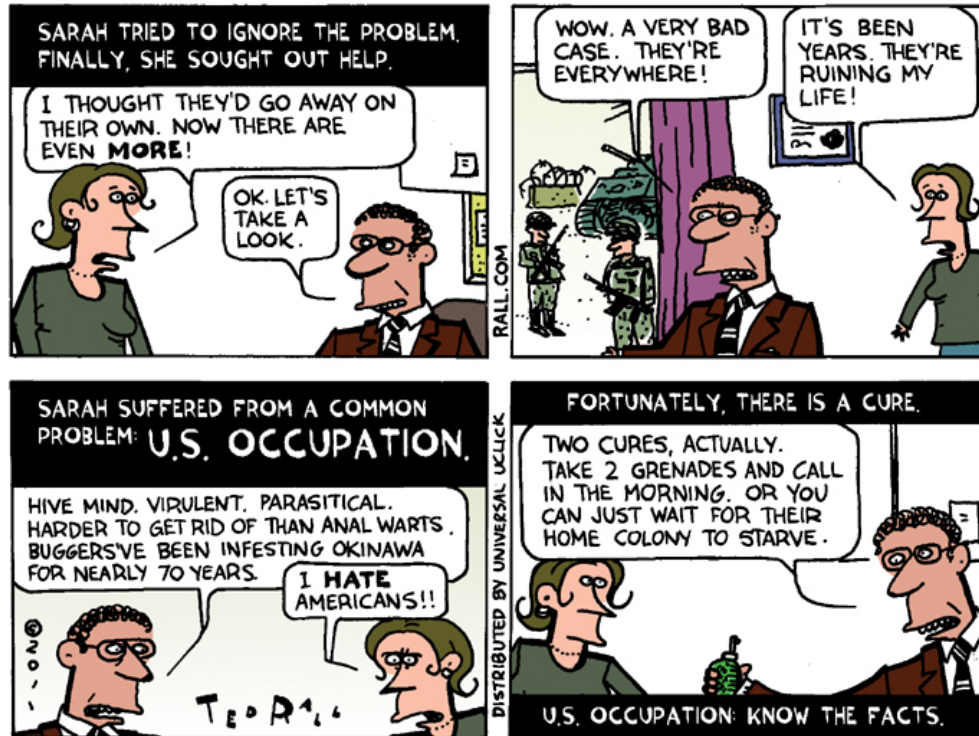


Military Resistance 10A3



**U.S. Government
Traitors Prefer Troops
Dead Or Maimed By IEDs
To Cutting Money For
War Profiteers:**

Pentagon Gives Profiteers \$60 Billion For Useless Ways To Stop IED Attacks While Destroying Report On Simple, Effective, Inexpensive Way To Do It:

“When Rivolo Oversaw A Test-Exercise In Jordan In 2005 That Clearly Demonstrated The Effectiveness Of The Light-Aircraft Approach, All Copies Of The Resulting Report Were Recalled And Destroyed”

**“It Was Too Cheap For Their Taste”
“Those Who Come Up With Simple Responses To Nullify The IED Impact ‘Are The Antithesis Of The Techno-War That Keeps The Money Flowing””**

December 19, 2011 by Sherwood Ross, Global Research.

Sherwood Ross, who worked formerly as a columnist for major dailies and wire services, writes on current affairs and runs a public relations firm “for good causes.” Reach him at sherwoodross10@gmail.com

Even though it has spent at least \$60 billion to destroy them, the Pentagon is losing the battle to combat the Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), which have accounted for two out of every three U.S. casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This won't stop the Pentagon, though, from spending another \$10.1 billion on them next year as it struggles to reduce the human toll the IEDs are taking in its longest-ever war.

While 10 to 15 percent of the IEDs that go off maim or kill U.S. soldiers, "The statistical likelihood of (an enemy) being killed or hurt while planting a bomb was close to zero", writes Andrew Cockburn in the November issue of Harper's magazine. By May, 2007, he reported, some 70,000 IEDs were planted in Iraq alone.

"Assembled from cooking pots, mobile phones, flashlight batteries, farm fertilizer, and other commonplace items, these home-made weapons have altered the course of the Iraqi and Afghan wars," Cockburn writes.

"They are also as far removed from our industrial approach to warfare as it is possible to be."

