

Military Resistance 11H3



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Are we upholding and defending yet? We are all Bradley Manning."]

“When Your Lieutenant Grabs Your Butt, Are You Going To Tell The Commanding Officer Who Is Married And Sleeping With His Married Secretary?”

“This Is What Is Wrong With The Army Today: Not Gay Folks, Women In Combat Or Ugly Uniforms”

7.29.2013

Sex is one of the biggest destabilizers in the military, especially in the same unit ("Fort Jackson 1-star relieved for misconduct," Facebook, July 12). A command that allows adultery will allow fraternization, and may regard quid pro quo as a command perk.

And this command climate makes it unlikely that a person who suffered a sexual assault or discrimination would come forward.

When your lieutenant grabs your butt, are you going to tell the commanding officer who is married and sleeping with his married secretary?

That CO sure wants an investigation to start in his unit.

— Dennis Miles

Forum
Army Times
7.29.2013

This is what is wrong with the Army today: not gay folks, women in combat or ugly uniforms.

How can his soldiers trust him if he is cheating on his wife?

How can he dictate punishment for the similar behavior in his subordinates if he is violating the Uniform Code of Military Justice?

How can he command any discipline if he is doing something illegal and immoral?

— Jenn Carter Malinski

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Birmingham Soldier, 18, Killed In Afghanistan Was Charismatic, A Tremendous Leader, Former Teacher Says

July 08, 2013 By Kelsey Stein, <http://blog.al.com/>

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama –

Pvt. Errol “Elijah” Milliard was a charismatic, driven 18-year-old who joined the Army after graduating from high school, aiming to use his experience to eventually enroll in college, a former teacher said.

Milliard, a combat engineer, died during his first deployment to Afghanistan when his unit was attacked with a rocket-propelled grenade on the Fourth of July.

In 2012, Milliard graduated from Carver High School after transferring there midway through his senior year. When he arrived in Birmingham from Brooklyn, N.Y., many of his high school credits didn’t transfer, forcing him to complete some classes and receive remedial help in others.

As a senior, Milliard was placed in Wyatt Smith’s 11th grade U.S. History class, where he sat in the front row each day during seventh period.

Throughout the school year, Smith grew close with Milliard, who invited his teacher to meet some of his family members and friends at a wedding reception that spring.

“I spent an evening with family and friends and people that loved Elijah, a very diverse mix of people across racial, ethnic and sociological spectrums,” Smith said. “It was clear that, even though he was a newcomer to Birmingham, he had developed close relationships. That speaks to his charisma and how people saw him, as a very high-quality young man.”

Though Milliard put down enough roots to feel at home in Birmingham, he remained close with his family members who remained in New York, including a grandmother who helped raise him.

Smith described Milliard as a young man with a tremendous capacity for leadership - one of his best students who was a talented writer and wasn’t afraid to speak up during classroom discussions.

Once when Milliard was unhappy with a grade on an essay, he approached Smith after class to request feedback and ask how he could improve the score.

“He demonstrated perseverance and was focused on achieving,” Smith said

“He wanted to use education as a means to achieve a higher status in life, socially and economically.”

After making up the high school credits he lacked, Milliard graduated on time but didn’t enroll in college because he hadn’t taken any college admissions tests.

Smith said Milliard, perhaps uncertain how to navigate the college admissions process, wanted to join the Army, but that he would have pursued a college degree within the next few years.

“He saw (the military) as an opportunity for him to move up the social ladder and a chance to develop leadership skills,” Smith said.

“He thought it was a route to achieve the things he knew he was capable of doing.”

“I’m heartbroken that his life was cut short this way,” Smith said. “I hope that many other people will learn his story and be inspired to live life the way Elijah did.”

Milliard is survived by several grandparents, cousins and other relatives, many of whom live in New York

Milliard was promoted posthumously from PV2 to Private First Class and was awarded the Bronze Star medal, the Purple Heart and the Good Conduct Medal.

He arrived on active duty with the Army in 2012 and was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, where he graduated with 18 others. In February, he deployed from White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

He was assigned to the 595th Sapper Company, 2nd Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade.

Milliard’s other awards and decorations include Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary, NATO Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

White Sands Missile Range Commander Brig. Gen. Gwen Bingham requested prayers for Milliard’s family and the 2nd Engineer leaders, soldiers and families as they cope with his death. “We are deeply saddened and hurt by the loss of Pfc. Milliard,” Bingham said.

