

Military Resistance 12F11



**The Eternal Graveyard:
Obama Says 9,800 U.S. Troops Will
Stay In Afghanistan Until At Least
The End Of 2015;
Babbling Contradictory Bullshit, He Says
“The Current Combat Mission Ends In
December” But Soldiers Will Be
“Supporting Counterterrorism
Operations Against The Remnants Of Al-
Qaida” In 2015”**

June 8, 2014 By Andrew Tilghman, Army Times [Excerpts]

President Obama unveiled a two-year plan to withdraw all U.S. troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2016, a move he said will allow the military to focus its resources on other extremist hot spots.

The long-awaited plan calls for leaving about 9,800 U.S. troops in Afghanistan for about one year after the current combat mission ends in December.

By the end of 2015, the U.S. military presence will fall to about 5,000 and the footprint will be limited to Bagram Airfield and Kabul, the capital.

Obama said the troops remaining in Afghanistan after December will be focused on two “narrow missions” that include “training Afghan forces and supporting counterterrorism operations against the remnants of al-Qaida.”

It remains unclear what portion of next year’s 9,800 troops will be assigned to training Afghans, how many will be focused on the counterterrorism mission and how many of those troops will come specifically from Special Operations Command, defense officials said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

North Valley Soldier Dies In Afghanistan

June 10, 2014 By Mariana Jacob, KFSN

FRESNO, Calif. –

The Department of Defense has confirmed a North Valley soldier died while serving in Afghanistan.

Action News spoke with Spc. Terry Hurne’s stepmother over the phone. She asked for the family’s privacy but added she wanted the young soldier to be remembered as a loving person who will be missed by many people.

Hurne, 34, was deployed in Afghanistan. The Department of Defense says he supported Operation Enduring Freedom before his death. The Army soldier graduated from Atwater High School in 1998 and was a member of the school’s Culinary Club, choir and Sierra Nevada Club.

School leaders say his death is a major loss to the entire community. “It’s obviously a very hard situation, we are will very much a military town,” said principal Alan Peterson. He added, “I think it hits our area hard and our school hard. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.”

A small group gathered on Tuesday evening for a moment of silence in honor of Hurne. Anita Richards hasn’t met his family but she knows their pain. Richards is a Gold Star

mom who lost her son, Staff Sgt. Frank Gasper while he was deployed in 2008. “When it happens to another family it’s just like it’s happening to you all over again because you have been through it and you know what the family sees ahead and what they are going to be going through,” said Richards.

The group is currently organizing a special run for fallen soldiers in August, and with the family’s consent, they hope to run this year as a way to pay tribute to Hurne. “Right now it’s a very difficult time for them, a very emotional time for them, and we just want to give them the privacy,” said Richards.

A soldier who was deployed with Hurne described him as someone with the most infectious and happy attitude who made everyone around him feel at home, even though they were all about half a world away.

Pike County Native Killed In Afghanistan



Justin Helton

June 10, 2014 By Matt Lucas, Circleville Herald

WAVERLY — A Pike County native and 2006 graduate of Eastern High School was tragically killed in Afghanistan on Monday while serving as an EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) bomb specialist with the U.S. Army.

Justin Helton, 25, a lifelong resident of Beaver and former baseball player at Eastern, was reportedly one of five American service members killed in Afghanistan on Monday by so-called friendly fire.

Helton served in the Army for four and a half years and had been serving in Afghanistan for two months, according to family members. This was his first deployment.

Helton was the son of Wendell and Sandra Helton of Beaver, and is also survived by his two brothers, Jacob and Nate Helton; one sister, Michelle Trevino; and a large extended family. He is also survived by his fiancée, Lauren Kelley.

According to family members, Helton “had a smile that would just light up the room. He loved life, his family and his country.”

The family was notified about Helton’s death at 1:30 a.m. on Tuesday, according to Mindy Helton, a cousin by marriage who is handling media inquiries for the family.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

Military Fuel Supply Truck Blown Up



Flames rise from an oil tanker carrying oil for U.S. forces after it was targeted by a bomb in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, June 18, 2014. (EPA/GHULAMULLAH HABIBI)

The U.S. Spent \$3 Million On Boats For Landlocked Afghanistan:

“That Works Out To Be More Than \$375,000 Per Boat. Similar Boats In The United States Are Typically Sold For About \$50,000”

“Not A Single Boat Has Arrived In Afghanistan, Even Though The Purchase Was Made In 2010”



One of the patrol boats purchased. (Courtesy of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction)

June 12 By Kevin Sieff, Washington Post [Excerpts]

The United States spent more than \$3 million on eight patrol boats for the Afghan police, according to an internal audit released Thursday.

