

Military Resistance 10A16



[Thanks to Phil G]

Book Review:

‘The Operators’ Goes Inside War In Afghanistan:

“Americans Have Squandered Treasure And Blood In What He Calls The ‘Bermuda Triangle Of Geopolitics,’ A Place Where Outsiders Disappear”

“A Decade After 9/11, The U.S. Has Embraced A Venal Regime, The Presence Of U.S. Troops Is Fueling The Insurgency, And The War ‘Has Very Little To Do With Protecting The United States From Terrorists,’ He Argues”

“In The Weird Logic Of The War, ‘We’re There Because We’re There. And Because We’re There, We’re There Some More’”

January 10, 2012 By Bob Drogin, Los Angeles Times. Drogin is Washington deputy bureau chief at the Los Angeles Times. He is the author of “Curveball: Spies, Lies and the Con Man Who Caused a War.”

Author Janet Malcolm once acidly wrote that any reporter who didn’t agree that journalism was a “morally indefensible” act of betrayal was “too stupid or too full of himself” to notice what was going on.

Michael Hastings doesn’t agree.

He sees journalism, particularly when writing about media-greedy public figures, as being “like the seduction of a prostitute.

“In other words, publicity hounds who try to co-opt honest reporters get what they deserve.

That helps explain the mystery of why U.S. Army Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, then the much-lauded commander of America’s war in Afghanistan, gave Hastings nearly unfettered access for several weeks in early 2010.

From the first night, McChrystal and his senior aides, the self-described “Team America,” apparently were too arrogant or too reckless to care that Hastings had his tape recorder out as they trash-talked President Obama, Vice President Biden and others in the chain of command.

After Hastings' behind-the-façade account of drunken sprees and locker-room jibes appeared in Rolling Stone magazine that June, McChrystal was summoned to the White House and fired.

Now Hastings has written "The Operators: The Wild and Terrifying Inside Story of America's War in Afghanistan," a troubling first-person narrative about that bizarre episode in U.S. military history, as well as a trenchant analysis of the disaster in Afghanistan.

A generation of war reporters made their names in Vietnam by challenging inane Pentagon policies and propaganda. Hastings is no David Halberstam or Michael Herr, but he brings a fresh eye and a brutally authentic voice to America's decade-old misadventure in Afghanistan.

In his view, Americans have squandered treasure and blood in what he calls the "Bermuda Triangle of geopolitics," a place where outsiders disappear. A decade after 9/11, the U.S. has embraced a venal regime, the presence of U.S. troops is fueling the insurgency, and the war "has very little to do with protecting the United States from terrorists," he argues.

In the weird logic of the war, "we're there because we're there. And because we're there, we're there some more," he writes.

Even worse, "The simple and terrifying reality, forbidden from discussion in America... (U.S. troops) were getting their asses kicked by illiterate peasants who made bombs out of manure and wood," presumably improvised roadside bombs made from chemical fertilizer.

Hastings' prose tends to hyperbole and profanity.

He mocks or derides top diplomats, members of Congress, military commanders, White House officials and others with a biting mix of gossip, blind quotes and snarky asides.

He aims some of his sharpest barbs at well-known journalists who, in his view, flatter and protect high-level sources to maintain access. (Some of this seems payback for media attacks on Hastings' credibility after his Rolling Stone story appeared.)

But he has a point: McChrystal was lionized in the media as a warrior poet, a snake-eating rebel, a super Special Ops mix of saint and ninja.

Glossed over was his role in some of the worst military scandals of the George W. Bush era: detainee abuse and torture at prisons in Iraq, and the coverup of Army Ranger Pat Tillman's death by friendly fire.

For all that, McChrystal comes off as a sympathetic if flawed figure. The Afghan war is like "raising a child," he tells Hastings. It's messy and you can't control the outcome. "You might want them to be a rock star, or a heavyweight wrestler or whatever, but at the end of the day, you have to provide the environment, and they have to be what's best for them."

Hastings has spent enough time covering combat to know he sees only a tiny fraction of the war.

And he mostly stays in the protective bubble around McChrystal, not with the soldiers and Marines doing the fighting and dying.

When he goes to a combat outpost, he gets an angry earful. The troops he meets are frustrated by the rules of engagement. They hate the Afghans. And they think they're losing.

Hastings certainly thinks so.

Even the killing of Osama bin Laden last May leaves him cold.

The raid “revealed the biggest lie of the war, the ‘safe haven’ myth, Afghanistan’s version of WMDs,” he writes.

Terrorist attacks or plots since 2001 have emerged not from Afghanistan, but from Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia, Pakistan, not to mention Connecticut and Texas.

“The concept of waging an extremely expensive and bloody counterinsurgency campaign to prevent safe havens never truly made sense.”

Hastings shares so much extraneous detail that we learn he smokes Marlboro Reds and wears a Breitling Super Ocean watch. Breitling, by the way, calls it a Superocean. It's a minor error, but there are many more. Thailand and the Philippines are not “in Central Asia.” Famed WWII correspondent Ernie Pyle was killed in 1945, not 1944. The 1991 Gulf War involved a massive invasion force, not “as few American troops on the ground as possible.” The Pentagon budget is about \$700 billion this year, not \$600 billion. And drone missile strikes shot up under Obama, but they didn't double in his first year.

Part memoir, part polemic, “The Operators” is far from perfect. Those readers who believe the Afghan war is misguided and futile will enjoy it. Those who don't may find food for thought.

