

Military Resistance 10/20

Report Says CIA Killing Innocent Civilians with Drone Strikes



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in.]

2,000th U.S. Servicemember Dead In Afghanistan Sunday: Killed By Afghan Soldiers, Along With A U.S. Mercenary

09/30/12 By HEIDI VOGT and RAHIM FAIEZ, Huffington Post

KABUL, Afghanistan — A firefight broke out between U.S. forces and their Afghan army allies in eastern Afghanistan Sunday, killing two Americans and three Afghan soldiers and pushing the number of U.S. troops killed in the long-running war 2,000.

The fighting started Saturday when what is believed to have been a mortar fired by insurgents struck a checkpoint set up by U.S. forces in Wardak province, said Shahidullah Shahid, a provincial government spokesman.

He said the Americans thought they were under attack from a nearby Afghan army checkpoint and fired on it, prompting the Afghan soldiers to return fire.

The Afghan Defense Ministry said the gunbattle was the result of a "misunderstanding" between international forces and Afghan soldiers manning a checkpoint in the Sayd Abad district.

NATO's International Security Assistance Force, commonly referred to as ISAF, provided a different account.

"After a short conversation took place between (Afghan army) and ISAF personnel firing occurred which resulted in the fatal wounding of an ISAF soldier and the death of his civilian colleague," the coalition said in a statement. It said the three Afghan soldiers died "in an ensuing exchange of fire."

There has been rising tide of such attacks in which Afghan soldiers or police assault foreign troops.

While it may be days before it becomes clear who fired on whom first, the incident illustrates how tense relations have become between international troops and their Afghan allies.

Officials on both sides went into damage control mode, arguing that Saturday's violence did not mark a new low in Afghan-U.S. relations and urging patience while investigators tried to figure out exactly what had happened.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Mullah Omar Strikes Back At Camp Leatherneck:

“In Response To The New Multi-Faceted Taliban ‘Fear And Awe’ Campaign, The Pentagon’s Response Has Been Befuddled And Indecisive”

“U.S. And NATO Forces Face The Certainty Of Defeat”

“How Many More Lives Are U.S. And NATO Politicians Willing To Sacrifice And How Much Money Are They Willing To Waste Just So They Can Avoid Telling Their Citizens The Truth?”

The current U.S. effort in Afghanistan is uncoordinated, disjointed and aimless, with each member of the “country team” flaying away in frustration over a situation that appears seemingly beyond their comprehension.

It is formulated by frightened U.S. diplomats living inside heavily protected forts, isolated from the populace; and by a beleaguered corps of mediocre Admirals and Generals who lack the vision to grasp and implement sophisticated strategies.

September 2012 by Matthew J. Nasuti, Kabul Press

The Taliban attack last week [9.15.12] on Camp Leatherneck was a stunning success.

It was the worst defeat suffered by the U.S. Marines since the Marine Barracks attack in Beirut on October 23, 1983.

A quarter billion dollars in military aircraft, equipment and facilities was reportedly destroyed.

The battle within the heavily protected base reportedly lasted for hours.

The Pentagon initially tried to down play the debacle. On September 14th it stated that two Harrier AV-8B jets were damaged.

It took days before the Marine Corps would admit that six Harriers were destroyed and others damaged; the full damage report continues to be withheld.

The Pentagon has refused to release the list of U.S. casualties (killed and wounded) and it has refused to release photographs of the widespread damage inflicted by Taliban forces.

This occurred in supposedly “pacified” Helmand Province, the focal point of President Obama’s 2009 military “surge.” The reality is that the costly surge achieved nothing.

Camp Leatherneck is the headquarters for NATO’s Regional Command South-West.

The South-West commander is Major General Charles M. Gurganus, and the base commander for Camp Leatherneck is Marine Corps Colonel Scott Arnold. Both have remained invisible since the Taliban assault. In a military organization with accountability, both would have been publicly removed from command for this security debacle.

If they had any integrity, they would have acknowledged their culpability and tendered their resignations to Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta.

Unfortunately, the buck stops nowhere anymore. Marine Corps Commandant James F. Amos has likewise remained invisible during this embarrassing defeat, emphasizing that leadership is for junior officers only.

The Taliban foray across Camp Leatherneck follows some incredibly accurate rocket attacks by the Taliban on Bagram air base that destroyed a large Chinook helicopter and damaged the C-17 aircraft that was ferrying the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. This follows yet another string of fragging attacks by Afghan security forces against American and NATO trainers and other forces.

In response to the new multi-faceted Taliban “fear and awe” campaign, the Pentagon’s response has been befuddled and indecisive.

This simply hands the Taliban a major victory. It is all because Pentagon officials simply do not know what to do.

