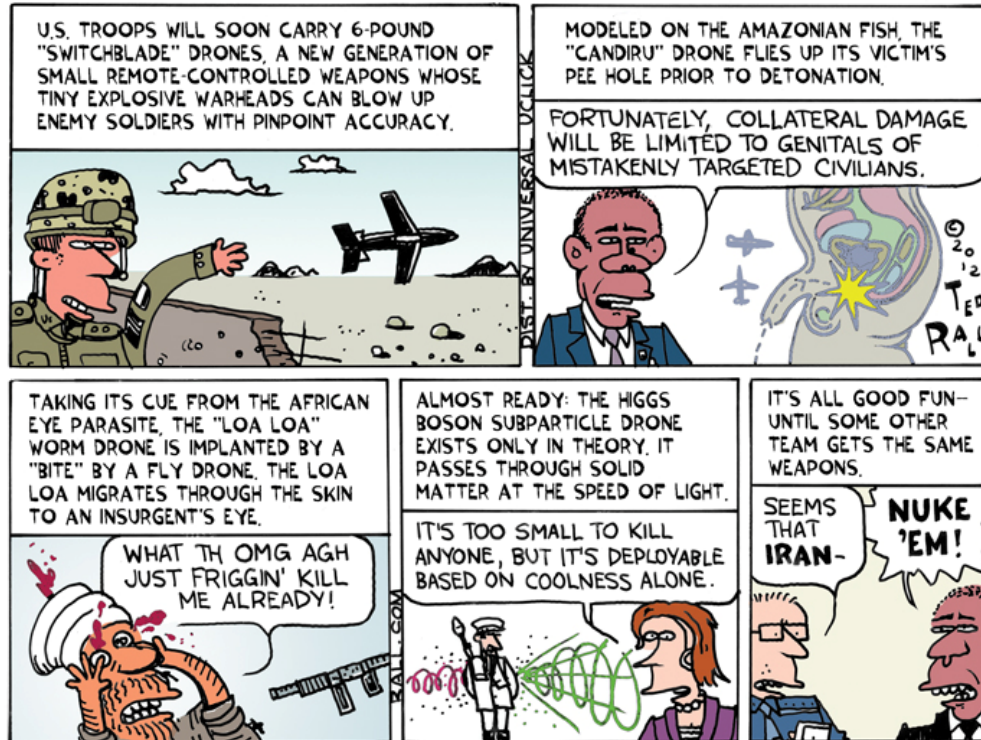


Military Resistance 10F12



**Obama's' Body-Double Spc.
Denzell Ward's Got It Right:
"He Says If He Could Be Commander
In Chief, 'I'd Pull All The Troops Out
Of Afghanistan Today"
"This War Is Pointless."**



6.18.2012 By Jon R. Anderson, Army Times

Army Spc. Denzell Ward is not the 44th president of the U.S., although he says he might have been the 44th person in line at the chow hall today.

Still, even the Afghan soldiers at his remote forward operating base in restive Ghazni province perform double takes when he passes by.

Ward had never heard of the senator from Illinois when his best friend's uncle started calling him Obama back in 2008. More into skating and punk rock, Ward was just trying to finish high school.

But a year later, even his Infantry School drill sergeants were calling him "Mr. President."

The similarities are more than skin deep. Like the president's parents, Ward's mother is white and his father has an African heritage. The soldier and president both favor Italian food: Obama's is from a Chicago-area pizzeria. Ward prefers spaghetti.

Although he wasn't old enough to vote in 2008, Ward says he probably would have cast his ballot for Sen. John McCain of Arizona, the Republican candidate. "I believe the president should have military experience," the 21-year-old says.

But this time he's planning to vote for his doppelganger, who Ward says has proved himself in the job.

Although Ward has no presidential aspirations of his own, he says if he could be commander in chief, "I'd pull all the troops out of Afghanistan today. This war is pointless."

In the meantime, the best he can hope for is spaghetti at the chow hall and a better place in line.

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Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly.

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Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

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

June 15, 2012 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan today.

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

June 15, 2012 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an insurgent attack in eastern Afghanistan today.

Dawsonville Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



Sgt. Alex Povilaitis, 47, was died after he was wounded and never recovered from an improvised explosive device in Kandahr Province, Afghanistan.

