

British Military Police - A Bunch of Criminals

by Anthony C Heaford

Within three weeks of deploying to Helmand Afghanistan in 2012, I was in a Camp Bastion airfield guard tower providing armed protection to illegal opium harvesting on Afghan government.

Because there were consequences (men died and the mission was lost) to that British command policy of 'tolerating' opium production by our Afghan allies (Mohammed Daoud Noorzai, governor of Washir district in this case), I decided to report it to the British military police (RMP). Here's Major Bob Grant's reply of November 2017:

From: Maj RJ Grant AGC (RMP)

Headquarters Provost Marshal (Army)

Ramillies Building (IDL 431)
Marlborough Lines, Monxton Road
Andover, Hampshire SP11 8HJ



Telephone: Andover Mil (94 [redacted])
Civil: 01264 38 [redacted]
Fax: Andover Mil (94 [redacted])
Civil: 01264 381 [redacted]
DII: [redacted]-Inv-SO2
e-mail: [redacted]-Inv-SO2@mod.uk



Mr A Heaford
[redacted]

24 November 2017

Dear Mr Heaford,

Thank you for your correspondence of recent months.

As agreed the matters you have raised have now been analysed by this Headquarters. While the information you have provided will be held on record, no RMP investigation will be instigated as a result of the matters you have raised. The broad reasoning behind this is as follows: the alleged offender has not been identified; the RMP have no jurisdiction over identified individuals; the allegations do not amount to a service offence or there is insufficient evidence of a service offence. This decision may be reviewed if significant new evidence is received.

While this may come as a disappointment to you, I would assure you that the comments you have made concerning alleged breaches of policy and procedure on H16 will be held on record by the RMP.

I enclose a copy of our victim support leaflet. If you require more information about any of the issues covered in that leaflet you are welcome to telephone or call at your nearest police station.

Additionally please be aware that victim support services are available to you and further information regarding these services can be obtained online.

Yours Sincerely,

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Before signing his correspondence off **"Yours Fucerely"**, Major Bob Grant gave three of the pissiest excuses for not investigating my report of British military complicity in opium production:


1. *'the alleged offender has not been identified'* - **a blatant lie**. The 'alleged' offender was the British Commanding Officer of Camp Bastion - someone even gutter press journalists had been able to identify - British air force Captain Jeff Portlock.
2. *'the RMP have no jurisdiction over identified individuals'* - contradicts Major Bob Grant's previous assertion that *'the alleged offender has not been identified'*. IF Bob couldn't identify the offender, how does he know *'the RMP have no jurisdiction over identified individuals'* ?
3. *"the allegation does not amount to a service offence"* - Major Bob Grant appears to be struggling with the most basic concepts of military law here. If British forces ignore the official mission of poppy eradication and instead irrigate poppy fields with purified water and then guard the opium harvesting and processing, how on God's earth is that not a 'service offence' ?


Bob Grant has since left the army and is now employed by the National Health Service as an Investigations Officer.

But despite to idiocy of his answers I think it was Major Bob Grant's arrogance that meant my pursuit for justice continued. By signing off his letter "Yours Fucerely: Bob exposed himself and the military police to further scrutiny and my report of British military complicity in opium production was escalated to the military police's Provost Marshal - Colonel Scott Meredith.

Colonel Meredith replied to my complaint in January 2018, three months after Bob Grant's pissy effort. Meredith's reply is copied on the next page but I can say here with confidence that Provost Marshal Colonel Scott Meredith is criminally corrupt or possesses the competence of a clown. Meredith simply repeats Bob Grant's pissy excuses.

Bob Grant (He/Him) · 3rd

 Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust

 Federal Law Enforcement Training Centre, Georgia, USA

Proud to continue Public Service as an Investigations Officer within an NHS Trust.


