

Military Resistance 10J2

**Enemy Combatant Kills
Unarmed New York
National Guard Soldier**



Spc. Noel Polanco, 1156 Engineer Company Photo: Tito Cordero

**“At No Time Did They Identify
Themselves As Police Officers
Until Their Guns Were In Our
Face, And They Shot Him”**

**“Noel Didn’t Have A Chance To
Put His Hands Up”
“They Screamed, ‘Put Your Hands
Up!’ And Shot At The Same Time”
“She Described The Officers, One Of
Whom She Said Made An Obscene
Gesture At Them Before Pulling Them
Over, As Having ‘Road Rage’”**

[Thanks to Pham Binh & Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

October 5, 2012 By TAMER EL-GHOBASHY And ALISON FOX, Wall Street Journal & By Rocco Parascandola , Matthew Lysiak AND Corky Siemaszko / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS [Excerpts]

A New York police detective shot and killed an unarmed 22-year-old man early Thursday during a traffic stop on a Queens parkway that began with officers observing the man allegedly driving erratically, officials said.

While the circumstances of what led the 14-year veteran detective to fire his weapon remain murky, police officials said the episode began when officers from an elite unit observed a Honda Fit weaving in and out of traffic on Grand Central Parkway and twice cutting off vehicles the officers were traveling in.

Once the Honda was stopped, which required officers to surround it with their vehicles, the detective approached the car on the passenger side and fired a single shot into the car, fatally striking Noel Polanco in the abdomen, police said.

Mr. Polanco, who was driving two female passengers home from a nightclub, became the seventh person in two months to be fatally shot by police.

He was one of two who were unarmed.

“I just want to understand it,” said Cecilia Reyes, the 46-year-old mother of Mr. Polanco, who was an Army reservist. “My son never owned a gun. I just can’t believe they did this.”

According to the NYPD’s top spokesman, Paul Browne, the detective was among two teams of Emergency Services Unit officers traveling east on the parkway at about 5 a.m. in two unmarked police vehicles, a truck and a van.

A law-enforcement official identified him as Det. Hassan Hamdy, 39.

Det. Hamdy approached the Honda from the passenger side, while a sergeant approached from the driver's side, he said, with the officers ordering the occupants to keep their hands visible.

Mr. Browne said the detective reached the open passenger window and at some point fired a single round into the car.

He said it wasn't clear what, if anything, was said between the detective and the driver.

By law, NYPD investigators are not allowed to speak to officers who fire their weapons until the district attorney's office completes an investigation and determines whether to put the case before a grand jury.

While no weapon was found in the Honda, Mr. Browne said a yellow, 4-volt Ryobi power-drill was recovered from underneath the driver's seat.

One of the passengers, Diane Deferrari, 36, told investigators “Noel didn't have a chance to put his hands up.” “They screamed, ‘Put your hands up!’ and shot at the same time.”

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal, Ms. Deferrari said: “Nothing happened to provoke what (the police) did. Nothing.”

She described the officers, one of whom she said made an obscene gesture at them before pulling them over, as having “road rage” after Mr. Polanco cut them off.

“It was no accident,” she said. “At no time did they identify themselves as police officers until their guns were in our face, and they shot him.”

“The officer that shot him, shot him through my open window across into him,” she said. “Had I moved, I would have been dead. Noel's hands were on the steering wheel—he had no time to reach for anything. I looked at him, and all of the sudden there was a pop.”

She said officers then forced everyone out of the car, dragging Mr. Polanco on the ground.

She said that one officer then told her: “Your friend shot himself.”

In addition to his job at the club, Ice Lounge, Mr. Polanco worked as a porter at a Honda dealership in the Woodside neighborhood of Queens and was an automotive enthusiast.

He was also part of the New York Army National Guard, with the rank of specialist, and was assigned to the 1156 Engineer Company in Kingston, N.Y., according to a spokesman. Mr. Polanco joined in 2008, and his tour was scheduled to end in 2014.

Relatives and friends said Mr. Polanco was an astute worker and had a positive disposition, even though he had recently experienced a tragedy: he discovered the body of his father, who had committed suicide about three months ago.

“He was a really good, positive kid,” said a friend, Tito Cordero. “All he did was work and fix cars. He just loved cars. He was never a stressed out person.”

Ms. Reyes, his mother, said he was the third in a line of men she recently lost. Her father died about six months ago, followed by her husband’s suicide.

“This cannot be happening,” she said of her son’s death. “He had a great heart. He was not a bad kid.”

Brian Benstock, the general manager and vice president of the Honda dealership where Mr. Polanco worked, said he was attracted to Mr. Polanco’s military background when he hired him in July.

“He was a good young kid who served his country, and I have a lot of respect for people with that profile,” he said. “It’s a tragedy when a young guy like him loses his life.”

MORE:

**“Law-Enforcement Official With
The District Attorney’s Office
Said The Incident ‘Looks Like A
Mess’”**

**“The Official With The District
Attorney’s Office Noted That Mr.
Polanco Had No Criminal Record
And That Ms. Deferrari’s Account
“Seems Pretty Firm”**

**“The Guy Never Raised His Voice.
Always Took Everything In Stride,’
Said Radoslaw Mosiej, 33, A Fellow
Specialist”**

“That Was Instilled In Him In The Military: Respect Authority”

October 5, 2012 By TAMER EL-GHOBASHY, ALISON FOX and PERVAIZ SHALLWANI, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

As the circumstances surrounding Noel Polanco's death Thursday along the Grand Central Parkway came under scrutiny on Friday, a fuller portrait emerged of the 22-year-old National Guardsman who worked two jobs to help support his family and hoped to become a New York City police officer.