Likewise, another Pentagon response is to boast that only 25% of the “green on blue” insider attacks are directed by the Taliban (as if that is a good thing!).

The fact that, in 75% of the cases, Afghan soldiers and police are killing their allies due to real or perceived American outrages, is even more alarming than if the Taliban were orchestrating these attacks.

The Pentagon’s own statistics indicate that there is a huge and unnecessary gulf between the two militaries. This problem is fixable, but the Pentagon does not seem to even understand that it is a problem.

At the same time Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has listed the “haqqani network” as an FTO (foreign terrorist organization), an equally befuddled response.

The current U.S. effort in Afghanistan is uncoordinated, disjointed and aimless, with each member of the “country team” flaying away in frustration over a situation that appears seemingly beyond their comprehension.

For example, last week U.S. strike aircraft killed eight Afghan women collecting firewood and nuts in a forest, injuring another seven women and young girls, the youngest was 10 years old.

This tragedy took an all too familiar path.

The U.S. aircraft struck on September 16, 2012 in Laghman Province, with the U.S. claiming that it killed Taliban only. The next day local villagers drove to the provincial capital with the bodies of the dead women.

The U.S. then denied that any civilians were killed.

The Afghan Government confirmed the civilian deaths and days later the U.S. finally admitted responsibility.

The villagers should not have had to publicly drive the women’s bodies to the provincial capital in order to refute lies by U.S. officials.

While accidents happen in warfare, there is no honor in deception and false statements. Such dishonorable tactics simply fuel the rebel movement and lend credibility to the Taliban’s propaganda.

The fact is that hundreds of billions of dollars in U.S. taxpayer funds have achieved nothing.

The investment in U.S. strategic and tactical intelligence has proven to be a failure; the investment by USAID in foreign development projects has not translated into any appreciable American benefit and the increased ability of the U.S. military to bomb targets around the world with drones and other aircraft has only increased the ranks of militant groups.

These data reveal that the Pentagon cannot kill its way out of this problem.

The Chinese philosopher Sun Tzu wrote that a military leader that has to use his army is a failure.

A true military genius is one who achieves victory without having to take the field.

The current U.S. effort in Afghanistan and around the world is amateurish.

It is formulated by frightened U.S. diplomats living inside heavily protected forts, isolated from the populace; and by a beleaguered corps of mediocre Admirals and Generals who lack the vision to grasp and implement sophisticated strategies.

One cannot deploy to Afghanistan for a short 12 month tour, speak English, live on a forward operating base and hope to understand the situation.

Only a professional Afghan Expeditionary Force, trained in its languages, deployed for multi-year tours and devoted to the people of Afghanistan has any hope of success.

As this will never occur, U.S. and NATO forces face the certainty of defeat. The only questions are:

How many more lives are U.S. and NATO politicians willing to sacrifice and how much money are they willing to waste just so they can avoid telling their citizens the truth?

**Taliban Deny Cutting Heads Of
Seventeen People In Roshanabad
Area Of Sangin District For
Playing Music:
Taliban Report Nobody Cut Heads Of
Seventeen People In Roshanabad
Area Of Sangin District:
“No One Plays Music Here And Neither
Has Anyone Been Killed For Such A
Thing”**



25 September 2012 The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

**REPORT OF INVESTIGATION BY QUALIFIED BOARD OF ISLAMIC EMIRATE
REGARDING CLAIM OF BEHEADING OF 17 CIVILIANS IN ROSHANABAD AREA
OF HELMAND PROVINCE'S SANGIN DISTRICT**

The officials of Kabul administration in Helmand province claimed 2 months earlier that seventeen people including 2 women were brutally beheaded at night time in Roshanabad area of Sangin district.

The mentioned event was picked up by all major news outlets citing the Kabul administration's spokesperson for Helmand province (Daud Ahmadi) as a source and placing the blame squarely on the local Mujahideen of Islamic Emirate.

The high ranking Mujahideen officials in the area were repeatedly questioned however the answer each time was that no Mujahideen were involved and neither are they aware of such an incident taking place in that remote region.

As the area was under the control of Mujahideen of Islamic Emirate, therefore the head of Islamic Emirate dispatched a qualified board to the region to carry out a full, thorough and prolonged investigation and then forward the findings back to the leader.

The final report of this qualified board of Islamic Emirate has completed its investigation, the results of which we want to share with the media as well as the entire nation.

The mentioned claim which supposedly took place in Roshanabad area of Helmand province's Sangin district has not occurred in the stated area or in the entire province.

The board of Islamic Emirate, with help from the elders, youngsters and distinguished personalities, travelled on foot in the province's Sangin, Musa Kala, Kajaki, Bughni, Baghran and Zamindawar regions, went from door to door and asked about related information and found that all the locals labeled the incident as fabrication and showed complete ignorance of such a happening.