Salisbury, England, United Kingdom · [Contact info](#)

331 connections


[Connect](#) [Message](#) [More](#)

About

Experienced Investigations Specialist with a demonstrated history of working in the law enforcement industry. Skilled in Crisis Management, Law Enforcement, Physical Security, Personal Security, and Risk Assessment. Strong legal professional graduated from Portsmouth University, UK. Has attended international training opportunities inc the Federal Law Enforcemen ...see more



Scott Meredith · 3rd

 King's College London

Ministry of Defence

United Kingdom · [Contact info](#)

209 connections

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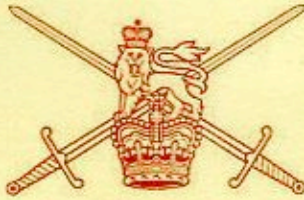
About

A highly skilled and versatile Army & Police Officer with extensive experience of investigative and security issues (people, buildings, assets, information, reputation). With a proven track record in complex roles from the operational to the strategic, routinely solving problems, of a serious and sensitive nature, frequently under the scrutiny of the Judiciary and the Media. Posses ...see more

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From: Colonel Scott Meredith



Provost Marshal (Army)

Headquarters Provost Marshal (Army) and Headquarters 1 Military Police Brigade

Ramillies Building (IDL 431)
Marlborough Lines, Monxton Road
Andover, Hampshire SP11 8HJ

Telephone: Andover Mil

Civil: 01264

Fax:

Andover Mil

Civil: 01264

Email: / @mod.gov.uk



Mr A Heaford

9 January 2018

Dear Mr Heaford

I am writing in response to your correspondences to the Military Police over the past months and in particular wish to address the concerns you raised to the Professional Standards and Review team during November and December 2017. I apologise for the time it has taken to me to get back to you, but it was important that all the material relevant to your case was thoroughly reviewed to allow me to give you a full response. Considerable time has already been invested in seeking to address your concerns and I hope this will bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion; I have looked at each of the eight current matters you have raised in turn.

Your complaint centres on allegations of negligently performing duties (April 2012 and November 2103), Contravention of Standing Orders (April 2012), Misconduct on Operations (April 2012), Failure to make an Official Record (September 2012 and December 2013) and allegations of British Officers involved in production and trafficking of Class A drugs (2012) which you state occurred during the period of your deployment in Afghanistan and upon your return to the UK in 2013.

During any RMP investigation we are required to pursue all reasonable lines of enquiry in relation to offences identified. Having reviewed your allegations, I am of the opinion that there is a lack of substantial evidence to support any of the concerns you have raised nor do some of the allegations amount to a service offence that the Military Police have the jurisdiction to investigate.

I have seen the correspondence provided to you in November 2017, from one of my Staff Officers, Major Bob Grant, in which he states that no RMP investigation will be instigated. I support this response and in addition I have directed that the Professional Standards and Review team are to take no further action.

I understand that this will come as a disappointment to you but I hope my explanation above helps you to understand why this is the case. I can assure you that your correspondence will remain on file if any additional evidence comes to light in the future.

Yours ever
Scott Meredith

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The principle content of Colonel Scott Meredith's reply is:

"Having reviewed your allegations, I am of the opinion that there is a substantial lack of evidence to support any of the concerns you have raised"

To give context to Colonel Meredith's opinion, here's the principle evidence I submitted, analysed satellite images PROVING that the poppy fields besides Camp Bastion were irrigated with water purified inside the NATO main operating base:

Figure 2. Land Under Agriculture, Camp Bastion, Helmand



"The February 2014 image shows water stored inside [Camp Bastion] as well as the [airfield] run-off subsequently used to irrigate poppy along the perimeter wall of the base. The March 2015 image [after British and NATO forces had departed] shows the lack of storage water and run-off and a substantial drop in land under agriculture, including poppy cultivation."

<https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/PW112-Effective-Monitoring-and-Evaluation-in-Conflict-Affected-Environments-Afghanistan-Post-2014.pdf>

These images prove beyond all doubt that the British military were absolutely complicit in opium production but not only in 2012 when I saw it, but also in 2014. The professional analysis goes on to say that by 2015 - when NATO forces had left Camp Bastion and British forces had stopped irrigating the poppy fields - the opium production in that area actually fell.