That sentence is surprising for a few reasons:

1. Afghanistan is landlocked.
2. Not a single boat has arrived in Afghanistan, even though the purchase was made in 2010.
3. That works out to be more than \$375,000 per boat. Similar boats in the United States are typically sold for about \$50,000.

According to the report from the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), the boats were meant to be used to patrol the Amu Darya

River running between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. They were bought to move government supplies and “to deter smuggling and illegal entry into Afghanistan,” according to Gen. Harold Greene.

But nine months after the boats were purchased, U.S. and NATO forces decided that the boats wouldn't be necessary after all.

By then, though, it was too late. The U.S. government had already spent \$3 million on the boats. Nearly four years later, they are still sitting in storage at a Virginia naval base.

It remains a mystery why the boats were deemed unnecessary so soon after they were bought.

“The list of unanswered questions is particularly troubling given the fact...that this program had been an important national security priority for the Afghan National Security Forces prior to its cancellation,” John Sopko, the inspector general, said in a letter to U.S. military officials.

Millions in U.S. government funds have been misspent in Afghanistan, as the inspector general has noted in a slew of reports over the past year.

There was the \$34 million military headquarters that sat empty as soon as it was completed — no longer needed because Marines had departed the area. There was the \$80 million consulate deemed too unsafe to use after it was finished.

But the boats seem a particularly odd expense. Afghan security forces continue to struggle to maintain basic military equipment and locate spare parts.

It's unclear how they would have managed to fix broken boats. The nearest port is about a thousand miles away, in Pakistan.

Perhaps even more bizarrely, the United States had provided boats to Uzbekistan to patrol the same river years earlier.

According to a WikiLeaks cable, Uzbekistan had acquired 19 boats from the United States in 2004 to secure the Amu Darya River. Four years later, a State Department official wrote to U.S. Central Command that some of the boats had broken and asking whether the military could send over two more, along with two additional motors.

MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL

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MILITARY NEWS



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "It aint just Phoenix, Joe."]

Tales Of Sexual Assault, Stigma, And Suicide: Excerpts From The Ft. Hood Testimonials

By: Richard Capron
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: June 18, 2014
Subject: Excerpts from Ft. Hood

On Sexual Assault: from Rebekah Lampman, Army veteran, broadcast journalist, two deployments, rape survivor:

"(My commander) said, in front of my counselor, with me in the room, 'If you had not been drinking that night, you would never have been raped. It is your fault, because you were drinking.' Nothing was done according to regulation. Honestly, it makes me realize why so many victims do not report . . .

"I think that rape is the most serious crime out there. When you are raped or sexually assaulted, you are violated on the most vulnerable of levels. It takes away every aspect

of your life. It's physical, it's emotional, it's spiritual. It's psychological. It breaks you down so much as a person, to where you don't even feel like a person anymore. And I think until people realize that, it's never going to change."

On the Stigma of Seeking Help: from Jim Frank, NCO, three deployments:

"There was a lot of stigma if you sought care. You were looked down-upon, and you were thought of as just trying to get out of there, if we were out in tour. When we're here (Ft. Hood), it's even worse, because all they do is tell you to suck it up and drive on. They don't do anything. Unless you push it, and then they will . . .

"(The stigma comes from) human nature. Guys thinking you shouldn't have feelings like that. Any guy that's been in the Army and been over there, and been blown up a few times has got to have some issues in their head. But the ones that hide it the most are the ones that are the biggest jerks about it.

"It discouraged me from getting help. I waited until I was almost out of the Army. I was ESTing (leaving the Army) about three weeks away before I finally said, "I need to see somebody."

On Suicide: from James Cleary, Chaplain's assistant, two deployments

"While I was deployed, we had both Mercer and Sergeant Wolff both commit suicide.

"Mercer did it while he was overseas and Sergeant Wolff did it while he was on emergency leave. It was a huge effect on our unit.

Our colonel was told by our regimental commander that if we had another one, he was going to be relieved of command. We had an emergency safety stand-down.

"The chaplain and Major Jacks had to create a curriculum while coordinating across the board with other medical centers in the region, and came up with a four-day plan of suicide and resiliency training, where people were stuck in training for six to eight hours a day over two days. The first two days was all the higher-ups, and the second two days was the lower enlisted.

"It wasn't effective. It was entirely too rushed. The plan didn't give people time to prepare and it was just a quick, fast reaction to appease the higher-ups rather than look at the situation for the soldier.

"And the commander didn't address the issue that quite possibly, and most likely, it had to do with the way he was using his command.