He was almost universally remembered by co-workers, teachers and fellow National Guardsman as driven and focused, an unlikely person to clash with law enforcement.

“The one thing I can say about him is he wanted to be something,” said Rene Mateus, 32 years old, one of the servicemen who consoled Mr. Polanco's mother Friday. “He loved life. He loved living.”

A law-enforcement official with the district attorney's office said they haven't interviewed the two passengers who were in Mr. Polanco's car or any of the police officers involved. But based on preliminary information, the official said the incident “looks like a mess.”

The official with the district attorney's office noted that Mr. Polanco had no criminal record and that Ms. Deferrari's account “seems pretty firm.”

The shooting also occurred against the backdrop of a sharp uptick in fatal police-involved shootings. According to New York Police Department data reviewed by The Wall Street Journal, 14 people have been killed by police bullets through Oct. 1, compared with eight during the same period last year. In all of 2011, nine people were shot and killed by police.

Since August, seven people have been fatally shot by police, two of whom were unarmed, including Mr. Polanco.

Mr. Polanco, a National Guardsman based in Kingston, N.Y., worked five days a week at a Honda dealership in Woodside, Queens, and two nights a week at the Ice Lounge in Astoria, where he specialized in hookah pipes.

On the morning of his death, he had volunteered to pick up Ms. Deferrari, a bartender at Ice Lounge, and drive her to her home in Corona because she had her license suspended. Both lived in the same building complex.

An off-duty NYPD officer—a friend of Ms. Deferrari who also lives in the complex—had fallen asleep in the back seat of his Honda before the shooting unfolded and didn't witness it.

Mr. Polanco had wanted to join the military from a very young age and serve a tour overseas before applying to become an NYPD officer.

“He was very proud of that,” said Pedro Cubero, an assistant principal at Hillcrest High School where Mr. Polanco graduated in 2007. “He always wanted to join the military, even when he was a student here.”

Mr. Cubero, who taught Mr. Polanco social studies, said he was a happy, outgoing student who was very friendly with teachers. Mr. Polanco would seek out their advice and counsel during lunch periods to talk about family issues, he said.

Mr. Polanco returned to the school several times after graduation to visit, usually in his military uniform, said Mr. Cubero, adding that teachers at the school were shocked on Friday by the news of his death.

Mr. Polanco has achieved the rank of specialist. He joined in 2008 and was scheduled to be discharged in 2014, a spokesman for the National Guard said.

“The guy never raised his voice. Always took everything in stride,” said Radoslaw Mosiej, 33, a fellow specialist. “That was instilled in him in the military: respect authority.”

Moez Abouelnaga, a 22-year-old co-owner of Ice Lounge, said Mr. Polanco was skilled at the intricate work of preparing water pipes and was hired at the club about 1½ year ago. He earned about \$200 a shift, two nights a week.

“He was good with the people. He was a people’s person,” he said. “He had great customer service.”

Mr. Polanco told Mr. Abouelnaga his primary goal at the lounge was to make money to help take care of his mother.

At Paragon Honda in Woodside, Mr. Polanco began work in July as a porter making sure newly sold cars were well detailed for customers.

“You had a guy who was working two jobs to support himself and his mother in an environment that has a lot of unemployment,” said Brian Benstock, the general manager of the dealership.

Mr. Benstock said he often finds entry-level employees buying cars from the dealership that are beyond their means, but said Mr. Polanco took the practical route. Eight days after he started, Mr. Polanco leased the Honda Fit Hybrid—“an entry-level car.”

“He was a young man, starting out his journey in life,” he said. “He was not over his head. He was doing fine. Everything was moving along just fine for him.”

Mr. Polanco had also recently suffered a tragedy, which he wasn’t very vocal about, Mr. Benstock said. His father had committed suicide several weeks ago after battling a long illness.

On Friday, Mr. Polanco’s mother, Cecilia Reyes, 46, bristled at the idea that her son aspired to be an officer and was killed by a police bullet.

She spoke bitterly about never receiving an explanation from police officials about the circumstances of her son's death.

"I haven't heard from any of them," Ms. Reyes said. "It's too much. They took my baby away."

MORE:

**The Murderer Hamdy Has Record
Of Losing Lawsuits Against Him
For Terrorizing Civilians:
"According To The Lawsuit, The Teen
Surrendered And Walked Out Of The
Garage Peacefully, But Was Thrown
To The Ground And Beaten By
Officers"
"A Police Dog Was Allowed To Bite Him
Repeatedly, The Complaint Said"**

Lichtmacher, who frequently represents plaintiffs in brutality cases against the NYPD, said he was unaware of Hamdy's specific role in the 2007 incident.

But he said it was unsurprising to see Hamdy involved in another event involving allegations of unjustified use of force.

"We see the same guys over and over," he said.

October 6, 2012 By John Rudolf & Anna Sanders, Huffington Post [Excerpts]

NEW YORK -- The NYPD detective who shot and killed an unarmed National Guardsman during a traffic stop early Thursday morning was named in two civil rights complaints that ended in significant payouts by the city, court records show.

