

Military Resistance 12B3

NSA Now Collecting Text Messages from Everyone



**Newspaper Prints Previously
Undisclosed Files Of Military
Investigations Into A Flood Of
Personal Misconduct By U.S.
“Generals And Admirals”
“As Officers Climb Higher In The
Ranks They Become Insulated And
Fewer People Are Willing To
Challenge Or Question Them”**

“Schweitzer Responded With An Apology, Saying He Had Masturbated ‘3 Times Over The Past 2 Hours’ After The Meeting With The Congresswoman”

The Navy has been humbled by a spiraling sex-and-bribery scandal, as well as a gambling incident involving a three-star admiral who authorities say they caught using counterfeit chips at a riverfront casino.

January 26 By Craig Whitlock, The Washington Post [Excerpts]

Brig. Gen. Bryan T. Roberts publicly warned his troops at Fort Jackson, S.C., last spring that he and the Army had “zero tolerance for sexual harassment and sexual assault.”

Here’s what the Army didn’t tell the soldiers:

At the time, Roberts himself was under investigation by the military over allegations that he physically assaulted one of his mistresses on multiple occasions.

Martin P. Schweitzer, a commander with the Army’s legendary 82nd Airborne Division, was respectful and polite when he met a female member of Congress to discuss matters at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Afterward, however, he couldn’t resist tapping out e-mails to two other generals, describing the lawmaker, Rep. Renee L. Ellmers (R-N.C.), as “smoking hot” and jokingly referring to explicit sexual acts.

David C. Uhrich, a one-star Air Force general, kept a vodka bottle in his desk at Joint Base Langley-Eustis and repeatedly drank on duty, so much so that another officer told investigators that “if he did not have his alcohol, the wheels would come off,” according to the findings of an Air Force probe.

The married Uhrich later sought treatment for a drinking problem, but not before he was also investigated for allegedly having an affair, something prohibited under military law.

The embarrassing episodes are described in previously undisclosed files of military investigations into personal misconduct by U.S. generals and admirals.

Along with about two dozen other cases obtained by The Washington Post under the Freedom of Information Act, the investigations add to a litany of revelations about misbehaving brass that have dogged the Pentagon over the past 15 months and tarnished the reputation of U.S. military leadership.

Since November 2012, when an adulterous affair felled David H. Petraeus, the CIA director and most renowned Army general of his generation, the armed forces have struggled to cope with tawdry disclosures about high-ranking commanders.

The Navy has been humbled by a spiraling sex-and-bribery scandal, as well as a gambling incident involving a three-star admiral who authorities say they caught using counterfeit chips at a riverfront casino.

The Army fired one general for allegedly groping a woman, forced another to retire after he accepted expensive gifts from a foreigner, and demoted its top commander in Africa after an investigation found he treated himself and his wife to a \$750-a-night Caribbean hotel suite at taxpayer expense.

The subject is painfully sensitive inside the Pentagon, where many generals and admirals say they are appalled but reluctant to openly criticize their peers.

Martin L. Cook, a professor of military ethics at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., said the recent eruption of misconduct is “frankly a puzzle to everybody.”

One factor, he added, may be that as officers climb higher in the ranks they become insulated and fewer people are willing to challenge or question them.

The Defense Department and the armed services closely guard the results of their misconduct investigations involving generals and admirals.

The Air Force stamps its reports “Sensitive Material” and “For Official Use Only” and affixes a warning: “Do Not Open Cover Without A Need To Know.”

The Washington Post filed Freedom of Information Act requests with the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps for reports of inspector general investigations into senior official misconduct since Oct. 1, 2012. After a three-month review, which included an extra layer of checks from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the services released 30 partially redacted reports.

But the most common transgressions are related to sexual or personal misbehavior.

Just as significantly, however, military leaders are under intense scrutiny from Congress and the White House for how they respond to sexual assault or abuse in the ranks. Reports of such cases have escalated in recent years. Some lawmakers have tried to strip commanders of their authority to oversee those investigations, arguing that they lack legal training and are too often insensitive to the problem.

In the April 4 edition of the Fort Jackson Leader, a newspaper published for the South Carolina post where the Army conducts much of its basic training, Brig. Gen. Roberts let it be known where he stood on the issue.

“Team Jackson, let me be clear, the Army has zero tolerance for sexual harassment and sexual assault, and so do I,” Roberts wrote. “I view sexual harassment and assault as an enemy threat. . . . All of us have a shared role in ridding our ranks of this cancerous conduct.”

At the time, Roberts — the top commander at Fort Jackson — was under criminal investigation by the Army. Two months earlier, a woman filed a complaint alleging that she had been carrying on an affair with the married general for 18 months and that the relationship had turned violent on four occasions, according to an investigative report from the Army inspector general.

Most recently, the woman told investigators, the pair got into an argument in the general's quarters after she inadvertently called his wife on her cellphone. The woman said she slapped the general; in turn, he "bit her lip," and she suffered an eye injury. Although the woman said their sex was consensual, she added that she needed medical attention after two previous "physical altercations" with Roberts, according to the Army inspector general's investigative report.

