

Military Resistance 10K13



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

“Gen. Sinclair Has Engaged In A Deliberate, Degrading Course Of Conduct Where He Targets His Subordinates To Satisfy His Abhorrent Desires, Said Lt. Col. William Helixon”

“He Said He Would Kill My Family, And He Would Do It In A Way That Nobody Would Know It Was Him,’ She Said”

“Sinclair Ended Such Conversations By Exposing Himself And Physically Forcing Her To Perform Oral Sex”

BRIG. GEN. JEFFREY A. SINCLAIR AKA “MR. SEXY PANTS”



Brigadier General Jeffrey A. Sinclair, otherwise named in explicit emails to him from “Panda” as “Mr. Sexy Pants.” (U.S. Army)

First Lt. Michael Piccini, an aide to Sinclair, described the accuser as “not truthful” and characterized Sinclair a “great leader” and mentor whom he had never seen act inappropriately.

Helixon pounced, asking the young lieutenant if a “great leader” carried on a three-year extramarital affair with a direct subordinate or asked other female officers to provide him with nude photos of themselves.

“No,” Piccini agreed.

November 19, 2012 By Joe Gould, Army Times [Excerpts]

FORT BRAGG, N.C. —

On paper, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair was the perfect commander — a trained paratrooper in the Army for 27 years, a Ranger and the 82nd Air-borne Division’s deputy commanding general for support.

But Sinclair, 50 and married, was leading a secret life, prosecutors allege.

They say Sinclair engaged in inappropriate sexual behavior that began in 2007, involving four subordinates and a civilian, that took place in Iraq, Afghanistan and Germany, as well as Fort Bragg, N.C., and Fort Hood, Texas.

In emotional, often-tearful testimony at his Article 32 hearing here earlier this month, one female captain who worked for Sinclair described a three-year sexual relationship, saying he once threatened to kill her and her family if she told anyone about it.

The captain described her deeply conflicted feelings about the relationship with Sinclair, whom she admitted she still loved in spite of his allegedly abusive and demeaning treatment of her.

She testified that he was controlling; told her how much water to drink and when she could use the bathroom.

“In a fucked-up way, I still love him, and I don’t want him to be mad at me,” said the woman, whom Army Times is not identifying by name because she is an alleged sexual assault victim.

“In Addition, Two Former Subordinates Testified That Sinclair Asked Them For Nude Photos Of Themselves Via Email”

In addition, two former subordinates testified that Sinclair asked them for nude photos of themselves via email.

One sent photos of herself, after she received breast augmentation surgery, and an explicit video, and the other sent photos she found on a pornographic website and passed off as herself.

Both testified that they were never physically intimate with Sinclair, but that the relationships were deeply personal.

The women testified at the Fort Bragg hearing, which will help determine whether Sinclair will be court-martialed.

“Gen. Sinclair has engaged in a deliberate, degrading course of conduct where he targets his subordinates to satisfy his abhorrent desires,” said Lt. Col. William Helixon, the lead prosecutor.

Sinclair is charged with 26 specifications of violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Although the Army refuses to release the details of the charges against Sinclair, an Army statement said the charges include:

- Forcible sodomy.
- Wrongful sexual contact.
- Indecent acts with subordinates.
- Maintaining inappropriate relationship with female subordinates.

- Maltreatment of subordinates.
- Wrongful use of his government issued travel card.
- Obstruction of justice.

The hearing officer will collect the findings and recommend whether to proceed to the convening authority, who in this case is Lt. Gen. Daniel Allyn, commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps.

If the case proceeds and the charges remain in their current form, Sinclair could be discharged from the Army and sentenced to life in prison under the toughest punishment.

Because there are no minimum sentences in the military justice system, Sinclair could be convicted but not punished.

The main witness against Sinclair was a female captain under his command who detailed a relationship in which the two had cavorted in Iraq, Germany, near Fort Hood, and Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

They traded explicit text messages and had trysts in hotels, parking garages and their shared office space.

The female captain said she repeatedly tried to end the relationship and, while they were stationed in Afghanistan, she asked Sinclair to transfer her out of his command.

Sinclair, she said, told her at first that he had permission from his wife to sleep with other women. However, when the woman suggested she might meet Sinclair's wife one day, Sinclair grew angry.

Crying in court, the captain said Sinclair threatened to kill her and her family if she revealed their relationship to his wife.

She said she believed that because of his combat skills, "he would not hesitate to kill someone ... he had killed people in combat.

"He said he would kill my family, and he would do it in a way that nobody would know it was him," she said.

"She Testified Sinclair Ended Such Conversations By Exposing Himself And Physically Forcing Her To Perform Oral Sex"

In two instances, she testified Sinclair ended such conversations by exposing himself and physically forcing her to perform oral sex.

When a prosecutor asked if Sinclair should have been able to tell that she did not want to participate, the captain responded: "Yes, I was crying."

Sinclair's former commanding officer, Maj. Gen. James Huggins, testified that he launched the criminal investigation March 19, after the captain came to his office at the division's headquarters in Afghanistan late at night and in tears to say she had been involved in an affair with Sinclair.

Huggins was then the commander of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Huggins said the captain understood that adultery is a crime under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and making such a report could end her military career. After making her report, her security clearance was suspended, she was relieved of her duties and referred for a mental health assessment.

