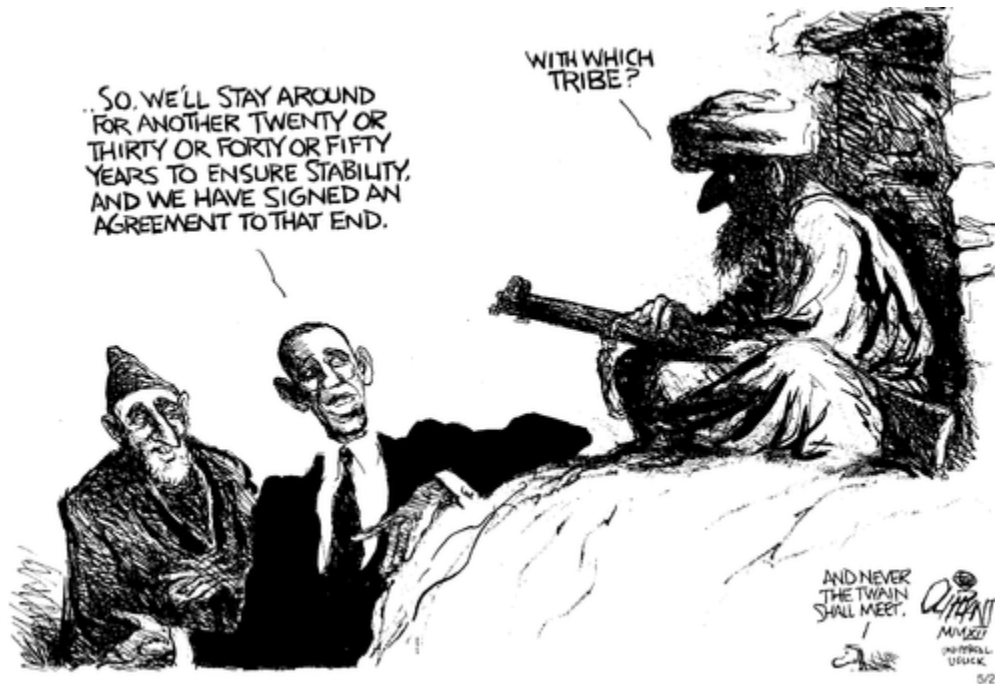


Military Resistance 10E7



Off-Duty Dress Rules: The Army “Wants To Tell Me That How I Dress And Whether Or Not I Shave Off Duty Should Somehow Be Punishable Under The Uniform Code Of Military Justice”

Army Times
FORUMS
April 23, 2012

Amazing the same Army that debated for years whether gays should be allowed to serve because “what they do in their off-duty time, as long as it is not illegal, should have no basis on their ability to be a soldier” now wants to tell me that how I dress and whether or not I shave off duty should somehow be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (“Upcoming changes to AR 670-1,” Forums, April 8).

This reminds me of sergeants major who, when mortars were landing in the middle of the night in Iraq, were the ones out there yelling at troops for running to their bunkers or fighting positions without having first grabbed and put on their reflective belts.

— RONALD45

MORE:

**“Trying To Tell Us The Changes Are
For The Purpose Of Promoting
Discipline Is A Sign Of Just How Far
Removed From The Line Units You
Really Are”**

**“I Damn Sure Never Learned It From
Being Annoyed About Some Idiotic Rule
That Someone Who Commands A Desk
Came Up With”**

Army Times
Letters To The Editor
April 30, 2012

Change is inevitable. Good or bad soldiers must learn to be flexible.

Reading a line from the last article regarding the new changes, however, has left me rather disgusted.

“The new rules are neither a part of the drawdown nor a tool of attrition,” according to Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond Chandler. That is, in my opinion, indicative of how blind he apparently thinks we are (“Tougher grooming regs,” April 16).

You gain the respect of your soldiers by being honest about your agenda upfront.

To try and pass off your regulation changes as anything less than a tool to thin the ranks is disrespectful to everyone it applies to.

Furthermore, trying to tell us the changes are for the purpose of promoting discipline is a sign of just how far removed from the line units you really are.

We all know discipline is not learned by making threats, nor is it learned by ridiculous measures to which you govern our lives.

It is learned through mentorship, experience and a desire to be good at what you do, most of all staying alive outside the wire.

You definitely learn it through countless combat missions.

I damn sure never learned it from being annoyed about some idiotic rule that someone who commands a desk came up with.

