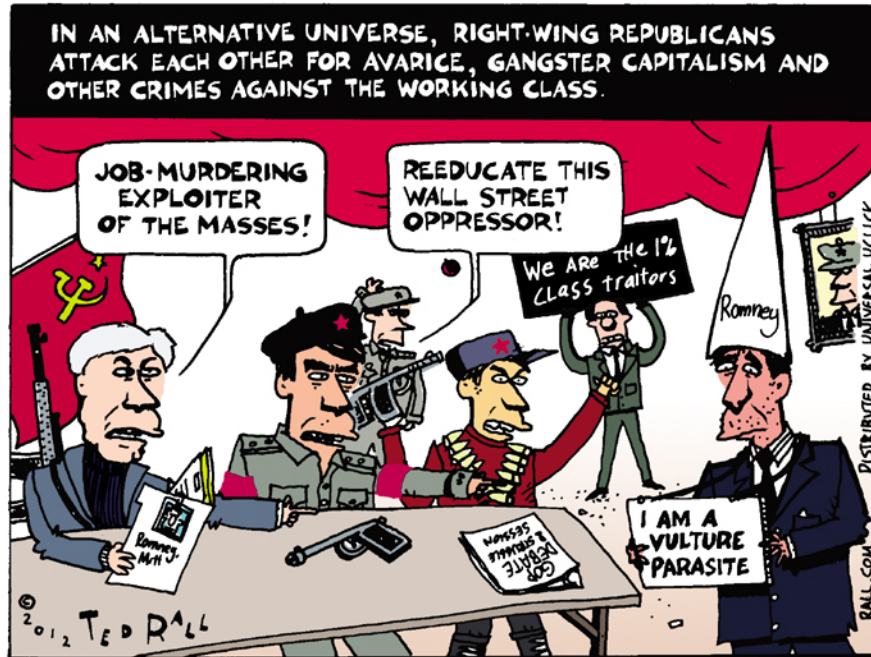


Military Resistance 10A15



12 Years

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: January 14, 2012
Subject: 12 Years

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade;
United Auto Workers GM Retiree

Suzanne and Beckie are waiting at the airport because it is Rick's last tour and although his last emails were short and mixed up and he didn't want to show his face everything was odd from his other tours But then there he is as he walks down the stairs from the plane back in the world with his uniform. Then they run to Rick Suzanne hugging him and kissing him while Beckie holds onto his leg but it is Suzanne who lifts Beckie to his arms, he holds her and kisses her and gives her back to

Suzanne. It isn't until they are back in their truck that she sees his heavy dark camouflage green eyes before he puts on sunglasses and his fingers twitching around the steering wheel. Rick doesn't talk much and just nods as he drives into a gun shop's black grey white lined parking lot. She asks why I'll tell you later. The gun shop dealer is an overweight man with grey hair with a smile on his face. Just get back he asks Rick nods yes. Then Rick asks for a new M-16 and the dealer says \$400, then Rick asks about the ammo, a 1000 rounds for \$200. I'll take 2000 as he throws \$850 cash on the counter top. The dealer tells Rick he has to run a background check on him and it would take a little time. Rick says he needs the gun and ammo now and the dealer grins and tells him just for you Son, I'll do a little fancy paperwork to show I never had that M-16 or the ammo. Rick says that's more like it. It's a cash deal as Rick puts the gun and ammo behinds the seat of his truck. Rick brought the guts of an M-16 so it would fire on full automatic 18 rounds in 1.2 seconds. Suzanne asks Why and Rick replies, Baby can't you see, everything out there is Hostile. When he gets home, he moves all the furniture against the window and by the doors to make a makeshift bunker and he never leaves but patrols the windows and doors with his M-16. The police say he isn't doing anything wrong and when Suzanne goes to the VA Doctors and cries and screams her madness story, finally one Doctor stops by and sees Rick has sandbags around the walls windows and by the doors and tries to coax Rick to a hospital, but Rick says they are Hostile too and outside the Doctor tells Suzanne he will put him on a 100% disability for mental illness but when she cries with big pink tears, he tells her that is the best he can do and probably Rick will tire of this and we can get him to the hospital. Years go by and Suzanne and Beckie stay with him. When Beckie is 16, a friend of Ricks from the past gives Beckie a brand new harmonica to give to her Dad. Rick is a natural and begins to play the blues. One day his wife comes home from work Rick is jumpy but in a happy way. Suzanne puts down the groceries and sits on a brown chair by the window. Rick plays some down home blues and rips into "I Want To Be Free From the Enemy" he sings in a husky voice that knows

suffering. Later when Beckie comes home he plays her the song that he wrote. The next day Beckie brings home the friend who gave Rick his harmonica, he has a 12 string guitar hanging from his shoulder and tells Rick I hear you wrote a song, his name is Tom and when Rick starts playing, Tom now catches the drift and starts playing his guitar. From that time, Rick would call Tom and tell him he has another song and Tom would come over and get into it. After 5 songs, Tom says there is a bookstore with a open mic where the locals read their poems writings and musicians sing their songs every Wednesday. How about I pick you up at 6, Rick says you know all of these are some dirty ugly nasty about how messed up war is. Tom says yes, more people should listen to them. Rick was between Hostility and Creativity at 6 when Tom knocks on the door and Rick opens it with an M-16 in one hand and a Harmonica in the other. His wife and daughter stand behind him with serious faces. Tom's look is alarming. Then Rick hands his M-16 to his wife and the ammo clips to his daughter and walks through the biggest door of his life.

