

## **Military Resistance 12F4**



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Two yellow ribbons, with the tails overlapped, become the infinity symbol. War breeds terror. ∞"]

# The Truth Or Not

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: June 05, 2014  
Subject: The Truth Or Not

Written by Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

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### The Truth Or Not

**There was a Myth or Not in Vietnam in 1968 that when American Soldiers were fighting the Viet Cong, they spotted a young white man with long blond hair past his shoulders in Black Pajamas, barefoot with an AK-47 shooting at them & then disappearing in the jungle**

with the Viet Cong.  
When this story was circulating around,  
the American Infantry thought that  
he threw down his weapons & deserted  
& made them wonder too  
if they were fighting on the wrong side.  
But I can't put down my Brothers  
who felt & still feel today they were  
fighting on the right side.  
Just like me with my Purple Heart  
they deserve their opinions because  
they fought & bled for them.  
We had our own blond young man  
in our Company, who after seeing  
what was going on,  
couldn't fight anymore.  
At his Court Marshal the Brass fined  
him but would Not give him CO status.  
Shawn convinced me & many of us  
when he went out to the boonies  
& did Not carry a M-16  
or any weapons at all.  
But on the other side, many thought  
he was a traitor & would shoot  
a clip of a M-16 next to his head  
& scream at him.  
This California kid would get anti-war  
information from people back home.  
Eventually the Brass brought him  
back to the Base to do nothing  
while he awaited another Court Marshal.  
Another young Jewish Soldier of ours,  
worked himself into teaching  
Vietnamese children English  
at a school close to base camp.  
He invited me when I was back at  
base camp to go to his school one day.  
Little kids can't lie too good, even if  
they wanted to & it was apparent  
that they enjoyed Goldberg.  
At night, the three of us would practice  
Buddhism & try to see the Light.

written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

**MORE:**

# Bowe Bergdahl And Uncle Sam's Bright Shinning L I E



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)

From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: June 05, 2014  
Subject: Bowe Bergdahl and Uncle Sam's Bright Shinning L I E

Like a lot of us, I have been following the story of Bowe Bergdahl, and his recent release from captivity. The Press has been scrambling to cover up the smell. It certainly appears that he and his family in Idaho have figured out that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are a L I E. It's an epiphany tattoo that anti-war people have known since Vietnam. Now, we are all going to watch this country assassinate Bowe Bergdahl's character. That is not going to be easy, as that net will include everyone who is a peace activist. I watched Brock McIntosh (IVAW) being interviewed on "Democracy Now" today, and I was so impressed with his diagnosis of the wars (Occupations) in Iraq and Afghanistan. He

was eloquent with the language he used to expose the L I E. He used the word L I E on many occasions when he talked. He quite simply put the L I E under a microscope, and behold, we see Bowe Bergdahl. When “Thank You For Your Service” goes over a roadside bomb, it gives birth to people like Bowe Bergdahl and Brock McIntosh.

**Mike Hastie**  
Veterans For Peace

**Photograph:** Around 2004, I went into a grocery store, and while I was walking down the aisle, I noticed the Uncle Sam cereal box. As I went down another aisle, I noticed the toy soldiers for sale. Something clicked in me, so I took the toy soldiers and put them with the Uncle Sam cereal box. Two elements came together, and then I added the text. Some people might call it corny, but it seems to simplify what America does with impunity.

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

**MORE:**

## **THE BOY BOWE: “Mean-Minded Crap About Bergdahl”**

From: Clancy Sigal  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: June 05, 2014  
Subject: BOY BOWE

**THE BOY BOWE**  
**By Clancy Sigal**

So many people are piling on deserter Bowe Bergdahl that what should be a happy hour is turning into using up our energy to play defense. I've little to add to what we know...and what we don't know.

All I have is several years experience dealing with, and safe housing, American military deserters from Vietnam.

Afghan/Iraq is a different war.

Back in the day of My Lai and Khe Sanh, despite an initial revulsion, I came to see the act of military desertion by young men (almost no women deserters then) as a rite of passage where, sometimes for the first time in their lives, they're forced to take responsibility for their actions.

I hate using words like "existential" but for many young men the act of desertion was a response to "a sense of disorientation and confusion in the face of an apparently meaningless or absurd world" as Wikipedia puts it.

Circumstances differ.

You hate your sergeant. Get a Dear John letter from home. Or you're just a plain FUFA, fed up with the fucking army. But once you step over the line into that fateful 31st day absent without leave something happens to you. Suddenly you find yourself in a moral and legal limbo.

Who to trust? Why is that cop looking at me like that. And what have I done?

Bergdahl is immensely lucky to have a supportive family. I once had to go to Oklahoma to help a fleeing AWOL who had been turned in to the sheriff by his father and had to jump out of a second storey window breaking his ankle. For most families it's a hard thing to face. So they have a crisis of their own. Are they patriots or parents?

Politicizing yourself – looking for reasons - in the military is usually a slow burning process.

You enlist in a burst of love of country but once in uniform you gradually discover who you are in relation to the mission and the mission's relation to the world.

That's what happened to the football star Pat Tillman, an army Ranger who had begun reading Chomsky and antiwar literature before he was accidentally shot by his own men in Afghanistan.

The Pentagon lied about the fatal "friendly fire", just as it is now leaking mean-minded crap about Bergdahl.

From the little we know it seems Bergdahl, raised as a free spirit by his evil parents, became disillusioned with ground level reality of the Afghan war.

Hey, Bowe, join the crowd.