Changes will occur, regardless of all our complaining, but don't lie to us about the underlying purpose, to sugarcoat an Army that finds itself in the face of many cutbacks.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeremiah Harrington
Fort Hood, Texas

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Bejjia village Iraq, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes. 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 war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

2 Alaska-Based MPs Killed In Bowri Tana: Three More Wounded

May 15, 2012 The Associated Press

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Two Alaska-based military policemen died in Afghanistan when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb.

U.S. Army Alaska officials identified the victims as Sgt. Brian L. Walker of Lucerne Valley, Calif., and Pfc. Richard L. McNulty III of Rolla, Mo.

Three other soldiers were wounded when their vehicle hit the bomb Sunday in Bowri Tana, Khost Province, Afghanistan.

The 25-year-old Walker was in command of the vehicle. He joined the Army in August 2007, and was assigned to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson last August. He previously served in Afghanistan for a year.

McNulty, who was 22, was driving the vehicle. He joined the Army in August 2010 and was assigned to the Anchorage base in February 2011.

The Rolla Daily News reports that McNulty was scheduled to come home in three weeks. His wife is due to give birth in June.

Marine From West Chester Killed In Afghanistan

May 08, 2012 The Associated Press

WEST CHESTER —

A U.S. Marine killed in Afghanistan on Sunday was from southwest Ohio, the Department of Defense said Monday.

Military officials said in a release that 25-year-old Sgt. John P. Huling of West Chester, who was trained to dismantle bombs, died in Helmand province.

They said he was killed by gunshot wounds inflicted by a person wearing an Afghan National Army uniform. Officials are investigating his death.

Deborah Huling of West Chester told the Cincinnati Enquirer her son was killed while on foot patrol and was ambushed by a man who appeared to be an Afghan military policeman.

She said Huling suffered a gunshot wound to the chest. He was flown to a hospital, where he later died, she said.

John P. Huling enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2006. He deployed to Iraq in 2007, and was on his second combat deployment. He was an explosive ordnance disposal technician, assigned to the 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group at Camp Pendleton in California.

Deborah Huling said her son, who had recently graduated from ordnance disposal school, wasn't supposed to deploy to Afghanistan until October, but went early because of losses in his unit.

His mother said he had reservations about going overseas this time.

"He was worried because he hadn't finished his training, and he didn't feel like he would be prepared to be over there," she told the Enquirer.

Huling was still undergoing additional training when he was called to deploy, his mother said. "He was brave and selfless and gave his life for his country so everybody could enjoy the freedom that we live now," she said.

John P. Huling grew up in West Chester before attending Moeller High School in Cincinnati. He also attended culinary school at Cincinnati State and Technical Community College, but left to join the Marines.

He is survived by his wife of two years, Priscilla; a brother who also is a Marine, a sister, and a 12-year-old niece, his mother said.

"I am so proud of what he became, what he stood for, what he endured," his mother said.

Family Describes Life Of Fallen Soldier From Keystone Heights

4/30/2012 WJXT-TV

Sgt. Dick Lee Jr.'s commanding officer calls him a great soldier and says it was an honor to serve with him.

Lee, 31, and Staff Sgt. Brandon Eggleston, 29, died Thursday in Ghanzi province in Afghanistan from injuries suffered when their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

Family and friends in Keystone Heights, where his parents and brother still live, knew him as Alson.

His father said Monday he's still having a difficult time coming to terms with what happened, but he said on Thursday, he lost the greatest son anyone could ever ask for.

Lee's brother, Michael Carroll, said Lee was amazing and everyone loved him.

"He was a great father to his two young boys. He was good to his wife, everybody," Carroll said in a phone interview. "Nobody who ever knew him could say he was a bad man. He wouldn't hurt anybody for any reason. He was a straight good honest man."

Since the early years, Lee's family knew he would be in the service. He always wanted to be part of the military police.

After high school, that dream came true. He became a Military Police dog handler. He and did two tours in Iraq and was on his third in Afghanistan.

"We were kids growing, he'd be running around with stick rifles and we'd be playing commando out in the woods and stuff like that," Carroll said. "The military was his calling from day one."

Lee graduated from Keystone Heights Junior/Senior High School in 2000.

"As soon as he was gone, right off to basic training," said Carroll.

That was 12 years ago, but he's still remembered there on campus as a great person who would do anything for anyone.

"Very hard worker, did everything you asked on the field," Keystone Heights football coach Chuck Dickinson said. "You didn't question his effort. Just a great young man." Dickinson gave Lee the outstanding linebacker award when Lee played for the Indians. He said he'll never forget the man he mentored. "Those type of people that are in the military are heroes. They give it all every day," Dickinson said.

