

## Military Resistance 10D6



**“Insurgents Attacked Cities  
Across Eastern Afghanistan On  
Sunday”**

**Taliban Hits Kabul, Other  
Afghanistan Cities In Coordinated  
Attack:**

**“Insurgents Have Never Attacked So  
Many Disparate Targets  
Simultaneously”**

## **“This Is A Message That Our Spring Offensive Has Begun,’ Said Taliban Spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid”**



Soldiers from the Afghan National Army near the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) as smoke rises from the site of an attack in Jalalabad province April 15, 2012. Insurgents launched multiple attacks in the Afghan capital Kabul on Sunday, assaulting Western embassies in the heavily guarded, central diplomatic area and at the parliament in the west.

**A few miles away, another group of insurgents occupied a building across from the Afghan parliament, as well as another unfinished construction site, from which they targeted nearby Western military installations.**

**“Armed insurgents, including some suicide bombers, have taken control of buildings in these areas,” said Sediq Sediqi, an Interior Ministry spokesman.**

4.15.12 By Kevin Sieff, Javed Hamdard and Sayed Salahuddin, The Washington Post [Excerpts]

KABUL — Insurgents attacked cities across eastern Afghanistan on Sunday, including three prominent targets in Kabul, in a rare coordinated attack spanning some of the country’s most important urban centers. The Taliban called the effort the beginning of its spring offensive.

By evening, as the attacks were still ongoing, at least 14 police officers and nine civilians had been wounded, according to the Interior Ministry.

“This is a message that our spring offensive has begun,” said Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid, who said the primary targets were western military and diplomatic installations.

In central Kabul, insurgents fired rocket-propelled grenades and rifles from an unfinished eight-story commercial building.

**From their perch, at least four men fired in the direction of the German Embassy and NATO’s military headquarters, both of which were just a few hundred yards from the attackers.**

Less than an hour after the attack began, Afghan commandos and their NATO trainers entered the building that the insurgents were firing from. There were two large blast holes visible in the facade of the Kabul Star Hotel, frequented by westerners and wealthy Afghans, located just across the street from where the insurgents were firing.

**Seven hours later, after sunset, gunfire was still being exchanged.**

**A few miles away, another group of insurgents occupied a building across from the Afghan parliament, as well as another unfinished construction site, from which they targeted nearby Western military installations.**

**“Armed insurgents, including some suicide bombers, have taken control of buildings in these areas,” said Sediq Sediqi, an Interior Ministry spokesman.**

What made Sunday’s attack particularly brazen was the apparent coordination between insurgents in Kabul and beyond. Although the Taliban has successfully executed spectacular attacks in the capital before — including the protracted attack on the U.S. Embassy in September — insurgents have never attacked so many disparate targets simultaneously.

**In addition to the three Kabul targets, there were three other attacks in large cities across eastern Afghanistan.**

**Insurgents targeted a NATO base in Jalalabad, as well as Afghan installations, including a public university, in the capitals of Logar and Paktia provinces, according to officials.**

The National Directorate of Security, the country’s intelligence branch, said two would-be bombers were detained before they were able to reach their targets.

Still, crowds remained near the unfinished eight-story building, including workers who fled the construction site when the violence began. Some of them had colleagues and relatives still stuck in the building and adjoining shops.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced**

April 15, 2012 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an improvised explosive device attack in eastern Afghanistan today.

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## **Lewis Soldier Killed In Combat In Kandahar**

April 13, 2012 Army Times

A Washington state-based soldier was killed in combat earlier this week in Afghanistan, the Defense Department announced Friday.

Spc. Philip C.S. Schiller, 21, of The Colony, Texas, died Wednesday in Kandahar province of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire. Schiller was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

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

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WAR**

## **2 Protestors Shot Dead By Police As 1000 March In Maimana To Condemn Killing Of Resistance Leader:**

# **“The Protestors Marched On The Governor’s House, Chanting Slogans Against The US And Afghan Governments”**

Apr 12, 2012 Pajhwok Report

MAIMANA: Two people were killed and another 25 injured during a clash with police after a protest over the killing of a seminary teacher by a joint Afghan-coalition force turned violent in northern Faryab province, officials said on Thursday.

More than 1,000 people took to the streets in Maimana, the provincial capital, against the overnight operation that resulted in the death of madraasa teacher Qayamuddin in Arab Khan Mina. Two of Qayamuddin’s brothers and a cousin were arrested by the joint force.

The ISAF media office in Kabul said the slain individual was responsible for military supplies to the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and attacks in northern provinces. It said the man was killed after he opened fire at the joint force from the rooftop of his house.

Carrying the victim’s coffin, the protestors marched on the governor’s house, chanting slogans against the US and Afghan governments. They called for the immediate release of the detainees.

Witnesses said the protestors attacked police in Sanayee square, injuring two of them and seizing their weapons. One protestor was killed and 20 others injured in retaliatory fire from police, they said. Police also fired into the air to disperse the angry crowd.

