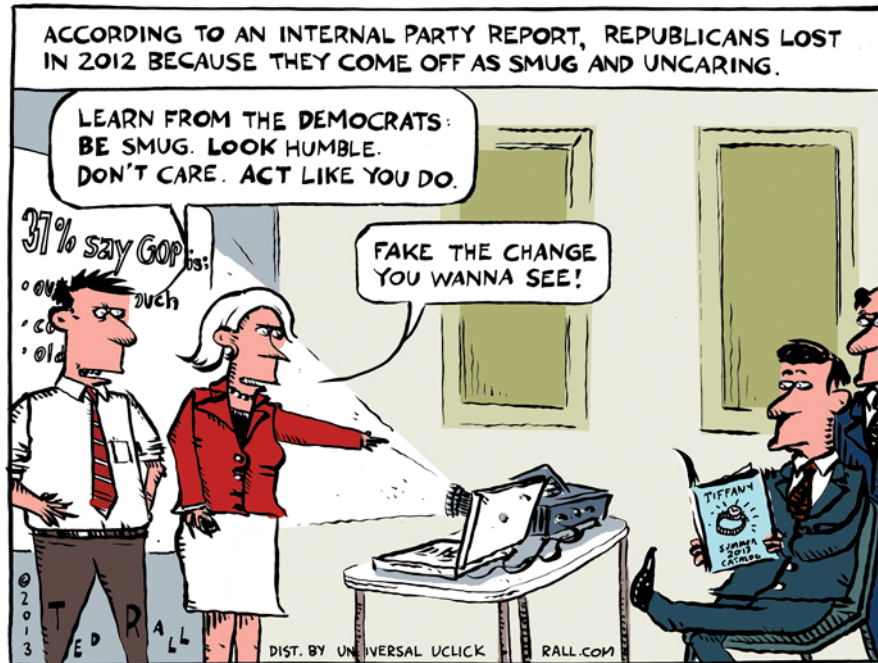


Military Resistance 11D1



**“It’s Hard On Robert’s Wife And
His Kids, And We All Just Want
To Get Them All Home”**

**“This War Over There Has Been
Going On Too Darn Long”**

**“All Of Them Have Put In Their Time”
“Bring ’Em Home”**

March 26, 2013 by Andrew Dys, The State

With the return of 161 area National Guardsmen from Afghanistan expected within weeks, the death of an Indiana soldier who worked with those York County men and women has turned families from nervousness to outright anxiety.

“Pins and needles, all of us,” said Leanne Pressley, wife of warrant officer Colin Pressley.

“They just need to come home.”

The Army National Guard 178th Combat Engineers from the Rock Hill armory have been in Afghanistan since August, tasked with dangerous route-clearance missions.

Since the death Friday of Sgt. Tristan Wade, 23, an Indiana active duty soldier working with his New Mexico-based unit under the command of the 178th, local family members here had almost no contact over the weekend with loved ones in Afghanistan.

Finally, on Monday and Tuesday, some soldiers were able to reassure people back home that the local soldiers were not injured.

“It was a long, stressful weekend,” said Trisha Moore, girlfriend of Staff Sgt. Dan Ranucci. “For everyone with a soldier over there.”

The 178th soldiers run the unit stationed in Sharana in eastern Afghanistan called Task Force Prowler, making up about a quarter of the 700 troops. The 178th command staff also have several other units under its command, including Wade’s unit and reserve components from other states.

Wade died when an insurgent attacked him with a homemade bomb. In November, three Army reservists from New York, who were working for the 178th, were killed by a homemade bomb, often called an IED or improvised explosive device.

Whatever the bomb is called, the families back home hate them.

“I just want my son to get home safe,” said Johnny Ramsey of Clover, whose son, Staff Sgt. Marion Ramsey, is on his fourth deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Johnny Ramsey is a Korean War veteran himself who was wounded in action. He is the same Johnny Ramsey who was jailed by a Clover judge late last year for failing to clean up junk from his yard.

“I want them all to come home safe,” Ramsey said. “All of them have put in their time. This war over there has been going on too darn long. Bring ’em home.”

There is no exact date for the return of the 178th.

The unit had planned to hand over command to replacements by the second week of May, but it might not get back to South Carolina until late May or early June. There are more than a dozen women among the 161 soldiers.

And at the end of a deployment, the last missions are the most terrifying.

“The first one – when you get there and you don’t know anything – and that last one when it is about to be over, those are the missions that are the hardest,” said

recently retired Sgt. Chris Hoagland, a York County veterans services worker who deployed with the Fort Mill National Guard to both Iraq and Afghanistan.

“It is tough on the soldiers, and it is tough on people back home.”

Retired Army Gen. Paul “Gene” Blackwell of York, who led thousands of soldiers in Iraq during the first Gulf War, said the last missions lead to “apprehension” as soldiers know that the time to leave is near.

Plus, the breaking of winter in Afghanistan has “without question” led to more attacks by the enemy, Blackwell said.

“Early in any deployment, there is a resolve among the soldiers, an understanding, that they may or may not survive the mission,” Blackwell said.

“But at the end, soldiers can and do think to themselves, ‘It looks like I am really gonna make it.’ And the caution level rises.”

