



## *In the News:*

**General: National Guard is Key in Afghanistan** [*Mideast Stars and Stripes*, June 23, 2009] Gen. Craig McKinley, head of the U.S. National Guard, hears all the time how vital his troops are to the war effort in Afghanistan, along with operations in other countries. The question is how does the Guard conduct its home-state obligations while operating in foreign countries - when does the Guard reach its breaking point?

**Afghanistan's Failing Forces** [*New York Times*, June 23, 2009] The news from Afghanistan is grim. In the first week of June, there were more than 400 attacks, a level not seen since 2001. Until Afghanistan has a functioning army and national police that can hold back insurgents and earn the trust of the Afghan people, there can be no lasting security.

**VA Moves Texas Brain Laboratory After Years Pass Without Testing** [*Washington Post*, June 22, 2009] The Department of Veterans Affairs is moving a laboratory from the University of Texas that was established three years ago to conduct state-of-the-art research into combat-related brain injuries. More than \$3 million was spent but not a single brain-injured veteran has been tested.

**New U.S. Rule: No Fighting Near Afghan Homes** [Associated Press, June 22, 2009] The top U.S. general in Afghanistan will soon formally order U.S. and NATO forces to break away from fights with militants hiding in Afghan houses so the battles do not kill civilians, a U.S. official said Monday.

**Taliban Averts Attacks With U.S. Equipment** [*Washington Times*, June 22, 2009] The Government Accountability Office reports that some Taliban fighters have been able to acquire special infrared patches that tell U.S. combat pilots that they are friends rather than foes.

**Rockets Hit US Base in Afghanistan, 2 Troops Dead** [Associated Press, June 21, 2009] A rare rocket attack on Bagram Air Base, the main U.S. base in Afghanistan early Sunday killed two U.S. troops and wounded six other Americans, including two civilians.

**Al-Qaida Says It Would Use Pakistani Nuclear Weapons** [*Reuters.com*, June 22, 2009] Al-Qaida's leader in Afghanistan said the terrorist group would use Pakistan's nuclear weapons in its fight against the U.S.

**Al-Maliki: U.S. Military Support Needed Only For Troop Movement** [Associated Press, June 17, 2009] Iraq's prime minister says his country will only seek help from the U.S. military to help transport its troops because "we no longer have planes." Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said his country would not exercise an option in an agreement on U.S. troop withdrawals that allows Iraq to seek help from the Americans if violence increases.

**Agents Say DEA is Forcing Them Illegally to Work in Afghanistan** [*McClatchy Newspapers*, June 20, 2009] Some special-agent pilots contend that they're being illegally forced to go to a combat zone, while others who've volunteered say they're not being properly equipped. More than a dozen DEA agents describe a badly managed system in which some pilots have been sent to Afghanistan under duress or as punishment for bucking their superiors. Some agents said they end up buying thousands of dollars of equipment themselves.

**Medical Care For Wartime Contractors 'Horrendous' Lawmakers Bash U.S. Program That Depends On Private Insurers.** (*USA Today*, June 19, 2009) Members of a House subcommittee criticized a federal program for private insurance companies to provide medical care and benefits to civilians injured while working in Iraq and Afghanistan. They exploited the program to reap enormous profits while shortchanging workers.

## **Cost of Wars Since 2001: \$872 Billion**

<http://www.costofwar.com>

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### **Future Actions:**

**Vigil Every Wednesday: 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.:** Join our South Orange rally at Spiotta Park on South Orange Avenue (across from Blockbuster). Show your support for our troops! Bring them home NOW!

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