June 4, 2012 By Dave Huddleston, WSB-TV

DAWSONVILLE, Ga. —

A Cobb County family is preparing to say goodbye to a war hero.

Staff Sgt. Alex Povilaitis, 47, was killed on Thursday in Afghanistan.

“Alex was good man, and a good father,” his ex-wife Kim Povilaitis said. Povilaitis wanted to give back to his county, his ex-wife said.

He re-enlisted in the Army when he was 41.

She said Alex, who was from Dawsonville, went to Crosskeys High School in Atlanta, and played football and wrestled.

They had two sons and a granddaughter, Kim Povilaitis said.

Before joining the armed services, she said Alex worked in construction.

Kim said Alex poured concrete on some of the area’s biggest projects, including Turner Field, the Mall of Georgia and Centennial Olympic Park.

After 25 years of marriage, the two divorced and remarried.

Alex had a step-son and a step-daughter with his current wife. They lived in the state of Washington.

On Thursday, Povilaitis’ life was cut short.

He was wounded and never recovered from an improvised explosive device in Kandahr Province, Afghanistan.

Kim said this was Alex’s third overseas tour of duty.

She also said he loved to ride motorcycles, and hunt and fish. They are planning a memorial service for Saturday.

Family Remembers Sean Brazas

Jun 4, 2012 Written by Lauren Melvin, WFMY News 2

Greensboro, NC -- The family of Petty Officer Second Class Sean Brazas, remembers him as a son, a brother, a husband and a hero.

Last week, Brazas died in combat in Afghanistan, helping a comrade into a helicopter.

“He was the last man over the wall because he wanted to cover everybody else and make sure they got out safe,” said his father, Ed Brazas.

Brazas was a K-9 handler in the U.S. Navy. He was assigned to Naval Base Kitsap Security Detachment in Bremerton, Washington.

This weekend, Brazas’ family welcomed him home. It wasn’t the way they wanted to, or ever thought they would, but they knew Brazas died doing what he loved.

“He became the man we had hoped him to be, and he wanted to be,” said Pat Brazas, Sean’s mother.

“He’s made a tough standard for me to follow. Because now, I’ve got to be half the man my son was,” said Ed Brazas.

Brazas had been in Afghanistan for less than 30 days. He left just after his 26th birthday.

“I just remember looking at him and I’m like, he’s really got this figured out, life. He just knows what he wants and goes for it,” said Brazas’ sister, Kelly Nance.

Nance is three years older than Brazas. She said her brother wouldn’t want her to cry. He’d want her to smile and celebrate his life.

Brazas volunteered for the mission in Afghanistan.

He leaves behind a wife and 13-month-old daughter, who live in Washington.

“He got to be married and have a family, just not long enough,” said Ed Brazas.

Brazas, who is a Greensboro native, was a graduate of Western Guilford High School.

“Just say hello and thank you for your support to any soldier because his life is on the line,” said Pat Brazas.

Brazas will be buried at Arlington Cemetery on June 19 at 1pm.

His family is also planning a memorial service for him in Greensboro.

Marine From Edgewater Killed In Afghanistan On Memorial Day

05/30/2012 ABC2News

EDGEWATER, Md - An area Marine lost his life while fighting in Afghanistan on Memorial Day.

The Department of Defense has confirmed that 22-year-old Sgt. Julian Chase died while conducting combat operations in the Helmand province.

He was assigned to a company out of Okinawa, Japan. Sgt. Chase is from Edgewater, Md.

Sgt. Chase joined the Marines on September 22, 2008, several months after he graduated Woodrow Wilson High School. His father, Tom Chase, says his four year deployment would have ended in September.

“This was something that he always wanted to do. He was inspired to become a Marine when he was about 14 or 15-years-old when he was on rowing crew for Woodrow Wilson High School,” said Tom Chase in an ABC2 News exclusive interview Wednesday night. “And his crew coach was a Marine sniper. And that had a lot of impact on Julian.”

Tom Chase tells ABC2 News that his son was an exceptional man and he loved to have fun, but at the same time was dedicated and loving.

Tom Chase says his son was carrying a 25 to 30 pound machine gun with 400 rounds of ammunition when he was killed on Monday.