Wade, like all the soldiers of Task Force Prowler, was due to come home within weeks.

“This is the price we pay for these missions, and it is a terrible price,” said Blackwell.

Lt. Col. Corol Dobson of Rock Hill, commander of Task Force Prowler in Afghanistan, described the feeling of the men and women under his command after Wade’s death: “Our hearts are heavy.”

The family of York soldier Sgt. Robert Littlejohn is trying to cope with uncertainty the best it can, said Peatsa Meek, the matriarch of the family.

“It’s hard on Robert’s wife and his kids, and we all just want to get them all home,” Meek said Tuesday. “This weekend nobody knew anything.”

Brian Dunn of Rock Hill and his wife, Erica, know the dangers of combat. Dunn, a marine, was wounded by an IED in 2005 in Iraq and has spent eight years recovering, including surgery in Germany to repair his back.

“I think about those guys over there every day,” said Dunn, now medically discharged from the service.

“The end of the deployment is a hard time for everybody.”

Erica Dunn said families waiting for troops to come home are under terrible stress.

“We as a community and country have to do all we can for all of them,” she said.

On Saturday the ladies auxiliary of the Rock Hill VFW Post 2889 is holding an Easter Egg hunt for kids of the 178th families.

“Anyone who wants to come by and support these people, help them and show them that they care, is welcome,” said Linda Davenport of the VFW auxiliary. “It’s rough right now.”

At the Rock Hill armory, the home base for the 161 area soldiers, fresh yellow ribbons have been placed on the unit’s sign and around two trees near the door. Yellow ribbons are a symbol of waiting for a loved one to come home.

Every family of these soldiers has a yellow ribbon around their hearts right now, wishing that the clock would move faster.

Since 2001, eight military men and women from York and Chester counties have died in Iraq or Afghanistan. Deaths in war do not fade.

“It’s never easy,” said Cynthia Butler of Rock Hill, whose grandson, Marine Cpl. Kenneth James Butler, was killed in 2005.

“I feel for those families. They worry so much.”



Yellow ribbons hang from the sign in front of the South Carolina Army National Guard Rock Hill Armory. MELISSA C. TOTH

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Campbell Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



Sgt. Michael C. Cable died Wednesday from injuries sustained when his unit was attacked by enemy forces in Shinwar District, Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan. AP

Mar 28, 2013 The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A Fort Campbell soldier who was a western Kentucky native was killed in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense said Thursday.

The soldier, 26-year-old Sgt. Michael C. Cable of Philpot, was a fire support specialist, according to Fort Campbell.

The department said Cable died Wednesday from injuries sustained when his unit was attacked by enemy forces in Shinwar District, Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan.

Cable was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell. He had joined the Army in 2007.

He had been a cross-country star at Daviess County High School in Owensboro a decade ago and attended Berea College, according to the Messenger-Inquirer newspaper of Owensboro

"I sent out an email this morning with the Bible verse, 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends'," Tony Rowe, Cable's high school coach, told the newspaper Thursday. "He's a hero. He died fighting for us and trying to make life better for the people of Afghanistan."

Cable had already served one tour in Iraq, said his older brother, Raymond Johnston, adding he was supposed to return from Afghanistan in June.

"He was very determined," Johnston said by telephone on his way to Delaware to be on hand when his brother's body was returned. "He just felt that he could really be a good soldier. He wanted to help."

His awards include one Bronze Star Medal (posthumous), one Purple Heart (posthumous), the Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/Bronze Service Star, Iraq Campaign Medal w/Bronze Service Star and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

In addition to his brother, Cable is survived by his parents, Raymond L. Johnston, Sr., and Vickie M. Johnston, both of Philpot.

Estherville Begins Mourning Loss Of Soldier

March 18, 2013 Estherville Daily News

The Estherville community is mourning the loss of Staff Sgt. Steven Blass, 27, who was one of five soldiers killed in a helicopter crash last Monday in Afghanistan.

Gene Haukoos, a retired Navy Corpsman and Estherville city councilman, serves as liaison between the community and the military.

"On behalf of the community our deepest sympathy and prayers go to the family," Haukoos said in a statement. "The people of Estherville and the surrounding area have a long history of supporting our troops, Since 9-11 We have sent our local National Guard off into harm's way three times.

"Each time the community response was overwhelming. We have packed the Readiness Center for their send off and their return home," he continued. "Now we are asking the community to show their respect for a Home Town Hero who lost his life while serving his country."

Blass is a graduate of Estherville Lincoln Central High School and Iowa Lakes Community College.

He leaves behind a wife and 16-month-old son.

"We have lined Central Ave with flags out of respect of the fallen and his family. I would ask the community businesses to put a message of support in their store fronts."

Area law enforcement and veterans organizations are standing by to provide a vehicle escort.

"When the Army provides us with the official timeline for the services the governor will order flags to half-staff statewide," said Haukoos. "As the timeline of events is known to the public, I would like to see people with flags and messages of support all along the

funeral route. Attend the visitation and the funeral to honor the fallen and support his family.

"I know in this time of instant information people want answers quickly," Haukoos said. "But when a member dies on active duty, especially in a war zone there are a lot of things going on that we are not aware of."

