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Mali Could Become the New Afghanistan, Only Worse

By [*Dave Dilegge*](#)

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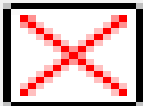
[Mali Could Become the New Afghanistan, Only Worse](#) by Jason Thomas (long-time SWJ friend) at The Punch.

France's military intervention into its former North African colony of Mali, dubbed Operation Serval, could become another Afghanistan if France and other European Union members are lured into a long campaign of counterinsurgency based on nation building, instead of one that remains focused on airstrikes and ground operations by Special Forces trained in unconventional warfare.

As the Dutch Foreign Minister said, "...there is not one European country that can hide if this threat would present itself to the European continent."

Unless Western, social egalitarian countries like France are prepared to implement the kind of counterinsurgency tactics carried out by the infamous Selous Scouts in former Rhodesia, then these ferociously well-armed, highly mobile faith driven Jihadists will blend back into the harsh north African terrain only to terrorise the next weak State...

About the Author



[Dave Dilegge](#)

Dave Dilegge is a retired USMCR Intelligence and Counterintelligence / HUMINT officer. He is also a former USMC civilian intelligence analyst and worked several years in the private sector. He served with the 1st Marine Division during Operation Desert Storm. In 1999 he was the recipient of the National Military Intelligence Association's Colonel Donald G. Cook Award for his work in supporting USMC and DoD urban operations analysis, wargaming and experimentation. He is currently a Director at the Small Wars Foundation and is Editor-in-Chief of *Small Wars Journal*. He is also a volunteer tutor at the Largo (FL) Public Library where he teaches English as a second language. His son David is an Infantry Sergeant currently serving in the Army's 1st Infantry Division (Mechanized).

Available online at : <http://smallwarsjournal.com/blog/mali-could-become-the-new-afghanistan-only-worse>

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{1} <http://smallwarsjournal.com/author/dave-dilegge>

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