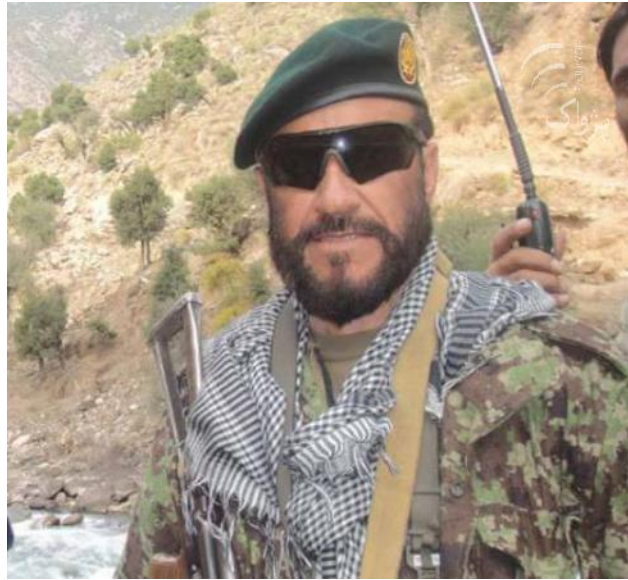
“Without a doubt, we owe him and all of our brave men and women a deep debt of gratitude for their outstanding commitment, dedication and selfless service. Each and every day, they risk their lives in the fulfillment of their missions. I want Pfc. Milliard’s family to know that our comrade, Errol, made a positive difference daily; that we value his service and ultimate sacrifice and that we will never forget him or his family.”

A local memorial ceremony is being coordinated, but details have not yet been released.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

ANA Commander Killed In Roadside Blast



Aug 2, 2013 By Abdul Maqsood Azizi, PAN

PUL-I-ALAM: A senior officer of the Afghan National Army was killed in an improvised explosive device attack in central Logar province on Friday.

The death of Col. Halim Shah Qadiri, associated with the 203rd Thunder Corps, was announced in a short statement from the governor's house in southeastern Khost province.

Governor Abdul Jabbar Naeemi announced his deep shock at Qadiri's demise and prayed to Almighty Allah to shower His eternal blessings on the departed soul.

The deceased belonged to the Dara-i-Noor district of eastern Nangarhar province and actively participated in the jihad against the Soviet occupation forces. He had also commanded an ANA battalion in Kunar province.

More Resistance Action

August 2, 2013 Xinhua

Three Afghan soldiers lost their lives and four others sustained injuries while they were defusing a bomb and the device exploded accidentally in Badghis province 555 km northwest of Kabul on Thursday, a local official said Friday.

"A group of soldiers were on routine patrol when they found a mine planted by anti-government militants on a road in Muqar district and began defusing it, but the device

exploded accidentally, killing three soldiers on the spot and injuring four others,” spokesman for provincial government Mir Wais Mirzakwal told Xinhua.

Army Officer Found Guilty Of Killing Afghan Civilians: “Sentenced To 20 Years In Prison”

August 1, 2013 The Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. A jury at Fort Bragg has found an 82nd Airborne Division lieutenant guilty of two counts of murder in connection with a series of shootings in Afghanistan.

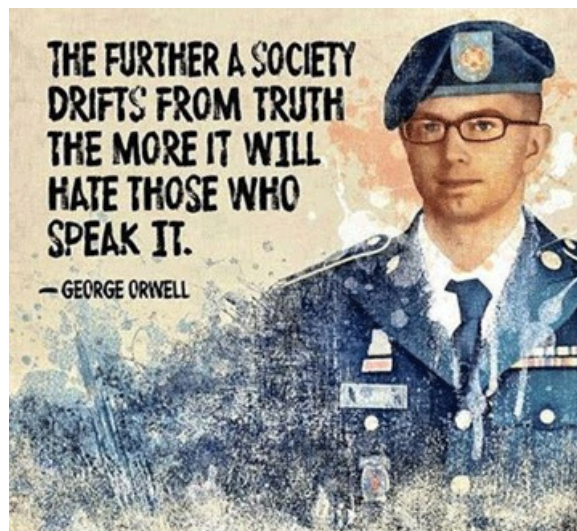
1st Lt. Clint Lorange was found guilty Thursday. He was found not guilty of making a false official statement.

Lorange was sentenced to 20 years in prison, forfeiture of all pay and dismissal from the U.S. Army.

Prosecutors said Lorange ordered his men to open fire immediately, in violation of the military’s rules of engagement, which requires soldiers to hold fire unless they have evidence of hostile action or hostile intent.

They said three men on a motorcycle approached the patrol in July 2012. Two were killed and the third ran away.

MILITARY NEWS



“Hundreds Of Thousands Of Demonstrators Gather To Mourn For Soldier Hung Chung-Chiu, Who Died Of Severe Heatstroke After Being Ordered To Do Strenuous Exercises In A Barracks On July 4”



People, holding placards of a bleeding eye, take part in a demonstration in front of the Presidential Office in Taipei, Formosa August 3, 2013.

Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators gathered on Saturday to mourn for soldier Hung Chung-Chiu, who died of severe heatstroke after being ordered to do strenuous exercises in a barracks on July 4, and to demand further investigation into Hung's case, according to event organizers. REUTERS/Steven Chen

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Zionist Settler Terror Mob Burns
Palestinian Family's Property:**

“Palestinian Fire Engines Were Prevented From Reaching The Scene For At Least Half An Hour, Allowing The Fire To Spread Rapidly And Scorch The Land”

“Hani Abu Haikel Explained That This Is The Eighth Time Settlers Have Burned His Property”



Flames tear through one of Abu Haikel's oldest olive trees (Photo by Christian Peacemaker Teams)

July 29, 2013 International Solidarity Movement, Khalil Team [Excerpts]

Hebron, Occupied Palestine

On Sunday, July 28, Israeli settlers severely burned land belonging to Hani Abu Haikel and his family in Hebron.

Occupation soldiers, though at first trying to help stop the fire, ended up blocking the road so that Palestinian firefighters were delayed in reaching the scene.

Several very old olive trees were destroyed in the fire which swept over immense swathes of land very quickly.

The previous evening, July 27th, Israeli police came to Hani Abu Haikel's house and questioned him about a variety of subjects including whether he has any plans of leaving the area, to which he answered in the negative.

Apparently this questioning is a regular occurrence. Israeli soldiers have also arrested Abu Haikel and his children on spurious charges, later releasing them without charge.

The soldiers continue to regularly detain and interrogate members of the family.

Yesterday afternoon Abu Haikel saw settlers present in the area of the Israeli military base.

As this is a common thing for them to do, he thought nothing of it at first.

However, after this Abu Haikel saw the settlers spray water all over the small plot they have illegally cultivated on his land, right beneath the military base.

He then saw them spray another, apparently flammable chemical over his land – soon after this, his land was on fire.

Observers noted that Israeli soldiers were obstructing people from reaching the scene to help.

Palestinian fire engines were prevented from reaching the scene for at least half an hour, allowing the fire to spread rapidly and scorch the land, despite volunteers passing buckets of water between them to try to quell the flames.

The only part of the Abu Haikel land that wasn't completely scorched was the small plot cultivated by Israeli settlers.

Hani Abu Haikel explained that this is the eighth time settlers have burned his property, including an incident ten years ago when they burned all of his trees, meaning that many of the trees that were burnt this time were very young.

It has taken him these ten years to effectively replant his land again and now, again it will be years before his land is as it was before this crime.

Zionist Settler Mob Attacks Palestinian Workers, Cars In Occupied Nablus:

“Settlers Also Tried To Destroy The Water Tank, Saying It Was Too Close To Their Settlement”

02/08/2013 Ma'an

NABLUS -- A group of settlers attacked Palestinian workers in a Nablus village on Wednesday, a Palestinian Authority official said.

Ghassan Daghlis, who monitors settler activity in the northern West Bank, told Ma'an that 15 settlers from the illegal Yizhar settlement attacked laborers in the village of Asira al-Qibliya.

The group of twenty workers were building a water tank near the village when they were attacked. Settlers also tried to destroy the water tank, saying it was too close to their settlement, Daghlis said.

On Tuesday, settlers from Yizhar attacked over 15 Palestinian cars at a junction by the illegal settlement, throwing glass bottles and rocks at vehicles.

Settlers routinely attack Palestinians and their property in the occupied West Bank with impunity.

Annual figures compiled by Israeli rights group Yesh Din have repeatedly shown that nine out of 10 police investigations about settler crimes fail to lead to a prosecution.

[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.”]

TROOPS INVITED:

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CLASS WAR REPORTS



**Failure Of Tunisia Government
Gathers 20,000 In The Streets
To Demand It's Downfall:
"They Are Traitors, They Are
Mercenaries!"
"Their Time Is Up And People Are
Fed Up"**

“Democracy Isn’t Actually About Elections, Its About Popular Will. The Will Of The Tunisian People Has Changed”

2013-08-01 Middle East Online

TUNIS - The divide between Tunisia opposition and pro-government protesters in the capital’s main square is much wider than the 150-metre gap between barriers put there to separate them.

Nearly two years after Tunisians came together to remove long-standing president Zine Abidine Ben Ali, the country is facing its worst political crisis.

“They are traitors, they are mercenaries!” is a refrain heard on either side of Bardo Square, where thousands of people have gathered at dusk over the past few days.

And as the number of people at the square steadily grows, the stance of both the opposition and supporters of the Islamist-led government has hardened.

Since demonstrations began on Friday, they have swelled from a few hundred to several thousand, even up to 20,000 on the side of opposition protesters on Tuesday.

So far they have remained generally peaceful, with the exception of few stones thrown between the sides and the intervention of police firing tear gas earlier this week.