Haukoos said there are procedures that need to be followed for the identification and care of the fallen, officers to notify family, escorts, funeral home contacts, and much more.

When the military releases the information, they know that everything possible has been done to show respect and honor the fallen, while supporting the family.

"As for the area veterans' organizations, it is their mission and their auxiliaries to support the family any way possible," Haukoos said.

AFGHANISTAN THEATER: U.S. Foreign Fighters Suffered 14 Combat Casualties In The Week Ending March 27, As The Total Rose To 39,000.

Mar 28, 2013 www.michaelmunk.com [Excerpt]

AFGHANISTAN THEATER: US foreign fighters suffered 14 combat casualties in the week ending March 27, as the total rose to 39,000.

The total includes 20,084 dead (6 pending) and wounded from what the Pentagon classifies as "hostile" causes and 18,916 dead or medically evacuated (as of Dec. 3, 2012) from what it calls "non-hostile" causes.

US media divert attention from the actual cost in American life and limb by reporting regularly only the total killed (6,662: 4,488 in Iraq, 2,174 in Afghanistan) but rarely mentioning those wounded in action (50,581: 32,221 in Iraq; 18,360 in Afghanistan).

They ignore the 59,908 (44,607 in Iraq, 18,463 in AfPak (as of Dec 3, 2012) military casualties injured and ill seriously enough to be medevac'd out of theater, even though the 6,662 total dead include 1,414 (961 in Iraq, 453 in Afghanistan) who died from those same "non hostile" causes, of whom almost 25% (332) were suicides (as of Jan 9, 2013) and at least 18 in Iraq from faulty KBR electrical work.

NOTE: It's unclear whether the AfPak number for WIAs at some point started to include medical evacuations for non hostile injuries and disease.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

MILITARY NEWS

**Army Secretary John McHugh
Defends Corrupt Program Where
“Team Members Falsified Time
Sheets To Inflate Their Pay And Had
Engaged In Racial And Sexual
Harassment”**

**He Ignores Report Finding “Team
Members Conspired To Have The
Manager Fired For Refusing ‘To Bow To
Their Wishes For Unconstrained
Overtime And Comp Time Hours’”**

Mar 27, 2013 By Tom Vanden Brook - USA Today [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — Army Secretary John McHugh defended the use of military social scientists on battlefields despite some initial “command, training and personnel challenges” with the program in its early years

McHugh sent a letter recently to Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., a member of the Armed Services Committee who had raised concerns with McHugh about the Human Terrain System after USA Today reported that an internal Army report had found team members falsified time sheets to inflate their pay and had engaged in racial and sexual harassment.

The program, launched in 2007 with civilian social scientists, was aimed at helping commanders understand local populations and avoid antagonizing them.

Hunter said he's not convinced the program, which cost the military \$58 million in 2013, is worth the investment.

"The problem here is that the Army's take on things overlooks an investigation that raises some serious concerns and doesn't account for program shortcomings and criticisms," Hunter told USA Today.

One key concern raised by the Army report was the systematic submission of fraudulent time sheets by members of Human Terrain Teams.

One team manager said in a sworn statement that team members conspired to have the manager fired for refusing "to bow to their wishes for unconstrained overtime and comp time hours."

The manager surveyed managers of other teams in Afghanistan and found some teams were filing for "extremely high number of hours for work performed on their Forward Operating base," so they were "getting only three or four hours off PER DAY, just sleep time, which I knew from personal experience would not stand up to common-sense scrutiny."

A 2010 memo to the deputy chief of staff for the Army's Training and Doctrine Command from the Army's investigating officer found overtime was "excessive" and determined that "168 hours per pay period (i.e. 84 hours per week, or 12 hours a day/7 days a week) is either the de facto standard or the desired standard of HTS leadership."

This standard, according to another memo, "approximates a salary of between \$224,000 and \$280,000 per year and allows an employee to take nearly six months of paid leave at the end of a 9-month tour."

Military members of the teams earned 40 percent less and felt a "sense of inequity."

Traitors In Command Of Arizona VA Tormenting And Abusing Blind Veteran Staff Member Who Exposed "A Pattern Of

**Abuse, Discrimination And
Retaliation In The Phoenix VA”
She Had Helped Expose “Years Of
Mismanagement, Squandered
Funds, Discrimination, Sexual
Harassment And Retaliation”
“You Have Unjustly Embarrassed,
Humiliated And Defamed Paula
Pedene Long Enough”
Another Veteran Employee “Endured
Sexual Remarks, Threats, Improper
Touching, Public Humiliation And Other
Abuse More Than 30 Times”**

He said Pedene was criticized for her blindness, and administrators dismantled a public-relations program once considered among the nation’s best. Recently, he added, Pedene’s name was redacted from the VA’s online employee directory, and her awards were removed from a display case at the Phoenix VA.

“She stood up and told the truth,” French said. “It cost (administrators) their jobs, and they threatened to destroy adversaries and families.”

Mar 29, 2013 By Dennis Wagner, The Republic [Excerpts]

A longtime spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Arizona has been removed from her post, allegedly because she breached security by asking her husband to upload photographs of the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade onto a secure government website.