Detective Hassan Hamdy, identified by police as the officer who fatally shot Noel Polanco, 22, was one of several officers named in a 2007 brutality lawsuit by a Queens grandmother and her grandson who said they were terrorized by police after being subjected to an illegal search of their home.

The suit was settled for \$235,000.

Fred Lichtmacher, the plaintiffs' attorney, said the NYPD moved swiftly to settle the case out of court. Under the terms of the settlement, the officers admitted no fault or liability for the incident.

"The city was very anxious to get rid of this," Lichtmacher told The Huffington Post. "I never got to see what the cops' records were like."

Attempts to reach Hamdy for comment were unsuccessful.

But the city also said that Hamdy was named in another civil rights complaint that the city settled for \$291,000 in 2001, and that details of that case were not immediately available.

According to police officials, Hamdy was one of two officers who approached Polanco's car after he was pulled over at around 5 a.m. Thursday for speeding and driving erratically near LaGuardia Airport. After Hamdy approached the driver's side, he fired his gun into the car, striking Polanco in the abdomen.

Polanco died about an hour later after being taken to a nearby hospital.

But Diane DeFerrari, a bartender sitting in the front passenger seat of Polanco's car, has contradicted the police account, telling news outlets that Polanco had his hands on the steering wheel at all times during the stop.

DeFerrari described the officers who made the traffic stop as aggressive, saying they screamed obscenities and extended the middle finger toward the car before Polanco pulled over.

She said Polanco had no time to reach under the seat before being shot.

"All you had to do was pull him over, ask for license and registration and take him to jail. There was no reason for this innocent kid to be killed," she told CBS News.

Court records do not indicate whether Hamdy was disciplined by the NYPD for his involvement in the 2007 brutality incident.

But according to Dorothy Garcia, 74, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, Hamdy was one of several officers who broke down her front door in pursuit of her grandson, who they mistakenly believed was involved in a violent crime.

Garcia identified Hamdy after being shown his photograph by reporters on Friday.

"They stormed up. They were screaming," Garcia said. She answered the door and the officers demanded to see her grandson, Tyrell Garcia, who was then 23.

When Ms. Garcia refused to let them in her house without a warrant, Hassan and the other officers began forcing their way into the house, she said. The officers broke down the door and chased after Tyrell, who hid in a neighbor's garage.

According to the lawsuit, the teen surrendered and walked out of the garage peacefully, but was thrown to the ground and beaten by officers. A police dog was allowed to bite him repeatedly, the complaint said.

Several minor criminal charges were filed against Garcia for fleeing the police, but were later dropped, said Lichtmacher, the attorney. Garcia was cleared of any involvement in the crime that prompted the initial search.

“They were extremely aggressive with very little information,” Lichtmacher said. “They had no warrant. It was a very strange incident.”

Lichtmacher, who frequently represents plaintiffs in brutality cases against the NYPD, said he was unaware of Hamdy’s specific role in the 2007 incident.

But he said it was unsurprising to see Hamdy involved in another event involving allegations of unjustified use of force.

“We see the same guys over and over,” he said.

A rally in protest of Noel Polanco’s shooting is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday morning at the headquarters of Al Sharpton’s National Action Network in Harlem.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

WNY Native Killed In Afghanistan



Sgt. Jonathan Gollnitz

Sep 28, 2012 WGRZ

FREDONIA, NY - A Western New York native has lost his life in Afghanistan.

2 On Your Side spoke to the aunt of Army Sgt. Jonathan Gollnitz. Kimberly Gollnitz said her nephew was on patrol with another soldier when they were attacked by a suicide bomber earlier this week. Both were killed.

Gollnitz was 28, and the father of a four-year-old son. He served five years in the Navy before joining the Army last year.

His aunt, Kimberly Gollnitz, who happens to have the same name as Sgt. Gollnitz' mother, said he was just injured in July and hospitalized with a leg injury.

She said her brother and his wife flew out to Dover, Delaware Thursday morning for the return of their son's remains. She expects a memorial service to be held at a date to be announced.

When asked what she would like people to know about her nephew, Gollnitz said it would be that he was a loving man who treasured time with his family and friends.

Fredonia school officials say they were notified of his death yesterday. A moment of silence was held for him this morning. The mayor of Fredonia, Stephen Keefe, said Jon attended Fredonia High School, but transferred to Levant Christian School in Falconer for his senior unit.

Cabot Native Dies In Afghanistan

9/21 By Hubert Tate, FOX16

LITTLE ROCK, AR -- A Cabot family says their loved one died while serving in Afghanistan this week. Family members of 24-year-old Jason Swindle were notified Thursday.

The 2006 Cabot High graduate went straight to the Army after high school, with his older brother Sam.

"He was proud, very proud of his job. I just wish I could tell him how proud I was," said Sam.

His twin brother John also went.

"He was never afraid. He was a better twin than I was. He was fearless. I really looked up to my brother," said John.

The Arkansas football team is what Jason loved a lot.

"He looked like a Razorback," said Sam.

Jason went through two tours of duty in Iraq and was on his third in Afghanistan when he died.

But now, his brothers say his life will live on through his wife Chelsey, their 1-year-old son Paxton, and their second son on the way.

The Department of Defense says Swindle died of injuries suffered when he encountered enemy, small arms fire.