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AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Wake, Funeral Next Week For Local Soldier



Army Spc. Christopher Patterson of North Aurora, in his senior portrait at West Aurora High School. He graduated in 2009. Courtesy of West Aurora High School

1/11/2012 By Susan Sarkauskas, Daily Herald

The mother of Army Spc. Christopher Patterson, slain in Afghanistan last week, described her son as an “awesome” kid whose priorities were God, country and music, in that order. “He loved his God and his faith,” Mary Patterson said Wednesday afternoon.

Funeral arrangements have been announced for Patterson, of North Aurora.

Visitation is from 1 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 950 Hart Road, Batavia. The funeral is at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21 at the church. Burial will be private.

Patterson, 20, was with the 713th Engineer Company of the Indiana National Guard, working as a “sapper,” patrolling and repairing combat routes for convoys in the Kandahar Province.

He and three other soldiers were killed, and another injured, when an improvised explosive device detonated.

Mary Patterson said her son didn't have to be in Afghanistan, nor doing missions off-base. He could have deferred his deployment until after his education was complete, she said. He had joined the National Guard in the fall of 2009 in part to help pay for his studies at Valparaiso University.

“As a mom, I really didn’t want him to go (to Afghanistan),” she said.

“I need to go with my battle buddies,” he told her. The unit left for Afghanistan in November. It was his first deployment.

“He was just supposed to come home,” she said.

His officers offered him on-base tasks, Mary Patterson said, but her son again said no, he was there to support his fellow soldiers.

He was a 2009 graduate of West Aurora High School. At Valparaiso, he was studying music education. Memorial funds are being established for both schools. The West Aurora fund will support music education.

So will the Valparaiso fund, but with a humorous twist: It will support a scholarship for red-haired music students.

“He took great pride in being a ginger,” Mary Patterson said.

The family has asked everyone to wear red to his funeral.

Donations may be sent to Valparaiso University, attn.: SPC Christopher A. Patterson Scholarship Fund, Valparaiso University, Office of Advancement, 1100 Campus Drive South, Valparaiso, Ind., 46383; or West Aurora High School Music Department, attn.: Christopher Patterson Memorial Fund.

Patterson had won awards in high school for his singing, and was a member of the Valparaiso Chorale. That chorale will sing at his funeral, and music is being arranged by both Valparaiso and West Aurora music faculties.

“It (the funeral) will be a celebration of song ... Chris would have wanted everyone to sing and be happy. He is with his Lord,” Mary Patterson said.

Patterson came from a family with a tradition of military service. Mary Patterson was in the Naval Reserve, father Robert is Navy retired, a stepbrother served in the Air Force and his younger brother, Carl, just joined the Marines and was scheduled to graduate from boot camp this week. “It’s just who we are,” Mary Patterson said.

Mary Patterson said Carl Patterson has been informed that, due to his brother’s death, he will be eligible to turn down combat assignments. “I can’t ask that (of him),” Mary Patterson said. But she believes Christopher Patterson would want his brother to go ahead.

Furthermore, she urged people to remember we are still at war in Afghanistan, and to support the soldiers who serve there.

“We are so proud of our boys, and of all the soldiers in Afghanistan,” she said.

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

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

'Slave-Like' Conditions At Swedish Army Base In Afghanistan Revealed

January 9, 2012 Morning Star Online

Kitchen staff at Sweden's military base in Afghanistan have been working in "slave-like conditions," a Swedish newspaper has revealed.

Swedish Colonel Anders Loeffberg blew the whistle at the weekend, telling the Expressen paper that staff had even been forced to pay to get a job at the Mazar-i-Sharif base.

Col Loeffberg said the predominantly Indian and Nepalese workers were subjected to "inhuman conditions.

"It makes me livid," he said.

"As a Swede you get outraged over all the injustices and we look at this type of exploitation very seriously."

The firm subcontracted to feed the Swedish troops, Swiss outfit Supreme, has as yet refused to give any guarantees on compensation for the super-exploited staff.

It has sought to pass the buck to a recruitment agency allegedly based in India, which reportedly forced the staff to hand over up to eight months' wages in order to get a job at the base.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Kenyan Occupation Force Kills More Somali Kids

Jan 15, 2012 Garowe Online

JILIB, Somalia Jan 15 2012 - At least 7 people have died 5 of those being children after air strikes in the town of Jilib in southern Somalia, Radio Garowe reports.

Mohamud Dahir who is the nephew of Abdullahi Mualim a former government official, who spoke to BBC said that Abdullahi Mualim's house was hit as he and his wife were away from the home, 5 of his children were killed after his house was shelled repeatedly.

At least four other children were injured in the bombardment; local sources say that the Kenyan air force shelled the town more than 12 times earlier Sunday.

The Kenyan military in a coordinated effort with the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) have been fighting Al Shabaab in southern Somalia since October. Since then the Kenyan military have heavily relied on air support to fight Al Shabaab. Jilib which is an Al Shabaab controlled town has been shelled before by the Kenyan air force, in October air strikes from the Kenyan military killed 14 after an IDP camp was shelled.

MILITARY NEWS

NOT ANOTHER DAY NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR NOT ANOTHER LIFE



The remains of Spc. Ronald H. Wildrick, Jr. at Arlington National Cemetery January 13, 2012 in Arlington, Virginia. US Army Spc. Ronald H. Wildrick, Jr. was killed by an improvised explosive device in December while serving in the Kunar province of Afghanistan. (Photo by Brendan Smialowski/Getty Images)

“Suleiman Al-Nahdi Waits With Dozens Of Other Prisoners In A Seemingly Permanent State Of Limbo Five Years After He Was Cleared For Release From Guantanamo Bay”

“How Come I Can’t Go Home? I’ve Never Been Charged And I’m Never Going To Be Charged”

Obama “Continues To Hold Men Like Al-Nahdi Who Have Been Cleared For Release”

“The U.S. Can Still Detain Men Even If There Is Little Evidence Against Them And No Intention Of Charging Them”

Jan 10, 2012 By Ben Fox - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Suleiman al-Nahdi waits with dozens of other prisoners in a seemingly permanent state of limbo five years after he was cleared for release from Guantanamo Bay.