As Lee's family tries to cope with the tragedy, his brother has this message:

"Our soldiers who are fighting for us, if you see one of them, you walk up and shake his hand," Carroll said. "All of them, every day they risk a lot, and including my brother, they are all heroes no matter what."

Lee's father said in about five to 10 days, the military will fly his son's body to Naval Air Station Jacksonville because he said his son wanted to have his funeral and be buried locally in northeast Florida.

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

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

**WELCOME TO OBAMAWORLD.
WHERE EVERY DEATH IN COMBAT
ACCOMPLISHES NOTHING AT ALL**



U.S. soldier Nicholas Dickhut [KIA] from 5-20 infantry Regiment attached to 82nd Airborne coming under fire by the Taliban while on patrol in Zharay district in Kandahar province, April 26, 2012. REUTERS/Baz Ratner

MILITARY NEWS

**Ohio Guardsman's Hitch As
Gunner In Iraq Turned Him
Against The U.S. Empire:**

**“I Can’t Forget That We Were
There Looking For Devices That
Were There Because We Were
There”**

**“The Easiest Way To Have Solved
That Problem Was For Us Not To Be
There”**

**“We Were Only Occupying Two Different
Countries (Iraq And Afghanistan) That
Didn’t Want To Be Occupied”**

Comment: T

Ignore the bizarre refusal below to mention the Imperial government in DC today carrying out mass murder in Afghanistan as ordered by Obama, and, instead, absurdly pretending that “NATO” is responsible. There are other arguments below, well expressed.

May 14, 2012 By Dawn Turner Trice, Chicago Tribune

Greg Broseus joined the Ohio National Guard in 2002 to help pay for college. He wound up spending all of 2005 in Iraq as a gunner on a convoy whose mission was to search for roadside bombs.

For his service, he received 11 medals. But now he wants to give them all back.

On Sunday, he plans to participate in a unity march for reconciliation and justice at the 25th NATO summit. The march, organized by Iraq Veterans Against the War, will culminate in a ceremony in which veterans will get rid of their medals.

Organizers said they wish they could hand over their medals to a NATO representative. Since that’s unlikely, contingency plans range from members erecting a memorial site where the medals would be pinned to an American flag to tossing them over a barricade near McCormick Place, where NATO officials will be meeting.

“I would love to give my medals directly to a NATO official,” said Broseus, 28. “I don’t feel like I earned them in a just manner. I felt I was more of an occupier in Iraq than anything else, and I want them to know how that feels.”

He said that if he could have a moment with any member of the world's largest military alliance, he would say that while some engagements may be unavoidable, there are few, if any, upsides to war.

"War is not good for the aggressor or the people who are being attacked or (whose country is being) occupied," he said. "What I heard every single day when I was in Iraq — and everybody said it — was: 'What the (expletive) are we doing here?'"

"We didn't feel like we were doing much to protect the American people. We were only occupying two different countries (Iraq and Afghanistan) that didn't want to be occupied."

Broseus was called to active duty in 2004. A student at Ohio University studying photography, he dropped out of his classes. He said he didn't want to spend what might have been the last few months of his life in a classroom.

In early 2005, he was deployed to Baghdad. His convoy went out six days a week looking for roadside bombs. As a gunner, he was the person at the top of the Humvee with the machine gun.

"What we would do is go out and there would be four people inside the Humvee scanning and looking for anything that could contain an improvised explosive device — a burlap bag on the side of the road or soil that looked like it had recently been dug up," he said.

Broseus said his transition back to civilian life was rough terrain. It was strange for him not to constantly be on high alert anymore. It was also odd to not have his automatic weapon on him at all times.

"We had a psych evaluation before we left that was about 10 questions," said Broseus. "And we sat down for two minutes to talk with a counselor who asked: 'Do you feel like you're OK? Are you having nightmares? Do you feel like you're going to kill yourself?'"

And all the time, people say, 'No. No. No.' And they say you're fine.

"It's not until you get back and try to live your life like normal and you notice something may be going on." He said he didn't want to be around people. He didn't want them to know the person he had to become over there.

"I became a completely mean person just out of needing to ensure my safety and that of the people in my unit," Broseus said. "I had no problem cursing at people and throwing rocks at their cars and shooting at their cars or them. It was to the point where I felt no remorse."

He said it wasn't until he got home that he remembered an incident of looking at a corpse lying on the side of the road and thinking nothing of it.

"You do what you have to do to survive war," he said.