With such irrefutable evidence from the most reputable of sources submitted to them, how on God's earth did Colonel Scott Meredith come to the conclusion that:

"Having reviewed your allegations, I am of the opinion that there is a substantial lack of evidence to support any of the concerns you have raised"

There's only one answer to that question - it is down to Colonel Scott Meredith's blatant moral and professional corruption.

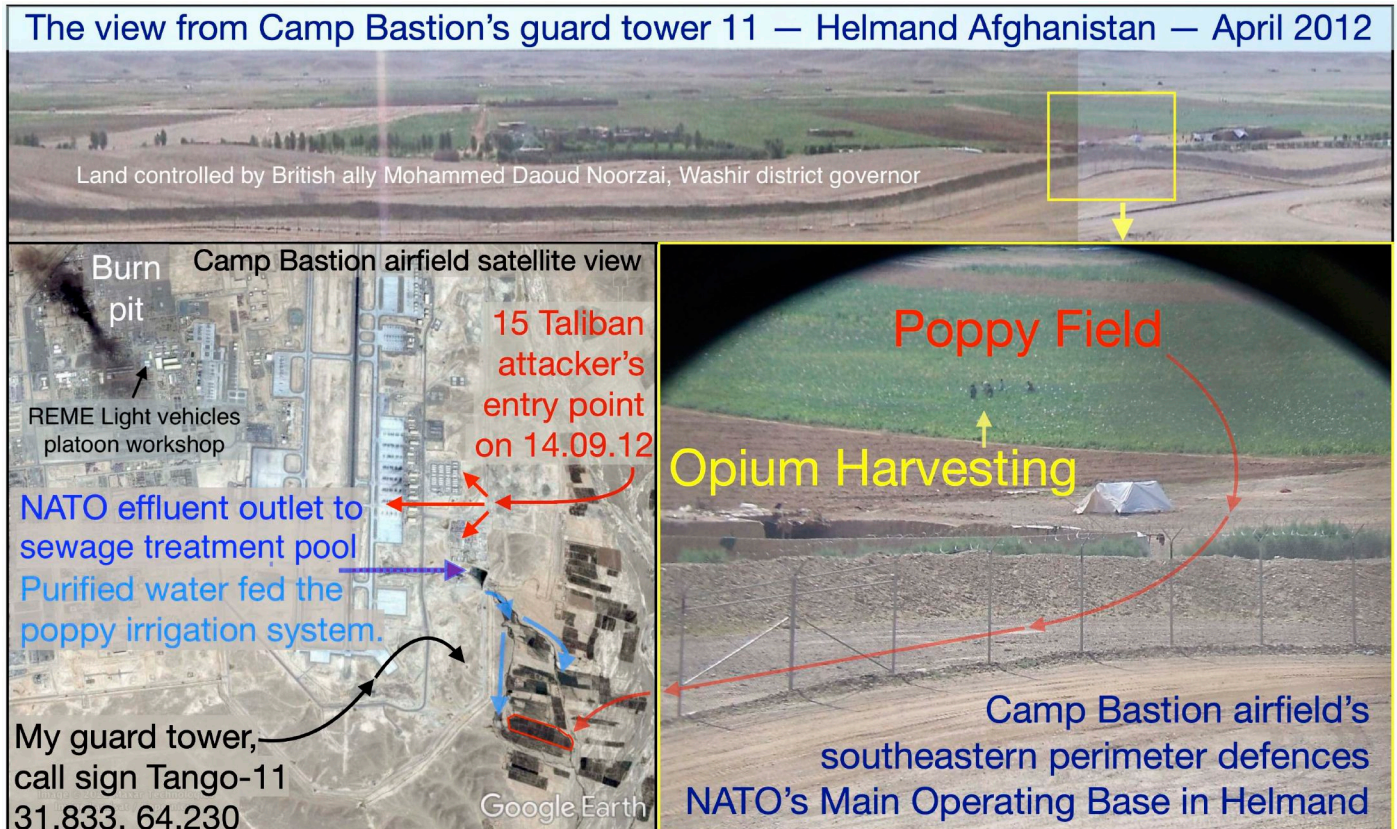
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I took this photo from a Camp Bastion guard tower overlooking the poppy field and opium harvesting and is part of the additional evidence I passed to Major Grant and Colonel Meredith:



