

Military Resistance 10/17

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Let week: S&P 11343.15 ▼ 245.31 -2.2% NASDAQ 2583.34 ▼ 4.0% NYSE 11993.14 ▼ 0.2% DJ STOXX 50 2722.97 ▼ 3.1% 10-YR TREASURY 15/32 yield 3.827% OIL \$106.89 ▲ \$4.14 EURO \$1.4613 YEN 106.15

WHY DO THEY HATE US?

New poll reveals it's because we're bombing them.

The Bush administration and Congress agreed on a tentative deal to authorize the biggest bonding rescue in U.S. history. The \$700 billion program, co-which Congress votes beginning Monday, would effectively nationalize an array of mortgages, other loans and securities backed by such loans. **A1, A8**

McCain and Obama retool messages, back bailout plan. With the financial crisis deep-

Wachovia Corp., which catapulted to the top of the U.S. bank-erless ac-
er rivals, was
axions Sunday
to Wells Fargo
people fami-
lion.

Wachovia was also holding
talks with Citigroup Inc., but by
late evening Wells Fargo ap-

"We had no idea!"
- Pentagon Spokesman

over the bill and the threat of a
recession appeared to be play-
ing to Obama's advantage. **A16**

Wachovia was in advanced
talks to sell itself to Wells
Fargo, although terms of a
proposed deal weren't clear.
Discussions also continued
with Citigroup. **A1, C1**

The consequences of the
government's decision two
weeks ago not to step in to
prop up Lehman Brothers
Holdings but instead let it
collapse look more dire than
almost anyone imagined. **A1**

The bailout plan is likely
to speed plans to change the
way the Fed manages
interest-rate policy. **A3**

Tortis will receive a
\$16.37 billion injection from



Worst Public Relations Agent Ever?

Earlier this month, though, also had expressed interest in
Wells Fargo Chairman Richard
Kovach said that the bank
"has been fortunate." He
interest in
Wachovia, but that scenario now
appears less likely, people with
knowledge of the discussion
knowledge of the discussion

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TRUST

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: September 24, 2012
Subject: TRUST

Written by Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th
Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

TRUST

Don't know who the enemy IS,
Been there, Done that,
We have the scars to prove it.
Just Keep those South Vietnam
ARVAN Soldiers away from us

they may be VC
they were here before we came
& they will be here when we leave
camouflaged uniforms get All
mixed up & look the SAME
Actually, all the Vietnamese
were always Smiling at us
to make Us Trust them,
Smiles from Mamason's & Papason's
Backed by Hate
& all the Smiling faces &
the Vietnamese Silence
knowing where the Booby Traps
Were & then Smiling
when one of them Exploded
that filled the Vietnam tombstone,
They were
court jesters, killer clowns,
stand up comedians, Happy Faces
beneath a Facade of Hate
Trust Nobody except for the
American Soldier by your side
as the days & weeks & months
go by, you too Hated All the
Vietnamese because they
were All VC
especially those Smiling faces
but then you learned to Smile
too, even laugh but with your
whole being Hating them,
Wanting to kill all of them,
We understood Lt. Calley's boys
All of us felt that & it was
Really Hard to Hold Back
after seeing a VC Husband
at Night escape & miss Killing
him, then turning the M-16
to the unarmed VC Villagers
sitting around the Fire at Night &
unloading from afar until one of them
Dropped & it was so Hard to
Hold Back & Stop with all this
Hate & some did Not, with All the
Mini My Lai's being Covered Up
& Not feeling Guilty
because Hate has Taken Over
Completely.
Humanity drained by the Horror.
But the Soldiers did Not know
the History & WHY they were there.
History had Not caught up

with them yet, some Never
Found out about it.
The French Colony, Then
WW II, the Vietnamese helping
the US Military find the Japanese,
& after the World War was Over,
Ho Chi Minh presenting
a Declaration Of Independence
almost Word for Word like our own,
but Then the Real War Criminal,
President Truman, after giving
all the other Colonies in
the area Their Independence
from the Europeans
Instead gives Vietnam BACK to
the French & when they Fail,
the Americans invade & take over.
Hated French Soldiers are
are Now Hated American Soldiers
& the American Soldiers Hated Back
& this Pure Hatred also started
to come from the back of their brain
erupting like a volcano
with red & yellow molten lava
flowing down swaying then
turning into an octopus with
tentacles with suction cups
attaching to the White House
everyone in the Corruption Congress
moneyed by War Corporations
tentacles attached to the 5 sides
of the War Machine
& then they Snapped Back to
the Vietnam Command in Vietnam
& the only Hope that protected
us was our M-16's & our Brothers
American Soldiers,
some looking Forward,
some looking Back & All Around
Not Trusting the Vietnamese
Not Trusting the Officers
Trusting No One
like it is NOW in Afghanistan

except they are Not Smiling at You
Over There.

Shock Poetry by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Amarillo Soldier Killed In Afghanistan Leaves Behind Wife, Infant

09.19.2012 by Travis Ruiz, Barrington Broadcasting Group

The Department of Defense announced on Wednesday that Bedoy died on Sept. 16 in Zabul province Afghanistan. The DOD said he suffered injuries along with three others when their position was attacked with small arms fire.

Genaro Bedoy's friends describe him as a generous, giving man who was always happy.

Bedoy was killed while serving in Afghanistan, his best friend Garrett Dorman said.