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**If you want more facts on desertion look at the 4 June issue of Mother Jones by Tasneem Raja. [<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2014/06/quick-facts-army-deserters-bergdahl>]**

**Or sign up for Military Resistance a GI-focused radical daily newsletter at [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org).**

Or like me be a fan of Duffle Bag, the military version of the Onion, created by young veterans.

Here's an edited sample of its latest: the Duffle Bloggers understand military protocol to its back teeth.

## **METEOROLOGISTS FORECAST BOWE BERGDAHL SHIT STORM**

WEATHER WARNING #06-02

REQUEST WIDEST DISSEMINATION TO ALL UNITS

SHIT STORM WARNING

HIGH SPEED SHIT STORMS ARE OCCURRING OR ARE FORECASTED TO OCCUR WITHIN 10NM OF TWITTER, FACEBOOK, AND ALL ASSOCIATED SOCIAL MEDIA. FORECASTED WINDS ARE FROM 230°V290° AT 12-18 WITH GUSTS TO 23-27KT ISOLD 30KT. THE POTENTIAL FOR VISIBILITY REDUCED TO LESS THAN 5SM BUT GREATER THAN 3SM EXISTS DURING PERIODS OF BLOWING SHIT. TAKE PRECAUTIONS THAT WILL PERMIT ESTABLISHMENT OF AN APPROPRIATE STATE OF READINESS.

A LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM OF JOURNALISTS REPORTING BOWE BERGDAHL AS AN AMERICAN HERO IS EXPECTED TO CRASH INTO A POWERFUL STORM OF SOLDIERS WHO SERVED WITH HIM AND CALL HIM A DESERTER AND TALIBAN COLLABORATOR.

FECAL MATTER IS EXPECTED TO ECLIPSE ALL OTHER NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES, THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION DEBACLE, THE ONGOING WAR ON TERROR, F-35 ACQUISITION, OUTED CIA CHIEFS, IRS SCANDALS, ABANDONED DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, PENDING ECONOMIC COLLAPSE, AND ANY MENTION OF FALLEN SOLDIERS OR DEAD VETERANS.

TAKE COVER. THIS IS A WARNING. TAKE COVER NOW.

**MORE:**

**Dishonorable Liars On The Loose:  
“Critics Of Sergeant Bergdahl Contend  
That Every American Combat Death In  
Paktika Province In The Months After He  
Disappeared, From July To September  
2009, Was His Fault”**

June 04, 2014 By: FreakOutNation.com

After CNN reported as a fact that “at least six soldiers died” looking for Sergeant Bergdahl after senior American military officials say he wandered off his base, others followed the lead.

The narrative is out there, and it’s being echoed throughout the Internet.

The New York Times looked into the matter and found that claim to be ‘murky.’

The Times reviewed casualty reports and contemporaneous military logs from the Afghanistan war which shows that the facts surrounding the eight deaths are far murkier than definitive — even as critics of Sergeant Bergdahl contend that every American combat death in Paktika Province in the months after he disappeared, from July to September 2009, was his fault.

During the most intense period of the search after Bergdahl disappeared two soldiers died.

**Both of the now deceased soldiers were inside an outpost that came under attack. They were not out patrolling and running checkpoints looking for him.**

**As for the other six soldiers, they died in late August and early September.**

The New York Times reports:

“But an archive of military reports logging significant activities in America’s war in Afghanistan offers a contemporaneous written record of events in Paktika that summer. The archive was made public by Chelsea Manning, formerly known as Pvt. Bradley Manning, who is serving a 35-year prison sentence for the leak.

“The first two deaths the critics link to Sergeant Bergdahl involved a major assault by insurgents on a combat outpost called Zerok on July 4, 2009. Their view is that the Taliban knew the Americans were stretched thin by the search mission and took advantage of that opportunity to try to overrun it.

“The other six American deaths in Paktika that summer occurred from Aug. 18 to Sept. 5, which Sergeant Bergdahl’s critics link to him as well.

““You see a lot of anger because we lost guys not only at Zerok, but a decent amount of good guys looking’ for him, said a soldier from his unit who spoke on condition of anonymity.

“Where those events are identifiable in the logs, they do not mention any link to Bergdahl search operations, although the logs are terse and contain few contextual details.

“Mr. Bethea wrote that of the six men killed in August and September, two died in a roadside bombing while on a reconnaissance mission, a third was shot during a search for a Taliban political leader and three others were killed while conducting patrols — two in an ambush and one who stepped on a mine.

“He suggested some connection to Sergeant Bergdahl for several of the deaths, saying the Taliban leader and a village that was in the area of one of the patrols were “thought affiliated with Bergdahl’s captors.”

“He also said a village in the areas of the other patrol was “near the area where Bergdahl vanished.”

“Still, those villages and insurgents were in the overall area of responsibility for the soldiers, and the logs make clear that the region was an insurgent hotbed. A log on May 21, 2009, for example, said it had historically been a “safe haven” for the Taliban.

**“A retired senior American military officer, who was briefed at the time on the search for Sergeant Bergdahl, said that even though soldiers were instructed to watch for signs of the missing American, they would have been conducting patrols and performing risky operations anyway.**

“‘Look, it’s not like these soldiers would have been sitting around their base,’ he said.

“The soldier who spoke on condition of anonymity agreed that it was ‘ludicrous’ to lay 100 percent of the blame for the deaths at Sergeant Bergdahl’s feet, and he acknowledged that patrols were going to get hit in Paktika during fighting season anyway.”