This info graphic combines the satellite image and my photograph to show very clearly the situation besides Camp Bastion airfield:



NATO forces protected opium harvesting on Afghan government land in this valley from harassment by Afghan security forces. On the same day 170 British soldiers were sent to destroy poor farmers poppy crops 15-miles south on Operation Shafuq for the BBC to report

Signed: Anthony C Heaford — @mancunianquiet — thequietmancunian.com — British Territorial army 2009-13, s/n 30088729

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Having had this irrefutable evidence rejected by the criminally corrupt Major Bob 'Fucereley' Grant, and by Provost Marshal Colonel Scott 'I don't give a fuck' Meredith, I decided to escalated the matter further. Writing to the then Secretary of State for Defence Gavin Williamson I presented the same evidence and allegations of British military complicity in the production of a Class A drug.

Government minister Gavin William's office relied, backing Major Grant & Colonel Meredith's assertion that:

"deemed the evidence you [me] provided to be insufficient and will therefore not being investigating your claims."



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
Army Headquarters
[REDACTED]
Marlborough Lines
Andover
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ
United Kingdom

Ref: Army Sec/[REDACTED] [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk
Website: www.army.mod.uk

Mr Anthony Heaford



26 March 2018

Dear Mr Heaford

Thank you for your emails of 26 February to the Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP, Secretary of State for Defence, in which you sent your final appeal in relation to the contravening of Standing Orders and the cultivation of opium poppies outside of Camp Bastion. Your emails have been passed to the Army Secretariat and I have been asked to reply.

In my letter of 21 February, I advised that until you provide additional and sufficient evidence to the Royal Military Police (RMP) relating to your allegations, no further action will be taken. I can confirm that I have passed your emails of 26 February to the RMP who have deemed the evidence you provided to be insufficient and will therefore, not being investigating your claims. As such, my letter of 21 February remains extant and there is nothing further I can add.

I hope this explains the situation.