He knew he was dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder, and in 2010 he decided to use his love of photography as therapy. Last week, I met Broseus at Chicago's National Veterans Art Museum. He has an exhibit there of 11 black-and-white photographs, self-

portraits depicting the insomnia, paranoia, suicidal thoughts and feelings of isolation that followed him back into civilian life.

One photograph shows him seated at a kitchen table with a bowl of cereal, a glass of milk and a revolver in front of him. Another frames him slouched on a sofa in the flickering glow of a television set and late-night infomercials. Another picture has him seated in the bathtub, where he said he would sit for hours when overcome by panic attacks.

Now a photography student at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Broseus said he's often reminded that he entered the National Guard to help pay for college — which still covers only a fraction of his education.

But something else haunts him.

"I can't forget that we were there looking for devices that were there because we were there," he said. "The easiest way to have solved that problem was for us not to be there."

The Prisoner: "The Story Of Sergeant Bergdahl, 26, America's Only Known Current POW"



Sergeant Bergdahl: Bergdahl Family

[Thanks to Clancy Sigal, who sent this in. He writes: "See what the dad says re counter insurgency."]

May 13, 2012 By ELISABETH BUMILLER, New York Times

HAILEY, Idaho — Off a gravel road in a horse pasture in the crystalline air of the Northern Rockies, Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl grew up skiing, fencing and dancing the role of the Nutcracker in the nearby Sun Valley Ballet School — on the surface, at least, an unlikely recruit for the United States Army.

But his family and friends say that in retrospect his enlistment made a certain sense. Sergeant Bergdahl had learned to shoot in the sagebrush hills surrounding his family home and was a superb marksman.

He admired the military for its discipline and for what he saw as its role in protecting the American way of life.

After years of odd jobs and adventures, he told friends he was ready for the focus that a career in the Army would bring.

Not least, his family said, he was lured by the promises of military recruiters that he would be helping people in other parts of the world. He had come to see the military as a kind of Peace Corps with guns.

“I don’t think he understood really what he was going to do,” said Sky Bergdahl, Sergeant Bergdahl’s older sister.

The story of Sergeant Bergdahl, 26, America’s only known current prisoner of war, is one of the strangest and now most consequential mysteries in the 10-year involvement of the United States in Afghanistan.

He was captured under still unclear circumstances in June 2009 by insurgents in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan, only two months after he arrived on the battlefield, and is now believed to be held, alive and relatively well, by the militant Haqqani network across the border in the tribal area of Pakistan’s northwest frontier.

Last week his anguished family broke a yearlong silence and announced that their son had become the centerpiece in secret but stalled negotiations between the Obama administration and the Taliban over a proposed prisoner exchange. The deal, which would trade five Taliban prisoners held in Guantánamo Bay for Sergeant Bergdahl, is considered a crucial first step toward striking a broader political settlement with the Taliban to bring the decade-long war to an end.

Sergeant Bergdahl’s father, Robert Bergdahl, who said he went public to try to push the Obama administration to revive the talks, has in the meantime reached out to the insurgents. He is now in regular e-mail contact with a man he believes is a member of the Taliban with accurate knowledge of his son.

“You don’t leave something like this to government officials,” Mr. Bergdahl said in one of three interviews with The New York Times in recent months, two of them last week in Idaho. “Why wouldn’t a father do this? This is my job.” He said he now believed that the Taliban would not harm his son.

Mr. Bergdahl, a driver for United Parcel Service, said he still did not know how his son was captured. He discounted Taliban radio chatter intercepted by the military and

recounted in a classified military report made public by WikiLeaks that suggests insurgents grabbed Sergeant Bergdahl while he was in a latrine.

He would not speculate on whether his son had walked off his remote outpost during a counterinsurgency mission, as the military initially said, or had lagged behind on a patrol, as Sergeant Bergdahl recounted in a Taliban video released a month after his capture.

One thing is certain, Mr. Bergdahl said: "This is not your stereotypical American military family whose son went to war."

Robert and Jani Bergdahl moved from California to Idaho in 1980, lured by the promise of construction jobs in the wealthy resorts of Ketchum and Sun Valley. Mr. Bergdahl, an anthropology major who had dropped out of the University of California at Santa Barbara, poured cement but also waxed skis and worked for the Ketchum Fire Department.

By 1986, the year Bowe was born, he was driving for U.P.S. and had bought 40 acres for \$50,000 on a remote road outside Hailey, a town of some 6,000 people, many of them self-described "worker bees" for the resorts to the north.

He built a simple cabin that eventually housed about 5,000 books, but for years had no phone. "Remember Jed Clampett's house before they moved?" Mr. Bergdahl said, recalling the shack belonging to television's "Beverly Hillbillies" before they struck oil.

