

Afghan Cash

---Starring---

Paul Mehoff – Recipient of 30% of 12.7 million US Dollars
Capt Mike Couture aka Capt. Luke McConnell – US Marines, Afghanistan

---Guest Appearances by---

Colonel Hugh Jorgen - The U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM)
Barney Rubble – FBI Headquarters, Washington DC
Detective Sergeant Lou Nattic - Manchester Police, England

This scammer says he is a Captain in the US Army stationed in Afghanistan and when he was involved in a rescue operation with some other soldiers they came across some barrels containing weapon and cash hinting that they belonged to terrorists. His share comes to 12.7 million dollars and he wants to give me 30% of this if I help him get it out.

Normal Text - Scammers e-mails

Green Text - My e-mails

Bold Text - Comments made by me

The first scam-mail...

From: Mike Couture <mike.couture4@gmail.com>
To:
Subject: ANTICIPATING YOUR URGENT RESPONSE.
Date: 30 July 2012 21:19

Hello ,

With trust, I faithfully contact you. I know this letter will definitely come to you as a huge Surprise, but I implore you to take the time to go through it carefully as the decision you make will go a long way to determine my future and my business prospect.

I am Capt. Luke McConnell, II Marine Expeditionary of Multinational Division Center base in Kabul, Afghanistan of the NATO Marine Force on Monitoring and Peace keeping mission in Afghanistan.

Based on the United States legislative and executive decision to withdraw some troops from Afghanistan, I am desperately in need of your assistance and I have summoned up courage to open up to you. I am presently in Afghanistan, and I am seeking your assistance to help me secure the sum of \$12,700,000.00 (Twelve million Seven Hundred Thousand US dollars) to Europe or a safe location, as far as I can be assured that it will be safe until I complete my service here in a couple of weeks. There are no dangers involved.

Clarity on the root of this money.

Some money in various currencies was discovered and concealed in barrels with piles of weapons and ammunition at a location near one of TERRORIST CAMP in Aria in the north of the city of Kabul during a rescue operation and it was agreed by all party present that the money be shared amongst. This might appear as an illegal thing to do but I tell you what, No compensation can make up for the risks we have taken with our lives in this hell hole.

The above figure was given to me as my share and to conceal this kind of money became a problem for me as a soldier, so with the help of a British contact working with the RED CROSS here there office enjoys some [immunity] I was able to get the package out to a safe location and secured stored entirely out of trouble spot. No one knows the real contents of the package as it is believed that it belongs to an American who died in bomb blast, and before giving up trusted me to hand over the package to his family .

I have 100% authentic means of transferring the money through diplomatic courier Service. I just need your acceptance and trust. I will give you the complete details you will need for us to implement this transaction successfully. I decided to contact someone I could trust and real and not imaginary, so I can be sure of a safe transaction.

I need to get the package out before I live the base, This and other reasons put into consideration have prompted me to reach out for help. If it might be of interest to you then Endeavor to contact me and we would work out the necessary formalities but I pray that you are discreet about this mutually benefiting relationship.

In less than 4 days the box should be in your possession, and I will come for my money immediately am done. I will give you 30% of the money and 70% for me. I hope I have been fair to this deal. Get back to me with your full information.

Your full name

Your full address

Your direct phone number

Am waiting for your reply so we can proceed.
Respectfully Yours

Capt. Luke McConnell

I reply using my Paul Mehoff account...

From: Paul Mehoff <paulmehoff@gmail.com>
To: Captain Luke McConnell <mike.couture4@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: ANTICIPATING YOUR URGENT RESPONSE
Date: 31 July 2012 21:06

Dear Captain McConnell,

I received your proposal today about helping you to secure the sum of \$12,700,000 which you offered to share with me if I help you, but how do I know that you are serious about this and not wasting my time? If this really is a genuine proposal then I would be interested.