**MORE:**

**The Rush To Demonize Sgt.  
Bergdahl:  
“Cowering Politicians Now Even  
Seem To Regret Their Initial Burst Of  
Joy That A Prisoner Was Coming  
Home”  
“The Talk-Show Crowd Has Piled On  
Sergeant Bergdahl’s Father For His  
Suspiciously Long Beard”**

JUNE 5, 2014 By THE EDITORIAL BOARD, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

Four months ago, Senator John McCain said he would support the exchange of five hard-core Taliban leaders for the release of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl.



**“I would support,” he told CNN. “Obviously I’d have to know the details, but I would support ways of bringing him home and if exchange was one of them I think that would be something I think we should seriously consider.”**

**But the instant the Obama administration actually made that trade, Mr. McCain, as he has so often in the past, switched positions for maximum political advantage.**

**“I would not have made this deal,” he said a few days ago. Suddenly the prisoner exchange is “troubling” and “poses a great threat” to service members. Hearings must be held, he said, and sharp questions asked.**

This hypocrisy now pervades the Republican Party and the conservative movement, and has even infected several fearful Democrats.

When they could use Sergeant Bergdahl’s captivity as a cudgel against the administration, they eagerly did so, loudly and in great numbers. And the moment they could use his release to make President Obama look weak on terrorism or simply incompetent, they reversed direction without a moment’s hesitation to jump aboard the new bandwagon.

Though we criticized the administration for ignoring the law in not informing Congress of the transfer of the Taliban detainees 30 days in advance, leave it to Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and other hyperventilators to claim that continued release of prisoners from Guantánamo without prior notice is now considered an impeachable offense, a ludicrous leap.

Gov. Rick Perry of Texas says the whole exchange was cooked up to distract the public from the Veterans Affairs scandals, and the talk-show crowd has piled on Sergeant Bergdahl’s father for his suspiciously long beard.

Cowering politicians now even seem to regret their initial burst of joy that a prisoner was coming home. “A grateful nation welcomes him home,” said Representative Lee Terry, Republican of Nebraska, in a Twitter message on Sunday. The statement on his website was deleted a short time later. “Warmest regards to his family with gratitude for his/their service and sacrifice,” wrote Representative Stephen Lynch, Democrat of Massachusetts, in another quickly deleted tweet.

**This duck-and-cover response is the result of the outrageous demonization of Sergeant Bergdahl in the absence of actual facts.**

**And a classified military report shows that Sergeant Bergdahl had walked away from assigned areas at least twice before and had returned, according to a report in The Times on Thursday.**

**It describes him as a free-spirited young man who asked many questions but gave no indication of being a deserter, let alone the turncoat that Mr. Obama’s opponents are now trying to create.**

If anything, the report suggests that the army unit’s lack of security and discipline was as much to blame for the disappearance, given the sergeant’s history.

Thousands of soldiers desert during every war, including 50,000 American soldiers during World War II.

As many as 4,000 a year were absent without leave for extended periods during the Iraq war. They leave for a variety of reasons, including psychological trauma, but whatever their mental state, it is the military's duty to get them back if they are taken prisoner.

That's what the Obama administration did in this case, and there was a particular sense of urgency because a video showed that Sergeant Bergdahl's life might be in danger.

But the critics seeking political advantage don't care about the life or mental state of a particular soldier, or of a principle of loyalty that should provide comfort to any soldier in danger of capture.

They live only for the attack.

**MORE:**

## **The Bergdahl Debate: An Equal Opportunity For Stupid**

**Comment: T**

**Some right wing shitheads say he's a traitor who deserted to the enemy.**

**Some left-wing shitheads say he's a hero who deserted to the Taliban because he opposed the war on Afghanistan.**

**At this point, only Bergdahl know what happened to Bergdahl and why it happened.**

**Time for all these twisted freaks to shut the fuck up and have the minimal decency to stop using him as some cheap propaganda trick pony who exists to support their debating points.**

**MORE:**

# **“You'll Need To Relearn How To Be A Person”**

# **“When I Came Home After 26 Months In Captivity, I Didn’t Know How Hard It Is To Be Free Again”**

## **[A Letter To Bowe Bergdahl From A Fellow Former Hostage]**



AP Photo

Jun. 4, 2014 By Shane Bauer, Mother Jones

Bowe Bergdahl, you are now free, but many of your problems are just beginning.

You have left a world of extreme isolation and entered one that is vastly more complex. It will be hard for you to adjust. Anyone who spends a significant amount of time as a prisoner comes out handicapped. This would be true whether you were held by the Taliban or anyone else.

And along with all that, you will have to cope with being an odd celebrity.

You will have infinitely more support than most prisoners do when they are released. People will recognize you on the street and welcome you home.

**But you’ll soon discover that others, in op-eds, blogs, and emails, say terrible things.**

**You’ll find that many are blaming you for your own captivity.**

**Ironically, these are generally people who feel very strongly that your captors are their enemies.**

**Some of them think you should be punished further. You'll see that many blame you for the deaths of American soldiers, rather than blame the war itself.**

**Blaming the victim is always a way to protect the powerful.**

When you get back to the United States, people will ask you over and over, in confidential and heartfelt tones, how you are doing. When they ask, they will look you in the eyes to show you they understand.

You will not be able to give an answer that feels true, possibly because you will grow annoyed with such questions, but also because "great" and "awful" will probably both be true at once, though you won't really understand the awful part.

You will get unreasonably angry at times, even when your life is good.

You will carry a strange tension around that you never felt before, one that is unlike the anxiety and fear you felt in captivity. You might develop new nervous ticks. You'll probably feel tempted to drink more than usual. You might have problems with your memory.

Chances are you will feel anxious in crowds.

It may be hard for you to make choices for a while without being told what to do. You will be wracked with guilt for a thousand things. That, or you'll feel nothing.