Still, the surroundings were breathtaking and, by the accounts of family and friends, Sergeant's Bergdahl's childhood was idyllic. Jani Bergdahl home-schooled Bowe and his sister, made sure they went to church every Sunday and let them loose to explore.

"It was good growing up with Bowe," said James Cameron, a childhood friend who was also home-schooled and is now an electrician on the Sun Valley ski lifts. "We'd ski during the winter and shoot guns, and then during the summer we'd hike and shoot guns."

By the time Sergeant Bergdahl was in his early 20s, he had his high school equivalency diploma and was moving from job to job to save up for exotic wanderings. Friends describe him as quiet, thoughtful, well-read and athletic, a free spirit who thought nothing of riding his bicycle back and forth the dozen miles between Hailey and Ketchum.

He did construction and yard work, was a house sitter and worked at a local shooting club. Through connections there he became a crew member on a large sailboat, which led to other crew jobs, including one through the Panama Canal. He traveled in Europe and rode his bicycle to California.

He also worked on and off as a barista at Zaney's, a coffee house and local gathering spot in Hailey. Around the same time he switched from fencing and martial arts to classes at the Sun Valley Ballet School, where he is remembered as a strong dancer who easily lifted the school's ballerinas. Sergeant Bergdahl was pulled in by ballet's discipline and grace, said Sherry Horton, the artistic director of the school, but it was a move that prompted teasing from the Zaney's staff.

Sergeant Bergdahl had a response. "He asked them, 'Who is the one man in this room who has all the beautiful girls' phone numbers?'" said Sue Martin, the owner of Zaney's, now a shrine of yellow ribbons and posters proclaiming "Bring Bowe Home."

By 2008, Sergeant Bergdahl had enlisted in the Army without telling his parents, who were nervous but supported him when they heard. To Ms. Horton, who shared a house with him at the time, the decision was no surprise. "He wasn't going to go to college," she said. "He liked the odd jobs, but I think he was ready for a career, and that is the career he chose."

Sergeant Bergdahl was assigned to the First Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fourth Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, based at Fort Richardson, Alaska. He deployed as a machine gunner in early May 2009 to a small combat outpost in Paktika Province, at a time when American forces were extremely sparse in the area.

At first his e-mails home were effusive. "He was happy as a clam," Mr. Bergdahl said. He wrote of "how beautiful it was, how wonderful the people were."

But the tone of his son's e-mails soon darkened, Mr. Bergdahl said, although he declined to say specifically what set off the change.

Mr. Bergdahl would say only that he himself had become disillusioned by the military's doctrine of counterinsurgency, aimed at winning over the Afghan population by building roads, schools and good governance while protecting them from insurgents. As part of the strategy, American troops often travel on roads planted with homemade bombs, or improvised explosive devices, to meet with villagers during the day to collect information about their needs — and to ask the whereabouts of insurgents so they can target them in night raids.

"The doctrine is fallacious," Mr. Bergdahl said. "It doesn't achieve what they say it's going to achieve. It's a biometric data-gathering device — send the rabbits out there to get I.E.D.-ed so you can figure out who to kill at night. How ethical." His son, Mr. Bergdahl contended, was frustrated by what he saw.

Sergeant Bergdahl was reported missing when he failed to show up for the outpost's morning roll call on June 30, 2009. The military report made public by WikiLeaks makes clear the panic that occurred within Sergeant Bergdahl's command and describes the tracking dogs, patrols and Predator drones that were marshaled for a widespread search.

In the nearly three years since, Sergeant Bergdahl has appeared in five videos released by the Taliban, all dismissed as propaganda by the American military, in which he pleads for an end to the United States' involvement in the war and his release, as well as the release of Afghan prisoners held by the United States.

"Every day I want to go home, the pain in my heart to see my family again doesn't get any smaller," he said in the most recent one, released a year ago, which his mother watched again last week in Idaho with tears in her eyes.

"That's the hardest video to take," she said quietly.

The last time the Bergdahls saw their son in person was Christmas 2008, before he deployed, when Mr. Bergdahl took him aside and told him, he said, “Men don’t come back from this, you know.”

But since then Mr. Bergdahl has been awed by the resilience of his son and now believes, he said, that the ordeal will end well. “That’s how much confidence we have in Bowe,” he said. “He’s like a cat who always lands on his feet.”

