

Military Resistance 10H12



**Army Advice For U.S. Soldiers
Suddenly Under Fire From
Afghan Police Or Soldiers
They're Working With:
"Do Not Rely On Close Air
Support"**

**Also, "If Unarmed, They Should Hide
Or Barricade Themselves In And
Form An Escape Plan"
[Not From The Onion Or Duffle Bag Blog]**

An Army pamphlet aimed at countering so-called “inside-the-wire attacks” is emphasizing cultural sensitivity, as well as swift and “extreme violence.”

“Do not rely on outside help such as quick-reaction force (QRF), close-air support (CAS), or indirect fire,” the pamphlet reads.

“Time is of the essence. Resolve situation with forces at hand.”

The pamphlet titled “Inside the Wire Threats — Afghanistan Green on Blue,” was adapted from a handbook by the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL), at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. An Army spokesman at Fort Leavenworth declined to provide the original report, citing its “For Official Use Only” designation.

The CALL guidance, summarized on the so-called four-page “smartcard,” advises soldiers what to do before, during and after such an attack.

The pamphlet also discusses fighting back when an attack occurs.

If they are armed during an attack, soldiers are advised to take cover, identify their target, ready their weapon and return accurate direct fire. “Secure area — 360 degrees,” it states.

If unarmed, they should hide or barricade themselves in and form an escape plan.

They are advised to fight back using found weapons as a last resort and wait for the right opportunity to attack, like the gunman changing his magazine.

“Act with extreme violence,” the pamphlet states.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Three New Zealand Soldiers Killed: Government To Speed Up Troop Withdrawal

Wellington: New Zealand Prime Minister John Key announced Monday that the country will withdraw its troops from Afghanistan earlier in 2013 than planned.

He said the move is not prompted by the deaths this month of five New Zealand soldiers, including three who were killed Sunday by a roadside bomb.

The latest incident on Sunday also marked the first time a New Zealand woman has died in the conflict. Lance Corporal Jacinda Baker, a 26-year-old medic, was killed in the explosion, as were Corporal Luke Tamatea, 31, and Private Richard Harris, 21.

According to defense force officials, the three were travelling in a convoy of four Humvees on Sunday to escort a soldier suffering a medical condition back from a visit to the doctor when a roadside bomb exploded, destroying the vehicle and instantly killing the occupants.

Augusts' deaths account for half of all fatalities suffered by the small contingent of New Zealanders in the nine years they have been stationed in central Bamiyan province, which was comparatively stable until a recent upswing in violence.

Key said it was "highly likely" the remaining soldiers from the contingent of 145 would be withdrawn in April 2013. He said discussions for the earlier withdrawal began before the five deaths this month. Murray McCully, New Zealand's foreign affairs minister, had announced in May the troops would be withdrawn "in the latter part of 2013".

Key said he wants to bring home the troops as fast as practicable within a timetable that fits in with the coalition partners.

"We'll do it as fast as we can, and we'll do it in the way that protects our people as best we can," he said.

The move is likely to be popular among many New Zealanders, who have increasingly questioned the country's role in the conflict.

The New Zealand troops were sent there ostensibly as a reconstruction team, with the mission of helping to rebuild and protect Bamiyan province's infrastructure and social systems. In recent months, however, that role has increasingly given way to combat operations, as violence in the region has increased.

Hubert Man Killed In Afghanistan

August 15, 2012 By BRAD RICH, Tideland News Writer

Cpl. Daniel L. Linnabary II, 23, of Hubert, who died Aug. 6 while conducting combat operations in Afghanistan, was destined to be a Marine and proved at an early age that he had the mettle to make it in one of the world's toughest professions.

"When he was 12 and I was a (Boy Scout) leader, we took him and the scouts on the Appalachian Trail," his father, retired Marine Daniel Linnabary Sr., recalled Monday. "He was the youngest scout out there. He weighed 100 pounds and carried a 25-pound pack. We did 55 miles, and he never complained, not once.

"A lot of parents say that about their children – that they never complained – but he really never did. That was just the way he was. He always, always did what he had to do."

Linnabary Sr., who spent 27 years in the Corps, moved with his family to Swansboro in 1994, when he was stationed at Camp Lejeune and Dan II was very young. Dan II was here until 2004, and went to Swansboro Elementary School, Swansboro Middle School and went to Swansboro High in ninth and 10th grade before Daniel Sr. was sent to Okinawa, Japan.

The Swansboro years, Linnabary recalled were very good ones.

“He played baseball – he was a shortstop – in the Jones/Onslow League, and he wrestled at Swansboro Middle School,” he said. “He was in the band in middle school. He played the trombone. Then he played the tuba in the band at the high school. And he was one of only four freshmen in the band. Again, he only weighed about 100 pounds, he was out there with that tuba, and he never complained. He loved it.”

