

Military Resistance 10A18



“It Is Disappointing How Quickly An Army Transitioning To Peacetime Turns On Those Who Engaged In The Dirtiest And Most Dangerous Work Of The Army During War”

**“Am I The Only One Who Feels
A Knife In My Back?”
“Now That Money Is Tight, We’ve
Become Deadwood”
“Why?”
“Because We Forget To Wear Our Dog
Tags In Uniform On Occasion”**

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
January 23, 2012

The Jan. 9 cover headline “SMA: Get rid of deadwood soldiers,” exposed insensitivity and a lack of grace. The Army Times editorial compounds the insult, (saying), “Being a warrior was not enough.”

It is disappointing how quickly an Army transitioning to peacetime turns on those who engaged in the dirtiest and most dangerous work of the Army during war.

It is rational to list criteria that enhance promotion and retention. But successful performance during a combat tour(s) should be a core goal of any of the U.S. armed forces. Combat tours should be praised as the most heavily valued performance factor, eclipsing secondary behaviors such as not wearing dog tags in garrison or displaying tattoos.

Congress and the president may have compelling economic reasons for reducing the size of the Army.

A 10 percent to 15 percent reduction will inadvertently cause good soldiers who behaved courageously in combat to be released.

Words like “deadwood,” however, are churlish. They should be eliminated from any discussion of a reduction in force.

Lt. Col. James A. Sladack (ret.)
Orange, Calif.

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
January 23, 2012

The sergeant major of the Army is responsible for the health, welfare and morale of all soldiers. Which is why I was deeply disappointed to read what he had to say in the Jan. 9 edition (“Keep the best, lose the rest”).

Five years ago, representatives in the re-enlistment offices were hectoring us to be “patriotic” and to “think of the team” when we thought about re-upping.

So we sacrificed. We missed birthdays and anniversaries and Christmases because we were thinking of the greater good.

Now that money is tight, we’ve become deadwood.

Why?

Because we forget to wear our dog tags in uniform on occasion.

Those walks outside the wire, the improvised explosive devices dodged, the brothers and sisters mourned, and the missions accomplished (at least according to our commander in chief) are no longer accepted as reasons we did our job, and did it well.

Instead, we are told we are bad soldiers because we are out of uniform.

Am I the only one who feels a knife in my back?

Staff Sgt. Sheila Conners
Tacoma, Wash.

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

6 US Marines Killed In Afghan Chopper Crash: “A Spokesman For The Taliban Militia, Claimed The Insurgents Had Shot Down The Helicopter”

Jan 20, 2012 The Associated Press & January 21, 2012 Daily Times & AP

Six Marines assigned to a CH-53D squadron in Afghanistan died in a helicopter crash Thursday, their squadron commander said Friday in an online Facebook message.

HMH-363's "Red Lions" deployed to Afghanistan in August, replacing Hawaii's HMH-463. The squadrons have performed medium-lift missions, ferrying troops and equipment around the battlefield.

In a subsequent Facebook message, the squadron announced that families of Marines in the squadron were invited to meet Friday night in the chapel on base in Hawaii. The meeting is open only to HMH-363 families.

The helicopter went down in the volatile Helmand province.

The helicopter came down in the Musa Qala district of Helmand province on Thursday "due to technical failure", the provincial Afghan army corps commander Sayed Mulook said.

Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, a spokesman for the Taliban militia, which is leading a 10-year insurgency in Afghanistan, claimed the insurgents had shot down the helicopter.

The Sea Stallion is a heavy transport aircraft capable of carrying about 40 people. T

he US officials did not say whether anyone else was on board, other than the six. The crash occurred late Thursday.

France Suspends Afghan Army Operations After Afghan Soldier Kills Four French Soldiers And Wounds Seventeen More: French Soldiers May Be Withdrawn:

Also “Deep Cultural Clashes And Mutual Anger Between U.S. And Afghan Troops Are Increasing The Threat Of Violence Between The Two Forces”

Jan 20, 2012 By Gregory Viscusi and Eltaf Najafizada, BLOOMBERG L.P

France suspended its operations with the Afghan army and may withdraw its forces, President Nicolas Sarkozy said after an Afghan soldier killed four French military personnel.

France halted training and support for the Afghan army and is sending Defense Minister Gerard Longuet and its military chief of staff to Afghanistan to assess the situation, Sarkozy said in a speech to foreign ambassadors in Paris.

Seventeen French soldiers were injured in today's attack, Matiullah Safi, police chief of Kapisa province, where it occurred.

“If we are not satisfied with the level of security, we will draw the consequences,” Sarkozy told the diplomats.

“I will go so far as to order an early withdrawal of our troops,” he said. “We are there as friends of the Afghan people. We cannot accept that an Afghan soldier fires on French troops.”

France contributes almost 4,000 of the 130,000 troops in the U.S.-led International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, the fourth-largest contingent.

In today's attack, the Afghan soldier opened fire at a base shared by the two armies in the Tagap valley, 50 kilometers (30 miles) northeast of Kabul, the capital, Safi said by phone. French troops detained the assailant, he said.

The French soldiers were unarmed, Longuet said in an interview with France 2 television.

Longuet's mission will be “to investigate the measures the Afghan army is taking to secure its recruitment and what security measures it is taking in its relations with the French contingent,” Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said in a press conference today.

Today's attack came a month after a gunman in an Afghan army uniform killed two members of the French Foreign Legion in eastern Afghanistan.