“He was a great guy,” he said. “He was one of the best guys you could ever meet. He was a great friend.”

He leaves behind his wife of less than a year along with a 7-week-old baby.

Bedoy, just 20 years old, graduated from River Road High School in 2010. He was a U.S. Army soldier, part of the Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st-14th Cavalry, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

Friends of Bedoy are planning a fundraiser on Friday night at the River Road Homecoming game. Proceeds go directly to Bedoy’s family. A balloon release in his honor is also being planned.

A Facebook page was also created to honor Bedoy. The number of likes climbed by more than 2,000 in just one day.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

Resistance Action

24 September, 2012 PakTribune.Com

SHARANA/KABUL: An improvised explosive device killed two local police personnel and injured one more in Sarhoza district in Paktika province yesterday, official said Sunday. The local policemen, also known as pro-government tribal militia, were on their way to a mountainous area when the IED went off on them.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said their fighters conducted attacks on Afghan and foreign forces in Ghor, Badghis, Zabul, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Paktiya, Wardag, Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Faryab, Farah, Uruzgan, Khost, Kunar, Logar, Baghlan, Paktika, Laghman, Kunduz, Jauzjan and Parwan provinces over the past 24 hours, causing heavy casualties and losses to them.

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

“It Is Too Dangerous To Work There” “Helicopter Pilots, Engineers And Operations Personnel Were Ferried To And From The Airport And Were ‘Sitting Ducks For Attacks’”

Sep 19 2012 By De Wet Potgieter, Zodidi Mhlana, Olwethu Mabovula and Fanisa Masia, TNA Media (Pty.) Ltd.

“They were sitting ducks”.

This was the reaction of a Johannesburg helicopter pilot following the death of eight South Africans in a suicide bomb attack in Kabul yesterday. The pilot, Clint Buckham quit a similar job “after a week” in Kabul recently because he considered it “too dangerous”.

Authorities at the Department of Foreign Relations and Cooperation in Pretoria were last night mum on the identities of three pilots, four engineers and a female operations officer until their next of kin had been identified.

They were employed by Aviation Charter Solutions/Balmoral based at Rand Airport in Johannesburg.

The company also clamped up last night after convening and then cancelling a press conference.

Buckham who came back from Afghanistan a two months ago after his short stint in Kabul, said there was lots of money to be made “very quickly in Afghanistan”.

“The guys earn at least \$850 (about R7000) a day up there. But life is cheap and it is too dangerous to work there. I came back after a week,” Buckham told The New Age.

“We have to fly 500 feet above the ground while the American gunships cruise at the safe level of 5 000 feet,” he said.

These helicopter pilots, engineers and operations personnel were ferried to and from the airport and were “sitting ducks for attacks”, he said. “These pilots fly charter choppers with supplies, logistics and emergency supplies for various contractors in Afghanistan.”

**“U.S. Forces Are Fighting Day
To Day, With Nothing But
Darkness Visible At The End Of
The Tunnel”**

**“America Has A First Class
Military, Commanded By A Third-
Rate General Officer Corps”**

**“To America’s General Officer Corps,
Providing An Honest Battlefield
Assessment Would Be Unthinkable”**

**“In Ancient Rome, When Roman Legions
Were Sent On Foolhardy Campaigns,
The Legions Had The Option Of
Returning To Rome, ‘Crossing The Tiber
And Changing The Government’”**

26 August 2012 By Matthew J. Nasuti, Kabul Press

Some must die so that the political careers of others can flourish.

That is Article 1 of the Obama Administration’s new Code of Military Justice.

Barack Obama has made the Afghan war, his war. This means that while more American men and women must die, it is all for a good cause because victory is around the corner (at least until after the November elections).

Independent sources continue to detail grim war news.

As America continues its retreat from Afghanistan, Taliban attacks are increasing, as are U.S. casualties. There is a decline in all of the key nation-building metrics.

One reason for this growing debacle is the absence of a coherent strategy. U.S. forces are fighting day to day, with nothing but darkness visible at the end of the tunnel. The Kabul Press has championed a viable and professional counterinsurgency strategy, but nothing will seemingly deter the Pentagon and State Department from defeat. A new book by Rajiv Chandrasekaram called "Little America" details some of the frustrations of those American officials who understand the conflict and want to win, but have been prevented from doing so.

The only Obama Administration strategy that can be discerned from its comments and actions is that it is in prayer mode.

The President and his Secretaries of State and Defense are praying that the Taliban either surrenders or just goes away.

If a Taliban victory is inevitable, then lives are being lost, and service men and women are being horribly maimed every day for nothing.

The President of the United States owes a special duty to military members and their families not to send forces into hostilities where the effort is futile or where crucial U.S. strategic interests are not at risk.

Once put into danger, they must not be kept there a moment longer than necessary.

Senior officials at the Pentagon, beginning with the lackluster General Marty Dempsey, have chosen to support the reelection of President Obama at the expense of their duty to their troops in the field. President Obama has boosted their pitiful careers, so they have opted to reply in kind.

As politics has replaced leadership and honor, the theme is that the war in Afghanistan remains on-course, with progress everywhere to be seen.

As the war seems likely lost, admitting such, withdrawing our forces and preventing unnecessary casualties is not an option because it would highlight the fact that President Obama has misled the American public and that he has badly botched the war effort.