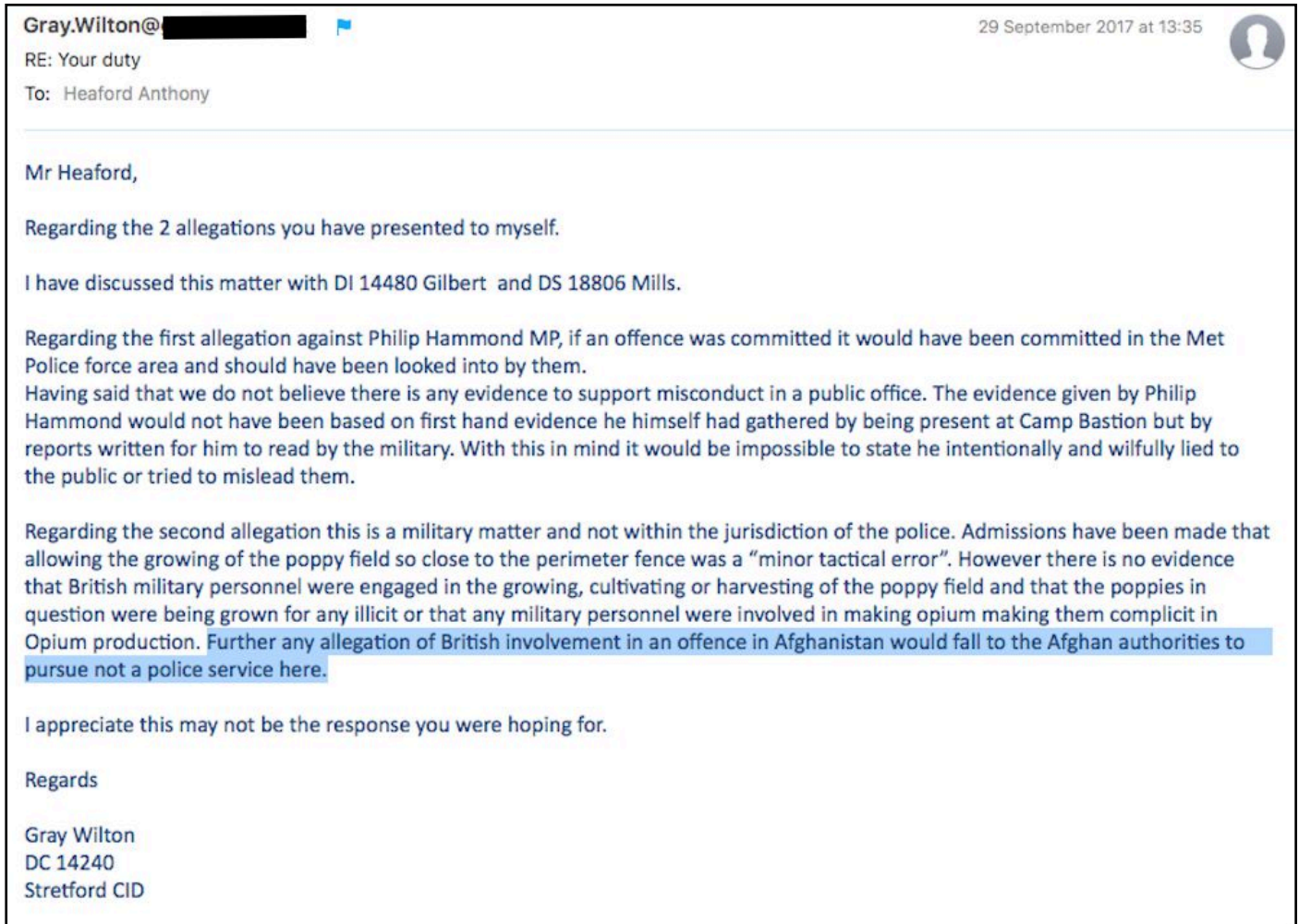
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Army Secretariat.

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Further frustrated by the military police and government minister's refusal to investigate or enforce the laws they impose on us to themselves, I reported the matter to British civilian police. Three Greater Manchester Police detectives collectively reviewed my evidence and allegations of British military complicity in the production of a Class A drug, and then dismissed the charges BY MAKING UP THE LAW. Three detectives put their names to an email that claimed any crime committed by British forces in Afghanistan would be a matter for the Afghan police to investigate.



But the Armed Forces Act of 2006 clearly states that British military personnel are subject to English laws where ever they are serving in the world, a judicial arrangement confirmed in a memorandum of understanding between NATO forces and the Afghan government.

Again hugely frustrated by irrefutable evidence (satellite images showing British complicity in opium production was so big you could see it from space!) being ignored and figures of authority either ignoring the law or actually making the law up to suit themselves, I again escalated the matter.

Corresponding with Chief Constable Dave Gilbride of Greater Manchester Police he told me he didn't think his officers had made up the law. I again showed him the evidence - their email and the Armed Forces Act of 2006 - and Gilbride repeated his assertion saying he didn't think they'd made up the law or done anything wrong.



This is Chief Inspector David Gilbride of Greater Manchester Police

Dave protects corrupt GMP officers by making up the law. He also protects the criminals who sent British & allied soldiers to their deaths in Afghanistan.

Don't be like Dave.