"He tried to live his command in consistency with Machiavelli. Lead by fear. The fact that people were committing suicide isn't much of a shock when that's the case. But he didn't want to see that, and wanted to push the blame on someone else."

Read more about these testimonies, as well as those of 28 other soldiers and vets at: <http://forthoodtestimonies.com/>

**Report On Military Situation
From Source In Iraq:**

**“Baghdad Is Surrounded
Completely From Three
Directions, The North, West,
And South”**

**“There Is Another Front Southwest
Of The Airport Pushing Into The
South East Of Baghdad Cutting
Supply Routes From The Southern
Provinces”**

**“Families Of Officials Have Either
Fled Baghdad Through The Airport
To Neighbouring Countries Or To
London Or To Erbil”**

**“Internet Services Have Been Suspended
In Baghdad To Avoid Information And
News From Getting Out”**

6.16.14 By Ahmed [Iraq] via Ward Reilly, Veterans for Peace [Excerpts]

After the taking of Mosul by several resistance factions along with ISIS each operating in considerable isolation to the other, the city now enjoys a peaceful environment, a new mayor has been appointed and each resistance faction is assisting local dignitaries to

run each area in a manner that avoids stirring trouble between the factions on one end and ISIS on the other.

The Revolutionaries at this point seem to have received orders that no tensions are permissible with any party fighting the central government until the political process in Iraq installed by the Americans and Iranians is removed from power. After that is another story, as most Iraqis regardless of their sect do not accept that ISIS be the master of the house.

The Military council and Tribes are avoiding even displaying their full colour allowing ISIS to take the highlight in the Media this way their bad reputation causes many on the government side to flee thus reducing overall casualties and blood spill. This policy obviously has it's negative implications and allows Maliki to claim that everyone is ISIS to gather International Political and Media support.

When asked by local journalists the Councils insist that when the time comes where ISIS is consumed by it's creators in Battle they will choose the hour where they will clear matters in a more public Manner.

This will also force a lot of Media organisations promoting the ISIS line to accept a new reality where people would discover the amount of disinformation they were fed, leaving these media outlets in an awkward position with their readers and viewers. This is a very tricky strategy. but they insist that ISIS is the problem of the government and the Americans and the Military council is fighting its own war and will not interest itself with any argument that they should fight ISIS first as this is the government line.

Talafar with a major Shia population also welcomes the revolutionaries after they took the city, there were fears of revenge but soon after they entered the revolutionaries did not harm them and went for clearing the remaining pockets of Maliki troops in the old castle. Now all is controlled by Tribals

Samarra was avoided to deprive Maliki of any publicity that he is defending the shrines and revolutionaries drove down to Tarmiah and Taji where fierce fighting is occurring now to clear these areas and proceed to Baghdad further south.

On the western front Sahwas [a US organized Iraqi security force] are falling apart in Ramadi and the revolutionaries are taking control of more ground and neighbourhoods in the city. As we all know the city is plagued with tribal affiliations that make things a bit complicated but they seem to be negotiating their way into control on most areas

Maliki ordered all remaining troops in far isolated areas to withdraw to Habaniyah airbase in an effort to bolster his presence west of Fallujah and to shorter logistic lines.

Sahwas remain in Haditha currently in battle with ISIS in that area.

Military council has launched several attacks on Garma bridge from the north of the Mazraa base east of Fallujah and from Fallujah to create a pincer movement and clear the base. There is some ground gained but the base is very large and needs more attention.

Without clearing this base the revolutionaries would not take the risk of proceeding to Baghdad and leave their backs open to a counter attack.

There is another front southwest of the airport pushing into the south east of Baghdad cutting supply routes from the southern provinces.

Both the Military councils and the ISIS are moving in these areas as well.

Baghdad is surrounded completely from three directions, the north, west, and south and Maliki is sending militias on the outskirts to scare people into staying at home.

Internet services have been suspended in Baghdad to avoid information and news from getting out. Some TV channels have had their phone numbers blocked by telecom so no one can call and give eye witness information.

North east of Baghdad on another front in Baquba ISIS is battling the Maliki there while the Military council is clearing villages on the road to Baghdad. Everyone is waiting for the Baghdad battle to start but no one knows from which direction or when the attack will come.

Families of officials have either fled Baghdad through the airport to neighbouring countries or to London or to Erbil.

Also in Diyala the university closed down it's dorms so the students can go to their homes safely

Information on the battles in Tarmiyah and Taji is still yet to come The Iraqi Media spring is having difficulty locating their reporter there so they are trying to send another into the area so we can all have some information of what is actually happening there.

In the south of Iraq Maliki dispatched troops to Nasseriyah to secure the city after several reports that the people of the city are planning on launching demonstrations against him that may trigger other cities in the south to join in

This is a quick update on what is happening.