“I wonder if the U.S. government wants to keep us here forever,” the 37-year-old al-Nahdi wrote in a recent letter to his lawyers.

Open for 10 years on Wednesday, the prison seems more established than ever. The deadline set by President Obama to close Guantanamo came and went two years ago. No detainee has left in a year because of restrictions on transfers, and indefinite military detention is now enshrined in U.S. law.

Human rights groups and lawyers for prisoners are dismayed that Obama not only failed to overcome resistance in Congress and close the prison, but that his administration has resumed military tribunals at the base and continues to hold men like al-Nahdi who have been cleared for release.

Today, Guantanamo holds 171 prisoners and it's an odd mix. Thirty-six await trial on war crimes charges, including the alleged mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks.

There are 46 in indefinite detention as men the U.S. considers dangerous but who cannot be charged for lack of evidence or other reasons. The U.S. wants to release 32 but hasn't, largely because of congressional restrictions, and 57 men from Yemen, like al-Nahdi, aren't being charged but the government won't let them go because their country is unstable.

“There is not a thing keeping them from going home except that our clever government is waiting for conditions to improve in Yemen, where they have only deteriorated,” said John Chandler, a lawyer based in Atlanta, Georgia, who represents al-Nahdi.

“These are men who were in their early 20s when they were picked up and now they are in their early 30s and a significant amount of their lives has slipped away while this debate has gone on and on and on,” said Cori Crider, a lawyer for the British human rights group Reprieve who represents several Guantanamo prisoners.

Zachary Katznelson, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, said Congress was more interested in scoring political points, and should listen to security experts.

“We are not talking about releasing anyone who is dangerous. We're talking about releasing people who the intelligence and military communities have unanimously agreed should be released,” Katznelson said.

Congress also stripped the prisoners of the right to challenge their detention in the courts by filing writs of habeas corpus. The Supreme Court returned that right, but the courts have said the U.S. can still detain men even if there is little evidence against them and no intention of charging them. When prisoners have won their cases in a lower court, the government has appealed and won.

With such a bleak legal landscape, Chandler and his co-counsel withdrew al-Nahdi's appeal rather than face certain defeat.

It's made for difficult meetings when the lawyers must explain why so many others, including prisoners who were convicted of war crimes, have been released.

“He says: ‘How come I can't go home? I've never been charged and I'm never going to be charged. And of course, I have no answer to those questions,’” Chandler said.

Suleiman al-Nahdi waits with dozens of other prisoners in a seemingly permanent state of limbo five years after he was cleared for release from Guantanamo Bay.

ANNIVERSARIES

**Shameful Anniversary:
Jan. 17, 1893:
A Pack Of Thieving American Sugar
Plantation Owners Use U.S. Marines
To Rape Hawaii;
“The Righteous Reformers Were
Determined To Save The Hawaiians From
Self-Government”**



'Iolani Palace, draped in black for 1993's observance of the centennial of the overthrow of the monarchy, was a moving, powerful symbol to Hawaiians who participated in a torchlight ceremony.

Carl Bunin Peace History January 17-23

May 1994 By Pat Pitzer, Spirit Of Aloha Magazine [Excerpts]

Hawai'i entered the decade of the 1890s as a kingdom and emerged from it as a Territory of the United States, with a provisional government and a republic in between..

The storm that had been gathering broke on Jan. 17, 1893, when the Hawaiian monarchy ended in a day of bloodless revolution.

Armed insurrection by a relatively small group of men, most of them American by birth or heritage, succeeded in wresting control of the Islands with the backing of American troops sent ashore from a warship in Honolulu Harbor.

To this "superior force of the United States of America," Queen Lili'uokalani yielded her throne, under protest, in order to avoid bloodshed, trusting that the United States government would right the wrong that had been done to her and the Hawaiian people.

Sugar and a coerced constitution played roles in the drama -- intertwined themes of economics and politics.

Sugar was by far the principal support of the Islands, and profits and prosperity hinged on favorable treaties with the United States, Hawaiian sugar's chief market, creating powerful economic ties.

As the Islands' sugar industry grew, large numbers of contract laborers were imported first from China, then from Japan and other countries, to work on the plantations -- the beginning of Hawai'i's present multicultural population.

Plantation ownership and control of the business community were in the hands of men of American or European blood.

In 1887, during the reign of Lili'uokalani's brother, King Kalakaua, a group of planters and businessmen, seeking to control the kingdom politically as well as economically, formed a secret organization, the Hawaiian League. Membership (probably never over 400, compared to the 40,000 Native Hawaiians in the kingdom) was predominantly American, including several missionary descendants.

Organizer and fire brand of the league was Lorrin A. Thurston, a lawyer and missionary grandson, who would later be a leader in the overthrow of the monarchy, with many of the same men.

Their goal, for now, was to "reform" the monarchy. But reform, like beauty, was in the eye of the beholder. The Native Hawaiians looked up to their sovereigns with respect and aloha. Kalakaua and Lili'uokalani were well-educated, intelligent, skilled in social graces, and equally at home with Hawaiian traditions and court ceremony.