Afghanistan Ulema council member Maulvi Nasir Ahmad said five protestors were killed and 30 others injured during the violence.

Public Health Director Dr. Abdul Ali Halim confirmed receiving 25 injured people, saying two of them died of serious injuries.

Hours before the demonstration, Governor Abdul Haq Shafaq said he had contacted officials in Kabul to discuss the release of the detainees with foreign troops.

The rally ended at around 4:30, but the protestors remained inside a mosque in the city, saying they would not offer funeral prayers for the victim until his killers were punished.

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## **Death In The Barracks:**

# **Taliban Infiltrator Killed 9 Policemen And Escaped: Mr. Asadullah “Was Accepted Into The Force Despite Old Links To The Taliban”**

April 13, 2012 By MICHAEL M. PHILLIPS, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

YAHYA KHEL, Afghanistan — Every battlefield is a killing ground. But the room where nine Afghan policemen died late last month is something different: a crime scene.

There is the tea kettle where the suspect, an alleged Taliban infiltrator named Asadullah, may have mixed a poison concoction that knocked out his Afghan Local Police comrades.

Spent rifle shells litter the floor. And then there are the bloodstained sleeping mats where police say Mr. Asadullah methodically executed fellow officers who had slipped into unconsciousness.

Now Mr. Asadullah, who was accepted into the force despite old links to the Taliban, is on the run. And the massacre he allegedly perpetrated on the night of March 29 has helped put the spotlight on the Afghan Local Police.

In three attacks since April 5, insurgents have killed at least 12 more local policemen around Afghanistan.

Yahya Khel has been a particular trouble spot for the soldiers of A Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment since they arrived last summer.

The village, in Paktika province, was a thoroughfare for insurgents leaving sanctuaries in Pakistan and heading toward Afghanistan's main highway and Kabul.

Armed insurgents walked openly down the market streets, where shops flew white Taliban banners.

The dirt road through town was a favorite hiding place for booby-trap bombs, which killed four Americans this past fall.

The checkpoint where the killings took place, a patrol base for a 30-man police detachment, is in an abandoned compound, once grand by village standards and now in disarray.

The sitting room the men chose as their barracks has exposed beams, pillars of dark, carved wood, and white plaster-relief walls with decorative swirls and scallop-topped nooks. Light from a single window penetrates the darkness.

Mr. Asadullah, a local man in his early 20s, talked his way onto the force, according to other policemen. Several years ago the Taliban killed his father, a critic of the insurgency.

Mr. Asadullah was complicit in the crime, said Dawlat Khan Zadran, the provincial police chief.

“We believe he’s had links with the Taliban for a pretty long time,” Mr. Zadran said. Mr. Asadullah, he said, was “brainwashed.”

Mr. Asadullah spent time in Waziristan, a militant stronghold across the border in Pakistan, police and village elders say.

When he showed up back in Yahya Khel, he announced that he wanted to join the local police. He explained that he had gone to Pakistan not to join the Taliban, but to identify his father’s killers, said Abdullah Ghaffar, commander of the local police checkpoint. “We thought he wanted to take revenge,” Mr. Ghaffar said.

Despite its inconsistencies — in particular, why was Mr. Asadullah’s revenge explanation accepted if police believed he had been complicit in his father’s killing? — his story convinced the Yahya Khel elders, who have to vouch for local-police candidates.

The elders sometimes struggle to balance caution with a desire to welcome back those who have strayed. “We’ve learned our lesson,” Ghulam Udeen, one of the village elders, told U.S. Army 1st Lt. John Tilley, whose platoon patrols Yahya Khel. Next time, he said, the elders would be more wary of those claiming to have left the insurgency.

On the evening of Thursday, March 29, Mr. Asadullah was one of 10 men posted to the police compound. At 8 p.m., Mr. Asadullah climbed to one of the towers and, using a flashlight, gave the all-well signal to fellow officers stationed a few blocks away.

In the kitchen, with its adobe-style fireplace and round cooking hole, Mr. Asadullah prepared tea and food for the other nine men, spiking the meal with poison or drugs, police said. The men apparently retired to the barracks room and lost consciousness on mats patterned like Oriental rugs.

Then Mr. Asadullah shot each of the men in the head or chest or both, police said. There was no sign that the men fought back, police said.

Mr. Asadullah stole a police pickup truck and disappeared, police said. At 4 a.m. on Friday, other local police discovered the bodies. The officers noticed that Mr. Asadullah was the only one missing.

The Afghan Interior Ministry announced that day that police had killed Mr. Asadullah in a raid, but later retracted that claim. Police detained Mr. Asadullah’s teenage brothers as possible accomplices.

A visit a week later showed signs of an ordinary night turned horror movie.

Boots were paired off on shelves in ready-for-bed fashion. Blankets scattered the room, some in somber military hues, others decorated with pink or white flowers.