The Linnabary family actually helped start the Boy Scout chapter young Dan belonged to, at Queens Creek Methodist Church, and the whole family loved the area. So much so, Linnabary said, that he kept the house in Hubert even when the family went to Okinawa.

Dan II tried college after high school, taking classes at Coastal Carolina in Jacksonville after moving back to the area following the stint in Japan. But Linnabary said, he quickly discovered that college wasn't for him and the Marine Corps was, so he enlisted in May 2009. He went to tank school, and eventually returned to Lejeune. He was promoted to corporal in October, and was an M1A1 tank crewman, assigned to 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division. His awards include the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and National Defense Service Medal.

Linnabary, who now lives in Michigan, said Dan II was born while he was a drill instructor, and spent his life around Marines. “I tell people he had always been in the Marines,” he said. “And he was a natural leader. When we were in Japan, he was in the (Marine Corps) ROTC, and he went to sergeant major in just two years. They didn't have (Marine Corps ROTC) at Swansboro (High School), but since I retired in July, we'd been talking about trying to start it.”

When Dan II was first based at Lejeune, it was only natural that he moved into the family house in Hubert. Linnabary helped his son and his wife, Chelsea, move into the house where Dan II had spent his formative years, and Daniel Sr. was in Hubert when the couple's daughter, Rosie, was born on May 17.

“He (Dan II) was with Rosie the whole time during the birth, and when Rosie was born, and he picked her up for the first time, I've never seen a man who loved his child so much,” Linnabary remembered.

He said his son was a serious person, but had a great sense of humor and often displayed both of traits at the same time.

“I was just re-reading a letter he wrote me when he was in high school,” he said. “It was a serious letter, about thanking me and talking about how I helped him become a man, and then right at the end, it said, ‘Oh, and I took all my (high school graduation) money and got a tattoo.’”

“That was the kind of man he was. He understood seriousness, and he was serious when he needed to be, but he was a joker. He is going to be sorely missed.”

One person who obviously misses him very much is his longtime friend, Matt Duty, a Swansboro High School graduate. The two met in middle school band and remained close through the years. “There was never a dull day with Dan,” he said Monday. “He’d always find something for us all to do. We depended on him for that.”

Linnabary, Duty said, was very outgoing and, as his father noted, a leader.

“He always motivated his friends to try to do something better with their lives,” he said. “I think he’s responsible for me staying in college (at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington) and finishing. He only stayed in a couple of months himself, before he enlisted, but he always thought it would be good for me to stay.”

Linnabary, according to Duty, was, as his father said, never one to complain: “He worked with what he was given.”

Linnabary Sr. said his son was well aware of the dangers of a Marine Corps career in these times. “He knew what he was doing (in the Marine Corps) and he loved in the Marines almost as much as he loved Chelsea and Rosie,” he said.”

Chelsea Linnabary said she and Dan met in Fort Lauderdale while Dan was there on a weeklong duty in 2010. They married last year, soon after she moved up here. Eventually, her family moved to the area as well. And that has been a blessing in this time.

“He pretty much told me this could happen, so I was prepared for it,” she said. “I just never thought it would be this deployment, or this war, even.

“He never sugar-coated anything for me. And I appreciated that.”

Chelsea said that while Dan loved the Marine Corps, he really was more than a Marine.

“What a good father he was,” she said. “He was a really good husband and a good father. He was a really great guy and he loved being a father.”

It wasn’t just his father’s long service in the Marines that pre-destined Dan II to eventually enlist and serve his country.

According to a Sept. 4, 2009, article on Marines.mil, the family’s service goes all the way back to 1963, when Vernon G. Linnabary joined. Vernon’s brother, retired Master Sgt. Dale J. Linnabary, served 1971-1991. Daniel Linnabary’s cousin, Cpl. Vernon G. Linnabary III joined in 2005 and his nephew, Lance Cpl. Gary D. Brewer, in 2008, before Dan II enlisted in 2009.

In that article, Dan II displayed that same mix of seriousness and humor his father mentioned.

“The bottom-line is the uniform is sexy, the structure is great, and the job and the pay is great,” he said.

Tears Fall For Norton Soldier



Master Sgt. Gregory R. Trent of Norton. (AP Photo/Department of Defense)

Aug 13, 2012 BY STU SKERKER and KASSMIN WILLIAMS SUN CHRONICLE STAFF

NORTON - Tears formed in Debbie Langevin eyes as she recalled Master Sgt. Gregory R. Trent and his family Sunday.

"He was a very good kid," she said.

Trent, 38, of Norton, died on Wednesday in Bethesda, Md., from gunshot wounds he suffered on July 31 during fighting in Baktabad, Afghanistan.

According to information released by the Department of Defense Saturday, Trent was wounded when enemy forces attacked his unit with small-arms fire. He had been assigned to the 4th Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) which is stationed in Fort Bragg, N.C.