According to The Associated Press, she is under investigation for adultery and fraternization, but the status of that investigation is unclear. She said she was not granted immunity for her testimony against Sinclair.

She admitted to coming forward only after she uncovered emails between Sinclair and another female subordinate that suggested the other subordinate and Sinclair were intimate.

"I felt like I knew he didn't care about me, that I couldn't lie to myself anymore, that I couldn't do it anymore," she said.

She said she wants to take responsibility for her actions.

"I felt like a horrible person, and I still feel like a horrible person now," she said.

The woman testified she fell in love with Sinclair while working for him in Iraq in 2008-09, when he was a colonel and the commander of the 172nd Heavy Infantry Brigade Combat Team. The two began sleeping together.

She described herself as feeling "incredibly honored" by Sinclair's affections because she respected him deeply.

"I felt like a silly schoolgirl, really fascinated and extremely attracted to him," she said.

She described his behavior as at times warm, loving and nurturing to her career, and alternately cold, distant and demeaning — particularly if he did not get his way.

In Iraq, she cautioned him after she heard him using vulgar language to describe a female officer, and he replied, "I'm a general, I'll do what the fuck I want."

After they redeployed from Iraq to Germany, she confronted Sinclair, saying he was ignoring her and that it was hurting her at work. He told her, she said, that he had been angry she had left him and that he was in a loveless, sexless marriage.

She said this allowed her to hope with a clear conscience that he would divorce his wife.

However, he claimed at first that he could not leave his wife because it would damage his career, and later that it would be harmful to his children to end his marriage.

Eventually, he told her he planned to file the divorce papers during their Afghanistan deployment in 2011-12.

“Part of me (believed him). Part of me didn’t,” she said. “I wanted to believe he loved me and wanted to be with me.”

Meanwhile in Germany, the two met for sex at her home, and when that became inconvenient for Sinclair, in hotels and a parking garage.

“Sinclair Told Her He Would Not Permit Her To Leave Him, And That Because Of His Rank And Influence, He Could Ruin Her Career With A Phone Call’

When she went on a temporary assignment to Fort Huachuca, he concocted an official reason to have the Army pay for him to visit. But the visit went sour, she said, when she accused him of using her for sex — a frequent argument for them — and attempted to break up with him.

Sinclair told her he would not permit her to leave him, and that because of his rank and influence, he could ruin her career with a phone call.

“He told me I didn’t have a choice, that I belonged to him,” she said.

During their Nov. 6 cross-examination of the female captain, defense lawyers for the general worked to paint her as a jilted lover seeking revenge.

Defense attorney Ramsey suggested in her questioning that the woman was obsessed with Sinclair and determined to break up his marriage.

“You wanted to be the general’s wife, didn’t you?” Ramsey asked.

“Absolutely not, ma’am,” the woman responded.

Ramsey also confronted the captain with explicit text messages in which she referred to the general as “Mr. Sexy Pants.”

His pet name for her was Panda.

The captain also expressed her love and admiration for Sinclair in writing, comparing him in a birthday card to George Washington, a general he greatly admired.

In an effort to demonstrate that their sexual relationship was consensual, Ramsey repeatedly questioned the woman about her attraction and sexual desire for Sinclair, reading from the messages.

The woman reacted in humiliation and several times broke down crying. Just before the hearing officer called a recess, Helixon objected, saying, “She’s answered every conceivable question.” Under the questioning, the woman conceded that she had

enjoyed sex with Sinclair at one time, but that toward the end of their relationship, it became demeaning.

“At certain points in time, yes, it was very pleasing” she said.

“In The Midst Of Arguing, As She Was In Tears, Sinclair Pressed Her Head Toward His Exposed Crotch”

In particular, by the time they deployed together to Afghanistan in 2011, she said the sex had become abrupt and their relationship less affectionate.

Sinclair, she said, made a practice of brazenly groping her, and she wanted badly for it to stop.

He would walk into her office and expose himself so that she could furtively perform oral sex, she said.

She described how in one instance, in the midst of arguing, as she was in tears, Sinclair pressed her head toward his exposed crotch.

Ramsey had the captain show with her hands how Sinclair pressed down with one hand on her neck and the other on her shoulder, as the captain tried to pull back.

“I just remember being completely miserable at that point,” she said.

The woman said she reached her lowest point emotionally while on leave in January, and had a text message exchange with Sinclair threatening suicide and to inform Huggins.

Sinclair responded with texts alternately urging her to toughen up, demanding that she not threaten him and saying he would hit her if she talked about killing herself again.

The two eventually reached a sort of detente. She said he assured her he would behave respectfully and professionally toward her and she would continue to work for him.

She reported the relationship, she said, after finding the affectionate emails between Sinclair and the other subordinate. She said she decided she needed to get out.

“When I saw those ... all my worst fears came true, and I knew he didn’t love me,” she said.

She did not intend to see Sinclair charged with any crime or for him to go to prison. She said it was her Army attorney who told her she had described Sinclair committing a sex crime against her.

“To be clear, I didn’t want them to bring charges of sexual assault against him,” she said.