In addition to unrest on the streets, at stake is Tunisia’s fragile transition process, managed by the temporary Constituent Assembly. It says it is only weeks away from completing the draft constitution.

On both sides of an increasingly polarized confrontation, Tunisians feel they are fighting for their political survival, an anxiety that has made reactions particularly fierce.

“We need to dissolve this assembly and its constitution because they’re not a government, they’re terrorists,” shouted protester Raja Haddad, wrapped in a Tunisian flag.

“Their time is up and people are fed up. We’re ready for any scenario, whether it is protests or war.”

Anger has been boiling just beneath the surface since last Thursday, when opposition figure Mohamed Brahmi was gunned down, just six months after fellow politician Chokri Belaid was shot dead.

“Just as we buried Brahmi, we now need to bury the Ennahda government,” said his fellow Popular Front leader, Ahmed Saddik, at the funeral, attended by thousands of Tunisians.

Ennahda has offered some concessions - it says it is open to forming a new government. But it has drawn a line at the Constituent Assembly. For the opposition, that is not enough.

“Democracy isn’t actually about elections, its about popular will. The will of the Tunisian people has changed. Our movement isn’t risking a crisis. The crisis is already here.”

On the opposition side, some religious men with long beards and women wrapped in conservative heads carves chant with them.

Egyptian Textile Strikes Put Pressure On New Government: “Workers’ Protests Are Already On The Rise”

August 1, 2013 By Hisham Fouad, <http://menasolidaritynetwork.com>

A new rash of strikes across the Egyptian textile industry shows the challenges faced by the military-backed government installed in the wake of Mohamed Morsi’s overthrow.

The new government has been in power less than a month, but workers’ protests are already on the rise.

This is the result of the continuation of the same anti-worker policies which pushed Egyptians into organising the largest number of protests anywhere in the world last year and was the main factor behind the fall of the Muslim Brotherhood regime.

Workers at Nasr Spinning and Weaving Company in Mahalla walked out on strike on 31 July in protest at delays in paying their wages, and the failure to pay 3 months of their annual profit-sharing bonus in time for Ramadan.

Meanwhile, the same demands are behind a twelve-day strike by workers at Stia Spinning and Weaving Company, while protests by workers at Misr Spinning and Bayda Dyers in Kafr al-Dawwar have reached day four.

In Damietta, workers and the Damietta Spinning Company walked out over the same demands.

Venezuelan Businessmen Accused “Of Bribing Senior Venezuelan Officials In Exchange For Contracts Worth Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars”

**“Many Venezuelans Joke About
The Rapid Rise Of The
Boligarchs—New ‘Oligarchs’ In Mr.
Chávez’s Bolivarian Movement”**

**“Massive-Scale Corruption Among
The Boligarchs”**

**“A New And Younger Generation Of
Politically Connected Businessmen,
Which The Venezuelan Press And The
Suit Calls ‘Bolichicos’”**

July 31, 2013 By JOSÉ DE CÓRDOBA, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

A former top U.S. diplomat filed a lawsuit against three young Venezuelan businessmen whom he accuses of bribing senior Venezuelan officials in exchange for contracts worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

The suit puts a spotlight on a group of executives who the diplomat, Otto Reich, and other critics say have made fortunes from links to Venezuela’s self-proclaimed socialist government.

In a civil suit filed late Tuesday in New York, Mr. Reich, who served as President George W. Bush’s top State Department official for Latin America, said the three men, who are

U.S. property owners, paid kickbacks to government officials. In return, the suit says, they got at least a dozen energy-sector contracts valued at about \$1 billion.

The men, Alejandro Betancourt, 33, Pedro Trebbau, 29, and Francisco D'Agostino, 39, who the suit says own Derwick Associates Corp., denied the accusations.

Some critics of Venezuela's government say accusations in the case underline perceptions of corruption that many say flourished under late President Hugo Chávez, who took office in 1999 and died this year, and allegedly continues under his successor Nicolás Maduro.

While most of Mr. Chávez and Mr. Maduro's supporters are poor, many Venezuelans joke about the rapid rise of the Boligarchs—new “oligarchs” in Mr. Chávez's Bolivarian movement.

Some say Mr. Betancourt, the president of Derwick, and his colleagues and friends represent a new and younger generation of politically connected businessmen, which the Venezuelan press and the suit calls “Bolichicos.”

“There's a lot of anecdotal evidence of massive-scale corruption among the Boligarchs,” Michael Shifter, the president of the Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington-based think tank.

Mr. Reich's lawsuit also says Rafael Ramírez, the oil minister and the president of Venezuela's state oil company PdVSA, received bribes that resulted in Derwick receiving no-bid contracts to build four power plants in Venezuela in 2010.