According to Wikipedia, "In 2009, there were 7,228 IED attacks in Afghanistan, a 120 percent increase over 2008, and a record for the war.

Last year, "IED attacks in Afghanistan wounded 3,366 U.S. soldiers, which is nearly 60 percent of the total IED-wounded since the start of the war...Insurgents planted 14,661 IEDs in 2010, a 62 percent increase over the previous year," Wikipedia said.

"As a general rule, we find about 50 percent of the IEDs before they go off," General Michael Oates told Cockburn. The other 50 percent do detonate but of this group one-third do no harm because they were set incorrectly or were not sufficiently lethal or failed to pierce the protective gear of the troops, Oates continued.

But, "Somewhere between 10 and 15 percent kill or harm our soldiers or our equipment, and that number's been very stubborn since about 2004."

Military analyst Rex Rivolo said the human networks employed making, planting and triggering the IEDs provide jobs for 15,000 workers so that it "counts as a definite growth sector."

IED-planters earn about \$15 per job. Rivolo said the best way to inhibit their deployment was to operate low-flying light aircraft over areas where IEDs might be planted.

"When Rivolo oversaw a test-exercise in Jordan in 2005 that clearly demonstrated the effectiveness of the light-aircraft approach, all copies of the resulting report were recalled and destroyed," Cockburn wrote.

Rivolo told him, "It was too cheap for their taste." Rivolo headed research at the Counter-IED Operations Integration Center in Baghdad.

A concurring view comes from Franklin Spinney, a former Pentagon analyst, who said that those who come up with simple responses to nullify the IED impact "are the antithesis of the techno-war that keeps the money flowing.

The American military has sold the idea that complex technologies coupled to step-by-step analytical procedures can negate all the uncertainties and surprises of combat to solve any problem in war.”

A big part of the U.S. response money has been plowed into sophisticated surveillance systems.

The Air Force and the Army are hard at work building blimps costing \$211 million and \$517 million, respectively, that can hover 20,000 feet or higher for a week at a time that will spy over large areas to detect IED planters.

Those who plant IEDs are regarded as High Value Targets, or HVTs, and their eradication is “the ultimate objective of our entire counter-IED strategy,” Cockburn writes. Yet, when HVT bomb-planters are killed, attacks within three miles of their strikes increase by an average of 20 percent, he writes.

According to Rivolo, the reason is “our principal strategy in Iraq is counterproductive and needs to be evaluated.” The slain HVTs were almost always replaced at once, usually within 24 hours and, Rivolo said, “The new guy is going to work harder.”

If the strategy is counter-productive, a cynic may well wonder if the goal in Afghanistan isn't so much to win----as to spend.

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

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

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AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS



Sgt. Noah M. Korte, 29, of Lake Elsinore, Calif., died Dec. 27, 2011, in Paktia, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. /CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

29 December 2011 BY BRIAN ROKOS, STAFF WRITER, The Press Enterprise. Also contributing to this report: Staff writer Gail Wesson,

A soldier from Lake Elsinore was remembered Thursday as someone with an ambition to serve his country who became a decorated Army sergeant.

Noah M. Korte, 29, was killed Tuesday when his unit was attacked with an improvised explosive device in eastern Afghanistan, a U.S. Department of Defense news release said.

Korte leaves behind his wife, Kristi, whom he wed in 2005, and two young children.

His parents, who also live in Lake Elsinore, could not be reached for comment. Kristi Korte could not be reached, and his father in law declined to comment. Korte was assigned to the 720th Military Police Battalion, 89th Military Police Brigade based in Fort Hood, Texas.

Also killed were Spc. Kurt W. Kern, 24, of McAllen, Texas, and Pfc. Justin M. Whitmire, 20, of Easley, S.C. The attack took place in Paktia province.

Korte graduated from California Lutheran High School in Wildomar in the early 2000s. He played center and nose guard on the 8-man football team, said Dave Peter, who was an assistant coach at the time. Peter is now head coach.

“There was always a big presence among the kids thinking about getting into the military, and I know he for one saw it as a noble occupation,” Peter said.

The coach said Korte was one of a close-knit group of California Lutheran students who remained in touch after graduation.