Signed: Anthony C Heaford @mancunianquiet

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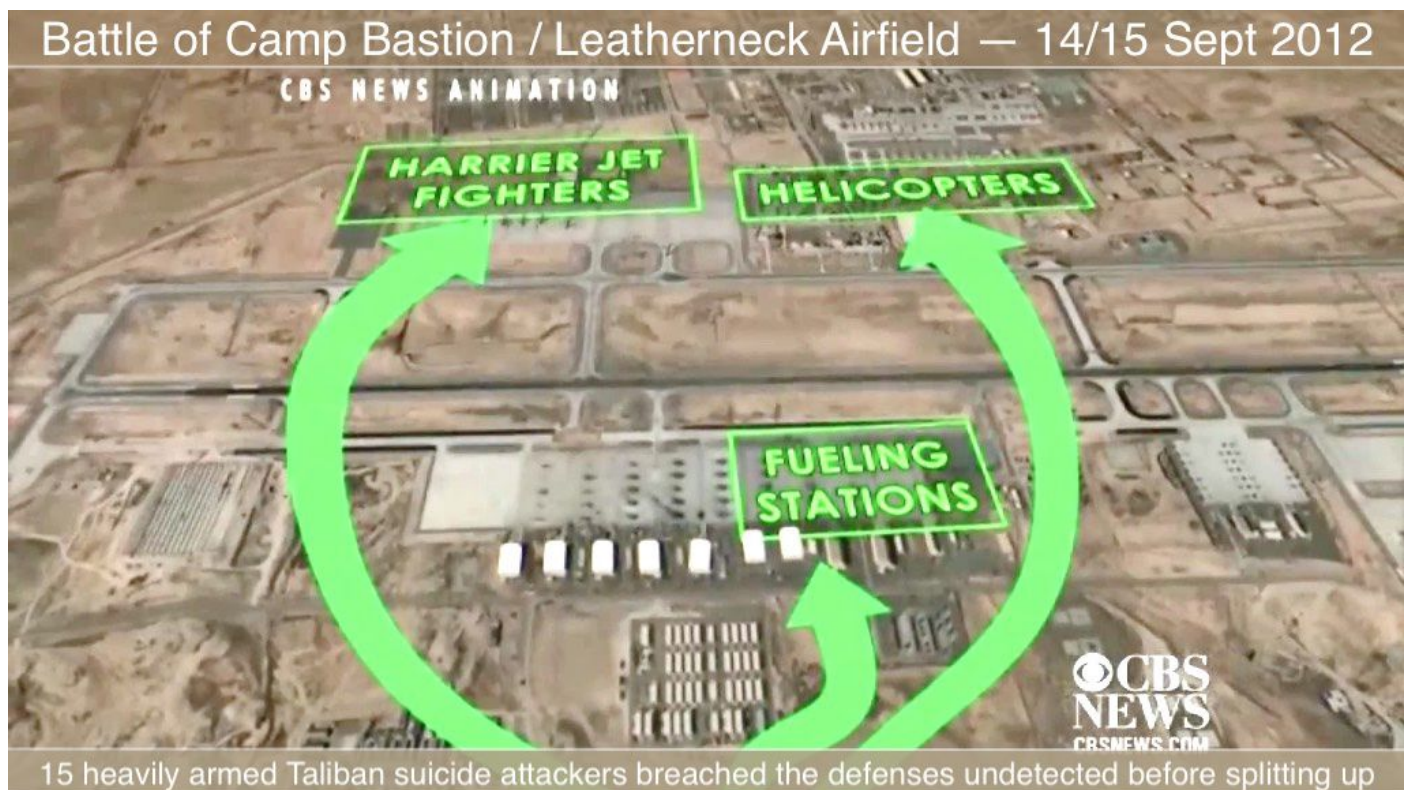
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Justification

Some may ask why I, a former British army reserve mechanic, am so concerned about a poppy field in Afghanistan from ten years ago. I'll admit that I wasn't bothered by the opium production I guarded in Helmand, but I was bothered by the migrant labourers harvesting the opium being so close to the critical main operating base's airfield. In pre-deployment training and literature we were told that many of the migrant labourers harvesting opium were in fact Taliban fighters who'd continue their insurgency as soon as the opium harvest was over.