Afghan troops or police attacked ISAF personnel in more than three dozen incidents between 2007 and last year, according to a classified report by the coalition cited today by the New York Times.

In one of the deadliest cases, an Afghan air force pilot on April 27 killed eight U.S. military personnel and a contract employee of the coalition.

Tensions between Afghans and the U.S. forces escalated last week when video footage emerged showing U.S. Marines urinating on the bodies of Afghan Taliban they had killed in a battle.

The classified ISAF report said deep cultural clashes and mutual anger between U.S. and Afghan troops are increasing the threat of violence between the two forces, the Times reported.

The newspaper said it obtained a copy of the study, titled “A Crisis of Trust and Cultural Incompatibility,” which was based on interviews with more than 850 U.S. and Afghan troops and their interpreters.

Car Bomber Attacks Kandahar Air Base: “Some” Foreign Troops “Were Killed And Wounded In The Attack”



Attack on Kandahar Air Field gate: AP

01/20/12 AP

A car bomber killed at least seven outside a crowded gate at Kandahar Air Field, a sprawling base for U.S. and NATO operations in the south. The Taliban insurgents claimed responsibility, saying they were targeting a foreign troop convoy.

The NATO coalition said some international troops were killed and wounded in the attack, but did not disclose details.

Two witnesses told The Associated Press that they suspect Thursday's car bomber was trying to hit U.S. troops because he detonated his explosives just as two pickup trucks, which they say are often used by American special forces, were leaving the base.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef said that foreign forces opened fire after the bombing and that they killed three of the seven civilians who died.

Earlier, officials reported that the bomber was walking near the gate, but the Afghan Ministry of Interior later said the attacker was driving a Toyota Corolla

Gates to the larger U.S. bases in Afghanistan often are crowded with trucks waiting to deliver goods and services, and local Afghans going to or coming back from jobs on the compounds.

Safiullah, a 40-year-old fuel tank driver from neighboring Zabul province, was waiting his turn to enter the base when the blast occurred.

At the time of the explosion, two pickup trucks were leaving the base, he said.

He said he remembered that, because he and another man were conversing at the time about how U.S. special forces sometimes use that kind of truck.

The explosion shattered the window of a taxi driven by Sabiullah Khan, who was at the gate waiting for customers.

"I put my head down in my car," he said. "For three or four minutes I was afraid. I was reciting the words of the Quran," the Muslim holy book.

"When the smoke cleared and I knew I was OK, I started looking outside. People were shouting for help. I saw one vehicle on fire. The Afghan army were running and taking out the wounded."

He said that when he got out of his taxi, he also saw the two pickup trucks.

"Nobody was in them, but from the condition of the vehicle, I'm sure that if they were not killed, they were wounded," he said.

Late Wednesday, NATO reported that one foreign trooper had been killed in an explosion in southern Afghanistan, but would not say whether the service member died in the Kajaki bombing, or some other incident.

A Soldier's Father Speaks

January 12, 2012 Story by Jeff Noble, Staff Writer, The Times-Tribune

In his short life, U. S. Army Pfc. Dustin Napier had a lot to offer.

His parents, Darrell and Marianne Napier of Laurel County, saw to that, as they encouraged him to reach for the stars. They also had front row seats to their youngest son growing up as a boy, a student, a soldier and a man.

It's those qualities in Dustin — his leadership, his love of life and the people around him, and his sense of knowing when to take a stand and fight for it — that stand out the most to his parents.

Which is why the 20-year-old soldier's untimely death by enemy fire in Afghanistan this past Sunday has seared a deep hole in their hearts.

"I guess just watching him grow up, and watching him focus on life, is one of the best memories I have of Dustin," said dad Darrell Napier in a telephone interview with the Times-Tribune on Wednesday afternoon.

His father said Dustin brought a joy to everyone, whether it be his Junior ROTC buddies coming over to visit their house in the McWhorter-Sublimity community, keeping his fellow workers laughing at the Save-A-Lot grocery store in London, or staying focused on being a soldier with the Army.

"I've seen his good qualities in his life. He loved the outdoors. I was proud of his accomplishments in the JROTC at South Laurel High School. He loved his friends, and most of the time there was always a bunch of his friends over at our house. And he loved helping me out around the house. That means a lot when your son's close to you," Darrell noted.

It also meant a lot that Dustin followed his father into the Armed Forces. From 1989 to 1994, Darrell Napier was in the United States Army. He was stationed overseas in Europe at Budigen, Germany, and stateside at Fort Polk, La.

"I tried to volunteer for combat, but my commander wouldn't let me volunteer. It just wasn't my time," said his dad.

Dustin was the youngest of Darrell's three sons. His oldest son is Dustin's half-brother, 29-year-old Christopher Bittner, who lives in Maineville, Ohio (near Cincinnati) and did not serve in the military. His middle son, Darrell Napier Jr., did serve briefly in the Army and was stationed at Fort Knox. At age 21, Darrell Jr. lives at home with his parents. And deep inside was a feeling in the Napier family that someday their youngest son would pursue an Army career.

Which Dustin did. According to Darrell Napier, his middle son's step into serving in the military was Dustin's calling in life.

"He'd been wanting to do that since he was a little boy, about when he was 6 years old. I encouraged him to do so. And he was a leader. He'd take the initiative to get things done. I've always raised my boys to do the right thing, no matter if the cause was popular or unpopular."