Korte enlisted in the Army in May 2003 as a military policeman. He deployed to Afghanistan this month after three deployments in Iraq from 2004 to 2007.

His awards and decorations include four Army Commendation medals, two Good Conduct medals, the Army Achievement medal, National Defense Service medal, Iraq Campaign medals with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary medal and a Global War on Terrorism service medal.

In one of Korte's posts on his Facebook page this month, he wrote:

"To my beautiful wife and kids, daddy loves you very much, so be good and take care of mommy while I'm away."

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

“The 149th’s Job Was To Help Close Down The Bases”

“As They Worked, Probus Said, Insurgents Were Still Firing Grenades At Them, Sometimes Daily”

Dec 29, 2011 By Chris Kenning - The (Lexington, Ky.) Courier-Journal [Excerpts]

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — After months of mortar attacks and base closings, Kentucky National Guard Sgt. Craig Probus crossed the dark Iraqi desert earlier this month to the earthen berm that signaled his entry into Kuwait — and the official U.S. exit from the war.

Probus' tour was his second to Iraq. His first deployment was in 2008, when he spent Christmas overseas.

After he returned the following year, he met his fiancée while working at UPS. When he was deployed again last summer, Harris said she worried about him every day.

That's partly because Probus was a member of a quick-reaction force of the 149th at Victory Base Complex, a sprawling cluster of U.S. bases near the airport in Baghdad.

The 149th's job was to help close down the bases. As they worked, Probus said, insurgents were still firing grenades at them, sometimes daily.

"You'd hear the incoming alarms every night, it seemed like. It doesn't faze you after a while," he said.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

“The War Was Extremely Too Hot” “Abu Mus’ab Confirmed That They Were Attacked By Ahlu-Suna Forces But Said They Defended And Taught Them Tough Lesson”

02/01/2012 Mareeg

Dhusamareb(Mareeg)-At least 10 people were killed and 20 others injured after heavy battle between militant group, Shabab and Ahlu-suna militias occurred in a village close to the capital of Galgudud region, Dhusamareb in central Somalia, reports said.

The war was extremely too hot and happened at Bulu'le village very close to Dhusamareb city of Galgudud region in central Somalia between fighters of Shabab and Ahlu-Suna this afternoon and was continuing until sunset killing 10 and wounding 20 others mostly the warring sides, reliable sources said.

Officials of Ahlu-suna militias in Dhusamareb city separately told to local F.M stations in the capital Mogadishu tonight claiming victory over the war saying that Shabab fighters run over 10 dead bodies of theirs.

Spokesman of Shabab for military operations, Sheikh A/asis Abu Mus'ab confirmed that they were attacked by Ahlu-Suna forces but said they defended and taught them tough lesson.

The war comes as Ahlu Suna militias waged an attack to a military base of Shabab in villages close to Dhusamareb city and took several hours as residents said.

Military Resistance Available In PDF Format
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MILITARY NEWS

“The Pentagon Has ‘Systematically And Wrongfully Discharged’ More Than 22,000 Veterans Since 2001 On The Basis Of So-Called Personality Disorder”

Filth In Command Did So “To Deny Them Medical Care And Save The Pentagon \$12.5 Billion In Medical And Disability Payments”

[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,564th time, the enemy was not in Iraq or Afghanistan. Their citizens and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started these wars of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn't tell the truth: U.S. Imperial wars are about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. T]

31 Dec 2011 By Donnie La Curan, Veterans Resources

The Vietnam Veterans of America says the Pentagon has “systematically and wrongfully discharged” more than 22,000 veterans since 2001 “on the basis of so-called ‘personality disorder’” – rather than post-traumatic stress disorder – to deny them medical care and save the Pentagon \$12.5 billion in medical and disability payments.

“The military classifies PD (personality disorder) as a condition pre-existing military service,” the four plaintiff chapters of the Vietnam Veterans of America say in their federal complaint against the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security.

“Veterans discharged from the military on the basis of a PD diagnosis are not entitled to receive service-connected disability benefits or VA health care.

“By its own admission, DoD dismissed 22,656 service members on the basis of PD between fiscal years 2001 and 2007; 3,372 of these discharged service members had served in combat or imminent danger zones in support of OCO (overseas contingency operation - Pentagonspeak for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan).

