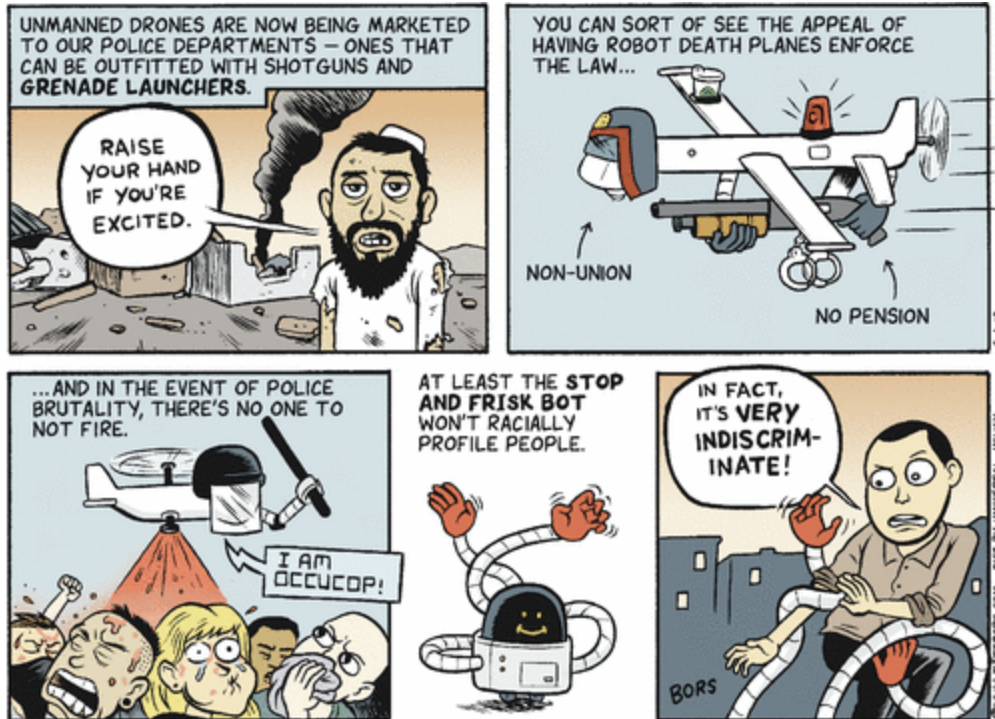


## Military Resistance 10F11



**“Getting Back Safe And Getting To Eat”**

**“These Are The Only Things We Look Forward To”**

**“We’re The Ones They’re Targeting With IEDs”**

**“Just Days Before, The Platoon Had Found Multiple IEDs Totaling More Than 200 Pounds Of Explosives”**

## FORWARD OPERATING BASE ARIAN, Afghanistan

Highway 1 stretches more than 1,300 miles, traversing deserts and cutting around mountains to connect Afghanistan's largest cities.

A piece of it also can be found on the wall of Capt. Jonathan Fernandez's office, under a small picture of Jesus Christ.

The softball-size chunk of asphalt is evidence of the first time soldiers with the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team were targeted with a roadside bomb on their current deployment.

Fernandez, commander of Company A of the 307th Brigade Support Battalion, was presented the macabre war trophy by his soldiers after his mine-resistant armored vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb on April 13.

Highway 1 is the economic lifeline of Afghanistan and the logistical artery for coalition forces. It connects the seat of government in Kabul with Kandahar and the rest of southern Afghanistan.

The road, pockmarked with more than 75 craters from roadside bombs in southern Ghazni alone, is also the top priority of Fort Bragg's 1st Brigade Combat Team. It's the brigade's job to keep the road safe.

The brigade has been given six months - from the spring to the fall - to root out the Taliban and prepare Afghan security forces to take the lead after it leaves.

A much smaller group of American soldiers will take the place of the brigade.

Speaking to reporters by satellite from Kabul on Monday, Lt. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, the day-to-day commander of the war in Afghanistan, called the efforts in Ghazni province the heart of the current effort against insurgents.

"It's up to our Afghan partners to gain strength and hold those areas," said Scaparrotti, who added that Afghans and Americans are working hard together to improve Afghan-led security.

The crater from the bomb that Fernandez hit can be found about a half hour outside Forward Operating Base Arian in the Qarah Bagh district of southern Ghazni.

The blast left a 6-foot-deep crater that measured 26 feet by 21 feet according to a small note card attached to the trophy.

The explosion destroyed Fernandez's vehicle but did not seriously wound any of the soldiers on board.

"It's there as a reminder of what could have been a bad situation," said Fernandez, whose soldiers are responsible for carrying supplies to the rest of the brigade.