“It’s my speculation that he was targeted on Memorial Day because he was the guy carrying the big gun who could really help out and protect hurt people,” Tom Chase said.

When Sgt. Chase told his father that he had been assigned to the infantry unit, his dad told him to “remember you’re my only son, you have to come back.” Sgt. Chase replied with someone’s son has to do this.

Tom Chase says his son’s unit will be visiting his family in Edgewater this summer to offer their sympathy.

Leesburg Mourns Fallen Marine



May 29, 2012 By J.D. Sumner, Albany Herald

LEESBURG, Ga. — A former Lee County football player who was reportedly killed over the weekend in Afghanistan is being remembered as a “gentle giant” who left a mark in the halls of his alma mater.

Lance Cpl. Steven Sutton was reportedly killed by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan over the Memorial Day weekend.

A death announcement sent to The Herald Tuesday by Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors said that Sutton died May 26 and that funeral arrangements would be announced at a later date.

And while the Department of Defense has yet to publicly verify Sutton’s death, word of the 6 foot, 7 inch former Trojan offensive lineman’s passing spread like a macabre wave through social media, even garnering the attention of some of Lee County’s more notable notables.

Popular on Facebook Tuesday was a photo of Sutton, clad in his Trojan uniform, with a poignant caption: “Leesburg is proud of those who carry guitars, microphones and baseball bats. But we HONOR and Salute those that wear Dog Tags ... Rest In Peace Lance Corporal Steven Sutton. Fallen in the line of duty serving in the USMC in Afghanistan on Saturday at the age of 23,” the post states.

Lee County High School Principal Kevin Dowling, who was a football coach and teacher before taking the job as principal, remembered Sutton as a person whose calm demeanor and kind heart contrasted starkly from his massive frame.

“He was just a good kid. Slow to anger — as big as he was you could understand how a kid his size could be overbearing or aggressive — but that just wasn’t him,” Dowling said. “He had a kind way about him, was never any trouble and was the kind of student we strive to create here in Lee County.”

Dowling said Sutton was the consummate teammate, a trait that he thinks likely served him well in the Marine Corps. “You’ve got to be a good teammate in the service because the person in front of you always has to know that, when the stuff gets rough, that you’ve got their back,” Dowling said. “He showed that kind of character and determination here on the football field, and I’m sure he carried that with him into the Marines.”

Word of Sutton’s death brought a town that had been riding a wave of euphoria ever since native son Phillip Phillips was crowned the 2012 “American Idol” crashing back to reality. Phillips himself spoke of Sutton’s death on his Facebook page Tuesday morning.

“Thoughts and prayers go out to the Sutton family from my hometown. True hometown hero. Steve Sutton,” Phillips posted.

Dowling said that a combat death, especially that of someone you know and someone from a community as small as Lee County, is a stinging reminder of what America’s sons and daughters are doing overseas.

“It’s really a painful reminder that there are people fighting for us every day, putting themselves in harms way,” Dowling said. “We always acknowledge our veterans and

service people, but I don't think we really understand what's happening until something like this happens. It's a true tragedy."

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

Resistance Action

June 16, 2012 The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Afghan officials say three police officers have been killed in a roadside bombing in southern Afghanistan.

Uruzgan provincial government spokesman Abdullah Himmat says the blast occurred on Friday night before in the province's Chinarto district. He says one other officer was wounded in the explosion.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Recapture Several Somali Towns

June 12, 2012 HuffPost News

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Witnesses say that hundreds of gun-toting al-Shabab fighters have moved back into central Somali towns abandoned over the last week by Ethiopian troops.

Ali Muhyadin, a resident in the town of El-bur, said Tuesday that residents woke up on Sunday and found that Ethiopian troops had abandoned their bases.

Residents said al-Shabab fighters then beheaded two men accused of collaborating with the Ethiopians and dumped their headless bodies in town.

Al-Shabab was reported to have returned to two other towns – Mahas and Wabho – after Ethiopian troops left.

Ethiopia's president recently promised that Ethiopian forces would leave Somalia soon. Ethiopian forces still occupy the larger towns of Baidoa and Beledweyne.

Ethiopian Occupation Forces In Yurkud, Gedo Region Ambushed By Insurgents

15/06/2012 Mareeg.com

A witness says Al shabab fighters have launched an attack on Somali and Ethiopian troops in Yurkut village which locates near the border between Bay and Gedo regions of southwestern Somalia.