Shock Writing by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly.

Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars and economic injustice, inside the armed services and at home.

Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

Military Resistance Available In PDF Format

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: contact@militaryproject.org

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Alaska Soldier Killed In Zabul



Pfc. Dustin Paul Napier was killed in the city of Qalat in Afghanistan's Zabul province.
Army via AP

Jan 10, 2012 Army Times

An Alaska-based soldier was killed in Afghanistan, the Defense Department announced Tuesday.

Pfc. Dustin P. Napier, 20, of London, Ky., died Sunday in Zabul province, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained from enemy small-arms fire.

He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

Two Aussie Soldiers Wounded In Uruzgan

14/01/2012 MELISSA SINGER, Fairfax New Zealand Limited

Two Australian soldiers in Afghanistan have been wounded when their vehicle was hit with an explosion.

The explosion occurred during a troop transfer in Uruzgan province on Friday, a Defence statement issued yesterday said.

The soldiers suffered minor wounds and were evacuated to a medical facility in Tarin Kot, where they are in a satisfactory condition.

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

Resistance Action: Chief Of Panjwayi District Killed

Jan 12, 2012 By SLOBODAN LEKIC, Associated Press

A car bomber in the southern province of Kandahar rammed into the vehicle of the chief of Panjwayi district, killing the official, his two sons and two bodyguards, provincial spokesman Zalmay Ayubi said.

Fazluddin Agha is the latest in a long string of government officials assassinated by militants trying to undermine the U.S.-backed Afghan government. The explosion occurred on a road between Panjwayi district and Kandahar city.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

In The American War Against The Taliban, On Whose Side Are The Afghan Police?

**“They Allowed The Enemy To Go
By And Ran Away From The
Target”**

**“They’ve Given Insurgents Money,
Food And Even Rides In Afghan
Police Cars”**

**“Policemen Are Also Suspected Of
Selling Their U.S.-Provided Weapons To
The Taliban”**

Triumphant Afghan policemen proceeded to seize motorcycles from the house, strapping them to their Humvees.

“Those bikes don’t go anywhere!” Maj. Gagnon yelled, worried about looting. The Afghans said they needed to dust them for fingerprints.

“Well...OK,” Maj. Gagnon reluctantly agreed. He sounded unsure.

JANUARY 11, 2012 By MARIA ABI-HABIB, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

JANI KHEL, Afghanistan

In the American war against the Taliban, on whose side are the Afghan police?

For many U.S. soldiers serving in the insurgent heartland, the answer is: both.

“They smile to our face when we’re here, giving them money and building them buildings,” says U.S. Army Capt. Cory Brown, a provost marshal officer helping to oversee Afghan security forces here in volatile Paktika province.

“But they’ve given insurgents money, food and even rides in Afghan police cars.”

Worse, he says, some policemen are also suspected of selling their U.S.-provided weapons to the Taliban.

That is especially important here in Paktika, which borders Pakistan’s tribal area of Waziristan, a base for the Taliban, their allies in the Haqqani network and al Qaeda.

American officers say this proximity to a reservoir of insurgent fighters means that the U.S. won’t be able to kill its way to victory here.

Waziristan “is filled with thousands upon thousands of people who would fight the coalition,” says U.S. Army Col. Edward Bohnemann, commander of the 172nd Brigade, which is responsible for Paktika.

Col. Bohnemann has his work cut out for him.

Much of the Paktika population despises the police force here, whose members are largely drawn from ethnic Tajiks from the north who don’t speak the local language, and from a rival Pashtun tribe from a neighboring province, U.S. and Afghan officers say.

Some police here, even if they aren’t actively aiding the Taliban, engage in the kind of behavior that can fuel support for the insurgents.

Policemen have repeatedly erected illegal checkpoints to extort money from the population, the military officials say.

In October, after coming under fire, police torched part of a village bazaar and beat local males. A U.S. military official called the incident “apocalyptic.”

When Lt. Col. Curtis Taylor, a battalion commander in the 172nd Brigade, met with Afghan army battalion commander Maj. Abdul Ghafar to plan a recent mission here, the police were a top concern.

“The only problem and issues I see are with the police,” Maj. Ghafar said over tea. “The last time, they allowed the enemy to go by and ran away from the target.”

Advised Col. Taylor: “Keep them close to you. Keep them very close to you.”

That night, soldiers from Col. Taylor’s battalion set out to support Maj. Ghafar’s operation to reclaim a village overrun with insurgents.

Company commander Capt. Sam Rosenberg brought rice for Afghan forces to distribute in the village, to win over local support. “We better make sure that rice doesn’t stay here,” said Maj. Robert Gagnon, the American transition adviser to the Afghan battalion, pointing to the Afghan base.

The police commander was briefed at the last moment, to minimize leaks.

In previous operations, U.S. troops had stormed villages to find no men there.

As the mission began, Capt. Rosenberg’s radio cackled.

Circling above, two Apache attack helicopters spotted armed men running from the village. “Move, move, move,” Capt. Rosenberg yelled, as his soldiers raced through fields and lurched in and out of five-foot ravines. The choppers, spotting two men on a motorbike, got clearance to engage and fired about 120 rounds.

One mangled body lay next to a bullet-pierced motorcycle and pools of blood. Another insurgent lay about 800 yards away, gunned down as he ran toward two houses.

“These men, they aren’t from here. They are slaves of Pakistan,” a resident of a nearby house told the Americans. His eyes shifted nervously.

The Americans searched the bodies, finding six mobile phones, a notebook with insurgent contact numbers, grenades, two AK-47s, a map with coordinates and a pink hairbrush.