Approximately 2,800 of the service members whom DoD had dismissed on the basis of PD had deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

Troops Invited:

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

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



NOVEMBER 12: The remains of U.S. Army Pfc. Cody R. Norris, age 20, of Houston, TX, at Dover Air Force Base. Norris was killed November 9 while serving in Kandahar province, Afghanistan when insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire. (Photo by Brendan Hoffman/Getty Images)

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

<p>Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies. -- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War</p>

**“I Love Reading About All The
Actions Against War In Military
Resistance”**

**“And I Love The Idea Of Military
Resistance Itself”**
**“Voting Every Four Years Doesn’t Make
A Democracy, Not When Your Voice Isn’t
Heeded And Your Hopes For The Future
Are Ignored”**

From: Lesley Docksey [UK]
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: December 31, 2011
Subject: Re: Military Resistance 9L24: “Deploying To Afghanistan”

By Lesley Docksey (Editor of Abolish War newsletter)
Lesley.Docksey@abolishwar.org.uk

Military Resistance:

I love reading about all the actions against war in Military Resistance.

And I love the idea of Military Resistance itself.

There’s nothing like this in the (Dis)United Kingdom.

I guess it was the horrors, the mistakes and the massive death toll of Vietnam and then Iraq that got you guys going with Vets Against War.

We do have Military Families Against War (MFAW). That got started by families whose sons, brothers and husbands were getting killed and wounded in Iraq.

But there is nothing I can find that has been started by vets and serving personnel that matches Military Resistance.

The UK had the Falklands campaign, and our forces should have got the message. Although it was tiny compared to Vietnam, it had the same result – more veterans committed suicide afterwards (and still are) than actually got killed in the Falklands.

I don’t know what regulations govern US military personnel, but UK forces have the right to refuse to fight when their conscience tells them so (it is a universal right, but you’re not told that).

Trouble is:

1. Military training teaches you to obey orders, not to think for yourself.

2. Even officers find it difficult to access the regulations that tell them what their rights are when it comes to matters of conscience.

When I've talked to serving personnel, from the cannon fodder up to Brigadiers, I have always had the same reaction when I explain I am campaigning for the Abolition of War – 'I can't argue with that!'

They know far better than I do that war is nasty, brutish and damaging to all involved. They also know it never achieves what the politicians say it will.

I accept that there are some sad twisted people who enlist because they love guns and the thought of killing, but I am convinced that most people who join up do it for two reasons.

1. They need a job and the military on both sides of the Atlantic advertises a lot of goodies in return for enlisting.

The Ministry of Defence (or in America's case, the Department of Defense) doesn't mention the goodies (exciting foreign travel etc.) include being blown to bits in countries whose citizens don't want you there. It must come as a nasty shock to find out how very unpopular you are.

Other countries don't want our Western 'democracy'.

They know, and we won't recognise, that our countries are no more true democracies than theirs are. Voting every four years doesn't make a democracy, not when your voice isn't heeded and your hopes for the future are ignored.

2. Enlisters believe they are 'defending their country'.

No. They are defending their country's 'interests', which really means the interests of the politicians and the global corporations.

The people (that's you and me) don't get a look in. And all of the military actions outside our own borders do not, and will never, create a peaceful world.

Invading countries creates enemies. Fighting war all over the world creates terrorists. The more we wage war, the more countries we will have to destroy in our quest for 'peace'. Peace means living together. It means accepting the difference between our culture and theirs. It means being tolerant – and generous – and kind. It means being responsible for our actions instead of blaming other people when we get things wrong. Above all, it means making the 1 per cent share the riches of this world.

I'm fine with having a military that actually defends my Queen and country. The thing that breaks my heart is that so many of you have to enlist and serve, and get physically and mentally damaged before you find out that we should not be fighting wars. Not at all. Never. War is against international law – and I bet they don't teach you that when you're training. There is only one legal reason for waging war – when *another nation has physically attacked your country* you are allowed the right of self-defence.

Despite all the twisted, sneaky reasoning behind our governments' statements, 9/11 does not and never did qualify.

The Twin Towers were attacked by terrorists, not a nation, not a state. And terrorists are criminals, not 'enemies'. As such, we should have sent the law enforcement agencies after them, not armies, not planes and missiles.