The fighting broke out when Al shabab fighters armed with heavy and small weapons ambushed a convoy of vehicles carrying Somali and Ethiopian forces in Yurkut village, sparking face-to-face confrontation.

Residents in the two nearest villages say they heard explosions and gun fire which they believe to be an indication of heavy fighting erupted in Yurkut on Thursday afternoon.

Somali government and Al shabab are yet to comment on the battle.

Yurkut is a key position on the supply line for Ethiopian forces in Bay and Gedo region of southwestern Somalia.

Al shabab continues to carry out attacks on Ethiopian, AMISOM and Somali troops despite the group was pushed out from several towns they controlled in south and central Somalia.

MILITARY NEWS

After Deaths, DoD Cracks Down On Prescribing Seroquel. “We Saw This Strong Relationship Between The Antipsychotics And Sudden Death”

White “Had Already Lost One Son To Combat And Has Sought Restrictions On The Drug He Believes Contributed To The Death Of A Younger Son”

“‘I Know People Who Have Died From Medication,’ He Said. ‘I Don’t Know Anyone Who’s Ever Been Killed By Counseling’”

“I Have Never Been One To Say I’m Opposed To Medication — I’m Just Opposed To These Medications, Which Have A Side Effect Of Causing Cardiac Arrest”

June 18, 2012 By Patricia Kime, Army Times. Staff writer Andrew Tilghman contributed to this report. [Excerpts]

A letter landed in Stan White’s mailbox in Cross Lanes, W.Va., in April.

It began: “On behalf of the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces ... I extend my sincerest and deepest sympathy for the loss of your sons.”

But the note wasn’t simply a condolence.

The message from Air Force Lt. Gen. Brooks Bash informed White that U.S. Central Command had decided in March to remove the powerful antipsychotic drug Seroquel from its approved formulary list.

Under the new rules, CENTCOM doctors now must request a waiver if they write a prescription for Seroquel, also known as quetiapine.

The change is a small victory for White, who had already lost one son to combat and has sought restrictions on the drug he believes contributed to the death of a younger son.

Marine Cpl. Andrew White died Feb. 12, 2008, at age 23 from a lethal combination of medications prescribed for post-traumatic stress disorder, mainly clonazepam, quetiapine and paroxetine — the latter two known to sometimes affect the heart's regular rhythm.

“I have never been one to say I’m opposed to medication — I’m just opposed to these medications, which have a side effect of causing cardiac arrest,” White said June 6.

Earlier this year, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. Jonathan Woodson asked the military services to monitor prescriptions for atypical antipsychotic medications, a class of drugs that includes quetiapine.

The medications are approved by the Food and Drug Administration for treating schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

But in the past decade, their popularity has soared for off-label use, including for treating PTSD and insomnia.

A 2011 study of 692 patients prescribed quetiapine at Madigan Army Medical Center, Wash., showed just 9.4 percent received it for an FDA-approved use, while 57 percent received it for insomnia.

In 2011, the services issued 54,581 prescriptions for Seroquel alone, the most for any antipsychotic medication — more than 2.5 times the number of prescriptions for the second-most prescribed atypical antipsychotic, Abilify, and nearly four times the number for risperidone, according to information obtained by a Military Times under a Freedom of Information Act request.

Quetiapine has the strongest somnolent effect of all atypical antipsychotics, and is commonly prescribed troops for relieving nightmares.

But as its popularity has grown, evidence has mounted pointing to links between atypical antipsychotics and irregular heartbeat and even death — prompting critics and physicians, including Woodson, to sound the alarm on frequent prescriptions.

A study in the January 2009 New England Journal of Medicine found the rate of sudden cardiac death doubled for those taking atypical antipsychotic drugs, and there were three such deaths per year for every 1,000 patients taking the medication.

The risk of a fatal heart event also increased with dosage, and study author and Vanderbilt University researcher Wayne Ray said mixing these medications with others that cause irregular heartbeat, known medically as QT prolongation, could worsen the issue and possibly cause death.

“We saw this strong relationship between the antipsychotics and sudden death ... and all the information we had pointed to the drugs as the cause,” Ray said after the study was published.