“The scheme has been a huge financial boon to defendants Betancourt, Trebbau and D'Agostino, all of whom enjoy lifestyles of extreme wealth in the United States,” the lawsuit said.

The suit says the defendants often bragged to friends that they paid large kickbacks in order to get the contracts. “You always have to pay,” the lawsuit claims Mr. D'Agostino told a friend in November 2012, referring to the alleged kickbacks as consulting fees.

On its website, Derwick portrays itself as a fast-growing company with a deep well of experience in engineering, construction and knowledge about developing countries that dates to the late 2000s. In explaining Derwick's success, Mr. Torres said its completion rate on its projects is one of the highest in the country.

In Caracas, Derwick has a penthouse office in the tall, sleek Kyra building located on a major avenue in the wealthy Chacao district, where a number of financial firms and multinationals hold offices.

Mr. Reich's suit goes on to name several government officials who allegedly received bribes reaching into the millions of dollars from Derwick management, but says the details, including dates and amounts “remain necessarily shrouded in secrecy.”

Brazil Protesters Keeping Up The Pressure

Huge Demonstrations Ahead Of The World Cup In 2014 Continue To Focus On Corruption And Governance Issues



Protesters burn a puppet that symbolises Rio de Janeiro State Governor Sergio Cabral during a demonstration. [AP]

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

01 Aug 2013 by Paula Daibert, Al Jazeera [Excerpts]

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil –

Massive demonstrations called after a bus fare hike in Sao Paulo and other cities in Brazil have developed into a nation-wide movement that is far from finished.

Some of the recent protests in Rio de Janeiro were triggered by the high costs of Pope Francis' visit last week and the alleged disappearance of Amarildo de Souza, a 43-year-old construction worker from Rocinha, one of the largest favelas in the city, after he was detained by police on July 14.

Protests, occupations of government buildings and massive public debates are becoming a part of everyday life for Brazilian youth in other important cities as well, like Belo Horizonte, Porto Alegre, Vitoria, among others.

On July 28, around 30 people began spending the night near the street where Rio state governor, Sergio Cabral, lives. Other protests have been continuing through the week.

“I want to make an appeal from the heart: no more protests in front of my house, I have small children. Demonstrations in front of the government palace (are fine, because they) are a part of the democratic game. I’m not a dictator. I’m open to dialogue and to the demonstrations,” Cabral said in a press conference Monday.

Joao Roberto Lopes, coordinator of Mais Democracia Institute and professor at the Political Studies at UniRio, said that discontent over corruption and a lack of transparency in public spending can be read as a broader dissatisfaction with current political institutions. He cites the case of Rio de Janeiro as an example, where thousands have been taking to the streets on a daily basis for different reasons.

Ongoing demonstrations call for the fall of Rio de Janeiro’s state governor because of his supposed benefits from public money and the poor quality of education, healthcare, security and management of World Cup and Olympics projects.

Professor Lopes added that apart from Cabral’s policies being tied to powerful economic interests, he fails at creating dialogue with the population.

“He forged a meeting with fake youth representatives. On the other hand, he uses the police in a repressive strategy to defend himself against the population. He is isolating himself, giving the people more reasons to protest,” he told Al Jazeera.

“If there is no response by the government, demonstrations will be even stronger in 2014, ahead of the World Cup.”

No matter what the next responses to protests might be, Pablo Capilé, a representative from Fora do Eixo collective, an umbrella group gathering social movements in more than 200 cities, thinks that Brazilians won’t leave the streets any time soon.

“The streets have become a space to build politics, in popular assemblies, protests, occupations and festivals. We plan on having permanent occupations in the centre of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo in order to build a system of constant social pressure so that the government keeps on moving forward,” he told Al Jazeera.