Langevin, 51, of Norton, was a longtime neighbor of Trent, as well as his mother, Barbara, father, Gregory, and brother. Langevin described the news of Trent's death as "very sad," and recalled memories of him working with his dad and fixing up the house.

"They were a very close family," Langevin said.

According to Langevin, the family lived on Evergreen Road for at least 24 years and left Norton two years ago to move to North Carolina in order to be closer to Trent, his wife and his daughter.

"Gregory went into the service right after college," Langevin said.

According to information released by U.S. Army Special Forces, Trent enlisted as an artillery man in the U.S. Army in 1998 and was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment. In 2006, Trent volunteered for the Special Forces Assessment course which he completed in 2009.

Trent had been deployed five times since 1998, according to U.S. Army Special Forces. His most recent deployment to Afghanistan was in January, his fourth deployment for Operation Enduring Freedom.

Trent was also a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During his time in the military, Trent received a number of metals, including a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star Medal.

Trent graduated from Norton High School in 1992, and Fisher College in North Attleboro in 1995.

Trent is the latest of more than 10 area residents, or those with ties to local residents, to die in the Iraq and Afghanistan war.

Relatives Remember Laramie Soldier As Dedicated Family, Military Man



Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin J. Griffin

August 11, 2012 12:00 pm, By KELLY BYER Star-Tribune staff writer

Dustin Griffin will never forget the week he spent in Colorado Springs with his uncle, Kevin. He took Dustin to the Fort Carson military base and the then-10-year-old sat in the military tank his uncle used to drive.

"He was definitely 100 percent Army," Dustin Griffin said. "He was all about the Army. That's why he got up so high I guess is because he just, he lived it."

Dustin Griffin, as did family and fellow soldiers, remembered 45-year-old Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin J. Griffin as a man who was dedicated to his family and military career. Kevin's brother, Shawn Griffin, said the father of two was an active and social person from child to adulthood.

"He loved the Army, but on top of that, he loved his family," he said.

Kevin Griffin died Wednesday in Afghanistan from wounds received during a suicide bomb attack. The decorated 24-year Army veteran was the senior enlisted adviser to the commander of the "Mountain Warriors" 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, headquartered in Fort Carson, Colo.

The attack also claimed the lives of Maj. Thomas E. Kennedy, 35, of West Point, N.Y.; Air Force Maj. Walter D. Gray, 38, of Conyers, Ga.; and Ragaei Abdelfattah, a representative of the United States Agency for International Development.

Maj. Christopher Thomas, public affairs officer for the 4th Brigade in Afghanistan, said the senior leadership was headed to a security meeting with Afghan officials in Asadabad, the provincial capital of Kunar Province, when suicide bombers attacked the group and detonated their vests.

Thomas did not have not have specifics about the wounded Friday. He said Col. James J. Mingus was present during the attack but not injured.

"CSM Griffin was a phenomenal Command Sergeant Major whose loss will be felt for quite some time," Thomas wrote in an email. "We were fortunate to have him for the time we were given, and his family and loved ones are in our thoughts and prayers."

During his Army career, Griffin served three tours in Iraq and had been deployed to Kuwait and the Balkans. He was posthumously awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

Thomas said the brigade began a nine-month deployment in Afghanistan in February.

In a statement Friday, Gov. Matt Mead said, "Command Sergeant Major Griffin is a much decorated soldier who served our state and our country for many years. We owe him and his family a deep debt of gratitude for highest service given and sacrifice made. The thoughts and prayers of my wife Carol and I are with his family. We mourn his loss."

Growing up in Riverton, Griffin competed on the high school wrestling team and won a state championship before attending Northwest Community College in Powell. He

transferred to the University of Wyoming after two years, joined the military and continued to wrestle for the Army.

“As a young kid, Kevin was very competitive, fun-loving, real adventurous-type kid,” Shawn Griffin said.

Kevin Griffin married while at the University of Wyoming, and the couple recently celebrated their 25th anniversary.

After being relocated to Washington state for a number of years, Griffin’s family moved back to Colorado Springs earlier this year while he was overseas.

Kevin Griffin’s father, multiple uncles, son and nephew are currently serving or have previously served in the military. Kevin’s ambitions surpassed that of simple service, though. He loved Army life enough to make a career out of it.

“He truly believed in what he was doing, and that’s the one solace that we kind of get out of this,” Shawn Griffin said. “He was where he wanted to be.”

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

**Welcome To Afghanistan!
Insurgent Rocket Fire Hits JCS’s
C17 At Bagram:
Two U.S. Troops Wounded;
“Taliban Spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid
Said Militants Planned Tuesday’s Rocket
Attack With ‘Precise Intelligence’
Provided By Someone Inside The Air
Base”**

August 21, 2012 By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr. and GRAHAM BOWLEY, New York Times
[Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — Insurgents hiding outside the heavily fortified Bagram Air Base fired a pair of rockets early Tuesday that damaged the parked C-17 transport plane used by Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, American and Afghan officials said.