Within an hour, pickup trucks crammed with Afghan policemen hanging off rolled up. The cops yelped in joy, kicked the bullet-ridden motorcycle and took photos of the bodies with their phones, in violation of protocol.

It turned out the dead insurgents weren’t strangers, after all.

The Apaches had killed Abdul Bari, the local Taliban commander and village resident.

His young brother was found in a nearby house. “I know nothing of my brother’s work,” the boy barely managed to whisper, sweating in panic.

Triumphant Afghan policemen proceeded to seize motorcycles from the house, strapping them to their Humvees.

“Those bikes don’t go anywhere!” Maj. Gagnon yelled, worried about looting.

The Afghans said they needed to dust them for fingerprints.

“Well...OK,” Maj. Gagnon reluctantly agreed. He sounded unsure.

**Taliban Leaderships’ Official
Reaction To A Video Of U.S.
Troops Urinating On Dead
Afghans Has Been “The Video Will
Not Harm Our Talks”
The Group’s Foot Soldiers Are Angry
And Feel Betrayed:
“To Me Those Who Claim To Represent
The Islamic Emirate Of Afghanistan In**

These Talks Are Dishonoring The Rivers Of Blood We Have Shed”

Jan 13, 2012 by Ron Moreau & Sami Yousafzai; The Daily Beast

Ron Moreau is Newsweek’s Afghanistan and Pakistan correspondent and has been covering the region for the magazine the past 10 years. Since he first joined Newsweek during the Vietnam War, he has reported extensively from Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America.

Sami Yousafzai is Newsweek’s correspondent in Pakistan and Afghanistan, where he has covered militancy, al Qaeda, and the Taliban for the magazine since 9/11. He was born in Afghanistan but moved to Pakistan with his family after the Russian invasion in 1979. He began his career as a sports journalist but switched to war reporting in 1997.

To the surprise of many—from Taliban fighters to American officials—the Taliban’s official reaction to the explosive video of the four U.S. Marines urinating on the corpses of three Afghans was mature, even statesmanlike.

Although one spokesman denounced the “wild action” of the U.S. troops and vowed that insurgent attacks on Americans would continue, Zabibullah Mujahid, the insurgency’s chief spokesman, was more circumspect. “The video will not harm our talks and the prisoner exchange because they are at a preliminary stage,” he said of the exploratory negotiations between U.S. and Taliban representatives in the Gulf state of Qatar.

A senior Taliban logistical officer sounded a similarly moderate tone, telling The Daily Beast: “Our reaction was correct and mature. We condemned the despicable act but said it would not affect the talks.” Still, he was disheartened by the video. “In Afghanistan we have a saying: ‘Kill your enemy but don’t let his body rot in the sun.’ What happened is against our traditions and couldn’t have happened at a more sensitive time.”

The Taliban’s seemingly temperate line may hold promise for future talks, but it is clearly at odds with the hot-headed feeling among most Taliban fighters who have viewed or heard of the video, and with the general disgust among the Afghan public.

Indeed, there seems to be a serious and perhaps dangerous disconnect between the Taliban’s suddenly more restrained official stance and its hard-pressed men in the field — and, indeed, the common man.

“It’s insane,” says an Afghan subcommander in Helmand province where the urination incident allegedly took place last year.

“Why are we talking to those who hate us so much that they desecrate our martyrs’ bodies?” he asks angrily in a phone conversation with The Daily Beast.

His anger extends to the Taliban's negotiators in Qatar.

“To me those who claim to represent the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in these talks are dishonoring the rivers of blood we have shed,” he says.

“This act is worse than that of animals,” adds the subcommander who declines to be named for security reasons. “They showed no shame.”

Jan Mohammad Khan, a Taliban fighter in eastern Afghanistan, says the video affected him more than all the carnage that he's seen in his 10 years in the jihad.

“I have never hurt so much as I did when I saw this video,” he says. “These Americans have crossed the borders of civilization and humanity by disrespecting the dead.”

Perhaps the full repercussions of the video have yet to be felt.

“These four guys really poked a stick into a hornets' nest,” says an Afghan who worked as a translator for the U.S. forces in Helmand province for several years and doesn't want to be identified.

“This will stir up both fighters and most Afghans to hate Americans in Afghanistan more.”

But he says he was not surprised when he saw the video online. He remembers seeing U.S. soldiers urinating on a village path while Afghan women were passing by, returning home carrying water containers on their heads.

“I told them they shouldn't do these things that make the people angry,” he recalls. “But they laughed and didn't seem to care.” During his time with the U.S. military he says he saw many U.S. troops openly violating Afghan customs and sensitivities.

The former translator who lives in Kabul with his family says the video has outraged even his normally calm and moderate father.

“This morning my father was so angry that he ordered me to burn any money I may still have from the Americans as it was a sin to keep it,” he says.

“If this action has so angered my father, it will certainly anger other common Afghans.” If so, the already difficult fledgling peace process has just become even more complicated.

Marine Corps Guide To Afghanistan Gets It Right: “The More Enemies You Kill, The Faster You Lose”

January 11 By Walter Pincus, The Washington Post Company [Excerpt]

For centuries, this has been the paradox of warfare in Afghanistan: “The more enemies you kill, the faster you lose.

Because of badal (revenge), the Pashtun have a saying: ‘Kill one enemy, make ten.’”

That’s a quote from the Marine Corps’ May 2009 update of a guidebook, “Afghanistan, Operational Culture for Deploying Personnel.”