I must make it clear though that I would NOT be interested in ANY of the WEAPONS or AMMUNITION that you say was concealed with the money. If your purpose is to try and transfer weapons to me for you to collect later then forget it and don't contact me again as I don't want to get involved in gun running ok?

Before I make a decision of whether to proceed or not I would like to see more proof of what you have told me, some photographic evidence would be a start. I don't know you so I hope you understand? If you are who you say you are and can demonstrate to me that this is a genuine offer then I would be interested.

I await your speedy response.

Yours.

Paul Mehoff

From: Mike Couture <mike.couture4@gmail.com>
To: Paul Mehoff <paulmehoff@gmail.com>
Subject: I hope this email reaches you well
Date: 01 August 2012 13:07

Dear Paul Mehoff

How are you today? I hope that this mail meets you well. This is for real and I can arrange a smooth and safe delivery process. I am very real and willing to do good business with you. I have plans to invest most of this money in real estate and I will be honored to work with you if you are honest and straight with me. I will be happy if we can work together. As far as I am concerned, this deal is for mutual benefit and absolutely risk free for you. I must re-assure you that we will achieve this deal in a matter of days, if we work with honesty and sincerity.

There is no risk for you in this deal as long as you assure me strict confidentiality and dedication to the course. The deal involves a lot of money in cash and I am working with a strong diplomatic contact to ensure that the consignment is delivered safely. Apart from using your help to move the cash, I will also need your help to identify good investments.

When I made this money, it was too much cash to be seen with me as a soldier, so I decided to seal the money in a box and registered it as Medical Materials. No one knows the true content of the box. The box is in a security vault of a company in Europe.

If we agree to work together, I will like to confirm that the box has been deposited in your custody before my departure next month. I must ensure that this box is moved because I deposited the box under the cover of my office here and this means that, if I am not here, I will not have the power to approve who claims the box. You and I can handle this deal 100% and I can assure you that there will be no risk for you in this deal. I need your urgent help and I will compensate you very well for this help.

There is a lot of money involved so I am working with the best contact. If you work with me in honesty, we will achieve a great goal together. Know that this will be our first business together and I will appreciate it if you work with me in the same spirit. There is a lot that you can do for me after this deal.

However, you must observe strict secrecy for security reasons. No one knows the content of the box is cash, so you must protect this information at all cost. Please keep this information between you and I alone. ==I wonder why he doesn't want me to tell anyone?== The consignment is registered as MEDICAL MATERIALS and you must not forget this.

Your information will be required to properly introduce you to the company:

- Surname :
- First Name :
- Middle Name :
- Address :
- City :
- State :
- Zip :
- Country :
- Phone :
- Fax :
- Mobile :
- Email :
- Age
- Marital Status
- Occupation and Position
- Scanned copy of your id

This deal is for real and you will not regret your involvement. This deal is very important and will change our lives forever. Once I hear from you, I will introduce you to the company and also give you the contact of the company so that you can open communication. I have attached a copy of my ID to this email just to ensure that we can work together in absolute trust, there is also a picture of the box before it was sealed and moved to Europe.

Get back to me.
Best regards

Mike

An obvious fake ID. The photo that he used is of General David Petraeus, the Director of the CIA. He Just air brushed some hair and a beard in.



Below is the picture he used and an enlarged photo taken off the scammers ID for comparison... Not a bad identity change, if he had spent a bit more time changing the background a little I wouldn't of found it.

I could probably use this later in the game and ask him, “Why if he’s a captain called Mike Coutue, is wearing a Generals insignia and his name badge says Petraeus”?



He called himself Luke McConnell in his first e-mail and now he is saying that he’s called Mike Couture. A lot of times scammers can’t remember which name they have used. I think that I will bring this to his attention and see what he has to say.

From: Paul Mehoff <paulmehoff@gmail.com>
To: Mike Couture <mike.couture4@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Cash Box
Date: 01 August 2012 21:22

Dear Sir,

I am confused. First I get an e-mail from your account (Mike Couture) from a Capt. Luke McConnell. I reply back telling him that I'm interested then you reply with further details. Who am I dealing with here, you or Captain McConnell? You asked me to keep these details confidential but it seems like your whole bloody regiment knows about this.