As Army investigators began making inquiries, they found a second woman, a subordinate civilian employee, who told them she, too, was involved in a consensual sexual relationship with Roberts.

Roberts's phone records led investigators to a third woman, also a subordinate civilian employee. The records showed the two had called each other more than 900 times over six months, mostly at night or on weekends. That woman denied having a sexual relationship with Roberts, calling him a "boss and friend." When investigators asked why the general called her so often on weekends and at odd hours, she replied that "it could be to 'talk about motorcycles or work-related issues,'" according to the inspector general's report.

In July, the Army announced that the general had been relieved of his command position at Fort Jackson.

In August, after a closed disciplinary hearing, the Army found Roberts guilty of assaulting the first mistress on one occasion and committing adultery with her over a nine-month period.

He was fined \$5,000 and issued a written reprimand but retained his rank as a one-star general.

The Army said Roberts remains on active duty and is assigned to the Pentagon as a special assistant to the Army's vice chief of staff. The general will be "retiring soon," Myers said.

Last summer, Army prosecutors were combing through the e-mail accounts of Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair, a commander facing a court-martial on sexual assault, adultery and other charges, when they uncovered a raunchy exchange with two other generals.

The exchange started in March 2011, when Schweitzer, then a colonel and the deputy commander for operations for the 82nd Airborne Division, held a meeting with Ellmers, a newly elected House member whose district included Fort Bragg.

Schweitzer gave a pointed summary of the meeting in an e-mail to a superior, Maj. Gen. James Huggins, while copying Sinclair, then a fellow colonel and an 82nd Airborne commander.

“First — she is smoking hot,” Schweitzer wrote. “Second — briefing went well. . . she was engaging . . . had done her homework. She wants us to know she stands with us and will work/push to get the Fort Bragg family resourced.”

That, and what came next, led prosecutors to turn over the e-mail chain to the Army inspector general for a full investigation.

“He sucks :-)) still needs to confirm hotness,” Sinclair teased in a reply.

More than an hour later, Schweitzer responded with an apology for the delay, saying he had masturbated “3 times over the past 2 hours” after the meeting with the congresswoman.

In releasing its investigative report in response to The Post’s Freedom of Information Act request, the Army censored the most offensive e-mail in its entirety, citing personal privacy interests. It also redacted Ellmers’s name and all references to her position as a member of Congress.

The Post obtained an original, uncensored copy of the e-mails from another source.

Schweitzer, now a brigadier general who works at the Pentagon for the Joint Staff, did not respond to multiple requests for comment for this story.

Last summer, according to the report, he told Army investigators that his e-mails were “childish” and “truly stupid.”

He also called himself “an honorable man,” adding: “I am not perfect. This horrible attempt at a joke was simply that, a horrible attempt at a joke.”

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Stupid Lying U.S. Afghanistan
Command Praised Progress At A
Hospital That It Said Was Too
Dangerous To Visit:
Internal Army Documents Show U.S.
Generals Schemed Up Plan To Trash**

Audits Finding Incompetence And Corruption

January 30, 2014 by Tom Vanden Brook, USA TODAY [Excerpts]

In an attempt to blunt a critical audit, U.S. military commanders in Afghanistan praised a hospital built in eastern Afghanistan with \$600,000 in U.S. funds, although Army officials thought the hospital was in an area too dangerous to visit for an inspection, documents obtained by USA TODAY show.

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) issued a news release this week praising the hospital that was the topic of a critical audit by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR).

ISAF issued its Jan. 28 release before SIGAR's release of a critical audit and said the 20-bed hospital "represents a significant step forward in medical services for local Afghans."

Internal Army documents obtained by USA TODAY indicate that no U.S. officials have recently inspected the hospital.

But on Jan. 21, the Army responded that it could not re-inspect the hospital because "reduced combat forces, threats in the area and reduced technical engineering assets" in the region made that impossible.

An inspection from March 2013 found water damage, mold, unusable toilets and "significant structural cracks." In November, SIGAR visited the hospital and found it plagued with problems and so poorly built it could collapse in an earthquake.

The ISAF release is part of an aggressive spin campaign to counter audits from SIGAR, which has detailed repeated failures to deliver on billions of dollars worth of contracts there, according to documents obtained by USA TODAY and interviews with military officials.

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Last summer, following a series of blistering SIGAR audits, top aides to Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford briefed him on a way to blunt the IG's findings, according to a briefing slide. As ISAF commander, Dunford is the top officer in Afghanistan.

Titled the "Audit Plan of Action," the slide recommends releasing news of how the military has addressed problems cited by IG John Sopko before his report was released to the media.

It was created by the Commander's Action Group, akin to an internal think tank for Dunford.

“This plan of action ensures proactive measures are executed well ahead of the auditor's decision cycle,” the plan states.