ISIS remains unfortunately the talk of Mass Media as an effort to save the corrupt political process... any intervention whether from the states or the Iranian Regime will sell itself that they are fighting terrorists from ISIS, same old game in 2005 and 2006.

Religious clerics who were silent for 11 years suddenly appeared on facebook pages carrying guns to rally people to defend the political process. They see themselves clearly part of the establishment that loots Iraq.

People are gossiping about them asking where have they been all these years ? Maliki is trying really hard to pretend that he is the saviour of Shias and that if his rule collapses it will be the end of everyone.

Kurdish peshmirga belonging to Barzani are looting military equipment and police vehicles in areas close to their borders simply taking advantage as in 2003 of any

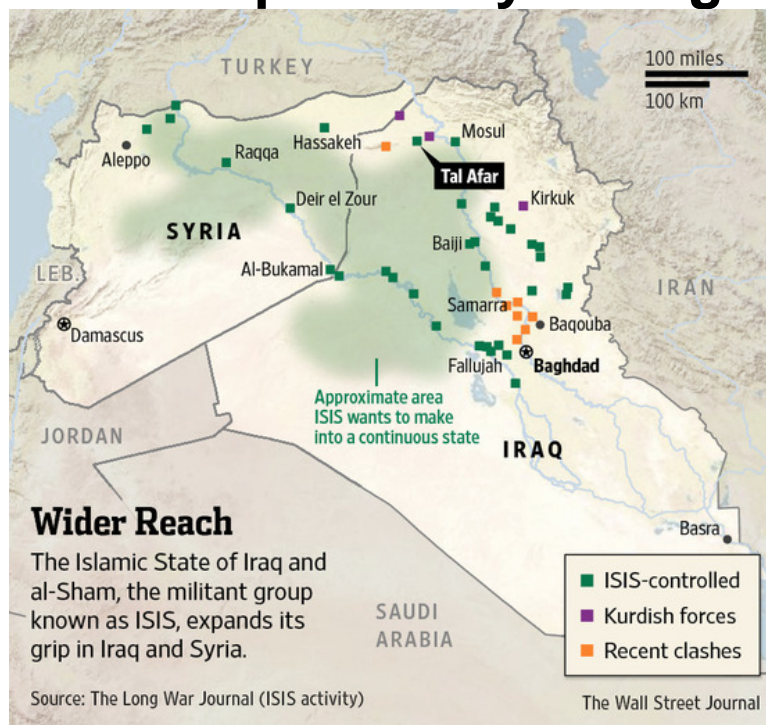
equipment not being attended to. They are also increasing their presence in Kirkuk in an attempt to claim it in the vacuum.

Peshmiga belonging to Talanani and backed by Iran tried this morning to attack ISIS in an attempt to drag the other Peshmigas belonging to Barzani into the battle but failed clearly an Iranian move.

Barzani has no intention to get involved in any fighting what so ever. He only wants to benefit from the collapse he hates Maliki just as much as anyone else.

MORE:

Tal Afar Captured By Insurgents



June 16, 2014 By Ali A. Nabhan in Baghdad, Ayla Albayrak in Istanbul and Julian E. Barnes in Washington; Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

The loss of Tal Afar, a city of around 200,000 people 270 miles northwest of the capital Baghdad near the Syrian border, underlined the fragility of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's government and raised fresh questions about its ability to counter advances by Sunni militants

Last week, Mr. Maliki sent one of Iraq's top commanders, known by his nom de guerre Abul Waleed, to Tal Afar. The general was planning to amass troops in the city and launch a counteroffensive to retake Mosul, 30 miles east, said Iraqi military officials.

Abul Waleed gained renown for leading his special-forces unit known as the Wolf Brigade on successful Iraqi-U.S. military operations against extremists in Mosul in 2005 and 2006.

His celebrity soared after Iraqi television created a reality show based on his unit's counterterrorism missions.

On Sunday, however, ISIS seized the initiative and began shelling Tal Afar, triggering a daylong battle. By Monday morning, government forces had lost control of the city.

Also, former members of the Wolf Brigade were trying to rejoin their former commander in Tal Afar, said an ex-member, adding that the general was running out of ammunition.

Radical Sunni fighters, who seized another northern Iraqi city on Monday, are being aided by local tribes who reject the Islamists' extreme ideology but sympathize with their goal of ousting the Shiite-led government in Baghdad.

Sunni tribal leaders say mistreatment by the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has sparked protests and militancy among their ranks that created fertile ground for the al Qaeda offshoot to emerge victorious.