In the beginning, when U.S. troops arrived in April, the soldiers with the 1st Brigade Combat Team were hit hard.

Of the seven soldiers lost in the brigade's first two months in southern Ghazni, six were killed by roadside bombs and the other was killed during a route-clearance patrol.

Some of the bombs contained up to 200 pounds of explosives controlled by command wires that had been set in place for months.

The improvised explosive devices are the handiwork of expert bomb makers who were driven to Ghazni by troop surges in eastern and southern Afghanistan.

"At the beginning, it was rough. It was really rough," Fernandez said. "Now, it's slowed down. It's mostly on secondary roads."

Still, the evidence of those hectic first weeks is plainly visible.

"There are so many craters, it's just crazy," Fernandez said. "We think that we're dealing with third-world country guys running around with bows and arrows. Then we see these IEDs."

### **"Finding The Bombs Largely Falls To Soldiers With The 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion"**

Finding the bombs largely falls to soldiers with the 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

The soldiers of the battalion's Company A are on Highway 1 and its main side roads in southern Ghazni every day, inspecting craters, culverts and other places bombs could be hidden.

"We try to disrupt the IED operations as much as possible," Spc. Tyler Hardy said. "We still find stuff most every time we go out."

Capt. Michael Natalino, commander of Company A of the 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, said the soldiers are having an effect.

"But there's definitely going to be work still to be done," Natalino said.

In addition to route-clearance patrols, the 1st Brigade Combat Team supplements its search for bombs with foot patrols alongside the highway. The foot patrols look for insurgent activity, such as members of the Taliban hiding with command wire used to detonate IEDs when U.S. troops get close.

### **"We Still Find Stuff Most Every Time We Go Out"**

On May 15, a small group of soldiers with the brigade's 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, rested on a hillside off Highway 1.

The soldiers, part of 3rd Platoon, Company D, had walked several miles, parallel with but unseen from the highway north of the Karasoy bazaar near Forward Operating Base Arian.

The soldiers had traveled to the bazaar to check a report that an IED had been found by Afghan soldiers.

The platoon, led by 1st Lt. Steven Blum, took a circuitous route to the site of the IED, hoping to avoid other bombs and the possibility of running into Taliban hiding in the area.

Along the way, they checked the location of an IED command wire that had been found on an earlier patrol.

The line of disturbed dirt held no new secrets, so the soldiers pushed forward, walking through fields and trees while listening to a route-clearance team describe the small bomb they would eventually destroy.

As they walked, they passed civilians in the countryside. One caught the attention of Sgt. 1st Class Craig Scrivener.

Scrivener had spotted a clean-shaven man wearing all white and watching the rest of the patrol from a tree line.

"He was watching y'all, but he didn't see me," Scrivener said. "He was just acting really shady when I walked up on him. I thought he was going to take off running. But he dropped to his knees and put his hands up."

The man, an Iranian, told Blum through an interpreter that he had been working in the fields and took a nap before being awakened by the passing soldiers.

"I have fear from U.S. soldiers," he explained through an interpreter.

"We're here to help," Blum responded. "Why are you scared of me? What have we done?"

"U.S. has not done anything in the past," the man answered. "But the Taliban come to the village."

"I know why you're afraid of the Taliban. They're bad people. Why are you afraid of me and my forces?" Blum asked again.

"When you leave for Arian, the Taliban will ask why you were here," the man answered. "You're making trouble for me."

**The man refused to say when, exactly, the Taliban visit his village or when the last visit was.**

Leaving him be, the patrols moved on, past fields, villages and herds of goats, camels and sheep before coming to a smattering of small hills within view of the blast site off Highway 1.

The soldiers of 3rd Platoon anxiously awaited the blast - two packs of C4 explosives would be used to destroy a small pipe bomb.

After the controlled detonation, the patrol was able to resume before ending on Highway 1.

“These are the only things we look forward to,” Blum said. “Getting back safe and getting to eat.”

It was a nice change of pace from earlier patrols. Just days before, the platoon had found multiple IEDs totaling more than 200 pounds of explosives.

### **“The April 22 Explosion Killed 1st Lt. Jonathan Walsh And Pfc. Michael Metcalf”**

The next day, another 2nd Battalion patrol left Forward Operating Base Arian to search for bombs.

This time, soldiers with Company A and their Afghan partners drove to Combat Outpost Qarah Bagh before continuing on foot. They walked to an unnamed village that just a few weeks earlier had been the scene of a deadly bomb blast.

The April 22 explosion killed 1st Lt. Jonathan Walsh and Pfc. Michael Metcalf.

In total, four IEDs were found in the area.

The first to explode damaged an American vehicle. The second killed Walsh and Metcalf, who had responded to the attack as part of a quick-reaction force.