A can of vegetable oil, bearing the logo of the U.S. Agency for International Development, sat on a ledge. Dirty tea glasses were stacked next to the flame-blackened kettle. A serving spoon still emerged from the stew pot in the kitchen. In a metal serving bowl, gray mold formed fuzzy islands on dinner's remains.

The shelves displayed the detritus of simple lives: A tube of toothpaste, a dirty plastic soap dish, a crushed box of matches, and a Colgate toothbrush so blackened it might have been used to clean boots, or perhaps a rifle.

But blood spatters marked a pair of tan fatigue pants laid out on the floor, which itself was smeared with red. A maroon-brown halo stained a yellow pillow; the blood appears to have soaked through and pooled against the wall.

Outside the compound, a local policeman nailed purple, green and red scarves to crossed wooden poles.

Later the officers would pound them into the ground next to the fallen men's graves.

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

## **Taliban Storms Pakistani Jail, Frees 390 Prisoners**

April 15, 2012 Los Angeles Times

PESHAWAR, Pakistan -- Pakistani Taliban militants stormed a prison in northwest Pakistan early Sunday and freed 390 prisoners, including 20 militants, local officials said.

The attack occurred about 2:30 a.m. at a prison in Bannu, a town considered the gateway to North Waziristan, a tribal region along the Afghan border that has long been a stronghold for Taliban insurgents and several other militant groups. Local police officials said as many as 200 Taliban militants drove up in pickups, lobbing hand grenades to break through the jail's main gate.

Once inside, a two-hour firefight broke out between the attackers and roughly 30 jail guards.

The militants began freeing prisoners after the guards ran out of ammunition, officials said. No one was seriously injured or killed in the attack.

One of the prisoners freed was Adnan Rashid, on death row for an assassination attempt on former Pakistani leader Gen. Pervez Musharraf when he was president, police said.



Officials said the jail's 944 prisoners, including some militant commanders, recently had been moved to the Bannu jail after authorities received intelligence that Taliban militants might be planning major raids on detention centers holding insurgents.

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## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

### **“Al Shabaab Insurgents Attacked An Airport, State House And A Hospital In Baidoa With Mortars”**

Apr 14, 2012 Garowe Online

BAIDOA, Somalia - Al Shabaab insurgents attacked an airport, state house and a hospital in Baidoa with mortars, Radio Garowe reports.

Shortly after sunset Al Shabaab agents bombarded the city of Baidoa with mortars targeting Baidoa's international airport and state house.

It is unclear at this time how many people were killed or injured in the attacks since authorities in Baidoa have shied away from questions.

Ethiopian Somali and AMISOM troops fired a barrage of mortars back at the Al Shabaab which were believed to be firing the artillery from one or both nearby districts Makuto and Sheikh Asharow.

Authorities did not discuss the mortar attacks by Al Shabaab but said that a female Al Shabaab agent threw a grenade at Transitional Federal Government (TFG) troops that were guarding a bank in central Baidoa Thursday night.

Al Shabaab vowed last Sunday to restore cities and towns seized by allied forces (Ethiopian, Kenyan, AMISOM and Somali forces).

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

### **“Sgt. Gary Stein Is A Good Marine”**

# **“But The Marine Corps Is Trying To Kick Him Out Because He Spoke Against President Obama’s Policies”**

## **“Even In The Military, The First Amendment Does Not Allow This Kind Of Retaliation”**

## **“The Corps Is Not Exempt From The Constitution”**

4.12.12 By David Loy, USA Today

David Loy, legal director for the ACLU Foundation of San Diego & Imperial Counties, is representing Marine Sgt. Gary Stein.

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Sgt. Gary Stein is a good Marine. But the Marine Corps is trying to kick him out because he spoke against President Obama’s policies. Even in the military, the First Amendment does not allow this kind of retaliation.

Though the First Amendment applies differently to the civilian and military worlds, the Corps is not exempt from the Constitution.

Servicemembers retain First Amendment rights to political speech.

In *U.S. v. Wilcox*, the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces held that the First Amendment protected a soldier who identified himself online as a “US Army paratrooper,” spouted white supremacist ideology and proclaimed, “This government is not worth supporting in any of its components.”

Sgt. Stein’s speech was far less extreme.

He initially responded to a report that American soldiers might be turned over to the Afghan government for trial with some intemperate language about the president.

But then he apologized and repeatedly clarified that he was speaking in general about defending the Constitution and not following unlawful orders, as military law itself requires.

Under Wilcox, this case does not present the “clear danger” to loyalty, discipline, mission or morale necessary to justify censorship.

**At worst, Sgt. Stein blew off some steam, but later cooled down and affirmed his belief in the Constitution and military law.**

**If the military were to discharge every servicemember who has ever done the same, the armed services would be decimated.**

The Corps also cannot legally discharge Sgt. Stein for operating the “Armed Forces Tea Party” Facebook page, which carries a prominent disclaimer that it does not speak for the military or the government.