Dustin joined the Army in July 2010, and after completing his basic training in Fort Benning, Ga., he went to Fort Wainwright, Alaska, in November of that year. It was last April that Dustin was deployed with 4,000 other soldiers for a year's tour of duty in Afghanistan with the Army's 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment of the Stryker Brigade. He was assigned to the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team when he was killed Sunday, Jan. 8, in an exchange of small arms fire in the Qalat, in Afghanistan's Zabul Province.

"When he was in Afghanistan, he'd call by phone every now and then. He didn't talk a lot about the missions he went on. But when he did, he said they were a lot like what he'd seen of combat in the movies and on TV," his dad remembered.

But Darrell Napier said he noticed a restlessness in Dustin's voice at times. "He'd let things bother him sometimes because he wasn't busy. I told him to read a book, play a sport, or play a game to occupy his time."

As families with loved ones serving in uniform overseas, the Napier family looked to their church for comfort and strength, said Darrell. "Dustin did talk about death at times, which is understandable in the situation he was in. We're members of the Sunshine Hill Baptist Church, and the congregation prayed about him and for him throughout his time in Afghanistan."

Above all, his father noted Dustin missed his friends most of all — and his mom's home cooking.

"He did miss home a lot. He loved to hang out with his friends very much. He missed his friends at Save-A-Lot, where he worked for almost four years. And if there was one meal Dustin really loved from his mother, it was her chicken and dumplings."

On Route 25 south of downtown London, his former co-workers at Save-A-Lot miss Dustin too.

"You couldn't beat him at work. Dustin was a good worker here at the store. And he took his ROTC mission seriously. If you had questions about anything about the military, you'd go to him. He would always wear his Army combat uniform and his desert boots. He was very proud to wear the uniform, whether it was his ROTC uniform at South Laurel, or recently with the Army," said Sarah Baker of London, who remembered Dustin when she was in the JROTC at North Laurel High School.

Kim Patterson recalled Dustin and his brother Darrell Jr. both working with her at the store. She also recalled the good times they all had. "He was a very outgoing boy. He was polite, he was funny and he loved to sing songs by The Doors while he was at work. He talked about joining the Army, and he did just that. He loved his country, and he and his brother were like family to us. If you were down and out, Dustin would lift you up. He brought happiness to this place."

He also found happiness with his wife, Tabitha Sturgill Napier, who Dustin married last October.

His dad talked about the time they first met. "Dustin met Tabitha in the air. He was on R&R (Rest and Relaxation) when they were both flying in a plane. She was a Kentucky girl from over in a place called Eoila. That's over in Letcher County, near the Virginia

border where Pine Mountain is. From that first meeting in an airplane they would get married in the fall of last year.”

When the remains of Pfc. Dustin Napier are brought back home, his wife Tabitha will be with her husband when the plane lands at the London-Corbin Airport. The Patriot Guard Riders will meet them to escort this fallen soldier for his service and his final resting place. And the playing of “Taps” will be heard over the land Dustin loved so much.

Darrell Napier said of his son, “He was born in an Army hospital, and I’m sure he ended up dying in an Army hospital. He was my hero. Please pray for us.”

Iowa Native Marine Dies In Afghanistan, Family Says



U.S. Marine Master Sgt. Travis Riddick / SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Jan. 20, 2012 Written by Nicole Paseka, Des Moines Register

Marine Master Sgt. and Centerville native Travis Riddick, 40, was killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan on Thursday, his parents told The Des Moines Register.

Riddick joined the U.S. Marines Corps after graduating from Centerville High School in 1990. “I guess we’re kind of a Marine Corps family,” said Riddick’s father, John Riddick of Mount Pleasant. “My dad was a Marine, my brother was a Marine, I was a Marine, his cousins were Marines.”

Travis Riddick served three tours of duty in Iraq and two in Afghanistan, his parents said.

“He was there on the first day they went into Iraq. He was flying stuff in there,” John Riddick said.

Travis Riddick had just been promoted to master sergeant on Jan. 1, his father said. He had just four or five weeks remaining on this tour of duty.

The U.S. military had not confirmed Riddick’s death by Friday evening. The Vietnam War-era CH-53D helicopter crash killed six Hawaii-based Marines in the southern Helmand province, according to the Associated Press. The cause is still being investigated, but a coalition statement said there was no enemy activity in the area at the time of the crash. German Brig. Gen. Carsten Jacobson, a spokesman for the NATO coalition in Kabul, said officials were looking at a “technical fault” as the possible culprit.

The Riddicks said their son was a crew chief who enjoyed doing maintenance work on CH-53 helicopters.

“He loved his job. He loved what he did,” his father said.

“He was the most wonderful person in the world,” said his mother, Barbara Riddick. “He was a wonderful son and a wonderful father and the best Marine ever.”

Riddick said his son had previously served on the president’s helicopter squadron. “He flew President Clinton and President Bush,” he said.

The parents said Riddick’s wife, Jennifer Riddick, lives in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, with the couple’s youngest child, Victoria Riddick, age 10. The couple’s son, Levi Riddick, age 19, lives in Drakesville, Ia. The couple’s other children are Charles Lovelace, who is a member of the U.S. Coast Guard, Matt Lovelace, Jamie Lovelace and Zachary Lovelace.

John Riddick said his son always stayed in touch with his family, although he didn’t know how. “They hated to see him go. And they loved it when he came back,” he said.

Jennifer Riddick was flying to Dover, Del., on Friday to meet her husband’s body.

Riddick’s family includes an older brother, Tim Riddick, and a twin brother, Troy Riddick, who recently retired after 21 years in the Navy, family said.