I hate to think that all the military personnel sent by your country, by mine, and by all our so-called allies were acting illegally when they went into Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, Somalia, Yemen and the rest. But, despite the excuses and justifications our leaders give us, they were. And next stop Iran.

That so many people have died, been horrendously injured or made homeless not for the sake of right, but to further our bloody politicians' self-serving agendas. makes it even more inexcusable.

Prime Ministers and Presidents may try to ignore international law. They may try to alter the law, say it is other than it truly is.

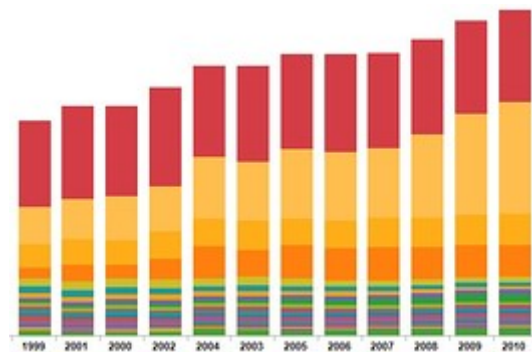
They will find it more difficult to do so when you all keep reminding them what the law truly is. So just keep telling them, and more power to your elbow when you do!

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**The DC Dictatorship Arresting
And Prosecuting Citizens For
Anything And Everything:
“As More Criminal Laws Are
Passed, The Number Of
Associated Regulations That Can
Lead To Arrest, Prosecution, Fines
And Prison Grows And Grows:
“Legal Experts Have Put This
Number At Anywhere Between 10,000
And 300,000”
“They Raid These People Like They’re
Scarface”**





Growth in Federal Criminal Sentences

Christopher Kortlander met two dozen agents from several different federal agencies when they burst into the tiny Custer Battlefield Museum he founded in Garryowen, Mont., in 2005.

Mr. Kortlander has said in court filings protesting his treatment that “24 or more federal agents, armed and brandishing automatic weapons” participated in the raid. In an interview, he said he counted agents from the Bureau of Land Management, FBI, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and several other forces. One of Mr. Kortlander’s interns was pushed to the ground in the raid, he says.

DECEMBER 17, 2011 By LOUISE RADNOFSKY, GARY FIELDS and JOHN R. EMSHWILLER. Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

For years, the public face of federal law enforcement has been the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Today, for many people, the knock on the door is increasingly likely to come from a dizzying array of other police forces tucked away inside lesser-known crime-fighting agencies.

They could be from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Labor or Education departments, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the agency known for its weather forecasts.

Agents from NOAA, in fact, along with the Fish and Wildlife Service, raided the Miami business of Morgan Mok in 2008, seeking evidence she had broken the Endangered Species Act trading in coral.

The agents had assault rifles with them, and the case documents indicated her house and business records had been under surveillance over a six-month period, says Ms. Mok.

Under the 1973 law, the departments of Interior and Commerce (home to NOAA) must write regulations to define what is endangered and how it must be protected. One of those regulations specifies coral.

“I felt like I was being busted for drugs, instead of coral,” Ms. Mok says. “It was crazy.”

Ms. Mok says she showed that her coral had been properly obtained.

She paid a \$500 fine and served one year of probation for failing to complete paperwork for an otherwise legal transaction.

Government agencies of all stripes have become the front-line enforcers for many of the laws Congress has written the past four decades.

Not only do the agencies enforce these laws, they also write the voluminous regulations needed to put the laws into effect and govern federal programs.

Often, Congress makes it a criminal offense to violate any part of a law it passes—including these regulations.

As a result, as more criminal laws are passed, the number of regulations that can ensnare people grows as well.

It is hard to pin down precisely how many regulations could result in criminal penalties. Of dozens of federal agencies contacted by The Wall Street Journal, none could say how many of their regulations were connected to criminal statutes.

Legal experts have put this number at anywhere between 10,000 and 300,000.

In 1970, the Code of Federal Regulations had 54,000 pages. Today it runs to 165,000 pages and takes 27 feet of shelf space when printed and bound.

The growing rule book has kept enforcement teams busy.

Last year, criminal cases pursued chiefly by smaller government agencies led to 10,122 convictions, an 84% increase from 15 years ago. Also up sharply: the numbers of prosecutions and investigators.