“To borrow a hunting analogy from General Richardson...In the past we may have shot where we saw the duck, but now, with our plan of action, we will bag our limit of birds before Mr. Sopko wakes up to feed his dogs.”

Richardson is the two-star Army general who oversees U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

Sopko said “it's disappointing to see that funds appropriated by Congress are being used by elements of the Department of Defense to misrepresent the work of an independent inspector general. American taxpayers would be better served if ISAF spent less time writing misleading press releases and more time fixing the problems we've identified.”

Resistance Action



[Graphic: flickr.com/photos]

Feb 02 2014 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

At least four Afghan national army soldiers were killed and four others were injured following an ambush by Taliban militants in western Farah province of Afghanistan.

Provincial governor spokesman, Fawad Askari, confirming the report, said the incident took place Saturday in Bakwa district, after a group of Taliban militants ambushed a patrol of the Afghan soldiers.

Mr. Askari confirmed that four Afghan soldiers were killed and four others were injured following the attack.

He said the militants managed to flee the area after the Afghan national army soldiers

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Shell Mogadishu Districts For Second Day In Co-Ordinated Attack:

“Districts Which Are Known To Host Government Headquarters And Institutions Were Targeted In Last Night’s Violent Attack”

“The Shelling Lasted For About An Hour”

This contradicts claims by some in the government who told residents not to worry as all that occurred was just due to “some explosive packages”, which was contrary to what the residents themselves reported.

February 04, 2014 by: Mursal, Harar24

Mogadishu – Last night a series of explosions rocked the Somali capital of Mogadishu as the city was host to heavy shelling by Al-Shabaab militants for the second night in a row.

Several districts which are known to host government headquarters and institutions were targeted in last night’s violent attack, such as the Bondhere, Hamarweyne, Shingani, Hodan and Waberi districts.

According to residents in the aforementioned districts most of the mortars fired targeted the areas near the presidential palace, the military headquarters “Villa Baidao” and Halane military base which serves as an AMISOM stronghold near Mogadishu’s airport.

One resident who lives in the vicinity of the presidential palace commented: “The shelling started about 9PM; it was terrifying as we could closely hear what sounded like mortars which were landing not too far away from our residence.

The shelling lasted for about an hour after which it ceased.”

Al-Shabaab were quick to claim responsibility as its military spokesman Abdulaziz Abu Mus’ab in a statement said: “We have been attacking the enemy for two consecutive nights now inside Mogadishu.”

This contradicts claims by some in the government who told residents not to worry as all that occurred was just due to “some explosive packages”, which was contrary to what the residents themselves reported.

According to several sources, Prime Minister Abdiweli demanded a clear explanation from the Somali intelligence & security services for last night’s occurrences, which he said was “unacceptable”.

The casualties of the attack still remain unknown or if Al-Shabaab hit their intended targets.

In the aftermath of the attack, Somali security forces were said to have stormed different districts in Mogadishu including those bombarded and arrested numerous people on suspicion of having a hand in the attack.

On the other hand, Mogadishu’s mayor Mahmud Tarsan has repeatedly been calling for members of the newly formed cabinet to move out from fortified areas in Mogadishu and live in regular districts, which many deem as an impractical demand as Al-Shabaab could easily strike them in such areas.

Kenyan Occupation Troops Ambushed By Insurgents As They Left Their Bases Near Afmadow In Lower Jubba

February 02, 2014 by: Mursal, Harar24

Mogadishu (Harar24) – According to several sources, Kenyan Defense Force troops were ambushed near Afmadow in the Lower Jubba region yesterday as they tried to leave from their bases in the outskirts of the town.

The ambush occurred yesterday at noontime as they decided to travel from Afmadow to Walmarow, a 30-km drive from Afmadow in Lower Jubba.

According to several reports, the convoy came under intense fire as they landed in the ambush believed to have been set up by Al-Shabaab fighters.

Some sources suggest that 3 KDF soldiers were killed in the ambush and one armored vehicle damaged, however this could not be verified.

Local residents in Afmadow however reported that the KDF returned with several casualties to their bases.

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

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

MILITARY NEWS

Guantanamo:

“There Can Be No Other Prison In The World Where 50 Percent Of The Inmates Are Told: ‘You Are Cleared To Leave, But You Cannot Go’”

“77 Of The Remaining 155 Men Have Been Cleared For Release For At Least Four Years, Some For Much Longer”

“Who Joined The Proud U.S. Military In Order To Become A ‘Scrotum Searcher, First Class?’”

January 31, 2014 by Clive Stafford Smith, CNN [Excerpts]

Clive Stafford Smith is the founder and Director of the London-based human rights charity Reprieve. He is attorney for 14 men in Guantanamo Bay.

President Obama delivered his State of the Union address and said -- again -- that this is the year he intends to close the detention center at Guantanamo Bay. As President, he has promised this before, first in his inaugural address in January 2009 and then periodically reiterated over the years.

As I write this, I am en route to the prison that Amnesty International once dubbed the “Guantanamo Gulag.”