Funeral arrangements have not been made.

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

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

Resistance Action: Anti-Taliban Afghan Tribal Leader Killed

01/17/2012 By RAHIM FAIEZ Associated Press & January 18, 2012 VOA News & AFP
01/20/12

KABUL, Afghanistan—Assailants killed a prominent anti-Taliban tribal leader as he was praying in a mosque Tuesday in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, authorities said, the latest in a steady campaign of assassinations of pro-government officials.

Armed insurgents entered the mosque Tuesday morning and shot Mohammad Nahim Agha Mama as he worshipped, the Kandahar provincial governor's office said in a statement. A Pashtun tribal leader and local council member of the province's Dand district, Nahim was well known in the province for urging his followers not to join the Taliban.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the Taliban have killed hundreds of Afghan government officials and pro-government tribal leaders in recent years as part of wave of assassinations seeking to weaken confidence in President Hamid Karzai's administration.

Also Tuesday, a car bomber slammed into the entrance of a military base jointly run by U.S. and Afghan troops in eastern Afghanistan, wounding three Afghan private security guards, officials in Nangarhar province said. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack at the base in Ghani Kail district.

A bomber on a motorcycle killed two police officers in the Kajaki district. More than 20 people were wounded in the blast.

A second attack took place hours later in the Nad Ali district. A provincial spokesman, Daud Ahmadi, said an Afghan intelligence official, two of his bodyguards, and a fourth person were killed by a remote-controlled bomb.

On Wednesday, three Afghan policemen, were killed when an attacker blew himself up in a bazaar in neighboring Helmand province.

“Taliban Fighters Have Been Enraged By A Video Which

**Shows U.S. Marines Urinating
On Three Corpses”
“Some Say They Do Not
Understand Their Leadership’s
Relatively Measured Response To
The Tape”
“Every One Is Now Desperately
Trying To Find U.S. Soldiers To Take
Revenge For The Desecration”
“The Entire Nation, Even So Many
People In The Government And Armed
Forces, Have Turned Against Them
Because Of The Atrocities”**

Jan 20, 2012 Reuters. Additional reporting by Jibrán Ahmad in PESHAWAR, writing by Emma Graham-Harrison

Taliban fighters in Afghanistan have been enraged by a video which shows U.S. marines urinating on three corpses, believed to be insurgents, and some say they do not understand their leadership’s relatively measured response to the tape.

News of the clip spread fast across Afghanistan, even though only a minority of people have electricity and the internet is restricted to a tiny urban elite.

Radio can reach remote militants and villagers and mobile phones are used by many Afghans, on both sides of the war, for storing and sharing videos even in remote areas with little communications infrastructure.

“I heard from some friends about this shameful act of the U.S. forces but could not see it at first,” said one militant who called himself Qari Babar, explaining that a Pashto-language radio broadcast first alerted him to the tape’s existence.

The video, posted on YouTube and other websites, shows four Marines in camouflage combat uniforms urinating on three corpses. One of them jokes: “Have a nice day, buddy.” Another makes a lewd joke.

Although a Taliban spokesman criticized it last week, he said it would not harm nascent efforts to broker peace talks.

For some insurgents, their leadership's muted response to the Marines' actions was unwelcome, particularly after reports the Taliban had agreed to open a political office in Qatar to ease possible negotiation with the United States and allies.

"Our leaders overlooked this degrading and inhumane act of American soldiers because they are interested in peace talks," said Mullah Mohammad Gul, a local Taliban commander in southern Helmand province, where the video is believed to have been made.

"Our duty is to defend our sacred religion and our people and we will keep fighting, no matter what."

Insurgent fighters in other parts of the country said the video could undermine discipline and push foot soldiers to ignore orders from higher ranked fighters.

"Until now, we were following guidelines and principles laid down by our senior commanders for us to follow while fighting," said Babar, active in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province.

Young insurgents might ignore orders in future, he added.

Babar said he watched the video with around 70 fighters, and said it shocked them even though previous cases of abuse by foreign soldiers in Afghanistan, including the murder of innocent civilians, had been well publicized.

"Every one is now desperately trying to find U.S. soldiers to take revenge for the desecration of the bodies," he added.

Several commanders also thought the Marines' actions would also help bolster the group's standing with the rural Afghans they fight among.

"It helps us to win the support and sympathy of the Afghan people," Abdul Basit, who fights in eastern Khost province where insurgents have a strong presence, told Reuters.

"You see now the entire nation, even so many people in the government and armed forces, have turned against them because of the atrocities," Basit said.

Basit added that they had been advised by their leaders not to kill their prisoners and spies but after seeing the video, many of them might not control themselves in future.

In the southern town of Marjah, a part of Helmand that has seen heavy fighting and was the centre of a U.S.-led campaign to displace the Taliban in early 2010, another commander agreed.

“It is good that such video has emerged which showed Americans’ inhumane acts,” Mullah Abdullah told Reuters by satellite phone. He disagreed it would sap discipline, and instead saw a groundswell of greater support.

“From now on, hate against the foreign troops will grow in the hearts of every Muslim, especially in Afghanistan.”

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION

U.S. Paying Six Times As Much To Send War Supplies To Troops In Afghanistan Through Alternate Routes After Pakistan Closes Border Crossings

Jan 19, 2012 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. is paying six times as much to send war supplies to troops in Afghanistan through alternate routes after Pakistan’s punitive decision in November to close border crossings to NATO convoys, the Associated Press has learned.