“General Dempsey was in quarters asleep when the rockets hit the airfield,” which is 35 miles north of Kabul, said Col. David Lapan, the general’s spokesman.

Two base service members were slightly wounded, and the damage to the C-17 was enough to force General Dempsey and officials traveling with him, none of whom were hurt, to leave Afghanistan a few hours later than planned on a different aircraft.

The airplane was not directly hit, but flying shrapnel struck the crew door, the fuselage to the left of the door and one engine cowling, said Colonel Lapan, who was on the trip. A helicopter at the base was also damaged.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, said militants planned Tuesday’s rocket attack with “precise intelligence” provided by someone inside the air base.

But the attack underscored what some officials describe as deterioration in security in the Shomali Plain, where Bagram sits. [No shit? T]

The plain has been a continually fought-over strategic link between the north of the country and Kabul during decades of war, dominated by different Afghan factions at various stages.

Just a few years ago, the region experienced surprising gains in prosperity and security, driven in part by commerce around the massive air base and by NATO’s desire to keep the region stable. The area is important because of the airfield and because the main road that passes north through Bagram and the Salang Tunnel, and eventually into Uzbekistan, is an indispensable resupply corridor.

But in the past few years some gains have deteriorated, with the Taliban and the militant group Hezb-i-Islami gaining strength in Parwan, the province where the base is.

Parwan’s police chief, Gen. Akram Khan Behzad, blamed Taliban militants for the recurring rocket fire; they use the dense trees outside the base to evade capture.

“We have not been able to clear up the area from insurgent activity because we lack the personnel,” he said.

NATO officials said they did not know what weapons had been used in the attack or from how far away they had been fired.

But the Afghan police chief for Bagram district, Alhaj Ezmarai Nasiri, said the rockets were most likely from a BM-12 launcher or similar model, which has a 12-tube array and can fire 107-millimeter rockets five miles.

Insurgents have been known to strip off and use just one rocket tube, which can be carried in a car trunk.

[Two rockets fired from distance and one puts the aircraft out of service. It is not reported whether General Dempsey plans to recognize the insurgent soldier's remarkable accuracy with the appropriate decoration. T]



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

MILITARY NEWS

KBR Fails To Win Dismissal Of Suit By National Guard Troops Poisoned By Chromium Dust In Iraq: War Profiteer Corporation “Knowingly Exposed U.S. Troops”

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: “How many more will pass before this is finally done?”]

Aug 17, 2012 By Laurel Brubaker Calkins, Bloomberg

KBR Inc. (KBR) must face a trial on claims that it knowingly exposed U.S. troops to toxic chromium dust in 2003 while they were guarding a company work site in Iraq, a Houston judge ruled.

Dozens of U.S. national guardsmen from Indiana and West Virginia have sued the Houston-based military contractor over health problems they blame on exposure to hexavalent chromium dust, a carcinogenic orange-yellow powder used to fight corrosion in water pipes.

The troops were guarding KBR workers as they tried to restore water treatment facilities at the Quarmat Ali oil production site.

KBR had argued the case couldn't be tried without asking jurors to judge actions and decisions by the U.S. military, which is forbidden by law. U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore yesterday rejected that argument.

"Because KBR played a significant role in assessing and responding to the hazards, the issue of whether KBR caused plaintiffs' injuries may be resolved without second-guessing the military's decisions," she said in a 15-page ruling.

She said the case could be tried without evaluating military policies or "expressing a lack of respect for the military's decisions."

Sarah Ui Mhuirgheasa, KBR's spokeswoman, didn't immediately respond to a call or e-mail requesting comment on the ruling.

"This is a very important step in uncovering what KBR has tried really hard to keep a lid on at Quarmat Ali," Mike Doyle, lead attorney for the soldiers, said in a phone interview today.

"Two soldiers have died, and all these men have health issues to some degree. They really want this evidence to come out."

He said jury selection could start in September.

The case is *McManaway v KBR Inc.*, 4:10-cv-1044, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas (Houston).

“Commanding Officer Of A Florida-Based Warship Removed From The Post During An Overseas Deployment After Several Female Crew Members Alleged That He Sexually Harassed Women Aboard Ship”

He “Was Promoted After A Previous Commanding Officer Was Relieved Of His Duties In September After A Fishing

Vessel Was Mistaken For A Target During A Gunnery Exercise”

Aug 20 By BROCK VERGAKIS, Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) -- The commanding officer of a Florida-based warship was removed from the post during an overseas deployment after several female crew members alleged that he sexually harassed women aboard ship, a Navy report shows.

Cmdr. Derick Armstrong was relieved of command in May, about six months after his promotion to the top job aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS The Sullivans. Of the 1,500 commanding officers in the Navy, 22 were removed from the job last year for various reasons.

Armstrong is among a dozen commanding officers removed so far this year.

