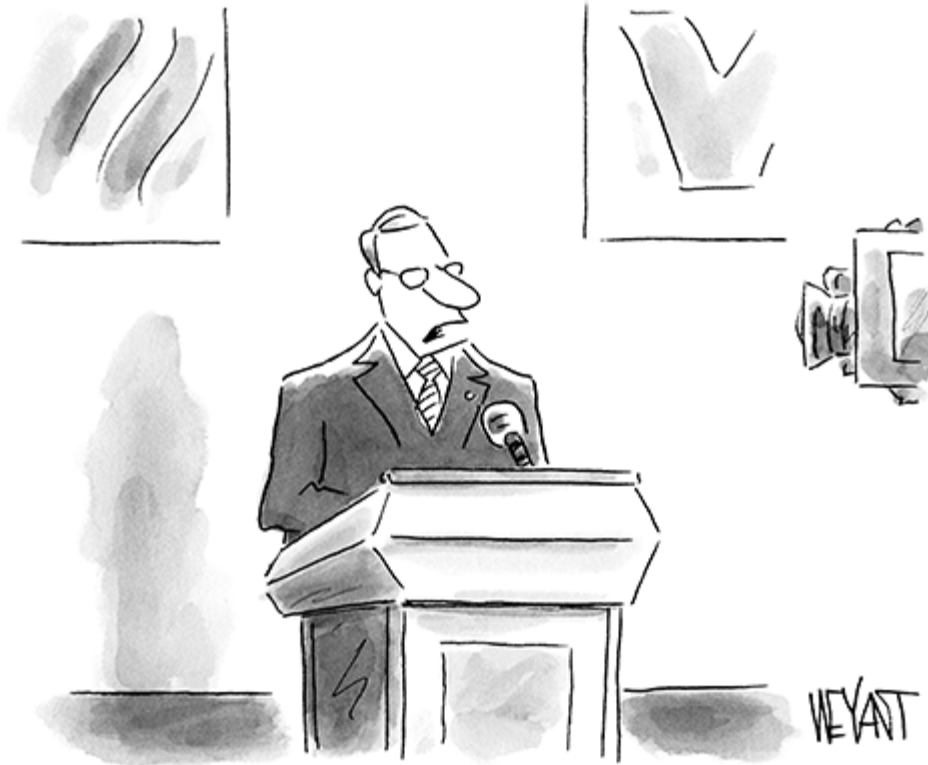


Military Resistance 1014



"I regret that my poor choice of words caused some people to understand what I was saying."

Labor's Day

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: September 03, 2012
Subject: Labor's Day

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

Labor's Day

Danny wakes up this morning

crawls out of bed
drinks a couple cups of coffee
takes some pain pills
to ease his aching head
brushes his teeth, shaves,
combs his hair
puts on his work shirt
ties his steel toed shoes
and it looks like he will show
those others who have
the blue collar blues.
Danny was hired by Fisher
Body when he came back
from Vietnam after being
drafted the only scars that
could be seen were on his
neck & arm, the others hid by
his clothing, but Danny learned
from being on the front lines
in the jungle and rice patties
that he didn't want to be on
one of the huge
oily grey stamping presses
a door here, a quarter panel
there, row after row and it
didn't stop often. The other
choice was Metal Assembly
where doors and their inners
were welded together, sparks
flying all over, one could hit
your shoe and into your sock
and burn you, then there was
the odor, another front line
that Danny didn't want to be in
The bosses would get mad when
Danny broke some punches
on purpose in the press room
shutting down the line for
a long time so they were happy
when Danny went to Metal Fab
but the bosses there too
didn't like it when Danny put
the part in wrong and shut
down the welders
Unafraid of the Fascists,
Danny screams back at the
bosses calling them
every swear word he knew,
it was just like the Army,
and he threw out
that yes sir a long time ago.

He finally put in for janitor
and he wasn't on
the front lines anymore.

But word went out from higher up
Not to hire anymore Vietnam
combat vets
because they were
uncontrollable

Shock Poetry by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Marine From Herndon Killed In Afghanistan



Gunnery Sgt. Ryan Jeschke was killed with two other comrades in special operations by Afghan forces. Credits: wusa9.com

August 19, 2012 By: Linda Poulson; WUSA9

Gunnery Sgt. Ryan Jeschke, 31, originally from the Herndon community but living in California, was killed by Afghan forces along with two other American Marines. Jeschke was assigned to the 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion under the U.S. Marine Corps Special Operations Command at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

According to a report written by Gregg MacDonald of FairfaxTimes.com, Jeschke served as a 12-year veteran and joined the Marine Corps in May 2000 as a Basic

Reconnaissance Marine. Jeschke participated in combat operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The two other Marines killed with Jeschke were Matthew P. Manoukian, 29, of Los Altos Hills, Calif., and Staff Sgt. Sky R. Mote, 27, of El Dorado, Calif.

Department of Defense spokesman Major Jefferey A. Landis confirmed Tuesday that Jeschke died on Friday Aug. 10. The killings are under investigation.