Paula Pedene, a 23-year employee with the VA Health Care System, is fighting her reassignment to the hospital library, claiming she is a victim of reprisal by current administrators for testimony she gave against former administrators who left their jobs amid federal inquiries, according to records obtained by The Arizona Republic.

Pedene's legal advisers and VA records indicate the dispute stems from a larger controversy involving years of mismanagement, squandered funds, discrimination, sexual harassment and retaliation at the Phoenix VA.

Pedene, the Veterans Day Parade coordinator since 1997, was notified of her transfer in a Dec. 10 letter from Associate Director Lance Robinson. He wrote that she was the subject of a "very serious" allegation, and he issued a gag order prohibiting public disclosures.

Pedene declined to comment.

But her defenders said the investigation constitutes thinly disguised retribution for sworn statements Pedene made about misconduct by previous administrators in Phoenix who quit the agency amid federal investigations.

In a Dec. 12 letter to Robinson, employee-relations consultant Roger French characterized the disciplinary action as payback.

"The fact that you have taken a serious action that you are unable to back up with appropriate evidence ... may result in significant litigation," he warned.

Joseph Abodeely, an attorney for Pedene, sent another letter to Robinson on Feb. 11 demanding that she be returned to her job. Abodeely noted that Pedene's husband is an authorized VA volunteer who was asked by his wife to post photographs on the agency website because of his wife's disability.

Pedene is legally blind. Abodeely criticized agency administrators for treating that event as a "heinous breach of security."

"You have unjustly embarrassed, humiliated and defamed Paula Pedene long enough," he added.

Former Maricopa County Attorney Rick Romley, who chairs the parade-sponsoring Veterans Commemorative Committee of Phoenix, said he authorized Pedene to hire her husband as a photographer and cannot understand VA administrators' response to a seemingly minor transgression.

"Quite frankly, this is peanuts in the security world," said Romley, who in 2006 served as special security adviser to the secretary of Veterans Affairs in Washington. "At the most, she should be orally counseled. She is so committed to veterans, it's just unbelievable. ... Nobody questions her sincerity in wanting to do things right."

The \$438 million Phoenix VA Health Care System provides medical care for about 81,000 veterans through the Carl T. Hayden Veterans Affairs Medical Center and seven outpatient clinics. The Public Affairs Office writes news releases, produces fact sheets and coordinates media coverage.

During 2011, the national inspector general for the VA investigated mismanagement in Arizona that cost taxpayers \$11.4 million, due to excess spending on private care for patients.

That included \$4.5 million in unauthorized payments.

The report blamed systemic and leadership failures for controls so weak that \$56 million in medical fees were paid during 2010 without adequate review.

The oversight failures caused a cutback in medical services and equipment for Phoenix veterans.

According to VA records, Pedene was interviewed in May 2011 by a federal administrative board convened to probe the misspending along with allegations of sexual harassment and a hostile workplace.

Employee-relations consultant French, who no longer represents Pedene, attended the hearing by telephone.

He said Pedene testified that the Phoenix VA suffered from leadership run amok.

She said that agency bosses intimidated female employees and that then-Director Gabriel Perez threatened her with banishment to a basement workspace, making it clear he did not want a woman — or someone with a service-connected disability — as the VA's public-affairs officer.

Perez, who had been appointed in 2009 to lead the Phoenix VA and served as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission officer, retired while inquiries were under way.

He could not be reached for comment.

Pedene had been called as a witness in the case, which was initiated by employee Sheila Cain, who in 2010 was assistant chief of the Phoenix VA's Health Administration Services.

Cain, a former soldier, had sought to repair problems with the agency's budget and fee-payment systems. According to agency reports, her efforts led to infighting over blame and responsibility. Cain could not be reached for comment.

Cain filed a series of grievances alleging that she was subjected to false accusations, denied due process, stripped of authority and isolated in a basement workspace for six months.

An EEOC complaint says Cain endured sexual remarks, threats, improper touching, public humiliation and other abuse more than 30 times.

An EEOC complaint says Cain endured sexual remarks, threats, improper touching, public humiliation and other abuse more than 30 times. Bacorn could not be reached for comment.

The VA has not released investigative and disciplinary records requested March 13 by The Arizona Republic under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

Documents obtained independently by The Republic show Cain also was victimized by unlawful access to her medical records.

French said an investigation of that patient-confidentiality breach resulted in the discipline of at least nine employees of the health system, some of whom left the agency.

French said the VA settled the case.

Cain remains with the agency but not under the supervision of Phoenix administrators.

In the meantime, French said, Pedene became a target of similar treatment under new bosses. Her reassignment to the hospital library, initially set at 30 days, is in its third month.

Under Pedene's PR leadership, the Phoenix VA won three prestigious Silver Anvil awards from the Public Relations Society of America.

French, who has represented about 40 VA employees in grievances, said he has seen a pattern of abuse, discrimination and retaliation in the Phoenix VA.

He said Pedene was criticized for her blindness, and administrators dismantled a public-relations program once considered among the nation's best. Recently, he added, Pedene's name was redacted from the VA's online employee directory, and her awards were removed from a display case at the Phoenix VA.

"She stood up and told the truth," French said. "It cost (administrators) their jobs, and they threatened to destroy adversaries and families."