The book is for those serving or preparing to serve in that country.

Released publicly last week by the Web site Public Intelligence, a collaborative Internet research project, the 112-page, “for official use only” manual gives a clear description of the complicated Taliban enemy against whom U.S. troops have been fighting and the Afghans who are fighting alongside U.S. forces.

In neither case is the picture reassuring.

Nor do the manual’s recollections of the U.S. experience in Vietnam ease current concerns of those who lived through that war, that history may be repeating itself.

**\$73 Billion Of Civilian Aid
Money From USA For
Afghanistan Goes To Enrich
U.S. Aid Agencies And Local
Thieves:
Agencies Grab “Administrative
Costs:” “A Mere 30 Cents Out Of
Every Dollar For Afghanistan Goes
To Aid”**

“It Gets Worse” “Less Than 10 Cents Of Every Dollar Actually Goes To Aiding Afghans” “The Remainder Is Lost, Stolen Or Misappropriated By Afghan Workers And Officials”

1/11/12 By JAMES R. PETERSEN, Politico. Com [Excerpts]

James R. Petersen served as senior auditor for the special inspector general for Afghanistan Reconstruction. He previously served as senior vice president of mergers and acquisitions at CDI Corp.

I worked in Afghanistan as an auditor for six months last year and spent another seven months at the D.C. headquarters of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, charged with monitoring aid from the U.S. Agency for International Development, the State and Defense departments and others.

Washington has appropriated nearly \$73 billion for reconstruction and development in Afghanistan since 9/11, according to SIGAR's October 2011 quarterly report, up \$17 billion in each of the past two years.

That's a lot of money for our indebted nation.

Our leaders ought to have good reasons for giving this aid. Maybe they do.

Taxpayers, however, whether they support our efforts or not, still deserve answers to basic questions: Where has all this money gone? Has anyone verified it went where it was supposed to go?

Is it cost effective to run aid programs in a war zone?

The answer is no.

The money isn't going where we think it is — and \$73 billion is a ton of treasure to waste.

Essentially, all U.S. aid programs are contracted out to nongovernmental organizations, which means that our agencies are really huge contract management centers.

NGOs take out administrative costs and the rest goes to aid.

At USAID, for example, NGOs' administrative costs at most programs are about 30 percent. This means, for every dollar from USAID, 70 cents goes to recipients on the ground and the NGO keeps 30 cents to cover overhead.

Thirty percent in administrative costs may sound high, but in Afghanistan, USAID has struggled to keep NGO overhead costs below 70 percent — more than double the norm.

Costs can escalate when organizations operate in a war zone.

But a mere 30 cents out of every dollar for Afghanistan goes to aid.

It gets worse.

Of that 30 cents, frequently only half reaches the intended recipient.

The remainder is lost, stolen or misappropriated by Afghan workers and officials.

Add in the cost of the USAID's bureaucratic superstructure — including \$500,000 annually for each U.S. employee in Kabul, and the supporting staffs in Washington — and sometimes less than 10 cents of every dollar actually goes to aiding Afghans.

To make USAID's administrative cost ratios look better on paper, the agency has been pushing its contractor organizations to distribute aid faster and monitoring the NGOs' "burn rate." Consequently, Afghans are drinking from a fire hose of U.S. reconstruction aid money, inevitably leading to waste, fraud and abuse — and few tangible aid results on the ground.

To find out where the money went, SIGAR's auditors rely principally on NGO management reports and on summary financial data from USAID's financial system.

But the NGO's raw accounting data is unaudited and unverified. That means the U.S. reconstruction effort is ultimately flying blind.

The national debate about whether to engage in Afghanistan and for how long is likely to continue in Washington.

But everyone can agree that, with a staggering \$15 trillion national debt and facing budget austerity, U.S. taxpayers have a right to know where the money is going in Afghanistan. And to turn off the spigot if necessary.

Alarmingly, it appears that those charged with policing the cookie jar and those who spent \$73 billion of our money have failed us.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Somali Insurgent Special Forces Attack Gerille Police Camp In Kenya In Response To Kenya's Invasion Of Somalia Last October: "Seven Kenyan Administration Police And Government Officials Killed While Others Were Taken Prisoner"

14 January 2012 The Star & 13 January 2012 The Nation & AFP

Four Kenyans captured by Al-Shabaab on Wednesday have been displayed by the militants in a Somali town, local media has reported.

The militants paraded the four, among them a district officer, and a chief in the town of BardherBardere, Gedo region, about 380 km southwest of Mogadishu.

They also displayed a vehicle they took during the raid on an Administration Police camp in Gerille town, Wajir on the Kenya-Somalia border.

The Kenyans and the vehicles were displayed in different neighbourhoods in the town before being taken to a local square.

The militants also disconnected all communication equipment with the outside world, fearing that they may become victims of revenge air strikes.

Media reports quoted the militants warning that they would continue to raid towns inside Kenyan territory.

This is in retaliation to the military operation by the Kenya Defence Forces inside Somalia. The Islamists invaded Gerille town and bombed the camp, reducing it to ashes.

In a statement, Police Commissioner Mathew Iteere said about 100 heavily-armed Somali militants attacked Gerille Administration Police Post in Wajir South District at around 6.30pm.

They captured firearms, ammunition and a car from the post. "The bandits also committed arson by burning several properties within the post," said the commissioner.

Al-Shabaab later claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was in response to Kenya's decision to send troops into Somalia last October.

"Responding to aggressive Kenyan invasion against Muslims of Somalia, HSM special forces raided Kenyan Administration Police camp in Gerille.