“One Of Them Testified She Emailed That At Sinclair’s Request, She Sent Him A Photo Of Herself Earlier This Year, Showing Off New Breast Augmentation Surgery”

The two female officers who testified that Sinclair asked them for nude photos each said separately that they met Sinclair professionally, and he became their friend and mentor, sharing a relationship marked by personal confidences, warmth and flirtation—mostly over email and the telephone.

Sinclair’s personal charisma and power as a senior officer played a role, as the women asked him at various points to provide direct intervention to help their careers.

Each said they have since been punished for their relationships with Sinclair, a married man, but that they had never been physically intimate with him.

One of them testified she emailed that at Sinclair’s request, she sent him a photo of herself earlier this year, showing off new breast augmentation surgery.

When she told him she planned to get the surgery, he emailed her saying, “Why are you modifying that little body that I love?” She said he later requested “before and after pictures.”

Later, she sent a video of herself in an unspecified “indecent act.” Each time, Sinclair never forced her, she said, and that she had been looking for affirmation. The two had often discussed difficulties in her love life.

Sinclair responded to the video in an email saying, “Nice. If I were single, I’d tear that (expletive) up.”

She met Sinclair while working for him as a company commander during their 2008 Iraq deployment, when he was a colonel and the commander of the 172nd Heavy Infantry Brigade Combat Team. The relationship then was strictly professional, but when she followed up in 2010 and the two established a personal friendship, Sinclair expressed a sexual interest in her.

“He pretty much put it out there that if I wanted to anything beyond the professional, it would happen,” she said.

In 2010, she questioned Sinclair about rumors he was having an affair, which he confirmed.

“I’m telling you this situation is not going to end in your favor,” she said she told him.

The other woman who sent him photos testified that over the course of a nine-year friendship with Sinclair, he at various points expressed a desire to sleep with her, but she rebuffed him. Their friendship was marked by professions of love from both sides and periodic quarrels, she said.

“I really cared about him as a friend,” she said. “He fulfilled an emotional need, and I thought he was a great person.”

In emails, he called her “my hot little girl.” In one email, she told him, “If you didn’t have kids, I’d try to take you away.”

The two met in 2003, when she was a soldier in the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. Sinclair, then a lieutenant colonel, approved her leave from Iraq so she could resolve an immigration matter.

The two established a friendship and met in person only three times.

Earlier this year, while he was in Afghanistan, he also asked her for nude photos of herself. She said the request made her uncomfortable and she instead copied an “obscene” photo of a woman from a pornographic web site, cropped out the woman’s head, and sent it to him.

“Because of who it was from, I thought it was OK,” she said of Sinclair’s request.

Sinclair responded with a lengthy email that closed, “OK, got to go enjoy these.”

Later, he wrote that he wanted more pictures.

She said she was embarrassed by her actions, but she said she did not want to lose Sinclair as a friend.

“I thought he was an amazing person and military officer. He was really amazing, and I didn’t want to lose that,” she said.

At the time, she was stationed in South Korea and she asked for Sinclair’s intervention to get her a transfer to the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade in Hawaii. She was ultimately transferred to Fort Lee, Va.

She said she was investigated for adultery and fraternization, and given a letter of reprimand — since placed on hold — and ordered to testify.

She is married and said her husband felt betrayed, and she felt she betrayed him.

“There’s probably no marriage now,” she said.

Under questioning, she agreed it was the government that showed the photos or emails to her husband.

A fourth woman testified about Sinclair’s behavior toward her. While not overtly sexual, she testified that in the course of his mentorship of her, they often exchanged text messages and emails.

Earlier this year, while Sinclair was at Fort Bragg, on leave from Afghanistan, the two made plans to have brunch together and discuss her career. She had to cancel because she had duty that day.

Sinclair sent her an email, frustrated about the cancellation. In the email, he said he had planned to take her to a horse farm, that he wanted to impress her and that he was “smitten by her.”

She testified she did not respond to the comment.

Ramsey, the defense lawyer, suggested in her closing argument that the general was guilty only of adultery and fraternization, punishable by a written reprimand. She said Sinclair had passed a polygraph test, during which he denied ever forcing the captain to have oral sex with him.

She said Sinclair had suffered for months through the unjust public humiliation of his family by media reports and that allowing the charges to go forward would cause “actual sexual assault victims to suffer.”

Without any witnesses to the alleged assault or physical evidence, it has been the primary mission of the three military lawyers assigned to defend Sinclair to destroy the female captain’s credibility. They characterized her as a “crazy” and manipulative “back-stabber” who blamed others for her mistakes.

As the hearing entered its fourth day Nov. 8, the defense called to the witness stand Chief Warrant Officer Jose Serbia. He was a co-worker and workout buddy of the female captain.

He said she first tearfully confided about the affair March 19, the day she found messages from another woman in the general’s military email account, which she checked as part of her job.

Serbia testified that the woman told him how Sinclair had threatened to kill her.

But when Serbia asked the captain if Sinclair had raped her, he said she replied that he had not. It wasn’t until she later made a formal complaint that she alleged Sinclair forced her to perform oral sex.

The defense also produced a series of male officers who praised Sinclair while describing the female captain as a liar and loose cannon.

Capt. Joseph D’Elia, who served as Sinclair’s executive officer in Afghanistan, described the accuser as “volatile” and her moods as erratic.

However, he later agreed with lead prosecutor Helixon that the secret affair with the general might explain her emotional swings.