Now, some of those same soldiers had returned to find out what, if anything, the Taliban were protecting with the bombs.

Dubbed Operation Minefield, the May 16 patrol was meant to root out whatever the Taliban were hiding by arriving in the village near dusk and allowing Afghan soldiers to search village compounds and mosques.

But the searches turned up nothing, and the patrol was hampered by a blinding sandstorm.

### **“We’re The Ones They’re Targeting With IEDs”**

Organized destruction

Back at Forward Operating Base Arian, Lt. Col. Nick Vamvakias pointed to the map of Qarah Bagh district, marking the locations of combat outposts, checkpoints and police stations along Highway 1.

Vamvakias is the commander of the 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, and is responsible for U.S. operations in Qarah Bagh.

In his small slice of the country, Vamvakias said sophisticated bomb makers create large devices capable of organized destruction.

“We’re the ones they’re targeting with IEDs,” Vamvakias said. “They don’t kill civilians. They’re very considerate. They don’t even target Afghan forces, but they will once we leave.”

Vamvakias has noticed the recent shift in fighting.

Bombs and fighters who used to mark the highway are moving onto several side roads, including the notorious D Loop, which runs into the heart of Qarah Bagh’s economic and government base.

Instead of offensive weapons against U.S. troops, the bombs are often being used defensively to protect Taliban weapons caches and strongholds, Vamvakias said.

Roughly 100 to 150 Taliban fighters are in the district, Vamvakias said. Most of those either make or place IEDs.

Vamvakias said his soldiers are doing good work, but he is realistic about their results.

Nothing in Qarah Bagh will change, he said, if it is not willed by Afghan security forces.

On the May 15 patrol, the Afghan Army force directed U.S. troops to the bomb, but the Afghans did not accompany the Americans on their foot patrol along Highway 1.

On the May 16 patrol, a different Afghan force took the lead in searching for Taliban propaganda and weapons and walked alongside the Americans.

“They’re capable and they’re aggressive,” Vamvakias said. “We’re just trying to give them the confidence to go out. That’s the biggest thing. It’s mindset.”

## **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**

## **ACTION REPORTS**

# **“The Reception Has Only Seemed More Positive Each Time I Have Attended” [Outreach To The New York National Guard]**

From: Lillian U  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: June 10, 2012  
Subject: New York National Guard Outreach

AS and I had a productive morning on Friday, June 8th at the [XXXXX] Armory.

We began at 6:30 AM and remained until approximately 8:00 AM. We each stood at a different gate. Out of 72 handouts, 50 were distributed, each comprised of Military Resistance Guard Issue 10F3, the GI Rights Pamphlet, and our own Military Resistance business card [see below].

Out of 42 DVDs of “Sir! No Sir!” 27 were distributed, and of 50 ziplock bags of cookies/brownies, 26 were distributed.

Far fewer troops were present than expected. However, it was a bright and sunny morning, perhaps contributing to the positive reception received from the troops who were there.

AS conversed with one soldier who was familiar with our work and thanked us for our support. He took a handout, but declined to take a DVD copy of “Sir! No Sir!” being that he’d already seen it.

Furthermore, he added, “Yeah, the politicians are shitty all right but what I really don’t like are those people who join the Guard just to get their commissions. They really don’t care about the country, only themselves.”

I spoke briefly with a young soldier who was new to the armory. She was friendly and seemed enthusiastic to have just switched from an armory in Queens to a new place. I was not able to ask her further questions, but I did provide her with our material.

Looking forward to attending another outreach, as the reception has only seemed more positive each time I have attended. Only one troop who did not take material said anything to me besides, “No thank you.”

Lastly, a special thanks goes to PB for copying the Guard Issue and SD for baking.

## Military Resistance

Traveling Soldier  
Newsletter



www.traveling-  
soldier.org

(888) 711-2550

contact@militaryproject.org

Box 126, 2576 Broadway New York, NY 10025

**SUPPORTING GI RESISTANCE**

[Cards designed by Richie M, Military Resistance Organization]

### MORE:

## ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to Military Resistance for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so.

If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out. Reporting what went wrong and/or got screwed up is especially important, so that others may learn from you what to expect, and how to avoid similar problems if possible.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

### NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Identifying information – locations, personnel – will be omitted from the reports.



**Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the wars.**

**If accidentally included, that information will not be published.**

**The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs identifying information be published in reporting on the action.**

**MORE:**

# **The Military Resistance Organization:**

## **Military Resistance Mission Statement:**

**1. The mission of Military Resistance is to bring together in one organization members of the armed forces and civilians in order to give aid and comfort to members of the armed forces who are organizing to end the war of empire in Afghanistan. The long term objective is to assist in eliminating all wars of empire by eliminating all empires.**

**2. Military Resistance does not advocate individual disobedience to orders or desertion from the armed forces. The most effective resistance is organized by members of the armed forces working together.**

**However, Military Resistance respects and will assist in the defense of troops who see individual desertion or refusal of orders as the only course of action open to them for reasons of conscience.**

**3. Military Resistance stands for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. and other occupation troops from Afghanistan.**

**Occupied nations have the right to independence and the right to resist Imperial invasion and occupation by force of arms.**

**4. Efforts to increase democratic rights in every society, organization, movement, and within the armed forces itself will receive encouragement and support.**

**Members of the armed forces, whether those of the United States or any other nation, have the right and duty to act against dictatorships commanding their services, and to assist civilian movements against dictatorship.**

**This applies whether a political dictatorship is imposed by force of arms or a political dictatorship is imposed by those in command of the resources of society using their wealth to purchase the political leadership.**

**5. Military Resistance uses organizational democracy.**

**This means control of the organization by the membership, through elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels.**

**Any member may run for any job in the organization. All persons elected are subject to immediate recall, by majority vote of the membership.**

**Coordinating bodies report their actions, decisions and votes to the membership who elected them, and may be overruled by a majority of the membership.**

**6. It is not necessary for Military Resistance to be in political agreement with other organizations in order to work together towards specific common objectives.**

**It is productive for organizations working together on common projects to discuss differences about the best way forward for the movement.**

**Debate is necessary to arrive at the best course of action.**

## **Membership Requirements:**

**7. It is a condition of membership that each member prioritize and participate in organized action to reach out to active duty armed forces, Reserve and/or National Guard units.**

**8. Military Resistance or individual members may choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Afghanistan, but do not support a candidate opposed to immediate, unconditional withdrawal.**

**9. Members may not be active duty or drilling reserve commissioned officers, or employed in any capacity by any police or intelligence agency, local, state, or national.**

**10. I understand and am in agreement with the above statement. I pledge to defend my brothers and sisters, and the democratic rights of the citizens of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic.**

-----**(Signed)**

**(Date)**

----- **(Application taken by)**

**Military Resistance: [Contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:Contact@militaryproject.org)**

Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657  
888-711-2550

MORE

# You Can Take Action That Makes A Difference: Join The Military Resistance Organization: MILITARY RESISTANCE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Armed Forces? (Branch) \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran? Years: \_\_\_\_\_

Union: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Landline): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

\$ dues paid \_\_\_\_\_

(See next: Calendar year basis.)

Armed Forces Members	@	Dues waived
Civilians	@	\$25
Students/Unemployed	@	\$10
Civilian/Military Prisoners	@	Dues Waived

Comments:

NOTE: Civilian applicants will be interviewed, in person if possible, or by phone.

**Military Resistance: [Contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:Contact@militaryproject.org)  
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657  
888-711-2550**

**MORE**

# **“People Need Not Be Helpless Before The Power Of Illegitimate Authority”**

**MILITARY RESISTANCE:  
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657  
[Contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:Contact@militaryproject.org)**

*[Based on a statement by David Cortright, Vietnam Veteran and armed forces resistance organizer.]*

**In the final analysis the stationing of American forces abroad serves not the national interest but the class interest of the corporate and political elite.**

**The maintenance of a massive, interventionist-oriented military establishment is based on the need to protect multinational investment and preserve regimes friendly to American capital.**

**Imperialism is at the heart of the national-security system and is the force fundamentally responsible for the counterrevolutionary, repressive aims of U.S. policy.**

**Only if we confront this reality and challenge it throughout society and within the ranks can we restore democratic control of the military.**

**Of course nothing can be accomplished without citizen involvement and active political struggle.**

**During the Vietnam era enlisted servicemen created massive pressures for change, despite severe repression, and significantly altered the course of the war and subsequent military policy.**

**To sustain and strengthen this challenge we must continue to build political opposition to interventionism and support those within the armed services, including national guard and reserves, who defy the goals and program of Empire.**

**The central lesson of the GI movement is that people need not be helpless before the power of illegitimate authority, that by getting together and acting upon their convictions people can change society and, in effect, make their own history.**

The Military Project

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888-711-2550

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

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

June 12, 2012 Reuters

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

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

June 13, 2012 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died of wounds following an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan yesterday.

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

June 13, 2012 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died of wounds following an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan today.

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## **Soldier Serving With 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards Killed In Nahr-e Saraj**

14 Jun 12 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce that a soldier from the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards was killed in Afghanistan on Wednesday 13 June 2012.