To America's general officer corps, providing an honest battlefield assessment would be unthinkable.

If soldiers, Marines and sailors have to die or face the rest of their life maimed, that is acceptable collateral damage. The needs of the one outweigh the needs of the many.

The rash of killings of American troops by Afghan security forces provides a textbook example of a general officer corps that is resistant to change or criticism, and incapable of decisive action. It is a corps of consensus-driven politicians obsessed with their own petty careers instead of the safety of U.S. forces.

America has a first class military, commanded by a third-rate general officer corps.

That corps' solution is to ignore all negative news about the Afghanistan "success" story. As the casualties mount the official silence has never been so loud.

Last week General Dempsey flew into Bagram airbase for a briefing on the upsurge in American deaths. His C-17 transport was promptly rocketed by the Taliban and knocked out of commission. Officially, base officials claimed that the rocket was a lucky shot, but the evidence suggests otherwise. The Taliban fired two rockets into the sprawling base and one just happened to strike next to the aircraft of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff? A recurring problem for the U.S. military is that its statements regarding Afghanistan have little credibility. The Taliban have once again demonstrated their ability to strike anyway, anytime and at any target they wish.

Marty's trip of course produced nothing. He did not hold a press conference; no new initiatives were announced and General John Allen (U.S. Commander in Afghanistan) then issued his canned press release announcing that the Afghan war effort remains on-track (which no one believes). Marty then hobbled out of Afghanistan on a second C-17. He returned to the Pentagon where he huddled with his other generals and admirals in an attempt to try and reach a consensus on what to do next.

To them, leadership means endlessly staffing an issue until all objections to a new half-hearted compromise policy are resolved.

On August 23, 2012, General Allen, desperate to shift blame away from the Administration's failed policies in Afghanistan, bizarrely pointed the finger at Ramadan fasting as the cause for the wave of killings.

Allen claimed that fasting can cause someone to pick up a weapon and murder people!

If this ridiculous theory was true, countries where fasting is common, such as India, Nepal and Tibet, would have the world's highest murder rates. The American news media reported on Allen's claims without any reputable editor pronouncing the comments as nonsense.

The American news media helps to foster this charade. On August 24, 2012, the Boston Globe selected Pentagon insider Peter Brooks to provide an opinion piece on the "green on blue" attacks. Mr. Brooks promptly pronounced the attacks as "cowardly" (without explaining why that is so). His article had no statistics, analysis or solutions, leaving the reader to wonder about the Globe's editorial policy.

The new U.S. Ambassador to Kabul, James Cunningham, held a news conference last week in which he stated, "We have a chance now of a path forward with a long term perspective that will produce the results." Boiled now to honest speaking, Cunningham is saying that there is a possibility of achieving success in the long term. The U.S. Government should not be risking American lives on such a flimsy hope.

The belief within the Pentagon is that positive speeches and press releases will translate into battlefield victories. In reality, the truth should spur innovation and adaptation, which may lead to battlefield victories. It has been said that truth is the first casualty in war. That is accurate as long as wars continue to be waged by dishonest generals and politicians.

In ancient Rome, when Roman Legions were sent on foolhardy campaigns, the Legions had the option of returning to Rome, “crossing the Tiber” and changing the government. With an election scheduled for November, a change in government remains a viable option.

MILITARY NEWS

Letter From Doomed Soldier Helped Change Congressman’s Mind On Afghan Withdrawal Date: “Sitton, Complaining On Behalf Of Those He Commanded, ‘Said There Was Something Wrong That, Knowing This Field Was Full Of IEDs, There Was Not What They Thought Was Any Obvious Reason For Going Into This Field’”

“He Thought It Was A Mistake Threatening The Lives Of He And His Soldiers”



Staff Sgt. Matthew Sitton U.S. Army

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Veteran & Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

September 20, 2012 By Howard Altman, Tampa Tribune

TAMPA — Sarah Sitton knew her husband Matt, an Army staff sergeant, was upset he and his men were forced to trudge through fields laden with improvised explosive devices.

She knew he was so concerned he wrote a letter essentially predicting his own death to U.S. Rep. C.W. Bill Young, who attended the same Largo church as the Sittons.

What surprised her was how much impact the letter would have.

Young this week reversed his position on Afghanistan, a change of heart he says came in part because of Sitton's letter.

In a position opposite that held by most leaders of his party, the influential Republican is now calling for U.S. troops to leave the country ahead of the 2014 deadline called for by President Barack Obama.

He also has called a hearing for 10 a.m. Thursday to ask the agency in charge of protecting troops against IEDs to explain why so many are still dying and suffering horrific injuries despite an annual budget of nearly \$3 billion.

Sitton was killed Aug. 2 by an IED in the same field he had complained about in his letter. He was 26.

"I don't feel Matt's service was in vain," said Sarah Sitton, who now is raising the couple's 10-month-old son, Brodey, on her own. "Because with him leaving that letter behind to the Congressman, I hope that it saves others that may come in the future."

Young, the senior Republican in the House of Representatives and the chairman of the influential House Appropriations Committee Defense Subcommittee, said he has "always supported the war efforts."

But Young said two issues – troops like Sitton killed and maimed by IEDs, and the growing number of troops killed by Afghan forces they are training – moved him to waver from his commitment not to second-guess military leaders.