How am I to take you serious in this very delicate matter if you are so blasé about this contract? I only deal with professional people, so if you are serious and want me to come in with you then I need to see some professionalism from you. I thought that the United States Military was the finest? It seems like you can't even organise a piss-up in a brewery.

Please let me know if you still want to proceed, but before I do I would want you to demonstrate to me that you are professional enough to see this through and you're not a dick-head.

I await your e-mail in trepidational cautiousness.

Regards,

Paul Mehoff

Well I underestimated this scammer as his reply surprised me, his answer was semi-plausible... that he used a false name to contact me first as he "Didn't know what my reaction would be".

He seems to be a smarter than average scammer as he's thinking on his feet. Not that smart though because he used his "supposedly real" account to send an e-mail using a false name. I will have to tread carefully here all the same.

From: Mike Couture <mike.couture4@gmail.com>
To: Paul Mehoff <paulmehoff@gmail.com>
Subject: The name is Mike
Date: 02 August 2012 00:20

Dear Paul,

You observation is very correct. The mix up is deliberate and I do not want you to misunderstand it at all. The internet is vulnerable and as an intelligence officer, I take certain precaution very necessary. When I was sending that email to you, I had no assurance what your reaction will be so I have to put on the name Luke. I sent you my ID card after reading your email. I decide to come open with you since you had agreed to work with me. **Yeah Yeah**

This deal involves a lot of money and we must tread with extreme caution. I am very straight with you and if you can share the same with me, we will have so much to achieve together. Your concern is well noted and I can assure you that you truly have nothing to bother about.

We can proceed my friend all you need to do is give me the information as requested in my last email.

I will anticipate our swift response.

Mike

I send him a serious type of e-mail without my normal style of taking the piss until I've had a few more e-mails from him as I suspect that this scammer is probably a cut above the rest and I don't want to spook him.

From: Paul Mehoff <paulmehoff@gmail.com>
To: Mike Couture <mike.couture4@gmail.com>
Subject: Business Transaction
Date: 03 August 2012 22:16

Dear Mike,

I'm sorry that I took so long to get back to you as I've been busy at work.

You are a very smart person saying your name was Luke when you first wrote to me. I can now see that you have the necessary skills and intelligence to work with me and I feel that we will be able to continue this business transaction together if you still want to proceed?

I'm sorry for doubting you, but you must understand that I have come across lots of idiots in my life but I can see that you are NOT stupid. Don't get me wrong, the only reason I'm doing this is to make money. I don't really know you and I don't really care about you, but HEY! If it makes you some money too then we are both happy.

Before I commit myself fully you must answer some questions to satisfy me.

1. Do you require me to come out and retrieve the cash, and if so where will the cash be?
2. Is there any risk to me, financially or physically?
3. Is this cash stolen?
4. How do I get your share of the cash to you once I retrieve it?

Don't worry, I will keep this business affair just between me and you and I ask you to do the same, the less people that know about this the better.

Please find the details that you asked me for below. I am having problems with my scanner at the moment but as soon as I sort it out I will send you a scan of my ID.

Regards,

Paul

Surname: Mehoff
First Name: Paul
Middle Name: Anthony
Address: 69 Letsby Ave
City: Standrington
State: Manchester
Zip: M20 5LF
Country: United Kingdom
Phone: 0161-496-3941
Fax: 0161-496-4882
Mobile: 07700 917328
Email: paulmehoff@gmail.com
Age: 52
Marital Status: Divorced
Occupation: Pharmaceuticals
Position: Senior Buyer

I didn't have time to rustle up a fake ID so I made an excuse for not sending it to give me time to create one. Hopefully he will forget about it though.

He puts some effort into answering my questions.