MacDonald further reported that "the slayings have been widely reported as potentially being "green-on-blue" killings, a phrase used by the military to describe Afghan forces in green uniforms attacking NATO coalition forces in blue uniforms.

Thirty coalition troops have been killed in such incidents —accounting for more than 10 percent of coalition deaths in 2012, according to Stars and Stripes."

Jeschke was also an airborne parachutist and combatant diver, as well as a first-degree Black Belt in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. He and his wife Sheila resided in California.

The Sierra Sun Times reported that on Aug. 17 California Governor Jerry Brown and his wife, First Lady Anne Gust Brown, honored Ryan Jeschke due to giving his life in service to the state and nation. The governor ordered flags to be flown at half-staff over the State Capitol on that day. Brown also sent a letter of condolence to the Jeschke family.

There is a Guest Book that can be signed online under the title "GUNNERY SGT. RYAN JESCHKE" and states: This Guest Book will remain online permanently. Google Ryan Jeschke's name and scroll to the guest book topic.

More on the killings of the three men from ABC entitled "Troops lured to death with dinner invitation" can be read below.

POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

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

Bomber Destroys US Consulate Vehicle In Peshawar: At Least Two U.S. Officials Wounded

September 03, 2012 AP

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — A bomber rammed a car filled with explosives into a U.S. government vehicle in northwestern Pakistan on Monday, killing two Pakistanis and wounding 19 others including two Americans, officials said.

The bomber struck the armored vehicle after it left the U.S. Consulate in Peshawar and as it was traveling through an area of the city that hosts various international organizations, including the United Nations, said police officer Pervez Khan, who was part of the security escort for the vehicle as it moved.

[Peshawar is part of Afghanistan hacked off by the British Empire over 100 years ago and attached to their colonial possessions in India. T]

Two Americans and two Pakistanis working at the U.S. Consulate in Peshawar were among the wounded

The car driven by the bomber contained 110 kilograms (240 pounds) of explosives, Pakistani police officer Abdul Haq said.

The blast ripped apart the SUV carrying the U.S. Consulate employees and triggered a raging fire. Rescue workers and local residents rushed to put out the fire and pull away the dead and wounded.

All that was left of the SUV in the end was a carcass of blackened, twisted metal.

The driver of the vehicle that was attacked, Atif Nawaz, said the force of the blast knocked him out.

"When I came to my senses, I jumped out of my car and screamed, 'What happened?'" said Nawaz, whose face and hands were badly burned.

"An American was also with me in my car at the time, and I don't know what happened to him."

Irfan Khan, a local resident, said he was at a nearby shop when the blast occurred. "I quickly looked back in panic to see smoke and dust erupt from the scene," he said. "I ran toward the scene along with others and saw two vehicles destroyed and the larger vehicle on fire."

One dead person was on the ground near the SUV, and a foreigner was injured, said Khan.

"We put the injured man and the dead body in a private vehicle," said Khan.

Another eyewitness, Wajid Ali, said he helped put another seriously wounded foreigner into the vehicle.

But another vehicle arrived, presumably from the U.S. Consulate, and took away the wounded foreigners, said Javed Khan, the police officer.

Some of the policemen escorting the U.S. vehicle were also wounded in the attack and their vehicle was damaged, he said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but suspicion will fall on Taliban militants.

American drones have fired scores of missiles at the militants' hideouts in Pakistan in recent years, and Washington has given the Pakistani military billions of dollars to fight the extremists.

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

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

**“Al Shabab Fighters Attacked On
Military Bases Manned By Somali
And Kenyan Forces”**

**“Al-Shabaab Has Said It Views The
Presence Of Kenyan Troops In Southern
Somalia As An Act Of War”**

September 2, 2012 Shabelle Media Network

After one day of relative calm, heavy fighting resumed in the Somalia's southern town of Afmadow, some 620 Km south of the capital, Mogadishu, reports said on Sunday.

Battles between African Union, Somali troops and insurgent fighters have reportedly forced local residents to flee their houses in a bid to survive the ongoing fighting.

The violence broke out soon after Al shabab fighters attacked the early-morning on Sunday on military bases manned by Somali and Kenyan forces in a village located on the outskirts of Afmadow town in Lower Jubba region.

Witnesses said military helicopters are taking part the combat which fired missiles into insurgent and civilian neighbourhoods during the fighting.

“You can hear very deafening sound of artillery, and also we can see helicopters firing in some areas close to the town,” Afmadow resident explained. “People are very scared, very worried.”

Somali authorities have called on Kenyan Defence Forces (KDF) to be vigilant over the attacks against Al shabab controlled towns and locations in south of the country, especially Lower and Middle Jubba regions, where civilian casualties reported following in the past attacks.

On Friday, last weekend, many have been killed, mostly combatants and wounded dozens of civilians by a militant offensive against Somali and Kenyan army near Afmadow.

Three out of the five Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) troops who went missing last Friday while battling Al-Shabaab militia in Somalia’s Miido town have been found.