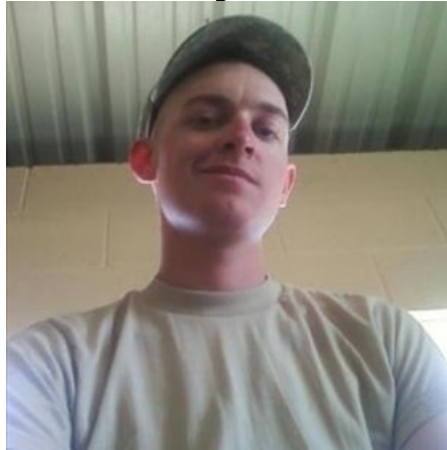
First Lt. Michael Piccini, an aide to Sinclair, described the accuser as “not truthful” and characterized Sinclair a “great leader” and mentor whom he had never seen act inappropriately.

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“No,” Piccini agreed.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Family Remembers Fallen Soldier Ryan Jayne



11/05 WETM 18

Corning, N.Y. - Our community is mourning the life of the Southern Tier soldier who was killed over the weekend in Afghanistan.

22-year-old Ryan Jayne, and three other soldiers from New York State, were killed by a roadside bomb.

Today, his parents remember him as someone who loved to laugh, A die hard dallas cowboys fan, and the eldest of seven kids.

His mother, Sherry Skeens, says, "Ryan loved to make people smile so we have to remember that and try to keep that up for him." She adds, "Right up to age 22 he was still a kid at heart."

His Step-Father, Kent Skeens says the army gave him a fresh start. "There he found his way. He was happy he was really, really happy. He was so proud of himself that he was able to serve his country and fight for what he believed was right," he says.

He adds, "He definitely saw the service as sort of the start to his future. He was very proud."

Ryan had big plans after his deployment. He and his 19-year-old brother, Adam, were going to get their college degrees together.

"They weren't just brothers they were best friends And i've said that my whole life. They had a bond that you don't see very often," his mother says.

Ryan served as a Combat Engineer and Driver in the army.

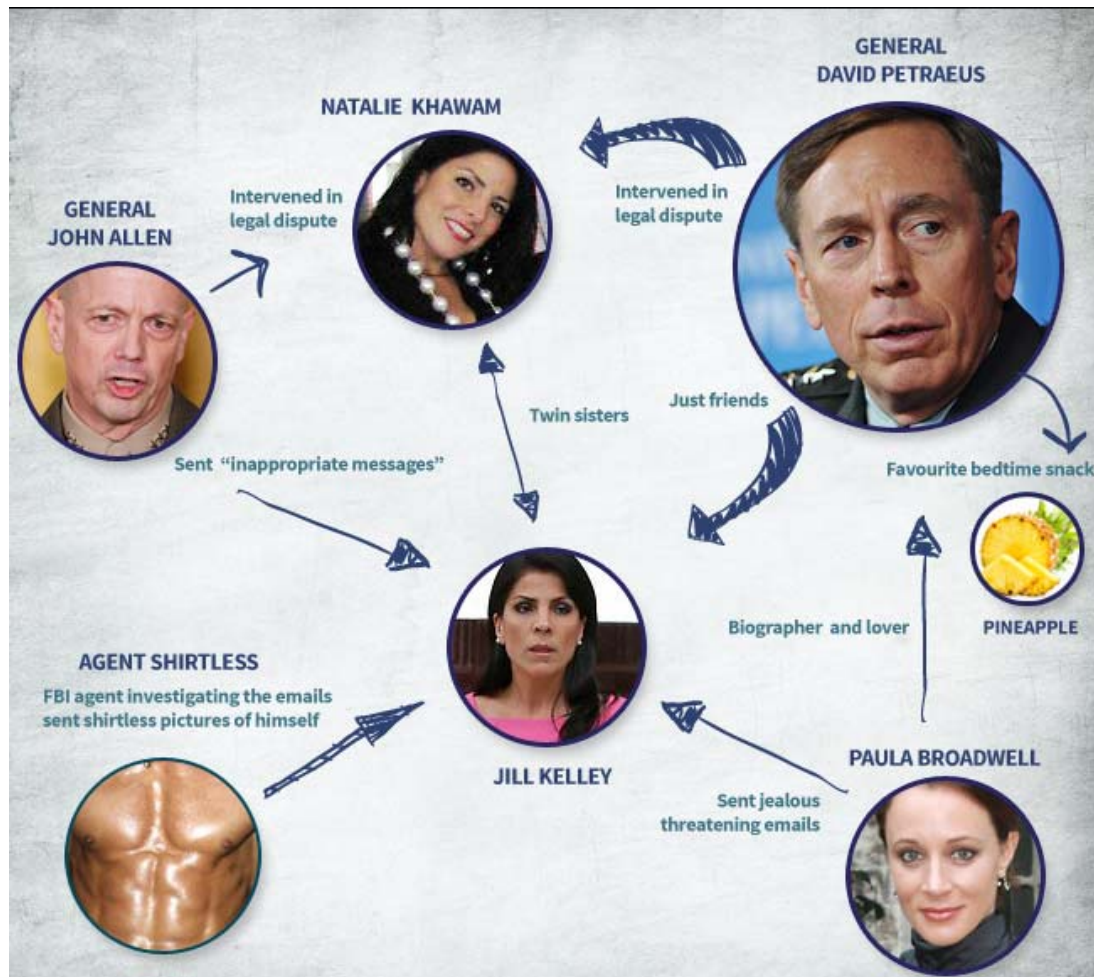
He was just home on a 14-day leave and left to go back to Afghanistan on October 22nd.