Therefore, it does not violate Department of Defense policy on political speech by servicemembers.

Even if it did, the policy is so confusing and overbroad that it cannot be enforced against Sgt. Stein.

For example, it defines “partisan” activity as “relating to ... issues specifically identified with” political parties.

There is virtually no issue not “identified with” a political party. The military could thus prosecute any servicemember who speaks on any issue. That violates the First Amendment, even in the military.

## **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**

**“There Needs To Be A Complete Overhaul From The Top Down Of Military Psychiatry”**

# **“Stop The Current Policy Of Pouring Drugs Into Our Soldiers As If They Were A Combination Of Experimental Guinea Pig And Marketing Bonanza For The Drug Companies”**

04/11/2012 By Bob Brewin, NATIONAL JOURNAL GROUP, INC. [Excerpts]

Leaders of the Marine Wounded Warrior Battalion at Camp Lejeune, N.C., consider combating the abuse of both illegal and prescription drugs their No. 1 priority, but they cannot track the use of these drugs due to problems with the Defense Department's electronic health record system, the Defense inspector general reported last week.

Camp Lejeune Wounded Warrior managers also told the IG that they wanted to control the use of prescription drugs with an electronic pill-dispensing machine, but the Navy Bureau of Medicine nixed the idea because it is a proprietary system.

Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune did not have specific medication management policies or procedures in place to manage medications, the IG reported.

Marines were prescribed multiple medications, some of which were controlled substances. As a result, Marines were at risk of having adverse reaction from these medications interacting with each other, which could derail their health and recovery, the IG said.

Stan White, a retired high school teacher whose son Andrew, a Marine Iraq veteran, died in his sleep due to what White views as an overdose of prescription drugs supplied by the Veterans Affairs Department, said while the IG report shows Defense finally is acknowledging there is a problem with overprescribing and tracking drugs, he cannot comprehend why it still cannot track prescriptions.

“I do not understand with the modern electronic technology why it is so difficult to maintain and track the medical record of our troops.” White said.

Dr. Peter Breggin, an Ithaca, N.Y., psychiatrist who questions the use of psychotropic drugs, said the IG report shows “that overmedicating and polydrug prescription is out of hand. It does not get at the root problem, which is stopping psychiatrists from prescribing all these drugs.”

Breggin said military leaders must do much more. “There needs to be a complete overhaul from the top down of military psychiatry to stop the current policy of pouring drugs into our soldiers as if they were a combination of experimental guinea pig and marketing bonanza for the drug companies,” he said.

**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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

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**Military Command Labels Rape  
Survivors Mentally Ill And  
Throws Them Out Of Service  
With No Benefits:**

**“CNN Has Interviewed Women In  
All Branches Of The Armed  
Forces, Including The Coast  
Guard, Who Tell Stories That  
Follow A Similar Pattern”**

**“A Sexual Assault, A Command  
Dismissive Of The Allegations And A  
Psychiatric Discharge”**

# “I’m Still Paranoid Of The Outside World And How Cruel People Can Be -- Because What My Chain Of Command Did To Me Was Cruel And Unnecessary”



Stephanie Schroeder, Anna Moore, Jenny McClendon and Panayiota Bertzikis say they were raped and then discharged from the military.

April 14, 2012 By David S. Martin, CNN [Excerpts]

Stephanie Schroeder joined the U.S. Marine Corps not long after 9/11. She was a 21-year-old with an associate’s degree when she reported for boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina.

“I felt like it was the right thing to do,” Schroeder recalls.

A year and a half later, the Marines diagnosed her with a personality disorder and deemed her psychologically unfit for the Corps.

Anna Moore enlisted in the Army after 9/11 and planned to make a career of it. Moore was a Patriot missile battery operator in Germany when she was diagnosed with a personality disorder and dismissed from the Army.

Jenny McClendon was serving as a sonar operator on a Navy destroyer when she received her personality disorder diagnosis.

**These women joined different branches of the military but they share a common experience:**

**Each received the psychiatric diagnosis and military discharge after reporting a sexual assault.**

"I'm not crazy," says Schroeder, who is married now, with two daughters. "I am actually relatively normal."

McClendon says she had a similar reaction.

"I remember thinking this is absurd; this is ridiculous. How could I be emotionally unstable? I'm very clear of mind, especially considering what had happened." McClendon says. "It was a ludicrous diagnosis."

CNN has interviewed women in all branches of the armed forces, including the Coast Guard, who tell stories that follow a similar pattern -- a sexual assault, a command dismissive of the allegations and a psychiatric discharge.

Schroeder says a fellow Marine followed her to the bathroom in April 2002.

**She says he then punched her, ripped off her pants and raped her.**

**When she reported what happened, a non-commissioned officer dismissed the allegation, saying, "Don't come bitching to me because you had sex and changed your mind," Schroeder recalls.**

Moore says she was alone in her barracks in October 2002 when a non-commissioned officer from another battery tried to rape her.