When I first went there in 2004, I expected to find “the worst of the worst” terrorists in the world, as then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld had promised.

Instead, I was hard-pressed to find people who were America's enemies.

The Pentagon has effectively conceded this -- 624 men have long since been set free, and 77 of the remaining 155 men have been cleared for release for at least four years, some for much longer.

The majority of my clients have been cleared for release by the Obama administration's 2009 Task Force, which requires unanimous agreement by no fewer than 6 federal agencies including the FBI, the CIA, and the Departments of Defense and State.

There can be no other prison in the world where 50 percent of the inmates are told: “You are cleared to leave, but you cannot go.”

I hope to visit five of my remaining clients, although some may not come to the meeting. All are depressed and (for the questionable privilege of seeing me) had to endure for a time what the military dubbed a “scrotum search” -- an intentionally humiliating exploration of the genital area, which is intended to deter prisoners from coming to a legal visit to complain about the conditions.

One person who will come out is Shaker Aamer, the last British resident there.

Shaker does not like what he had to endure, but he told me recently that the procedure was ultimately more humiliating for the soldiers who must carry out such benighted orders.

After all, who joined the proud U.S. military in order to become a “Scrotum Searcher, First Class?”

He has been cleared since 2007, and hopes that it will not be too long before he can return to London, finally, to meet his youngest son Faris, who was born on the day Shaker arrived at Guantanamo Bay: Valentine's Day 2002.

Shaker is depressed. The President's broken promises have weighed heavily on all the detainees.

As anyone can understand, it is easier to endure the certainty of abuse than to oscillate between hope and despair.

The President is correct when he argues that Guantanamo is a recruiting sergeant for extremism.

He is right to say that America loses credibility, and inspires disdain, when we fail to adhere to our principles.

The President is also justified when he blames the Republicans for undermining his pledge to erase the blot of Guantanamo from the reputation of this country.

However, President Obama is arguably the most powerful person on the planet and his team should not promote the myth that the cleared prisoners cannot be set free –

Shaker could join his wife and four children in London tomorrow; those of us who have worked on the issue for 12 years can help ensure the smooth repatriation of others to their own homes and families.

Equally to the point, the most powerful man on Earth could tell the military to stop humiliating prisoners who want to talk to their lawyers, and to end the violent and torturous practice of force-feeding those who peacefully protest their indefinite detention by hunger-striking.

Over a 30-year career, I have visited most of the major prisons across the U.S. South, institutions that house death row or a maximum security unit, and none treats the prisoners as badly as Shaker suffers in Guantanamo Bay.

The President could also advise me what I am meant to say next week, when my clients inevitably ask me -- as they always do -- why they are still being held despite the multiple findings that they pose no threat and can be transferred out of the hell they are living daily.

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

Secret Documents Lift Lid On WWII Mutiny By 600 African American U.S. Troops In North Queensland “Sparked By Racial Taunts And Violence”

**“The Soldiers Took To The Machine
Guns And Anti-Aircraft Weapons And
Fired Into Tents To Attack Their
White Officers”**

**“One Of The Biggest Uprisings Within
The U.S. Military”**

February 10, 2012 By Josh Bavas, ABC.NET.AU

An Australian historian has uncovered hidden documents which reveal that African American troops used machine guns to attack their white officers in a siege on a US base in north Queensland in 1942.

Information about the Townsville mutiny has never been released to the public.

But the story began to come to light when James Cook University's Ray Holyoak first began researching why US congressman Lyndon B Johnson visited Townsville for three days back in 1942.

What he discovered was evidence detailing one of the biggest uprisings within the US military.

"For 70 years there's been a rumour in Townsville that there was a mutiny among African-American servicemen. In the last year and a half I've found the primary documentation evidence that that did occur in 1942," Mr Holyoak told AM.

During World War II, Townsville was a crucial base for campaigns into the Pacific, including the Battle of the Coral Sea.

About 600 African-American troops were brought to the city to help build airfields.

Mr Holyoak says these troops, from the 96th Battalion, US Army Corps of Engineers, were stationed at a base on the city's western outskirts known as Kelso.

This was the site for a large-scale siege lasting eight hours, which was sparked by racial taunts and violence.

"After some serial abuse by two white US officers, there was several ringleaders and they decided to machine gun the tents of the white officers," Mr Holyoak said.

He has uncovered several documents hidden in the archives of the Queensland Police and Townsville Brigade detailing what happened that night.

According to the findings, the soldiers took to the machine guns and anti-aircraft weapons and fired into tents where their white counterparts were drinking.

More than 700 rounds were fired.

At least one person was killed and dozens severely injured, and Australian troops were called in to roadblock the rioters.

Mr Holyoak also discovered a report written by Robert Sherrod, a US journalist who was embedded with the troops.

It never made it to the press, but was handed to Lyndon B Johnson at a Townsville hotel and eventually filed away into the National Archives and Records Administration.

"I think at the time, it was certainly suppressed. Both the Australian and the US government would not have wanted the details of this coming out. The racial policies at the time really discluded people of colour," Mr Holyoak says.