Army Demands Lawyers Representing Accused Soldiers Submit To Investigation Of Their Lives:

**“This Is An Example Of How Much
We Have Lost Civil Liberties, The
Prosecution Gets To ‘Clear’ The
Defense Lawyer”**

**“Can We Ask The Prosecutors Personal
Questions, Check With Their Neighbors,
And Ask About Mental Health, Alcohol
Or Drug Problems?”**

May 14, 2012 Army Times [Excerpts]

The lead civilian lawyer for a soldier accused of killing 17 Afghan villagers in March doesn’t want to undergo a background check.

Seattle attorney John Henry Browne wrote in emails to The Associated Press on May 3 that the Army has requested that he and all civilian members of Staff Sgt. Robert Bales’ defense team undergo the check to obtain security clearances for reviewing any classified evidence.

But Browne said it is troubling that to protect his client’s legal rights, he and his associates would be subject to intrusive vetting by the government.

“This is an example of how much we have lost civil liberties, the prosecution gets to ‘clear’ the defense lawyer,” he wrote.

“Can we ask the prosecutors personal questions, check with their neighbors, and ask about mental health, alcohol or drug problems?”

Browne noted he’d need extra space on the form to write about his seven marriages.

“Most offensive are personal facts about mental health, alcohol and drug use, voluntary counseling and in and out patient treatment ever,” he wrote.

“For God’s sake I did live in and through the ‘60s, ‘70s and ‘80s!” Browne, who played bass for a rock band in college, said he had nothing to hide: “My skeletons are not in the closet, they are on the front lawn!”

But on principle, he did not think he would submit to the back-ground check.

“They say they WILL contact neighbors now and in the past as well as friends (they want details) and family members,” he wrote. “One of my family members is seriously mentally ill, why do I have to violate her privacy?”

Bales, 38, a father of two from Lake Tapps, Wash., is accused of walking off the base where he was deployed in southern Afghanistan with a 9mm pistol and an M4 rifle outfitted with a grenade launcher.

Dan Conway, a civilian lawyer and former Marine who has handled several prominent military cases, said he understood some of Browne’s objections to undergoing a background check.

He said he typically trusts his military co-counsel to review classified evidence to determine whether it’s worth pushing the government to declassify it. As a last resort, he said, he will go through the background check and obtain a clearance.

“The biggest concern is this: You don’t want to have to censor yourself with the media because the government has unnecessarily exposed you to classified information,” Conway said. “If I can do anything to avoid looking like I’ve disclosed classified information, which can be a crime, I’m going to do that.”

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.

**Prescription Meds Tied To 2 In 3
Soldier Drug Deaths:
“Of These Deaths, Classified
Accidental Or Undetermined, 142
Involved Prescription
Medications”
“In 2011, About Two-Thirds Of
Soldiers Were On Prescription
Medications”
“The Most Lethal Drugs Are Misused
Prescribed Medication. That’s True In
The Army Data, And American Society Is
Seeing The Same Issue”**

May 14, 2012 By Joe Gould and Cid Standifer, Army Times [Excerpts]

In a tent at Checkpoint Sayrah Kalach in Afghanistan last February, a sergeant was found dead.

Tests showed he had 10 different drugs in his system; the fatal cocktail included six types of opiates — including heroin — three types of benzodiazepines and a cough suppressant.

It was unclear where the soldier, a squad leader in the 4th Infantry Division, had gotten the drugs that killed him, but witnesses said Afghan police on the post were known to possess heroin. He had also just returned from leave.

As in this grim case, street drugs or pharmaceuticals have been linked to 197 deaths among soldiers since 2009, according to Army data released earlier this year.

Of these deaths, classified accidental or undetermined, 142 involved prescription medications.

In 2011, about two-thirds of soldiers were on prescription medications.

Drug toxicity deaths in the Army have trended upward since 2006, as they have across the nation. Drug overdoses have surpassed car crashes as the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's annual data.

Yet the dangers of prescription drugs are often underestimated by soldiers and commanders.

The cases reflect a broad range of incidents, describing soldiers who were found dead in their barracks and in their beds at home.

Soldiers obtained drugs from Afghan security forces, fellow soldiers, civilians, by prescription or by theft.

"The most lethal drugs are misused prescribed medication. That's true in the Army data, and American society is seeing the same issue," said Bruce Shahbaz, special assistant to the Army's director of health promotion, risk reduction and suicide prevention.

In 2011, the number of prescriptions written for soldiers for psychotropic and controlled substances rose to 358,203 from 337,932 in 2010, according to Army data.

The number of active-duty service members who received four or more unique medications, including psychotropics and controlled substances, rose to 291,726 from 273,687.

The Army is also adding prescription drugs to the panel of substances detected by a urinalysis.