Above all, they were deeply concerned about the well-being of the Hawaiian people and maintaining the independence of the kingdom.

The league's more radical members favored the king's abdication -- one even proposed assassination -- but cooler heads prevailed. They would allow the king to remain on the throne with his power sharply limited by a new constitution of their making.

Dethroning him would be a last resort, if he refused to comply.

Many Hawaiian League members belonged to a volunteer militia, the Honolulu Rifles, which was officially in service to the Hawaiian government, but was secretly the league's military arm.

Kalakaua was compelled to accept a new Cabinet composed of league members, who presented their constitution to him for his signature at 'Iolani Palace.

The reluctant king argued and protested, but finally signed the document, which became known as the Bayonet Constitution.

As one Cabinet member noted, "Little was left to the imagination of the hesitating and unwilling sovereign, as to what he might expect in the event of his refusal to comply with the demands made upon him."

The Bayonet Constitution greatly curtailed the king's power, making him a mere figurehead. It placed the actual executive power in the hands of the Cabinet, whose members could no longer be dismissed by the king, only by the Legislature. Amending this constitution was also the exclusive prerogative of the Legislature.

The Bayonet Constitution's other purpose was to remove the Native Hawaiian majority's dominance at the polls and in the Legislature.

The righteous reformers were determined to save the Hawaiians from self-government.

The privilege of voting was no longer limited to citizens of the kingdom, but was extended to foreign residents -- provided they were American or European.

Asians were excluded -- even those who had become naturalized citizens.

The House of Nobles, formerly appointed by the king, would now be elected, and voters and candidates for it had to meet a high property ownership or income requirement -- which excluded two-thirds of the Native Hawaiian voters.

While they could still vote for the House of Representatives, to do so they had to swear to uphold the despised Bayonet Constitution.

The Hawaiians strenuously opposed the diminution of their voice in governing their own country and resented the reduction of the monarch's powers and the manner in which the Bayonet Constitution had been forced on him. Hawaiians, Chinese and Japanese petitioned the king to revoke the constitution. The self-styled Reform Cabinet responded that only an act of the Legislature could do this - though their new constitution had never been put to a vote.

For the remaining years of the monarchy, efforts to amend or replace the constitution received widespread support. The constitutional controversy proved to be the spark that ignited the overthrow of the monarchy.

In 1889 a young part-Hawaiian named Robert W. Wilcox staged an uprising to overthrow the Bayonet Constitution. He led some 80 men, Hawaiians and Europeans, with arms purchased by the Chinese, in a predawn march to 'Iolani Palace with a new constitution for Kalakaua to sign. The king was away from the palace, and the Cabinet called out troops who forcibly put down the insurrection.

Tried for conspiracy, Wilcox was found not guilty by a jury of Native Hawaiians, who considered him a folk hero.

A new constitution would have to be another monarch's responsibility. On Jan. 20, 1891, King Kalakaua died of kidney disease at age 54. He lay in state in the throne room of 'Iolani Palace, which during his reign had been the scene of many gala receptions and grand balls.

Like her brother, the new queen was childless. She named as her successor to the throne her niece, Princess Ka'iulani, who was away at school in London.

Lili'uokalani's husband, John Dominis, an American sea captain's son, died just seven months after she became queen.

She would soon face a formidable threat to the monarchy and the independence of the kingdom.

In early 1892 Lorrin Thurston and a group of like-minded men, mostly of American blood, formed an Annexation Club, plotting the overthrow of the queen and annexation to the United States. They kept the organization small and secret - wisely, since they were talking treason.

Thurston went to Washington to promote annexation, and received an encouraging message from President Benjamin Harrison: "You will find an exceedingly sympathetic administration here."

In Honolulu, Hawaiians spoke out strongly for their monarchy and presented numerous petitions to the Legislature to replace the Bayonet Constitution, to no avail.

The queen had also been deluged with petitions for a new constitution, signed by an estimated two-thirds of the kingdom's voters, and she boldly prepared to act on their wishes. In her book, *Hawai'i's Story by Hawai'i's Queen*, she noted, "The right to grant a constitution to the nation has been, since the very first one was granted, a prerogative of the Hawaiian sovereigns."

On Jan. 14, the first of four crucial days in Hawai'i's history, the queen presided at noon over the legislative session's closing ceremonies at the Government Building. She then walked across the street to 'Iolani Palace for a more significant ceremony. She was about to proclaim a new constitution which she had written, restoring power to the throne and rights to the Native Hawaiian people.

The Royal Hawaiian Band played as the queen's invited guests, including diplomats, legislators and Hawaiian petitioners, assembled in the throne room, and a large crowd of Native Hawaiians gathered on the palace lawn.

As the audience waited, the queen argued heatedly with her Cabinet, who refused to sign her new constitution, fearing her enemies would use it as a pretext to challenge her. They finally persuaded her to defer action on it.

The queen addressed the guests in the throne room, and the crowd on the palace grounds, telling them that she was ready to promulgate a new constitution, but yielding to the advice of her ministers, was postponing it to some future day.

Alerted earlier of the queen's intention by two of her Cabinet members, the Annexation Club sprang into action.

A 13-member Committee of Safety was chosen to plan the overthrow of the queen and the establishment of a provisional government. As they plotted revolution, they claimed that the queen, by proposing to alter the constitution, had committed "a revolutionary act."

The American warship USS Boston was in port at Honolulu Harbor.

With an eye toward landing troops, Lorrin Thurston and two others called upon the American minister in Hawai'i, John L. Stevens, an avowed annexationist. Stevens assured them he would not protect the queen, and that he would land troops from the Boston if necessary "to protect American lives and property."