French, who was a VA personnel officer and investigator for 33 years, asked Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki to launch a new inquiry. French's Feb. 12 letter complains of nepotism, retaliation and improper downgrading of evaluations. He said victims are disproportionately female and Black.

"I have never seen the hostility, cavalier violations of regulations and laws (or) lack of dignity and respect for employees," French wrote to Shinseki.

Shinseki did not respond, French said.

Carl Ralph Nuss, Worthless Piece Of Shit Car Dealer, Arrested For Cheating A Soldier Deployed To Afghanistan

Mar 29, 2013 By The Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A north Alabama car dealer was indicted on federal charges of refusing to lower the interest rate in a vehicle deal with a National Guard member who was sent to war.

Carl Ralph Nuss, 74, of Cullman was indicted on two counts of violating a federal law that mandates breaks for service members who are called to active duty, federal prosecutors said in a statement Thursday.

Nuss, who owns North Alabama Wholesale Autos, denied doing anything wrong and claimed the guardsman's family was trying to get out of paying for a vehicle.

Authorities said a 22-year-old service member bought a Ford Sport-Trac from Nuss in 2011 and was later called to active duty in Afghanistan.

The guardsman requested a reduction in his 25 percent annual interest charge to 6 percent, as required by the law, but Nuss refused, said the statement from prosecutors.

Prosecutors said the dealer then hired two men who repossessed the \$9,700 vehicle.

Authorities didn't release the name of the guardsman in the statement, and detailed case records weren't available. The Cullman Times reported that the guardsman was a private first class in the Alabama National Guard in May 2012.

Nuss, speaking in a phone interview, said the man joined the National Guard after purchasing the Sport-Trac and had his mother write a letter seeking special treatment after being deployed to Afghanistan.

"Just because this boy joined the National Guard is no reason for him not to pay me," Nuss said. "He was behind on payments when I found out he had joined the Guard."

The dealer said the guardsman still owed \$4,200 on the vehicle when it was repossessed.

Nuss said he has since sold the vehicle to someone else.

Nuss said he will fight the charges, but a defense lawyer wanted \$10,000 to represent him. Nuss said he won't pay.

"Before they're through with me they'll wish they never tangled with me," he said. "This is a ploy by that family to steal that vehicle."

Nuss could face a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment and \$200,000 in fines if convicted on both counts, prosecutors said.

“Don't Buy From These Guys”

“They Didn't Put New Tires On Like They Said They Would, They Wouldn't Do Anything About The Wheels, And They Sold Me A Wrecked Car”

**[Review of North Alabama Wholesale Autos from their website
<https://plus.google.com/114512068046998082528/about?hl=en#114512068046998082528/about?hl=en>]**

Terrible. I had the worst experience there that I've ever had buying a vehicle.

I bought an 07 Grand Prix there.

I test drove the vehicle and looked it over to the best of my knowledge. The car had some vibration in it so I took a look at the tire tread. The tires looked dry rotted.

They told me they'd put new tires on it, so I paid \$2000.00 down. I went back to pick it up 2 business days later. The new tires were still not on it.

I went ahead and drove it home, but it was a terrible ride on the interstate. My wife took it back the next day for them to put the tires on while I went to work. When I got home that evening I could tell right from the start that the tires were pull-offs.

When I drove it the next day there was still a lot of vibration.

One of the tires was separating, one of the wheels was cracked, and another of the wheels were bent.

Then I began to notice where it looked like maybe the car had been wrecked. I took it to our local body shop (Dodge City Collision Center- they actually do a Great job).

Mr. Dollar noticed quickly that the car had definitely been hit hard in the front.

I took the car back to North AL Wholesale and showed these problems to the salesman. I asked for my money back, and was told I'd have to speak with Joel or Carl.

When I told Joel that the car had been wrecked he said I bought it AS-IS. The car actually had a warranty sticker on it and nothing that said AS-IS.

I told Joel I wasn't trying to be bad about this and asked him to just come take a look at the car. He wouldn't even come look at it.

He was VERY RUDE. He even said that he had owned the car. If this was true he would have known that the car had been wrecked.

SO, they didn't put new tires on like they said they would, they wouldn't do anything about the wheels, and they sold me a wrecked car.

They're hiding behind the Car Fax that shows no wrecks.

Just a warning to anyone buying a used car- don't think that just because the title is clear that the car has not been wrecked AND don't buy from these guys, they won't stand behind what they sell- that's bad business in my book.

Not that I'm any better than anyone else by any means, but if they'll do this to an ordained minister, they'll do it to you too.