His Step-Father says, "The last text I got was, "Leaving Atlanta, I love you dad. See you later."

"We got the call and then the gentleman in uniform showed up here. Something you see in movies, but you don't expect it in your own life."

In Ryan's memory, they say they will continue to smile.

SPY GAMES



November 14, 2012 AAP

[Thanks to Felicity Arbuthnot, who sent this in. She writes: "To think I thought the Almighty had been asleep on the job for a while. It seems He might have been plotting."]

Infamous Last Words



September 16, 2008. (Reuters / Pool New)

"What policymakers believe to have taken place in any particular case is what matters — more than what actually occurred."

-- Petraeus' 1987 Princeton dissertation

[Reported by William Echols, RT, 14 November, 2012]

**“The U.S. Military On Wednesday Will
Release A Report On Widespread
Sexual Abuse Of Women Recruits At
Lackland Air Force Base In Texas”
“Training Manuals That Refer To Women
As ‘Bitch’ Or ‘Whore’”**

Nov 13 2012 By Jim Forsyth, Reuters [Excerpts]

SAN ANTONIO - Already reeling from an embarrassing sex scandal involving former Army General David Petraeus, the U.S. military on Wednesday will release a report on widespread sexual abuse of women recruits at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

The Air Force report is expected to provide details of systematic sexual abuse in the U.S. Air Force, a scandal that until last week was considered the worst in the military in more than a decade.

The report on Wednesday will detail problems at Lackland, where all U.S. Air Force basic training is conducted. Eleven basic training instructors have been charged with offenses ranging from inappropriate touching of female recruits to sexual assault.

Five instructors have been convicted or pleaded guilty at courts-martial and have been sentenced to terms ranging from 30 days to 20 years in prison. The others are in various stages of the military legal process.

The Air Force has said 48 women have come forward with what investigators consider credible stories of sexual misconduct.

The group provided Reuters a copy of an administrative complaint that it received from a lawyer for Air Force Technical Sergeant Jennifer Smith, which spelled out some details of alleged abuse.

Smith alleges that an air base vice commander once instructed her to take off her uniform top and offered her alcohol during what was supposed to be a routine personnel review.

Smith, who has 17 commendations and has been deployed to Iraq and Kuwait, also said she was subjected to pornography in the workplace and referred to as a "bitch" by supervisors. The complaint is a required precursor to a possible lawsuit.

"The Air Force has been on notice for years regarding this hostile environment, yet has taken no effective steps to stop the constant and blatant illegalities," the complaint states. "Sexual assault and harassment are part of the mentality of the Air Force."

Susan Burke, Smith's attorney, said the sergeant knew that reporting rape and sexual assault in the military could destroy victims' careers and often subjected them to isolation and retaliatory violence and harassment.

Exhibits filed with the complaint included lyrics to bawdy songs sung by Air Force personnel that refer to women using sexually vulgar terms, training manuals that refer to women as 'bitch' or 'whore,' and pornographic photographs Burke said were taken directly from computers at Air Force installations.

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

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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

People do not make revolutions eagerly any more than they do war. There is this difference, however, that in war compulsion plays the decisive role, in revolution there is no compulsion except that of circumstances.

A revolution takes place only when there is no other way out. And the insurrection, which rises above a revolution like a peak in the mountain chain of its events, can be no more evoked at will than the revolution as a whole. The masses advance and retreat several times before they make up their minds to the final assault.

-- Leon Trotsky; The History of the Russian Revolution

Disney Buys Rights To Afghanistan From Department Of Defense



November 15, 2012 by Tony, The Duffle Blog

ARLINGTON, VA - In a surprise move that has caught many service-members off guard, the Pentagon announced plans to sell the rights to Afghanistan to the Walt Disney Corporation for \$4.05 Billion.

“We have attempted to make Afghanistan the happiest place on earth and simply haven’t gotten the job done,” said Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta in a statement today.

“After months of private talks however, I am pleased to announce that we reached an agreement with the Disney Corporation in turning Afghanistan around. I swore that before I left this department, we would truly invest in the future of Afghanistan. Today, I’m making good on that promise.”

“We have an opportunity to make Afghanistan a sustainable franchise,” said Robert Iger, Chief Executive Officer at Disney at the signing ceremony. “We know it’s been rough going, but we’ve consulted with our top imagineers at Disney and written a treatment for a strategy of where we go from here.”

Iger went on to explain that the deal means that as of 2014, Disney will assume full responsibility for operations inside Afghanistan.

This will include the conversion of Bagram Air Force Base into the new Central Asia Disneyland featuring rides like “Inside Attacker Funhouse” and “Child Princess Wedding Palace” and of course launch crossover films like the planned release of “Afghantasia” in summer 2015, which will further promote stability in the troubled country.

Other film pitches include “The Lovebug Goes to Kandahar” and “Alladin IV: Wishing the Taliban Away”.