Kenya deployed a large force in southern Somalia in mid-October hot pursuit of Al-Shabaab militants whom it accused of endangering its security and economy.

The latest development comes at a time when Kenya and the African Union have submitted a request to the United Nations Security Council to allow KDF troops join the continental force combating Al-Shabaab in Somalia.

Seven Kenyan administration police and government officials killed while others were taken prisoner.

MILITARY NEWS

Tensions Are High Over A Toughening Of Rules At Guantánamo.

“U.S. Taxpayers Spend \$800,000 A Year To Keep A Single Captive At Guantánamo Bay, A Figure The Prison Camp Staff Won’t Explain”

01.10.12 By CAROL ROSENBERG, The Miami Herald [Excerpts]

Tensions are high over a toughening of rules at Guantánamo.

Captives complain that the camps have instituted a new 25-day punitive segregation regime for rule breakers, in cramped cells in a once-secret disciplinary block.

They say that after years of a more liberal policy, guards are now seizing captives' spare blankets and clothing; and that they are shackling a captive's four limbs, not just his ankles, at medical appointments.

On Tuesday, captives told their guards that for three days around the anniversary, they'd be refusing meals, staging sit-ins and hanging protest signs, according to accounts from the military and defense lawyers.

By the Obama administration's reckoning, U.S. taxpayers spend \$800,000 a year to keep a single captive at Guantánamo Bay, a figure the prison camp staff won't explain.

In September, the Miami Herald filed a Freedom of Information Act for documents that show how that money is spent.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.
-- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787**

Vietnam Vet And The Toxic Truth



Photo by Mike Hastie 2010

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: January 14, 2012
Subject: Vietnam Vet and the Toxic Truth

Vietnam Vet and the Toxic Truth

**War after war after war after war after
War after war after war after war after
War after war after war after war after
War...**

**The most evil piece of real estate the
world has ever seen is the Pentagon.
Mike Hastie**

Army Medic Vietnam
Jan. 14, 2012

The most revolutionary
act is to name reality.
Paulo Freire

Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

My Guantánamo Nightmare: “On Wednesday, America’s Detention Camp At Guantánamo Bay Will Have Been Open For 10 Years” “For Seven Of Them, I Was Held There Without Explanation Or Charge”

January 8, 2012 By LAKHDAR BOUMEDIENE, New York Times. Lakhdar Boumediene was the lead plaintiff in Boumediene v. Bush. He was in military custody at Guantánamo Bay from 2002 to 2009. This essay was translated by Felice Bezri from the Arabic.

On Wednesday, America’s detention camp at Guantánamo Bay will have been open for 10 years.

For seven of them, I was held there without explanation or charge.

During that time my daughters grew up without me. They were toddlers when I was imprisoned, and were never allowed to visit or speak to me by phone. Most of their

letters were returned as “undeliverable,” and the few that I received were so thoroughly and thoughtlessly censored that their messages of love and support were lost.

Some American politicians say that people at Guantánamo are terrorists, but I have never been a terrorist.

Had I been brought before a court when I was seized, my children’s lives would not have been torn apart, and my family would not have been thrown into poverty.

It was only after the United States Supreme Court ordered the government to defend its actions before a federal judge that I was finally able to clear my name and be with them again.

I left Algeria in 1990 to work abroad. In 1997 my family and I moved to Bosnia and Herzegovina at the request of my employer, the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates. I served in the Sarajevo office as director of humanitarian aid for children who had lost relatives to violence during the Balkan conflicts. In 1998, I became a Bosnian citizen. We had a good life, but all of that changed after 9/11.

When I arrived at work on the morning of Oct. 19, 2001, an intelligence officer was waiting for me. He asked me to accompany him to answer questions. I did so, voluntarily — but afterward I was told that I could not go home. The United States had demanded that local authorities arrest me and five other men.

News reports at the time said the United States believed that I was plotting to blow up its embassy in Sarajevo. I had never — for a second — considered this.

The fact that the United States had made a mistake was clear from the beginning.

Bosnia’s highest court investigated the American claim, found that there was no evidence against me and ordered my release.

But instead, the moment I was released American agents seized me and the five others. We were tied up like animals and flown to Guantánamo, the American naval base in Cuba. I arrived on Jan. 20, 2002.

I still had faith in American justice.

I believed my captors would quickly realize their mistake and let me go.

But when I would not give the interrogators the answers they wanted — how could I, when I had done nothing wrong? — they became more and more brutal.

I was kept awake for many days straight. I was forced to remain in painful positions for hours at a time. These are things I do not want to write about; I want only to forget.

I went on a hunger strike for two years because no one would tell me why I was being imprisoned.

Twice each day my captors would shove a tube up my nose, down my throat and into my stomach so they could pour food into me. It was excruciating, but I was innocent and so I kept up my protest.

In 2008, my demand for a fair legal process went all the way to America's highest court. In a decision that bears my name, the Supreme Court declared that "the laws and Constitution are designed to survive, and remain in force, in extraordinary times."

It ruled that prisoners like me, no matter how serious the accusations, have a right to a day in court.

The Supreme Court recognized a basic truth: the government makes mistakes. And the court said that because "the consequence of error may be detention of persons for the duration of hostilities that may last a generation or more, this is a risk too significant to ignore."

Five months later, Judge Richard J. Leon, of the Federal District Court in Washington, reviewed all of the reasons offered to justify my imprisonment, including secret information I never saw or heard.