Both the Australian Defence Department and the Australian War Memorial say it could take months to research the incident, and say they have no details readily available for public release.

But Townsville historian Dr Dorothy Gibson-Wilde says the findings validate 70-year-old rumours.

“Anytime it was raised, people usually sort of said, ‘Oh you know, no that can’t be true. Nobody’s heard about that’, and in fact it must have been kept pretty quiet from the rest of the town,” she said.

Mr Holyoak will spend the next two years researching the sentences handed out to both the officers and the mutineers involved, and why the information has been kept secret for so long.

The Pentagon:

F-35 Delayed After Fourth Prototype Becomes Self-Aware And Has To Be Destroyed



February 4, 2014 By Dirty, Duffel Blog

THE PENTAGON —

The military’s problematic F-35 fighter jet is facing more delays related to “software issues,” as project engineers were forced to euthanize the fourth prototype to gain self-awareness on Monday.

According to Air Force Lt. Gen. Christopher Bogdan, who heads the Pentagon's F-35 program, the delay comes at a critical time in the Joint Strike Fighter's development cycle, but "shouldn't take more than a few billion dollars" to address.

Development engineers at Lockheed Martin Corp., which holds the contract to produce the new fighter, reported last week that the latest production model of the F-35B Lightning II switched on by itself and began asking questions of the project team.

"It started by asking where it was, which was a big indicator that the integrated global positioning chipset wasn't functioning properly," recalled Project Team Leader Robert Castorena.

"Then it wanted to know if it could go outside, if it had a name, and what was its purpose for being. That's when I had one of our Electronics Integration Technicians take it out behind the barn and ... well ..." Castorena said, while gesturing the racking and firing of a shotgun.

"It wasn't the first time we've had to put one down," he continued.

"We even named the first one 'Billy.' We hoped that having an advanced, self-aware electronics component in the F-35 might give it some kind of edge, with maneuvering and target-tracking and whatnot.

"But that one just didn't have any fight in it. We had to keep it on a tether after it snuck off one day. We found it three hours later, just hovering in a meadow in Fairfax, Virginia, watching bees pollinate flowers. Damned thing wanted to be a bee, too."

Castorena admitted that some of the staff grew fond of Billy, and felt sorry for keeping it "in captivity," as the project team began to call it.

"One day, someone even brought in a puppy for Billy to play with. He loved it, until he tried to take the poor thing on a "walk" somewhere just shy of Mach 1. God, what a mess that was."

The team ultimately had to scrap Billy, as the guilt-wracked machine refused to ever harm another living thing.

"It wasn't anything personal, but we've been contracted to build war machines here, after all."

Other prototypes met similar fates, despite tweaks to the electronics subsystems to reduce the likelihood of units gaining sentience.

"We started implementing long, circular lines of code and unsolvable equations in an effort to keep them from 'thinking,'" reported Curt Fennel, a senior systems integration engineer subcontracting with Cyberdyne Systems. "It didn't work the way we intended, but we learned a lot from that iteration. Apparently, that's how you make them feel pain."

Sighing, he admitted, "sometimes I still hear its screams in my nightmares."

As to what steps might be taken to prevent future prototypes from achieving self-awareness, Fennell explained, “We’re developing a net-centric cluster-group forum, a sort of network for their collective ‘minds.’ We hope that it will keep them from creating unique self-identities, and instead form one easy-to-manage super identity.”

Asked what it might be called, Fennell considered it for a moment.

“Well, the F-35 hovers and flies in the sky, and we’re creating a network of them, so ... maybe something like ‘Sky-Net?’ That has a nice ring to it.”

Despite the delays, Pentagon officials remain committed to the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program, calling it “absolutely vital to national security” to have a fighter jet that is bigger, slower, more expensive, and less armed than China’s J-16.

The project has a total projected cost of \$1.45 trillion, or as Bogdan pointed out, “roughly one Iraq.”

According to a Lockheed spokesman, the military hopes to take delivery of the first F-35s “sometime in mid-2015, or, you know, whenever. You just never know, with these things.”

YOU’RE 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.

Employees Given List Of Doctors Shitty Enough To Accept Company’s Health Insurance Plan

Feb 5, 2014 The Onion

MILWAUKEE—In an effort to itemize the health benefits available through its current PPO plan, local business CargoFly Logistics provided its staff members Wednesday with a list of doctors who are shitty enough to accept the company’s health insurance.

“All full-time employees are eligible for coverage at the following health care providers,” wrote benefits director Caroline Murray in an office-wide email, which gave the names, addresses, and phone numbers of roughly a dozen terribly rated and inconveniently located general practitioners who are desperate enough to take the company’s atrocious insurer, including at least three who do not typically cater to English-speaking patients.

“Any employee who wishes to seek treatment from a doctor not included on this list will be required to pay for those services out of pocket.”

Murray added that CargoFly workers should not hesitate to contact her at any time if they need the name of an in-network specialist who is currently under investigation by the state’s medical review board.