KDF Spokesman Major Emmanuel Chirchir however did not give details about their health or where they were rescued from. “Three of the KDF troops missing found. Bravo Special Forces and for your bravery, hats off,” he said on his twitter account.

Chirchir had on Saturday said that five KDF soldiers were missing in action while three others who had sustained injuries had been flown to Dhobley to receive treatment.

Al-Shabaab has said it views the presence of Kenyan troops in southern Somalia as an act of war.

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 Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy.

-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt

Soldiers In Revolt: 1917
“‘Our Staff Printing Plant,’ Says The Soldier, Pereiko, ‘Performed A Great Service For The Revolution’”
“The Bourgeois Press, Although’ Supplied To The Front Free Of Cost In Millions Of Copies, Hardly Found A Reader”

Trotsky, Leon; The History of the Russian Revolution; Volume Two

How was it that with this weak apparatus and this negligible circulation of the party press, the ideas and slogans of Bolshevism were able to take possession of the people?

The explanation is very simple: those slogans which correspond to the keen demands of a class and an epoch create thousands of channels for themselves.

A red-hot revolutionary medium is a high conductor of ideas.

The Bolshevik papers were read aloud, were read all to pieces. The most important articles were learned by heart, recited, copied, and wherever possible reprinted.

“Our staff printing plant,” says the soldier, Pereiko, “performed a great service for the revolution.

“How many individual articles from Pravda were reprinted by us, and how many small brochures, very close and comprehensible to the soldiers! And all these were swiftly distributed along the front with the help of air mails, bicycles and motorcycles ...”

At the same time the bourgeois press, although’ supplied to the front free of cost in millions of copies, hardly found a reader.

The heavy bales remained unopened.

This boycott of the “patriotic” press at times assumed a demonstrative form.

Representatives of the 18th Siberian division passed a resolution asking the bourgeois parties to stop sending literature, inasmuch as it was “fruitlessly used to boil the hot water for tea.”

The Bolshevik press was very differently employed.

Hence the coefficient of its useful – or if you prefer, harmful – effectiveness was incomparably higher.

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.

**Closer Than You Think:
Top 15 Things Romney And Obama
Agree On;
“Their Areas Of Agreement Are Vast And
Troubling, And Perhaps Far More
Important Than The Rhetorical And**

Stylistic Differences Highlighted By Us Political Campaigns”

08/29/2012 by Managing Editor Bruce A. Dixon, Black Agenda Report

Republicans and Democrats, like Romney and Obama are of one mind on many more things than they disagree about.

From war and empire to their policies on Big Ag, Big Energy, “clean coal and safe nuclear power,” and the war on drugs their areas of agreement are vast and troubling, and perhaps far more important than the rhetorical and stylistic differences highlighted by US political campaigns.

Too much agreement between Republicans and Democrats has always been bad news for those at the bottom of America’s class and racial totem poles.

Back in 1875, Frederick Douglass observed that it took a war among the whites to free his people from slavery. What then, he wondered, would an era of peace among the whites bring us?

He already knew the answer. Louisiana had its Colfax Massacre two years earlier. A wave of thousands upon thousands of terroristic bombings, shootings, mutilations, murders and threats had driven African Americans from courthouses, city halls, legislatures, from their own farms, businesses and private properties and from the voting rolls across the South. They didn’t get the vote back for 80 years, and they never did get the land back.

But none of that mattered because on the broad and important questions of those days there was at last peace between white Republicans and white Democrats --- squabbles around the edges about who’d get elected, but wide agreement on the rules of the game.

Like Douglass, the shallow talking heads who cover the 2012 presidential campaign on corporate media have noticed out loud the remarkable absence of disagreement between Republican and Democratic candidates on many matters.

They usually mention what the establishment likes to call “foreign policy.”

But the list of things Republicans and Democrat presidential candidates agree on, from coddling Wall Street speculators, protecting mortgage fraudsters and corporate wrongdoers to preventing Medicare For All to so-called “foreign policy,” “free trade,” “the deficit” “clean coal and safe nuclear power” and “entitlement reform,” is clearly longer and more important than the few points of mostly race and style, upon which they disagree.

Although unemployment is the highest it's been since the Great Depression, the federal government should NOT enact any sort of WPA-style program to put millions of people back to work.

Under Democrat Franklin Roosevelt in the 1930s, Depression-era unemployment was tackled head on by direct federal hiring to dig subways, build roads, schools, parks, sewers, recreational facilities and public buildings. Oblivious of this history, Democrat Barack Obama maintains that only the private sector can or should create jobs.

14

Medicare, Medicaid and social security are "entitlements" that need to be cut to relieve what they call "the deficit."

Republicans have been on record for this since forever, though they claim not to want to mess with the Medicare people already over 65 are getting. One of the first acts of the Obama presidency was to appoint a bipartisan panel stacked with "deficit hawks" like Republican Allan Simpson and Democrat Erskine Bowles to recommend raising retirement ages and cutting back Medicaid, Medicare and social security, and pass a law directing Congress to have an up or down no-amendments vote on its recommendations. Fortunately the "cat food commission", as it was called, was deadlocked and offered none. But Obama and top Democrats, most recently House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi continue to express their readiness for some kind of "grand compromise" with Republicans on this issue.