Islamabad shut down two key Pakistan border crossings after a U.S. airstrike killed two dozen Pakistani soldiers in late November, and it is unclear when the crossings might reopen.

Pentagon figures provided to the AP show it is now costing about \$104 million per month to send the supplies through a longer northern route. That is \$87 million more per month than when the cargo moved through Pakistan.

According to U.S. officials, 85 percent of fuel supplies for the war effort in Afghanistan are now going through the northern supply routes, along with 30 percent of the supplies that had routinely come through Pakistan.

The northern routes connect Baltic and Caspian Sea ports with Afghanistan through Russia and Central Asia and the Caucasus. And they combine sea, rail and truck transport.

There has been limited contact between top U.S. and Pakistani officials.

Last week, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, talked by phone with his Pakistani counterpart, Army Gen. Ashfaq Pervez Kayani, their first contact since Dec. 21. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has not spoken to Pakistani leaders since the incident.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

One Insurgents' Prominent Leaders Said “The Number Of Kenyan Troops In Somalia And The Number Of Al Shabaab Insurgents That Infiltrated Kenya Are The Same”

Jan 19, 2012 Garowe Online

MOGADISHU, Somalia - The insurgent organization Al Shabaab have released photos of two Kenyan officials who were captured in Wajir district located in north Kenya, Radio Garowe reports.

The two hostages named Fredrick Irungu Wainaina 56 and Yesse Mule Edward 30 both are government officials who were first seen on a back of pick up truck in the town of Bardhere in southern Somalia.

The men who were captured after Al Shabaab insurgents raided the town and killed 6 police officers before escaping with 3 hostages.

The third hostage to be taken was of Somali descent, his whereabouts have not been disclosed yet.

One of Al Shabaab's prominent leaders Ali Dhere on Tuesday stated that the number of Kenyan troops in Somalia and the number of Al Shabaab insurgents that infiltrated Kenya are the same.

The Kenyan military has been conducting military operations in southern Somalia since October 2011.

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MILITARY NEWS

**THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THEM HOME:
ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



The funeral procession for Spc. Christopher A. Patterson passes his former school on Jan. 20, 2012 in Aurora, Ill. Patterson, 20, died Jan. 6 in Kandahar province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when in surgent forces attacked his vehicle with an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/Daily Herald, Laura Stoecker)

Coast Guard Keep Out! Protest on Monday in Support of Longshore Workers' Struggle; Solidarity With Longview Longshore Workers' Struggle: Stop Union Busting

**Monday January 23, 5-6 PM
Federal Building (26 Federal Plaza) New York City
Broadway between Duane and Worth, Lower Manhattan**

(A,C,E train to Chambers St./WTC, 4,5,6,J to Brooklyn Bridge/City Hall)

From: Professional Staff Congress Via Ben Chitty [Vietnam Veterans Against The War]
Sent: January 20, 2012
Subject: Protest on Monday in Support of Longshore Workers' Struggle

For the past year, workers of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) at the port of Longview, Washington have waged a bitter battle against union-busting.

A giant grain consortium, EGT, has built a \$200 million terminal which it is running with non-ILWU labor.

Now the U.S. Coast Guard says it will deploy armed cutters and helicopters to escort a ship to EGT's scab terminal. I

It's the first time the U.S. military has been used in a labor dispute in 40 years. Join us to condemn military union-busting.

For more information call (212) 460-0983. Or write longshoresolidarity@yahoo.com.

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

**The past year – every single day of it – has had its consequences. In the obscure depths of society, an imperceptible molecular process has been occurring irreversibly, like the flow of time, a process of accumulating discontent, bitterness, and revolutionary energy.
-- Leon Trotsky, “Up To The Ninth Of January”**

**“There Was An Immediate
Outcry Against The Desecration
Of Our Military Adversaries
Even After We Had Shot The
Life Out Of Them”**

**“It Was OK To Kill Them But Not
To Piss On Them Afterward”**

**“The Marines Were Playing By A Set
Of Rules That Exposed What War Is
Really All About”**

**“It Is Full Of Mindless Rage, Thoughtless
Acts Of Violence And A Consuming
Desire For Vengeance”**

01/18/2012 By Al Martinez Columnist, Daily News Los Angeles

Somebody get the smelling salts.

I have passed out on the floor from the shock of hearing the news that war is cruel and inhuman and disgusting.

It came to me in the form of a video that revealed four United States Marines urinating on the dead bodies of enemy soldiers in Afghanistan.

There was an immediate outcry against the desecration of our military adversaries even after we had shot the life out of them.

It was OK to kill them but not to piss on them afterward.

As a result, we are demanding severe punishment for the warriors who for reasons of their own had no respect for those who had been trying to kill them and had chosen a crude but effective method of demonstrating their disrespect.

But that's not allowed anymore in the more genteel requirements of human conflict, and they must pay the price of their indiscretion.

So what am I missing here?

As a former Marine during the Korean War, it was always my understanding that war was dirty, ugly, painful and essentially quite discourteous.

We were not trained in boot camp and at Camp Pendleton to be friends with our enemy, but rather to blow them into confetti by whatever means available. Shoot them, bomb them or burn them, but by any method subdue them.

Pissing on them afterwards was never offered as an option. But one understood that they were bad guys out to kill you and well might manifest their antipathies in many different ways, including those utilized by the Marines in Afghanistan.

My best memory of war is of a fellow infantryman who, when there seemed an odd occurrence in the heat of battle, would shake his head and says "This is unreal." He would amplify the phrase by concluding later that what had happened must have occurred in some kind of parallel universe.