From: Mike Couture <mike.couture4@gmail.com>
To: Paul Mehoff <paulmehoff@gmail.com>
Subject: Answers....
Date: 04 August 2012 21:51

Dear Paul,

Thank you so much for your email and compliments. I am very happy to work with you. I find honesty in your mail and I can assure you that I will work with you in absolute honesty. It is OK for you to entertain doubts considering that we do not know each other. You can be sure that we will have a smooth deal and build a dependable relationship after this project. I am happy to answer to all your concerns. Fine answer below each question.

1. Do you require me to come out and retrieve the cash, and if so where will the cash be?

Yes, I require you to retrieve the consignment from the company where it is deposited. I will officially introduce you to the company as the beneficiary to the consignment, once this is done, I will give you the contact of the company so that you can open communication with them directly and arrange whether to meet them in Switzerland to retrieve the consignment or to have them deliver it to you in Manchester. The consignment is deposited with a security vault in Switzerland as Medical materials. I will give you the information of the agent in charge so that you can arrange the rest.

2. Is there any risk to me, financially or physically?

This deal has been planned to protect you and I 100% from any breach of law. No one knows that the box contains cash as it is registered as medical materials. there is no physical or financial risk for you or for me. The box will be delivered under a highly classified diplomatic arrangement but you will have to handle all expenses as regards the diplomatic handling and delivery charges from Switzerland to the UK. There is 100% insurance for all expenses incurred on your end. The box is protected with a combination code and it is deposited as a diplomatic luggage to ensure that it is not tampered. I will send your information to company introducing you as the beneficiary, once I get response from them, I will give you the information you need to open contact with them and arrange for immediate delivery/handover.

3. Is this cash stolen?

No. The cash is not stolen and I can assure you that you do not have to worry about this at all. The fund were discovered during an operation,(refer to my first email) and it was split amongst the soldiers involved. All is protected and this is one of the reasons why we must maintain absolute secrecy.

4. How do I get your share of the cash to you once I retrieve it?

I plan to meet you in the UK after the delivery. I hope to be there before the end of this month. Once the box is delivered to you, I will give you the code to unlock the consignment and confirm the content. After confirmation, I will expect that you will find a safe location to keep the money as cash. Considering the amount involved, it will not be a very good idea to consider bank lodgement until we meet and split, then we can individually decide how to proceed with our share. I will forward your information to the company today as stated below and I will await the copy of your ID when you sort out the issue with your scanner.

Mehoff Paul Anthony

69 Letsby Ave, Standrington, Manchester, M20 5LF, United Kingdom.

Phone : 0161-496-3941, Fax : 0161-496-4882, Mobile : 07700 917328

Email : paulmehoff@gmail.com

If we work together as a team, we should be able to finish this deal in next week. Thank you so much for your help and be sure that you will not regret. God bless you my friend and keep your fingers crossed.

Best regards

Mike

His English and grammar is a little better than your average scammer, this one probably went to school for a couple of months. He also mentioned the ID that I didn't send so I suppose I'll have to make a start on getting one done.

A couple of minutes later he sends me another e-mail. He's tried to phone me and couldn't get through because I gave him a load of fake numbers. He also copied in his last e-mail so I didn't include that.

From: Mike Couture <mike.couture4@gmail.com>

To: Paul Mehoff <paulmehoff@gmail.com>

Subject: reconfirm number

Date: 04 August 2012 21:55

I have tried to reach you on the provided number but could not connect with the UK dial code. How can I reach the provided number? ==**You can't you bozo**==

Get back to me so that we can talk more.

Regards

Mike

From: Paul Mehoff <paulmehoff@gmail.com>

To: Mike Couture <mike.couture4@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Reconfirm Number

Date: 04 August 2012 23:45

Hello Mike,

Thank you for answering my questions my friend, I'm sure that we can work together on this.

Regarding not being able to get through on the telephone - Are you using the correct country dialling code, and which number are you trying to call?