The Navy has said Armstrong's removal was the result of an unprofessional command that was contrary to good order and discipline. Details of the sexual harassment allegations appeared in an investigative report obtained by The Associated Press on Monday through an open records request.

The report said Armstrong was surprised that he was being accused of sexual harassment and that he had denied many of the allegations raised. A message left with a Navy spokesman seeking comment from Armstrong was not immediately returned.

Among other things, the report says at least 10 crew members had seen Armstrong "check out" women on the ship in what they felt was a sexual manner. One crew member said he looked at her "like I am something to eat" and that after a female crew member briefed Armstrong, his eyes went "straight to her behind." Navy lawyers redacted the names of all crew members in the report but Armstrong's.

In response to a question about whether his crew would make something up, the report says Armstrong found his officers to be truthful and that none of them are vindictive.

The report also details allegations that Armstrong belittled officers and humiliated department heads in front of others.

"His inappropriate actions and language created a hostile command climate for his wardroom," Vice Adm. Frank Craig Pandolfe, commander of the Navy's 6th Fleet in Europe wrote upon review of the investigation.

Pandolfe also said Armstrong's "overly familiar relationships with enlisted members of his command demonstrated a lack of sound judgment."

The destroyer had been deployed under a NATO plan to provide a missile shield for Europe when Armstrong was tapped to serve as the ship's skipper.

He had previously served as the ship's second-in-command and was promoted after a previous commanding officer was relieved of his duties in September after

a fishing vessel was mistaken for a target during a gunnery exercise in North Carolina waters.

The report says one female crewmember said Armstrong said: "Now that I'm taking over soon, what are my chances?" between five and 10 times before taking over as commanding officer, and said something similar at least twice after he started his new job. One female officer complained she was chosen to go aboard another ship for a cruise because of her looks.

Another crew member said that when she needed to adjust a monitor on the other side of a chair Armstrong was in that he didn't get out of the way or offer to do it for her, resulting in her being placed between his knees and reaching over him.

Another crew member reported that during a port visit, Armstrong said "One of you ladies has to come out with me tonight; I have to corrupt one of you."

The report says the Navy began investigating Armstrong's conduct in April after a crewmember filed a complaint with Naval Surface Force Atlantic in Norfolk, Va.

When Armstrong was removed as the ship's skipper, he was administratively reassigned to the staff of Destroyer Squadron 14. It wasn't immediately clear Monday whether he was still in that post.

Armstrong's Navy biography says he's a 1995 Naval Academy graduate from Atlanta.

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

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004**

Against Imperial War: [1915]

**“Imperialism Is The Progressing
Oppression Of The Nations Of The
World By A Handful Of Great
Powers”**

**“Basing Ourselves On Democracy As It
Already Exists, Exposing Its
Incompleteness Under Capitalism, We
Advocate The Overthrow Of Capitalism”**

We demand the freedom of self-determination, i. e., independence, i. e., the freedom of separation for the oppressed nations, not because we dream of an economically atomized world, nor because we cherish the ideal of small states,

but on the contrary because we are for large states and for a coming closer, even a fusion of nations, but on a truly democratic, truly internationalist basis, which is unthinkable without the freedom of separation.

1915, By V. I. Ulyanov: Excerpts from Right To Self Determination, November 1915 & Imperialism And World Economy, 1915 [The writer used the pen name "Lenin" to keep the government from terrorizing his family.]

The proletariat cannot become victor save through democracy, i. e., through introducing complete democracy and through combining with every step of its movement democratic demands formulated most vigorously, most decisively.

It is senseless to contrast the Socialist revolution and the revolutionary struggle against capitalism to one of the questions of democracy, in this case the national question.

On the contrary, we must combine the revolutionary struggle against capitalism with a revolutionary program and revolutionary tactics relative to all democratic demands: a republic, a militia, officials elected by the people, equal rights for women, self-determination of nations, etc.

While capitalism exists, all these demands are realizable only as an exception, and in an incomplete, distorted form.

Basing ourselves on democracy as it already exists, exposing its incompleteness under capitalism, we advocate the overthrow of capitalism, expropriation of the bourgeoisie as a necessary basis both for the abolition of the poverty of the masses and for a complete and manifold realization of all democratic reforms.

Some of those reforms will be started prior to the overthrow of the bourgeoisie, others in the process of the overthrow, still others after it has been accomplished.

The Socialist revolution is by no means a single battle; on the contrary, it is an epoch of a whole series of battles around all problems of economic and democratic reforms, which can be completed only by the expropriation of the bourgeoisie.

It is for the sake of this final aim that we must formulate in a consistently revolutionary manner every one of our democratic demands.

It is quite conceivable that the workers of a certain country may overthrow the bourgeoisie before even one fundamental democratic reform has been realised in full.

It is entirely inconceivable, however, that the proletariat as an historical class will be able to defeat the bourgeoisie if it is not prepared for this task by being educated in the spirit of the most consistent and determined revolutionary democracy.