Swindle was assigned to 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade
Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

MILITARY NEWS

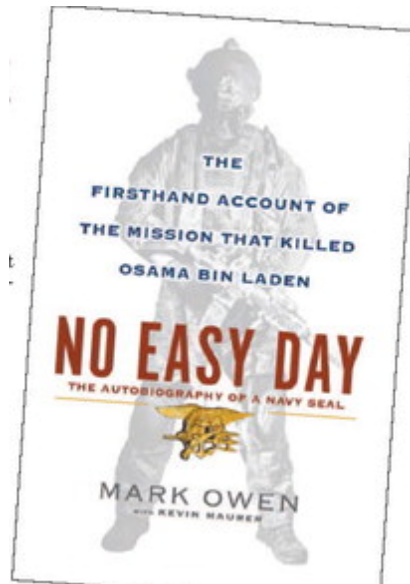
HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WAR?



September 27, 2012: Family and friends attend a visitation ceremony for Spc. Josh Nelson at Mt. Calvary Free Will Baptist Church on Wednesday afternoon. Spc. Nelson was killed in fighting on Sept. 16, 2012. (Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector)

**Another World Class Piece Of
Idiocy Brought To You By The
Usual Fools In Command
You Can Buy, Possess And Read
“No Easy Day”**

**DoD Orders You Not To Discuss
Classified Information In It With
Anybody, Ever, Orally Or In Writing;
DoD Refuses To Specify What Parts Are
Classified**



10.8.12 By Joshua Stewart, Army Times [Excerpts]

There has been much controversy surrounding “No Easy Day,” a former Navy SEAL’s first-person account of the Osama bin Laden raid. Defense Department officials say the book, written under a pseudonym by 14-year combat vet Matt Bissonnette, contains classified and sensitive unclassified information.

The author disputes the claim.

Making matters worse, DoD says Bissonnette violated nondisclosure agreements by failing to allow military officials to review his book before publication.

So what does this mean for you?

Can you still read the book?

Can you get in trouble for carrying it on post?

To answer those and other questions, DoD released a list of rules in a Sept. 20 memo providing “Official DoD guidance concerning the book, ‘No Easy Day.’ “What you need to know:

1. Yes, you can buy it. DoD says you are free to purchase and read the book.

Further, there are no rules when it comes to handling the book. The memo specifically states you don’t have to store or transport it as you would other classified information — for now. The memo says this could change if and when DoD identifies classified statements within the book.

2. Just be quiet about it. The biggest restriction is what you can say about the book to others.

Personnel “shall not discuss potentially classified and sensitive unclassified information with persons who do not have an official need to know and an appropriate security clearance,” states the memo, written by Timothy Davis, the DoD’s director of security.

3. And don’t speculate. The DoD hasn’t specified what parts of the book are classified. And it doesn’t want anyone else to do so, either.

People who have firsthand knowledge of classified parts of the book, or think they may know what portions are classified or sensitive information, should not discuss the matter outside official channels. Official channels include your chain of command, public affairs or security, according to the memo. The apparent strategy: Keep those who don’t know guessing.

4. Keep it offline. The memo specifically warns troops not to discuss classified and sensitive unclassified portions of the book on social networking websites, or on nonsecure government computer networks.

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

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

DoD Encourages Rapists To Hand Out DSTRESS Cards To Victims



Actors In a Mandatory Briefing Portray A Scene Involving the Public Affairs-approved term "Sexual Assault"

September 21, 2012 by G-Had, The Duffle Blog. About the author: G-Had hates your freedom

CAMP PENDLETON, CA – Legislators and women's rights advocates are already hailing a new Department of Defense (DOD) policy to combat sexual assault by encouraging rapists to hand out DSTRESS cards to their victims.

DSTRESS is a telephone counseling service and website that troubled service members can contact anonymously.

"For too long the victims of sexual crimes have had to wait hours, even days, before receiving treatment," said Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Bucher. "However, under our new policy, they will have the ability to seek treatment within seconds."

The policy is part of an aggressive campaign, called "Five Minutes Is Too Much", launched by the DOD following revelations that at least 3,000 men and women reported being sexually assaulted in 2011.

The goal is to increase the timely awareness of resources for sexual assault victims immediately following their assault.

For example, one new awareness picture shows a smiling female airmen with three other smiling male airmen standing around her. The caption reads: "Tonight, one or all of these three men will try to rape her. Make sure they have their DSTRESS cards handy!"

In a similar move, the Marine Corps will be turning the Silent Drill Team into the Screaming Drill Team to encourage the reporting of incidents.

Spokesman Bucher said the "Five Minutes Is Too Much" program came about after the DOD concluded there was no practical way to lower sexual assaults in the military.

After several months of brainstorming other possible solutions, such as sexually-segregating barracks, banning alcohol, restricting service members from going to bars, and chemical castration, all were rejected as either unfeasible or unconstitutional.

“One admiral actually suggested a policy used in the Middle East, where the victim is forced to marry the rapist,” added Bucher, although that idea was ultimately discarded “due to the financial constraints of that many people applying at once for Basic Allowance for Housing.”

Also, Bucher said, “we might run into a situation where a male rapes a male or a female rapes a female and all of a sudden we’re endorsing gay marriage.”

The DOD has been struggling to come up with a workable campaign against sexual assault ever since it’s last attempt, dubbed ‘Shine a Light’, in 2011.

