

STATEMENT  
OF  
MG GARY S. PATTON  
DIRECTOR  
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, HOMELAND DEFENSE, AND  
FOREIGN OPERATIONS  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

Chairman Chaffetz, Ranking Member Tierney, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for inviting me and providing me with the opportunity to testify about my role with respect to the National Military Hospital during my deployment to Afghanistan with the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTMA) from December 2009 to May 2011.

I would like to begin by first stating that it was my honor and privilege to serve our nation in Afghanistan for those 18 months, just as it has been an honor and privilege for each and every day of the past 33 years of my military service, which includes 45 months in combat and tours of duty overseas in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Korea.

For the first six months of my assignment at NTMA, from December 2009 to May 2010, I served as NTM-A's Deputy Commander for Programs, and was responsible for the oversight of Afghan Security Force Funds for the training and equipping of the Afghan National Army and Police. For the subsequent 12 months, from May 2010 to May 2011, I served as the NTM-A Deputy Commander for Army and was responsible for overseeing the development of the Afghan National Army (ANA) and advising the Afghan Ministry of Defense. The scope of this mission demanded oversight across several major systems and sets of infrastructure, such as the national training system and the national headquarters.

This mission occurred at a time during Operation Enduring Freedom when the success of the NTM-A mission in manning, training, and equipping a professional and capable ANA, Police Force and Air Force was essential to the coalition's success. It was a challenging period of time in Afghanistan, marked by a persistent enemy, and countered by an Afghan Security Force that was undergoing unprecedented growth in terms of quantity, quality and capability, yet still plagued by leader shortages and high levels of attrition and illiteracy. NTM-A's objective was to build and develop an Afghan Security Force capable of enduring with reduced or minimal NATO or US support in 2014 and beyond.

I have been invited here today to address the management of and medical care provided by the Dawood National Military Hospital (NMH) in Kabul. The problems associated with the NMH were highly complex ones, complicated by elements of Afghan corruption, failed Afghan leadership, and hospital staff apathy -- worsened by the inherent problems of national illiteracy and the historic inadequacy of Afghan health care -- and finally, burdened by the consistent flow of wartime casualties.

NTM-A devoted considerable time and energy to improving the medical care and management of NMH, along with accomplishing our other continuing significant tasks of manning, building, training, developing, and equipping the ANA while at war. We took very seriously our role as advisors to drive positive change at this hospital, through

active, persistent and firm engagement with our Afghan partners. It was important from the outset that this be a partnered effort, because in our experiences working with other Afghan systems, although a coalition solution to a problem would usually yield an immediate fix, only a partnered or Afghan-led solution would produce an enduring result.

In closing, I would like to say that I am proud of the accomplishments of NTM-A and the service members of NTM-A with whom I served during my deployment to Afghanistan. I appreciate the opportunity to be here today and I look forward to your questions.

GARY S. PATTON

Major General, U.S. Army

---

**Major General Gary S. Patton**  
**Director**  
**DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office**



Major General Gary Patton is the Director of the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO). SAPRO is the Department of Defense's single point of accountability and oversight for sexual assault policy matters and reports to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. SAPRO develops policy and programs that address the Department's sexual assault prevention, accountability, victim assistance, and assessment efforts.

Prior to coming to SAPRO, Major General Patton was the Principal Director, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy. He was responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Department's repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. He also assisted and advised on recruiting, retention, compensation, travel, and human resource management for the 1.4 million active duty military members of the U.S. Armed Services.

Major General Patton's career spans more than 33 years of service as an infantry officer, including command at multiple levels and 45 months of combat duty in Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM. His career highlights include: Commander, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Korea, later Fort Carson, CO, and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, Iraq; Chief of Staff, 25th Infantry Division (Light), Schofield Barracks, HI and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, Iraq; Commander, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC; and Director for Manpower and Personnel, the Joint Staff, Washington, DC. He also served as the Deputy Commander for Programs, Combined Security Transition Command, and Deputy Commander for Army, NATO Training Mission, Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, Afghanistan, with responsibility for training, manning, and equipping the Afghan National Army.

A 1979 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor of Science Degree, Major General Patton also holds a Master of Science Degree in Journalism from the University of Kansas and a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Purple Heart, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 7 Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Ranger Tab.

Major General Patton is married with three children, and resides in Burke, VA.