There will be something you'll come to miss about captivity, though you might keep this a secret—there, the source of your problems were clear. Now that you're free, they won't make sense.

Some people—strangers—will become oddly emotional around you. You'll come to learn that some relate their own crises to yours and they'll look to you for answers that you won't possess.

You'll find that the person many see when they look at you isn't really you, and this will be awkward.

**Some will relate to you as a hero for walking off the military base (if that is what you in fact did; we don't yet know), which might feel supportive, but also uncomfortable.**

**Some will treat you as a hero for being a soldier, which, if you were in fact disillusioned with the military, might also make you uncomfortable.**

**You will come to understand that you are now a symbol and a story, and you'll need to relearn how to be a person.**

For years to come, people will tell you dreadful things they've been through when they first meet you. Some will preface their stories by saying things like, "Of course this doesn't compare to your situation, but..." Others won't preface anything. Some will probably tell you things far worse than anything you've ever experienced.

Eventually, strangers will forget your face and you'll enjoy your anonymity (while missing the attention).

You'll find yourself trying carefully not to bring up your captivity, not because you have such a hard time talking about it, but because you want to enjoy your dinner or the party or the company of friends without someone telling you yet another terrible story. You'll learn how to condense your own experience into sound bites that can wrap everything up in a few minutes and leave the listener feeling satisfied.

**It's impossible to say what is best for another person, but what helped me when I was released after 26 months of captivity in Iran was to find others who have been through similar experiences.**

Through them, you will see that your confusion is not unusual.

**When I got out of prison, I found solace in conversations with other Americans who had been wrongfully detained, from Nicaragua to Afghanistan.**

**I also connected with people who were wrongfully convicted in the United States, some getting out after more than 20 years behind bars.**

**I related to a former Guantanamo detainee, Ahmed Errachidi, who was detained without trial, did three years in solitary, and was released six years after being captured.**

**When I called him up in Morocco and he told me he was having a hard time feeling happy, feeling like he had his life back, I felt less alone.**

### **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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.**

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

**Foreign Occupation “Servicemember”  
Killed Somewhere Or Other In  
Afghanistan:**

# Nationality Not Announced

June 5, 2014 AP

A foreign servicemember died as a result of an enemy forces attack in eastern Afghanistan today.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

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

## Resistance Action

05 Jun 2014 Associated Press

An Afghan official says a police chief and two other officers were killed when a roadside bomb exploded while they were on a demining mission in the southern Gazni province.

Abdul Azim Farooqi, governor of the Waghaz district, said the district chief of police Mohammad Qasim had gone with other officers to remove a roadside bomb planted by Taliban insurgents.

When they removed the bomb another mine concealed under it exploded, killing Qasim and two other officers, and wounding a third policeman.

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Jun 04 2014 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

At least four Afghan policemen were martyred following an improvised explosive device (IED) explosion in southern Helmand province of Afghanistan.

Provincial governor spokesman, Omar Zwak, said the incident took place late Tuesday in Sangin district.

Zwak further added that the vehicle of the Afghan policemen struck with the improvised explosive device (IED), leaving 4 policemen dead and another one injured.

He said the victims of the incident were members of the public order police forces.

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Jun 04 2014 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

At least two Afghan national army soldiers were martyred following an improvised explosive device (IED) explosion.

Defense ministry officials said the two Afghan soldiers were martyred in the past 24 hours.

The officials did not disclose further information regarding the exact location of the incident where the two Afghan soldiers martyred.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE  
END THE OCCUPATION**

## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

# **Insurgents Attack Army CIC: “A Motorcade Carrying Gen. Indho Qarsho Wadded Into A Mainfield” “Mogadishu Security Situation Has Been Deteriorating”**

May 28, 2013 Garowe Online

MOGADISHU, Somalia

Somali National Army (SNA) Commander-In-Chief Gen. Dahir Elmi Indho Qarsho has survived attempt on his life in Mogadishu's Hodon district according to officials on Wednesday, Garowe Online reports.

A motorcade carrying Gen. Indho Qarsho wadded into a mainfield laid by unknown assailants, with the follow-up explosion wounding some his bodyguards. Army Chief escaped unhurt, sources added.

Hodon Police Station commander, Mohamed Dahir who spoke to reporters unveiled that they arrested suspects for the assassination attempt on the life of armed forces Chief.

Mogadishu security situation has been deteriorating since the removal of Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon who had a falling out with President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in December.

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# Insurgent Attack Kills 28 “Vigilantes”

May 27, 2013 Garowe Online

ATO, Somalia - At least 40 people had been killed in deadly battle that ensued near Somalia's southwestern border with Ethiopia according to officials, Garowe Online reports.

On Tuesday morning, heavily armed Al Shabaab fighters raided bases in a village on Somalia-Ethiopia border, killing 28 vigilantes, the Governor of Bakool region of southwestern Somalia said on VOA Somalia Service during Tuesday interview.

He added that militants estimated to be 12 were also killed in stiff resistance from the local forces manning the bases.

Meanwhile, Ato village head told BBC Somali Service that Al Shabaab fighters launched the deadly assault on local soldiers. Ethiopia maintains military presence near the attacked village of Ato, sources revealed. Ethiopian-AMISOM [translation: foreign U.S.-backed occupation] troops have been fighting alongside Somali National Army (SNA) in support of Somali Federal Government's stabilization efforts.

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## MILITARY NEWS



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Lucky guy didn't have to listen to this crap for five whole years."]