I was also bothered that 170-British soldiers were sent to destroy poppy fields in Nadi Ali on Operation Shafuq on exactly the same day Guarded opium harvesting besides Camp Bastion. Op Shafuq had failed before it'd began (the Afghan army element had deployed twenty-four hours early, allowing the Taliban to flee before the operation began) and our officers knew about the poppy fields besides Camp Bastion. So what on God's earth were they sending 170-soldiers to walk through IED (Improvised Explosive Device) laced fields for? The answer's simple - to earn themselves medals and promotions. British officers broke the law and risked soldier's lives for no good reason other than to advance their own careers.

But on the 15 September 2012 my being 'bothered' by my commander's criminality escalated to my being absolutely livid. The previous night fifteen heavily armed Taliban WALKED on to Camp Bastion airfield from the from the same fields that'd been producing opium just a few months before. On the 15 September as we walked along the airfield in extended line, checking for and clearing battle debris, I knew two US Marines lay in the morgue. They were killed in action by the attacking Taliban, Taliban who'd had all summer to reconnoiter our airfield due to the British policy of allowing compounds and poppy fields within a hundred metres of our base.



That lax policy of the British command outside the wire was perfectly complimented by their security policy inside the wire. Guards were not punished for falling asleep on guard duty (normally a court marshal offence). Some guards were not issued with night vision equipment on a moonless night. All guards were told throughout that summer 'Don't worry' and 'Mohammed Daoud controls this valley' each time they raised security concerns. Mohammed Daoud [Noorzai] was the Washir district governor on whose land the poppy fields were.

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British command criminality and gross incompetence effectively left a door wide open for the Taliban attackers. Fourteen of the attackers were killed but not before they'd decimated an entire squadron of Harrier Jump Jets on the airfield, causing the US its greatest combat loss of aircraft since the Vietnamese Tet Offensive of 1968.

Despite being killed by enemy action, I hold British commanders accountable for the deaths of Lieutenant Colonel Chris Raible and Sergeant Brad Atwell during the Taliban's airfield raid. It was British command criminality and gross incompetence that allowed the attack to be prepared so well and to succeed so completely. [More details on the Battle of Camp Bastion are linked here.](#)

The Battle of Camp Bastion Helmand, Afghanistan

By Anthony C Heaford

Last updated December 2021

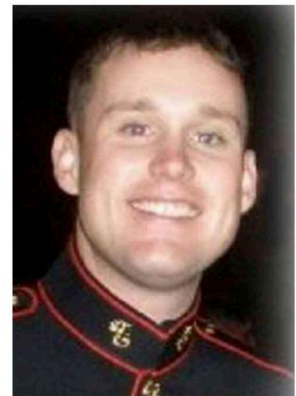
The Taliban's devastatingly successful attack on Camp Bastion's airfield on 14/15 September 2012 was a low point in British and United States military history, and amongst many contenders was one of the lowest points of the entire Afghan campaign for the NATO coalition. The Taliban's surprise attack resulted in the US Air Force's biggest combat loss of aircraft since the Vietnamese Tet Offensive of 1968 and the deaths of two US Marines, Lieutenant Colonel Raible and Sergeant Atwell.



Camp Bastion Airfield Damage



Lt Col Chris Raible



Sgt Brad Atwell

Conclusion

British military officer's criminality lost us the mission in Afghanistan, caused the unnecessary deaths of our closest allies and risked the lives of all for no good reason whatsoever.

There's no accountability within the British establishment - the officers involved were promoted, given honorific titles and plumb jobs within NATO.

I will continue to seek accountability and expose the criminality of the British Establishment till my dying breath if that's what it takes to how these clowns to account.