He also said that if the revolutionaries were in possession of government buildings and actually in control of the city, he would recognize their provisional government.

The next day, Jan. 15, Thurston told the queen's Cabinet that the Committee of Safety would challenge her.

In an effort to stave off the mounting crisis, the queen issued a proclamation declaring that she would not seek to alter the constitution except by constitutional means.

Unsuccessfully, she sought Minister Stevens' assurance that he would support her government against armed insurrection. The kingdom's marshal proposed declaring martial law and arresting the Committee of Safety, but the Cabinet feared this would lead to armed conflict, and Lili'uokalani wished to avoid bloodshed.

On Jan. 16, several hundred Native Hawaiians and other royalists gathered peaceably at Palace Square in support of the queen, expressing loyalty to the monarchy, and carefully avoiding saying anything inflammatory.

Simultaneously, at the mass meeting called by the Committee of Safety at the armory, the speeches were incendiary.

Lorrin Thurston vehemently denounced the queen and asked the crowd to empower the committee to act as it deemed necessary. The resolution passed amid cheers. No one

had mentioned overthrowing the monarchy, but the unspoken was apparently understood by all.

The Marines Are Used To Invade Hawaii And Overthrow The Government For A Pack Of Thieving Sugar Growers

The Committee of Safety delivered a letter to Minister Stevens requesting him to land troops from the Boston, stating that “the public safety is menaced and life and property are in peril.”

At 5 that afternoon, 162 fully armed troops from the Boston came ashore.

A few of the marines were posted at the American Consulate and Legation, but the main body of troops marched through downtown Honolulu past ‘Iolani Palace.

They were quartered less than a block from the Government Building and the palace. While the troops were ordered ashore ostensibly “to protect American lives and property,” their placement close to the palace was threatening.

Members of the queen’s Cabinet hastened to Stevens to protest the troops’ presence, but it made no difference.

The Committee of Safety had initially proposed that Thurston head the government, but he said he was considered such a ,”radical mover” it would be better to choose someone more conservative.

Dole, The Pineapple Man, Becomes President Of Hawaii

They then offered the presidency to Sanford B. Dole, another of the “mission boys,” as Thurston called them.

Dole had declined to take part in the revolution except for drafting documents. Rather than abolishing the monarchy, he favored replacing the queen with a regency holding the throne in trust until Princess Ka’iulani came of age. Still, he accepted the presidency and submitted his resignation as a justice in Hawai’i’s Supreme Court.

On the morning of Jan. 17, Dole gave Stevens a letter from Thurston, asking for his recognition of the provisional government, which they planned to proclaim at 3 that afternoon.

The American minister told Dole, “I think you have a great opportunity.”

They also had luck. Just as Dole and the Committee of Safety were about to set out to take possession of the Government Building, Hawaiian police halted a wagon loaded with arms for the insurgents, and the driver shot a policeman in the shoulder. (This was the only blood shed during the revolution.) The sound of the shot drew a crowd, including the policemen who had been keeping an eye on the Committee of Safety, and in the confusion, they walked to the Government Building unnoticed.

The building was unguarded and nearly deserted, and few people heard the proclamation that was read from its steps, declaring the end of the monarchy and the establishment of a provisional government as an interim measure until annexation to the United States could be achieved.

The American troops were lined up nearby. Minister Stevens immediately, and prematurely, recognized the provisional government.

On Jan. 17, 1893, at dusk, Queen Lili'uokalani yielded her throne under protest, with these words:

"I, Lili'uokalani, by the grace of God and under the constitution of the Hawaiian Kingdom, Queen, do hereby solemnly protest against any and all acts done against myself and the constitutional government of the Hawaiian Kingdom by certain persons claiming to have established a Provisional Government of and for this Kingdom.

"That I yield to the superior force of the United States of America, whose Minister Plenipotentiary, His Excellency John L. Stevens, has caused United States troops to be landed at Honolulu and declared that he would support the said Provisional Government.

"Now, to avoid any collision of armed forces and perhaps loss of life, I do, under this protest, and impelled by said forces, yield my authority until such time as the Government of the United States shall, upon the facts being presented to it, undo the action of its representative and reinstate me in the authority which I claim as the constitutional sovereign of the Hawaiian Islands."

The queen surrendered Hawai'i's sovereignty not to the revolutionaries but to the "superior force of the United States of America" -- temporarily, she believed -- confident that the American government would restore her to the throne.

After the queen yielded, the marshal surrendered the police station house, and at the barracks, the Queen's Royal Guards stacked their arms.

Having stated her case in writing, Lili'uokalani retired to her private residence, Washington Place, urging the leaders of her people to avoid riot and to await tranquilly the result of her appeal to the United States government.

The U.S. Ambassador Says "Pluck Hawaii"

The provisional government took over the palace and declared martial law.

Later, at its request, Minister Stevens proclaimed Hawai'i a temporary protectorate and raised the American flag over government buildings.

He wrote the State Department urging annexation, saying, "The Hawaiian pear is now fully ripe, and this is the golden hour for the United States to pluck it."

The provisional government had chartered a steamer, and Thurston and four others hastened to Washington with a treaty of annexation in hand. The queen's envoys were

refused permission to sail on the same ship, and by the time they reached Washington, President Harrison had already sent the annexation treaty to the Senate.

But Harrison was in his last days in power, and Grover Cleveland, who replaced him, withdrew the treaty.

Lili'uokalani wrote to Cleveland requesting redress, and young Princess Ka'iulani went to Washington to appeal for the monarchy and the Hawaiian nation, impressing the president and all who met her with her beauty and dignity.