Regards,
Paul

From: Mike Couture <mike.couture4@gmail.com>
To: Paul Mehoff <paulmehoff@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Reconfirm Number
Date: 05 August 2012 02:31

This is the information I have. I have tried calling all numbers but it is always not connecting.
0161-496-3941,Fax : 0161-496-4882,Mobile : 07700 917328

What is the country code?

Let me know so that I can call you. The code I used was +44

From: Paul Mehoff <paulmehoff@gmail.com>
To: Mike Couture <mike.couture4@gmail.com>
Subject: It's taking too long
Date: 05 August 2012 19:04

Hi Mike,

How are you my friend? Sorry to hear that you're having problems contacting me on the phone, I don't know why that is. I checked on-line for the UK country code and it is indeed +44 so you are using the correct country code.

It might be better if you give me your telephone number in Afghanistan and I will contact you?

Maybe it's best if we just contact each other via e-mail until we can speak on the phone as this is taking too long and I want to get it wrapped up as soon as possible as I have to fly to Italy in a couple of weeks on company business. I think that you want the same, so as soon as we can get things moving the sooner we will get the money. That's what we both want isn't it?

Hope to hear from you soon partner.

Paul

I mentioned that I looked up the country code, I didn't... I already knew it. I said it so that he knows I CAN look it up, so hopefully he won't take me up on the offer for me to phone him in Afghanistan because obviously that's not where he is.

But he DOES send a US contact number

From: Mike Couture <mike.couture4@gmail.com>
To: Paul Mehoff <paulmehoff@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: It's taking too long
Date: 06 August 2012 07:45

Call me on +1-209-208-0711

This is a USA number but it reaches me here.

Please call me urgently as we need to proceed immediately.

I wait

The number is registered to someone in Copperopolis, CA. I will have to think about how to play this one.

I decided to go for the threatening approach

From: Paul Mehoff <paulmehoff@gmail.com>
To: Mike Couture <mike.couture4@gmail.com>
Subject: Cannot get in touch
Date: 07 August 2012 20:46

Hi Mike,

I have tried that number you gave me a few times and can't get through. A woman answered once.

What's going on Mike? I'm getting a bit pissed off with this now and I think things should be moving instead of messing about trying to phone each other, I'm a busy man.

If you can't handle it then forget it and find someone else. I only deal with professional people who can do what they say they can ok?

Let me know if you want to proceed and what you want me to do.... Simple?

Paul

And he writes back with the same tactic

From: Mike Couture <mike.couture4@gmail.com>

To: Paul Mehoff <paulmehoff@gmail.com>
Subject: There is no need for the voice communication...
Date: 08 August 2012 11:07

The deal is already on the move. The phone number is very important because the diplomat delivery agent will also need to communicate with you as regards delivery arrangements.

You see why we must speak?

There is no way a woman can take my call. I am not even with my family so there is no way a woman can take my calls.

You can either give me a correct number or call me on the provided number.

This scambait doesn't seem to be going anywhere so I think it's time to ask him some questions and see what he has to say before I bring out my aces, as he doesn't know that I have found out about where he got his ID picture from

From: Paul Mehoff <paulmehoff@gmail.com>
To: Mike Couture <mike.couture4@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Communication
Date: 08 August 2012 22:56

Hi Mike,

I agree, we should move quickly and I'll try to contact you soon.

One question I must ask, are you sure that you are a Captain called Couture?

Regards,

Paul

From: Mike Couture <mike.couture4@gmail.com>
To: Paul Mehoff <paulmehoff@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: communication
Date: 09 August 2012 18:06

Yes Sir. I am

Well he said that his name is Couture and he's a captain, time to put the evidence before him and see what he has to say about why he's wearing a Generals insignia and his name badge says Petraeus

From: Paul Mehoff <paulmehoff@gmail.com>
To: Mike Couture <mike.couture4@gmail.com>
Subject: I'm confused

Date: 08 August 2012 21:37

Hello Mike,

I'm confused about what you have been telling me. You have assured me that you are a Captain in the US Marines and your name is Couture. Can you explain to me why you are wearing a Generals insignia and the name badge says Petraeus?
I await your early reply.