**When she filled out forms to report it, she says, her first sergeant, told her: "Forget about it. It never happened," and tore up the paperwork.**

**"It felt like a punch in the gut," Moore says. "I couldn't trust my chain of command to ever back me up."**

**McClendon says she was aboard a Navy destroyer at sea when a superior raped her on the midnight to 2 a.m. watch.**

**After reporting the attack, she was diagnosed with a personality disorder and deemed unfit to serve.**

**"I was good enough to suit up and show up and serve, but I wasn't good enough after the fact," McClendon says.**

Despite the Defense Department's "zero tolerance" policy, there were 3,191 military sexual assaults reported in 2011. Given that most sexual assaults are not reported, the Pentagon estimates the actual number was probably closer to 19,000.

**But Anu Bhagwati, a former company commander in the Marines and executive director of Service Women's Action Network, a veterans advocacy group, says she sees a pattern of the military using psychiatric diagnoses to get rid of women who report sexual assaults.**

**"It's convenient to sweep this under the rug. It's also extremely convenient to slap a false diagnosis on a young woman ... and then just get rid of them so you**

**don't have to deal with that problem in your unit. And, unfortunately, a lot of sexual assault survivors are considered problems," Bhagwati says.**

From 2001 to 2010, the military discharged more than 31,000 service members because of personality disorder, according to documents obtained under a Freedom of Information Act request by the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Asked by CNN how many of these cases involved sexual assault cases, the Defense Department says it does not keep such figures, nor would the Pentagon comment on individual cases.

The latest edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, known as the DSM-IV, defines a personality disorder as a long-standing, inflexible pattern of maladaptive behavior and coping, beginning in adolescence or early adulthood.

**That would mean women like Schroeder, Moore and McClendon had a pre-existing personality disorder when they joined the military. Someone with personality disorder tends to get fired from jobs, get in trouble with the law or at school or is unable to maintain relationships.**

**"It makes absolutely no sense medically for people to be diagnosed all of a sudden after being sexually assaulted as an adult in the military to say 'No, you've had this all along,'" says Bhagwati, of the Service Women's Action Network.**

**"These women have clearly been able to function. They've made it through basic training. They've made it through all the follow-on training. Many of them are deployed overseas in war, and they've done fine there.**

**"But, when they're sexually assaulted, and then report it, it seems very suspicious that the military would suddenly stamp them with a pre-existing condition that bars them from serving anymore."**

**Dr. Liza H. Gold, a clinical professor of psychiatry at Georgetown University School of Medicine, says it's a rule of thumb among psychiatrists not to diagnose someone with a personality disorder in the middle of a traumatic experience like a divorce, litigation or the aftermath of a sexual assault.**

**The DSM-IV says: "When personality changes emerge and persist after an individual has been exposed to extreme stress, a diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder should be considered."**

Also, by definition, a personality disorder diagnosis cannot be caused by another psychiatric condition, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Gold says.

In 2003, when she returned to Germany from a deployment in Israel, Moore says a new Army counselor changed her diagnosis from severe depression to borderline personality disorder after only a half-hour session.

Gold is not familiar with Moore's case, but she says a personality disorder was not a diagnosis that typically could be made quickly.



Military records show the personality disorder diagnosis is being used disproportionately on women, according to military records obtained by Yale Law School's Veterans Legal Services Clinic under a Freedom of Information Act request.

--In the Army, 16% of all soldiers are women, but females constitute 24% of all personality disorder discharges.

--Air Force: women make up 21% of the ranks and 35% of personality disorder discharges.

--Navy: 17% of sailors are women and 26% of personality disorder discharges

--Marines: 7% of the Corps and 14% of personality disorder discharges

The records don't reflect how many of those women had reported sexual assault.

A personality diagnosis discharge can carry a heavy financial burden.

In the military's eyes, a personality disorder diagnosis is a pre-existing condition and does not constitute a service-related disability. That means sexual assault victims with personality disorder discharges don't receive benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs to help with their trauma. They can still apply for benefits, but it's considered an uphill battle.

There are other costs. For example, members of the armed forces who receive a personality disorder discharge lose education benefits under the GI Bill.

Moore, now 32 and married, says the Army came after her for \$2,800 of the enlistment bonus she received when she signed up for six years. With interest and penalties, the bill topped \$6,000. Moore says she's still paying it off.

**Celeste Santana, a former Navy lieutenant commander, lost her pension when she was involuntarily separated from the military in 2011 after 17 years of active duty - three years short of being eligible to retire.**

**Santana says the Navy gave her an adjustment disorder after she reported being sexual assaulted in the middle of the night at a forward operating base in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.**

**She says no medical evaluation ever took place.**

An adjustment disorder is an excessive response to a stressful experience, typically lasting three to six months. For example, Gold says, someone who is fired from a job, stops eating, refuses to get out of bed and won't talk to anyone might be suffering from an adjustment disorder.