He said he had been "reluctant" to call for an early withdrawal.

"I have been very careful not to substitute my judgment for that of military leaders in the field managing the mission," he said Wednesday. "I really believe that. But I also believe that we are not carrying out our commitment to protect our troops the best we can."

"I don't think we should put our soldiers at risk any longer," he said.

“The president wants to bring them out piecemeal by 2014. Logistically, I am not sure how long it would take, but I think we should start moving them out quickly and safely and leave a combat force that has authority to use whatever force they need.”

Sitton’s death, said Young, was a catalyst in changing his mind.

“He knew who I was and that I do everything I can to protect our soldiers,” Young said. “At the end of the letter, he says, ‘If something doesn’t change, we are going to die. If you can’t help us, pray for us. Not me, but us.’”

Young said Sitton wrote in his letter that as a staff sergeant, he was responsible for a squad of men who had to do foot patrols “where they knew there were IEDs and that every time they went into this field, someone lost a leg or an arm or their life.”

Sitton, complaining on behalf of those he commanded, “said there was something wrong that, knowing this field was full of IEDs, there was not what they thought was any obvious reason for going into this field,” Young said. “He thought it was a mistake threatening the lives of he and his soldiers.”

Sitton wrote his letter after his command “told him to quit whining,” Young said.

Shortly after receiving the letter, Young said, he shared it with the Army’s top leadership, as well as Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta.

“The entire chain of command knows” about Sitton’s concerns, Young said. But no one took any action.

“Frankly, nothing happened until we were notified that Matt Sitton was killed in the very same field he said that they knew were IEDs and no reason (the troops) should even be in there.”

Last week, Young said, he received a classified response to his concerns about Sitton from Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno.

The response, he said, came via courier.

“I handed it back to him and said ‘I don’t want this letter,’” said Young. “The third page is missing.”

The courier responded that there was no third page.

“I said there needs to be a third page saying what do we do to fix this,” said Young.

Young said that at Thursday’s hearing he will ask the leadership of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, “What has happened to all the money appropriated to help protect ourselves against IEDs?” and “What has the organization accomplished?”

Young said he hopes his reversal on the issue of when the military should pull out of Afghanistan prompts discussion.

“Whether it turns into a national debate remains to be seen,” Young said. “But it is not something we can ignore when troops are being killed and losing arms and legs and being murdered in their sleep by people supposedly their allies. It’s not right.”

Young’s statement has reverberated with other local members of our Congressional delegation.

Republican Congressman Tom Rooney said that after learning that the training of Afghans by coalition forces has been suspended, “I no longer know what our mission is anymore ... right now I am on Bill Young’s side of this issue. I have never been before.”

For her part, Sarah Sitton hopes Young’s comments help get U.S. troops home sooner.

“There isn’t much they are fighting for now,” she said. “They are just keeping people safe who don’t want to keep themselves safe. We are building roads they can’t build for themselves, clearing towns they can’t clear for themselves. We are just doing things that don’t have much to do with what we went over there to do.”

**“The Arrival Of One Single New
Fighter Would Be More Useful Than
The Free Syrian Army Chiefs”
“Combatants On The Ground Are Worth
More Than Guys Who’ve Been Sitting
Behind A Table For A Year And A Half
Outside Syria”**

September 24, 2012 By Marie Roudani, The Daily Star [Excerpts]

ALEPPO:

Rebels in the war-ravaged northern city of Aleppo greeted the announcement that their central command has moved from Turkey to inside Syria with indifference bordering on hostility.

“The arrival of one single new fighter would be more useful than the Free Syrian Army chiefs,” said Abdullah, spokesman for the Al-Tawhid Brigade, the most important rebel unit in Aleppo, of Saturday’s announcement.

“Combatants on the ground are worth more than guys who’ve been sitting behind a table for a year and a half outside Syria,” he said.

While the FSA leadership has presented its transfer to inside Syria as “good news,” it barely registered with front line fighters in Aleppo who have developed their own tactics.

Abu Somer, head of the Ahfad al-Rasul Brigade (Grandchildren of the Prophet) had learned three days previously that the FSA’s command, holed up thus far in neighboring Turkey, was moving across the border.

But he and his men, positioned on three fronts in the Salaheddin and Saif al-Dawla districts of the city, continued operations as if nothing had changed.

“At this very moment I have men on the front,” he told AFP, stressing that “strategy is decided by those on the ground.”

The rebels in the city, beset by violent clashes and bombardments since July 20, already have their own local command center and meet up regularly.

“We don’t follow any religious or political ideology. Not the Muslim Brotherhood, Al-Qaeda, or any other foreign movement. We are the FSA on the ground,” he said.

Abu Somer takes his orders at meetings with other brigades in the city, in consultation with the recently set up Aleppo military revolutionary council.

Abu Riad, an army officer who defected and now heads a brigade in Aleppo’s old town, first learned of the central command move when he saw the FSA chief Colonel Riyadh al-Asaad’s YouTube video announcement broadcast on television.

Abu Riad deplored the absence of a “true military structure” for the rebels at the national level, but also said the leadership from abroad did not have the same “expertise” that the insurgents, even civilians who had taken up arms, had gained through fighting.

Various rebel commanders have privately accused the top FSA leadership of monopolizing power.

They have also questioned the distribution of funds within the FSA, and complain that because of a lack of funds to buy ammunition the rebels have been unable to make advances in Aleppo for several days now.