Two respected personalities of Roshanabad (Haji La'l Muhammad and Haji Muhammad Yar) said that they were taken by surprise after hearing about the incident and promptly carried out a joint investigation with the Mujahideen and locals in the initial days however nothing as such has transpired in the entire Sangin district and especially in Roshanabad area thus all the residents of the area are now certain that this claim is a blatant lie; nothing like this has taken place here; no one plays music here and neither has anyone been killed for such a thing; no one has seen the bodies of the dead and neither is there a single person aware of the incident.

The above testimonies as well as the repeated investigations clearly show that no such event has ever taken place in Roshanabad, Sangin or even the entire Helmand province as was claimed by the Kabul administration's spokesperson for Helmand province as well as published by some self-interested outlets as headline grabbing material by using one-sided information and for defaming purposes.

The Islamic Emirate has completed its investigation regarding this matter and states that nothing as such has taken place in the area and all the reports and claims about it are false.

If any person or sides including the media want to carry out an unbiased investigation in the area and inform itself on the matter, then they are welcomed to send their teams and inquire with the people, collect information and carry out their duty.

The Mujahideen of Islamic Emirate based in the area will help all those who wish to clear up facts and inform themselves about the realities.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Senior Army Official And Senior Somali Government Official Killed By Insurgents

September 30, 2012 Sh.M.Network

KISMAYO:

Heavy fighting flared up Sunday in Somalia's port city of Kismayo, 500 Km south of Mogadishu, killing at least 16 combatants on both Somali soldiers and Al shabab militants, witnesses said.

Military sources who asked anonymity confirmed to Shabelle Media Network the casualties and death toll, confessing that senior army official whose identity released only as Ga'modhere, was among the dead.

Residents said the fighting erupted on the outskirts of Kismayo when heavily armed Al shabab fighters ambushed on government forces stationed near the town.

Al-Shabab rebels pulled out of a key port city in southern Somalia, the group said Saturday, Kenyan troops marched toward the city centre and seaside port that long served as the militants key source of funding.

The town is not under anyone's control now.

Armed groups have on Sunday assassinated a senior Somali government official in Somalia's third largest city of Baidoa, located just 250 Km (159 miles) northwest of Mogadishu, reports said.

Three masked assailants armed with pistols have shot to death Muqtar Qasim, a worker for the government tax office in Baidoa town after leaving mosque and on his way to home, according to witnesses.

He was killed by three gunmen belonging to Al shabab this morning, who escaped the scene after the shooting and security forces arrived.

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: contact@militaryproject.org

MILITARY NEWS

Fort Carson Major Charged With “Drunken Mischief And Inappropriate Sexual Contact During A Rowdy Party At The Home Of A Battery Commander” “Leadership Demanded Soldiers Bring Toy Swords, Pacifiers And Mini-Basketball Hoops For Games” “At One Point They Decided To Tie Him Up With Duct Tape Because They Decided He Was Too Rowdy”

September 17, 2012 By Leo Shane III, Stars and Stripes & October 1, 2012, Staff Report, Army Times [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — Earlier this year, senior officers at a 4th Infantry Division unit in Colorado tried to create their own fraternity-style social group — complete with bylaws, initiation rites and promises of binge drinking — in an effort to build team morale and camaraderie.

But after an off-duty booze party went bad, an Army major claims he is being punished for giving into peer pressure and is being drummed out of the service to cover up hazing by high-ranking soldiers.

Maj. Christopher Garbarino, a 36-year-old with three Bronze Stars and a model service record, was charged in April after accusations of drunken mischief and inappropriate sexual contact during a rowdy party at the home of a battery commander.

But Garbarino’s attorneys, speaking on his behalf, say he was pressured by his battalion commander — the “Supreme Allied Commander” of the social club — to attend the party and drink heavily, and ended up so drunk that he claims no memory of the crimes he allegedly committed.

“At one point they decided to tie him up with duct tape because they decided he was too rowdy,” said Ernesto Gapsin, Garbarino’s attorney. “He got drunk because he didn’t have a choice. This was hazing.”

Prosecutors have declined comment on the case before the start of Garbarino’s court-martial, scheduled for Sept. 24 at Fort Carson.

The party took place in March, with soldiers from Fort Carson’s 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment. In testimony to investigators, battalion commander Lt. Col. David Chiarenza said the idea behind the “Straight Arrows Association” was to socially welcome new officers and give the others a chance to interact in a relaxed atmosphere.

The club’s name, the “Straight Arrows Association,” resembles the 4-42 FAR’s moniker, “Straight Arrows.”

Lt. Col. David Chiarenza, who held the party at his home in March, was reportedly the “Supreme Allied Commander” of the social club.

