year ago.

Last year, the torture enthusiasts included former Vice President Dick Cheney, former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, John Yoo, a former Justice Department attorney who savaged the Constitution to generate legal justifications his bosses sought, and Jose A. Rodriguez Jr., a retired senior CIA official best remembered for escaping prosecution for having ordered the destruction of 92 videotapes of torturous and abusive interrogations.

This year, Mr. Rodriguez has been the most prominent of the rationalizers, perhaps because he just released a book in which he discusses his heroic decision to destroy the tapes despite instructions to the contrary from superiors and at least one court of law.

In a book-tour interview with Lesley Stahl of “60 Minutes,” Mr. Rodriguez claimed — with no specifics — that information tortured out of prisoners had saved American lives. Mr. Rodriguez subsequently repeated his assertion of a year ago that abusive interrogations of two al-Qaida prisoners produced information about an al-Qaida courier that eventually led to bin Laden’s Pakistani compound.

Such fanciful claims were flatly contradicted this week by longtime Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman

Carl Levin, D-Mich., and Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who chairs the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

The senators cited a forthcoming 5,000-page intelligence committee report that reviews the CIA's now-disbanded program of secret prisons and abusive interrogations. "The CIA learned of the existence of the courier, his true name and location through means unrelated to the CIA detention and interrogation program," the senators said. "The CIA detainee who provided the most significant information about the courier provided the information prior to being subjected to coercive interrogation techniques."

The attempt to credit torture and cruel and inhuman treatment for helping lead to bin Laden "is not only inaccurate," the senators said, "it trivializes the work of individuals across multiple U.S. agencies" for nearly a decade that actually made the mission possible.

The abusive tactics initially sanctioned by the Bush administration violated federal criminal statutes, treaties signed by U.S. presidents and ratified by U.S. Senates, to say nothing of standards of human decency developed by civilizations over centuries.

Mr. Bush was right to withdraw authorization for the practices, albeit under pressure. Mr. Obama was right to prohibit them outright. Their use is a sorry chapter of American history, and apologists should stop trying to rewrite it.

At War (NYTimes.com)  
May 4, 2012

## 47. Remembering The Dead: New Names For A Wall That Keeps Growing

By C.J. Chivers

Early this Saturday morning in the Florida Panhandle, in keeping with a schedule set in motion decades ago, a crowd will gather around a memorial for a solemn roll call – the names of a specialized group of American service members, 289 in all, who have died in the line of duty since 1942.

Each name belongs to a community within the military – explosive ordnance disposal, or E.O.D. — that has undergone a public and professional transformation in the last decade, a period when improvised bombs have become the primary weapon against the West and Western troops.

Insider sentiment and casualty statistics align on this point. As the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq exposed a generation of troops to the particular perils associated with makeshift bombs, the E.O.D. techs who specialize in finding and destroying hidden bombs have become among the preeminent and most appreciated specialists in the military. Once seen primarily as support troops, they have become a multiservice corps of experts regarded by fellow service members as shouldering risks to keep others alive, and to keep a fearsome weapon often at bay.

They have paid for this place. The ceremony to be held at Eglin Air Force Base on Saturday, organized by the Navy's E.O.D. school with the help of the nonprofit E.O.D. Memorial Foundation, will mark another annual commemoration of fallen E.O.D. techs, with a emphasis on those killed in the last year.

A message will be obvious as the roll call proceeds. During a year when one long war appeared to be winding down, with the end of American combat operations

in Iraq, and the beginning of the Pentagon's drawdown in Afghanistan, service in the field for E.O.D. techs remained as dangerous as ever. The list of the dead says as much. Of the 289 names that will be read on Saturday, 177 died from 1942 to 2001. In the 11 years since the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, 112 more E.O.D. techs have died – a pace exceeding the rate at which they were killed in prior decades.

And after the unveiling of bronze name plates on the wall Saturday morning, 18 of the names will be new. They form the largest group of American E.O.D. techs ever to die in a 12-month period, the foundation's officials said, making them a stark indicator of the role that E.O.D. has assumed at the front of modern American war.

Even then the list is incomplete, and not just because it does not include the large number of those wounded. Since the list was finalized and the plaques were made for this weekend's event, still more E.O.D. techs have been killed, including a Navy officer, Lt. Christopher E. Mosko, 28, who died on April 26 in Afghanistan, the victim of a hidden improvised bomb.