Imperialism is the progressing oppression of the nations of the world by a handful of great powers; it is an epoch of wars among them for the widening and

strengthening of national oppression; it is the epoch when the masses of the people are deceived by the hypocritical social-patriots, i. e., people who under the pretext of “freedom of nations,” “right of nations to self-determination,” and “defence of the fatherland” justify and defend the oppression of a majority of the world’s nations by the great powers.

This is just why the central point in a programme of Social-Democrats must be that distinction between oppressing and oppressed nations, since the distinction is the essence of imperialism, and is fraudulently evaded by the social-patriots ...

This distinction is not important from the point of view of bourgeois pacifism, or the petty-bourgeois Utopia of peaceful competition between independent nations under capitalism, but it is most important in the point of view of the revolutionary struggle against imperialism.

From this distinction there follows *our* consistently democratic and revolutionary definition of the “right of nations to self-determination,” which is in accord with the general task of the immediate struggle for Socialism.

It is in the name of this right, and fighting for its unequivocal recognition, that the Social-Democrats of the oppressing nations must demand the freedom of separation for the oppressed nations, for otherwise recognition of the equal rights of nations and international solidarity of the workers in reality remains an empty phrase, a hypocritical gesture.

Russia is a prison of peoples not only because of the military, feudal character of tsarism, not only because the Great-Russian bourgeoisie supports tsarism, but also because the Polish, Lettish, etc., bourgeoisie has sacrificed the freedom of nations and democracy in general for the interests of capitalist expansion.

The proletariat of Russia, marching at the head of the people, cannot complete the victorious democratic revolution (which is its immediate task); neither can it fight together with its brothers, the proletarians of Europe, for a Socialist revolution, without demanding at once full and “unreserved” freedom of separation from Russia for all the nations oppressed by Russia.

This we demand not as something independent from our revolutionary struggle for Socialism, but because this struggle would remain an idle phrase if it were not linked up with a revolutionary approach to all the questions of democracy, including the national question.

We demand the freedom of self-determination, i. e., independence, i. e., the freedom of separation for the oppressed nations, not because we dream of an economically atomized world, nor because we cherish the ideal of small states, but on the contrary because we are for large states and for a coming closer, even a fusion of nations, but on a truly democratic, truly internationalist basis, which is unthinkable without the freedom of separation.

In the same way as Marx in 1869 demanded the separation of Ireland, not for the purpose of splitting England, but for a subsequent free alliance of Ireland with England, not for the sake of “justice to Ireland,” but for the interests of the

revolutionary struggle of the English proletariat, so we at present consider the refusal by the Socialists of Russia to demand freedom of self-determination for the nations, in the sense indicated by us above, as a direct betrayal of democracy, internationalism, and Socialism.

[H]e who rejects the hard tasks of today in the name of dreams about easy tasks of the future becomes an opportunist.

Theoretically it means to fail to base oneself on the developments now going on in real life, to detach oneself from them in the name of dreams.

War is a “terrible” thing? Yes.

But it is a terribly profitable thing.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Beijia 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.

“Some Loudly Proclaim That What Is Happening In Syria Is Nothing But An Imperialist Conspiracy Led By Western Superpowers In Collusion With Israel”

“They Hide Behind Their Support For The Palestinian Cause To Compensate For The Morally Reprehensible Failure To Support A Nation Of Citizens Besieged By Massacres”

‘If Imperialism Is The Driving Force Of Neoliberalism, Based On Plundering National Wealth For The Interest Of A Small Group Of Citizens And A Handful Of Large Companies, Then The Syrian Regime Is Guilty Of This Sin’

Jul 21 2012 by Khalid Saghieh, Jadaliyya. Translated into English from Arabic by Ali Adeeb Alnaemi

Arab regimes in the post-independence era have misused the concept of imperialism to the highest levels.

Because these regimes assumed power after defeating colonialism, they clung to their hostility against imperialism to justify the consolidation of power and the abandonment of all democratic mechanisms, sinking to the most horrific oppressive practices.

One had to wait for the near-complete world dominance of neoliberalism and the post 9/11 wars to witness the return of discussions about imperialism, whether in demonstrations around the world or in academia’s search for a new way to describe it.

Lenin's "Imperialism, The Highest Stage of Capitalism," and Rosa Luxemburg's "The Accumulation of Capital" were reprinted and Hannah Arendt was taken out of the shell of her work about totalitarianism in order to remind the public of her theory that defines imperialism as a conscious choice made by the bourgeois when the capitalist system is in conflict.

Even those who strongly favored the American wars on terror have explicitly used the term "imperialism" in describing what the U.S. needed at that time to ensure its supremacy.

Such misuse surfaced again when the Arab uprisings crossed the borders of Syria — a country governed by a regime labeled as "resistant."