It could not have happened to him. Not really.

He had a point. Where life and death intersect, there is no reality.

The very idea of members of the same species confronting one another on a field of battle and killing each other according to very specific rules is surreal. It flashes into the head with the peculiarity of a new idea: I could die here.

Try as we might, we cannot gentrify war.

We do not have referees wandering the battlegrounds to make sure that everyone is performing his duties in the best interest of the Geneva Accord.

Neither do those with guns and bombs have the inclination to carry a condensed version of the rules stuffed in a pocket of their ammo belts and little time to implement those rules if they had them.

Complicating the problem of ungentlemanly conduct by our soldiers is that the newer wars are not “traditional.”

We do not see great armies clashing head-on with tanks rolling and bayonets fixed. In Afghanistan and in Iraq before that, we are engaged in combat with shadows and whispers that dart in and out of reality like subliminal thoughts, targets that merge and melt before one’s very eyes.

The unreality of war has taken a quantum leap.

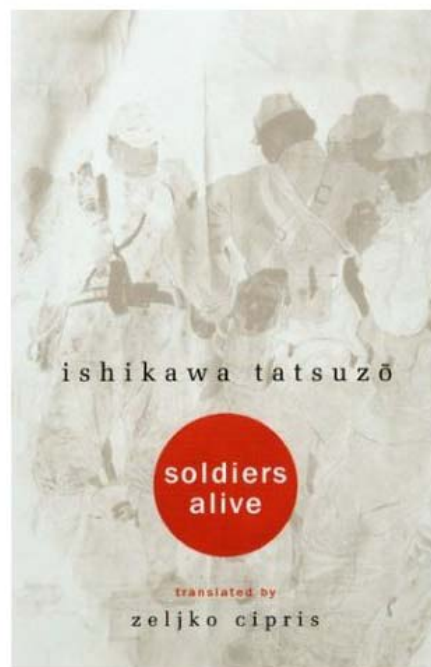
Does that justify desecrating the bodies of those we have killed?

Never.

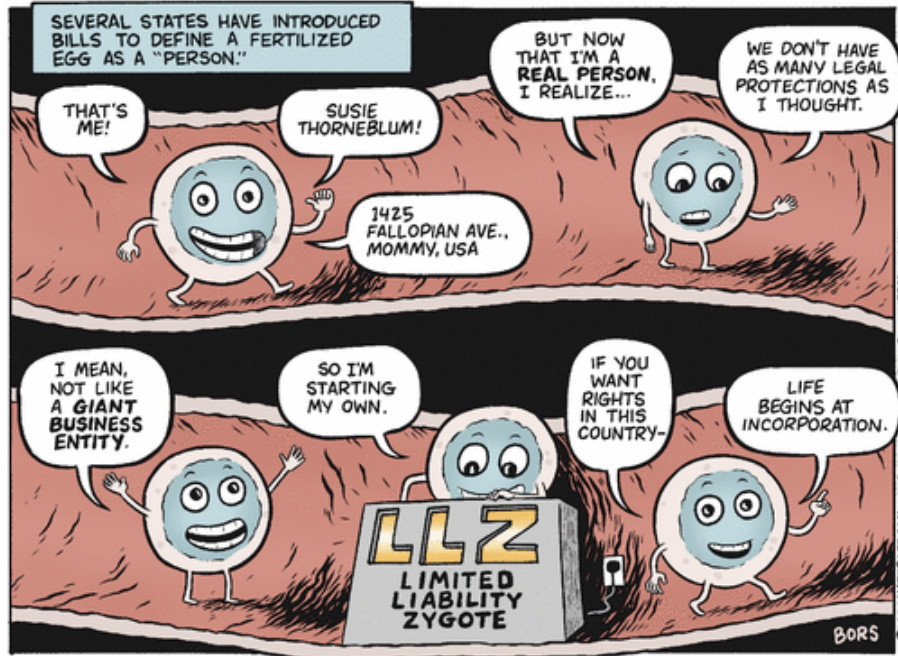
But in their way, the Marines were playing by a set of rules that exposed what war is really all about. It is full of mindless rage, thoughtless acts of violence and a consuming desire for vengeance.

By its inherent disrespect for life, war pisses on the whole human race.

Ishikawa and Kuroshima would understand: insert troops into a hell on earth and there’s no way to prevent atrocities. Yet the real fiends in their capital suites are never spattered with a single drop of blood. Solidarity, Z



DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



C.I.A Command Job At New York City Police Department Violated Presidential Order: New York Police Commissioner Kept The Violation Secret From City Council Inquiry

Testifying before the City Council in October, Kelly said the collaboration was authorized under the 1981 presidential order, known as No. 12333.

Kelly cited the section of the presidential order, 2.6c, that also requires the CIA's top lawyer to approve such arrangements, but he did not tell the city council that approval by the CIA's top lawyer was required.

January 20, 2012 By ADAM GOLDMAN and MATT APUZZO, Associated Press

The CIA's top lawyer never approved sending a veteran agency officer to New York, where he helped set up police spying programs, The Associated Press has learned.

Such approval would have been required under the presidential order that Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said authorized the unusual assignment.

Normally, when the CIA dispatches one of its officers to work in another government agency, rules are spelled out in advance in writing to ensure the CIA doesn't cross the line into domestic spying.

Under a 1981 presidential order, the CIA is permitted to provide "specialized equipment, technical knowledge or assistance of expert personnel" to local law enforcement agencies but only when the CIA's general counsel approves in each case.