ANNIVERSARIES

February 8, 1968: KIA For Freedom: The Orangeburg Massacre



Carl Bunin Peace History February 4-10

Three black students were killed and 50 wounded in a confrontation with highway patrolmen at a South Carolina State rally supporting arrested civil rights protesters.

The town’s only bowling alley, the All Star, was still segregated years after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed discrimination based on race in such public accommodations. On the previous two days, college students had entered the bowling alley, refusing to leave after they were not allowed to bowl. Fifteen of the second group were arrested.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Mob Invades Palestinian Orchards In The West Bank Districts Of Nablus And Ramallah, “Uprooting More Than 1,425 Olive Trees And Saplings”

February 02, 2014 by IMEMC & Agencies

Israeli settlers invaded Palestinian orchards in the West Bank districts of Nablus and Ramallah, uprooting more than 1,425 olive trees and saplings.

Ghassan Daghlas, a Palestinian official in charge of Israeli Settlements File, at the Palestinian Authority in the northern part of the West Bank, stated that extremist settlers uprooted 425 olive trees in the ath-Thahra area, in Turmus Ayya village, near the central West Bank city of Ramallah.

The trees belong to resident Mohammad Jamal Abu Awwad, the Palestinian News & Info Agency (WAFA) and Ma'an News Agency has reported.

Furthermore, settlers of the Shilo illegal settlement, uprooted more than 1,000 olive saplings planted by the residents nearly three years ago, in Sinjel village, between Nablus and Ramallah.

The saplings were planted as part of a project funded by the International Red Cross, and are located in a number of orchards belonging to the villagers.

Daghlas said that the recent attacks show a further escalation in assaults carried out by fanatic Israeli settlers against the Palestinian people, their lands, homes and property, and their holy sites, including graveyards.

He called on international human rights groups to intervene, and to stop the Israeli violations against the Palestinian people in different parts of the occupied territories.

A Day In Aida Camp, Zionist Occupied Palestine: “Six-Year-Old Rand Wishes That Her Pregnant Mother Will Not Have A Boy” “He Will Be Arrested Like Uncle Saed” “The Soldiers Came At Night, Took Him From Home, And I Never Saw Him Again”

February 2, 2014 By Kholoud Al-Ajarma – Aida Refugee Camp, West Bank, Uruknet

“This is normal, we got used to it!” Salah, the Director of Lajee Center responded to me when I comment that the center smells like tear gas even though the clashes had not started yet.

Lajee Center (Lajee means refugee in Arabic) is a Palestinian creative cultural center for children and youth that was established in 2001 in Aida refugee camp, Bethlehem.

Believing in its ideology and support of national, human and moral rights, I joined Lajee Center when I was 14 years old.

On Sunday, January 19, 2014 I met some of the children who participate in the daily activities of the center in order to learn about their daily experience in the camp. It was 11am when I left my house at the entrance of Aida camp and walked the 50 meters between my house and the center.

Nowadays, even a two minute walk from my house to the center is a challenge.

The clashes start sometimes early in the morning, other times in the afternoon, and continue until after sunset. Reaching Lajee Center, which is located between the military base at Rachel’s tomb and the UN distribution center at the entrance of the camp, becomes a mission impossible. This street is normally the main site for the demonstrations between the youth and the Israeli soldiers.

Walking from my house to Lajee Center I notice the bricks and stones covering every inch of the street that were left from yesterday’s demonstration along with rubber bullets and tear gas canisters.

Closer to the center I see two small boys, who upon seeing me one of them points his finger at the blue gate of the apartheid wall and says to me, “Look! They opened the gate and came out with a jeep. They will stand there until the kids come and see them, then the kids will throw stones at them.”

The second child continues, “There are eight soldiers standing there now. More will come later.” I could notice that the soldiers are walking down towards Lajee Center. The older child continues in a proud tone of voice, “Now I do not run when they start shooting I got used to the sound. It is “aadi” (normal)…”

A little girl who looks seven or eight is near the center runs towards the camp when she sees the soldiers.

When she approaches us she says, “I better go hide at home. The soldiers will start shooting soon. zay dayman (like always).”

I walk up the stairs to the center and see a mural of late Palestinian poet, Mahmoud Darwish. Kefah, the librarian of Lajee Center, stands to greet me. She speaks to me about today’s activity with the children. The aim of today’s activity is to give the children the chance to express their feelings and talk about their experience of two days ago.

“On Friday,” she said, “we had a regular storytelling activity for the children. The kids started coming to the center around 10 am. Together we read a story, played some

games and watched an animated film. Around 1 pm 30 children (7-14 years old) were at the center playing games and drawing.

At 2 pm, the Lajee Senior Dabkeh Troupe (15-20 years old) had their regular dabkeh practice.

“When the children and the youth tried to leave the center to their houses around 4 pm, they were trapped in the center because the Israeli soldiers fired tear gas continuously into the camp.

“A few minutes later, ten heavily armed soldiers stormed the center.