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**Ft. Hood Report Documents  
Abuses Within The Army:  
“Systematic Abuses Of Soldiers And  
Veterans At One Of The Nation’s  
Largest U.S. Army Installations In  
Killeen, Texas”  
“Please Read The Ft. Hood Testimony  
Report On-Line At  
[Http://Forthoodtestimonies.Com](http://Forthoodtestimonies.Com) And  
Advocate For The Recommendations  
Which It Makes”**

To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Subject: Ft. Hood Testimonies  
Date: Jun 3, 2014

By Richard Capron

**Ft. Hood Report Documents Abuses Within the Army**

**The recently released Ft. Hood Testimony Report (officially titled *Operation Recovery: Ft. Hood Soldiers and Veterans Testify on the Right to Heal*) documents the systematic abuses of soldiers and veterans at one of the nation’s largest U.S. Army installations in Killeen, Texas.**

**Within the report are the testimonies of 31 active duty personnel and veterans, along with testimonies from family members, which disclose the too frequent callous indifference of those in the chain of command to the physical and mental health of those who have been damaged by war and military culture.**

A three-year project of Iraq Veterans Against the War, Under the Hood Cafe and Outreach Center, and the Civilian Soldier Alliance, with support from the International Human Rights Clinic at Harvard Law School, the report exposes in narrative detail the impact of a dysfunctional system on the ability of those who have served to get adequate treatment and basic justice.

In addition the report makes extensive recommendations for what the Army, the Veterans Administration, and the U.S. Congress need to do to remediate this dire situation.

The stories told in the report touch on a long list of neglectful and abusive practices including: 1) poor access to care, 2) arbitrary and inconsistent disciplinary charges, 3) failure to account for family impact of multiple deployments, 4) hardship caused by the lengthy medical evaluation board process, 5) grossly inadequate procedures and practices for dealing with victims of military sexual trauma, 6) the cumulative effects of multiple deployments, 7) over-medication by medical personnel without regard to drug interactions, dependence, and long-term effects, 8) routine violation of profiles at the discretion of command, 8) improper diagnosis and treatment of PTSD, 9) the problem of stigma toward those who seek treatment, 10) inadequate treatment for those who have a history of substance abuse, 11) failure to address the high rate of suicide among active duty soldiers and veterans, and 12) poor recognition of and treatment for traumatic brain injury.

**The cases which call attention to these problems are, of course, only representative of thousands of other similar instances in a bankrupt system which exploits human beings and all but discards them when they no longer seem useful to the Army's mission.**

**Though the report focuses on the Ft. Hood community, tales such as these could be garnered from almost any military facility and from every branch of service.**

The few independent centers and organizations, such as Under the Hood, Coffee Strong (near Joint Base Lewis/McChord), and the Clearing Barrel (outside Ramstein, Germany), which try to offer support, counsel, and advocacy are useful contacts.

In addition, the G.I Rights Hotline (877-447-4487; girightshotline.org) connects those in need of help to a national network of independent service providers.

Of course the big need is for the system to change and for our nation to acknowledge the horrible long-term suffering caused by war.

**Please read the Ft. Hood Testimony Report on-line at: <http://forthoodtestimonies.com> and advocate for the recommendations which it makes.**

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## **Key Ally Of The Tyrant Assad Killed In Syria: “A Number Of Individuals Were Wounded In An Artillery Attack On The Commander's Funeral Tuesday”**



This undated file photo shows Hezbollah commander Fawzi Ayoub praying.  
(Mouqawama Twitter account)

May 28, 2014 The Daily Star [Excerpts]

BEIRUT: A senior Hezbollah commander who was on the FBI's most wanted list was killed in Syria, a Twitter account affiliated with the party said.

The Mouqawama Twitter account posted Monday night a photo of Fawzi Ayoub, also known as Abu Abbas, praying in military fatigues with the caption: "The land of the Levant has been watered with the noblest blood."

"We are proud that our commanders are among American intelligence's top most wanted," the Hezbollah-linked account said.

"If this proves anything, it is that we are on the path of righteousness in the face of the greatest force for evil in the world."

Security sources told Reuters that Ayoub was killed by rebel forces in Nawa, a town in the southern Syrian province of Deraa, the cradle of the Syrian uprising-turned-war in which 160,000 people have been killed.

**The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an anti-regime monitoring group, said in a post on Facebook that a military commander and fighters loyal to the regime of President Bashar Assad were killed in an ambush by Islamist fighters Monday night near Busra al-Sham, a town in Deraa, without identifying the military official.**

**The group said a number of individuals were wounded in an artillery attack on the commander's funeral Tuesday.**

Hezbollah is fighting alongside forces loyal to Syria's embattled president against rebels trying to overthrow his rule.

The party has been instrumental in regime victories on the border with Lebanon in the towns of Yabroud and Qusair.

**Media reports said a Hezbollah suspect indicted in the attempted assassination of Telecoms Minister Boutros Harb was killed in Syria.**

The reports said Mahmoud Hayek, wanted by the Lebanese authorities, was killed while fighting alongside regime troops. The Daily Star could not confirm the claims.

Harb told a local television channel he had not received official information confirming Hayek's death.

Hayek, who hails from the Nabatieh village of Adchit, was indicted in February 2013 for attempting to kill Harb, but his whereabouts remained unknown.

He was charged with carrying out acts of terror after planting a bomb in the elevator of the building that houses Harb's office in Beirut's Badaro neighborhood.

Hezbollah refused to hand over Hayek after he was implicated in the case.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah members paid their respects at a funeral in the Mount Lebanon village of Maaysra for Qusai Ali Amro, a fighter who was killed in Syria.