On May 1, it added hydrocodone and hydromorphone, which can be found in such painkillers as Vicodin, Lorcet and Lortab.

Some time next year, the Army also plans to start testing for benzodiazepines — found in Valium, Xanax and Klonopin, and used to treat anxiety and insomnia.

Of the cases Army Times reviewed, more than half involved drugs with a legitimate medical use but a high risk for abuse and addiction.

In the cases reviewed by Army Times, 17 soldiers died of drug overdoses while assigned to wounded warrior units scattered across the country.

Four were from then-Walter Reed Army Medical Center units and three at Fort Carson, Colo., units. The rest were single cases at 10 different WTUs.

In Afghanistan, there were a total of 22 drugs found in the systems of the seven overdosed soldiers. Four of the drugs were street drugs and the rest were pharmaceuticals.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Stupid NYC Cops Commit Perjury And Lose Occupy Case: Stupid Cops Said Man Was In Street: Stupid Cops Stupid Lie Exposed By Video Of Arrest

16 May, 2012 By Katerina Azarova, RT

This case could have been a slam dunk for the NYPD, had it not been for one thing: the video showing police claims of disorderly conduct during an OWS protest to be completely untrue.

Hundreds have been arrested during the Occupy Wall Street protests, but photographer Alexander Arbuckle's case was the first to go to trial – and after just two days, the Manhattan Criminal Court found him not guilty.

Supporters of the OWS protest movement have already hailed the ruling as a major legal victory.

Arbuckle was arrested on New Year's Day for allegedly blocking traffic during a protest march.

He was charged with disorderly conduct, and his arresting officer testified under oath that he, along with the protesters, was standing in the street, despite frequent requests from the police to move to the sidewalk.

But things got a little embarrassing for the NYPD officer when the defense presented a video recording of the entire event, made by well-known journalist Tim Pool.

Pool's footage clearly shows Arbuckle, along with all the other protesters, standing on the sidewalk. In fact, the only people blocking traffic were the police officers themselves

His lawyers said the video proving that testimony false is what swayed the judge, and the verdict a clear indication that the NYPD was over-policing the protests.

The irony of the case, however, is that Arbuckle was not a protester, or even a supporter of the Occupy movement. He was there to document the cops' side of the story.

A political science and photography major at NYU, Arbuckle felt the police were not being fairly represented in the media.

"All the focus was on the conflict and the worst instances of brutality and aggression, where most of the police I met down there were really professional and restrained," the student said.

However, his good intentions only landed him in trouble.

As with all the other detained protesters, the police offered Arbuckle an Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal (ACD), which basically means he would be let off the hook if he agreed not to fight the charges. But to Arbuckle, that meant an admission of guilt, and he decided to take the case to trial.

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CLASS WAR REPORTS



Syrians Defy Leaders To Aid Those In Need:

“What Has Become A Sort Of Underground Railway Is Shrouded In Secrecy”

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“Those Involved Say They Were Moved To Act By The Realization That The Government Had No Intention Of Responding To The Humanitarian Crisis

Caused By Its Own Siege Of Syrian Cities”



Members of the Free Syrian Army moving weapons, medicine and personnel across a river near Al Janoudiyah, Syria, in February. New York Times

May 14, 2012 By THE NEW YORK TIMES [Excerpts]

DAMASCUS, Syria — For 48 hours, the two Damascus residents struggled to reach the besieged city of Homs by car, trying to deliver boxes of blood bags so surgeons there could operate on the wounded.

But gunfire made the roads impassable.

Finally, they strapped their contraband to their backs and, led by a shepherd through back roads and dirt paths, hiked 65 miles to the city.

As the violence across Syria reaches a treacherous new phase and the numbers of displaced and injured swell, such individual and ad hoc efforts have grown into an increasingly organized underground network of volunteers willing to brave injury and arrest to deliver relief supplies to those trapped, wounded or displaced by the fighting.

The government sees the network as an affront, and has detained anyone caught distributing aid, especially medicine.

Activists say the government considers any aid, even humanitarian, as a comfort to its enemies and an opportunity for a long repressed civil society to gain a foothold.

The threat of arrest has only forced the operation underground as a growing number of people struggle to provide food, clothing, medicine, shelter, services and money to a

population that the Syrian government has victimized and the international community has so far largely failed to help.

The Red Crescent said last week that as many as 1.5 million people need help getting food, water or shelter.

“All our lives we were raised to be afraid,” said a university student who is involved in the relief effort. “But you get to a point where you realize you are strong because you can speak and do.”