Senior leaders drew up eight pages of bylaws, stating that prospective members “must be cleansed” before joining and that junior members “must do as told” when directed by association officials.

Chiarenza declined comment for this article, but told investigators that alcohol was not the main focus of the group and “no one is made to drink if they don’t want to.”

Other officers in the battalion reported otherwise, telling investigators that attendance and consumption at parties was an unofficial requirement.

A flyer sent around for the March event called for each company to supply at least two bottles of liquor and said the party would last “until liver failure.”

Organizers used a log book to track attendance.

“It was very encouraged to attend,” one lieutenant told investigators. “There wouldn’t be any disciplinary action for not going, but it would look bad.”

The event featured about 30 young and mid-career officers drinking alcohol out of disposable cups, some watching TV while others played beer pong.

Witnesses told investigators that leadership demanded soldiers bring toy swords, pacifiers and mini-basketball hoops for games.

New lieutenants were quizzed by battalion leadership and told to drink “grog” — a mixture of vodka, rum, whiskey, Diet Coke and hot sauce — if their responses were unsatisfactory.

“It felt like a frat party,” another lieutenant told investigators. “I tried to distance myself from the event, because I was trying not to drink too much because I didn’t want to get drunk. If I said no to drinking, I would’ve been heckled about it.”

Gapasin said that Garbarino was forced to drink the grog because he showed up to the party in uniform, and was told to keep doing shots for other “offenses.”

Partygoers described Garbarino to investigators as incoherent and stumbling within a few hours of arriving. Gapasin said Garbarino didn’t realize how potent the grog was and felt pressured to keep drinking.

At one point, witnesses said, Garbarino began hugging everyone, including the only female officer — the only female at all — at the party.

Some said they saw him grope her breast, while others said he just accidentally brushed against her in a drunken embrace.

The woman, who sought to downplay the incident, told investigators that she didn’t want to attend the party but thought “I might get in trouble if I didn’t go.”

She said she showed up late after getting a phone call from the party and an order from Chiarenza to show up.

Garbarino started shoving other officers, and at some point had his hands and feet duct-taped together.

That drew laughs from the crowd until he passed out, then later vomited.

Several witnesses blamed the party atmosphere for his actions, but others said it was simply a case of poor self-control.

“Nobody was as intoxicated as Major Garbarino, because they knew to act like officers,” Chiarenza told investigators. “No officer will listen to (him) anymore. Everyone who was there saw his actions.”

Garbarino was charged within days of the party, after his fellow senior leaders decided he had embarrassed himself and the battalion. Senior leaders also met with other partygoers the next day to discuss proper behavior of officers, without discussing Garbarino by name, witnesses said.

Gapasin said that his client is a model soldier, a 15-year veteran who served three combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was charged with driving under the influence when he was 22, but hasn’t had any legal or character issues since.

If convicted, he could lose his career and his retirement.

“My client doesn’t remember a thing, because he was forced to drink so much,” Gapasin said. “He didn’t want to be there, but the battalion commander personally called him, and he felt ordered to go. That’s why he’s in this trouble.”

Army regulations define hazing as “any form of initiation rite of passage or congratulatory act that involves ... forcing or requiring the consumption of excessive amounts of food, alcohol, drugs or other substances.” They also state hazing is prohibited in all cases, and preventing it “is a responsibility of commanders at all levels.”

Multiple partygoers told investigators that they would not attend another off-duty alcohol party after seeing what happened at the March event. Battalion officials would not say whether that was the last meeting of the Straight Arrows Association, or whether any investigation of wrongdoing is underway against other partygoers and the organizers.

MORE:

Maj. Christopher Garbarino Convicted Of Being Drunk And Disorderly

September 26, 2012 By Leo Shane III, Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An Army major who said he was forced to drink excessively during a hazing party was sentenced Wednesday to 30 days in confinement for drunk and disorderly conduct, but cleared of sexually assaulting a colleague.

Maj. Christopher Garbarino, a 36-year-old soldier with three Bronze Stars, will forfeit his pay for the next six months and receive a letter of reprimand, according to officials at Fort Carson, Colo. But he will be allowed to continue his military career.

Garbarino had been accused of rowdy and embarrassing behavior during the off-duty party in March, including allegations that he groped a female colleague and fought with other officers.

Garbarino's attorneys argued that his battalion commander pressured him to binge drink, as part of a fraternity-style initiation designed to build camaraderie.

The party took place in March, with soldiers from Fort Carson's 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment. In pre-trial testimony to investigators, battalion commander Lt. Col. David Chiarenza acknowledged he had founded a "Straight Arrows Association" to socially welcome new officers and give the others a chance to interact in a relaxed atmosphere.