13

Climate change treaties and negotiations that might lead to them should be avoided at all costs.

The differences between them are only style. Democrats admit that climate change exists and is man-made, Republicans say it's a myth. But both ignored the Kyoto protocol and Obama like Bush before him, has worked tirelessly to delay, derail and boycott any actual talks that might lead to constructive international climate change agreements.

12

NAFTA was such a great thing it really should be extended to Central and South America and the entire Pacific rim.

Again, there are differences in style. On the 2008 campaign trail, Obama sometimes mumbled about renegotiating parts of NAFTA, and such. But even before the primaries were done, press reports had him assuring the Canadian government this was only campaign rhetoric, raw meat for the rubes. In four years he has pushed NAFTA-like "free trade" corporate rights agreements with South Korea, most of Central America and is now secretly hammering out something called the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.

Banksters and Wall Street speculators deserve their bailouts and protection from criminal liability, but underwater and foreclosed homeowners deserve nothing.

Well, maybe not exactly nothing. Republicans think underwater homeowners deserve blame for forcing banksters to offer millions of fraudulent high-interest loans were then re-sold to investors around the world. Democrats think underwater homeowners deserve empty promises of help that never quite arrives for most of the foreclosed, the about-to-be foreclosed, their families and communities. But both agree on free money for banksters and speculators but no moratorium on foreclosures and no criminal investigations of mortgage and securities fraud.

Palestinians should be occupied, dispossessed and ignored.

Iran should be starved and threatened from all sides. Cuba should be embargoed, and Americans prohibited from going there to see what its people have done in a half century free of Yankee rule. Black and brown babies and their parents, relatives and neighbors should be bombed with drones in Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia and similar places. The politicians and corporate commentators have a misleading name for this. They call it "foreign policy." The realistic term for it is global empire.

Africa should be militarized, destabilized, plundered and where necessary, invaded by proxy armies like those of Rwanda, Ethiopia, Burundi or Kenya, or directly by Western air forces, as in Libya.

President George W. Bush announced the formation of AFRICOM, the US military command for the continent which has officially swallowed all US civilian diplomatic presence. But only a black US president, even under the cover of "humanitarian war" could have invaded an African nation and openly dispatched special forces to Central Africa.

US Presidents can kidnap citizens of their own or any nation on earth from anyplace on the planet for torture, indefinite imprisonment without trial or murder them and neighboring family and bystanders at will.

To be perfectly fair, there are distinctions between Republicans and Democrats here that don't amount to differences. Republicans Cheney and Bush got their lawyers to say these things were OK and did them. Democrat Obama got Congress to enact "laws" giving these acts a veneer of fake legality, something a Republican probably could not have done.

7

Oil and energy companies, and other mega-polluters must be freed to drill offshore almost everywhere, and permitted to poison land and watersheds with fracking to achieve “energy independence”.

The Republicans say “drill baby drill” but it seems only Democrats can chill out enough supposed “environmentalists” to make this happen. Obama campaigned on restricting offshore drilling four years ago, and reversed himself just before the BP oil disaster in the Gulf. The White House cooperated with BP in lying to the public about the extent of the disaster and has shielded BO from paying anything like the value of actual damages incurred to livelihoods, human lives and the environment.

6

The FCC should not and must not regulate telecoms to ensure that poor and rural communities have access to internet, or to guarantee network neutrality.

Republicans have always been in favor of digital redlining, against network neutrality. Barack Obama claimed on the campaign trail he’d take a back seat to nobody in guaranteeing network neutrality. But he appointed as FCC chair a man who helped write the infamous Telecommunications Act of 1995, which gave away the government-built internet backbone to a handful of immensely powerful telecoms like AT&T and Comcast, and flatly reversed himself on network neutrality. The Department of Justice was forced to stop the ATT-T-Mobile merger by a storm of public outrage, but approved the Comcast-NBC deal.

5

“Clean coal” and “safe nuclear energy”.

Again these are things Republicans have always pretended to believe. At the 2008 Democratic convention Democrat Barack Obama joined them, declaring he intended to be the president of “clean coal and safe nuclear energy.” Obama is building a wave of 33 nuclear plants across the country, the first two in mostly black and poor communities of Georgia and South Carolina where leaky existing nukes are causing cancer epidemics. The people know these things are myths. But Republican and Democratic candidates for office, all the way down to state and county officials seem not to.

4

Immigrants must be jailed and deported in record numbers.

To be really fair, one should note that on this issue Republicans talk a mean game about sending them all back and jailing tens or hundreds of thousands along the way. But only President Obama has walked the walk, deporting over a million immigrants in his term in

office, often with little or no due process and after housing many for months in atrocious privatized immigration prisons.

3

No Medicare For All.