In the latest survey, by the Government Accountability Office in 2006, there were 25,000 sworn officers in the smaller government agencies (which excludes departments more commonly associated with crime fighting: Treasury, Justice, Defense and what is now Homeland Security). That number includes police, inspectors, security guards and rangers, as well as criminal investigators.

Across all government agencies, there were about 138,000 federal law-enforcement officers that year, GAO figures show. The Justice Department accounted for more than 40% of that total.

Among the smaller agencies, currently there are 3,812 criminal investigators, up from 507 in 1973, the first year for which records are available from the Office of Personnel Management.

The EPA received its first two criminal investigators in 1977. It now has 265.

An August raid on Gibson Guitar Corp. has drawn heavy criticism from both sides of the political aisle.

In that raid, Fish and Wildlife Service agents swarmed the Nashville company to seize rosewood and ebony the agency suspected had been illegally imported from India. The company says its wood was obtained legally and that no charges have been filed.

“Why Is It We’re Treating What Is Essentially A Violation Of Rules And Regulations In A Criminal Manner?”

“Why is it we’re treating what is essentially a violation of rules and regulations in a criminal manner?” says Tom Fitton, president of Judicial Watch, a conservative watchdog group.

Steven Benjamin, president-elect of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, which tends to be more liberal, says: “Enforcing over-criminalization has put us at war with ourselves.”

Skeptics also say some of these smaller departments tend to wield their powers indiscriminately, even for seemingly minor infractions, in ways that seem self-justifying.

“When you start making innocuous actions crimes, you multiply the number of people who are enforcing” the laws and regulations, says Ronald Gainer, a former Justice Department official for Democratic and Republican administrations who has cautioned for years against the proliferation of federal law.

“You multiply the number of people who have to enforce criminal laws and they all want guns.”

Congress provides relatively little oversight, particularly in comparison to the FBI, whose officials are regularly brought before hearings. Committees overseeing federal departments not traditionally associated with crime-fighting pay less attention to their law-enforcement units.

Often, it is the agencies’ own internal inspectors-general who blow the whistle on problems with other officers in the department.

In a stinging 2010 report, the inspector general for the Commerce Department focused on widespread complaints from fishermen in Massachusetts, North Carolina and Florida that criminal investigators from NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service’s Office of Law Enforcement were being heavy-handed, even in civil cases.

The report detailed a 2006 case where a warrant affidavit for a fish dealer's records contained false information, and another case where an agent gained unauthorized access to a facility, then opened another door to let other officers in.

"The reality is that if you hire a cadre of criminal investigators, they're going to carry out their work like criminal investigators — and that's what they did," says inspector general Todd Zinser.

"Agents Returned In 2008, That Time Alleging Mr. Kortlander Was In Illegal Possession Of Eagle Feathers. Again, No Charges Were Filed"

Christopher Kortlander met two dozen agents from several different federal agencies when they burst into the tiny Custer Battlefield Museum he founded in Garryowen, Mont., in 2005.

Mr. Kortlander has said in court filings protesting his treatment that "24 or more federal agents, armed and brandishing automatic weapons" participated in the raid. In an interview, he said he counted agents from the Bureau of Land Management, FBI, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and several other forces.

One of Mr. Kortlander's interns was pushed to the ground in the raid, he says.

The agents sought artifacts they said were being sold online under false pretenses as historical items found at Little Bighorn, scene of the bloody 1876 battle between Indians and the U.S. Army. No charges were brought against Mr. Kortlander.

But agents returned in 2008, that time alleging Mr. Kortlander was in illegal possession of eagle feathers.

Again, no charges were filed. Mr. Kortlander denies wrongdoing. In 2009, federal prosecutors took the rare step of notifying Mr. Kortlander's attorney in writing that it wouldn't be pursuing charges in connection with either raid.

Mr. Kortlander is suing the government in federal court to recover some Cheyenne bonnets taken by the Bureau of Land Management during the second raid.

"They raid these people like they're Scarface," says Penelope Strong, Mr. Kortlander's attorney.

Using force to go after drug dealers or violent criminals is understandable, Ms. Strong says.

"But somebody in a hot, sultry part of Montana, in a trading post where people are wandering around buying blankets? Come on."