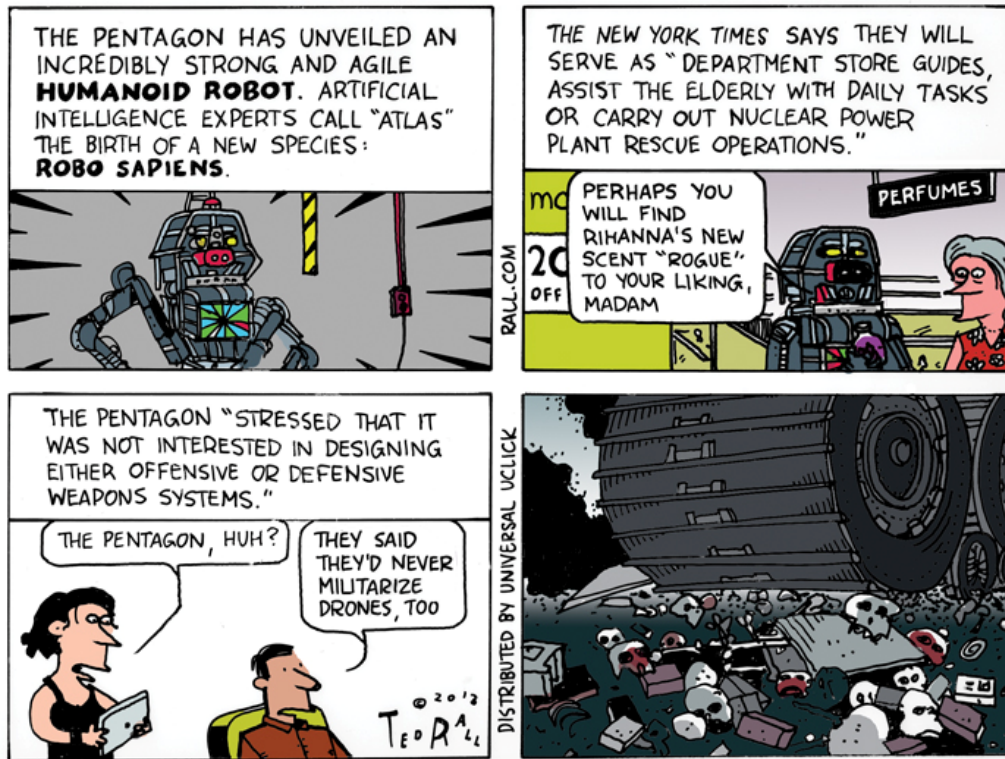
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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**NSA Reveals Even Greater Scope Of Surveillance Of U.S. Citizens:
"The National Security Agency Revealed To An Angry Congressional Panel On Wednesday That Its Analysis Of Phone Records And Online Behavior Goes Exponentially Beyond What It Had Previously Disclosed"**



NSA officials James Cole, Robert S Litt and John Inglis appear before House committee.
Photograph: J Scott Applewhite/AP

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Veteran & Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in, with comment.]

Comment: by Sandy Kelson

The NSA and the army gave access to top secrets to Snowden and Manning, low level workers.

Civilian contractors know the secrets too, maybe thousands of them.

Members of Congress, high elected representatives (read: non-representatives) are alleging they were out of the secret loop and are acting outraged at what they are learning about the spying program against Americans.

Nonsense.

News of these programs have been discussed openly for a decade.

Members of Congress must have known about these programs on some level, just like average citizens have who keep informed, especially through alternate news sources like MR.

To the extent Congress did not know all the details, it is because they wanted to retain plausible denial so they could pander to their constituents if and when the secrets were revealed.

They were and are in favor of the spying.

They are afraid of the people because they know sooner or later we would learn and figure it all out, that we are being oppressed, and they want to be able to try to lie their way out of the wrath of the people when they do.

Traitors and cowards to the masses.

They have sold themselves to the plutocracy.

Shame.

The Article: NSA Warned To Rein In Surveillance As Agency Reveals Even Greater Scope

17 July 2013 Spencer Ackerman in Washington, Guardian News and Media Limited
[Excerpts]

The National Security Agency revealed to an angry congressional panel on Wednesday that its analysis of phone records and online behavior goes exponentially beyond what it had previously disclosed.

John C Inglis, the deputy director of the surveillance agency, told a member of the House judiciary committee that NSA analysts can perform “a second or third hop query” through its collections of telephone data and internet records in order to find connections to terrorist organizations.

“Hops” refers to a technical term indicating connections between people.

A three-hop query means that the NSA can look at data not only from a suspected terrorist, but from everyone that suspect communicated with, and then from everyone those people communicated with, and then from everyone all of those people communicated with.

Inglis did not elaborate, nor did the members of the House panel – many of whom expressed concern and even anger at the NSA – explore the legal and privacy implications of the breadth of “three-hop” analysis.

But Inglis and other intelligence and law enforcement officials testifying before the committee said that the NSA’s ability to query the data follows rules set by the secret FISA court, although about two dozen NSA officials determine for themselves when those criteria are satisfied.

A document published last month by the Guardian detailing the history of the NSA’s post-9/11 bulk surveillance on telephone and internet data refer to one- or two-hop analysis performed by NSA. The document, provided by ex-NSA contractor Edward Snowden, does not explicitly mention three-hop analysis, nor does it clearly suggest that such analysis occurs.

Wednesday's hearing was the second major public congressional hearing about the NSA's surveillance activities since the Guardian and the Washington Post disclosed some of them in early June.

Unlike the previous hearing on June 18 before the House intelligence committee, members of the House judiciary committee aggressively questioned senior officials from the NSA, FBI, Justice Department and Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

One senior member of the panel, congressman James Sensenbrenner, the author of the 2001 Patriot Act, warned the officials that unless they rein in the scope of their surveillance on Americans' phone records, "There are not the votes in the House of Representatives" to renew the provision after its 2015 expiration.