The government abandoned its claim of an embassy bomb plot just before the judge could hear it. After the hearing, he ordered the government to free me and four other men who had been arrested in Bosnia.

I will never forget sitting with the four other men in a squalid room at Guantánamo, listening over a fuzzy speaker as Judge Leon read his decision in a Washington courtroom. He implored the government not to appeal his ruling, because "seven years of waiting for our legal system to give them an answer to a question so important is, in my judgment, more than plenty."

I was freed, at last, on May 15, 2009.

Today, I live in Provence with my wife and children. France has given us a home, and a new start.

I have experienced the pleasure of reacquainting myself with my daughters and, in August 2010, the joy of welcoming a new son, Yousef.

I am learning to drive, attending vocational training and rebuilding my life. I hope to work again serving others, but so far the fact that I spent seven and a half years as a Guantánamo prisoner has meant that only a few human rights organizations have seriously considered hiring me.

I do not like to think of Guantánamo. The memories are filled with pain. But I share my story because 171 men remain there.

Among them is Belkacem Bensayah, who was seized in Bosnia and sent to Guantánamo with me.

About 90 prisoners have been cleared for transfer out of Guantánamo. Some of them are from countries like Syria or China — where they would face torture if sent home — or Yemen, which the United States considers unstable.

And so they sit as captives, with no end in sight — not because they are dangerous, not because they attacked America, but because the stigma of Guantánamo means they have no place to go, and America will not give a home to even one of them.

I'm told that my Supreme Court case is now read in law schools.

Perhaps one day that will give me satisfaction, but so long as Guantánamo stays open and innocent men remain there, my thoughts will be with those left behind in that place of suffering and injustice.

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

Doomsday Clock: Five Minutes To Midnight: “Beware Of Presidents Bearing Nobel Peace Prize Tags”



January 13, 2012 by Felicity Arbuthnot, Global Research

“I remembered the line from the Hindu scripture, the Bhagavad-Gita ... ‘Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds.’”

(J. Robert Oppenheimer, 22nd April 1904 - 18th February 1967, Scientific Director of the Manhattan Project, on the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.)

Chilling ironies surely do not come much greater than the Nobel Peace Prize winning President of the United States, in an election year, having contributed to global instability and the possibility of nuclear conflict, to such an extent that the “Doomsday Clock”, maintained by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists at the University of Chicago, has this week been moved to five minutes to midnight.

The forward-creeping hands of the symbolic clock, maintained since 1947, two years after the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, indicate the closest to global catastrophe in twenty six years, with the exception of 2007, when the hands were similarly set under the gung-ho “Bring ‘em on”, Presidency of George W. Bush.

What a world away from Obama’s June 2009 speech at Egypt’s Al Azhar University, where he declared he was in Cairo: “... to seek a new beginning between the United States and Muslims round the world (and to) share ... tolerance and dignity...”

He asserted: “There must be a sustained effort to listen to each other, to learn from each other, to respect one another and to seek common ground ... the interests we share as human beings are far more powerful than the forces that drive us apart.”

Tell that to the bereaved, maimed, homeless Libyans, Iraqis, Afghans, the US-menaced people of Syria, over one third of whom are fourteen or under; the annihilation-threatened Iranian population, nearly a quarter also children, fourteen years or under.

Iran, so demonized, yet which generously hosts one of the largest refugee populations in the world. (1999 UNHCR figures cite at a cost then, to embargoed Iran, of ten million \$s a day.)

Tell it too, to the droned and blown (away) of Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia.

A: “... sustained effort to listen ...”, has been largely denied the untried, incarcerated, abused, tortured in Bagram and Guantanamo’s “gulags of our times”, as totally during the Obama Presidency, as the years before.

But back to the ticking Atomic clock.

Alarming, the furthest from “midnight” it has ever been is seventeen minutes, in 1991, when the US and then Soviet Union, under George H.W. Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev signed the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (31st July.) A heartening seven minute leap from the ten to midnight of 1990, even that, in spite of the onslaught of thirty two nation war on Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait. The Berlin Wall had, however, fallen and the Cold War seemed to be ending.

In 1963, 1972, both years of seemingly ground breaking arms limitation Treaties between the US and Soviet Union, the clock still stood at ten minutes to midnight.

Even when India tested a nuclear device, and the US and Soviet Union both modernized their destructive potential in 1974, the clock stood four minutes further away from annihilation than Obama’s contribution – then at nine minutes to midnight.

As the United States aircraft carriers, Carl Vinson and John C. Stennis, bristling with nuclear and other holocaustal weapons, and twitchy testosterone-fuelled troops, steam

Iran-wards, to either bomb nuclear installations - with the danger of a potential nuclear winter - or bomb to keep the Straits of Hormuz open for one fifth of the world' oil supplies - the clock is just two minutes back from when the Soviet Union tested its first atomic bomb in 1947, officially starting the nuclear arms race.

It is three minutes from the two minutes to midnight – the most apocalyptic ever - of 1953, when both the US and Soviet Union tested thermo-nuclear devices within nine months of each other.

There are about 19,000 nuclear weapons in the world, according to the Science and Security Board.

“That’s enough to blow up the Earth many times over. We are really in a pickle”, says Kennette Benedict, Executive Director of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, of their latest clock re-set.

“Recognizing our common humanity is only the beginning of our task”, said President Obama, in Cairo, when some believed his: “Yes we can”, meant peace, and a new dawn for the planet and humanity.

“ No system of government can or should be imposed by one nation on any other. It’s easier to start wars than to end them. ... It’s easier to see what is different about someone than to find the things we share. But we should choose the right path, not just the easy path.