Garbarino's attorney said he was pressured to drink "grog" — a mixture of vodka, rum, whiskey, Diet Coke and hot sauce — and was so drunk he blacked out near the end of the party. He has little memory of any of the events of the evening.

The 15-year soldier could have faced dismissal from the service and up to five years in prison for the sexual assault charges. The six-month salary forfeiture will cost him almost \$28,000 in pre-tax pay.

No charges have been brought against the organizers of the party.

A base spokeswoman would not say whether any investigation into Chiarenza or other senior leaders is under way.

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

The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”

-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done

**“The Person Who Told The Soldier
His Prosthetic Leg Was As Good As
A Real One Should Prove That He
Believes What He Said By Having His
Leg Amputated”**

**[Comment On This Report:]
British Soldier Who Lost Leg In Afghan
Bomb Blast Told That He Is Not Disabled
Enough To Claim Benefits:
Benefits Staff Told Him His Prosthetic Leg
“As Good As A Real One”
“His Benefits Were Later Stopped”**



26th September 2012 The Bolton News [UK] & 28/09/2012 By Felicity Morse, Huffington
Post UK: [From Military Resistance 10118]

From: Sanford Kelson [Veteran]
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: prosthetic vs real leg
Date: Sep 30, 2012

The person who told the soldier his prosthetic leg was as good as a real one should prove that he believes what he said by having his leg amputated. Hmmm.

Likewise, maybe those gvmnt officials who give the medals for combat injuries and who smile and say such patriotic bullshit should likewise severely wound themselves in symbolic camaraderie.

And, while we are at it, why shouldn't those who send people to war also send their children and relatives to show they understand how important it is to our collective national security to fight.

But, one must ask whether these chicken hawk clones could fight as well as those who typically fight our wars: the non-connected and unelite?

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.

Reflective Belts, Risk Management Required After ROTC Commissioning Tragedy



General Mattis speaking, shortly before he leapt into the crowd to kill a cadet

May 21, 2012 by Paul, The Duffle Blog [Late report.]

Tampa, FL – It's graduation season at colleges across the nation, and for the cadets of the Reserve Officer Training Corps, it means the start of their Army career. But what is supposed to be a joyous occasion and a proud moment for new Second Lieutenants has taken a turn into disaster at one ceremony, prompting the Army to review safety for commissioning cadets.

Over thirty new officers were supposed to be commissioned at the University of Tampa.

“This is our favorite time of the year,” said Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Olson, the commander of the ‘Spartan Battalion’ ROTC Detachment. “It’s always an honor to see these men and women grow and learn and start their careers. But it’s a shock when we have a mishap.”

The Spartan Battalion had been mishap-free for over three years — but their luck ran out at the commissioning ceremony weeks ago.

One lieutenant fell off the stage right after being commissioned, breaking his back and bringing an immediate medical discharge. Another didn’t place the coin in his hand properly for the handshake. Instead of it being transferred harmlessly to the enlisted man who gave him his first salute, the silver dollar went flying into the crowd, striking a retired Sergeant Major in the head, killing him instantly.

“Pa always said that the most dangerous thing in the Army was a new second lieutenant,” said Jane Hester, the man’s daughter.

“I just can’t believe he was killed by one right after he was commissioned. Couldn’t he at least wait until he reported in?”

But those weren’t the only problems.

The training cadre were able to convince the CENTCOM Commander — Marine General James Mattis – to make an appearance, and to offer words of encouragement to the new officers.

“My fine young men and women,” said General Mattis, “congratulations on your achievement and for your dedication to our country.”

He continued his speech, but as he looked out into the crowd, however, he saw something he didn’t like — one lieutenant who had fallen asleep.

“I told them to pay attention to the General. I gave them a safety brief on it,” said LTC Olson. “With all the men General Mattis has killed with his bare hands, I figure he wouldn’t have any problems with killing a second lieutenant. Turns out I was right.”

Soon after noticing the snoozing cadet, General Mattis threw down his speech notes, reached into his dress blue jacket to grab a Ka-Bar fighting knife, and jumped into the front row on top of Cadet Ted Eldridge.

“I honestly was just going to scare him,” said Mattis, “you know, make the knife across the neck motion and say ‘This is what the enemy will do if you want to take a nap’; that sort of thing. Turns out I got a little too close to the neck. Guess I’m just getting old.”

One Second Lieutenant, having been commissioned earlier in the year, returned to the university to see Eldridge earn his shoulder boards.

“That shit was fuckin’ bananas,” said 2LT Jed Eckert. “I’m sort of bummed having come all the way from Italy — instead of my bro getting commissioned, he gets killed by a

General. In hindsight, I guess it's a great story to go back and tell my platoon to reinforce the importance of staying awake on post."

Officials at the Department of the Army were upset over the losses to the officer corps.