An AFP photograph showed fighters carrying Hezbollah flags standing in front of Amro's flower-covered coffin east of the coastal city of Byblos Monday.

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## **Iraqi Resistance: Weekly Report From Iraq (May 23- 29, 2014)**

May 30, 2014 IRAQ COMMITTEE INFO USA via Uruknet

This last week, 13 criminal soldiers are killed in Bou Shihab area of Khalideyah, AlAnbar province, when the resistance hits their headquarters with SBG-9 missile.

In Babel province, Yusifeyah area, three checkpoints fall in the hands of the resistance and 4 criminal soldiers fall prisoners while the others flee leaving behind 1 armed vehicle and 4 Hummers.

May 24th, heavy fighting in city of Ramadi, Bakr suburb with 40 criminal militia killed, and 20 injured. Fighting in Khalideyah Island leaves 16 Sahwa and Swat militia killed. A building where criminal militias are based is blown up in Jarf AlSakher, Babel province with four Hummers destroyed.

May 25th, resistance attacks checkpoint south of Samraa, Salah EIDein province, completely destroy the checkpoint killing all that are in it. Also, assistant to Safawi criminal police chief in the province targeted by the resistance in an assassination attempt in Qadiseyeh area of city of Takrit and news of his injury in the attack.

May 26th, large enemy offensive on city of Ramadi foiled by the resistance in fierce fighting. In one of the heaviest of fighting in the city of Ramadi the resistance was able to fend off a three front attack on the city inflicting a heavy defeat on criminal forces that left 28 enemy soldiers dead. Also in a separate battle the resistance is able to injure traitor Sahwa leader Farouq AlElyawi and to capture six of his guards who fall prisoner in the attack.

May 27, explosive detonated in Heit area, West of AlAnbar province leads to 43 criminal militia killed and 19 injured.

Ambush in AlHarkawi area of Yusifia, Babel province, results in 30 criminal militia killed or injured, and two Hummers destroyed. Resistance storms security tower in Mosul and kills all those in it.

May 28, heavy fighting in Jarf AlSakher in Babel province leads to 15 criminal government militia killed including injuries to criminal commander Saad Hizbeyeh commander of Babel province government military operations. Also, downing of warplane hit by the resistance in AlHarkawi area.

May 29, fighting in AlAnbar province leaves behind 15 criminal government soldiers dead in Ramadi and 37 criminal traitor Sahwat militias killed in Bou Shabaan and Bou Zeiab areas.

The resistance in Salah EIDein province hit AlBakr air force base with 2 missiles.

Similarly, AlHoria air force base is hit by missiles in AlTameem province.

The humanitarian situation in the period May 23-27 involved barbaric bombing campaigns especially targeting civilians and residential homes in the cities of Ramadi and Fallujah where tens of civilians are reported to have fallen martyred or injured. The criminal bombing also targeted Fallujah medical school as well as Mosques across the rebelling provinces.

Now civilian families fleeing Fallujah and stranded in AlRotba area have no access to drinking water because of the criminal shelling of the Ramadi-Rotba water supply pipeline by AlMaliki forces months ago.

The total number of civilians that were received by Fallujah hospital is 1486 injured and 366 martyred. Lastly, 28 civilians are killed in a Karkouk car explosion that targetted a liquor store in AlTameem province.

## **MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL**

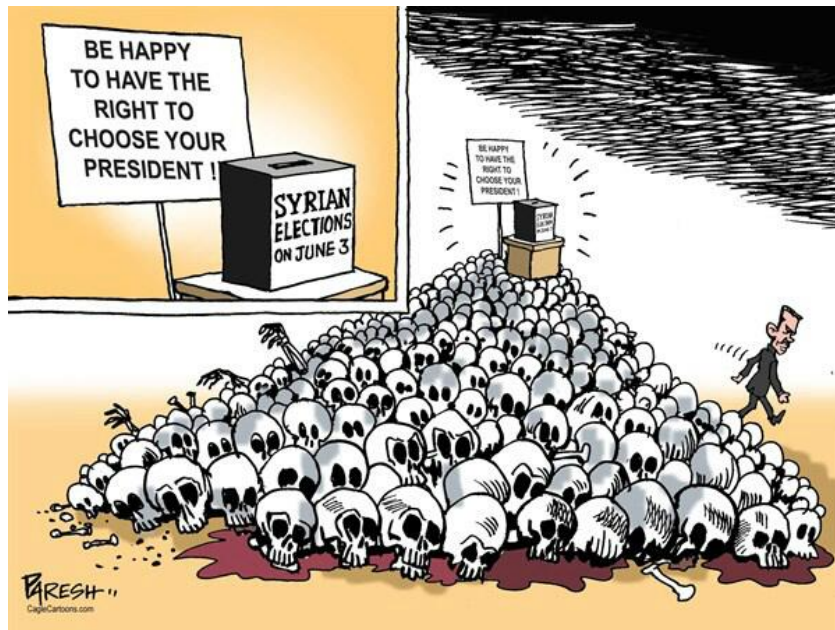
**If you wish to receive Military Resistance immediately and directly, send request to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org). There is no subscription charge. Same address to unsubscribe.**

## DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Wouldn't it be better if we had single payer for all?"]

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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## **Man Cooked To Death By Prison Guards:**

**“His Skin Was So Burned That It  
Had Shriveled From His Body”**

**“Two Years After Rainey’s Death On  
June 23, 2012, The Miami-Dade  
Medical Examiner Has Yet To  
Complete An Autopsy And Miami-  
Dade Police Have Not Charged  
Anyone”**

**“They Told People That He Had A Heart  
Attack”**



Darren Rainey cooked alive in prison shower.