Benny

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

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

Betrayal Beyond Belief

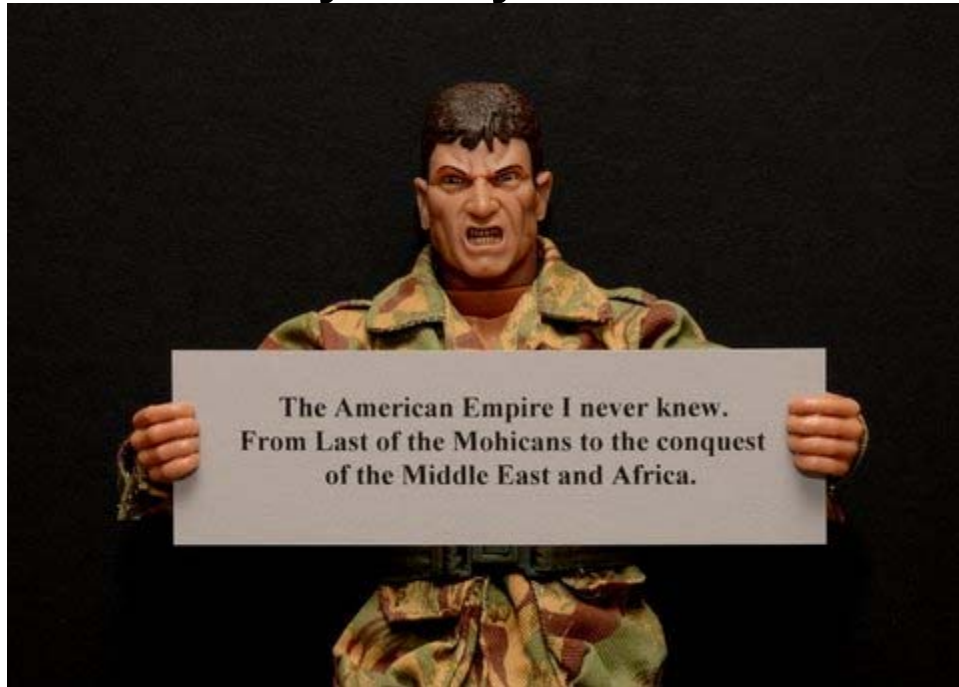


Photo by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: March 30, 2013
Subject: Betrayal Beyond Belief

Betrayal Beyond Belief

I couldn't tell you how many years
I spent talking to myself trying to
convince people that the entire
Vietnam War was a magnificent lie.
For the soldiers who were there,
for the soldiers who were killed,
for the families who suffered,
for the veterans who committed suicide,
for the veterans who drank and drugged
themselves to death,
the war turned into a magnificent act
of betrayal.
And now,

the U.S. Government is in the act of
rewriting the history of the Vietnam War,
as if it were a noble cause.
Don't trust a Vietnam Veteran who isn't angry.
The last casualty of a deceitful war is the loss
of one's country.
In 1994, I made a trip back to Vietnam to make
amends for the horrors that America committed.
For me personally,
I will have the last word on my tombstone,
when I say good-bye to the Vietnamese people.
They were the only real country I ever had.
Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
March 30, 2013

The truth was obscure, too profound and
too pure, to live it you had to explode.
Bob Dylan

Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam
1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at:
hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head.
The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a
so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen
of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

**“The Pentagon Wants To Spend
About \$8.4 Billion In The Next Fiscal
Year To Continue Developing And
Purchasing Lockheed Martin Corp.
(LMT)’S F-35”**

“The Fighter Is Seven Years Behind Schedule And 70 Percent Over Initial Cost Estimates”

Mar 27, 2013 By Tony Capaccio, BLOOMBERG L.P. [Excerpts]

The Pentagon wants to spend about \$8.4 billion in the next fiscal year to continue developing and purchasing Lockheed Martin Corp. (LMT)'s F-35, the fighter that is seven years behind schedule and 70 percent over initial cost estimates.

The funding includes \$6.36 billion to build all 29 of the F-35s previously planned for 2014, including 19 of the version designed for the Air Force, six for the Marine Corps and four for the Navy, according to a budget document obtained today by Bloomberg News.

The estimated cost for a fleet of 2,443 F-35 fighters has climbed to \$395.7 billion, a 70 percent increase since 2001. Pentagon officials have prodded Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed, the world's largest defense contractor, and its subcontractors to improve performance and reduce costs.

MORE:

F-35 Fighter Is Newest Exhibit At New York City Air Museum



29 March 2013 by EL COMANDANTE, The Duffel Blog

NEW YORK, NY — Sources confirmed that the F-35 Lightning II was inducted yesterday into the Intrepid, Sea, Air, and Space Museum in New York City.

The closed door ceremony was the high point for the F-35, capping off the fighter's illustrious warfighting career as the most colossal fuck-up in military acquisition history.

Speaking to Duffel Blog reporters, museum curator Saul Rosenblatt said, "We weren't sure if the F-35 was up to snuff as an exhibit in this museum. We take great pride in displaying planes with a robust combat history, like the A-4 Skyhawk and the A-6 Intruder. We passed on the F-22 Raptor because that was an even bigger piece of shit fighter jet. We had no choice but to display the F-35 between the crapper and the concession stand."

Seven years behind schedule and a tad shy of 70 percent over budget, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter never quite found its niche in the annals of dogfighting history. "I mean, who was the project manager on this shit show, MC Hammer?" lamented a disgruntled Lockheed Martin employee.

Reactions across the city about it's newest tenant were mixed.

"At a cost of over \$137 million per plane, it makes the surface area underneath the exhibit's landing gear the most expensive real estate in New York City. Per square foot, this will drive up apartment values across the entire West Side," said an overjoyed real estate agent.

"For the project's total cost of almost \$400 billion you could have bought the Louvre and had some money left to shop at Saks," a downtown designer told TDB.