The soldier was part of a patrol to disrupt insurgent activity in the north of Nahr-e Saraj district in Helmand province when he was wounded by small arms fire and a grenade blast. Despite receiving immediate medical treatment he was sadly killed in action.

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## **Miami Soldier Killed During Attack In Afghanistan**



Spc. Gerardo Campos was killed during combat in Afghanistan. (CBS4)

June 4, 2012 CBS4

MIAMI – Family and friends are mourning the loss of a South Florida soldier who died after his unit was attacked with small arms fire in Afghanistan.

Spc. Gerardo Campos, 23, died Saturday in Maiwand, Afghanistan while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. He leaves behind a wife and 10 month old daughter.

Long before Spc. Campos died serving his country, his family knew him as a hero. Campos grew up in Homestead, one of five children.

“He was just a good man, honest man, good man brave man,” said sister, Erica Campos. “He was everything- everything you can think of – superhero, friend, father, best brother,” said Eduardo Campos, the youngest of the 5 siblings.

Gerardo taught his younger brother to play football and wrestled with his sisters. Erica Campos said he taught her to be tough. And when he joined the Army, fellow soldiers looked up to him too.

“He always did say that I have to be strong for them, show them not to be scared and I know that’s what he did,” said Erica.

“If anybody would get to know him, they’d be honored to know him,” said Eduardo.

“I know he went down serving his country and I’m very proud of him and now it’s up to me and my older brother to take care of his little daughter.”

His family said his wife and daughter were the loves of Campos’ life. His wife was getting ready to send a present for his first Father’s day.

Now, they will all teach Campos’ daughter to be proud of her dad. “He left with honor, a brave soldier,” said Erica. “He fought for us. He gave his life for us”

Spc. Campos enlisted in the United States Army in March 2010

“A never-say-never type of attitude with a go-getter personality, he was a friend you could always count on,” said Knight.

“Spc. Campos was the wind beneath the wings of his platoon. He motivated his fellow Soldiers and believed in their ability to rise to the occasion, regularly pushing them beyond their limits. Spc. Campos had a level of maturity far beyond his age and displayed the potential to become a future Sergeant Major in the Army.”

Spc. Campos was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, based at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

Army officials say his awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, the NATO Medal, and the Parachutist Badge.

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## **Jersey City Soldier Killed In Afghanistan Last Month Had Enlisted To Support His Family, Cousin Says**



The Department of Defense announced the death of Pfc. LeRoy DeRonde III, 22, of Jersey City. He was assigned to the 125th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss, Texas. -- Facebook photo

June 06, 2012 By Rafal Rogoza, The Jersey Journal

Recently killed Army Pfc. LeRoy DeRonde III grew up in a “tight knit family” and enlisted in the Army to support his struggling family, his cousin Jason Owen said yesterday.

The Department of Defense announced that DeRonde was one of two soldiers killed in Afghanistan when his unit was attacked by enemy fire during patrol on May 27.

DeRonde, 22, grew up in Jersey City and was the middle child of three, and is survived by his younger brother Harold, 18, and older sister Jennifer, 33.

In 2002, DeRonde’s mother’s death from ovarian cancer shook the family to its core. “At that time, the family was going through rough times,” Owen said.

When Owen was 27, he and his fiancé became the guardians of DeRonde and his younger brother after DeRonde’s mother’s death. DeRonde was 16 at the time. DeRonde briefly attended Dickinson and Lincoln high schools, Owen said yesterday.

“At 20, it clicked for him. He would have to put the family on his shoulders to survive,” said Owen, adding that DeRonde began to seriously consider the military.

After getting his GED and taking a few college credit courses, DeRonde left home for basic training in January 2011.



Three months later, he was one of five basic training graduates to be promoted to second-class private and was awarded the 1st Battalion 48th Infantry Regiment Order of the Dragon Soldiers.

DeRonde was stationed in Fort Bliss, Texas, and was assigned to the 125th Brigade Support Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

Owen said his cousin was reserved, and had a heart of gold.

“I think his legacy will be that when he realized that his purpose in life was to help his family, he stepped up to the challenge,” Owen said.

On Monday, Soldiers’ Angels New Jersey, a nonprofit dedicated to helping soldiers and their families paid tribute to DeRonde on their Facebook.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

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

**“The Village Of Sun-Dried Mud  
Huts Where Raza Suspects The  
Insurgents’ Meeting Will Take  
Place Lies Less Than A Mile  
From Chinari Outpost”**

**“They Have No Way Of Pinpointing  
Where The Insurgents Are  
Gathering, And Even If They Did,**

# **They Lack The Firepower To Mount An Attack”**

## **“The Soldiers At Chinari Outpost Feel Seriously Ill-Equipped”**

### **“Twenty Of Them Share A Single Helmet, Which They Passed From One To Another As They Posed For Photos”**

Jun 10, 2012 By Kathy Gannon - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

CHINARI OUTPOST, Afghanistan — Over Capt. Mohammed Raza’s walkie-talkie came an intruder’s voice: Faqir Talha, a Taliban fighter telling a comrade, “Everyone is with us. We will have a village meeting. It will be at 3 p.m., and everyone should come.”