Forget about it eliminating the Medicare age requirement so that all Americans would qualify. Republicans never wanted Medicare even for seniors, let alone everybody. Six or seven years ago Illinois State Senator Obama was telling audiences that if they elected Democrats to Congress, the Senate and the White House, they'd get single payer health care. But once in office he excluded Medicare for All from the proposals on the table, and enacted a national version of Massachusetts RomneyCare, requiring everybody to purchase private health insurance or be penalized.

2

No minimum wage increases for you, no right to form a union, no right to negotiate or strike if you already have a union, and no enforcement or reform of existing labor laws.

Again, Republicans have always opposed minimum wage laws. Obama promised to boost the minimum wage his first two years in office, while he still had majorities in the House and Senate. But he didn't do this, or pass legislation beefing up the right to organize unions, which has been eroded under Democrat and Republican administrations alike.

1

The 40 year war on drugs must continue, and even mention of the prison state is unthinkable.

There are 2.3 million people in US prisons and jails today, a per capita total that beats the world. Politicians of both parties wag their fingers in multiple directions. But as Michelle Alexander points out, if the US prison population were rolled back to say, only 1 million, the level it was about 1980, this would mean one million jobs, as contractors, sheriffs, cops, bailiffs, judges and functionaries of all kinds would have to go out and find real jobs.

The rabbit hole goes still deeper. We didn't have to stop at these fifteen points of Democrat-Republican agreement, but you get the idea.

Just as in Frederick Douglass's day, the more Democrats and Republicans agree, the worse it is for the rest of us.

There was a time when black America had its own principles, and formed the immovable leftmost rock of the American polity. But in the 21st century, that rock has been dissolved by a tide of corporate money.

With the rise of a cohort of black corporate Democrats and a right wing black Democrat in the White House there is no longer even any vaguely leftish influence on Democratic party politics.

The House Progressive Caucus is the biggest in Congress, with over seventy members, but is powerless and irrelevant.

Except for stylistic flourishes, the music they listen to and the color of some faces, the differences between Republicans and Democrats seem to exist mostly in political marketing campaigns and inside our own heads.

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.

DoD Announces New Inverted Multi-Purpose Ballistic Tomahawk Bayonet (IMBTB)



The IMBTB Mounted Under The M16A4

August 5, 2012 By armydave, The Duffle Blog.

About The Author: Armydave is a communications wizard of the 4th degree. Having served in Iraq twice, he is pretty good at staring blankly at hesco baskets and getting exhaust samples. Currently, Dave studies law and reports out of TDB's Pyongyang office.

Washington, D.C. - Department of Defense officials recently announced the limited deployment of the new Inverted Multi-Purpose Ballistic Tomahawk Bayonet, or IMBTB.

The new piece of tactical equipment is being assigned to a select number of 'specialty units' currently fighting the war on terror in Afghanistan.

"The IMBTB is a combination of military hardware in one sleek and deadly package. It was designed to fit nearly all of a soldier's combat needs while remaining somewhat unobtrusive and tactical," said Major General John Manning of Army Research, Development and Engineering Command.

The IMBTB has a sharp edge designed for quick chopping motions, a medium sized handle for effective manipulation, and a head which can be unscrewed for storage. Military officials have said that the IMBTB will initially be stocked with five matches, a small compass, maps, and two gallons of pressurized JP-8 fuel.

"This is cutting edge military technology," said Representative Buck McKeon, committee chair for House Armed Services Committee. "This is a classic example of looking to history to find new and adaptive solutions to modern military problems."

The IMBTB is not limited to melee, survival, or storage functions, according to Pentagon sources. It can be attached on the bottom of various standardized military weaponry. Once mounted on the bottom of a standard M16A4, the IMBTB allows a soldier or Marine to fire a 5.56 round 3110 feet per second at an effective range of about 550 meters.

“This is truly a cross-service technology. Following the general trend of mounting stuff under the barrel of M16s, we have attempted to create something truly versatile,” said General Manning.

“Our researchers felt we had reached the limits of physics and reason with under-the-barrel mounting technology. We had to look for less obvious attachment positions. This is the culmination of those efforts.”

The IMBTB is slated for widespread distribution later this year to all support personnel who never leave their designated Forward Operating Bases while deployed.

ANNIVERSARIES

September 4, 1970: Happy Anniversary: Operation Raw



September 03, 2006 By Carl Bunin, Peace History Sept 4-10

September 4, 1970

Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) began Operation RAW (Rapid American Withdrawal).

Over the following three days more than 200 veterans, assisted by the Philadelphia Guerilla Theater, staged a march from Morristown, New Jersey, to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, reenacting the invasion of small rural hamlets along the way.

MORE:

Operation Raw **From The Days When U.S. Soldiers Rebelled And Stopped A War**

[From GI Special 3D22: 11.22.05]

By Joe Urgo, GI antiwar activist in Vietnam 1968

Letters To The Editor

Revolutionary Worker, April 9, 1985

It was Labor Day weekend 1970 — the end of summer when tradition in America is for friends and family to gather in back yards, beaches, and parks.

