

Video game lets you play as Taliban, kill US troops

Cape Coral - A new video game is letting teens pretend they're Taliban fighters. The goal: to hunt down and kill as many American soldiers as possible."

"It's unpatriotic, totally unpatriotic," said Cmdr. Dave Doty, with the American Legion Post 351 and a Vietnam veteran. "We have guys dying over there and girls dying over there every day. It's stupid."

The new ["Medal of Honor"](#) game centers around the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

Most of the time you're playing as an American soldier taking out the Taliban. But in the game's multi-player mode, players can choose to be Taliban fighters - taking aim at U.S. and coalition troops.

The popular Medal of Honor video game series has in the past given players the chance to relive famous World War II-era battles. Their next installment, due out Oct. 12, is already causing controversy - particularly among veterans groups.

"Whoever invented this game," said Doty, "ought to sell it to the Taliban not to the United States."

In one scene from the game a Taliban fighter holding a sniper rifle is seen shooting and killing U.S. troops in the mountains of Afghanistan. The game has plenty of explosions, gunfire and blood.

But not everyone is slamming the game. Juan Benitez describes himself as a "gamer" and objects to all the criticism.

"It's just a video game," said Benitez. "I understand we're at war but it's just a video game."

The game will carry a mature rating and won't be sold to anyone under the age of 17. Still, some say on a weekend when seven U.S. troops were killed in Afghanistan for real - the ability to play as a Taliban fighter goes too far.

"You shouldn't play as the Taliban killing American soldiers," said Evan Morris. "I think it's disrespectful."

"My son he won't be getting the game put it that way," said Donna Bonsanto, after walking out of a video game store.

D.J. Hoyt manages a video game store in Cape Coral. He says there's no difference between a game like this one and other ones that let you play as Nazi's.

"This is a video game," said Hoyt. "No one's actually dying. No one is actually a member of the Taliban just because they play this game."

"And if people can't look past a video game and distinguish that from reality," he said. "They shouldn't be playing games anyway."

[Medal of Honor website](#)

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