“Our findings ... would suggest avoiding other medications that prolong QT whenever possible because when you give two together, you’re ... increasing the patient’s risk.”

The Madigan study, conducted by Army Lt. Col. Vincent Mysliwiec and presented last June at a meeting of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, showed that of 692 patients who took quetiapine, 126 were monitored for heart arrhythmia within six months of starting on the drug, and of those, 11 showed an abnormal heart rhythm.

Ten of those cases were directly attributed to quetiapine; when the medication was stopped, their heart rhythm returned to normal, according to Psychiatric News.

White attributes his son’s death, and those of at least three others from West Virginia — Army Pfc. Derick Johnson, 22; Army National Guard Sgt. Eric Layne, 29; and Marine Cpl. Nicholas Endicott, 24 — to at least two heart-rhythm-altering drugs, quetiapine and paroxetine.

Since their cases were publicized, others have stepped forward, including Alicia McElroy, whose husband, Army National Guard Staff Sgt. James McElroy, 30, was found dead in his barracks while receiving treatment for PTSD at Fort Benning, Ga.

She said that among his many medications were Paxil, Seroquel and Klonopin.

“This wasn’t a long, slow death. It wasn’t an overdose. He wasn’t found unconscious. He just died,” said Alicia McElroy, who is still awaiting autopsy results. Her husband died June 6, 2011.

The service surgeons general have responded to Woodson’s request for their policy guidance on atypical antipsychotics, Defense Department spokesman Navy Capt. Michael Colston said June 4.

According to documents released by Colston:

The Army decided risperidone should not be prescribed because its risks outweigh its benefits, and providers who prescribe other such drugs, including quetiapine, “must clearly document their rationale” and receive informed consent from the patient.

The Navy Department agreed to monitor providers and flag those who prescribe the most atypical antipsychotics off-label for additional review.

The Air Force, which prescribes atypical antipsychotics to “fewer than 0.15 percent of airmen,” will review provider prescribing practices and counsel those who show a pattern.

White, who had another son, Army Sgt. Robert White, killed in combat, said he is glad the military is moving away from medications for PTSD.

“I know people who have died from medication,” he said.

“I don’t know anyone who’s ever been killed by counseling.”

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WAR?



5.24.12: A Marine Corps carry team at Dover Air Force Base moves the transfer case of Cpl. Keaton Coffey, who was killed in Afghanistan on Thursday. Coffey, of Boring, was 22 years old. Ann Heisenfelt/Associated Press

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

**Nothing has more revolutionary effect, and nothing undermines more the foundations of all state power, than the continuation of that wretched and brainless régime, which has the strength merely to cling to its positions but no longer the slightest power to rule or to steer the state ship on a definite course.
-- Karl Kautsky; ‘The Consequences of the Japanese Victory and Social Democracy’**

A Soldier And A Nun

[Thanks to Frank Scott who sent this in.]

A soldier ran up to a nun. Out of breath he asked, ‘Please, may I hide under your skirt. I’ll explain later.’

The nun agreed.

A moment later two Military Police ran up and asked, Sister, have you seen a soldier?’

The nun replied, ‘He went that way.’

After the MPs ran off, the soldier crawled out from under her skirt and said,

‘I can’t thank you enough Sister. You see, I don’t want to go to Afghanistan’

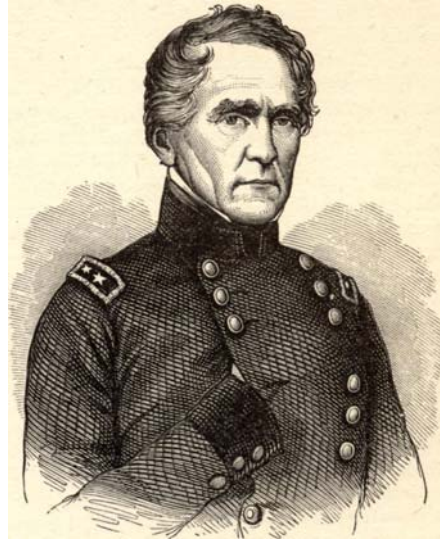
The nun said, ‘I understand completely.’

The soldier added, ‘I hope I’m not rude, but you have a great pair of legs!’