Neither of those things happened in 2002, when CIA Director George Tenet sent veteran agency officer Lawrence Sanchez to New York, former U.S. intelligence officials told the AP.

While on the CIA's payroll, Sanchez was the architect of spying programs that transformed the NYPD into one of the nation's most aggressive domestic intelligence agencies.

The CIA's inspector general cleared the agency of any wrongdoing in its partnership with New York, but the absence of documentation and legal review shows how murky the rules were as the CIA and NYPD formed their unprecedented collaboration in the frenzied months after the 2001 terrorist attacks.

In a series of investigative reports since August, the AP has revealed that, with the CIA's help, the NYPD developed spying programs that monitored every aspect of Muslim life and built databases on where innocent Muslims eat, shop, work and pray.

Plainclothes officers monitored conversations in Muslim neighborhoods and wrote daily reports about what they heard.

Kelly, the police commissioner, has vigorously defended the NYPD's relationship with the CIA.

Testifying before the City Council in October, Kelly said the collaboration was authorized under the 1981 presidential order, known as No. 12333.

"Operating under this legal basis, the CIA has advised the police department on key aspects of intelligence gathering and analysis," Kelly said.

Kelly cited the section of the presidential order, 2.6c, that also requires the CIA's top lawyer to approve such arrangements, but he did not tell the city council that approval by the CIA's top lawyer was required.

The CIA's general counsel at the time, Scott Muller, did not approve the arrangement, former intelligence officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter.

CIA lawyers, particularly those in New York, were aware Sanchez was working out of the NYPD offices but the rules of the arrangement were not documented in advance, the officials said.

Muller, now in private practice in New York, said he had not been following the issue and declined to comment.

The CIA did not respond when repeatedly asked to explain the justification for Sanchez's assignment and why Muller did not sign off.

Sanchez, a CIA veteran who spent 15 years overseas in the former Soviet Union, South Asia and the Middle East, instructed officers on the art of collecting information without attracting attention. He directed officers and reviewed case files. Sometimes intelligence collected from NYPD's operations was passed informally to the CIA, former NYPD officials said.

The CIA's internal watchdog found nothing wrong with the partnership and concluded that the agency did not violate the executive order. U.S. officials have said that's in part because the CIA never instructed Sanchez to set up the NYPD spying programs.

U.S. officials have acknowledged that the rules were murky. They attributed that to the desperate push for better intelligence following the attacks.

Sanchez left the department in late 2010 but was followed last summer by a senior clandestine operative who holds the title of special assistant to David Cohen, a former CIA officer who runs the intelligence division.

The CIA has asked the AP not to publish the operative's name.

The CIA would not say whether its current general counsel approved his being sent to the NYPD.

The clandestine CIA operative's role at the NYPD remains unclear. Officially, he is there on a sabbatical to observe the NYPD's management. Kelly said the operative provides the NYPD with foreign intelligence. CIA Director David Petraeus described him as an adviser. Director of National Intelligence James Clapper described him to Congress as an analyst, then Clapper's office acknowledged that was incorrect.

The CIA's relationship with the NYPD has troubled lawmakers and top intelligence officials.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, has said the CIA has "no business or authority in domestic spying, or in advising the NYPD how to conduct local surveillance."

Clapper also said it did not look good for the CIA to be involved in any city police department.

Welcome To The Occupied USA:

**Central Florida Police Officer
Kicks And Beats 66-Year-Old Man
Suffering From Dementia:
“The Video Shows Another Officer
Running Over And Tasing Flowers In
The Face”
“The Officer Turned Off His Video And
Audio Equipment Before The Beating”**

The only disciplinary record the officer received for the incident was a written reprimand for turning off the recording equipment. Flowers was charged with battery on a law enforcement officer.

January 16, 2012 WFTV

MELBOURNE, Fla. — WFTV obtained dash camera video of a violent police beating in Melbourne.

The video shows an officer attacking a 66-year-old man who WFTV learned is suffering from dementia.

In the video, Melbourne police Officer Derek Middendorf is shown giving Albert Flowers a front kick to his stomach.

Middendorf then punched Flowers repeatedly while he was on the ground.

In a report, Middendorf said Flowers walked towards him in an aggressive manner at a fast pace and he couldn't tell whether he had a knife in his hands.

Flowers' nephew, Garrick Flowers, said he yelled at the officer to stop and told him his uncle has dementia.

“He's 66 years old, he had triple bypass, I think he's killing him,” said Garrick Flowers.

Flowers owns a lawn care business, and said an employee called the police because he said Flowers pulled a knife on him during a fight about money.

When police arrived, the family said Flowers never pulled a knife and that the issue had been resolved.

“Everything was taken care of. If he forgot, I was there to take care of whatever,” said Garrick Flowers.

The family said Middendorf was choking Flowers, and the video shows another officer running over and tasing Flowers in the face.

The family said Flowers was hospitalized for close to a month.

The officer turned off his video and audio equipment before the beating.

The department was able to extract the video from the hard drive, but not the audio.

The only disciplinary record the officer received for the incident was a written reprimand for turning off the recording equipment.

Flowers was charged with battery on a law enforcement officer.

“It’s ridiculous. Clearly from this video there was no assault on a law enforcement officer. We asked for a speedy trial. We want a jury to see this video,” attorney Paul Bross said.

The police chief said he could not comment on the allegations of excessive force, because he had not yet seen the complaint, which was filed on Friday.