"This is a revolution against the unfairness and marginalization of the past 11 years," said Sheikh Khamis Al Dulaimi, a tribal leader in the Anbar Military Council of Tribal Revolutionaries, a group that has led protests against Mr. Maliki for the past year and a half.

Although most observers say ISIS fighters played the dominant role in the quick military strikes last week, local Sunni politicians are taking credit for aiding the rebellion, saying the ISIS offensive was only a small part of a larger rebellion against the Maliki government that has been brewing for years.

"We don't deny that ISIS is fighting, but they are not more than 5%," Mr. Dulaimi said. "This is an Iraqi revolution."

MORE:

Baiji Falls To Insurgent Offensive: Iraq's Largest Oil Refinery Taken; "The Refinery Has The Capacity To Process 310,000 Barrels Of Oil A Day

And Provides Refined Products To 11 Iraqi Provinces, Including Baghdad” “Power Plant Which Supplies Electricity To Much Of Northern Iraq Had Fallen To Earlier”



The refinery in Baiji, northwest of Baghdad, in 2009. Credit Thaier Al-Sudani/Reuters

June 17 2014 by Howard Koplowitz, Reuters & JUNE 18, 2014 By ROD NORDLAND and SUADAD AL-SALHYJUNE, New York Times [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — Refinery workers, witnesses and an Iraqi Army officer reported the seizure of Iraq’s biggest oil refinery by Sunni extremists on Wednesday after army helicopter gunships failed to repel their attack.

If the insurgent takeover of Baiji is confirmed, the facility would be the first operating refinery to fall to the fighters who have swept through much of northern Iraq. They have surrounded the refinery in Baiji for the past week, fighting a battalion of the Iraqi Army that had been backed by air support.

The loss of the refinery could deny the Iraq government an important source of fuel and provide the insurgents with a potentially lucrative source of income, assuming that they can ensure its continued operation and sell the fuel, at least in the areas they control.

A refinery worker reached by telephone who gave only his first name, Mohammad, said that the refinery had been attacked at 4 a.m. and that workers had taken refuge in underground bunkers.

An unknown number of natural gas storage tanks were set ablaze. After taking heavy losses, the troops guarding the facility surrendered, at least 70 were taken prisoner and the refinery workers were sent home unharmed, he said.

An Iraqi Army lieutenant from Baiji, also reached by telephone and speaking on the condition of anonymity, said he had fled his unit when it became clear they could not resist the ISIS forces.

Witnesses in the area also reported seeing ISIS checkpoints controlling access to the sprawling refinery area, and smoke rising over the complex from numerous fires.

The attackers had besieged the refinery for the past week.

Foreign workers, including 50 from the German company Siemens, had been evacuated from the refinery, according to news reports quoting Siemens officials. Olive Group, a security company, said it had evacuated its six clients from the refinery in recent days “in a routine road move.”

“We took the decision to extract them, having monitored the situation around the refinery closely in the last two weeks and determining that it was deteriorating,” said Martin Rudd, Olive Group’s managing director.

The complex is about halfway between Baghdad and Mosul, Iraq’s second-largest city, which the insurgents invaded last week.

The complex includes the refinery as well as a 600-megawatt power plant, which supplies electricity to much of northern Iraq. The power plant had fallen to ISIS fighters earlier.

The refinery has the capacity to process 310,000 barrels of oil a day produced in northern Iraq, and provides refined products to 11 Iraqi provinces, including Baghdad, chiefly for domestic consumption.

MORE:

“The Iraqi Official Channels Are Exaggerating ISIS’s Role”

“‘They Are Not More Than 5%,’ Mr. Dulaimi Said. ‘This Is An Iraqi Revolution’”

“The ISIS Offensive Was Only A Small Part Of A Larger Rebellion Against The Maliki Government That Has Been Brewing For Years”

“We’re Fighting Against A Regime Backed By The United States, Iran And Even Russia”

June 16, 2014 By Matt Bradley in Beirut and Bill Spindle in Amman, Jordan; Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

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Radical Sunni fighters, who seized another northern Iraqi city on Monday, are being aided by local tribes who reject the Islamists’ extreme ideology but sympathize with their goal of ousting the government in Baghdad.

“For Sunnis on the ground, Maliki is still seen as a bigger threat,” said Nathaniel Rabkin, managing editor of Inside Iraqi Politics, a political newsletter, and an expert on the Sunni tribal network.

“Given how angry so many Sunnis are about the government’s policies, it makes more sense to try to own this insurgency than to disown it.”

Mr. Faidhi, for example, said ISIS forces are problematic but not one that Sunni resistance fighters should actively confront as long as they are fighting a common enemy.