“There’s one rule that lies at the heart of every religion - that we do unto others as we would have them do unto us.

“This truth transcends nations and peoples -- a belief that isn’t new; that isn’t black or white or brown; that isn’t Christian or Muslim or Jew. It’s a belief that pulsed in the cradle of civilization, and that still beats in the hearts of billions around the world. It’s a faith in other people, and it’s what brought me here today”, he concluded.

Indeed.

Beware of Presidents bearing Nobel Peace Prize tags....

**“The Government Wants To Drown
The Country In Blood, Forgetting
That The Troops Consist Of Sons
Of The Oppressed People”
“We Demand An End To The War”**

[Proclamation Of The Revolutionary Council Of Sailors: The Battleship Potemkin]



The Potemkin (Russian: Князь Потёмкин Таврический, Knyaz' Potyomkin Tavricheski, 'Prince Potyomkin of Tauris') was a pre-dreadnought battleship (Bronenosets) of the Imperial Russian Navy's Black Sea Fleet. The ship was made famous by the Battleship Potemkin uprising, a rebellion of the crew against their oppressive officers in June 1905 (during the Russian Revolution of 1905) -- Wikipedia

June 27, 1905, Proletary Newspaper No. 7

Proclamation Of The Revolutionary Sailors In Command Of The Battleship Potemkin

To all civilized citizens and to the working people!

The crimes of the autocratic government have exhausted all patience. The whole of Russia, burning with indignation, exclaims: Down with the chains of bondage!

The government wants to drown the country in blood, forgetting that the troops consist of sons of the oppressed people.

The crew of the Potemkin has taken the first decisive step. We refuse to go on acting as the people's hangman.

Our slogan is: freedom for the whole Russian people or death!

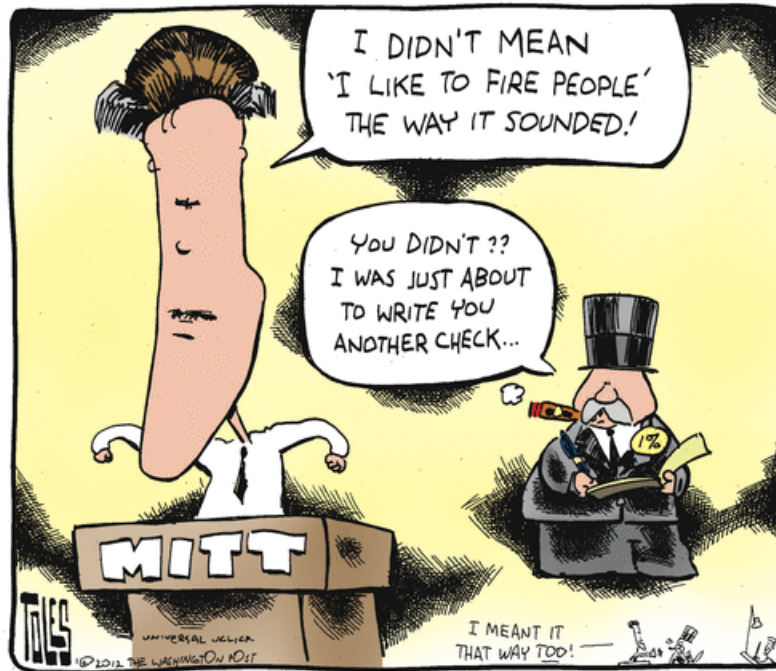
We demand an end to the war and the immediate convocation of a constituent assembly on the basis of universal suffrage.

That is the aim for which we shall fight to the end: victory or death!

All free men, all workers will be on our side in the struggle for liberty and peace.

Down with the autocracy! Long live the constituent assembly!"

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Obama Regime Warns Israel Not To Attack Iraq: “The U.S. And Iran Have Taken Steps In Recent Days Apparently Designed To Ease Tensions”

JANUARY 14, 2012 By ADAM ENTOUS, JULIAN E. BARNES and JAY SOLOMON,
Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON—U.S. defense leaders are increasingly concerned that Israel is preparing to take military action against Iran, over U.S. objections, and have stepped up contingency planning to safeguard U.S. facilities in the region in case of a conflict.

President Barack Obama, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and other top officials have delivered a string of private messages to Israeli leaders warning about the dire consequences of a strike.

The U.S. wants Israel to give more time for the effects of sanctions and other measures intended to force Iran to abandon its perceived efforts to build nuclear weapons.

Stepping up the pressure, Mr. Obama spoke by telephone on Thursday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and U.S. Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will meet with Israeli military officials in Tel Aviv next week.

The U.S. and Iran, however, have taken steps in recent days apparently designed to ease tensions. Iran has agreed to host a delegation of United Nations nuclear inspectors this month. The U.S., meanwhile, has twice this month rescued Iranian sailors in the region's seas.

Covert efforts by Israel's intelligence service to prevent Tehran from developing nuclear weapons have been credited with slowing the program without the high risk of military conflict that could be sparked by an airstrike. Iran says its nuclear program is for peaceful uses.

Mr. Netanyahu said in a recent interview that Iran has begun to "wobble," a signal some U.S. officials believe suggests he is willing to follow the current U.S. strategy, which seeks to avoid a military confrontation with Iran.

Israeli officials said Mr. Netanyahu's government continues to closely coordinate with the U.S. in responding to the Iranian threat. "Israel believes that heightened sanctions combined with a credible military threat may dissuade the Iranian regime from developing nuclear capabilities," Mr. Oren said.

