

**From:** RHYS, James RHYSJ@parliament.uk  
**Subject:** FW: Camp Bastion Attack 2012 Report  
**Date:** 14 November 2014 at 13:23  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Defence Committee DEFCOM@parliament.uk



Dear Mr Heaford

Thank you for your further email and please accept my apologies for failing to reply sooner. Your email was considered by the Committee who noted its contents with considerable interest.

The particular points that you make certainly contribute to the picture of shortcomings in perimeter security at Camp Bastion that emerges from the US report that the Committee considered during the course of this inquiry.

As you will have noted from our report, the Committee asked the MoD to provide it with a copy of the report on the incident prepared by Lt Gen Bradshaw in his capacity as Deputy Commander ISAF, and was told that this paper was the property of ISAF and not for MoD to release. This is a matter that the Committee is pursuing further.

I would like to thank you for submitting this information to us. We have not treated this as formal evidence to the Committee and do not intend to publish it.

Yours sincerely,

James Rhys  
Clerk of the Committee

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**From:** Defence Committee  
**Sent:** 14 November 2014 11:51  
**To:** RHYS, James  
**Subject:** FW: Camp Bastion Attack 2012 Report

Dear James

This is the second email we have had from Mr Heaford. The other is logged as no. 151 in the Log under Committee Correspondence. I would have attached it but it won't let me remotely.

Carolyn

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**From:** Anthony C Heaford [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])]  
**Sent:** 13 November 2014 20:06  
**To:** Defence Committee  
**Subject:** Fwd: Camp Bastion Attack 2012 Report

Mr James Rhys

Whilst i hope it has already been brought to your attention i realised i had not copied the email below to the Defence Committee, a point i'm now rectifying. I am also attaching a link to the report referred to.

I also realise the pertinence of my comments to current news reports of record opium harvests in Afghanistan and hope i can contact you early next week to discuss any actions the Committee may take in response to my claims.

So you are aware my ultimate aim is to bring my claims to the public's attention, but without exposing myself to undue publicity, and certainly not prosecution.

Please also be aware i am currently under considerable stress as a consequence my service, and am receiving counselling for what i have been told is a 'moral injury'. I hope you will take this into consideration in any actions you may pursue.

Anthony Heaford



<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmdfence/830/830.pdf>

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Anthony C Heaford <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Camp Bastion Attack Report  
**Date:** 16 October 2014 08:44:11 BST  
**Cc:** "ROBINSON, Lindsey" <[robinsonl@parliament.uk](mailto:robinsonl@parliament.uk)>  
**To:** [james.arbuthnot.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:james.arbuthnot.mp@parliament.uk),  
[sandra.osborne.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:sandra.osborne.mp@parliament.uk),  
[penny.mordaunt.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:penny.mordaunt.mp@parliament.uk),  
[thomas.docherty.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:thomas.docherty.mp@parliament.uk),  
[john.woodcock.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:john.woodcock.mp@parliament.uk), [derek.twigg.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:derek.twigg.mp@parliament.uk),  
[stuartg@parliament.uk](mailto:stuartg@parliament.uk), [bob.stewart.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:bob.stewart.mp@parliament.uk),  
[susan.hislop@parliament.uk](mailto:susan.hislop@parliament.uk), [moonm@parliament.uk](mailto:moonm@parliament.uk),  
[hollowaya@parliament.uk](mailto:hollowaya@parliament.uk), [toomeyd@parliament.uk](mailto:toomeyd@parliament.uk),  
[jamesgraymp@parliament.uk](mailto:jamesgraymp@parliament.uk), [jeffrey.donaldson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:jeffrey.donaldson.mp@parliament.uk),  
[canterbury@tory.org](mailto:canterbury@tory.org)

Sirs, Madams,

I am writing with concerns relating to your report into the attack on Camp Bastion of 14th September 2012.

I was serving as a British army vehicle mechanic in Afghanistan

from April to October 2012 and carried out many (c.15 24hour duties) Bastion perimeter guard duties, manning Tower 11.

During these duties i believe i was required to provide an overwatch to opium harvesting on Bastion perimeter, having been briefed that the ANA & ANP were 'harassing' the compound adjacent to a poppy field c.400m from my guard tower. We were instructed that if we saw any ANSF vehicles approaching the compound we should report it by radio to the guard commander. During this particular duty the tower was visited by 2 senior officers (including the battalion 2nd in command i think). During a brief chat with these officers i pointed out what i thought to be a poppy field c.400m from Bastion fence, and the 4 or 5 Afghans harvesting opium at that moment. The officers refused to acknowledge this and then made a speedy exit from the guard tower.

Other concerns i had regarding the perimeter security was the lax attitude of some soldiers - i once found 2 fellow soldiers who were supposed to be on guard, sitting on the floor of the observation tower watching a movie on a laptop. I did not report this as previous experience had shown the chain of command to be corrupt, and i felt reporting it would only exasperate the bullying i was already enduring without addressing the problem. There was also an apparent tolerance to weapons (2 AK47s & a single shot rifle) with 'dubious certificates' been stored in the compound previously mentioned. This compound had a 'loop hole' cut into the wall directly facing my guard tower and with only 400m separating us it was a matter of great concern to me. I am also under the impression that the Tongan guard towers where the breach took place were not equipped with night vision equipment - if this is the case then i would compare their role as been similar to chocolate fire guards. If correct, i personally would consider this lack of essential equipment to be the single greatest contributory factor in the success of the attack.

I would be very happy to expand on all points raised. My motivation is a belief that the mission i was part of was corrupt, duplicitous and profiteering, and i believe the public should be made aware of what is been done in their name. I also wish to pay my respects to Lieutenant Colonel Raible and Sergeant Atwell who were both killed in action during the attack, by ensuring that all facts are considered when judging the US Marine Corps & our culpability. And finally i wish to address the injustices we practiced in Afghanistan - whilst i was providing an overwatch & protection to opium harvesting on Bastion perimeter, other Afghan farmer's poppy fields in neighbouring valleys were been destroyed, as reported by an embedded BBC journalist, on the radio programme 'From Our Own Correspondent' that same month.

For your information I am also pursuing other concerns & complaints including been subjected to institutionalised bullying - for example been punished and humiliated on parade for refusing an order to throw stones at Afghan children (c. 8 to 14 years old). This was a 'standard operating procedure' within my platoon for top cover personnel when on Combat Logistic Patrols. I acted as top cover on five separate patrols during my tour.

I have previously tried to raise these concerns and believe that my MP Mr Graham Brady, Mr Mark Francois MP and Brigadier Fritzgerald have been aware of these and other claims since November 2013, but to date I have been very disappointed with the reaction and inaction. Two US Generals were forced to retire over the Bastion attack whilst our military appears to have absolved itself of all blame.

Please also be aware that due in part to my negative experiences in the British Army, and specifically in Afghanistan, I am suffering considerable stress, frustration and depression and I hope you will take this into consideration should you wish to investigate my claims.

Anthony Heaford

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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