"You're going to lose it entirely," Sensenbrenner said.

Inglis and deputy attorney general James Cole repeatedly argued that the NSA's surveillance was limited because it only searches through its databases of phone records when it has a "reasonable, articulable suspicion" of a connection to terrorism.

But several members of the committee, of both parties, said they were concerned not merely about the analysis of the phone records but about NSA's collection of millions of Americans' phone data in the first place, without an individual suspicion of connections to terrorism.

"The statute says 'collection'," congressman Jerrold Nadler told Cole. "You're trying to confuse us by talking use."

Congressman Ted Poe, a judge, said: "I hope as we move forward as a Congress we rein in the idea that it's OK to bruise the spirit of the constitution in the name of national security."

Inglis, Cole and Robert Litt, the senior legal counsel for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, also argued that the surveillance activities were restricted by the oversight of Congress and the FISA court.

Legislators challenged both contentions.

Congressman Spencer Bachus said he "was not aware at all" of the extent of the surveillance, since the NSA programs were primarily briefed to the intelligence committees of the House and Senate.

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren revealed that an annual report provided to Congress by the government about the phone-records collection, something cited by intelligence officials as an example of their disclosures to Congress, is "less than a single page and not more than eight sentences".

MORE:

**“For The First Time Since 9/11,
Americans Are Now More Worried
About Civil Liberties Abuses Than
Terrorism”**

**“47% Say Their Greater Concern
About Government Anti-Terrorism
Policies Is That They Have Gone Too
Far In Restricting The Average
Person’s Civil Liberties”**

**“35% Say They Are More Concerned
That Policies Have Not Gone Far Enough
To Protect The Country”**

In sum, the Senate and House Intelligence Committees are the pure embodiment of the worst of Washington: the corrupting influence of money from the very industries they are designed to oversee and the complete capture by the agencies they are supposed to adversarially check.

29 July 2013 by Glenn Greenwald, Guardian News and Media Limited [Excerpts]

Numerous polls taken since our reporting on previously secret NSA activities first began have strongly suggested major public opinion shifts in how NSA surveillance and privacy are viewed.

But a new comprehensive poll released over the weekend by Pew Research provides the most compelling evidence yet of how stark the shift is.

Among other things, Pew finds that “a majority of Americans – 56% – say that federal courts fail to provide adequate limits on the telephone and internet data the government is collecting as part of its anti-terrorism efforts.”

And “an even larger percentage (70%) believes that the government uses this data for purposes other than investigating terrorism.”

Moreover, “63% think the government is also gathering information about the content of communications.”

That demonstrates a decisive rejection of the US government's three primary defenses of its secret programs: there is adequate oversight; we're not listening to the content of communication; and the spying is only used to Keep You Safe™.

But the most striking finding is this one:

“Overall, 47% say their greater concern about government anti-terrorism policies is that they have gone too far in restricting the average person's civil liberties, while 35% say they are more concerned that policies have not gone far enough to protect the country. This is the first time in Pew Research polling that *more have expressed concern over civil liberties than protection from terrorism since the question was first asked in 2004.*”

For anyone who spent the post-9/11 years defending core liberties against assaults relentlessly perpetrated in the name of terrorism, polling data like that is nothing short of shocking.

This Pew visual underscores what a radical shift has occurred from these recent NSA disclosures:

Perhaps more amazingly still, this shift has infected the US Congress. Following up on last week's momentous House vote - in which 55% of Democrats and 45% of Republicans defied the White House and their own leadership to vote for the Amash/Conyers amendment to ban the NSA's bulk phone records collection program - the New York Times has an article this morning which it summarizes on its front page this way:

**Momentum Builds
Against N.S.A.
Surveillance**
By JONATHAN WEISMAN
The movement to
significantly rein in
surveillance by the
National Security Agency
began on the political
fringes but has built up
support from Republican
and Democratic leaders.

The article describes how opposition to the NSA, which the paper says was recently confined to the Congressional “fringes”, has now “built a momentum that even critics say may be unstoppable, drawing support from Republican and Democratic leaders, attracting moderates in both parties and pulling in some of the most respected voices on national security in the House.”

It describes how GOP Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner - a prime author of the Patriot Act back in 2001 and a long-time defender of even the most extremist War on Terror policies - has now become a leading critic of NSA overreach.

He will have “a bill ready when Congress returned from its August recess that would restrict phone surveillance to only those named as targets of a federal terrorism investigation, make significant changes to the secret court that oversees such programs and give businesses like Microsoft and Google permission to reveal their dealings before that court.”

Democratic Rep. Zoe Lofgren is quoted this way: “There is a growing sense that things have really gone a-kilter here”. Yesterday on This Week with George Stephanopoulos, Democratic Sen Dick Durbin, one of Obama’s closest Senate allies, said that the recently revealed NSA bulk record collection program “goes way too far”.