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.

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

**Rise like Lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number,
Shake your chains to earth like dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you-
Ye are many — they are few
-- Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1819, on the occasion of a mass murder of British
workers by the Imperial government at Peterloo.**

Mitt Romney, The Less Effective Evil:

“Barack Obama Also Sucks Up To Wealthy Patrons At Private Events But Isn’t Nearly As Ham Fisted About It”

“If Anyone Is The Lesser Of Two Evils, It Is Mitt Romney”

‘He Isn’t Really Less Evil, He Is Just Not As Good At Hiding It’

09/19/2012 by BAR editor and senior Margaret Kimberley; Black Agenda Report

At Black Agenda Report we have long argued against the canard of supporting the “lesser of two evils.”

After all, one is still supporting evil and the rightward shift in American politics means that the so-called lesser evil is generally nothing of the sort.

Barack Obama is not, as most Democrats argue, the lesser of two evils, he is actually the more effective evil.

Mitt Romney is simply no match for Obama, who clearly surpasses him in intellect and political shrewdness.

Obama knows how to give his supporters the back of his hand and still get their undying love and loyalty.

Romney doesn’t have anyone’s loyalty and is living proof of the power of white privilege and the entitlements that come with wealth.

Romney’s presidential campaign is only viable because of deep pocketed right wing contributors and deeply racist white Americans who cling to the Republican Party regardless of the quality of its candidates. The Romney campaign has weathered many missteps on the part of the candidate, who managed to insult the British during a simple photo opportunity at the Olympics and who was unable to run an effective convention, which is now nothing more than a glorified commercial.

He followed his lackluster event with hastily made and just plain incorrect statements about the killing of the American ambassador to Libya and followed that public relations disaster by stating that middle income Americans earn \$200,000 per year. Mitt Romney is a conservative, turned moderate, turned conservative again.

He is very ambitious but not very bright, which is the cause of his latest campaign troubles.

During a May fund raising event Romney was recorded saying the following about Obama supporters:

“There are 47 percent of the people who will vote for the president no matter what. All right, there are 47 percent who are with him, who are dependent upon government, who believe that they are victims, who believe the government has a responsibility to care for them, who believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you-name-it. That that’s an entitlement. And the government should give it to them. And they will vote for this president no matter what...These are people who pay no income tax.”

For good measure, he added, “(My) job is is not to worry about those people. I’ll never convince them they should take personal responsibility and care for their lives”

His remarks were not that shocking considering past statements about not caring about poor people, but his obvious obedience to right winger red meat makes him unappealing to the millions of people who don’t pay income taxes because they only have Social Security to live on.

In contrast, Barack Obama also sucks up to wealthy patrons at private events but isn’t nearly as ham fisted about it.

During a \$30,000 per plate fund raiser at the Greenwich, Connecticut home of one Richard Richman (his real name) Obama took the opportunity to sneer at his progressive critics and was so unconcerned about any reaction that he posted his comments on the White House web site, complete with indication of when the well heeled group had a laugh at the expense of his supporters.

“Now, the second reason I’m telling you this is because Democrats, just congenitally, tend to get -- to see the glass as half empty. (Laughter.) If we get an historic health care bill passed -- oh, well, the public option wasn’t there. If you get the financial reform bill passed -- then, well, I don’t know about this particularly derivatives rule, I’m not sure that I’m satisfied with that. And gosh, we haven’t yet brought about world peace and -- (laughter.) I thought that was going to happen quicker. (Laughter.) You know who you are. (Laughter.)”

The teflon president let his host know that he remembers where his bread is buttered without insulting half of the population in the process.

Liberals leapt upon the words which even Romney called “inelegantly stated” and in the process showed their own brand of evil.

Liberals could have pointed out that Americans should expect decent housing and medical care. They could have noted that there are nations around the world who do provide for their citizens' basic needs, and that they are more advanced as a result.

Instead of shooting fish in the barrel when even conservative pundits piled on the Romney condemnation, they could have advocated for a different conversation about the role of government in our lives. Austerity is killing the economy and causing terrible hardships, but liberals didn't make that case. Because there are enough Americans with some degree of need for government support, the Romney comments made for great political theater.

But if liberals were interested it could have been an opportunity for so much more.

Obama proved that he has no more regard for people living on the margins than Romney has when he put Social Security and Medicare on the budget cutting table.

He convened a budget deficit commission and packed it with pro-austerity conservatives without anyone in either party having asked him to do so.

If he is re-elected he will waste no time in making another grand bargain with the Republicans which will come at the expense of the 47%.

A few gaffes won't ruin a campaign, but the cumulative effect of repeated examples of incompetence make it unlikely that Romney will be the next president. He is no match for Barack Obama, a master of marketing and slickness.

Men dumber than Romney have won presidential elections, but they weren't up against the likes of Obama.

If anyone is the lesser of two evils, it is Mitt Romney.

He isn't really less evil, he is just not as good at hiding it.