“We’re fighting against a regime backed by the United States, Iran and even Russia,” Mr. Faidhi said. “The revolutionary resistance has few arms. They are fighting my enemies, as well. So why should I fight them?”

“The Iraqi official channels are exaggerating ISIS’s role” in the fighting, said Abdelrazeq Al Shimmari, the head of a anti-Maliki protest group based in western Iraq. “But personally, I would say I’m with any solution with any party that can bring me salvation even if it was the devil.”

Bonuses Paid To VA Bosses As Problems Got Worse; “The Top Bonuses Went To Top Executives”

June 11, 2014 by Dustin Racioppi, Asbury Park Press

Even as federal inspectors repeatedly warned that patient wait lists were having a detrimental impact on care, the troubled Veterans Affairs health system handed out \$108.7 million in bonuses to executives and employees the past three years, an Asbury Park Press investigation found.

The top bonuses went to top executives in the Veterans Health Administration, which has come under fire for what its Office of Inspector General called “systemic patient safety issues” that may have led to wrongful deaths.

Last year, the top bonuses — of \$21,000, \$17,000 and \$13,000 — went to medical and dental officers in San Diego, according to the Press’ review of payroll data from the Office of Personnel Management.

Meanwhile, patient wait times were a well-documented problem at the VA. Since 2005, the agency’s inspector general issued 18 interim reports “that identified, at both the national and local levels, deficiencies in scheduling resulting in lengthy waiting times and the negative impact on patient care,” according to a report last month.

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**The development of civilization and of industry in general has ever shown itself so active in the destruction of forests, that everything done by it for their preservation, compared to its destructive effect, appears infinitesimal.
-- Karl Marx; Capital: A Critique Of Political Economy; Volume II; The Process Of The Circulation Of Capital**

American History In Iraq 2014 And Saigon 1975



Photograph by Mike Hastie:
Army Medic Vietnam
Jabbar Magruder
Iraq Veterans Against the War
Anti-war demonstration
Minneapolis-St. Paul
August 2008

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: June 16, 2014
Subject: American History In Iraq 2014 and Saigon 1975

American History In Iraq 2014 and Saigon 1975

**Ring-a-round the rosie,
A pocket full of posies,
Ashes! Ashes!
We all fall down.**

**If the thing we'e fighting for was important enough to die for
then it was also important enough for them to be thinking
about it in the last minutes of their lives. That stood to reason.
Life is awfully important so if you've given it away you'd ought
to think with all your mind in the last moments of your life**

about the thing you traded it for. So, did all those kids die thinking of democracy and freedom and liberty and honor and the safety of the home and the stars and stripes forever?

You're goddamn right they didn't.

Dalton Trumbo
Johnny Got His Gun

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

WHITE HOUSE: Not Enough US Citizens In ISIS To Make Air Strikes Worthwhile



June 17, 2014 by Dick Scuttlebutt, The Duffel Blog

BAGHDAD, Iraq —

The United States rejected a formal request for manned and unmanned air support from Iraqi Prime Minister Nour al-Maliki last month to combat militants since intelligence reports found an insufficient number of American citizens were present to justify such strikes, Duffel Blog has learned.

“It’s not that we don’t want to help,” said Gen. Robert Caslen, who was recalled from his current position as West Point Commandant to handle the discussions with Maliki due to his experience and relationship with him, from when Caslen was director of the Office of Security and Cooperation-Iraq from 2011 to 2013.

“It’s just that the proper criteria have not been met by Iraq and we have to abide by those strict rules.”

Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIS), an al Qaeda-inspired terrorist group, seized Tikrit early this week and are within 100 miles of the capital city of Baghdad. This follows the fall of Mosul late last week, and Ramadi and Fallujah over the last few months.

“The President has made it clear in the past,” said Caslen, pausing to adjust the pants of his uniform — easily seven feet too long for him and gathered around his ankles as if they were designed by Prince on mescaline.

“We only use targeted strikes against groups of American citizens who have not been tried or convicted of any crime. That and Pakistani weddings. And the President has binders full of targets that he will approve personally before we can greenlight a strike.”

Caslen suggested that Maliki invite Pakistanis to hold weddings and other celebratory gatherings in the immediate vicinity of rebel strongholds and units.

“We constantly have drones circling, set to auto-engage Pakistani weddings and Americans the president personally disagrees with, so we wouldn’t even need to take off our green eyeshades and press the SMITE button,” he concluded.

At press time, Maliki had extended all-expenses-paid invitations to Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck, and Ann Coulter to “thank them for their steadfast support of the Iraq war,” but it was unclear whether they would attend.