That policy encouraged service members not to let intoxicated females go home alone, but inadvertently increased the number of assaults by giving perpetrators a workable set of techniques, tactics & procedures (TTPs).

According to Bucher, the Department initially thought about “just making a flashy video and forcing all our service members to watch it in mandatory training sessions then issuing guidance to our public affairs guys to replace the word ‘rape’ with the less graphic ‘sexual assault’.”

Instead, Bucher said, “we figured we should concentrate on a project that might actually have some impact.”

In a related policy to cut down on suicides, DSTRESS cards will soon be taped to all firearms, rope, and razor blades sold on every military base.

[Reader’s Comment]:

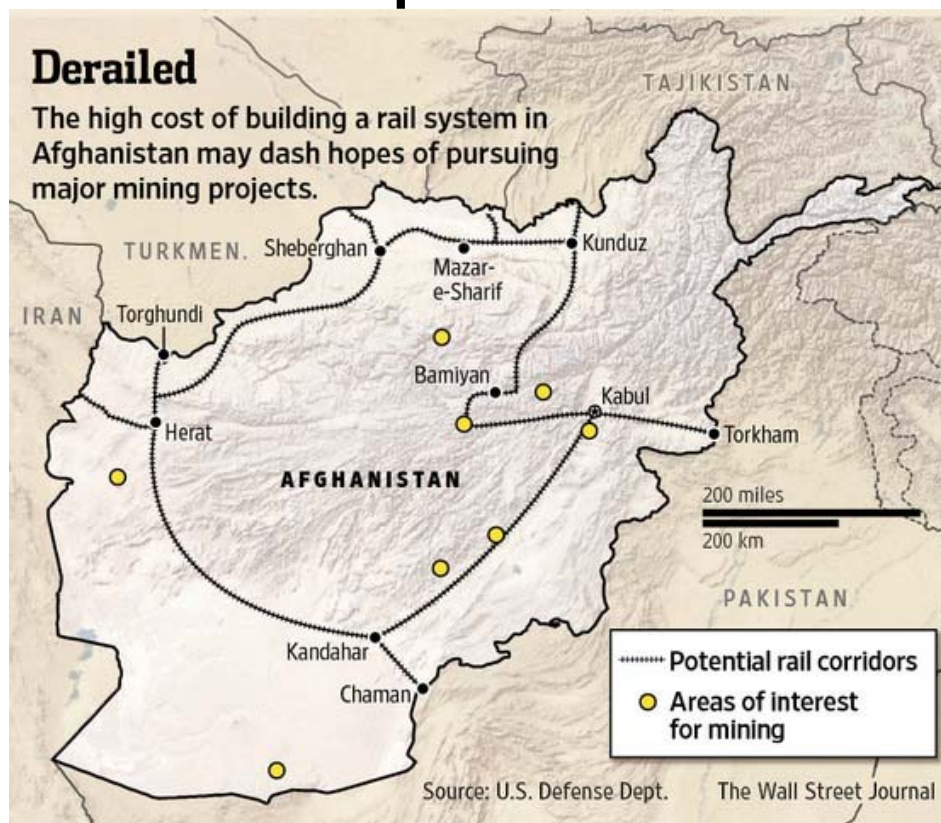
Sandra B; Victim Advocate at MCCS Counseling & Advocacy

I will soon be out of a job once this new policy gets around to everybody...LOL.....(Seriously -- This program is such a train wreck...)

STUCK ON STUPID

**Oops:
Theory Arguing U.S. Empire
Occupies Afghanistan For Vast**

Mineral Wealth Exposed As Stupid Bullshit: Building Rail System To Export Iron Ore Hopelessly Expensive Money- Losing Proposition: Without That Rail System, Most Other Mineral Deposits Worthless



Comment: T

The argument above, and the twin argument that the U.S. was occupying Afghanistan because of some mythical oil/gas pipeline to be built in the future, operated to support the occupation by pretending there was some real world economic justification for the invasion. Wrong. There was and is no justification at all: just Imperial stupidity serving no useful purpose, even for the Empire.

WASHINGTON—Afghanistan’s hopes of transforming its \$1 trillion in mineral deposits into an economic engine could be derailed by obstacles to the construction of a railway system needed to transport minerals out of the country, according to a draft report by the U.S. military.

Researchers working for the U.S. military have concluded that it could cost more than \$54 billion to build and run a railway network across Afghanistan, a price the report says could make some large-scale mining economically unviable in one of the world’s poorest countries.

The conclusions, found inside an 80-page draft report commissioned by the Department of Defense that was viewed by The Wall Street Journal raise major questions about Afghanistan’s ambitious plans to convert its valuable mineral deposits into a reliable economic base.

Getting iron ore out of the country would require construction of up to 3,000 miles of track through 16,000-foot mountain ranges that, in some places, would need a large number of bridges and tunnels, the report concluded.

Because of the daunting terrain between Bamiyan and Kabul, it would cost nearly \$7.5 billion to build one 600-mile section of rail, including double tracking in mountainous areas.

The report concluded that there appeared to be no good rail route to transport iron ore out of Bamiyan, the remote province at 9,000-feet that was home to towering Buddha statues destroyed by the Taliban in 2001.

“Neither the segments between Kunduz to Bamiyan or Bamiyan to Kabul showed grade profiles conducive to heavy-haul iron ore traffic,” the draft study says.