It was 10:30 a.m. in Doylestown, Pennsylvania and a company of infantry swept into town, seized and occupied the center of the city, setting up roadblocks and taking civilian prisoners.

Anyone fleeing was killed, the rest were tortured and then killed just for being there. The younger women were particularly manhandled and abused before being killed. At 10:45 a.m., once again on alert, the company marched south of the town, leaving a trail of bloody bodies and survivors standing in their yards and streets, mute with shock, unbelieving eyes fastened on the departing soldiers. Leaflets lay in the streets which said:

“A U.S. INFANTRY COMPANY JUST CAME THROUGH HERE.”

“If you had been Vietnamese:

—We might have burned your house.

—We might have shot your dog.

—We might have shot you.

—We might have raped the women.

—We might have turned you over to your government for torture.

—We might have taken souvenirs from your property.

—We might have shot things up a bit.

—We might have done all these things to you and your whole town.

“If it doesn’t bother you that American soldiers do these things every day to the Vietnamese simply because they are ‘gooks,’ then picture yourself as one of the silent victims. Help us to end the war before they turn your son into a butcher. . . or a corpse. Signed Vietnam Veterans Against the War.”

With No Business As Usual Day fast approaching (and coming by coincidence right before the tenth anniversary of the U.S. defeat in Vietnam), I thought it was just the right time to recount this political action carried out by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

This was Operation RAW (Rapid American Withdrawal), a four-day simulated, 90-mile search-and-destroy mission through eleven rural towns and villages from Morristown, New Jersey to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

By the end of four days 125 veterans and a few active-duty GIs had formed four platoons and two recon squads to reenact thirteen “incidents” like described above.

It was “theater,” but these reenactments brought home a powerful political statement that shook up the stultifying atmosphere in the middle-America towns which had largely escaped the mass upsurges of the time.

Formed in 1968 to lobby, this was VVAW’s first breakout action to bring the war home. As Scott Moore, a member of its executive committee, said at a press conference: “The time for talk has come to an end for VVAW. We have been talking for three years to no avail. We are now proceeding on a course of action.” The discussion of planning leading up to it had asked the questions of how to break through the normal business as usual protests that had been going on, to shake things up and expose the truth.

“Montgomeryville, PA., September 6, 1500 hours: We liberated a shopping center. The platoon surrounded it front and back and we took seven prisoners from the crowd. We interrogated them, then beat the shit out of them. After they’d been executed, we carried one girl who looked like she was fourteen over to the side of the road and mauled her with the butts of our rifles. Blood streamed down her head and soaked her torso. Maybe 150 cars passed by. Everyone looked, then turned aside. They didn’t look again. No one stopped. They couldn’t stand to look at the bloody little kid” (excerpt from the Camden, NJ Courier Post reporting on the demonstration).

A local guerrilla theater company agreed to play the townspeople in the prearranged skits; towns and roads were mapped in advance so that as the company surrounded a home or a village — with walkie-talkies screaming and vets running all over the place, blood capsules bursting on library steps in front of meat stores — there was a sense of realism in the air as America’s safe hamlets were invaded. There could be no business as usual today.

Though their rifles were toy props, most of the vets were not acting.

In a few cases they had been doing this for real only a short time before, and in several “incidents” they went right to the edge of reality in carrying out their mission.

In town after town, and once by a county fair, homes were mock-burned, free fire zones formed, hostages taken for interrogation, and onlookers were given a taste of what the Vietnamese people were forced to live with.

None of the audience liked being called “round-eyed gooks,” offended by the sharp language of the leaflets being handed out. Reactions ranged from disbelief and shock to embarrassed laughter to damning U.S. involvement to some who thought the uniform was being disgraced.

Local communes and peace groups met the vets at different points with banners, signs, cars honking, fists out of windows. On September 5 this march met up with and camped with 60 members of the offshoot of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference called MAN, Making a Nation, who were themselves marching to the UN to protest American failure to sign the antigenocide bill.

The tempo picked up as the march neared the end and word spread of this “forced raid into America.” The vets themselves got strong in their determination to see it through. At night the campsites were not drunken beerfests but preparation of another type — political discussion over what was the next step, what should our objectives be, how to reach out to the millions of vets and GIs out there trying to figure this out also.

This was sharp as there was a wide range of opinion — some were just basically opposed to Americans dying, with much discussion about the nature of imperialism, while others were revolutionaries working for the defeat of America. (All this with rotating night patrols on the perimeter -- — the campsite owners had been threatened by a local citizens committee, a car had tried to run someone down and a shotgun had been pointed out the window of a home along the route of march.)

The two sharpest points agreed to were (1) a series of objectives that drew the links between the racism and sexism to what America did around the world and that VVAW work toward getting all American soldiers and CIA out of every country in the world, and (2) a specific call to prepare for a series of war crimes investigations — the famous “Winter Soldier” hearings — to “place the blame where it properly belongs, on administration and military officials and all those who dictate policy and remain silent or profit from war.”