A KIA and WIA in addition to one cadet being brought up on murder charges was regretful — but one other mishap was "completely understandable," according to Sergeant First Class Ian Poloquin of Army Public Affairs.

The incident that didn't surprise the Army were seven cadets who got lost trying to find the theater across from the University of Tampa.

"We gave them clear instructions. Go across campus and across one street and there's the theater," said LTC Olson, "but with land navigation, it's definitely a struggle for some."

The seven never made it to the ceremony. Disoriented and confused, they struggled to make their way to the theater, and at one point, attempted to cross the Hillsborough River next to the campus.

Their bodies have not yet been found.

To minimize the losses in preparation for fall commissioning ceremonies, the Army has started a review of policies for safety and risk management protocol. Initial suggestions included the requirement for all cadets to wear their reflective belts as soon as they get dressed the morning of the ceremony, extensive risk management paperwork requirements, and the use of enlisted guides to help navigate the new lieutenants to the ceremony.

They've also done away with the silver dollar coin, and will require a plastic poker chip instead.

"We think these steps will help keep the cadets safe, and the use of enlisted guides is one of the best changes to minimize risks," said SFC Poloquin, "and besides, it's what already happens in the Army throughout the world."

ANNIVERSARIES

The Jerry Rescue: Most Honorable Anniversary: October 1, 1851:

“A Group Of Men Forcibly Overpowered The Guards With Clubs And Axes And Freed Jerry A Second Time”

Carl Bunin Peace History October 1-7

In the “Jerry Rescue,” citizens of Syracuse, New York, broke into the city’s police station and freed William Henry (called Jerry), a runaway slave working as a barrel-maker.

The federal Fugitive Slave Law required “good citizens” to assist in the return of those who had fled “ownership” by another.

A group of black and white men created a chaotic diversion and managed to free Jerry but he was later re-arrested.

At his second hearing, a group of men, their skin color disguised with burnt cork, forcibly overpowered the guards with clubs and axes and freed Jerry a second time; he was then secretly taken over the border to Canada.

NYHistory.com

Among the more interesting events in Syracuse history is the story of the Jerry Rescue.

The event occurred on October 1, 1851, while the anti-slavery Liberty Party was holding its New York State Convention.

Leaders of the local Abolition movement, including Underground Railroad Stationmaster Jermain Loguen and others, had organized a local committee to thwart enforcement of the recently adopted Fugitive Slave Law.

The previous May, then Secretary of State Daniel Webster repeated his previous criticism of the Abolitionists and their promise to thwart the law. Webster proclaimed from a balcony facing Syracuse City Hall that the law “will be executed in all the great cities - here in Syracuse - in the midst of the next Anti-Slavery Convention, if the occasion shall arise.”

And so it did.

Around noon on October 1, federal marshals from Rochester, Auburn, Syracuse, and Canandaigua, accompanied by the local police, arrested a man who called himself Jerry. also known as William Henry.

Jerry was working as a barrel maker, and was arrested at his workplace. He was originally told the charge was theft until after he was in manacles. On being informed

that he was being arrested under the Fugitive Slave Law, he put up substantial resistance, but was subdued.

Word of the arrest quickly reached the Convention, then in session at a nearby church. There are reports that the wife of Commissioner Sabine, who would hear the case, had already leaked plans of the arrest.

By pre-arranged signal, church bells began ringing, and a crowd gathered at Sabine's office, where Jerry had been taken for arraignment.

An immediate effort to free the prisoner was unsuccessful, and though he escaped to the street in irons, he was rapidly recaptured.

The arraignment was put off until evening and relocated to a larger room. A large crowd gathered in the street, this time equipped for a more serious rescue attempt.

With a battering ram the door was broken in and despite pistol shots out the window by one of the deputy marshals, it became clear that the crowd was too large and determined to be resisted.

The prisoner was surrendered, and one deputy marshal broke his arm jumping from a window to escape the crowd.

The injured prisoner was hidden in the city for several days in the home of a local butcher know for his anti-abolitionist sentiments, and later taken in a wagon to Oswego, where he crossed Lake Ontario into Canada.

The following day, Gerrit Smith introduced the following resolution, adopted at the Liberty Party convention:

“WHEREAS, Daniel Webster, That base and infamous enemy of the human race, did in a speech of which he delivered himself, in Syracuse last Spring, exultingly and insultingly predict that fugitive slaves would yet be taken away from Syracuse and even from anti-slavery conventions in Syracuse, and whereas the attempt to fulfill this prediction was delayed until the first day of October, 1851, when the Liberty party of the State of New York were holding their annual convention in Syracuse; and whereas the attempt was defeated by the mighty uprising of 2,500 brave men, before whom the half-dozen kidnappers were ‘as tow’, therefore,

“Resolved, That we rejoice that the City of Syracuse- the anti-slavery city of Syracuse- the city of anti-slavery conventions, our beloved and glorious city of Syracuse- still remains undisgraced by the fulfillment of the satanic prediction of the satanic Daniel Webster.”