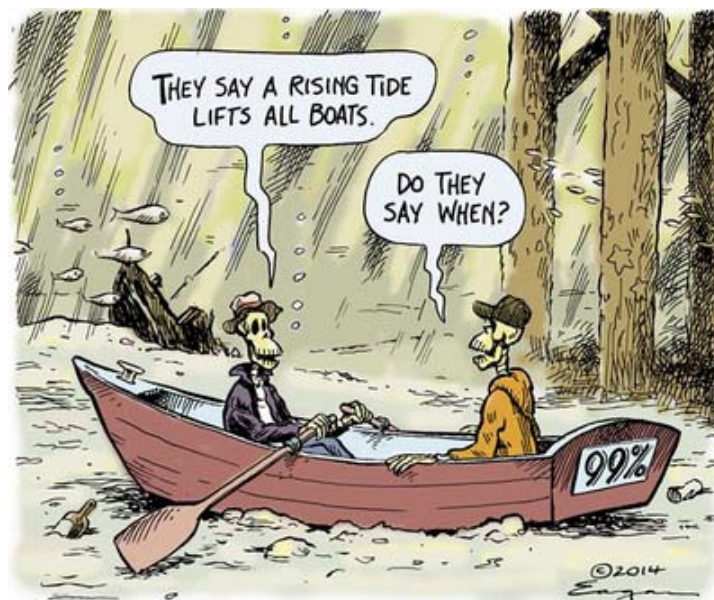
CLASS WAR REPORTS

“French Riot Police Clash With A Striking Train Workers”



French riot police clash with a striking train workers, during a protest over a bill to reform the state-run railway system in Paris, Tuesday, June 17, 2014. A weeklong strike by rail workers has caused one of the worst disruptions to the country's rail network in years and is heating up as the reform bill goes to the lower house of Parliament for debate Tuesday. (AP Photo/Michel Euler)

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Kill Unarmed Palestinian Fisherman, As Usual

10/06/2014 Ma'an & June 8, 2014 WAFA

GAZA CITY -- A Palestinian fisherman shot by the Israeli navy two weeks ago succumbed to his wounds Sunday morning, Gaza medical authorities said.

Spokesman for the Gaza Ministry of Health Ashraf al-Qidra told Ma'an that 52-year-old Imad Shukri Salim was announced dead Sunday morning.

Salim was shot in the chest by Israeli navy two weeks ago while he was fishing off the coast in the area of al-Sudaniya in the northern Gaza Strip, al-Qidra said.

Israeli forces shot two Palestinian fishermen off the coast of the al-Sudaniya area in the month of May alone.

Palestinian fishermen are only allowed to go three nautical miles from Gaza's shore, even though an agreement previously settled on 20 nautical miles.

Israeli naval forces frequently harass Palestinian fishermen who near the three-mile limit, as well as those inside the zone.

There are 4,000 fishermen in Gaza. According to a 2011 report by the International Committee of the Red Cross 90 percent are poor, an increase of 40 percent from 2008 and a direct result of Israeli limits on the fishing industry.

In a separate development on Sunday, Israeli naval boats opened gunfire at Palestinian boats despite fishing within the six-mile zone allowed for Palestinians to fish in, causing financial damages to some of the boats, yet no injuries were reported.

The fishermen were forced to flee the scene for fear of being shot or arrested.

Occupation Police Raid The Christian Palestinian Village Of Iqrit:

“The Police Uprooted Trees, Destroyed And Confiscated All The Personal Belongings Of Palestinian Activists Present In The Village” “They Beat And Violently Arrested 3 Palestinian Men”

9th June 2014 International Solidarity Movement Khalil team

Iqrit, Occupied Palestine

Yesterday morning on the 8th June, Israeli police forces raided the village of Iqrit (located on the northern tip of Israel, within eyesight of Lebanon).

The police uprooted trees, destroyed and confiscated all the personal belongings of Palestinian activists present in the village.

Furthermore they beat and violently arrested 3 Palestinian men who were present in the village at the time.

The 3 arrested are: Walla Sbeit, Nidal Khoury and Jeries Khiatt. They were taken to the police station in Nahariyya, where they were kept in detention over night.

Today at 8:30 AM the three detainees were brought before the Kiryat Gat Magistrates' Court, following a police request for an extension of their detention. The police have charged the detainees with trespassing the land owned by the ILA, obstructing the work of public officials, assaulting a public employee and endangering public order.

The court ruled that Nidal Khoury is kept in detention until Wednesday 11th of June. Walaa Sbeit and Jeries Khiatt was sentenced house arrest until Sunday 15th of June and they are not allowed to go back to Iqrit for 60 days.