The plains of Logar province are vast, but the distance between army and enemy can be small.

**The village of sun-dried mud huts where Raza suspects the insurgents’ meeting will take place lies less than a mile from Chinari outpost and its complement of 20 Afghan National Army troops,**

**It’s not of much use to the soldiers, however. They have no way of pinpointing where the insurgents are gathering, and even if they did, they lack the firepower to mount an attack.**

Two months previously, a police post was destroyed by the Taliban, so the army set up a base on a hilltop where the men of the 4th Battalion of 203 Thunder Corps live in two 20-foot-long containers behind bags of rocks and rolls of barbed wire. Riding in Humvees, they patrol a road that snakes through mountain passes and eventually ends in Pakistan, where the insurgents have a haven.

Two days ago, they were attacked with rockets but suffered no injuries.

In 2014, when the last U.S. and NATO forces are gone, Afghanistan’s defense will fall to troops like these.

**The soldiers at Chinari outpost agree but feel seriously ill-equipped.**

**Twenty of them share a single helmet, which they passed from one to another as they posed for photos.**

**“There is definitely a logistics issue within the ANA. There is an awful lot of equipment purchased and sitting in warehouses until we get the logistics fixed**

**and get the ANA trained to request the equipment and get it issued,” said Lt. Col. Timothy M. Stauffer, U.S. Army director of public relations.**

Bushy-bearded Noor Alam is 25 and, in his words, a bit of a dreamer and a poet. His education ended at fifth grade. He and two brothers enlisted because his family is poor and needs the money.

**He recalls scary encounters with the Taliban in his four years in the army, but none as frightening as the one with U.S. Special Forces who he says mistook his base for a Taliban hideout.**

**“Their weapons were so strong. I have had bad experiences with the Taliban, but this was the most frightening for me,” he said. “Maybe they apologized to higher-ups, but no one apologized to us.”**

He says he longs for “peace with all Afghans, living together. We shouldn’t fight each other.”

Noor Ali thinks he’s 21, lost his parents when he was young, never went to school, and worked as a laborer. He joined the army 10 months ago and learned basic reading and writing. He dyed his hair flaming red, explaining shyly, “I did this to look good. In my village, it is popular.”

Abdul Basir, 22, has just finished basic training, having learned to fight on the run, fire weapons and use stealth.

He says he bears no ill will toward the Taliban.

The foreigners — now numbering about 130,000 soldiers, 90,000 of them American — “have helped us, but they have not been able to bring us peace.

“Things have gone from bad to worse,” said Basir. “I think I just want them to leave because we should protect our own country.”

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**“Pentagon Criminal Investigators Have Launched A Full Probe Into The Military’s Top Propaganda Contractor In Afghanistan Regarding Taxes Paid By Its Owners And Treatment Of Its Afghan Employees”**

# “We Are Talking About Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars”

6.11.12 By Tom Vanden Brook, USA TODAY [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON – Pentagon criminal investigators have launched a full probe into the military’s top propaganda contractor in Afghanistan regarding taxes paid by its owners and treatment of its Afghan employees, according to a letter obtained by USA TODAY.

The paper revealed in February that the owners of Leonie Industries had owed more than \$4 million in back taxes to the federal government. That debt was settled in March, federal records show. The company has received at least \$120 million in Pentagon contracts since 2009.

Rep. John Tierney, a Massachusetts Democrat and a senior member of the oversight committee, requested the Pentagon Inspector General investigation of Leonie in March.

“Claims of ongoing lack of accountability in war zone contracting cannot be ignored. We are talking about hundreds of millions of dollars, and I welcome the news that the Defense Criminal Investigative Service will be closely examining the Leonie contract.”

**Leonie hired a Washington lobbyist, Clark Ervin of the firm Patton Boggs, to stop the investigation.**

The tax issues were being addressed, and “no investigation of Leonie and its owners is warranted,” Ervin wrote the Pentagon inspector general on March 9. Ervin is a former Department of Homeland Security inspector general.

The inspector general’s criminal investigative unit “has initiated an investigation regarding allegations concerning the company’s failure to provide services to its employees and the tax issues associated with the contracts awarded to Leonie Industries,” the office wrote Tierney on June 7.