Mr. Panetta and other top officials have privately sought assurances from Israeli leaders in recent weeks that they won't take military action against Iran. But the Israeli response has been noncommittal, U.S. officials said.

U.S. officials briefed on the military's planning said concern has mounted over the past two years that Israel may strike Iran. But rising tensions with Iran and recent changes at Iranian nuclear sites have ratcheted up the level of U.S. alarm.

"Our concern is heightened," a senior U.S. military official said of the probability of an Israeli strike over U.S. objections.

Tehran crossed at least one of Israel's "red lines" earlier this month when it announced it had begun enriching uranium at the Fordow underground nuclear facility near the holy city of Qom.

The planned closing of Israel's nuclear plant near Dimona this month, which was reported in Israeli media, sounded alarms in Washington, where officials feared it meant Israel was repositioning its own nuclear assets to safeguard them against a potential Iranian counterstrike.

Despite the close relationship between the U.S. and Israel, U.S. officials have consistently puzzled over Israeli intentions. "It's hard to know what's bluster and what's not with the Israelis," said a former U.S. official.

Inside the Israeli security establishment, a sort of good cop, bad cop routine, in which Israeli officials rattle sabers amid a U.S. scramble to restrain them, has assumed its own name: "Hold Me Back."

Some American intelligence officials complain that Israel represents a blind spot in U.S. intelligence, which devotes little resources to Israel. Some officials have long argued that, given the potential for Israel to drag the U.S. into potentially explosive situations, the U.S. should devote more resources to divining Israel's true intentions.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

North Korean Succession



Third Day Of Anti-Government Protests Against Firing Of Popular Public Health Official Shakes Romanian Regime:

“Pent-Up Frustration Against Public Wage Cuts, Slashed Benefits, Higher Taxes And Widespread Corruption”

January 14 By Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — Romanian police fired tear gas and clashed with protesters during an anti-government rally Saturday, the third consecutive day of demonstrations against austerity cuts and falling living standards.

The protests were the most serious since President Traian Basescu came to power in 2004 and were the result of pent-up frustration against public wage cuts, slashed benefits, higher taxes and widespread corruption.

In 2009, Romania took a two-year €20 billion (\$27.5 billion) loan from the International Monetary Fund, the EU and the World Bank, as its economy shrank by 7.1 percent. Romania imposed harsh austerity measures under the agreement, reducing public wages by 25 percent and increasing taxes.

The unlikely catalyst for the protests, however, was the resignation of popular health official Raed Arafat, a Palestinian with Romanian citizenship who opposed health reforms proposed by the government.

On Friday, Basescu told the government to scrap the reforms, but public anger had already risen against Basescu and the government.

Widespread support for Arafat has led commentators drawing parallels with ethnic Hungarian Laszlo Toekes, whose opposition to late dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in 1989 was the spark for the anti-communist revolt.

It was a day of discontent in other parts of Central and Eastern Europe, with thousands taking to the streets in Croatia to rally against the country joining the EU, and in neighboring Hungary, where a far-right party called for a referendum on the nation's EU membership.

In Romania, nine people were injured in the clashes and scuffles between police and demonstrators, authorities said. A TV journalist was among the injured after protesters threw stones.

One police officer sustained head injuries after he was hit by stones during the unauthorized rally in Bucharest's main University Square which blocked traffic on a main thoroughfare. Police detained 29 people for acts of violence and for disturbing public order.

More than 1,000 protesters waved flags with the center ripped out, the symbol of Romania's anti-communist revolution, yelled anti-government slogans and called for early elections.

Young men climbed on cars waving flags and the crowd chanted anti-government slogans for hours, undeterred by chilly temperatures.

After seven hours, protesters refused to leave, and scuffled with riot police who then used tear gas and flares.

Protesters staged smaller anti-government rallies Saturday in the major cities of Timisoara, Constanta, Craiova and Cluj and in other smaller cities.

Saudis In The Streets Against Dictatorship After Youth Shot

January 13, 2012 The Press Association via Uruknet

Hundreds of protesters have taken to the streets in a tense region in eastern Saudi Arabia after the killing of a Shiite youth in a clash with security forces.

Videos posted on Facebook sites by activists showed hundreds of young men, their faces covered with scarves and T-shirts, chanting, "We will not forget you, o martyrs," a reference to those killed by security forces.

The killing and protests reflect simmering tensions in Saudi Arabia's oil-rich Qatif region, where most residents belong to the kingdom's Shiites, who make up 10 % of the kingdom's 23 million people.

The Shiites complain of discrimination by the Sunni rulers, saying they bar them from key positions in the military and government and do not give them an equal share of the country's vast oil wealth.

As uprisings against autocratic rulers began to sweep the Arab world last year, small protests were held in eastern Saudi Arabia but were largely quelled, though tensions remain.

Interior Ministry spokesman Maj Gen Mansour al-Turki said that residents threw Molotov cocktails at a security vehicle that was patrolling in the town of al-Awamiya late on Thursday, setting it on fire.

The Saudi Shiite news site Rasid said 22-year old Issam Mohammed was hit by several gunshots after a security vehicle was pelted with rocks in al-Awamiya. The site said three protesters were wounded.

In November, four people were killed and nine wounded in the same region in similar clashes with security forces. The Saudi government has tried to portray the protests as the result of foreign efforts to destabilise the kingdom.

Military Resistance www.militaryproject.org

*This is how Obama brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



*Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org*

Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williambowles.info/military-resistance-archives/>; news@uruknet.info;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;

<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.