President Cleveland sent to Honolulu special commissioner James H. Blount, former chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Blount's job was to investigate the circumstances of the revolution, the role Minister Stevens and American troops played in it, and to determine the feelings of the people of Hawai'i toward the provisional government.

Blount's instructions were secret, but it was known that his word would be "paramount," concerning the United States in the Islands, so he was given the nickname "Paramount Blount."

He ordered the troops back to their ship and the American flag taken down and replaced by the Hawaiian flag.

Accessible to all who wished to talk to him, he cordially and impartially heard a steady stream of people from both sides. Over four months, he assembled a vast amount of information from interviews, letters and documents.

Blount's final report charged that Stevens conspired in the overthrow of the monarchy, which would not have taken place without the landing of U.S. troops.

Blount recommended restoring the queen, saying...The undoubted sentiment of the people is for the queen, against the provisional government and against annexation."

He noted, "There is not an annexationist in the Islands, so far as I have been able to observe, who would be willing to submit the question of annexation to a popular vote."

Based on Blount's findings, President Cleveland decided that, in the name of justice, he would do everything in his power to reinstate the queen, provided she would grant amnesty to those who had overthrown her government. The idealistic Cleveland, in assuming the provisional government would willingly relinquish power to her at his request, misjudged the character and tenacity of her adversaries.

The new American minister in Hawai'i, Albert Willis, expressed to the queen the president's regret that the unauthorized intervention of the United States had caused her to surrender her sovereignty, and his hope that the wrong done to her and her people might be redressed. Willis told her the president's condition for reinstating her on the throne was that she grant full amnesty.

Lili'uokalani replied that according to Hawaiian law, the punishment for treason was death, but that she would be satisfied with banishing them from the kingdom forever. Later, she agreed to accede to the president's wishes.

Willis next went to Sanford Dole and the provisional government, assuring them of the queen's amnesty. Speaking for President Cleveland, Willis acknowledged the wrong committed by the United States in the revolution and requested them to resign power and restore the queen.

The answer, of course, was no. They repudiated the right of the American president to interfere in their domestic affairs and said that if the American forces illegally assisted the revolution, the provisional government was not responsible.

On Dec. 18, 1893, President Cleveland made an eloquent speech to Congress on the Hawaiian situation.

He had harsh words for the landing of American troops at the revolutionaries' request:

"This military demonstration upon the soil of Honolulu was of itself an act of war; unless made either with the consent of the government of Hawai'i or for the bona fide purpose of protecting the imperiled lives and property of citizens of the United States.

"But there is no pretense of any such consent on the part of the government of the queen ... the existing government, instead of requesting the presence of an armed force, protested against it. There is as little basis for the pretense that forces were landed for the security of American life and property. If so, they would have been stationed in the vicinity of such property and so as to protect it, instead of at a distance and so as to command the Hawaiian Government Building and palace. ... When these armed men were landed, the city of Honolulu was in its customary orderly and peaceful condition."

The president continues:

"But for the notorious predilections of the United States minister for annexation, the Committee of Safety, which should have been called the Committee of Annexation, would never have existed.

"But for the landing of the United States forces upon false pretexts respecting the danger to life and property, the committee would never have exposed themselves to the plans and penalties of treason by undertaking the subversion of the queen's government.

"But for the presence of the United States forces in the immediate vicinity and in position to accord all needed protection and support, the committee would not have proclaimed the provisional government from the steps of the Government Building.

"And, finally, but for the lawless occupation of Honolulu under false pretexts by the United States forces, and but for Minister Stevens' recognition of the provisional government when the United States forces were its sole support and constituted its only military strength, the queen and her government would never have yielded to the provisional government, even for a time and for the sole purpose of submitting her case to the enlightened justice of the United States. ... "

He further stated,

“... if a feeble but friendly state is in danger of being robbed of its independence and its sovereignty by a misuse of the name and power of the United States, the United States cannot fail to vindicate its honor and its sense of justice by an earnest effort to make all possible reparation.”

President Cleveland concluded by placing the matter in the hands of Congress.

The Senate hearings were conducted by the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, John Tyler Morgan, an annexationist, whose final report managed to find everyone blameless for the revolution except the queen.

Many in the Senate disagreed, and the House censured Stevens and passed a resolution opposing annexation.

In the end, Congress took no action either to restore the monarchy or to annex Hawai'i.

With their goal of annexation stalled, the leaders of the provisional government decided to form a republic, while waiting for a more opportune political climate.

They drafted a constitution and declared it law by proclamation -- the very act for which they had forced Lili'uokalani from her throne.

The new constitution required voters to swear allegiance to the republic, and thousands of Native Hawaiians refused, out of loyalty to queen and country.

Foreigners who had sided with the revolution were allowed to vote.

Property requirements and other qualifications were so strict that relatively few Hawaiians and no Asians could vote.

On July 4, 1894, Sanford Dole announced the inauguration of the Republic of Hawai'i, and declared himself president.

Unwilling to give up, many Hawaiians and other royalists accumulated arms for a counterrevolution to restore the monarchy.

In the January 1895 uprising, led by Robert Wilcox, the royalists were forced by government troops to retreat into the valleys behind Honolulu, and after 10 days of fighting, most of them, including Wilcox, were captured.

The republic's prize catch was Queen Lili'uokalani.

A search revealed a cache of arms buried in the flower garden of her home. She was arrested Jan. 16, 1895, exactly two years from the date the American troops landed in support of the revolution. Imprisoned in a corner room on the second story of 'Iolani Palace, she was guarded day and night, allowed only one attendant and no visitors.