Veterans who talked to CNN all say lack of military response to their reports of assault added to their emotional trauma. Gold says therapists call this a "secondary injury." McClendon, Moore and Schroeder each say they became suicidal.

**Panayiota Bertzikis received an adjustment disorder diagnosis and was forced out of the Coast Guard in 2006 -- after reporting to her superiors that she had been punched in the face and raped by a shipmate during an off-duty hike.**

**When she reported the attack, Bertzikis says the chief of her Coast Guard station ordered her and her attacker to clean out an attic on base together and told to work out their differences.**

**"I am the victim of this crime, and then you report it, and then I felt like I was the one on trial -- I was the one who did something wrong," Bertzikis says.**

**"He got a free pass. I was the one fighting to stay in."**

Bhagwati, who runs the Service Women's Action Network, says the sense of betrayal is profound for sexual assault victims whose allegations are not taken seriously.

"Very commonly victims will hear that they're lying whores. It's very common," Bhagwati says. "That kind of betrayal deepens the trauma so, so much, and it's hard to recover from that. I mean, it's akin to incest where you grow up with a family, with someone you trust, admire and in many cases, salute, is your perpetrator. It's a huge betrayal that often entails guilt, embarrassment, shame. You're made to feel that you did something wrong and you could have prevented it from happening."

In the civilian world, sexual assault victims can quit their jobs, go to court, go to the media, says J.D. Hamel, a Marine veteran and Yale Law student involved at the Veterans Legal Services Clinic. If higher-ups don't follow-up on allegations, Hamel explains, there is no other recourse.

"If the command doesn't deal with it, no one is going to deal with it," he says. "It's just a very lonely position to be in. It's hard for people who have never been in the military to realize how all-encompassing military life is."

**Rep. Jackie Speier, D-California, says the military has used personality and other psychiatric diagnoses "almost robotically" to force women who report sexual assaults out of the service.**

**"It's the default position the military uses," says Speier, a member of the House Armed Services Committee. "The problem we have in the military is the unit commander is in charge of the entire process."**

Speier has introduced legislation that would take sexual assault cases out of the chain of command and assign them to an autonomous office at the Pentagon.

Bhagwati says victims of sexual assault in the military should be able to sue for damages in civil court.

"Until there's a deterrent, you're going to have far too much incentive to the average commander, to the average perpetrator, to do the wrong thing," she says. "It's far too convenient to do the wrong thing now."

Bertzikis started blogging about her case and says she found other women -- and some men -- who described similar experiences. She has started two websites: [stopmilitaryrape.org](http://stopmilitaryrape.org) and [mydutytospeak.com](http://mydutytospeak.com), a chance for victims of military sexual assault to share their stories.

"For me, writing has been very helpful," Bertzikis says.

At his January news conference, Secretary Panetta announced that for the first time service members who reported a sexual assault would be allowed to make an immediate request to transfer to a different unit. The commanding officer would then have 72 hours to decide whether to grant the request.

Panetta also ordered an assessment of the training that commanding officers and senior enlisted personnel receive on sexual assault prevention and response. That report is scheduled to be completed next month.

Moore and Schroeder each say they'd still be in the military if the military had aggressively pursued their attackers and allowed them to switch units.

But Schroeder is skeptical about the Pentagon's efforts.

"It's all just talk. It's for show," Schroeder says.

Bertzikis started and runs the Military Rape Crisis Center, which helps victims of sexual assault in the military. She and Schroeder have joined a lawsuit suing the Defense Department for unspecified monetary damages for a culture that permitted sexual assaults.

McClendon, 41, is married and the mother of four. She teaches college humanities courses. Two or three times a week, she says she's awakened by nightmares.

Schroeder, 30, is getting a business degree and taking care of her daughters, who are in second and third grade. She says she suffers from anxiety and depression and is fighting the Department of Veterans Affairs for a PTSD diagnosis.

Moore, 32, received a diagnosis of PTSD from the Veterans Affairs and is on full disability.

"I have nightmares all the time and flashbacks and things like that," Moore says. "I'm still paranoid of the outside world and how cruel people can be -- because what my chain of command did to me was cruel and unnecessary."

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## **“Five Joint Base Lewis-McChord Soldiers Are Reportedly Under**

# **Investigation For Smuggling A Rocket Launcher Off Base Last Fall” “An Army Spokesman Said The Weapon Didn’t Belong To The Base”**

04/11/12 By CHRISTIAN HILL; Staff writer; The News Tribune

Five Joint Base Lewis-McChord soldiers are reportedly under investigation for smuggling a rocket launcher off base last fall, but an Army spokesman said the weapon didn't belong to the base.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives later confirmed the investigation and the number of soldiers to The News Tribune.