When asked his opinion about the F-35, construction worker Dominick Antonelli said "that's all we need here, another overpaid, sucky, New York Jet."

Sen John McCain (R-Ariz.) blamed the delegations of the only four states in the union that didn't have anything to do with the production of the F-35 for torpedoing the project and ultimately causing it's downfall.

"Ninety-two senators stood to make gains by protecting America and it's allies with the F-35. It was bipartisanship at its finest," McCain said.

"Now, all we have protecting America from certain disaster are cheaper, proven fighter jets, none of which have any parts made in my district. This Washington gridlock is out of control."

Inside the beltway, a senior senator on the House Foreign Relations Committee speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "I can't believe we suckered ten of our allies into helping us pay for this mess. Who was closing for us, the guy from Glengarry Glenn Ross? 'Death Spiral' doesn't even translate into Korean or Japanese."

As for the fatal flaw that turned the F-35 into a relic, test pilot Trey “Balls” Deap believes it was a combination of factors.

“They built twenty million lines of software code into the computers but they made the head rest too big so the pilot couldn’t even turn to look behind him. My Jeep has only a few lines of software code but at least I can see if someone is about to pass me. I can empathize with the program though, I spent 80 percent of all my money on booze and broads, the rest of it I wasted.”

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Beijia 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 injustices, 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.

STUCK ON STUPID

The Claim Israel And Its Supporters Were Responsible For The Iraq Debacle

Is “Proffered By Those Eager To Shift Attention Away From The Bush Administration” & “Its Democratic Supporters Including The Current Vice-President And Secretary Of State”

03/29/2013 By Stephen Zunes, Santa Cruz Sentinel

Stephen Zunes, a Santa Cruz resident, is a professor of politics and chair of Middle Eastern studies at the University of San Francisco.

This month's 10th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq has inevitably raised the question of why the United States made such a tragic choice.

As many of us argued in the lead-up to the war, claims that Iraq possessed "weapons of mass destruction" which threatened the national security of the United States and that the Iraqi government had operational ties to al-Qaida were false.

Similarly, the corrupt and repressive sectarian government the United States helped establish in Baghdad has undermined any pretense that the war was about promoting democracy.

Writing in Tikkun magazine on the eve of the invasion, I predicted that the American public would eventually realize that it was disastrous mistake and in order to divert attention from those who were actually responsible there would be those who would try to blame the Jews.

Unfortunately, there have been some people--ranging from the far left to the far right to mainstream political scientists--who are doing just that.

Those who wish to blame Israel and its supporters claim that since Iraq wasn't actually a threat to the United States, the war must have been waged to protect the Jewish state.

However, Iraq during the final years of Saddam Hussein's rule wasn't a threat to Israel, either.

All Iraqi missiles capable of reaching Israel had been dismantled, the International Atomic Energy Agency had determined that Iraq no longer had a nuclear program, and virtually all the country's chemical weapons had been accounted for and destroyed. Indeed, the head of the Israeli military intelligence explicitly stated that Iraq was no longer a threat to Israel.

The then-Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon specifically warned Bush against occupying and invading Iraq without an exit strategy and feared that an

insurgency could radicalize the region and spill over Iraq's borders. Israeli officials also correctly warned the Bush administration that ousting Saddam would strengthen Iran, which the Israelis considered the primary threat.

Similarly, the Israeli government presumably knew that Bush administration assertions that Iraq was behind suicide bombings terrorizing Israelis during this period, like claims of Iraqi support for terrorists elsewhere, was grossly exaggerated.

Though a number of Israeli officials and American Zionist leaders eventually spoke out in support for the invasion, they did so only after President Bush had made the decision to invade Iraq in early 2002.

The influential American-Israel Public Affairs Committee did not play much of a role lobbying members of Congress to vote for the resolution later that year authorizing the conquest of that oil-rich country. And the percentage of Jewish members of Congress who voted in favor of the war authorization was smaller than that of non-Jewish members.

While a disproportionate number of the prominent neo-conservatives who pushed for a U.S. invasion of Iraq were Jewish, a disproportionate number of Jews could also be found among liberal Democrats in Congress and leftist intellectuals in universities who opposed it.

It is certainly not anti-Semitic to criticize certain policies of Israel's right-wing government and the oftentimes heavy-handed tactics of its American supporters.

Indeed, given that Israel has engaged in flagrant violations of the United Nations charter, international humanitarian law, and other international legal principles and has subjected the Palestinians to enormous and needless suffering, it is sometimes quite appropriate to do so.

However, to claim Israel and its supporters were responsible for the Iraq debacle represents a disturbing parallel with classic anti-Semitism--that of scapegoating Jews for unpopular policies of Gentile leaders.

Blaming Israel and its supporters is a simplistic and reductionist understanding of U.S. foreign policy proffered by those eager to shift attention away from the Bush administration, its Democratic supporters (including the current Vice-President and Secretary of State), and the various economic, ideological, and other motivations which made this illegal, immoral, devastating and frankly imperialistic war possible.