In September, another inmate was found dead inside his cell. Richard Mair, 40, hanged himself from an air conditioning vent.

**According to the police report, Mair left a suicide note in his boxer shorts claiming he and other prisoners were sexually and physically abused on a routine basis by guards.**

05.18.14 By Julie K. Brown, Miami Herald

**The purported details of Darren Rainey's last hour are difficult to read.**

**"I can't take it no more, I'm sorry. I won't do it again," he screamed over and over, according to a grievance complaint from a fellow inmate, as Rainey was allegedly locked in a shower with the scalding water turned on full blast.**

A 50-year-old mentally ill inmate at the Dade Correctional Institution, Rainey was pulled into the locked shower by prison guards as punishment after defecating in his cell and refusing to clean it up, said the fellow inmate, who worked as an orderly.

He was left there unattended for more than an hour as the narrow chamber filled with steam and water.

When guards finally checked on prisoner 060954, he was on his back and dead. His skin was so burned that it had shriveled from his body, a condition referred to as slippage, according to a medical document involving the death.

**But nearly two years after Rainey's death on June 23, 2012, the Miami-Dade medical examiner has yet to complete an autopsy and Miami-Dade police have not charged anyone.**

**The Florida Department of Corrections halted its probe into the matter, saying it could be restarted if the autopsy and police investigation unearth new information.**

**"They told people that he had a heart attack," said a source close to the prison system with knowledge of the case.**

The shower treatment was only one form of punishment inflicted by the prison's guards to keep mentally ill patients in line, according to the inmate/orderly and two other sources privy to the goings-on at the state prison.

**The inmate/orderly, a convicted burglar named Harold Hempstead serving a decades-long sentence, filed repeated formal complaints, beginning in January 2013, with the DOC inspector general, alleging that prison guards subjected inmates — housed in the mental health unit — to extreme physical abuse and withheld food from some who became unruly.**

**The complaints were sent back, most with a short, type-written note saying the appeal was being returned "without action" or had already been addressed.**

In September, another inmate was found dead inside his cell. Richard Mair, 40, hanged himself from an air conditioning vent.



According to the police report, Mair left a suicide note in his boxer shorts claiming he and other prisoners were sexually and physically abused on a routine basis by guards.

**DOC officials declined to be interviewed for this story.**

**A spokeswoman said Friday that the agency would provide public records in response to the newspaper's formal written requests, but no comments.**

**Over the past several weeks, the newspaper has requested maintenance records, grievance logs, prison death records, guards' disciplinary records and emails by administrators, including DCI Warden Jerry Cummings.**

**As of Friday, the agency had released a handful of documents: a single report about a prison guard admonished for falling asleep on duty last year; brief, coded disciplinary records for Hempstead, Rainey and several other inmates who Hempstead says were also subjected to searing hot showers as punishment; and a heavily redacted copy of the DOC inspector general's report on Rainey's death.**

On Friday, the Herald learned from three independent sources that Cummings and four of his top aides had been temporarily relieved of duty last week.

It's not clear why Cummings and other administrators were suspended, or for how long.

The DOC did not respond to an email query about the suspensions late Friday.

Rainey's family, meanwhile, finds the silence surrounding his death disturbing.

**"Two years is a very long time to wait to find out why your brother was found dead in a shower," said Rainey's brother, Andre Chapman.**

**Rainey, who was serving a two-year sentence for possession of cocaine, was scheduled to be released in July.**

Between January and February 2013, Hempstead filed numerous grievances and complaints with DOC officials about Rainey's death, all alleging that the circumstances were being covered up.

His reports, replete with the names of other inmate witnesses and prison guards on duty that evening, describe what he and others purportedly saw and heard that night. The details in his complaints match the wording in the inspector general's report — at least the parts not redacted.

**The inspector general's report said that the video camera in the shower area showed DOC officer Roland Clarke place Rainey in the shower at 7:38 p.m.**

**Hempstead said the shower had sufficient room for an inmate to avoid a direct hit from the spray, but that the extreme heat would eventually make the air unbreathable as the scalding water lapped at inmates' feet.**

**Hempstead wrote that he and other inmates, whose cells are directly below the shower, began hearing Rainey's screams about 8:55 p.m. It went on for about 30 minutes before it sounded like he fell to the shower floor, he said in his complaint.**

The DOC inspector general's report said Clarke found Rainey dead at 9:30 p.m. and called for medical assistance.

"I then seen his burnt dead body naked body go about two feet from my cell door on a stretcher," Hempstead wrote.

Miami-Dade homicide investigators were called to the prison.

**But another inmate, a convicted murderer named Mark Joiner, wrote in a letter to the inspector general that he was ordered to "clean up the crime scene" prior to the area being secured.**

Early in the week after the incident, maintenance workers at the prison disabled the plumbing that fed the shower, Hempstead told the Herald in an interview at the prison.

Despite all his written complaints, Hempstead was never interviewed by anyone from the prison system, he said.

Another inmate was spoken to, according to the report. That's presumably Joiner, although the DOC will not divulge the name. The Herald is waiting for a transcript of that interview, which DOC officials said would be redacted of any information pertaining to an open criminal investigation.

**As for the video camera in the shower area, the inspector general's report noted that it malfunctioned right after Clarke put Rainey in the shower. As a result, the disc that may have recorded what happened was "damaged," the report said.**

The redacted report doesn't say how Rainey's body was found, whether the water was on or off when he was found or whether state investigators ever questioned any of the guards or nurses in the unit at the time of Rainey's death.