The term flourished at this political moment, exactly as it did after national liberation, since direct occupation is not an option.

This time, the warped version of imperialism did not originate with the ruling regimes, but from foreign and Arab leftists who saw the Syrian uprising as an act that serves the imperialist enterprise.

Some loudly proclaim that what is happening in Syria is nothing but an imperialist conspiracy led by Western superpowers in collusion with Israel, designed to overthrow the bastion of resistance.

Intentionally or not, they repeat the propaganda of the Syrian regime while shaping their argument in contrast to the regime's rhetoric.

In doing so, they excuse themselves from supporting the Syrian uprising, and all other past uprisings, because the outcomes are not guaranteed with regard to the Palestinian cause.

In other words, they don't categorize the Syrian rebels as conspirators, but they withhold any support for them because their uprising will eventually benefit the imperialistic enterprise that supports Zionism.

Such people tout the slogan "Palestine is our compass," despite knowing that the world cannot be seen through one lens. Most likely, they hide behind their support for the Palestinian cause to compensate for the morally reprehensible failure to support a nation of citizens besieged by massacres.

Anti-imperialism groups agree that imperialism is an economic, cultural, and governing system that inflicts harm on the dignity and living standards of most nations under its power. While Lenin's interest in imperialism originated from his attempts to explain wars launched by superpowers defending the interests of their big companies, the new imperialism coincides with the spreading of neoliberal policies, which restructure national economies to serve the interests of imperialist states and small groups affiliated with them.

But the Syrian people did not need a new imperialistic attack to make them suffer humiliation or economic plunder, or to drive them to change their ways of living and working.

When the first small demonstration marched in Old Damascus as a prelude to revolution, perhaps their slogan held significant foreshadowing. The slogan, “Syrian people will not be humiliated,” was a protest against the mistreatment of a citizen by Syrian security forces.

Yet individual and general humiliation has increased, while defense of national dignity is carried out by a proxy, Hizbollah, whose role has continually eroded in Syria whenever its military and political involvement deepens in Lebanon.

In addition to rejecting humiliation, later slogans against Rami Makhlof, the financial giant and Bashar Al-Assad’s cousin, were no less significant.

The Syrian regime did not wait for an American military intervention to implement its own version of neoliberalism, exactly as it did in implementing its own version of socialism.

If imperialism is the driving force of neoliberalism, based on plundering national wealth for the interest of a small group of citizens and a handful of large companies, then the Syrian regime is guilty of this sin, even if it was for the interest of a handful of the Presidential court’s people.

Usually, leftists claim moral superiority. This is likely based on their adoption of rhetoric about protecting the poor from the rich and the marginalized from the dominant.

But in asserting that rhetoric, whether it is for Palestine or internationalism, they suffer from terrible moral failure—a failure they embrace with unenviable confidence and claims.

***What did you come to do, comrade? What are doing here?
In August, at 5 o’clock, darkness falls on Prague.***

With these words, leftist French singer Jonathan Veira expressed his disappointment over the Soviet attack on Prague in 1968—a disappointment that scarred many European leftists.

At that time, Richard Siwec burned himself during the harvest festival in Warsaw.

That was forty-three years before Muhammad Bouazizi carried out the same act of protest in Tunisia.

In both cases, someone placed a red star on his hat and stood clapping on the other bank.

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Sergeant Major's Heroism, Quick Thinking, Saves Entire Platoon From Certain Death



May 24, 2012 By Jay, The Duffel Blog. About The Author: Jay

Jay is a 15-year veteran of the US Army. He will neither confirm nor deny any rumors involving leprechauns. That Irishman is a dirty liar. He knows who he is.

Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan – Many leaders struggle to make a real impact on soldiers' lives, but Command Sergeant Major Richard Widmark doesn't have that problem. Widmark, assigned to 325th BSTB at Bagram Air Field, saved a platoon from certain death today after spotting a six-vehicle convoy returning from a security patrol.

He immediately noticed one of the Soldiers was clearing a weapon while wearing neither his protective eye wear or Army Combat Helmet (ACH). Even worse, the Soldier had the "eye-pro" perched on top of his head.

Springing into action, CSM Widmark screamed, "You! Hey you! Who is your Squad Leader? Who is your Platoon Leader?"

Upon identifying the Soldier's chain of command, Widmark then launched into an impromptu 25-minute briefing on how "laxadasical" approaches to standards were causing Soldiers to die "outside the wire."

"Attention to detail is what keeps our Soldiers alive, gentlemens (sic). Make no mistakes," said CSM Widmark, during the life-saving ordeal.

He went on to explain that if the leadership allows one standard to slip, then they are liable to allow all standards to slip.

Such a slippery slope could lead to the deaths of an entire platoon — as he put it, "in one frail swoop."

The platoon leader was grateful for the Sergeant Major's bravery.

