

'They stayed a little back, a little off the front lines'

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It's sad that this has turned out to be the first message in this BAFF news area. All the reactions we've heard to the US Commander-in-Chief's recent comments have been fairly unanimous.

Quite a few UK Afghan veterans have been referring not only to our own country's contribution, our thousands injured, our 457 dead - but also to other contingents, such as Denmark (43 killed, probably the highest national loss rate in proportion to population), and Canada (158 killed).

There were hundreds more casualties across the coalition, including 41 dead from another Commonwealth partner - Australia - and another Australian who was killed serving with UK forces.

It does seem significant that British veterans have been mentioning allies in this context. It means they thought of as allies those they fought alongside, whether as junior partners to the Americans, or side by side with others such as the robust, resilient Danes.

BAFF doesn't comment on national strategic issues or international relations, but veteran and serving members will have their views.

Posted by BAFF Admin.