Shortly after she was imprisoned, Lili'uokalani was given a document of abdication to sign and was led to believe that, if she refused, several of her followers were to be shot for treason.

She wrote, "For myself, I would have chosen death rather than to have signed it; but it was represented to me that by my signing this paper all the persons who had been arrested, all my people now in trouble by reason of their love and loyalty toward me, would be immediately released ... the stream of blood ready to flow unless it was stayed by my pen."

Wilcox and four others were sentenced to death, after all.

Many other royalists received long prison sentences and heavy fines.

Lili'uokalani noted, "Their sentences were passed the same as though my signature had not been obtained. That they were not executed is due solely to a consideration which has been officially stated: 'Word came from the United States that the execution of captive rebels would militate against annexation.'"

The queen was charged with misprision of treason -- having knowledge of treason and failing to report it--and was tried by a military commission. Her trial was held in the former throne room of the palace, where she had once greeted sovereigns and dignitaries from around the world.

The prosecutors taunted, insulted and tried to humiliate her, but they never succeeded in destroying her dignity.

Found guilty, she was given the maximum sentence of five years imprisonment at hard labor and a \$5,000 fine.

It was not carried out, but she remained a prisoner in the palace.

On New Year's Day 1896, all the royalist prisoners were freed -- except Lili'uokalani.

After eight months of imprisonment in the palace, she was allowed to return to her home, under house arrest. Not until late 1896 was her freedom restored.

She went to Washington, armed with documents signed by many Hawaiians asking President Cleveland to reinstate their queen. The president welcomed her warmly and she expressed her gratitude for his earlier efforts to restore her kingdom's independence.

But it was now too late for him to be of further help.

The Plucking Is Consummated

His successor, William McKinley, sent the annexation treaty to the Senate.

Hawaiians submitted a petition to Congress with 29,000 signatures opposing annexation, and petitions to the Republic of Hawai'i, asking that annexation be put to a public vote. They were never permitted to vote on the issue.

Adding to the pro-annexation argument was the outbreak of the Spanish-American War in 1898, drawing attention to the Islands' strategic position in the Pacific.

Ultimately, the annexationists won, and Grover Cleveland wrote: "I am ashamed of the whole affair."

Sovereignty of Hawai'i was formally transferred to the United States at ceremonies at 'Iolani Palace on Aug. 12, 1898.

Sanford Dole spoke as the newly appointed governor of the Territory of Hawai'i.

The Hawaiian anthem, "Hawai'i Pono 'I" -- with words written by King Kalakaua -- was played at the Hawaiian flag was lowered, and replaced by the American flag and "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The Hawaiian people had lost their land, their monarchy and now their independence.

Another loss came the following year, with the death of the beautiful young Princess. Ka'iulani, heir to the Hawaiian throne, at age 23.

Lili'uokalani remained an indomitable spirit, honored and revered by her people as a queen to the end.

She died in 1917, at the age of 79, still waiting for justice.

Last year, for the observance of the centennial of the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy, 'Iolani Palace, draped in the black of mourning, was a powerful symbol.

The Hawaiian people are still seeking justice through legal means reparations, a fulfillment of trust commitments, settlement of land claims and the return of lands.

They are, moreover, seeking recognition of Hawaiian sovereignty.

The Native Hawaiians will decide how they choose to structure sovereignty -- as a nation-within-a-nation, complete independence, or some other model. It is no longer a distant dream, but an attainable goal.

STUCK ON STUPID

[Hysterical Raving To The Contrary, U.S. Military Plan Not In Motion Now To Attack Iran]

#1:

**U.S. Secretary Of Defense Says
Iran Not Building A Nuclear
Weapon:**

**Restates “The Long-Held View Of The
Obama Administration That Iran Is
Not Yet Committed To Building A
Nuclear Arsenal”
Warns Israel Not To Attack**

January 8, 2012 Associated Press

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta says Iran is laying the groundwork for making nuclear weapons someday, but is not yet building a bomb and called for continued diplomatic and economic pressure to persuade Tehran not to take that step.

As he has previously, Panetta cautioned against a unilateral strike by Israel against Iran's nuclear facilities, saying the action could trigger Iranian retaliation against U.S. forces in the region.

Panetta's remarks on CBS' Face the Nation, which were taped Friday and aired Sunday, reflect the long-held view of the Obama administration that Iran is not yet committed to building a nuclear arsenal, only to creating the industrial and scientific capacity to allow one if its leaders to decide to take that final step.

The comments suggest the White House's assessment of Iran's nuclear strategy has not changed in recent months, despite warnings from advocates of military action that time is running out to prevent Tehran from becoming a nuclear-armed state.

In a talk at a Brookings Institution forum in December, Panetta said an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities would "at best" delay Iran's nuclear program by one or two years.

Among the unintended consequences, he said, would be an increase in international support for Iran and the likelihood of Iranian retaliation against U.S. forces and bases in the Mideast.

MORE:

#2: Israel And The United States Postpone Massive Joint Defense Exercise In Order To Avoid An Escalation With Iran

15.01.12 By Haaretz and DPA

Israel and the United States have postponed a massive joint defense exercise, which was expected to be carried out in the coming weeks, in order to avoid an escalation with Iran, Channel 2 reported on Sunday.

According to an Israeli defense official, Washington wants to avoid causing further tensions in the region, especially in light of the sensitive situation that has been generated after various reports in the international media that the U.S. and Israel are preparing to strike Iran's nuclear facilities.