**In May, one of Leonie’s co-owners, Camille Chidiac, acknowledged launching websites in the names of the two USA TODAY journalists reporting the story.**

**The Pentagon admonished Leonie for the “smear campaign,” and Chidiac said he was selling his share of the firm.**

Rep. Hank Johnson, a Georgia Democrat and member of the Armed Services Committee, said Monday that he will ask the inspector general to investigate the online campaign as well.

**“The scope of this criminal investigation should be broadened to include the online dirty tricks campaign that smeared journalists investigating Leonie Industries, as well as any attempt to cover up responsibility by employees or shareholders,” Johnson said in a statement.**

“Leonie has acknowledged that at least one major figure associated with the firm was personally involved.”

Spending on “military information support operations” peaked at \$580 million in 2009, mostly for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Pentagon records show. Spending fell to \$202 million last year, as U.S. participation in the Iraq War ended.

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## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

# **Insurgents Attack In Qoqani And Capture El Bur As Ethiopian Occupation Troops “Deserted The Town Before The Militants Rolled In Sunday”**

12/06/2012 Mareeg.com

QOQANI - — Heavy fighting broke out in Somalia’s Lower Jubba region on Tuesday after Al shabab fighters attacked positions manned by pro-government forces on the outskirts of Qoqani town, reports said.

Local residents in Qoqani town confirmed Tuesday that the fighting was fierce and both warring sides traded heavy and small weapons, forcing residents to flee their homes to the safe locations in the region.

Figures on the casualties are yet to be established, but witnesses said Kenyan army helping Somali forces involved in the combat against Al shabab militants at Qoqani town.

EL BUR -Al shabab militants have detained on Tuesday at least four people in Somalia’s central town of El Bur, after alleging to have links with Ahlu Sunna Waljama’a ASWJ and Ethiopian forces, who deserted the town before the militants rolled in Sunday.

According to local residents two women are among the arrested people by Al shabab fighters after ASWJ and Ethiopian forces abandoned the town on Monday for what the officials called ‘military tactics’.

“Al shabab arrested today Mohammed Wehliye, father of Al shabab official for Zakaat, and Three others, two of them women and taken to undisclosed location in the town,” El Bur residents spoke to local Media on the phone.

Local people expressed shock and fear over the and killings against locals by Al shabab fighters who poured into El Bur town on Monday, shortly after the allied troops from ASWJ and Ethiopia quit.

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# Government Forces Attack Journalists As Insurgents Move On Dhusamareb

June 12, 2012 Mareeg.com

The National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) has just learned the arrest of two journalists by militias loyal to Ahlu Sunna Waljama administration in the central Somalia town of Dhusamareb on early hours on Tuesday morning on June 12, 2012 around 06:30am local time.

Militias loyal to the local Sufi militias, Ahlu Suna Wal-Jama raided the offices of the Radio Voice of Central Dhusamareb (Idaacadda Codka Bartamaha Dhusamareb) based in Dhusamareb on Tuesday morning around 6:20am local time, where they have seriously beaten and arrested Bashir Mohamed Salad Aka Bashir Sanka who contributes both Dalsan Radio, a privately owned independent radio station based in Mogadishu and Idacada Codka Bartamaha, an independent radio station based Dhusamareb and Abdi Jamal Moalim Ahmed, who is the correspondent of Radio Bar-Kulan, a UN Funded radio.

**The arrest and the beating of the journalists follows after the local people in Dhusamareb left the town in for safety purposes and fearing possible overnight Shabab [insurgents] attack and the journalists were among those fled with their lives for safety.**

The journalists, whose arrest were reasoned for only leaving the town during the night, were arrested with the orders of Farhan Moalim Ali, the Chief of local security committee in the town of Dhusamareb.

The head of the union's Central Somalia Branch, Mr. Abdulasis Wehliye Cofle called the arrest unprecedented attack against the journalists in central Somalia regions by Ahlu Sunna Waljama militias and called for the group to unconditionally release the journalists.

"The journalists were part of the general public who all left the town for their safety and arrests and beatings could not be the response," Abdiasis Wehliye Cofle, Chairman of the union's central Somalia branch said, "We call Ahlu Sunna Waljama to immediately release the journalists unconditionally."

The National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) is deeply worried over the health conditions of Bashir Mohamed Salad who was seriously wounded in the suicide blast in Dhusamareb early last month. Bashir has recently returned from Ethiopia for treatment, though there some concerns of his health status as reported by Bashir to the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ).

The Shabab, looted the Radio equipment twice after raiding the town and briefly taking it over, there has been similar fears within the residents after the Ahlu Sunna Waljama militias supported by the Ethiopian troops abandoned the town of Elbur, a strategic town in central Somalia this weekend.