"I don't know, we just came in after a 16-hour patrol, the boys were ready to just get out of the vehicles and stretch their legs," said 1LT Jimmy Pendergast, "Then this Sergeant Major, wearing a FOB bra (shoulder holster) and reflective belt comes over and starts chewing on my medic's ass. I go over and (SPC Kaden) Hester is at parade rest and this guy is screaming for me and his squad leader (SSG Al Chang). So me and Chang and (Platoon Sergeant SFC Victor) Barlow stand there and listen to him sputter and fume for like 30 minutes."

1LT Pendergast went on to describe the "correction" as "laced with fallacies" and "as unintelligible as an address book that's gone through a shredder."

"His grammar, diction and pronunciation were horrible. I think he made some words up," said SSG Al Chang. "I may use them in the future for comedic effect."

Among the flurry of mispronunciations and newly coined words were such terms as "ascadent," "negligible discharge," "moosetaches," "eye pertection," and the aforementioned "laxadaisical."

CSM Widmark closed the life saving counseling with a plea. "You boys is doing great work here in Iraq (sic), outside the wire. It hurts me every time I hear about you boys getting blowed up by those impoverished explosive devices."

He was later seen correcting Soldiers in other high threat situations, including a group that had their hands in their pockets, and some others who had their sleeves rolled incorrectly.

His paperwork is currently being reviewed for the Bronze Star and is working its way up the chain of command.

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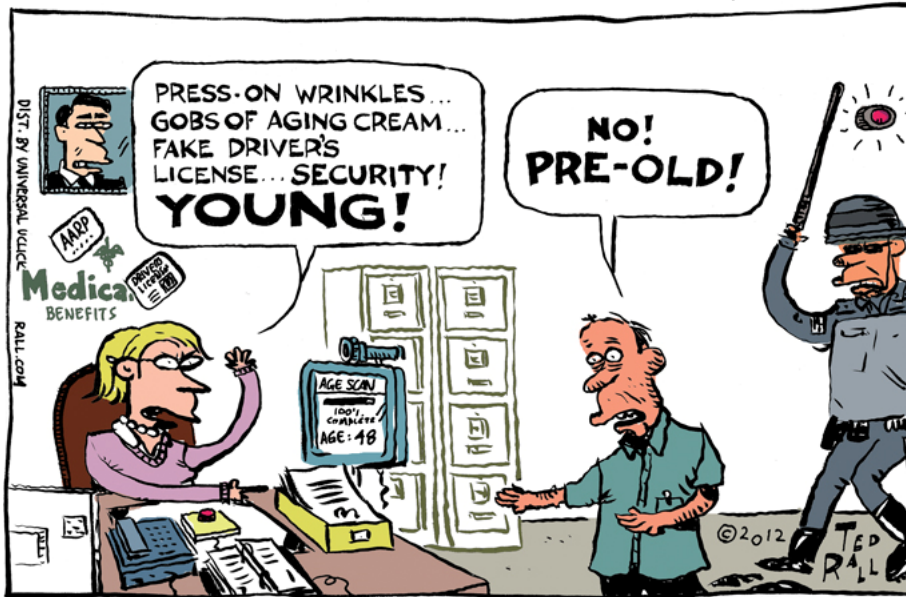
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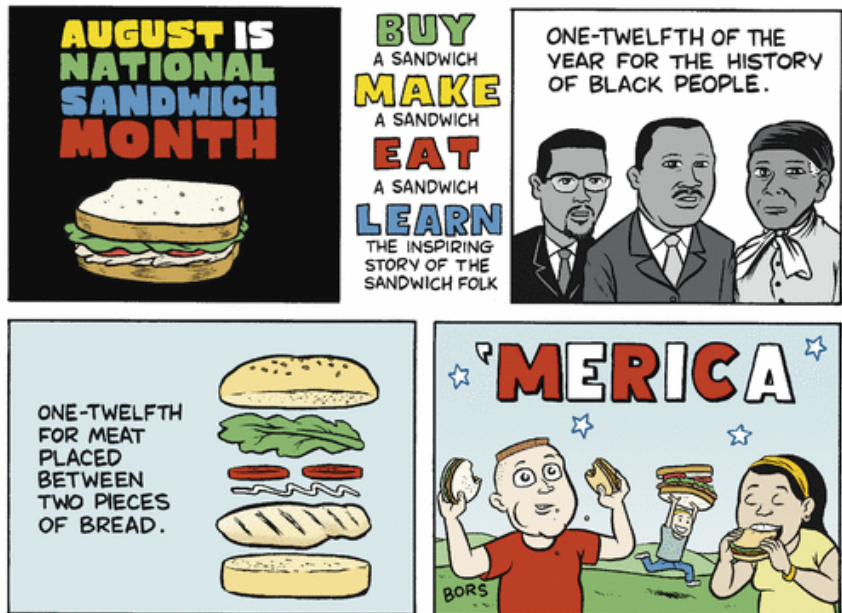
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