The Department of the Interior and the Forest Service received new responsibilities under the environmental legislation sought by President Theodore Roosevelt in the early 20th century. But the foundation for the current growth of federal enforcement agencies was laid in the 1960s and 1970s when smaller departments started having inspectors general whose task was to police the government.

Lawmakers writing sweeping environmental laws in that era also granted additional resources to the agencies administering those laws. That, in turn, created new enforcement teams.

Lawmakers and traditional law-enforcement agencies, in particular the FBI, resisted extending the power to carry firearms, execute warrants and make arrests to other agencies, says Jeffrey Bumgarner, a professor of government at Minnesota State University who has written a history of federal law enforcement.

But agencies chipped away at that opposition, he says.

EPA agents were given police powers in 1988. The U.S. Marshals Service started issuing annual blanket authorizations in 1995 to some agencies that didn't have them.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, when the FBI's attention shifted to terrorism matters, Congress gave permanent powers to inspectors general in more than two dozen agencies.

In the mid-1990s, many agencies tried to scale back their vigor in pursuing criminal prosecutions amid concern among members of Congress about aggressive tactics.

An influential 1994 memo by Earl Devaney, then head of the Environmental Protection Agency's criminal-enforcement program, suggested applying criminal sanctions to only "the most significant and egregious violators."

Mr. Devaney's advice didn't stick, and the numbers are rising.

In 2010 there were 12,606 prosecutions from cases investigated chiefly by agencies other than Justice, Treasury, Defense and Homeland Security. That was a 50% increase from 15 years ago.

“Hubert Vidrine Jr. Was Awarded \$1.67 Million From A Malicious-Prosecution Lawsuit He Filed Against The EPA”

“Agents Refused To Allow Female Employees To Use The Bathroom And Prevented Them From Phoning Their Homes Or Child-Care Providers To Make Arrangements For Their Children”

In September, former oil-refinery manager Hubert Vidrine Jr. was awarded \$1.67 million from a malicious-prosecution lawsuit he filed against the EPA.

The judge said she would have made it higher if not limited by federal law. Mr. Vidrine's troubles began in September 1996, when the agency's criminal-investigation division led

nearly two-dozen armed federal and state authorities on Canal Refining Co., an oil refinery in Church Point, La.

Mr. Vidrine described in an interview a scene of guns, police dogs, flashing lights and roadblocks.

At one point, according to court documents filed in the lawsuit, agents refused to allow female employees to use the bathroom and prevented them from phoning their homes or child-care providers to make arrangements for their children.

The plant, which employed about 260 people, shut down refining operations the following year and is idle now.

Mr. Vidrine was charged in 1999 with “knowingly” storing hazardous waste, which later turned out to be used refined oil not covered by federal regulations.

The potential penalty was five years and a \$50,000 fine for each day of the violation. The case was dismissed in 2003, by which time Mr. Vidrine had spent more than \$120,000 in legal fees maintaining his innocence, according to a statement by the judge.

The lead EPA agent in the case pleaded guilty Oct. 3 to charges he lied under oath and obstructed justice.

A few days earlier, federal judge Rebecca Doherty sided with Mr. Vidrine in his lawsuit.

The regulations that spurred the raid were so complex they had led to disagreements among EPA personnel, as well as state environmental quality personnel, the judge noted in her opinion.

She called the regulations a “morass.”

Judge Doherty wrote that, “Given the egregious conduct displayed by an agent of the government and the devastation wrought on otherwise law-abiding citizens,” she would have given Mr. Vidrine more than \$1.67 million, if federal law allowed punitive damages against the government, “in the hope of deterring such reckless and damaging conduct and abuse of power in the future.”

A Letter From Kim Jong-Un To The Voters Of Iowa:

**“Who Do I Recommend You Vote For
On Tuesday?”**

“In A Word, Me”



January 2, 2012 (The Borowitz Report)

PYONGYANG

The following is a letter from Kim Jong-un, Supreme Leader of North Korea, to the people of Iowa.

Dear Voters of Iowa:

In December I became Supreme Leader of North Korea. Pretty amazing development for a twentysomething who at the time was still living at home and spending all day playing Angry Birds. But there I was, receiving the cheers of millions of North Koreans, who usually don't get that excited unless they've caught sight of a pork sandwich. (LOL)

Here is why I am writing to you today: on Tuesday, you will go to your caucuses and choose from among a field of Republican presidential candidates.