STUCK ON STUPID

Iranian News Agency Prints Fake Onion Story On Ahmadinejad/Obama Poll As Breaking News



The Onion



Iranian FARS news agency

Sep 28, 2012 By Ron Recinto, The Sideshow

Iran's leading news agency published a mock poll that claimed rural whites in the U.S. favored Iranian leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad over president Barack Obama.

The mock poll was originally published on a popular U.S. media site, The Onion.

The FARS news agency—which touts itself as Iran's leading independent news agency while others note its ties to government—published much of the made-up poll that first appeared in the U.S. parody website.

The Onion site quoted a fictitious Gallup Poll that noted "77 percent of rural Caucasian voters...would much rather go to a baseball game or have a beer with Ahmadinejad...than spend time with Obama."

FARS led its story with that statement and even quoted someone from the Onion piece, West Virginia resident Swiderski, saying of Ahmadinejad, "I like him better."

Oops.

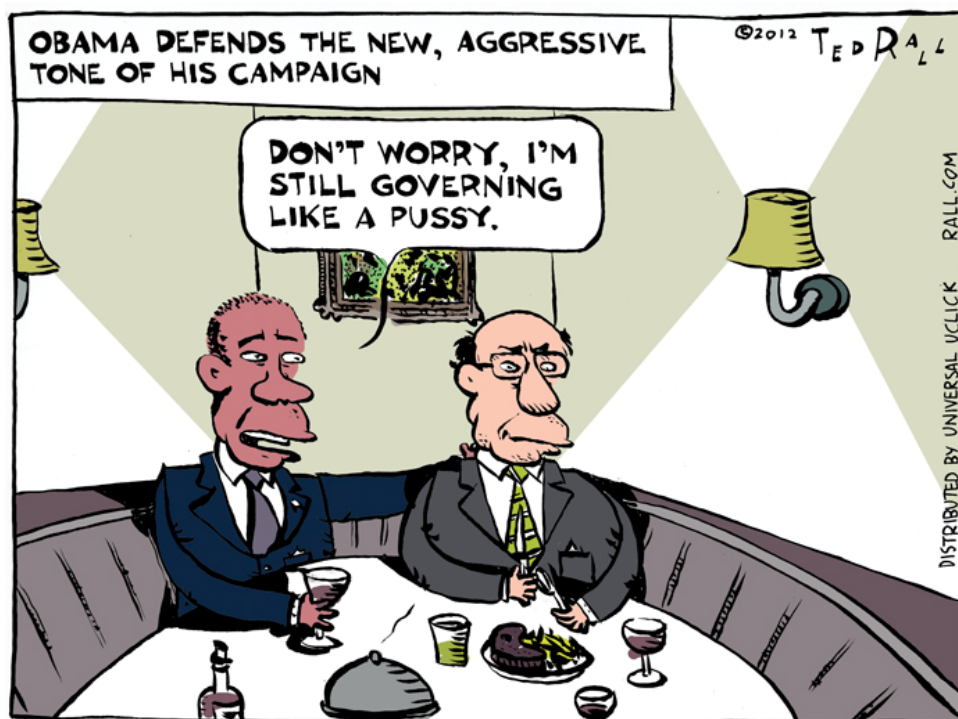
Word of duping the Iranian agencies made its way through media sites and was also picked up by media blogger Jim Romenesko.

The Onion had a little fun with it, too, it seems, adding to the end of the article, "For more on this story: Please visit our Iranian subsidiary organization, Fars."

The story was live on the FARS website early on Friday afternoon but was no longer available by 1:30 p.m. ET.

The link to FARS goes to an earlier screen grab of the story that had been on the FARS website.