The best alternative, the researchers found, would be a 2,260-mile rail network linked to Pakistan that would cost more than \$45 billion by 2040. Even in that case, the study concluded, the project would cost \$10 billion more than it was worth.

If investors were to build the rail to Pakistan, Western officials said that the neighboring nation’s railroad system is so dysfunctional that linking Afghanistan’s mineral routes to Pakistan would be a gamble in itself.

“I don’t think it is very realistic to think about Pakistan as a railway route,” said one Western official in Afghanistan who works on mining issues.

“Pakistan is a mess.”

Afghanistan is also constrained by the fact that neighboring nations use three different types of track, which complicates its own ability to build a rail route that could link to the adjacent countries.

The Indian-Canadian project developers are expected to spend at least three years exploring the 1.8-million ton iron deposit before they decide if it is worthwhile to extract the minerals and transport them out of the country.

While the Afghan government has been pushing China to complete its study and build the rail line, there is a growing consensus among Western officials involved in mining that China is unlikely to build rail in Afghanistan because it isn't essential to move its copper out of the country.

Moreover, no rail line in Afghanistan will be worth building, the military report concluded, unless it would transport the iron ore.

"A general-purpose railway is never going to be economic in Afghanistan," said the Western official in Afghanistan.

"If the Afghan authorities are keen on that they are essentially saddling themselves with a liability."

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

The Tyrant Assad Slaughters 20 More Palestinian Refugees: "The Stench Of Decaying Bodies Fills The Streets" "Indications Of An Execution Style Killing"

10/6/2012 Ma'an

BETHLEHEM -- Twenty Palestinians were killed overnight Tuesday in a refugee camp in southern Syria, a Damascus-based Palestinian group said.

The coordinating committee of Yarmouk refugee camp told Ma'an that 20 Palestinians in Deraa camp were killed and dozens injured in heavy bombing by the Syrian army.

Sources in Deraa camp said that artillery shells and mortars targeted several streets near the area's mosque. It is nearly impossible to reach the injured, they added, saying that the stench of decaying bodies fills the streets.

Last week, the Yarmouk coordinating committee told Ma'an that four Palestinians were killed at a security checkpoint near the city of Aleppo.

Their bodies were found on the street and showed indications of an execution style killing, according to the group.

Two other Palestinians were shot dead in their Damascus homes, it said.

On Sept. 20, at least 18 Palestinians were killed and their bodies displayed publicly in Damascus, PLO officials in Yarmouk said.

Some 225,000 Palestinian refugees have been directly affected by the 18-month-old uprising against Assad.

In August, Palestinian official Muhammad Shtayyeh said around 400 Palestinians had been killed in the internal conflict, although that figure is estimated to have significantly increased in recent months.

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

**Department Of Homeland Security
"Produced Shoddy Intelligence
Reports That Did Little To Protect
The Country And Generated False
Leads"**

**Fusion Centers "Violated Department
Guidelines Meant To Protect
Americans' Civil Liberties Or Privacy
Act Protections"**

“A Draft Intelligence Report Was Written About A U.S. Citizen Appearing At A Muslim Organization To Give A Motivational Lecture On Parenting”

October 3, 2012 By DEVLIN BARRETT, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

A flagship Department of Homeland Security initiative produced shoddy intelligence reports that did little to protect the country and generated false leads that may have made it harder to catch terrorists, a congressional investigation found.

A scathing report issued Tuesday night by the Senate Permanent Committee on Investigations concluded that dozens of “fusion centers” funded by DHS have been rife with problems that the agency has been slow to acknowledge or correct.

The nation’s roughly 70 fusion centers were created after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. They are run by state and city officials and receive significant funding from DHS. The centers’ goal is to help local, state and federal security officials share information efficiently to detect and disrupt potential terror plots.

“Fusion centers often produced irrelevant, useless, or inappropriate intelligence reporting to DHS, and many produced no intelligence reporting whatsoever,” the Senate panel’s report said.

The Senate committee reviewed fusion-center reports dating from April 2009 through April 2010, and concluded that none uncovered a terror threat or disrupted a plot.

Multiple U.S. homeland security and counterterrorism officials have said in interviews that the fusion-center system—which intersects with the older, joint terrorist task force program created by the Federal Bureau of Investigation—has occasionally resulted in turf tensions between the FBI and the DHS.

One of the committee’s criticisms is that DHS doesn’t know precisely how much it has spent on the centers.

The department told investigators that the figure was between \$289 million and \$1.4 billion.

DHS officials said the department’s grant process is designed to be flexible so local authorities can decide how best to improve their capabilities. DHS officials said the agency doesn’t specifically track how much grant money is spent on the centers, which are run by state and local authorities.

The committee cited a number of expenditures in the fusion-center program that investigators deemed questionable. Among them were a sport-utility vehicle that later was given to a local fire department and unusable surveillance equipment at another center.

During the 2009-2010 period studied by investigators, the centers' intelligence reports were substandard, the panel said.

Nearly a third of all those reports — 188 out of 610 — never were shared with other agencies, “often because they lacked any useful information, or potentially violated department guidelines meant to protect Americans’ civil liberties or Privacy Act protections,” the report said.

In one instance, a draft intelligence report was written about a U.S. citizen appearing at a Muslim organization to give a motivational lecture on parenting.

Another intelligence report provided a list of reading suggestions by a Muslim community group. Both reports were shelved after other analysts raised objections.