Indeed, as long as there are those who insist upon blaming foreigners and ethnic minorities rather than those actually responsible, it will be hard to avoid such tragedies in the future.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Occupiers Cut Down Farmers Olive Trees: “The Settlers Spray-Painted Slogans Threatening The Farmers That On Sunday, They Will Storm The Suleiman Pools Area In Al-Khader, Under The Protection Of Israeli Forces”

29 March 2013 Palestine News Network

On Friday 29th March, Israeli settlers uprooted dozens of olive trees from the lands of al-Khader village, south of Bethlehem.

Coordinator of the Committee to Resist Apartheid and Settlement in al-Khader, Ahmed Salah, told Palestinian official news agency WAFA that settlers uprooted around 200 olive trees in al-Mastase area adjacent to Daniel settlement that was constructed on the lands of al-Khader village.

He said that the YMCA Foundation has planted the olive seedlings last year in a land belonging to Ahmed Nahban Mussa, within its program that aims to reinforce the steadfastness of the Palestinian residents and farmers on their lands.

Salah also said that the settlers spray-painted slogans threatening the farmers that on Sunday, they will storm the Suleiman Pools area in al-Khader, under the protection of Israeli forces.

[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.”]

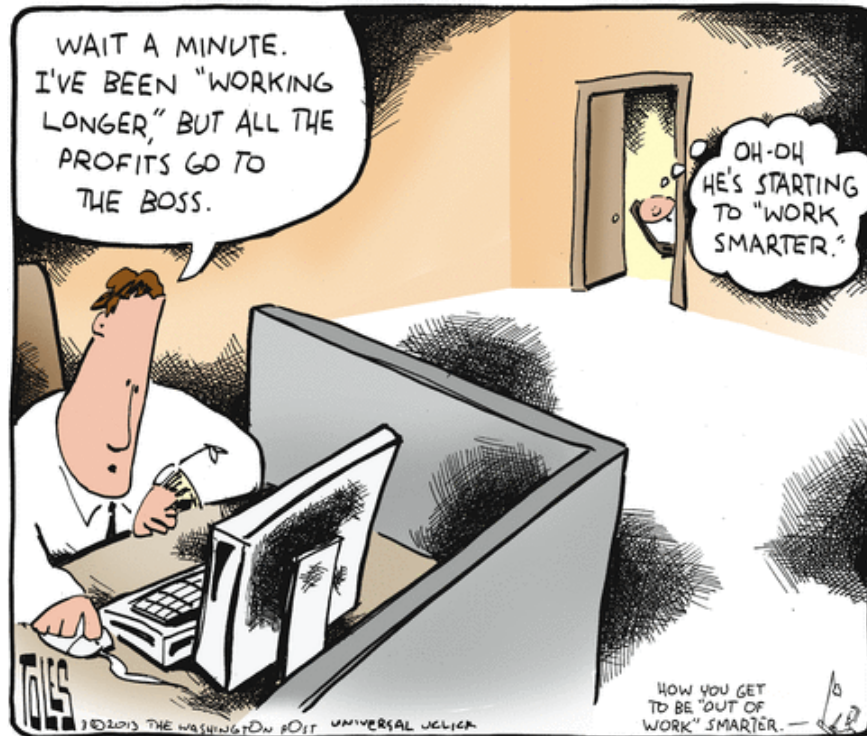
GOT A COMMENT?

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.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



**Kawana Jasper's Trial Is This Tuesday, April
2nd:
Your Support Is Critically Needed:
Kawana Jasper Is Well Known There For Her
Participation In Those Protests Against Police
Brutality.**

**Tuesday, April 2nd
8:30 AM
Criminal Court House
Judge Julian Parker, Section G
Tulane and Broad
New Orleans**

**We will meet inside, and go in together.
Please be on time.**

From: Elizabeth Cook
To: "NOLA_C3_Discussion@yahoo.com"
Subject: Kawana Jasper's trial is this Tuesday, April 2nd: your support is critically
needed
Date: Mar 28, 2013 8:54 PM

**Kawana Jasper, who has been a leading activist in public housing, anti-police
brutality, and other struggles, is now the target of fabricated charges, and needs
your support.**

**She is facing fabricated assault charges from the same local police and judicial
authorities that oversaw the assault on her home and those of thousands of other
poor people in the city post-Katrina.**

**The felony charge originated from the 6th District, which was the target of protest
for police brutality for several months in 2011.**

**Kawana Jasper is well known there for her participation in those protests against
police brutality.**

Please come out Tuesday, April 2nd, to Judge Julian Parker's court, section G to let
authorities know that we will not allow Kawana Jasper to be railroaded, that we have her
back.

Your presence in the courtroom will send a strong message that the cops and courts need to drop the charges and end the persecution of this important activist.

This is the real deal. Kawana Jasper will be on trial this Tuesday, April 2nd, 8:30 am for a felony charge.

Kawana was offered two years probation, and she turned it down because she wants a chance to prove her innocence in court.

This chance was basically denied when Judge Parker shut her lawyer down during the most recent hearing.

Visible support for Kawana will be critical for this trial.

Come Out to Support Activist Kawana Jasper.

In a show of solidarity, please wear a T-shirt in support of public housing that we all wore during the public housing struggle.

There were several different t-shirts. I have a few extra as well that I will bring.

If you don't have a support public housing t-shirt, a t-shirt in support of human rights and justice will suffice.

We are all going to enter the courtroom together in a show of support for Kawana.



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

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.

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