The deal also means all groups operating inside Afghanistan — including the Taliban and Haqqani Network — will become trademarks of Disney, a move that has brought condemnation from both parties. Nevertheless, the merger is yet another coup for Disney, having acquired hot properties such as Marvel Entertainment and the Star Wars franchise.

Afghan leaders were excited to say that partnering with Disney meant “brighter days ahead.”

“We remain confident that Disney at least has its financial house in order,” said President Harmid Karzai. “It is a delight to work with people who are interested in seeing this through. They have the resources and will not withdraw because it is politically expedient.”

“I’m also very much interested in being cryogenically frozen like Walt Disney apparently was. At least for a couple hundred years while this whole civil war, political instability, and brink of destruction stuff works itself out,” added Karzai.

The Taliban has been less receptive to the deal.

“We condemn all dealings with the infidel entity Disney,” declared Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujihid in a telephone interview. “We have no interest in having Disney in our country. They represent the very worst values of America. Perhaps even worse than that, they are far more efficient at destroying any means of creativity beyond their intended vision. Their lawyers will be a far more challenging opponent than the Army or Marines.”

“Believe me, I saw ‘The Avengers’ on disk. I know what we’re up against,” he added.

Disney officials declined to comment on whether The Avengers would be used to handle park security.

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.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Eruption Of Protests In Jordan Threaten Kings' Dictatorship: "Thousands Of Jordanians Took To The Streets On Tuesday Night After The Prime Minister Cut Fuel Subsidies To Comply With A Demand By The International Monetary Fund"

"Some Protesters Calling For The Overthrow Of King Abdullah II"

"Washington, Israel And The Gulf Countries Have Remained Firmly Behind The Monarchy"

The country has many of the conditions that made other Arab countries ripe for revolution. It has a literate, educated and computer-savvy population, and one of the region's highest unemployment rates. There is rampant corruption and a dominant security apparatus.

November 14, 2012 By CHARLES LEVINSON, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

Protests entered a second day in cities in Jordan in the biggest eruption of popular discontent in the kingdom since a wave pro-democracy protests swept the Arab world nearly two years ago.

Thousands of Jordanians first took to the streets on Tuesday night after the prime minister cut fuel subsidies to comply with a demand by the International Monetary Fund, which the kingdom has asked for support for its troubled economy.

The demonstrations quickly turned political, with some protesters calling for the overthrow of King Abdullah II. Such open defiance of the king is rare in Jordan.

On Wednesday, security forces used tear gas and fire hoses to disperse protesters in at least nine cities, including the capital, Amman.

Police said protesters took advantage of the protests to attack a police station in northern Jordan, leaving one attacker dead and 12 officers injured, the Associated Press said.

Jordan has been relatively unscathed by recent pro-democracy unrest in the region. Deep political divisions within the country's opposition groups have helped prevent the sort of alliances that fired uprisings in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya.

This week's protests, while larger than such protests in Jordan in recent years, remain far smaller than the uprisings that toppled governments in those countries.

The Muslim Brotherhood, one of Jordan's most powerful opposition forces, has called for larger protests on Friday.

There is also considerable international interest in keeping Jordan stable. Washington, Israel and the Gulf countries have remained firmly behind the monarchy.

Jordan is one of two countries with a formal peace treaty with Israel, has the largest Palestinian population outside of the Palestinian territories, and shares a lengthy, lightly secured land border with Israel.

The U.S. has deep ties to the Jordanian monarchy. It has trained its security and intelligence forces and the U.S. military maintains a small base in the country.

Yet discontent in Jordan has been slowly heating up for months.

The country has many of the conditions that made other Arab countries ripe for revolution. It has a literate, educated and computer-savvy population, and one of the region's highest unemployment rates. There is rampant corruption and a dominant security apparatus.

"The protests that we've seen over the last couple of days have been a long time coming. If you look at the political and economic factors underlying the kingdom, the tensions have been there for a long time and the palace hasn't done anything to address them," said Julien Barnes-Dacey, a senior fellow at the European Council for Foreign Relations.

The Jordanian monarchy's traditional tribal base, meanwhile, has grown increasingly frustrated as corruption and dwindling government cash reserves have dried up the patronage networks that long kept them pliant.

The king has repeatedly pledged to enact democratic reforms to allow opposition forces a greater share of power. But in four cabinet shuffles since February 2011, none gave the premiership to an opposition figure.

Meanwhile, Jordan's economy has suffered. Rising global fuel prices and disruptions in natural-gas shipments from Egypt have cost the government \$5 billion in losses, according to Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour.

The oil-rich Gulf countries that have helped keep the government afloat in years past have yet to follow through on aid pledges this year.

To fill the breach, Jordan has turned to the IMF, which has demanded, among other things, a scaling back of fuel subsidies, the move that sparked this week's protests.

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.

Anger Unites Millions In Protest: "We Have No Future!"

“Millions Took To The Streets To Express Their Frustration Over Rising Unemployment And Dire Economic Prospects”



A protestor holds a banner reading "Traitor (Greece's Prime Minister Antonis) Samaras get out" in front of the parliament in Syntagma square during a 48-hour strike by the two major Greek workers unions in central Athens. (Reuters / John Kolesidis)

15 November, 2012 TV-Novosti [Excerpts]

Massive anti-austerity strikes and protests swept across Europe as millions took to the streets to express their frustration over rising unemployment and dire economic prospects. Many rallies ended with violent clashes with police.