The nun replied, ‘If you had looked a little higher, you would have seen a great pair of balls....I don’t want to go to Afghanistan either.’

ANNIVERSARIES

June 17, 1838: Anniversary On A Most Honorable Act By General John Wool Of The United States Army



General John Wool [Sonofthesouth.net]



Carl Bunin Peace History June 16-22

The Cherokee Nation began the 1,200-mile forced march known as the Trail of Tears.

Their removal from ancestral land in the southeast U.S. had been ordered by Pres. Andrew Jackson as the result of a treaty signed by a small minority of the tribe, and approved in the Senate by a one-vote margin.

Ordered to move on the Cherokee, General John Wool resigned his command in protest; Gen. Winfield Scott and 7000 troops moved in to enforce the treaty.

“The Trail Where They Cried” (“Nunna daul Tsuny” in the Cherokee language) led from northern Georgia to Oklahoma.

Along the way, an estimated 4,000 died from hunger, exposure and disease.

“The Solution”

[In Memory Of The June 17 1953 East German Workers Rebellion]

After the uprising of the 17th of June
The Secretary of the Writers Union
Had leaflets distributed in the Stalinallee
Stating that the people
Had forfeited the confidence of the government
And could win it back only
By redoubled efforts. Would it not be easier
In that case for the government
To dissolve the people
And elect another?

Brecht

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Senate Banking Committee Takes Mr. Dimon Out for Dinner Afterwards



Sticks, Rocks, Bottles And Slingshots Near Republican National Convention Will Be Confiscated: [Handguns Are OK]

July 2012 Funny Times

The Tampa Police Department issued preliminary security guidelines to control areas around August's Republican National Convention in the city.

Although the Secret Service will control the actual convention arena, Tampa Police are establishing a zone around the arena in which weapons will be confiscated (including sticks, rocks, bottles and slingshots).

Police would like to have banned firearms, too, but state law prevents cities from restricting the rights of licensed gun-carriers.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



**An Innocent Man Who Spent 28
Years In Prison:
“The So-Called Scientific ‘Evidence’
That FBI Investigators Swore Behind
Has Turned Out, However, To Be An
Outrageous Fraud”
“The Hair Looks Black. The Defendant Is
Black. The Defendant Is Guilty”**

Jun 4, 2012 The Spark

The DC Superior Court has finally overturned the conviction of Santae Tribble, an innocent man who spent 28 years in prison.

Tribble was convicted of the 1978 murder of a DC taxi driver when he was 17 years old.

His conviction hinged on a single hair found in a stocking mask one block from the murder scene.

The federal prosecutor pretended that the hair was scientifically proven to be from Tribble.

The so-called scientific “evidence” that FBI investigators swore behind has turned out, however, to be an outrageous fraud.

The FBI had been using something they pompously called “microscopic hair analysis.” Here’s the “science” behind it: Put the hair in question under a microscope. The hair looks black. The defendant is black. The defendant is guilty.

That’s exactly what happened to Santae Tribble. The FBI lab analysis of the single hair found in the stocking showed that the hair probably came from a black person. That’s ALL that could be determined. That’s all the original lab records indicated.

But in front of the jury, the prosecutor and the FBI insisted that so-called scientific proof showed the hair “matched” Tribble.

The federal prosecutor even told the jury that the chances that the hair didn’t come from Tribble were “maybe one in ten million.”

The discovery of newer, DNA-based techniques has finally exposed how fraudulent was much of FBI testimony over decades.

There may be thousands, even tens of thousands of other innocent people still in prison or on parole due to similar circumstances.

Those prisoners are still waiting for their evidence to be DNA-tested, still waiting for new trials.

For Santae Tribble, that wait took most of his life. He could have been exonerated decades sooner, if DNA tests had been run sooner.

But this justice system wasn’t built to serve young people like Santae Tribble. It was built to imprison them.

The evidence, and the means to test it, are as heavily guarded as the prisoners themselves. Guarded – not by prison doors, but by high cost and bureaucratic obstacles and delays.

Alexandria Voted For The Left:

Now, “We’re Now Choosing Between Bad And Worse”

“Interviews With Alexandria Voters And Analysts Suggest Mr. Sabahi’s Robust Campaign Gained Its Large — And Unexpected — Appeal Because Of Its Populist Message”

June 13, 2012 By TAMER EL-GHOBASHY, Wall Street Journal

ALEXANDRIA—This seaside city has long been known as a deeply conservative Islamist stronghold.