And let me tell you, the idea of any of these people getting nuclear weapons scares the shit out of me.

This is just one of many differences between your country and mine.

In North Korea, we lock up the criminally insane. In America, you let them debate on TV. Right now you have people running for President I would not trust to take care of my plants.

So who do I recommend you vote for on Tuesday?

In a word, me.

If you think about it, I am the most Republican candidate of all.

In North Korea, we have no taxes. We have achieved that through a conservative policy of no jobs.

Also, we have no wasteful “big government” programs providing food, shelter, or safe drinking water. And am I pro-life? Well, try this on for size: I believe that life begins at conception and ends at starvation.

Now, I know what you’re thinking: I’m too young to be President, since I’m under 35. Well, who would you rather have running your country, someone who’s under 35, or someone whose IQ is under 35? (LOL)

I think when you look at all the facts, voters of Iowa, you’ll realize that Kim Jong-un is the Republican who most deserves your vote.

And if you’re still not convinced, remember this: at least I’m not Mitt Romney.

Peace out yo,

Your Supreme Leader

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Egyptian Army Riot Police Strip and Beat a Woman Protestor



Tens Of Thousands In Sanaa, Taiz And Other Cities, Demand The Tyrant Saleh Be Prosecuted: “His End Should Be Behind The Bars”



Thousands protest on the streets of Sanaa yesterday calling for Ali Abdullah Saleh, the outgoing president, to stand trial for the killings of over 1,100 people since the uprising against him began. Mohamed Al Sayaghi / Reuters

Jan 2, 2012 Mohammed Al Qadhi, The National [Excerpts]

SANAA -- Tens of thousands protested in Sanaa, Taiz and other cities, demanding the outgoing president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, be prosecuted for the killings of more than 1,100 people, including three yesterday, since the uprising against him began a year ago.

On Saturday, an aide to Mr Saleh said the president had reversed a decision to leave the country for medical treatment while the new government was taking shape.

In November, Mr Saleh agreed to step down after 33 years in power in exchange for immunity from prosecution for him and his inner circle.

Yesterday, a Yemeni opposition leader said Mr Saleh's change of mind about leaving the country was indicative of his "slippery tactics" and bid to retain power.

"His end should be behind the bars at the International Criminal Court," said Mohammed Al Sabri, a leader in the Joint Meeting Parties, an opposition coalition.

Sami Hadi, a protester in Sanaa, echoed those sentiments. “We are demanding that this mass killer should not be allowed to escape the country. We want justice for our colleagues who were killed by the family troops,” he said yesterday.

Ahmed Al Zurkah, an analyst and freelance writer, said Mr Saleh’s flip-flop on leaving the country was about maintaining influence.

“This is a part of his strategy based on slippery tactics. It has something to do with his worries that he might be trapped if he goes to the US not as a president,” said Mr Al Zurkah.

“Saleh’s people at the state agencies have been alarmed by the current strikes and uprisings that will push them out.”

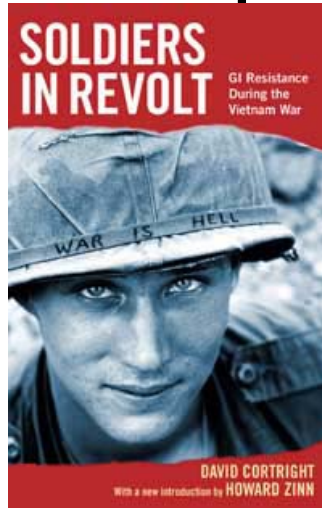
Other critics have said that Mr Saleh has been using his influence over the army and security forces, in which his relatives maintain power, and loyalists in his political party to undermine the vice president, Abdurabu Mansur Hadi, who is taking over from him ahead of presidential elections next month in which Mr Hadi will be the only candidate.

Hungary -- Against The Government: For “Democracy” And “Solidarity”



Anti-government citizens hold up signs saying “Democracy” and “Solidarity” during a protest in central Budapest January 2, 2012. The demonstrators are protesting against the government and new Basic Law which replaced the country’s Constitution on January 1, in a show of anger at what they say is the ruling Fidesz party’s anti-democratic policies. REUTERS/Laszlo Balogh

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