The drill, codenamed Austere Challenge 12, was supposed to simulate the missiles fired by Iran or other antagonistic states toward Israel. Defense officials told Channel 2 on Sunday that the drill is now scheduled to take place in the summer.

Both Israeli and U.S. officials said the exercise would be the largest-ever joint drill by the two countries, involving thousands of U.S. soldiers.

News of it came amid heightened tensions between U.S. allies and Iran, after Tehran threatened it could close the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial oil supply route.

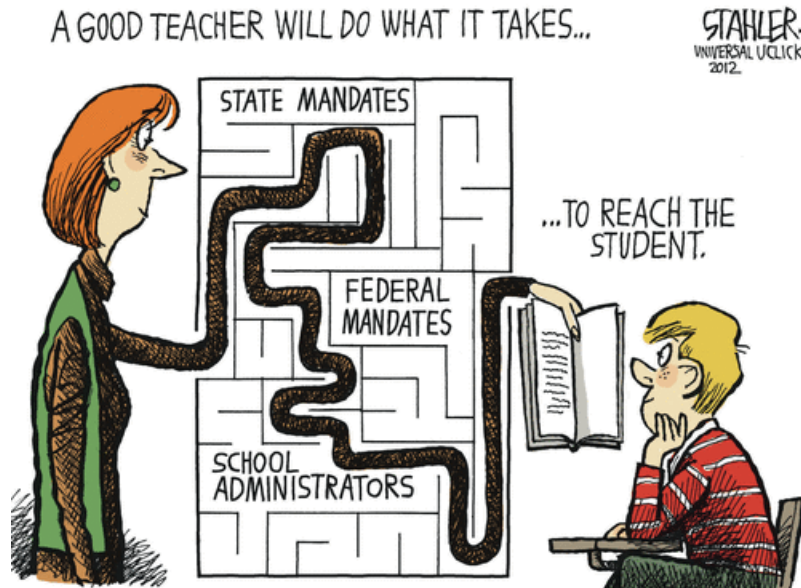
But the IDF said the drill was planned long ago and is not tied to recent events. The drill "is not in response to any real-world event," the IDF wrote in a statement last week.

The Defense Ministry said in an official statement that the postponement of the drill has not yet been announced, and that the subject is currently being discussed between Israeli and U.S. officials.

They did note, however, that the drill was not canceled due to budget considerations.

In late 2009, Israel and the United States also held a huge joint missile defense exercise, involving about 1,000 U.S. troops, alongside an equal number of Israeli military personnel.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



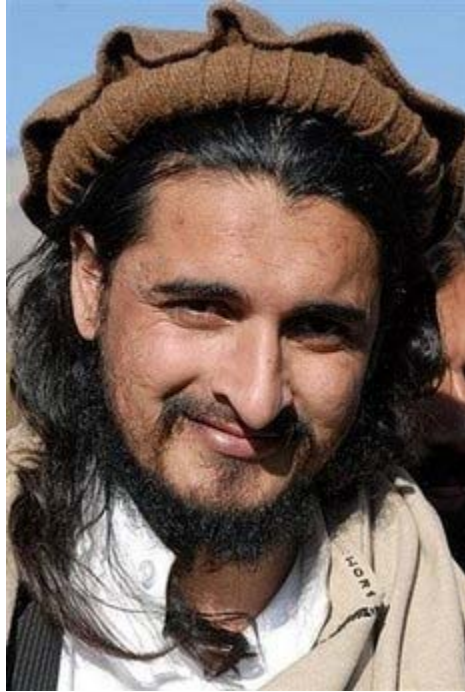
Troops Invited:

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Fiendish Enemy Of The U.S. Empire Repeatedly Rises From The Dead: U.S. Reports Drone Kills Pakistani Militant Leader For Eighth Time



January 15, 2012 by Jason Ditz, Uruknet

With officials desperately hoping that the eighth time is the charm, they have reported today that they believe the January 12 drone strike against a pair of cars in North Waziristan has killed Tehreek-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) leader Hakimullah Mehsud.

Readers may remember Hakimullah from the last seven times officials have claimed he was killed, most of them “confirmed kills.”

Hakimullah was first slain in August 2009, and slain six addition times between then and February 2010. He appeared in May 2010 to report that despite being killed so many times he was “basically ok.”

As usual, officials cited “intercepted radio communication” in their speculation, because no one ever actually identified any of the victims of the US attacks and they simply hope that they got somebody they meant to get.

And, just as usual, the TTP has already denied the death, with spokesman Asimullah Mehsud saying that Hakimullah wasn’t even in the area where the strike occurred.

Indeed the last reports on North Waziristan were that the TTP leadership had agreed to leave the region at the behest of the Bahadur faction, and that they had all moved to South Waziristan, Kurram and Orakzai.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



**Class War Romania:
A Dictator Challenged;
“Down (Romanian President Traian)
Basescu’s Dictatorship”
“Thousands Of Romanians Gathered On
Sunday In Capital Bucharest And In
Large Cities Across The Country For A
Fourth Consecutive Day Of Protests”**



A woman holds a poster reading “Down (Romanian President Traian) Basescu’s dictatorship” during a protest at the University Square in Bucharest, January 15, 2012. Thousands of Romanians gathered on Sunday in capital Bucharest and in large cities across the country for a fourth consecutive day of protests that started out against a controversial healthcare reform bill and widened to government austerity measures. REUTERS/Bogdan Cristel



Protesters burn papers and throw firecrackers at riot police during a protest at the University Square in Bucharest, January 15, 2012. REUTERS/Bogdan Cristel

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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>

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