Those involved with the network also say it undermines the government’s effort to divide and conquer, whether on sectarian, ethnic, class or geographical lines.

For the past year, the government has been stoking fears of ethnic conflict and the prospect of a militant Islamist takeover as a way to coerce tacit support from Syrians of all sects and ethnicities.

The government has also exploited geographical divisions, analysts say, as resentment has grown among residents of the besieged cities toward those of the major cities of Damascus and Aleppo, who have not risen in significant numbers.

Aid from those cities, particularly from the relatively unaffected capital, subverts that narrative, supporters say.

By taking an active role in the conflict, Damascus residents can push back against the capital’s facade of relative normalcy.

But they risk arrest by doing so.

Two women were taken in broad daylight from a cafe last month, as was the son of a doctor this month, for helping stockpile and deliver medicine, activists say.

Another man was arrested after collecting Easter chocolate to send to Christian children in Homs and was held for several weeks.

The authorities have even detained a psychiatrist who was training volunteers to help children who have been traumatized by an uprising that has churned for more than a year.

“They want to get rid of the idea that the people can help each other,” said a social scientist who is a participant in the network and, like others interviewed, did not want to be identified.

“They don’t want there to be solidarity among the Syrian people.”

Those involved say they were moved to act by the realization that the government had no intention of responding to the humanitarian crisis caused by its own siege of Syrian cities, which has resulted in the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of people.

Those with the means have filled Damascus hotels, which have offered drastically reduced rates to Syrians fleeing the violence, and those without have been welcomed in the homes of less affluent Syrians on the outskirts of Damascus.

Providing relief is “not disallowed in law, but we understood from the security that it was illegal,” said one participant who noted that the most dangerous items to smuggle were medicines.

“We began to fear for our people so we stopped medicine, stayed to food.”

Every stop on what has become a sort of underground railway is shrouded in secrecy: requesting supplies, confirming the needs, delivering goods, fund-raising and collecting donations are carried out by separate cells.

To safeguard the network, participants know the identities of only the immediate people they deal with.

Members estimate that there are hundreds of people working in the network in greater Damascus and that well into the thousands within Syria are contributing money and supplies.

But people who want to help say they have no choice but secrecy, citing the results of an attempt in March to openly organize an aid caravan to Homs.

The organizers created a nonpartisan Facebook page called “Carrying Homs in Our Hearts,” with a logo of a hand holding an olive branch. The page identified organizers’ real names and phone numbers as people who would receive donations to take to Homs.

In three weeks, they had gathered 40 tons of food and signed up 200 people to deliver it to the stricken city. On March 19, they set out in a convoy of three buses and vans, wearing white hats emblazoned with the logo and large identification tags hanging from lanyards around their necks, reminiscent of the public service outings that organizations carried out before the conflict began.

But minutes after their departure, they were stopped by the traffic police. After a day of wrangling with security services and a call to the satellite television channel Al Arabiya, a deal was struck in which the Red Crescent was allowed to deliver the goods to Homs, but the volunteers were prohibited from going.

Syria has a strong cultural practice of charity and giving, with several hundred institutions available for Syrians to contribute to. But government restrictions have rendered them ineffective for providing aid during the conflict.

Several of these organizations are also now working in secret, people here said.

The government has tried to appear responsive to the crisis. In April, President Bashar al-Assad and his wife, Asma, were shown on state television at a stadium full of euphoric volunteers filling bags with sugar and rice to be distributed to those in need throughout Syria. The undertaking was staged by Syria Trust, a nongovernmental organization, whose board chairwoman is Ms. Assad.

But many families in Homs refused the aid, activists said, because the trust is government financed.

“They caused this,” said a woman from Homs. “They bombarded us just so they could then help us? Don’t attack us at all!”

The social scientist said the government was trying to use the aid to its advantage.

“They want to make it look like only the government can provide,” he said, and by implication, that the government can also take it away.

Some of those involved in the aid network say its impact extends beyond meeting humanitarian needs. The man who delivered the blood bags to Homs said the network connected and empowered Syrians at a time when violence threatens to fray the society.

His immediate cell includes a Christian, a Druse and a Kurd, representatives of minority groups whose members have in many cases remained loyal to the government or neutral out of fear of repercussions if the government fell.

When he recently delivered money to a community of displaced people, he surprised a religious leader who preached the need for a Sunni uprising when he told him the money was raised by and from several Christians.

With the conflict now well over a year old, the man says he keeps asking himself how much longer he will be able to continue.

“I’m really much better at my real job than I am as a relief worker,” he said, adding that he was weary but ready to carry on.

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