The union that represents the prison guards was not aware of the incident as of this past week. No record was provided to the Herald to indicate that anyone has been held accountable for what happened.

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Mair was found hanging in his cell on Sept. 11, 2013. A braided rope, made from cut sections of bed sheets, was attached to the ceiling air vent and looped around his neck, according to a Miami-Dade police report.

Tucked into a pocket sewed into his boxer shorts was a suicide note in which Mair, serving life for second-degree murder, described a litany of abuses against inmates in the mental health unit.

"Life sucks and then you die, but just before I go, I'm going to expose everyone for who and what they are," he wrote.

**“I’m in a mental health facility...I’m supposed to be getting help for my depression, suicidal tendencies and I was sexually assaulted.”**

**He then goes on to allege that guards forced inmates in the unit to perform sex acts and threatened them if they filed complaints.**

**He said guards — identified by name in the note — gambled on duty, sold marijuana and cigarettes, and stole money and property belonging to inmates.**

**“If they didn’t like you, they put you on a starvation diet,” he wrote.**

**He also alleged that guards encouraged racial hatred by forcing white and black inmates to fight each other in the yard, claiming that the guards would place bets on who would win.**

Mair’s next of kin was in prison in Maine and unavailable for comment.

There’s no evidence that the state inspector general’s probe into Mair’s death addressed any of the allegations in the suicide note.

The probe concluded that guards had been negligent in failing to adequately check on Mair the evening he killed himself.

Les Cantrell, state coordinator for Teamsters Local 2011 — the union representing the state’s 17,000 corrections and probation officers — said there has been a spike in prison complaints across the state. Employee turnover is staggering, he said, particularly among prison guards who are often forced to work long hours to compensate for officers they have lost and failed to replace.

“In general, we have a difficult time retaining good officers,” Cantrell said. “Assaults on officers have risen and inmates know they are short-staffed.

“It makes it unsafe for the officers and for the inmates,” he said.

**The six-page inspector general’s investigation into Rainey’s death was completed in October 2012. DOC Inspector General Jeffrey Beasley closed the case, concluding there was not enough information to issue any finding.**

**“...the exact cause of death has not been determined by the Medical Examiner. Upon receipt of the autopsy report, it will be included in the investigative file,” the report said, noting that if “administrative matters” subsequently arise as a result of the autopsy, they will be addressed at a future time.**

The report, which includes brief written statements by Clarke as well as other guards and nurses, has large passages that have been redacted — obscured with a black marker.

**The Department of Corrections has not responded to requests from the Herald to provide the legal justification for each redaction, as required under the state’s public records law.**

After Hempstead was interviewed at the prison by a Herald journalist on April 14, Miami-Dade homicide investigators also paid him a visit to interview him about the two-year-old case, he wrote in a letter emailed to Gov. Rick Scott last week through a family member.

**According to the letter, three corrections officers, including a sergeant, responded to the visits by threatening to set him up with false disciplinary reports and to place him in solitary confinement if he didn't stop talking to the media and police.**

He said he feared for his safety and wanted to be relocated to a different prison.

**Last week, the Herald sought clearance to speak with Hempstead in the prison a second time after receiving a letter from him authorizing the return visit.**

**Jessica Carey, spokeswoman for the state Department of Corrections, responded that Hempstead "had a custody classification which prohibits interviews at this time."**

When pressed further about whether he was being punished, Carey said she had made "a mistake" and directed a Herald reporter to fill out a visitation form.

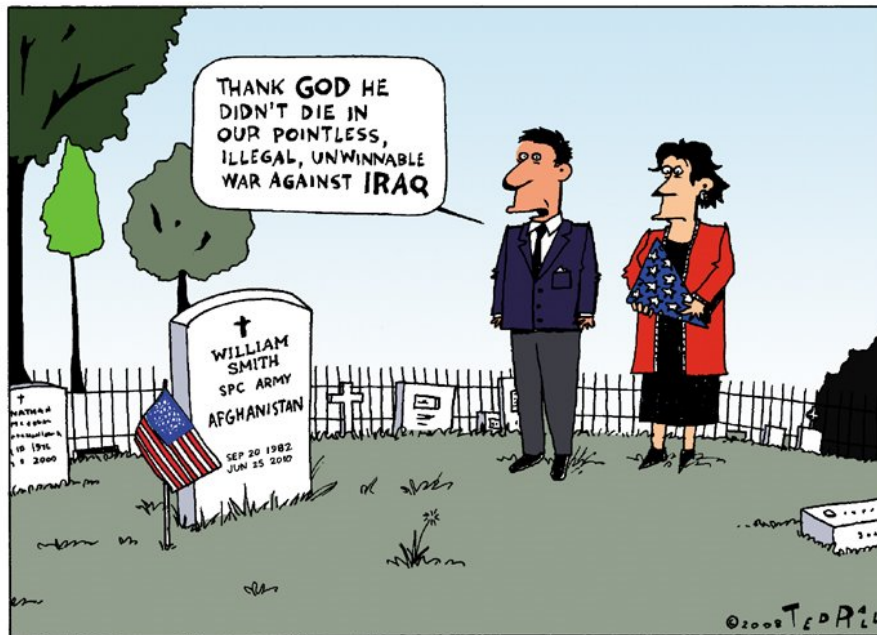
Neither Miami-Dade police nor the Miami-Dade medical examiner responded to requests for information about the Rainey case. Each say his death is still an open investigation, but did not address why it has taken almost two years.



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<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:  
[news@uruknet.info](mailto:news@uruknet.info); <http://williambowles.info/military-resistance-archives/>.

## DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



CHANGE WE CAN BEREAVE IN

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