By Ahwisati Brocks, Our Military Correspondent



American analysis of last year's Taliban attack on Camp Bastion has revealed that the British 'screwed up'.

"In fact, they 'royally' screwed up", said General John Wayne. "They provided a safe house for Prince Harry (who slept through it all), but were too wee, too poor and too stupid to build a fence round the base, or even make sure that the watch towers were manned."

BBC Scotlandshire can exclusively (because we read it elsewhere, but hope that you haven't) reveal that the US are laying the blame, for their largest loss of aircraft since the Vietnam War, on the UK.

The incompetence of both Britain's Ministry of Defence and the British commanders of Camp Bastion, who were responsible for securing both the British and American bases there, are highlighted in the US report.

At the time, <u>reports to the gullible British public</u> said that "Rockets and mortar were fired from outside, damaging buildings and aircraft. As well as the deaths, a number have been reported wounded [but that] Bastion had not been breached."

It now transpires that 15 Taliban fighters dressed in American uniforms simply walked past an unmanned watch tower and on to the airfield at Camp Bastion, where they opened fire with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades. When the assault was quelled more than five hours later two US Marines lay dead, a further 16 soldiers were injured and eight American aircraft worth more than \$200m had been either destroyed or damaged.

In response to the report, an MoD spokesman said that it would be looking into the US report's conclusions. However, in an off the record briefing to me over a few pink gins he revealed that their staff had simply been too overwhelmed with work to consider the request to build a fence.

"As civil servants, our main responsibility is to the policy of the Government of the day - though it's been many years since the policies have been different, regardless of which party is in power.", he eventually slurred. "The most important thing is to keep the British independent nuclear deterrent (though that's a laugh since it's none of those), but it allows UK Ministers to pretend that they are still important and keep their seat on the Security Council. If that means squaddies don't get the equipment they need, well soldiers are expected to die for Queen and Country - and if we don't have to pay the pensions for the dead and wounded, that's even better.



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