**“Movements Are Bound To Be Confused
At The Beginning, Confused Because
The Thinking Of The Masses At First
Moves Among Contradictions, Lack Of
Clarity, And Lack Of Cohesion, And Also
Because Of The Role That Prophets Still
Play In Them”**

On The History Of Early Christianity, By Friedrich Engels, *Die Neue Zeit*, Vol. 1, 1894-95
[Excerpts]

And just as those who have nothing to look forward to from the official world or have come to the end of their tether with it — opponents of inoculation, supporters of abstemiousness, vegetarians, anti-vivisectionists, nature healers, free-community preachers whose communities have fallen to pieces, authors of new theories on the origin of the universe, unsuccessful or unfortunate inventors, victims of real or imaginary injustice who are termed “good-for-nothing pettifoggers” by the bureaucracy, honest fools, and dishonest swindlers — all throng to the working-class parties in all countries — so it was with the first Christians.

All the elements which had been set free, i.e., at a loose end, by the dissolution of the old world came one after the other into the orbit of Christianity as the only element that resisted that process of dissolution — for the very reason that it was the necessary product of that process — and that it therefore persisted and grew while the other elements were but ephemeral flies.

There was no fanaticism, no foolishness, no scheming that did not flock to the young Christian communities and did not at least for a time and in isolated places find attentive ears and willing believers.

And like our first communist workers' associations, the early Christians, too, took with such unprecedented gullibility to anything which suited their purpose

In fact, the struggle against a world that at the beginning was superior in force, and at the same time against the innovators themselves, is common to the early Christians and the socialists.

Neither of these two great movements was made by leaders or prophets — although there are prophets enough among both of them — they are mass movements.

And mass movements are bound to be confused at the beginning, confused because the thinking of the masses at first moves among contradictions, lack of clarity, and lack of cohesion, and also because of the role that prophets still play in them at the beginning.

This confusion is to be seen in the formation of numerous sects which fight against one another with at least the same zeal as against the common external enemy.

So it was with early Christianity, so it was in the beginning of the socialist movement, no matter how much that worried the well-meaning worthies who preached unity where no unity was possible.

Islamic Customs, IED Tactics From War On Terror Find Misuse In Honduran Drug War



June 20, 2012 by G-Had, The Duffle Blog. About The Author: G-Had: G-Had hates your freedom. [Late report.]

Tegucigalpa, Honduras – Here in the middle of the rain forests of Central America, the United States military is painstakingly misapplying the lessons it learned from the War on Terror to the War on Drugs.

A soldier makes contact with tribal elders from the turret of his desert-patterned Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicle, after getting stuck in a mud puddle.

“Salaam Alaikum,” shouts Specialist Lenny Barnet to a group of Honduran farmers.

The farmers, who are overwhelmingly Spanish-speaking, just stare back blankly.

Specialist Barnet is just one of 600 soldiers who make up Joint Task Force-Bravo, a US military unit that has been helping the Honduran government fight narcotics traffickers in Central America.

According to Colonel Ross Brown, the commander of American military forces in Honduras, before his unit deployed he was given instructions by General Douglas Fraser at US Southern Command to pay strict attention to After-Action Reviews (AARs) coming out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Well, I wasn’t too sure that we could apply lessons learned in landlocked Muslim desert countries to the jungles of Central America,” said Colonel Brown, “but the General insisted, and orders are orders.”

“According to the AARs, our first priority was to make sure that everyone spoke some basic Arabic,” he said. “Then we did a series of classes on how to respect Islamic customs, which no one here seems to follow.”

“One of my Staff Sergeants actually spent three hours trying to show a local priest where Mecca was.”

“Then we ordered several dozen MRAPs to guard against IED attacks and made all our soldiers practice their 5’s and 25’s (explosive checks).

The checks, however, didn’t last for long after several of them tried it in the jungle and fell down a ravine.”

As Colonel Ross spoke, his men were busy conducting a census in a local village to find out how many people were Sunni or Shi’a.

After one of his men reported that no one seemed to know what a Sunni or Shi’a was, Colonel Ross smiled and said, “I can already see they’re learning to ignore those things and work together!”

Back in Tegucigalpa, a counterbattery radar detachment was hard at work scanning areas of the Pakistani border, over 9,000 miles away.

“Well, we’ve been ordered to vigilantly watch for infiltrators coming from Pakistan,” said a slightly confused Corporal Jesse Cass, “but I’m a little more concerned about the cartel gunfight going on outside our main gate.”

According to Colonel Ross, the Task Force ultimately planned to set up a series of checkpoints throughout the country, a job he believed would be even easier since they could use all the MRAPs, which were unable to drive on the narrow Honduran dirt roads.