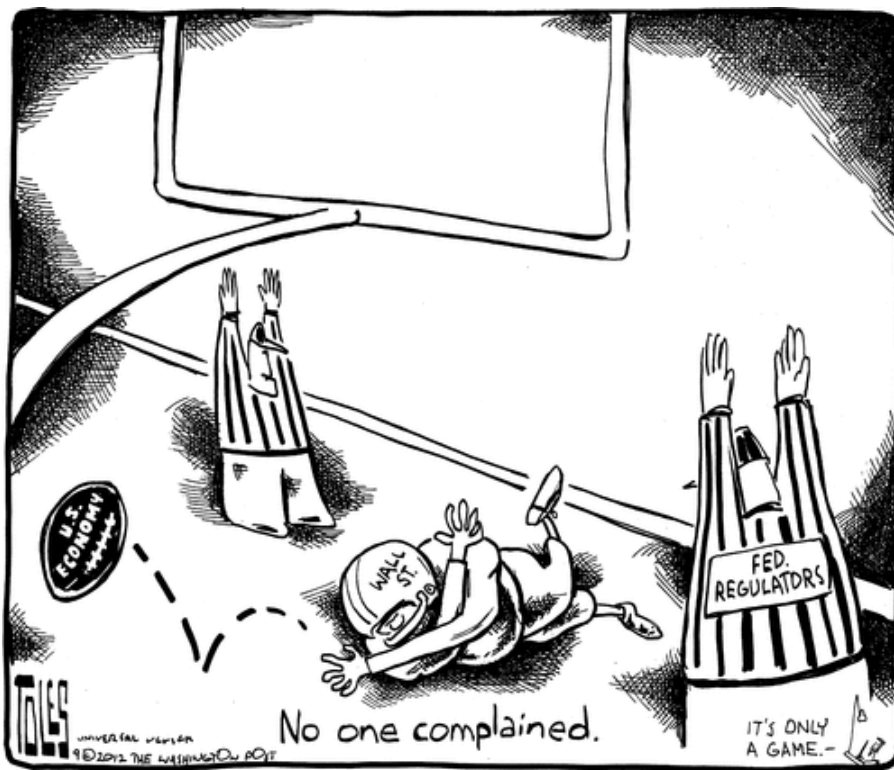
DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Troops Invited:

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CLASS WAR REPORTS



**In Idlib, Free Syria
“Many, Like Um Ali, Don’t Want
International Intervention: ‘It Will Be Like
Iraq’”**

28 September 2012 By Sarah Birke, LRB Ltd

One evening on a recent trip to rural Idlib, in north-western Syria, where the opposition controls many of the villages, I sat up with Um Ali, a 32-year-old woman with four children.

Her husband, a fighter in the local rebel group, comes home only to change his clothes; in his place on the bed there was a large gun with a string of bullets.

As the heat of the day faded and the children dozed off, Um Ali's sister-in-law, Um Faisal, and Zeinab, another relative, came over. Zeinab was distressed. She had just fled Aleppo after her house was shelled, and could no longer get the medicine she needs because the pharmaceutical factories have closed.

'Isn't 40 years enough?' she said (Hafez al-Assad came to power in 1971). 'Every four years, we want to have an election like you. There is no need to ruin the country like this.'

The regime cut the electricity for a whole week last month. It was hot and all the food in the fridge went bad.

Prices are rising. Zeinab asked for sugar for her coffee; Um Ali pretended to be shocked. Everyone laughed. Sugar, once a staple in Syria, is now an expensive luxury.

The women don't know what they will do for fuel this winter. 'My daughter burned clothes to heat the family last year,' Um Faisal said. 'This winter we'll die from the cold.'

There are more premature births than there used to be, according to Um Ali. They mentioned a friend who gave birth at seven months, another at eight months.

Women have been involved in Syria's uprising since the start, but as protesting got more dangerous, a lot of the men told them to stay at home. They continued to smuggle medicine around the country, and the women in Idlib cook, visit as many bakeries as possible to find enough bread for the fighters – in Um Ali's village they once took it to the army soldiers too after they promised not to shell them – and tend to the injured. But they don't take part in decision-making, at least here. 'No one asks us anything,' one woman told me.

Perhaps unexpectedly, many women are more vehement than the fighters about the need to go to war; many, like Um Ali, don't want international intervention: 'It will be like Iraq.'

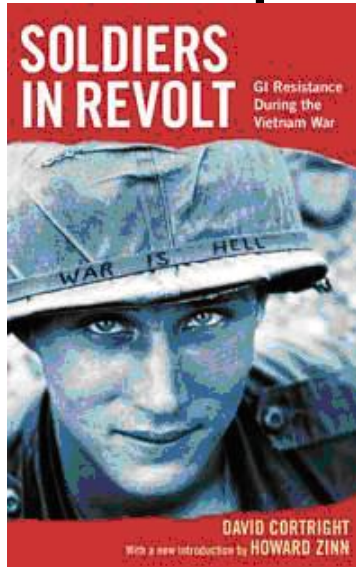
The next day I watched Um Ali lead her children in prayer on the straw mat in her house; the youngest, three-year-old Hamoudi, banged his head on the floor as he tried to imitate his mother's and siblings' prostrations.

The women worry most about the children, Um Ali said.

'Is there shelling in your country too?' her daughter Houla asked me.

The mother of one of her friends was killed by a rocket that landed on her veranda. 'It was bad because she said to my friend, if you are good, we will eat kebab today,' Houla said. 'And then she died, so they didn't get kebab.'

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