As the season of Advent approached in November 1948, the Israeli military forced residents of Iqrit and the neighboring village of Kufr Bir'im —all citizens of the newly created state of Israel— to leave their homes near the northern border with Lebanon because of military operations in the area.

The Israeli forces made a promise to the inhabitants, that they could return to their homes after 15 days. The people of Iqrit are still waiting.

In July 1951, the Israeli High Court ruled that the people of Iqrit and Kufr Bir'im had the right to return to their homes. The military refused to comply, and on Christmas Eve 1951 blew up all houses in both villages.



In 1948, the village was home to 600 Christian Palestinians. (Photo of archive picture by Jonathan Cook/Al Jazeera)



Today (Photo by ISM)

Shortly thereafter, all village lands were confiscated by the state and has been rented out to the nearby Kibbutz for their cows to graze until this day.

Since then, decades of demonstrations and legal appeals for the villagers' right to return have seen a string of favorable decisions by courts and commissions that have resulted only in more broken promises and unenforced rulings.

In the 1970s, the government had granted use of the cemetery —allowing only the dead to return to Iqrit after they lived and died in exile at Kufr Yasif, Rameh, Haifa or other places.

The original villagers and their descendants —now around 1,500 people scattered across northern Israel— are allowed only to hold services in the church and bury their dead in the cemetery.

Every first Saturday of the month there has been a mass held at the village church and every year a summer camp has been organised on the hillside. In August 2012 the third generation reclaimed their village.

Around 20 descendants from Iqrit took the initiative to begin resurrecting the village despite the village's legal limbo. The activists make sure that the village is constantly inhabited, sleeping in tents, under the stars or in rooms attached to the church. The group consists of university students, factory and restaurant workers, and teachers.

Their attempts to construct or plant anything in the village have been met with immediate demolition by the Israeli authorities. But over time, they've been able to add a few amenities, including solar panels on the church roof, determined to bring back life to Iqrit.

Iqrit's 80 homes are long gone, but the activists goal is to rebuild Iqrit for the villagers-in-exile, refusing only to return to their home in coffins, but alive.

The activists have returned to the area and are discussing on how to proceed with their campaign, determined not to be intimidated by Israeli forces and their harassment.

“Give Me The Camera Or I Will Shoot You”

Heroic Efforts By The Master Race To Stamp Out Press In Occupied Palestine, As Usual

June 09, 2014 By Lil Jackson, The Palestine Monitor [Excerpts]

Friday protests in the village of Bil'in marked another effort by the Israeli military to prevent sensitive images from reaching mainstream media.

On Friday 6 June, Photographer Hamde Abu Rahma was beaten by six Israeli military soldiers after refusing to stop documenting the village's weekly protest.



Palestinian photographer Hamde Abu Rahma was assaulted by Israeli soldiers in Bil'in on Friday 6 June after he refused to stop documenting the village's weekly protest.

In an interview with Palestine Monitor, Hamde described how an Israeli military captain told him to "give me the camera or I will shoot you."

When Hamde continued to document the Israeli military activity, six soldiers descended on him, hitting his stomach and breaking both his camera and camera lens.

Upon returning to his home, where he lives with his sick mother, the military pursued him and began to fire tear gas at his residence. His second camera was broken in an effort to document the soldiers' actions.

To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:

<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and

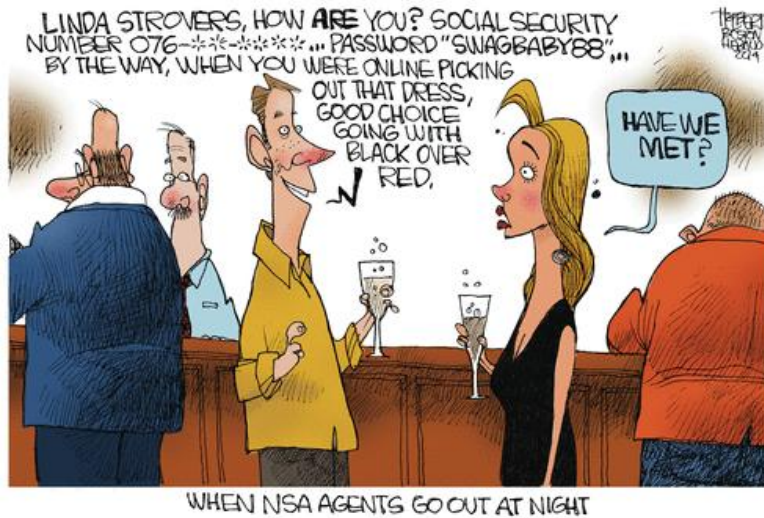
<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>

The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

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