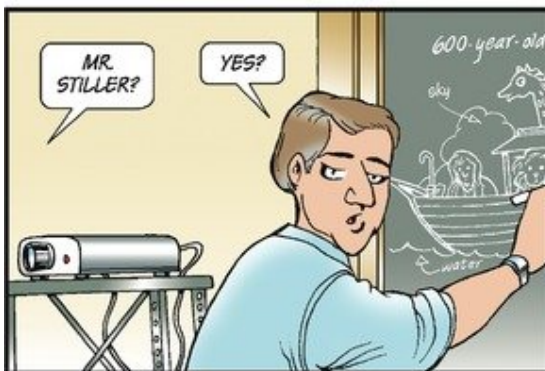
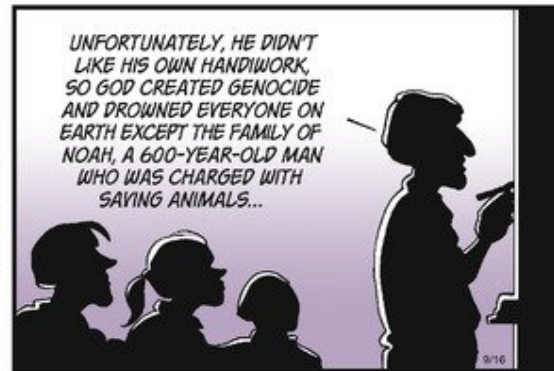
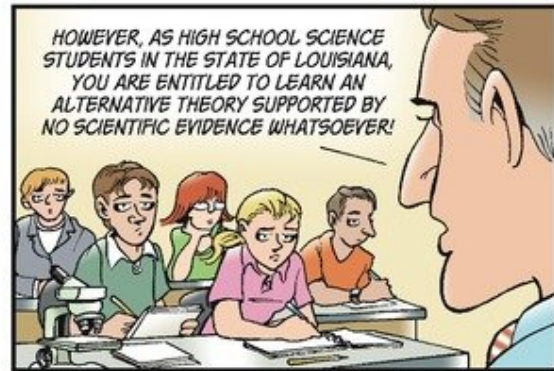
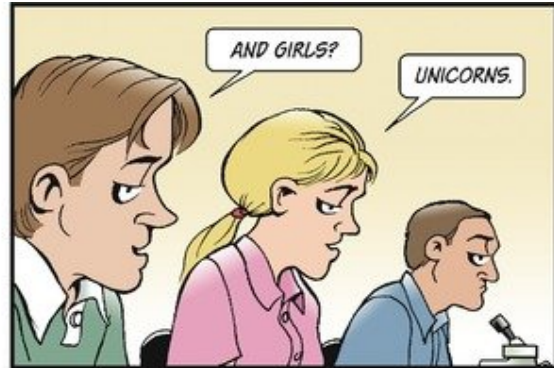
“Once we’ve established our checkpoints, we can easily separate the people from Al Qaeda, or whatever jihadi terrorist group is running around Central America,” Colonel Ross observed.

“Then we can assist the locals in setting up a proper Islamic constitution, help them divvy up oil reserves, and assist their multiple wives in finding jobs”

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS

Capitalists At Work:

Wells Fargo To Foreclose On Dying Cancer Patient Cindi Davis After Pretending To Seek 'Assistance' For Her

09/14/2012 By Harry Bradford, The Huffington Post

Battling cancer is difficult enough without your mortgage lender deciding to foreclose on your home just weeks after saying it was trying to help. Yet that appears to be what's happening to Cindi Davis, a North Carolina woman diagnosed with terminal breast cancer.

Back in July, Davis's struggle to keep her home after falling behind on her mortgage payments due to her medical bills became a national story, appearing on The Huffington Post and elsewhere.

After the media scrutiny, it seemed Wells Fargo, her lender, had relented on foreclosing on Davis, and the bank even wrote a letter to a local radio station indicating it was seeking "assistance" from nonprofit organizations for her, the Charlotte Observer reports.

But it appears Wells Fargo has had a change of heart: The bank now has set the foreclosure auction date for Davis's home for Dec. 19, less than a week before Christmas.

"I don't know what to do at this point," Davis, who said the news brought her to tears for the first time "in a long time," told WCNC. "I mean, it's not much, but it's been mine for eight years and it's where (my husband and I) built a life together," she said of the house.

Sadly, cases of cancer patients facing foreclosure are fairly common.

Most recently, Detroit single mother of two Kelly Parker made headlines for vandalizing her own home in an attempt to stave off its sale at auction, after she was diagnosed with brain and lung cancer.

Not long before, Texas homeowner Alicia Ramirez was threatened with eviction by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, her loan provider, when she fell behind on her payments due medical bills resulting from the cancer that claimed her late husband.

But there is hope for those facing the trials of both cancer and eviction.

Earlier this year, a North Carolina cancer patient avoided being kicked out of her rental after local television stations contacted her landlord on her behalf. Likewise, a Seattle cancer survivor and her husband avoided foreclosure after getting a lawyer involved.

Whether Davis will be so lucky, however, may depend on a hearing currently scheduled for November.

Vietnam GI: Reprints Available

Vietnam GI

January, 1969

Free to Servicemen

"... he threw his rifle at his Commanding Officer..."



Below is an interview with a Marine who didn't like the war and figured out why. This guy is a Platoon SGT with five years in the Green Machine, and over a year in Nam, usually in long range recon with Charlie Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion. VGI spoke to him while he was on leave awaiting his second Nam tour. Since he doesn't ETS until 1973 we've left out his name.

VGI: How did you feel about the war when you went over there. Did your feelings change?

A. When I first went over there, I thought it would be a great thing in pay, and a great new experience of being in war. I really thought it was going to be something different. But then I got put on some of these patrols and I got to see the people and got to talk to the people. This was the big thing that finally changed me. I finally saw that it wasn't worth while, and that they actually don't want our help because it actually isn't help.

VGI: Did you have any contacts with the Vietnamese, with the people?

A. There was a place called Ben Son and for a while I was stationed down at the bridge there. This is where I lived, ate, slept, drank, everything. There were houses right next to my bunker, we had an address for ours and we gave everybody else addresses. We explained to the people what the addresses were and they got all shook up about the whole thing, wow, they got addresses now.

VGI: What was it like, living there?