The committee also found significant shortcomings in a database used by DHS analysts, called Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment, or Tide. People who worked at DHS on the program said the system had a great deal of information unrelated to suspected terrorists.

A footnote in the report said there was a Tide record for Ford Motor Co. A Ford spokesman didn't immediately return a call for comment.

In another instance cited in the report, a fusion- center analysis incorrectly asserted that a cyberattack from Russia had remotely controlled part of a public water system in Springfield, Ill.

The report sparked a flurry of investigations that quickly found that a water-system contractor had logged on to the network while on vacation and no attack had occurred.

TSA Agent Steals Cash From Passenger As Punishment

October 4, 2012 by Lisa Simeone, TSA News [Excerpts]

As we've noted several times, TSA agents often act out of petulance and pique. Because they have absolute power, they can abuse it. And they do.

The latest example of this is the guilty plea from TSA agent John W. Irwin. As Press TV reports, Irwin stole \$520 from a passenger because the passenger wasn't deferential enough to him.

A former TSA worker has pleaded guilty to stealing over \$500 in cash from a man who complained about the TSA's invasive pat down procedure, with the TSA agent admitting the theft was a punishment for the man's lack of obedience.

60-year-old John W. Irwin pleaded guilty to one count of grand larceny following an incident in November 2011, during which a man asked that he be given a pat down rather than face a body scanner due to a medical condition.

When TSA agents ordered the man undergo the pat down in a private room, he complained but agreed to do so. The man placed \$520 in cash in a gray plastic bin before accompanying the TSA agents to the private room. When he returned, the money was gone, with Irwin having hidden it in a TSA supervisor's drawer.

I've called the TSA's antics obedience training.

And have provided abundant examples of it.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

South African Currency Hits Lowest Point In Four Months As Workers' Resistance Movement Grows:

**Anglo American Platinum
Dismisses 12,000 Striking Miners:
"Strikes Spread From The Country's
Mines To Backbone Industries Of The
Continent's Largest Economy"
Long-Distance Truckers Strike And
Strike At Toyota Motor Corp. Factory
This Week "Have Stirred Worries That
Labor Turmoil Could Engulf South
Africa's Manufacturing Industry"**



Striking mine workers demonstrate outside the Anglo American mine in Rustenburg, South Africa 10.5.12. The company dismissed about 12,000 employees. Agence France-Presse/Getty Images

Under Pressure

Strength of the South African rand against the dollar, or how many U.S. dollars 10 rand buy



Source: WSJ Market Data Group

October 5, 2012 By PATRICK MCGROARTY And DEVON MAYLIE, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

JOHANNESBURG—The world's largest platinum producer dismissed 12,000 employees amid continuing labor strikes that jolted the South African currency to a four-month low against the dollar on Friday.

The rand has lost more than 5% of its value against the dollar over the past three weeks, dropping to 8.69 to the dollar on Friday—just shy of a low last seen on June 4 — and unhinging the rand from its reliable role as a barometer of global risk appetite.

The rand's fall comes as concerns mount over violent labor strikes that have spread from the country's mines to backbone industries of the continent's largest economy, leading some companies to suspend or dismiss thousands of workers.

The rand fell more than 4% from Monday, prompting some analysts to warn that the turmoil had untethered the currency from its emerging-market peers.

South Africa's economy has been hit by a wave of strikes that began two months ago at a platinum mine owned by Lonmin PLC. At least 45 people died in clashes between workers and police there, and the unrest sparked copycat strikes at other gold and platinum mines that have brought the industry to its knees.

On Friday, Anglo American Platinum Ltd. said it had dismissed approximately 12,000 employees at its Rustenburg mine after they failed to show up for a disciplinary hearing stemming from an illegal strike.

Earlier in the day, some 200 protesters blocked entrances to the company's mines northwest of Johannesburg, burning tires and throwing stones at passing vehicles.

Police said they found a dead body near a squatter camp by the mine where some of the protesters had gathered, the second body recovered near the camp this week.

Gold One International Ltd. earlier in the week said it suspended 1,400 workers, also on an illegal strike.

Long-distance truckers started their own strike last month, leaving many factories without raw materials or a way to get their products to market, and slowing down production of high-value goods like cars, a major source of export revenue.

That and a three-day strike at Toyota Motor Corp.'s factory in Durban this week have stirred worries that labor turmoil could engulf South Africa's manufacturing industry — another pillar of the economy for the exports it generates, the investment it attracts and the jobs it creates.

"We are worried about these strikes," Labor Minister Mildred Oliphant said Friday. "I think there are people who are stirring this up," she said, without elaborating. **[No shit? How about millions of South African workers fed up with being fucked over by**

their very own local capitalists and the scum politicians they hire to run the South African government? T]

The strikes have undermined efforts of South African officials to sell the country as an investment gateway to the fast-growing African continent.

As the strikes have intensified, South Africa has also been hit by a credit downgrade from Moody's Investors Service and disappointing purchases of its government bonds.