Protesters attend a demonstration during a general strike on November 14, 2012 in Madrid. (AFP Photo/Javier Soriano)



People carry banners on November 14, 2012, in front of the EU Headquarters in Brussels. (AFP Photo/Georges Gobet)



Demonstrators march during a protest on a day of mobilisation against austerity measures by workers in southern Europe on November 14, 2012 in Rome. (AFP Photo/Filippo Monteforte)



Belgian workers take part in a demonstration during an European strike in La Louvière November 14, 2012. (Reuters/Eric Vidal)

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.

South African Police Kill Striking Farm Worker: Five More Wounded; Province Boss “Implored President Jacob Zuma On Wednesday To Deploy South Africa’s Military To Quell The Unrest”

November 14, 2012 By PATRICK MCGROARTY, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

JOHANNESBURG —

South Africa’s famed wine lands became the latest site of labor violence, when a man was killed and five injured in protests that put further pressure on a national economy beset by strikes.

Workers in the vineyards, fruit and wheat farms across the Western Cape province began protests last week to demand an increase in their daily wages to a minimum of 150 rand, about \$17, or roughly double current levels. **[Imagine that! Those greedy farm workers want to be paid \$87 a week! Outrageous and unacceptable -- as various whining comments from ruling class people quoted below will demonstrate. T]**

Hundreds of protesters blocked a major highway in the region last week.

On Wednesday, a 28-year-old man was shot and killed and at least five were injured after police confronted protesters in Wolseley, 70 miles northeast of Cape Town, said Andre Traut, a spokesman for provincial police.

Mr. Traut declined to comment on who shot the man. A spokesman for South Africa’s Independent Police Investigative Directorate didn’t respond to requests for comment.

The disputes in the agriculture sector follow a wave of strikes that have crippled mines and hobbled manufacturing, beginning with a protest in August in which police shot and killed 34 protesters outside a platinum mine northwest of Johannesburg.

Truck drivers and some factory workers went on strike in the weeks that followed, hurting manufacturing output as well. Mining output was down 8.3% on the year and factory output 1.1%, data released last week showed.

Those declines are putting pressure on a widening trade deficit and meager growth forecasts. South Africa's trade deficit widened to \$1.6 billion in September, from \$1.4 billion the month before. Africa's biggest economy is expected to grow just 2.5% this year, the finance ministry said last month, down from 3.1% last year.

Many South African farms and vineyards were already struggling against falling demand from Europe, a critical export market, before the recent truckers' strike and the current labor turmoil further clouded the industry's outlook.

"This sends out only one overwhelming message to farmers: be less dependent on labor," said Theo de Jager, deputy president of Agri SA, a commercial farmers' association.

Helen Zille, premier of the Western Cape and the leader of South Africa's main opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, implored President Jacob Zuma on Wednesday to deploy South Africa's military to quell the unrest.

"The police are stretched too thin to handle the public violence and the unrest that's happening," said Zak Mbhele, Ms. Zille's spokesman.

Mr. Zuma's spokesman, Mac Maharaj, said Ms. Zille should seek help from local and national police officials rather than the military. "The president is not expected to micromanage everything," Mr. Maharaj said.

Mr. Zuma's agriculture minister, meanwhile, sympathized with the workers' demands, saying that average pay of what is roughly \$8 a day is too low, according to a spokesman.

Agriculture Minister Tina Joemat-Pettersson "thinks that if you are earning that much it probably means you are suffering," said Palesa Mokomela, the minister's spokeswoman.

"She isn't saying how much more workers should be paid but she generally supports the call for people to have decent food and enough food to eat."

Ms. Mokomela said farm workers had agreed to return to work until at least next Wednesday, when government officials will oversee a meeting between farmers and worker representatives to discuss raising the minimum wage.

"Workers are getting the message that if you behave like this...then the government will react by giving you more money," Michael Bagraim, president of the regional Cape Chamber of Commerce, said in an interview with South African broadcaster ENCA.

Moody's Investors Service cut South Africa's government debt rating one notch in September, and Standard & Poor's Ratings Services made the same move in October.

The rand slipped on Wednesday to around 8.87 to the U.S. dollar, down about 2% from the beginning of the week.

**Underground Online Organizers
Challenging China's Dictatorship
Of, By And For Rich And Powerful
Government Capitalists:
“The Online Mobs Are Stripping
Away The Aura Of Respect For
Officialdom That Existed Until
Recently Through The State-Managed
Media”
“Chinese Unhappy With The Status Quo
Are Discovering Masses Of Likeminded
People Online Ready To Take Action On
Specific Causes”**

November 14, 2012 By BRIAN SPEGELE, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

BEIJING — As Xi Jinping takes over as the next leader of China, he will have ascended to the top in a process cloaked almost entirely in secrecy.

However, the sharpened gaze of half a billion Chinese Internet users means officials' doings and misdeeds face unparalleled scrutiny.

Some argue that mass collaboration by online vigilantes — in which online users scour photos and public documents to expose officials suspected of wrongdoing — has become China's nearest thing to checks and balances in the absence of democratic processes.