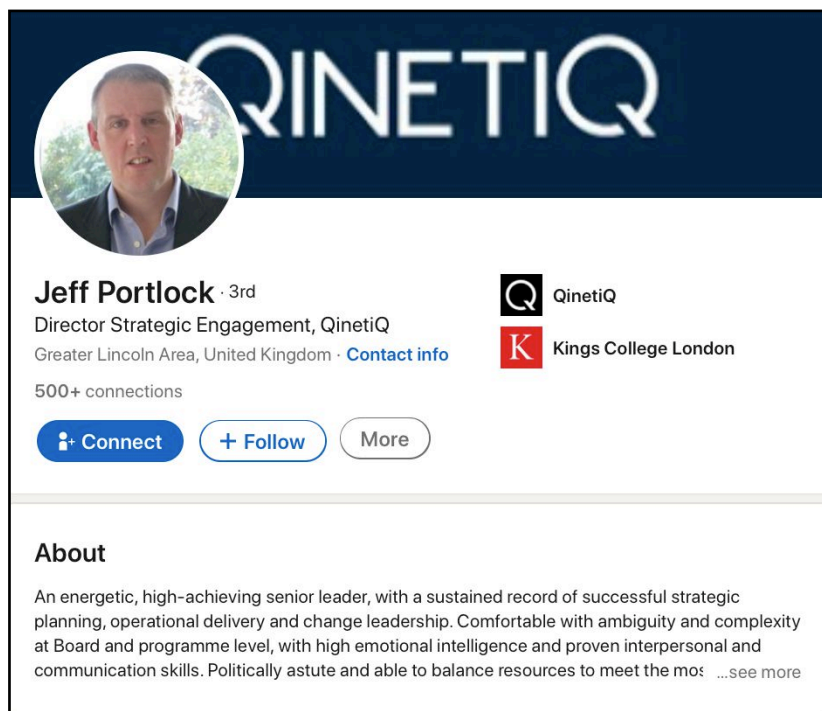
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Summary

Charge 1:

That the Commanding Officer of Camp Bastion - Group Captain Jeff Portlock - was concerned in the production and trafficking of a class A drug:



Fact 1: In April 2012 British forces under Group Captain Jeff Portlock's command allowed opium harvesting to occur on Afghan government land 200-metres from camp Bastion fence. Evidence: my photo & his admission.

Fact 2: During a subsequent US investigation Major General Sturdevant of the US Command stated:

"We literally had poppy growing right up against the perimeter fence. That was another thing that Maj. Gen. Gurganus tried to take action on, but he wasn't able to accomplish that. It was because the Afghans had to do it. We weren't allowed to. The biggest external threat to the base came from there"

Major General Sturdevant was subsequently forced to retire for his perceived failings (he trusted the British to secure a chain link fence)



Fact 3: British General Capewell was the Chief of Joint Operations on 14th September 2012, the night of the airfield raid. When giving evidence to the British inquiry on 17th December 2013 he stated:

"I think it was a minor tactical error to allow that poppy field to grow"



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Fact 4: This satellite image of camp bastion airfield shows that opium production besides the base continued unhindered into Spring 2014 and on in to 2015. Most significantly the accompanying text describes how these poppy fields were irrigated from **INSIDE** camp Bastion, and that once the British left camp Bastion the acreage of poppy fields in the valley reduced very significantly.

Figure 2. Land Under Agriculture, Camp Bastion, Helmand



Changes in the amount of land under agriculture (and poppy cultivation) following the close of Camp Bastion/Leatherneck. The February 2014 image shows water stored inside the base as well as the run-off subsequently used to irrigate poppy along the perimeter wall of the base. The March 2015 image shows the lack of storage water and run-off and a substantial drop in land under agriculture, including poppy cultivation.

USIP.ORG

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(satellite image courtesy of the US Institute for Peace: <https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/PW112-Effective-Monitoring-and-Evaluation-in-Conflict-Affected-Environments-Afghanistan-Post-2014.pdf>)

FACTS:

Fact 1: In 2012 British forces irrigated poppy fields besides camp Bastion and did not stop the opium harvesting, processing or subsequent trafficking

Fact 2: The US commander acknowledged fact 1, saying: "*The biggest external threat to the base came from there*"

Fact 3: The British commander acknowledged fact 1, saying: "*I think it was a minor tactical error*"

Fact 4: In spite of the above facts, British forces continued to irrigate poppy fields besides camp Bastion fence. By irrigating the poppies British forces were actively concerned in the production of a class A drug - an offence under British law carrying a maximum life sentence.