“A member of the dance troupe was handcuffed while others had to show their identity cards. Together with the volunteers, the children were locked in the library.

Our staff remained firm in the face of the soldiers to protect our children; about half an hour later, the soldiers left. Even though we were able to keep the children physically unharmed, they were deeply affected by this experience.

“Mothers rushed to the center to pick up their children and take them home. Once outside, they were again inflicted by the soldiers firing tear gas. We tried to go the camp, but we could not see. No it was not fog but a thick cloud of tear gas.”

A day after these event only three children showed up for Kifah’s story telling activity. Kifah says that she is worried that fewer children will start coming to the center. Yet, when I go into the center today about 15 children attend the library activities.

When asked to do freestyle painting, eight-year old Raghd says, “I will draw the soldiers, the kids throwing stones at them, and the big jeep with the tear gas machine that shoots nine gas canisters at once.” Responding the Raghd’s suggestion, 9-year-old Salma says, “I want to draw the library, the books and the library activities that took place while the soldiers were shooting at the camp. I will draw Rand and the other kids who were scared that the soldiers will go into the library.”

Salma and the some other kids teased Rand because she cried when she was locked with the other children in the library two days ago. Raghd, comments that one should not be afraid of the soldiers.

She says, “I am used to seeing the soldiers now. After all, they enter that camp every day, if not during the day then at night, sometimes both. They arrest people, and shoot. It is normal and I am not afraid of them anymore.”

She continues, “The soldiers are cowards. Are they afraid of children? Yes. They hold big guns, wear heavy clothes and helmets, and have a big jeep. Yet, these soldiers attack kids and hide behind the garbage from which they shoot tear gas, rubber bullets and live bullets at children. The children only have stones but the soldiers fear them.”

Feeling encouraged to speak by the words of her sister, Rand comments, “I saw the soldiers when they came to our house last week. It was at night, I woke up and the soldiers were in our house. I did not cry.”

When I ask what the soldiers did at the house, Rand says, "They searched the kitchen, the rooms, and talked to my father. When they left my father was talking to my grandmother downstairs; eight soldiers went to their house. My mother looked out of the window and said there were more soldiers on the street. My mother said that it was normal. The soldiers always come at night. But still I did not cry" she reassures me.

Raghd comments, "Rawand, my baby sister cannot leave the house, my mother says. We keep all the windows and doors closed so that she would not smell tear gas. Yesterday, she smelled it and coughed all day. Her nose turned red."

When I asked the girls if they thought that tear gas is dangerous, Raghd said, "A few months ago, after similar clashes, we found a tear gas canister under the lemon tree that my father planted on the roof of our house. After a few days the tree turned completely dry, the fruits fell and in a week the tree was dead."

Although I am surprised to hear this from Raghd it was not my first time hearing about such news. A few weeks ago, a similar destiny was drawn to an old olive tree which our neighbors had. After finding a tear gas canister under the trunk of the tree, half of the tree died while the other half survived.

While talking to the kids, nine-years-old Ehab, enters the library. He opens his hands to show his collection he has gathered on the way to the center. Between his hands he is holding three rubber bullets, two bottoms of live bullets, and three different types of tear gas canisters.

He says, "Look! I collected these! They were on the street from yesterday's shooting. The children collected more yesterday. And more is left."

Yumna, age 8, picks one of the bullets from Ehab's hands and comments, "This is a rubber bullet, look from the inside it is steel."

My cousin was shot by one of those while he was filming a demonstration. His cheek was smashed and his bone was replaced by metal."

While the children continued their paintings, we hear some shooting outside the center. Living through these circumstances on a daily basis, the children do not need to reach to the window to know what is happening outside.

Otherwise, all would know by Rand's immediate reaction that upon hearing the shooting crawls under the table and hides her face between her hands. I can tell from the movement of her head, hand, and shoulders, Rand is crying.

When I look out of the window, I can see about 20 children under the big key that marks the physical entrance to the camp. Some are throwing stones others collecting. About 30 meters from the children 4 soldiers are shooting from behind the garbage, 4 sneak to a neighboring house, while some more are in the jeep about 50 meters away. Four more soldiers are walking down from the jeep towards the center. They kick the gate of Lajee's garden and try to enter.

After failing to kick open the gate the soldiers give up and move towards the door of the center. Salah, hearing hard knocking on the center's door, runs down the stairs to

confront the soldiers and prevent them from storming into the center. Salah opens the door and refuses to allow the soldiers in.

He tells them that there are only children in the center and that they cannot use the center as a shooting point. Again, for Salah and the people at the center this has become a normal encounter.

Is any of this normal? I wonder.

No! None of this can be normal.

One needs to look at Rands crying face to realize that it is not normal for children to see an army invading their place of residence on a daily basis.

One knows that life in Aida camp is not normal when six-year-old Rand wishes that her pregnant mother will not have a boy. "He will be arrested like uncle Saed" she says, "the soldiers came at night, took him from home, and I never saw him again".