Late Wednesday afternoon, Lewis-McChord's chief spokesman said Army officials conducted an inventory of its M72 Light Anti-Tank Weapon for the past five years after learning about the incident in September, and it "revealed no discrepancies."

"We will not speculate on where the weapon came from; that is part of the (ATF's) ongoing investigation," read the statement from Lt. Col. Gary Dangerfield.

Asked whether he could confirm that Lewis-McChord soldiers are being investigated, Dangerfield said he didn't know because the ATF was not sharing information about the investigation with Lewis-McChord.

The inquiry came after a woman called an acquaintance who works as an undercover officer for the Pierce County Sheriff's Office on Sept. 23 to report that a military weapon was stowed in her garage, sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer said. She told the officer the weapon had been left by one or more soldiers who had been living at the residence, he said.

The woman met up with the officer and a bomb technician who removed the launcher from her car's trunk. They called federal authorities after taking it to the agency's firing range. X-rays taken at the scene determined it was a "fully functional and live device," Troyer said. Federal authorities took possession of the weapon, he said.

KING 5 News was the first to report Wednesday the investigation based on information from unnamed law enforcement sources. Their report indicated at least one soldier smuggled the weapon off Lewis-McChord and then it was passed around to other soldiers.

Sources told KING 5 that the soldiers had no intention of use the weapon to harm anyone but expected charges would be filed against them in federal court.

Cheryl Bishop, a spokeswoman for ATF's Seattle office, said the Army Criminal Investigation Command is assisting with the investigation. Evidence is being turned over

to U.S. Attorney's Office in Seattle for their review, she said. She declined to provide details, calling it "an open and ongoing investigation."

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## **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**

**I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.  
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace**

**Enemy Of Our Liberties:  
“Like Bush Before Him, Obama Is  
Using The Specter Of Terrorism And  
Domestic Security To Sell The  
Destruction Of Individual Freedoms”  
“Last December, Obama Signed The  
National Defense Authorization Act,  
Which Among Other Things Empowers  
The Military To Indefinitely Detain  
Anyone It Believes Is A Terrorist Threat,  
Including U.S. Citizens”**



[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

The Obama administration has continued in the footsteps of its predecessor, even on the worst Big Brother policies.

And like Bush before him, Obama is using the specter of terrorism and domestic security to sell the destruction of individual freedoms.

Not only has Obama continued Bush-era policies, but he has surpassed them in many respects, using his image as a liberal Democrat and a civil libertarian to avoid opposition.

The list seems to grow week by week. It includes: failing to close down the Guantánamo Bay prison camp as promised during his campaign; continuing to use warrantless wiretapping; supporting the prosecution of government whistleblowers like Bradley Manning; and perpetuating a war against Arabs and Muslims in the U.S. on flimsy pretexts such as alleged “material support” of terrorism.

**Last December, Obama signed the National Defense Authorization Act, which among other things empowers the military to indefinitely detain anyone it believes is a terrorist threat, including U.S. citizens who are supposed to be guaranteed the right of due process.**

This was one of worse attacks on civil liberties in decades, rivaling measures put in place during the anti-communist McCarthy era.

**In the coming months, the Democratic Party establishment will make the case that electing Barack Obama is the only thing standing between us and right-wing Republicans taking away our rights.**

**The only way to prevent the further accumulation of state powers and the further weakening of civil liberties is to expose the Obama administration for its hypocrisy and to build opposition to the assault on the Constitution, no matter what party is in power.**

During the First World War, the Supreme Court did the bidding of U.S. imperialism by giving its approval to laws that criminalized dissent. Even the most liberal of justices supported laws to imprison those who spoke out and organized opposition to the war.

Contrary to its image of being a “neutral” arbiter, the Supreme Court’s role is to protect the status quo and the needs of capitalism. So when the U.S. ruling class needs to quash dissent or rein in civil liberties, the Supreme Court is happy to oblige.

But in times of social upheaval, when there is a groundswell of support for greater rights and democracy, the courts have been pushed into doing the right thing.

When the civil rights movement began to transform how the public thought about racism in America, it transformed how the Supreme Court justices ruled, too. This was the context for the justices’ decision against “separate but equal” public schools in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* in 1954.

Similarly, the Court ruled in favor of requiring that police recite constitutional rights to those they arrest in *Miranda v. Arizona* in 1966. Into the early 1970s, with movements for

equality still on the upswing, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of legislation that legalized abortion and halted the death penalty.

As the late historian Howard Zinn pointed out in the 1970s, "Lacking traditional forms of power and wealth, we can only create a force out of what we have: our assembled selves, our ability to withhold our labor, to withdraw our compliance, to take hold cooperatively of the resources at hand."

This is what must be done to defend our rights--not relying on Democrats to defend them for us.

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## **ANNIVERSARIES**

### **April 16, 1971: Honor To Them All**



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

Carl Bunin Peace History April 14-20

Members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) threw medals they had earned in Vietnam on the U.S. Capitol steps in protest of the Vietnam War.