Paul

I know that he's smarter than the average scammer, but let's see how he riddles out of this one. I've only played one of my aces... Three to go

Well it's been three days since my last e-mail to him and he's not replied, I think he's given up after what I told him. This isn't going anywhere so I'll send one last e-mail hoping to put the shits up him, or at least just to let him know what I know.

From: Paul Mehoff <paulmehoff@gmail.com>
To: Mike Couture <mike.couture4@gmail.com>
Subject: I'm confused
Date: 11 August 2012 23:42

Hello,

You never replied to my last e-mail, I wonder why?

Well, it seems that you have been a naughty boy. You have upset the US, as their military don't take kindly to someone making fake I.D. cards and impersonating their brave soldiers, especially the ones serving in Afghanistan.

I'm very surprised that they are taking this case so seriously. It seems that they are very angry and they are coming to get you. They will be knocking on your door very soon, why don't you give them a call on one of the numbers, I'm sure that they would like to speak with you. It would be better than them coming to you in the middle of the night.

By the way, I'm not called Paul Mehoff, I am Detective Sergeant Lou Nattic of The Greater Manchester Police. If you want to contact me then you can contact me at:

Det Sgt Lou Nattic
Bootle Street
Manchester
M2 5GU

Telephone: 0161-856-03129

This is a REAL number

The U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM)

ATTN: IASI-SMIO-PAO
8825 Beulah Street
Fort Belvoir, VA
22060-5246

Phone: (DSN) 328-
COM:(703) 428-4965

To: Det Sgt Nattic - GMP

FORT BELVOIR, Va. August 7, 2012 -- Special agents from the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command received a case of Internet scams and of impersonation fraud –

INSCOM has taken up this case to deal with this and other growing issues; the personnel committing these scams are utilizing email addresses on "gmail, yahoo, etc., routing accounts through numerous locations around the world, and utilizing pay-per-hour Internet cyber cafes.

These scams are outright theft and fraud and are a grave misrepresentation of the U.S. Army and the tremendous amount of support programs and mechanisms that exist for Soldiers today, especially those serving overseas.

In view of recent terrorist activities we are taking the forgery of this military ID very serious and using all our resources we will trace the perpetrator of this crime as we see this as an attack on The US.

I have enlisted the help of The FBI and passed all your evidence to them. They have vastly superior means to investigate this and then we will go and get them. I have also asked Detective Inspector John Morse from The Special Branch in The UK to contact you and liaise with you.

Below is the information Agent Rubble sent and am sending you what they found when they got the fake ID back from the lab.

Colonel Hugh Jorgen

To: Colonel Jorgen – INSCOM

The file has been received and is being processed as a matter of urgency as you requested. To update you so far:-

- 1) Enhanced photo (see attachment)
- 2) The phone number has been traced to Copperopolis, CA. - Still awaiting phone providers to furnish further details and phone logs.

3) Awaiting email service provider (Google) to come back to us regarding server routing of messages and logs. Initial reports are that they are confident of a hit.

We have also been doing background checks and processing data thru the NRTSU computer.

Barney Rubble

Contact FBI Headquarters

FBI Headquarters
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001
(202) 324-3000



I sent him the photo that I'd done. I just took the picture from the fake ID he sent and edited in part of it from the original one I found on the internet.

Of course all the things that I said about The FBI, INSCOM and Greater Manchester Police are a load of crap and I'm not a policeman. The address and telephone number I gave is a real one for The A Division in Manchester. It would be great if he called them asking for Sergeant Lou Nattic.

The numbers for the FBI and INSCOM are genuine too. But I doubt very much that he will call them asking to speak to Hugh Jorgen or Barney Rubble... Be nice if he did though.

I never got a reply from him again.

---The End---