**Obama Regime Refusing To
Return Personal Computers
Seized In Fraudulent Case Against
Whistleblower Who Exposed NSA
Incompetence And Corruption:
“After The Failed Drake Prosecution
‘You’d Think ... The Justice
Department And NSA Would Have
Learned Their Lessons’”**

“Yet Again, NSA Wants To Classify Information It Had Nothing To Do With, And Do So Retroactively” “After They Were Already Copyrighted”

Wiebe has made it clear he wants all his seized computers and hard drives returned. He notes in his email that he was never charged with a crime.

“In my eyes, the government’s actions in this regard have been, and continue to be, unlawful,” he wrote. “The government has my property and denied me the use of it. So, for me, there is nothing to negotiate. A wrong has been done. Now it is time to find justice under the law.”

January 19, 2012 By Peter Hermann, The Baltimore Sun

The National Security Agency says it found top-secret information on hard drives that were seized in a failed espionage probe, and the agency is refusing to release the computers — despite the continued protests of their owners.

In court filings in Baltimore this week, the government says the seized computers “cannot lawfully be returned.” NSA’s deputy chief of staff for signals intelligence concluded that disclosing the contents of one computer hard drive would “cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security.”

The claims come in the aftermath of the prosecution of NSA analyst Thomas Drake, who was accused of felony espionage but convicted only of a single misdemeanor involving inappropriate computer use.

As part of the investigation, the FBI seized computers from several ex-NSA employees; they have not been charged with any crime and are suing to get the computers back.

The FBI seized several computers from each of the five plaintiffs.

But Jesselyn Radack of the nonprofit Government Accountability Project said that “if the unreturned property contained such damning information, the Justice Department would have used it against Drake at trial, since most of the ‘evidence’ the government tried to introduce against him was deemed to be unclassified and caused their case to crumble.”

The filings by prosecutors do not detail the classified information. But the people who sued the NSA have said their computers shared a 10-page document — dubbed by the government the “Collaborative Paper” — they compiled after they left government service.

The document was to be a blueprint for a planned private consulting business to help companies mine information from large databases.

FBI Special Agent Laura J. Pino, in one court document filed this week, identifies a 10-page document as one of the three items that prosecutors say cannot be returned to Wiebe. The other two are computers — a Dell Dimension and one built by Wiebe.

Drake was among a group of NSA analysts who had filed internal complaints with the Pentagon's inspector general alleging the agency misspent money and ignored technological advances to help target terrorist groups such as al-Qaida.

Complaining of retaliation for filing the complaints, Drake helped expose internal NSA mismanagement to a Baltimore Sun reporter, identified in court documents as Siobhan Gorman, who went on to work for The Wall Street Journal. She wrote a series of award-winning articles for The Sun in 2006 and 2007.

After charging Drake with felony espionage, prosecutors backed down on the most serious counts.

A federal judge criticized prosecutors for dragging Drake through “four years of hell.”

Drake has maintained that he never passed on classified intelligence to the newspaper, but limited the information to internal management issues. The count on which he was convicted, and sentenced to 240 hours community service, does not allege he divulged secret intelligence.

As part of the Drake investigation, the FBI searched his home and the homes of the other ex-analysts and a former congressional staffer for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, seizing computers and other items.

All five people are seeking the return of the items seized. They are representing themselves in the civil suit, but have been backed by the Washington-based Government Accountability Project, which helps protect government whistle-blowers. Drake was represented by a public defender at his criminal trial.

On Thursday, the accountability project's Radack said it appears the NSA classified the documents after they were already copyrighted.

She called it “classification theater” and said that after the failed Drake prosecution “you'd think ... the Justice Department and NSA would have learned their lessons.”

Radack said prosecutors did not use the so-called “Collaborative Paper” in their case against Drake. She also said that she thinks other documents deemed classified included diagrams and PowerPoint slides of the prospective business.

“In essence, the government now wants to declare ownership over the whistle-blowers' intellectual property,” Radack said.

“Unfortunately for NSA, they are too late. It has been copyrighted since 2005. Yet again, NSA wants to classify information it had nothing to do with, and do so retroactively.”

In an interview on Thursday, Wiebe said one computer might contain notes on a new way of managing that he was pushing while at the NSA.

“It was techy-talk, a disciplined process moving from point A to point B,” Wiebe said. “A lot of people didn’t pay attention to it. ... It was a way to get better engineering practices.”

He said the government might be trying to classify the information, not because it’s top secret, but to keep him and his group from using it for future endeavors.

Wiebe, Drake and others argued in November that in addition to the 10-page document, their computer hard drives contained personal information, such as address books, family recipes, tax returns, graduate school papers and family photos.

Barnard, the assistant U.S. attorney handling the case, said in his court filing that “given the volume of the hard disk drives, and the time it will take to perform a complete review to separate classified from unclassified information, a time-consuming process is expected.” He wrote, “Petitioner has been unwilling to cooperate ... in this process.”

In his court filings, Barnard included email exchanges he had with Wiebe, offering at one point to let a federal magistrate supervise the review and “help you get back everything that is lawfully yours.”

Wiebe has made it clear he wants all his seized computers and hard drives returned.

He responded to the email saying he preferred take the issue to court. He notes in his email that he was never charged with a crime.

“In my eyes, the government’s actions in this regard have been, and continue to be, unlawful,” he wrote. “The government has my property and denied me the use of it. So, for me, there is nothing to negotiate. A wrong has been done. Now it is time to find justice under the law.”

Troops Invited:

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