And so as hundreds of past and present E.O.D. techs and their families gather in Florida this week, others are clustering in grief and remembrance for Lieutenant Mosko, whose remains arrived in Dover Air Force Base in Delaware this week, and who will be buried next week in San Diego.

Lieutenant Mosko died in Ghazni Province when the vehicle he was traveling in struck a bomb. Two other soldiers died with him.

His peers, mentors and friends recalled him as an archetype and a role model, the sort of young officer who always seemed to improve.

As a business and engineering student at Drexel University in Philadelphia, he enrolled at the Naval R.O.T.C. unit at the University of Pennsylvania. He had intended to be a fighter pilot. His direction changed, however, when he met John Ismay, a Navy explosive ordnance disposal officer who took a brief break from security duties at the United Nations to speak to the midshipmen at Penn. Midshipmen Mosko then shifted plans and began competing to be assigned to the explosive ordnance disposal field.

Sean M. Simmons, who was a Navy adviser at the Penn unit, said Midshipman Mosko was drawn to the field and worked intently to be selected. He had been a competitive swimmer, Mr. Simmons said, and soon was training as a triathlete and hoping to be chosen for work alongside Special Forces and SEALs, mixing a calm and methodical intelligence with physical drive. He was commissioned in 2007 and granted his wish. He began his climb in a field that Mr. Simmons said was his match.

"Navy E.O.D. guys are not the chest thumpers that some special ops guys are, because you can't mad dog a piece of ordnance," Mr. Simmons said. "It is a cerebral job, and it appealed to Chris's engineering side."

Lieutenant Mosko proceeded to live a storybook Navy life. He married a fellow member of the Penn R.O.T.C. unit, Amanda Turney Mosko, who was commissioned as an ensign and served a tour as an officer in the Navy nursing corps, until recently being honorably discharged. Lt. Mosko became a scuba supervisor and free-fall parachutist. By last year Lieutenant Mosko and his team



had been assigned to work in the special operations community. Several months ago, after an intensive predeployment work-up, he departed for a tour in Afghanistan, where he ultimately joined a Special Forces team working with Afghan Local Police in Ghazni Province. Among his duties, his friends and peers said, was training Afghans to counter improvised bombs themselves. He was on a patrol when he died, too late to be listed in the ceremony on Saturday.

Dan Tompkins, a former Air Force ordnance officer who is the memorial foundation's president, said Lieutenant Mosko would be added to the wall next year, and his family would be invited to attend the ceremony.

More immediately, he will be remembered in the days ahead in ceremonies in San Diego, where Lieutenant Mosko lived most recently. Lt. Andrew P. Petry, a former classmate of both Moskos, said by telephone from Annapolis that he was passing the hours now thinking about the eulogy he will deliver next week.

Families hold a central place in the E.O.D. Memorial Foundation's ambitions. The foundation flies family members to Florida for the annual ceremony, and underwrites scholarships for the children and the spouses of techs killed on the job. Lieutenant Petry said he was thinking of eulogizing his friend from a similar point of view: that he was not just an officer and a specialist, but a much richer human being, a man who reflected the parents who raised him and the people with whom he chose to share his life and time.

"Chris was dependable, loyal and hard-working," Lieutenant Petry said. But what he kept remembering, was "how

happy he made all the people he was close with."

"I think the best thing he ever did was meet and fall in love with Amanda," he said. "That's what I'm working on as I think about what to say."

Lieutenant Mosko will be buried next Friday at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego. The memorial for the many other fallen E.O.D. techs, including the 18 who have died in the line of duty in the last year, will be held Saturday at 9 a.m. The service members who will be added to wall are listed below:

1. Staff Sgt. Chauncy R. Mays
2. Staff Sgt. Eric S. Trueblood
3. Spc. Christopher G. Stark
4. Staff Sgt. Mark C. Wells
5. Gunnery Sgt. Ralph E. Pate
6. Tech Sgt. Daniel L. Douville
7. Staff Sgt. Joseph J. Hamski
8. Staff Sgt. Michael J. Garcia
9. Staff Sgt. David P. Day
10. Staff Sgt. Kristoffer M. Solesbee
11. Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Dunning
12. Sgt. Daniel J. Patron
13. Staff Sgt. Nicholas A. Sprovtsoff
14. Chief Petty Officer Nicholas H. Null
15. Senior Chief Petty Officer Kraig M. Vickers
16. Petty Officer First Class Chad R. Regelin
17. Airman First Class Matthew R. Seidler
18. Tech Sgt. Matthew S. Schwartz