That reputation held up during Egypt’s parliamentary elections last year, when Alexandria overwhelmingly backed the Muslim Brotherhood and the ultraconservative Nour Party.

But something surprising happened in the first round of the presidential election several weeks ago.

The leading vote-getter here was leftist, secularist politician Hamdeen Sabahi, with 34%.

Finishing second was Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh, a cast-out member of the Muslim Brotherhood, with 22% locally. Another secularist, former Arab League head Amr Moussa, placed third with 16.5% of the vote.

The Muslim Brotherhood’s candidate, Mohammed Morsi, won the most votes nationwide, but in Alexandria he finished fourth with 15.3% of the vote.

Meanwhile, Ahmed Shafiq, who finished second nationally, finished fifth in Alexandria with just 12%.

The results have left the four million residents of Egypt’s second-largest city in a unique spot when it comes to the presidential runoff on Saturday between Messrs. Morsi and Shafiq, a former air-force general who briefly served as prime minister under ousted President Hosni Mubarak.

The candidates Alexandrians now must choose from garnered the least votes here.

But this also puts Alexandria front and center when it comes to answering one of the biggest questions about Saturday’s runoff: What will happen with a huge group of

floating independent voters nationwide, and how will they continue to shape Egypt's political landscape beyond the election.

It is unclear how the more than 600,000 votes Mr. Sabahi garnered in Alexandria—and 4.7 million nationally — will be distributed in the runoff.

But the emergence of this sizable independent voting bloc in Alexandria and nationwide — Mr. Sabahi also came out of nowhere to place first in Cairo among other provinces, and third place nationally — underscores the opportunity for coalition building between political personalities that fall outside the country's two most powerful organizations, the brotherhood and the remains of the old system.

"It's going to take some person to bring this coalition together, but at this point I don't see who that is going to be," said Ellis Goldberg, a professor of Middle East politics at the University of Washington. "This is what makes this so revolutionary. One and a half years into this, everything is still up for grabs."

On the streets of Alexandria this week, evidence of the city's discomfort with its choice in the runoff came in two forms: passive and aggressive.

Absent were the large billboards that dot Cairo declaring Messrs. Shafiq and Morsi as the candidates for Egypt's future.

On one street in a bustling working-class neighborhood, a massive banner still featuring Mr. Sabahi's smiling portrait and his message of "One of Us" hung unmolested.

Medical students in white lab coats hurriedly stepped in front of pedestrians just before sunset on Sunday in a bustling square, handing them fliers that urged them to vote for Mr. Morsi — not as their preferred candidate but as the only option against the "feloul," a word laced with derision used to describe remnants of Mr. Mubarak's regime.

"I'm totally independent," said Ahmed Gamal Farahat, a 20-year-old University of Alexandria student who voted for Mr. Fotouh, the former Brotherhood reformist leader.

But, he added, "we're now choosing between bad and worse."

Magdy Soliman, a 40-year-old owner of a textiles shop, cast his parliamentary ballot for the Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party on the strength of its oppositional history and organizational abilities.

By the time of the vote for president, though, Mr. Soliman had become disillusioned by what he described as the Brotherhood's weakness in Parliament in confronting Egypt's military caretaker government.

He voted for Mr. Sabahi, who he saw as the only alternative to the Islamists and the former regime, even though Mr. Sabahi's socialist leanings stood against Mr. Soliman's interests as a small-business owner.

Mr. Soliman remains undecided going into Saturday's runoff.

“In the morning, I’m with Shafiq and in the evening I’m with Morsi,” he said, describing his uneasy electoral gymnastics.

Interviews with Alexandria voters and analysts suggest Mr. Sabahi’s robust campaign gained its large — and unexpected — appeal because of its populist message.

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal in May, Mr. Sabahi said the program he “presented to the Egyptian is clear: It is the war against poverty, which is my sacred war.”

Second-generation Muslim Brotherhood loyalist Ahmed Khalid Shokry, 65, said Mr. Sabahi appeared to win a key constituency the FJP neglected to court: the poor whom he characterized affectionately as the “arugula seller.”