A. We lived with them, we shared our food with them. They used to really go for the little treats in the c-ration packs, the gum and the c-ration cigarettes and everything, and in turn they'd bring back bananas. There was this one girl, her name was I can't think of her name now—I had her picture but I lost it. This one girl, she really stands out in my mind because she used to come over and bring us beer every day and in turn, all she expected from us was the empty boxes of c-ration, that's all she wanted, the empty boxes. But then we started putting little things in the empty boxes and told her we wanted her to have them.

VGI: What would she want with the empty boxes?

A. I don't know, the Vietnamese people, they could take an empty can of it. She made me a soaplet which she had made out of a c-ration tin. She had pounded it out with a nail and a hammer. It had a little budha on it and I wore it all the time. I actually got to feel naked after I lost it.

But yet, later on, during the Tet holidays, the Viet Cong came in and burned out half of the village, and the marines naturally went in pursuit. In order to stop them, the VC took this girl and they cut off her breasts. She was brought up to the hospital and later she died.

VGI: Did the brass give you any static about living with the Vietnamese?

A. The incident when I almost got into trouble was, there was a convoy of about 12 to 14 trucks. I think it was. We had a whole bunch of plywood on it and we took this plywood over to a village chief in Ben Son. He was one of

the elders. We dropped off something like 14 sheets of plywood. Naturally, when we got back, there was one truckload of plywood missing, and they asked where it was. They later found out that I had given it to this village chief, not for my own good relations with him, but because there was times when we didn't get resupplied at our observation point, and they brought us food. So we gave them something else in return.

interview

VGI: What are some of the things you saw and did that led you into deciding to the middle of Nam not to fight anymore?

A. Well, I saw things when COL Bull Fisher when he would tell his men to dismantle their personnel-carrying flame-throwers, take them out on a company sleep and put them back together once they got out. He went into a village and told them, "Are there any Viet Cong here?" The village chief naturally said "No" because he knew that if he said yes, he didn't know what'd happen to him. Then COL Fisher said, "Well, if there is any Viet Cong in this village, we'll show you what's going to happen." He sent one of his flame men up to the house, he didn't check to see if there was anybody in it or not. Later we found out there was a woman in there who was real shy, she couldn't move or anything. She was burned to death. It was terrible. And seeing guys being carried in on ponchos. A full-grown man weighed about two pounds after he was brought in at a sack of raw flesh or something like that.

VGI: Did you see any other incidents like this?

A. There was this little village just out of Ben Son where we brought our rice and got our ice. It's not poetry, it's really true, it was just this small village, maybe 16 or 17 houses. It was a "gray to white" village, off and on there'd be Viet Cong visiting the area. No holedier at all, they'd just go in there to be resupplied. Yet one day, they found out that VC were coming into that village and they called "Puff". "Puff" came over and leveled the whole village down. I think maybe three people lived out of the whole thing. One was a little baby about two years old whose mother and father was gone.

One of the guys sort of adopted the kid, this little two year old. He took this kid real close. When we went on R and K we brought him back toys and trucks and things like that. It was really something, because they don't get too many trucks over there. We'd round up a few camp trucks and stuff like that from Hong Kong. They were really surprised to see the new toys, I mean, the toys they play with, old c-ration cans and stuff like that are their toys. They're a fascinating people. If you just have an opportunity to see them, to get to know them. They're really great.

VGI: How do you think they feel about living with the Vietnamese?

A. This one incident—I know of the letter one north Vietnamese who was down south wrote to his brother up north who was intent on coming down

Continued on page 8

WHEN HAWKS RETIRE

All of us who've had our "first" trips to Sunny Nam and Sonico Korea shouldn't feel guilty about accepting such "gifts" from the Government. Lots of hawk politicians are taking Government trips too. Of course, their trips are a little bit different.

Take Senator Edward V. Long (D-Mo.), the Senate Judiciary Committee bigshot whose retirement in January was speeded up by graft scandals. The good Senator decided that as a last sacrifice to his country he would give himself "TDY" to Europe. The reason was to "get firsthand information on foreign aid and military assistance programs." Doubtless, that's why he took his wife along.

Of special interest was his visit to

Switzerland, which neither gets US aid nor wants any. It doesn't really make any difference, since as soon as Senator Long returned from his "fact-finding mission" he retired from the Senate, thus depriving our Congress of all his "facts" (mostly on nigricoids and rissy hotels).

Going to and from Europe Long travelled on Senate funds, but while on "TDY" there, he economized by using US military aircraft, cars and chauffeurs to get around. The Pentagon ordered the red carpet rolled out around the world. Nothing too good for a retiring hawk politician. As the saying goes, in America we're all equal — only some are more equal than others!

As we go to press we learn that the government has finally agreed on the shape of the table and seating arrangements for the Paris talks. Now that everyone is seated and comfortable, maybe we can expect further "breakthroughs."

This grim fact is that while the government honchos are jiving in Paris, thousands of our buddies are still dying in Nam. In fact, since they began talking last May 7,000 GIs have been killed in action.

Talks or no talks, the only solution is to get the hell out of Nam, immediately. Stop talking and start shipping us home.

The next issue of VGI will discuss the Paris talks in greater detail. By that time we'll have some more news. Write us at P.O. Box 100, Fort Ord, California 94502.

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command.

The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

Military Resistance has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.

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