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# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



# CLASS WAR REPORTS

Hardest Job in the World

JOSE, YOU FINISH THE FRONT YARD,  
MARIA, CLEAN THE BATHROOMS AND VACUUM,  
CHANTEEK, YOU TAKE CARE OF THE KITCHEN,  
MIGUEL, WASH MY CADILLAC,  
AND ANGELICA, SEE IF YOU  
CAN WAKE THE BOYS UP...



/CWS April 13 2012 (5108)

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**California:  
“Union Leaders Are Supporting  
Another Politicians’ Scheme To  
Blackmail Workers Into Agreeing To  
Tax Themselves More”  
“The Heads Of The Unions Are Simply  
Acting As Accomplices To The  
Blackmailers”**

Apr 2, 2012 Spark

In mid-March, Joshua Pechthalt, president of the California Federation of Teachers (CFT), announced “a major victory for the thousands of Californians who have risen up over recent months to demand the wealthiest Californians start paying their fair share.”

That’s how the CFT dressed up its complete capitulation to Governor Jerry Brown’s demand that it drop its ballot initiative to increase the tax that millionaires pay.

That tax increase was supposed to provide more money for vital programs and services, such as schools and senior and child services, that politicians had been gutting for decades.

And it had widespread support in the population, and thousands of teachers, students and other activists had already done most of the work to get it on the ballot, including gathering more than a million signatures.

But the CFT leadership threw all that away. Instead, it agreed to support another increase in California’s already outrageously high sales tax, a tax increase that hits the workers and poor.

Supposedly this was a compromise, that is, the tax increase isn’t as bad as the one that the governor is proposing in his initiative.

But most likely the compromise won’t get on the ballot – it is too late to get all the signatures needed.

So, that will leave Governor Brown’s corporate-backed initiative – which Brown didn’t pull – with its higher sales tax increase. De facto, Brown’s tax increase will have the support of the CFT, which joins the other big public sector unions, the SEIU and AFSCME, that had backed Brown’s proposal all along.

Union leaders are simply supporting another politicians' scheme to blackmail workers into agreeing to tax themselves more, under the threat that if they don't, there will be even worse, more horrendous cuts to education and every other social program and essential service for the working population.

The goal of the politicians is to get workers to hand over more money that the politicians can then hand over to big business and the wealthy. So, if working people allow the politicians to get their way, the workers will be paying higher taxes and the programs will be cut anyway.

The heads of the unions are simply acting as accomplices to the blackmailers.

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**“Tens Of Thousands Of Syrians  
Came Out To Protest After  
Prayers In The First Large  
Public Protests In Weeks”**

**“Protesters Poured Into The  
Streets In What Appeared To Be  
Substantially Larger Numbers  
Than In Recent Months”**

**“No Forces Have Withdrawn”**

**“Assad Knows If He Stops Shooting Us  
And Shelling Us, Then Every Last Man,  
Woman And Child Will Come Out To The  
Streets To Protest Until He's Gone”**

April 14, 2012 By CHARLES LEVINSON, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

On Friday, tens of thousands of Syrians came out to protest after prayers in the first large public protests in weeks, taking advantage of the relative calm after months of heavy fighting to test President Bashar al-Assad's commitment to the cease-fire and renew their call for his removal from power.

The first significant clashes since the cease-fire took effect occurred early Friday between rebel fighters and loyalist forces in Idlib province, along Syria's border with Turkey.

Later on Friday, violence flared elsewhere as noon prayers wound down and protesters poured into the streets in what appeared to be substantially larger numbers than in recent months, when heavy fighting kept people indoors.

A heavy security presence remained deployed in full force in contested cities on Friday, manning checkpoints, surrounding potential flash points such as mosques and opening fire on demonstrators in several cities, according to opposition activists. Activists said security forces opened fire on protesters in towns outside Damascus, in the city of Hama, in the southern province of Daraa, in Aleppo, and in Idlib province, leaving six protesters dead and a seventh in critical condition.

In Homs, an opposition hotbed near Syria's border with Lebanon which has endured some of the heaviest regime shelling of the 13-month long conflict, residents said security forces fired a handful of mortar rounds on opposition areas of the city, continued to arrest activists and deployed tanks to disperse demonstrators.

"We don't think Assad is committed to the cease-fire," said Fares Mohammed, an opposition organizer in Zabadani, an opposition stronghold town near the capital Damascus. Mr. Mohammed said about 3,000 people took to the streets in Zabadani, but quickly dispersed when word spread that security convoys were on their way.

"There are a lot of barriers and checkpoints and tanks in the streets still," said Mr. Mohammed.

"No forces have withdrawn and Zabadani remains under siege. Assad knows if he really withdraws them, if he really stops shooting us and shelling us, then every last man, woman and child will come out to the streets to protest until he's gone."



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