Such online exposés of officials whose tastes far exceed their government incomes are sharpening the public's growing suspicion that corruption in China extends far beyond the Beijing elite into the hinterlands to the point that even low-ranking officials are alleged to be amassing sizable personal wealth.

They illustrate peril to the party in an era where every online user is a potential witness to official malfeasance and as the party congress in Beijing ends with a parade of leaders picked behind closed door without any input from ordinary Chinese.

Concerns over power abuse have surged to the forefront in a year of political scandals and have fueled the online generation's challenge to leaders high and low.

Among the latter: "Brother Watch" and "Uncle House," two low-ranking officials who were exposed for suspected corruption this year by Internet mobs.

The claims that led to their demise: Brother Watch, whose real name is Yang Dacai and who ran Shaanxi province's work-safety bureau, had a penchant for luxury European timepieces.

Uncle House, who was in charge of a district urban-management bureau in the southern city of Guangzhou, collected real estate—22 properties in all between family members and himself.

Brother Watch came to the attention of Internet users through a photo that quickly went viral on China's social networks and Twitter-like services.

It showed him laughing with police as he inspected the aftermath of a bus crash that killed 36 on a Shaanxi expressway.

For many users, the image seemed to epitomize the callousness of many officials.

Users began a massive effort of scouring the Internet for more photos of Brother Watch, and uncovered a trove of pictures showing him sporting what appeared to be roughly a dozen different luxury timepieces, including some by Swiss watchmakers Omega and Montblanc.

Indignation toward the chuckling and rotund bureaucrat turned to anger as online users questioned how a modestly paid local official could afford them.

Three days after the Shaanxi accident, Brother Watch staged a defense, fielding accusations of corruption through Sina Corp.'s Weibo microblogging service.

Brother Watch argued the watches had been purchased with legally earned income and said he was sorry for his smile at the accident scene, which he explained as an attempt to put nervous comrades at ease.

The effort proved futile: Soon after, the state-run Xinhua news agency, quoting local officials, said Mr. Yang had been ousted for the possession of numerous expensive watches and other violations of discipline.

Uncle House, the nickname for Guangzhou official Cai Bin, was similarly fired from his post and detained in October after investigators said that he and his family owned more than 20 homes, state media reported.

Xinhua quoted estimates of their combined value was as much as \$6.4 million and said local discipline officials said Mr. Cai was suspected of bribe-taking.

Chinese unhappy with the status quo are discovering masses of likeminded people online ready to take action on specific causes.

The power of social media to transform China has a parallel in the country's modern history.

Back in the 1920s, China was in ferment. The Qing dynasty had collapsed, and the country was ruled first by warlords and then, toward the end of the decade, the corrupt regime of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

Amid political tumult of the Chiang regime, a renaissance in Chinese media and literature was a driver in altering China's course. Writers rejected traditional literary conventions and embraced writing in "baihua," or vernacular Chinese.

Their stories, written roughly as people spoke the language, rather than in arcane classical prose, articulated the anguish of a nation. The writers of this era, including celebrated authors like Lu Xun, had such a profound impact on the national consciousness they helped pave the Communist Party's path to power in 1949.

Today, anxious Chinese are again turning to new tools for communication — this time online services like Weibo — to challenge the status quo.

And in echoes of the 1920s, written Chinese is morphing to suit the new medium.

For instance, sensitive names and phrases are manipulated to evade and satirize party censors.

President Hu Jintao's catchphrase to build a "harmonious society" is among the terms roundly ridiculed across China's Internet as code for censorship and the squelching of criticism.

The term in Chinese sounds similar to "river crab"—which has been widely used in recent months to lament tightening Web censorship around the party congress.

Similarly, searching the Chinese characters for "18th Party Congress" returned in recent days mostly official results, so users have gotten creative.

Among the most popular workarounds, users refer to the congress as "Sparta," which when translated in Chinese sounds similar to the three-character phrase for "18th Party Congress."

One user over the weekend, lamenting wide disruptions of Google Inc.'s search functions and other services as the leadership transition got under way, wrote: "This is Sparta."

Almost immediately after President Hu's heir-apparent, Xi Jinping, abruptly canceled a Sept. 5 meeting with visiting U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the Chinese Internet was buzzing with rumors.

Searches for Mr. Xi's name, like those for all top Chinese leaders, returns an error message. Attempting to post a message containing the characters of Mr. Xi's name is similarly prohibited.

As many wondered whether Mr. Xi had fallen ill or his political fortunes had taken a hit, more and more users adopted character homonyms to trade theories on his whereabouts.

Others combined Chinese characters with Roman letters to refer to Mr. Xi.

For Beijing, relative Internet freedom provides a useful valve to release pressure building in society.

But leaders face the danger of losing control of a narrative that says the country is stronger under its leadership than otherwise, analysts say.

Elsewhere the online mobs are stripping away the aura of respect for officialdom that existed until recently through the state-managed media.

In one well-known case, the deputy secretary of Hefei University's Communist Youth League committee, Wang Yu, was fired and expelled from the party after group nude photos purported to be of him and four other men and women appeared online.

Local authorities denied claims that ranking local officials also took part in the orgy. Faced with an online avalanche of criticism, state media later conceded that Mr. Wang was among those in the photos.

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