On 5th June, 2012, The Deputy Security Chief of the town's Security Committee, Mr. Nor Elmi Hoosagale threatened the journalists after similar episode, of which the town's people evacuated the town, took place.

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



VATICAN TO CRACK DOWN ON AMERICAN NUNS

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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# **“Clashes Erupted When Thousands Of Quebec Students Stripped To Protest Against A Proposed Tuition Hike”**

## **“Mr. Charest Would Do Well To Remember That These Are The Descendants Of The People Who Cut Off Marie Antoinette’s Head”**



Demonstration shows the need for transparency from the government say students in Quebec, June 8, 2012. (Photo: Allvoices)

11 June 12 By Michelle Devlin, Allvoices & June 8, 2012 The Calgary Herald [Excerpts]

Michelle Devlin is based in Innisfil, Ontario, Canada, and is an Anchor for Allvoices.

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French Canadian students in Montreal stripped down to their skivvies and marched practically naked while Grand Prix audiences filled downtown cafes and restaurants Friday.

Police clamped down hard on scantily clad youth and blockades restricted access to the race grounds but streets surrounding the world class race were overflowing with thousands of buff Quebecois students in red war paint lending a colourful and vibrant aspect to this year’s race.

Beleagured Premiere Charest accused the protesters of hurting all of Quebec, as ticket sales for the event plummet this year due to the unrest sweeping across the province.



According to Gallery Quebec:

“Clashes erupted when thousands of Quebec students stripped to protest against a proposed tuition hike in a bid to embarrass the hosts of the Formula One Canadian Grand Prix here in Montreal.

The protests and media attention have already put a dent in the global sporting event, which usually generates an estimated CAN\$100 million (US\$97 million) in revenue for the city but this year has seen lagging ticket sales.

Riot police fired stun grenades and tear gas late Thursday, trying to prevent the protesters from approaching the event, as the demonstrators sought to draw international attention to their three-month campaign.

Nearly 40 people had been arrested by late Thursday, according to police.”

Earlier in the day, hundreds of student marchers stripped down to their underwear, the women thinly concealing their breasts with red body paint and the red cloth squares that have become a symbol of the protests.

“Everyone naked in the street,” they chanted as they banged pots and pans together — another feature of the nightly demonstrations held across the mostly French-speaking province.

“Formula One! Polluter! Sexist! Thief!” they shouted.

Demonstrators said they had removed their clothes in order to demand more transparency from the province, which is partly funding the race while also demanding that students pay a larger share for university education.

“Our nudity expresses the demand for transparency,” a male student, clad only in gray cotton underwear, told AFP. “The government is masked. It conceals its own motives, as we have seen in the negotiations”.

On June 6, cities across Canada and around the world held casseroles night protests in solidarity with Quebec, soliciting speculation that the protests were turning into something far greater than a tuition hike protest.

The verve, determination and passion of the Quebec students have become something of an inspiration to youth across the country and indeed around the world who feel disempowered and disenfranchised with the current world status quo.

Quebec Premier Jean Charest, whose popularity has plummeted over the crisis, had earlier expressed anger at the direct threats against the Grand Prix.

“When we attack the Grand Prix, it’s not the Quebec government that people are assaulting, it’s all Quebecers,” Charest said.

Author's note: In awe of these Montreal protesters, my theory is that secretly we all want to have this kind of chutzpa, and walk naked and painted red down the streets of our town ....

Mr. Charest would do well to remember that these are the descendants of the people who cut off Marie Antoinette's head...and this time they're really really mad. He needs to listen to what they are demanding. Seriously.

### **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.**

## **“A Military Base That Was Raided By The Free Syria Army, With The Help Of Defectors, On Sunday” “Opposition Fighters Seized Large Amounts Of Weapons And Ammunition – A Rare Haul During Many Months Of Battles That Has Seen Them Severely Outgunned By Loyalist Forces”**

11 June 2012 By Nicholas Watt, and Martin Chulov in Beirut, Guardian News and Media Limited

Violence in Syria showed no letup on Monday, with scores of opposition fighters and regime troops again killed in fierce fighting in parts of Homs city and the surrounding province.

An area north of Latakia, near the Turkish border, was targeted by helicopter gunships, which also roamed the skies of central Syria near a military base that was raided by the Free Syria Army, with the help of defectors, on Sunday.

The raid, the first large-scale assault by the Free Syria Army on a military base since the start of the Syrian uprising, has given impetus to claims that the anti-regime insurgency is gaining momentum after 16 haphazard months.

Buoyed by defectors, scores of whom are thought to have aided the attack on the al-Ghanto air defence base near Homs on Sunday, opposition fighters seized large amounts of weapons and ammunition – a rare haul during many months of battles that has seen them severely outgunned by loyalist forces.

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**“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.”**

**Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

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