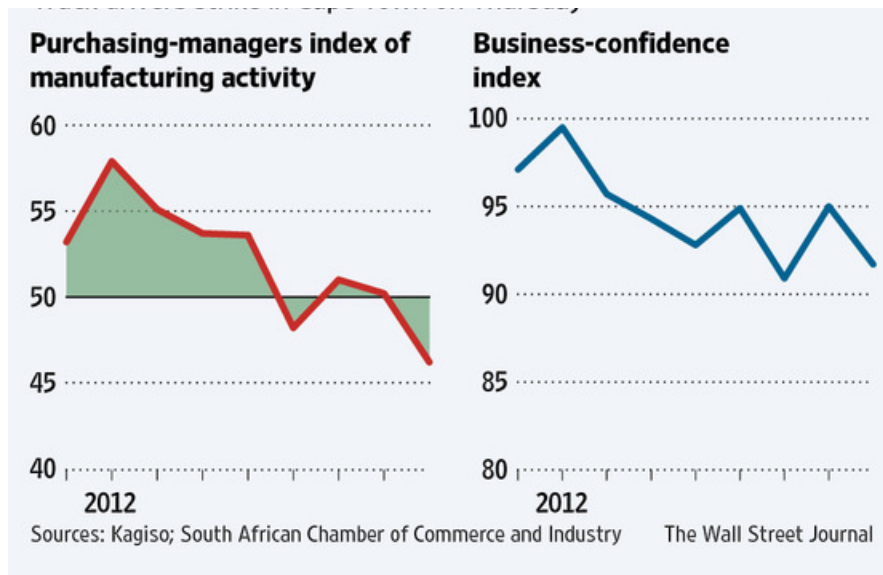
Moody's cut South Africa's debt rating a notch last week to Baa1 from A3, saying the nation's leaders were showing a "reduced capacity" to address the frustrations of striking miners and the unemployed — a quarter of South Africa's workforce is out of a job.

MORE:

“Illegal” Wildcat Strike Wins South African Auto Workers Big Pay Boost: “The Strike Marked The First Big Work Stoppage In South Africa’s Manufacturing Sector”



October 4, 2012: Truck drivers strike in Cape Town. Agence France-Presse/Getty Images



October 4, 2012 By DEVON MAYLIE and PATRICK MCGROARTY, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

JOHANNESBURG—Toyota Motor Corp. agreed to raise wages at its South African plant following a three-day illegal strike, a move that ends a costly disruption for the Japanese auto maker and signals that walkouts are paying off for workers in the continent’s largest economy.

The National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa, which represents auto workers, said Toyota agreed on Thursday to increase hourly wages by 5.7% at its plant in Durban, where the company makes cars, trucks and minibuses.

The strike wasn’t permitted under South African labor laws because the union hadn’t informed the company of its intention to strike, yet the union intervened to resolve the dispute.

Toyota said an agreement was reached to end the strike, but declined to comment on details of the deal. The company said employees would return to work on Friday, and that it had lost 2,428 vehicles worth of production, about 14% of its monthly average, during the wildcat strike, which started Monday.

The strike marked the first big work stoppage in South Africa’s manufacturing sector and came amid a continuing wave of unrest at the country’s mines.

The Toyota wage increase, following South African platinum miner Lonmin’s decision to raise wages last month to end a six-week illegal strike at its Marikana mine, suggested that workers are likely to continue hold out for better pay.

“What happened at Marikana has emboldened people,” said Chris Gilmour, an investment analyst with Absa Private Client Management. “People who aren’t earning a lot are being hit with higher fuel and food prices so they think they have

nothing to lose now.”

Strikes have continued at some of the country’s biggest platinum and gold mines, stemming in part from efforts by rival labor unions to retain members or win new ones.

Anglo American Platinum Ltd., the world’s biggest producer of the metal, said this week its Rustenburg mines remain shut while violence has escalated with protesters clashing with police.

South Africa’s labor minister has been involved in talks with mining companies and unions and other industries on strike, such as the trucking sector.

A spokesman for the labor department said the burden for resolving the unrest remained with the companies and the unions.

“Sometimes there’s not much the department can do,” a spokesman for Labor Minister Mildred Oliphant said.

South Africa’s factories represent a sensitive spot for the economy.

Manufacturing accounts for 15% of the country’s gross domestic product, and the government has been keen to show that big-name manufacturers can use the country as a base to expand into the rest of the continent. After emerging Asia, Africa is the fastest-growing region in the world and home to a new middle class.

Other car makers were watching closely for signs of labor unrest.

Auto factories, which account for 10% of South Africa’s manufacturing output, play a crucial part in helping the government achieve its goals of reducing unemployment—now hovering around 25%. Along with Toyota and General Motors Co., Ford Motor Co., BMW AG and Nissan Motor Co. produce cars in the country mostly for export.

But the current turmoil and rising costs remain a concern for companies.

“Any kind of industrial action is a concern,” says Denise van Huyssteen, a spokeswoman for General Motors in South Africa.

“It sends all the wrong messages.” [That, of course, depends on which side of the class war you’re fighting for. T]

Foxtec-Ikhwezi (Pty) Ltd., a small company that makes suspension struts for Daimler AG in the port city of East London, had already seen business fall 8% this year before a trucking strike cut off its access to most of the aluminum it needs to make parts for Mercedes plants in South Africa, Europe and China.

If the strike goes on, Foxtec will have to stop production next week, said executive director Pieter Bosch.

“The mining industry has set some very dangerous precedents for manufacturers and for the whole country in general,” Mr. Bosch said. [That, of course, depends on which side of the class war you’re fighting for. T]

“That could have unintended consequences for the balance of the economy.” [That, of course, depends on which side of the class war you’re fighting for. T]

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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

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