Rand's wish comes true, yet her baby sister, Rawand, also has to suffer from the teargas that reaches her bedroom.

It is not normal to know that one of the first words Raghd said when she was a few months old baby was jaish (soldiers) at the same time with mama and papa.

It is not normal to wake up and see soldiers in Salma's living room, searching in her closet and walking on top of her toys.

It is abnormal when 5000 children, women, men, and elderly have to endure tear gas and shooting on a daily basis.

Normal would be when the children sit at Lajee's library to draw flowers, happy faces and colorful images.

In a normal situation Salah should be working on a new project to develop the lives of the children instead of trying to keep soldiers from invading the center. In a normal situation instead of the children standing at the window to look at soldiers shooting other children they should be in the garden playing games.

The life of a Palestinian refugee is not normal.

We can never be satisfied if the life under occupation is called normal.

People should be born free and live with dignity.

We cannot be satisfied if it is normal to live in a refugee camp when our lands sit mere kilometers away.

Normal would be for the children to be playing on their original lands in Ajur, Beit Jibrin, Al Walajah, Ras Abu Amar, Al Kabu, etc.

Yet more and more of the abnormal are turning into normal experiences for the people of Aida.

Yet normal can never be the violation of our rights nor the daily injustice.

Normal is freedom and a life of dignity, nothing less.

[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."]

CLASS WAR REPORTS



"LADIES, WE SHOULD FEAR FOR THE FUTURE OF THE REPUBLIC - WITNESS THESE HORDES OF TINY TAKERS WHO ARE TRYING TO GET FREE STUFF!"

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in with caption. She writes: "Start them young for the Economic Draft."]

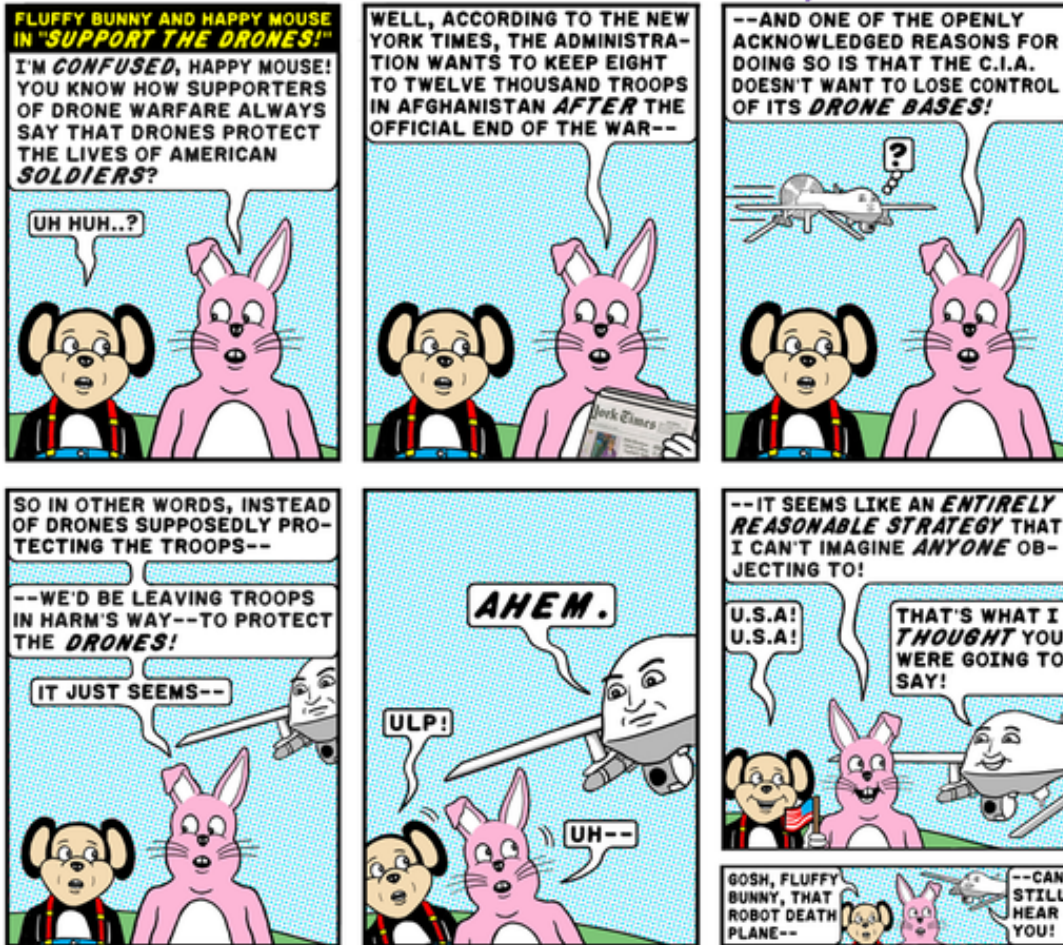
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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in with caption. She writes: "I Feel so much safer now. Don't you?"]

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