As one vet summed up his feelings about the weekend: “the spirit that we would never again fight *for* America — America was the enemy that had to be stopped, that we were fighting as part of and for a different world — this became real on the march for me and became a guide for many vets later on.”

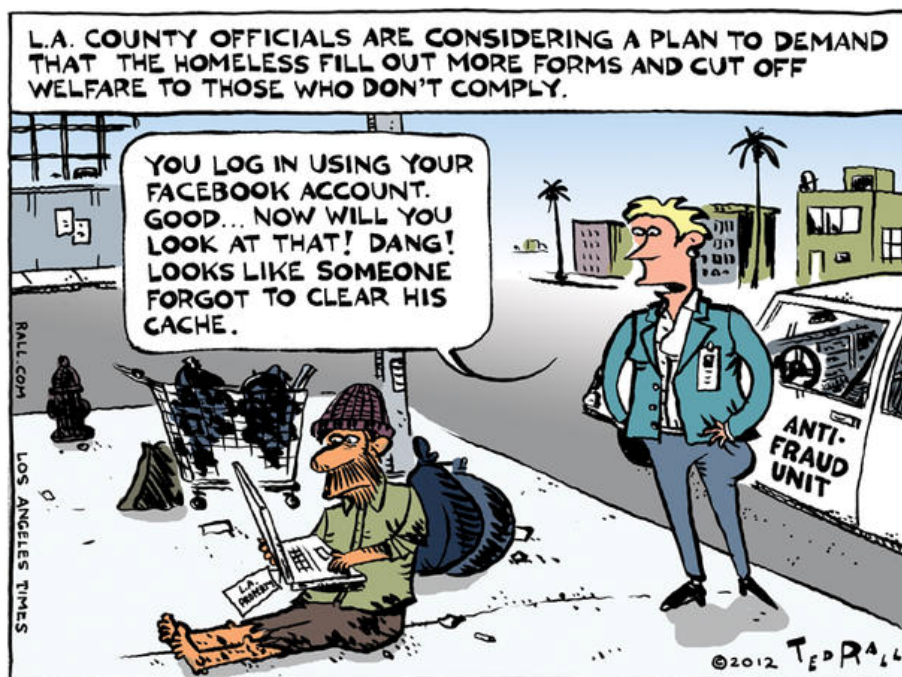
By the last day, spirits were high as the vets encountered a last bit of opposition — a pitiful display of what America has to offer — the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion, and John Birch Society denouncing the vets for not being vets and calling people to god and country.

The vets laughed at this as they reached Valley Forge, Pennsylvania where they formed up on a hilt, single file along the top, “rifles” up for a final assault. They moved down the hill as if back in Vietnam sweeping through a rice paddy — angrily chanting for American withdrawal.

For the crowd of 1,500-2,000 at the rally site below — now standing up and cheering — the scene had a chilling’ scary effect — a final sense of what it must have been like to be Vietnamese in Vietnam in 1970.

“Joe Urgo, GI antiwar activist in Vietnam 1968; former national officer of Vietnam Veterans Against the War; organizer for Winter Soldier Investigation and Dewey Canyon 3, 1971.”

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



“Self-Employed Vermont Farmer Who Rolled A 20,000 Pound Tractor Over Seven Police Cars In Early August,

Released August 30 After Four Weeks In Jail”

“Asked By A Fox 44 News Reporter If He Had Any Regrets, The Taciturn Pion Said, ‘No’”

03 September 12 By William Boardman, Reader Supported News

Roger Pion, the self-employed Vermont farmer who rolled a 20,000 pound tractor over seven police cars in early August, was released August 30 after four weeks in jail.

Asked by a Fox 44 news reporter if he had any regrets, the taciturn Pion said, "No."

Pion has become something of an internet folk hero since he used his father's tractor to crush five Orleans sheriff's cruisers, an unmarked car and a van.

News of his release on the Fox 44 Facebook page drew 75 "likes" within a day, and the Associated Press report of his leaving "the Northern State Correctional Facility on Thursday with a smile on his face" was picked up by The Washington Post and New Orleans Times-Picayune, among others.

Asked what he was going to do after his release, Pion said, "Go home." Asked if was okay in jail, he said, "Yeah, it was all right - for jail."

Pion's dramatic protest has received national and international news coverage, as well as worldwide support for his legal fund.

His bail was set at \$50,000, which he met soon after he was jailed, but authorities held him longer on an unrelated charge of disorderly conduct, leading at least one state senate candidate to suggest that he was a political prisoner.

Pion has pled not guilty to the 15 charges he faces for the cruiser-crushing event, which lasted only a few minutes while sheriff's department personnel sat obliviously in their office only a few feet away.

Seven of the charges against Pion are for property damage to each of the sheriff's cars, but his attorney David Sleight thinks that's over-charging.

Sleight's argument is that there was only one event and the charge should be the same regardless of the number of damaged cars.