The strategy for the NSA and its Washington defenders for managing these changes is now clear: advocate their own largely meaningless reform to placate this growing sentiment while doing nothing to actually rein in the NSA’s power.

“Backers of sweeping surveillance powers now say they recognize that changes are likely, and they are taking steps to make sure they maintain control over the extent of any revisions,” says the NYT.

The primary problem enabling out-of-control NSA spying has long been the Intelligence Committees in both houses of Congress. That’s an ironic twist given that those were the committees created in the wake of the mid-1970s Church Committee to provide rigorous oversight, as a response to the recognition that Executive Branch’s surveillance powers were being radically abused - and would inevitably be abused in the future - without robust transparency and accountability.

But with a few rare and noble exceptions, the Intelligence Committees in both houses of Congress are filled with precisely those members who are most slavishly beholden to, completely captured by, the intelligence community over which they supposedly serve as watchdogs.

Many receive large sums of money from the defense and intelligence industries.

There is a clear and powerful correlation between NSA support and amounts of money received by these members from those industries, as Wired’s Dave Kravets adeptly documented about last week’s NSA vote and has been documented before with similar NSA-protecting actions from the Intelligence Committee.

In sum, the Senate and House Intelligence Committees are the pure embodiment of the worst of Washington: the corrupting influence of money from the very industries they are designed to oversee and the complete capture by the agencies they are supposed to adversarially check.

Anything that comes out of the leadership of those two Committees that is labeled “NSA reform” is almost certain to be designed to achieve the opposite effect: to stave off real changes in lieu of illusory tinkering whose real purpose will be to placate rising anger.

NYPD’s Highest-Ranking Black Cop ‘Stopped, Frisked’ By Two White Cops

Aug 01, 2013 By Herbert Dyer, Jr., Allvoices, Inc [Excerpt]

At least one cop has been disciplined for ordering the NYPD’s highest-ranking uniformed black officer out of his city-issued vehicle while parked in Queens, the New York Daily News reports. The off-duty, three-star chief was not charged with breaking any law.

“How you can not know or recognize a chief in a department SUV with ID around his neck, I don’t know,” a police source said, according to the Daily News.

The incident occurred last May 2, 2008, at about 7 p.m., as Chief Douglas Zeigler, 60, head of the Community Affairs Bureau, sat in his vehicle near a fire hydrant. Two plainclothes cops approached, one on each side of the SUV

One officer ordered the driver to roll down the heavily tinted windows.

Chief Zeigler reported the incident to NYPD Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly. Zeigler said the two cops, who are white, had no legitimate reason to approach his vehicle.

After ordering Zeigler out of his vehicle, the two white cops simply did not believe -- refused to accept -- the validity of the NYPD-issued identification hanging from Zeigler’s neck.

Of course, the two cops offered a radically different version of these events.

They said that they saw Zeigler’s service weapon through the already rolled-down window. One of them then yelled “Gun!”

Then both cops pulled their own guns, aimed them at the driver, and ordered him out of the car.

As per the cops, instead of identifying himself as a member of the NYPD, Zeigler shouted, “Don’t you know who I am?” according to the Daily News.

One of the officers said that as he tried to inspect the chief’s ID, Zeigler pushed him back.

It was only then that Zeigler identified himself as an NYPD officer – including his name and rank.

Zeigler reportedly told Kelly that the officers never yelled “Gun!”

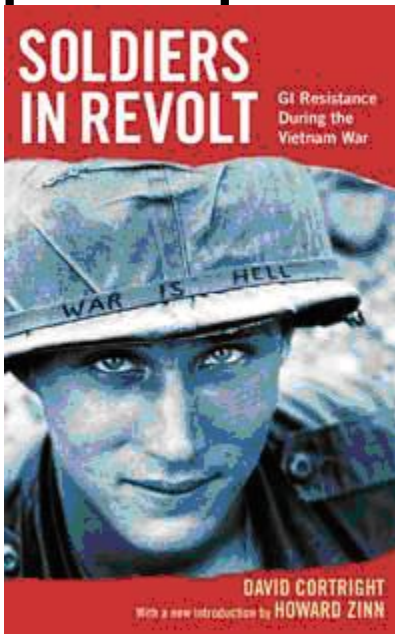
In fact, one of the officers engaged in a heated argument with the chief even after examining his ID.

That cop has been relieved of his gun and badge and placed on “modified” duty -- with pay, of course. The status of the second officer was unclear.

Zeigler has headed the Community Affairs Bureau since January 2006.

His wife, Neldra Zeigler, is NYPD deputy commissioner for equal employment opportunity.

FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY: A Vietnam Veteran Describes The Strategy And Tactics Used By Troops To Stop An Imperial War



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