More than one-third of Alexandria’s population lives in unplanned suburbs without proper utilities.

“He rode the spirit of the revolution and emphasized the poor,” Mr. Shokry said.

“With respect, it was very calculated and he knew it would raise his profile.”

Mr. Shokry recalled a pre-election conference with Brotherhood members and their guests in which speakers “spoke in the language of the elite but didn’t address the vital needs of the average person.”

“The lower classes, they did not get these votes,” he said referring to Mr. Morsi’s campaign, which he supports.

Mohamed Awad, a prominent Alexandria architect and urban historian who is the director of The Alexandria and Mediterranean Research Center at the Library of Alexandria, said the first round of voting may have shown that the city isn’t a lock for Islamists as many have always thought.

He sees Messrs. Morsi and Shafiq as having an equal shot of winning in Egypt’s second city.

“What will make the difference is if the Hamdeen voters come out for Shafiq,” he said.

Supporters of Mr. Sabahi indicated they are going in every direction available, including supporting neither of the candidates in the runoff.

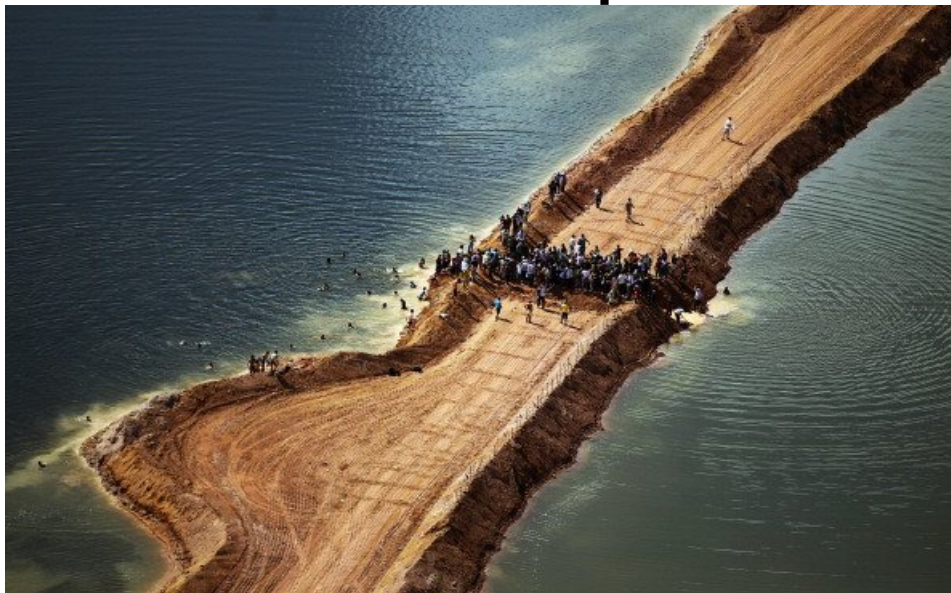
Saveem Helal, a 54-year-old computer engineer, said she would “spoil” her ballot in protest by writing “wrong” next to both candidates’ names.

Ms. Helal said she is disheartened Mr. Sabahi did not make it into the runoff, saying he was the only contender with whom she could disagree “who would not respond with soldiers or detention.”

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.

Brazil: Pissed Off Locals Chop Hole In Dam

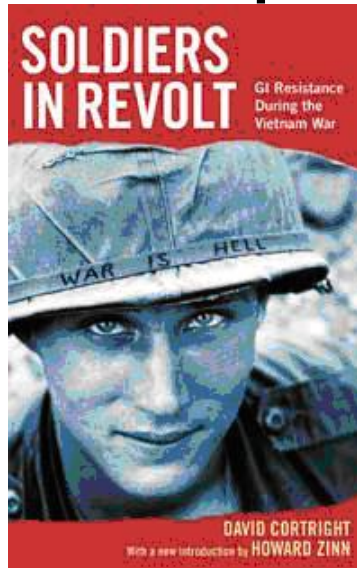


Residents who are being displaced by the Belo Monte dam and supporters stand atop a temporary earthen dam at the construction site after removing a strip of earth to restore the flow of the Xingu River as a protest against the construction on June 15, 2012 near Altamira, Brazil. Mario Tama/Getty Images

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