As far as charging goes, Sleight argues, there was only one occurrence, a theory he says has a strong legal basis.

Sleigh is also working to get the most serious charge, aggravated assault, dropped. Pion didn't cause any personal injuries and, Sleigh says, had no intent to harm anyone.

During the cruiser crushing, Pion actually moved at least one private car out of harm's way.

While he is free, one of his conditions is that Pion may not drive any vehicle, including a tractor. He was released into the custody of his father. His next scheduled court date is October 2.

In a TV interview hours after his release, Pion spoke briefly of his mistreatment in jail. He said that people put "stuff in my food," that guards went through his cell whenever he left, and that he "spent the last of my time in the hole."

Pion is soft-spoken and terse in interviews. He says he doesn't think off himself as a hero, but there's a Facebook page called "Roger Pion, the magnificent" and his supporters in northern Vermont are planning a rally, picnic, music event for late September.

Pion's actions seem to have tapped into two strong underground currents in American culture.

One is the anti-authoritarian strain that resents police and other authorities and sees the crushed cruisers as a form of revenge.

As one poster expressed it on the Fox 44 Facebook page, "our cops ... harassed Roger, have done it to so many who do not deserve it ... it's why Roger did what he did. No one else would listen so he took matters into his own hands and guess what? He finally got people to realize how screwed our system is."

The other cultural current relates to Pion's arrest for marijuana, which many supporters see as police-state activity that should be resisted because, they argue, the drug war is a failure and marijuana should be legal.

As another Fox 44 poster said, "Get the police to stop stealing the vehicles of cannabis consumers, I bet the people will stop destroying the vehicles of police. Simple. End the war on freedom, end the war on cannabis."

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CLASS WAR REPORTS

South Africa Drops Murder Charges Against Striking Miners - For Now

03 September 12 BBC

South African prosecutors have provisionally dropped murder charges against 270 miners whose colleagues were shot dead by police.

The charges cannot be dismissed formally until the end of the inquiry, but prosecutors said all detained miners would be freed.

Local authorities used a controversial apartheid-era law to accuse the miners of provoking police to open fire.

Miners were demanding a huge pay rise and recognition of a new union.

The killings, at the Marikana mine, owned by Lonmin, shocked the nation.

State prosecutors charged 270 miners with murder under the "common purpose" doctrine.

The rule was used by the white-minority apartheid regime to crack down on its black opponents, and at the time was opposed by the now governing African National Congress.

Lawyers had asked President Jacob Zuma to reverse the decision. But he said in a statement earlier that he would not intervene in the case.

Acting national director of prosecutions Nomgcobo Jiba held a news conference on Sunday to announce the charges would be scrapped.

"Final charges will only be made once all investigations have been completed," she said.

"The murder charges against the current 270 suspects will be formally withdrawn provisionally in court."

She said those whose addresses have been verified by police would be released on Monday, and the rest would remain in custody until their next court appearance on Thursday.

The BBC's South Africa analyst Farouk Chothia says the decision has salvaged some of the government's credibility.

But he says the government will have to make sure that the miners co-operate with the judge-led commission of inquiry that was set up by Mr Zuma to investigate the 16 August shootings.

South African media reports suggest some of the mine workers have decided to hold their own inquiry into the killings, which would create more embarrassment for Mr Zuma, says our correspondent.

On Friday, Justice Minister Jeff Radebe said the charges had "induced a sense of shock, panic and confusion" in the public and demanded a report from state prosecutors to explain their rationale.

The protests were triggered by demands for a large pay rise and recognition of a new union.

MORE:

2012? Move Along; Nothing New Here



Panic spread quickly through the crowd

BBC

September 7, 1992 Troops Kill 24 At ANC Rally

At least 24 people have been killed and 150 injured when soldiers fired on an African National Congress demonstration on the border of Ciskei in South Africa.

The march was organised to demand an end to the Ciskeian military government of Brigadier Joshua Gqozo and the re-absorption of the so-called black homeland into South Africa.

The protest - led by ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa and attended by 50,000 people - began at a stadium in King William's Town, and then headed towards the Ciskeian capital of Bisho.

Brigadier Gqozo had warned he would meet force with even greater force, and his troops and police were on standby at the border.

When the demonstrators tried to cross into Ciskei, soldiers opened fire and continued firing indiscriminately into the crowd for about five minutes.

After two volleys of machine gun fire, the troops also fired rifle grenades into the gathering, spreading fear and panic among the protestors.

It has been reported that four young men were shot in the back as they attempted to run away from the firing.

A statement from Brigadier Gqozo said that his soldiers had been fired upon first and their action was in self-defence.

But a statement from the ANC denied the claims, saying the first shots were fired by the troops.

"At no time were the lives of the Ciskeian troops in danger... No warning was issued, and no attempts were made to disperse the crowd using non-lethal means," it said.

The South African foreign minister, Pik Botha, said that the ANC knew the march would end in violence.

"They knew people would be shot - they wanted people to be shot," he said in a TV interview.

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Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

Vietnam GI: Reprints Available



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