

Military Resistance 12L4



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "It's not just the cops, it's our whole foreign policy. Immigration, too."]

What A Surprise! Obama Moves Ahead With Plan For 1000 Extra Troops In Afghanistan

December 4 By Missy Ryan, Washington Post & 12.6.14 USA TODAY[Excerpts]

The Obama administration plans to keep as many as 1,000 more troops in Afghanistan on a temporary basis next year, above the force of 9,800 that President Obama had previously announced for 2015, in another sign of the challenges the United States faces as it extricates itself from a 13-year war.

[T]he United States will keep a larger number of troops in the country, at least until early spring, the officials said.

Plans for the bridging solution were first reported by Reuters in November, but officials at the Pentagon had declined to confirm those plans.

MORE:

What A Surprise!

About 250 Fort Bragg Soldiers To Deploy To Iraq: “Their Deployment, Announced Dec. 1, Is Not Part Of The 1,500-Troop Increase Authorized Nov. 7 By Obama”



December 5, 2014 By Michelle Tan, Staff writer; Army Times [Excerpts]

As about 250 paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division prepare to deploy in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, the military continues to work to identify who might go to Iraq next as part of a 1,500-troop increase authorized in early November by President Obama.

The 250 soldiers from 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne, of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, will begin deploying to Iraq in late December.

Their deployment, announced Dec. 1, is not part of the 1,500-troop increase authorized Nov. 7 by Obama.

The paratroopers are slated to deploy for a nine-month tour.

There are about 1,600 U.S. troops currently in Iraq as the U.S. steps up its fight against the Islamic State.

The 1,500-troop increase will almost double the number of troops already in Iraq, which includes the 1st Infantry Division headquarters, which took command in theater Oct. 31.

These troops are from the 1st Infantry Division and the Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force who are already in the CENTCOM area of operations, Smith said.

About 170 troops will stand up four building partner capacity sites, the first two of which will be in Anbar province and near Baghdad, she said.

MORE:

**Not A Surprise!
Col. (Ret/) Says “Afghanistan Is Not
Worth One More Drop Of U.S.
Soldier’s Blood”
“Every Carpetbagging Member Of The
Military, Industrial, Political Complex
Knows That, Too”**

Army Times
Letters To The Editor
12.8.14

The Nov. 24 story “Afghanistan drawdown plan under review” was a very disappointing read.

Not for what was reported, but for what a quoted military official got 100 percent wrong.

His comment, “It is too early to make any sort of longterm recommendation” is disingenuous, at best.

Earth to that official: Retreat completely ASAP!

Enough with training and arming nothing more than private armies for Afghan drug/war lords.

Afghanistan is not worth one more drop of U.S. soldier’s blood. Not one!

Nor one more red cent of our money.

Every carpetbagging member of the military, industrial, political complex knows that, too.

Col. Joseph C. Kopacz (ret.)
Louisville, Ky.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action



[Graphic: flickr.com/photos]

Dec 06 2014 By Khaama Press

At least seven Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were martyred following militants direct fire and Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack.

The Ministry of Defense (MoD) said the Afghan army soldiers were martyred in the past 48 hours.

A statement by the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said the Afghan soldiers were martyred due to Improvised Explosive Device (IED) explosion and direct fire by militants, using heavy weapons.

According to security officials, the Afghan army deaths stands at 4 service members daily on average which is mainly caused due to improvised explosive device (IED) attacks.

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

**\$419.5 Million Worth Of Equipment
Missing In Afghanistan:
“Army Policy Recommends Property
Losses Be Investigated Within 75 Days,**

But The 10 Probes DODIG Reviewed Averaged 318 Days”

12.8.14 By Joe Gould, Army Times [Excerpts]

As the Defense Department retrogrades mountains of equipment from Afghanistan, the Army has failed to effectively report \$419.5 million worth of equipment that may have gone missing, according to a recent DoD Inspector General’s audit.

Some 15,600 pieces of equipment lost from the Bagram and Kandahar property redistribution yards were not reported in a timely manner by the unit responsible for tracking them, the 401st Army Field Support Brigade, according to the audit.

While it is unlikely the equipment is all truly missing — most is likely in U.S. hands somewhere in Afghanistan — the report highlights the Pentagon’s decadeslong problem managing inventory, said William Greenwalt, a visiting fellow at the Marilyn Ware Center for Security Studies at the American Enterprise Institute.

“Doing what Wal-Mart and UPS can do, obviously the Army hasn’t gotten that far,” Greenwalt said.

“They should have world-class inventory tracking and management, even in the war zone, with scanners, with commercial technology. You scratch your head and ask, ‘Why hasn’t the U.S. military adopted these long-standing practices you see at every retailer in America?’ ”

Officials with the 401st did not document the property as lost because they believed it would be found as forward operating bases closed for the drawdown of forces, the audit says. However, since 2010, 309 forward operating bases have closed and only 23 percent of the equipment has been recovered.

“Once the equipment was identified as lost, the 401st AFSB did not always correctly calculate and report the total loss to the U.S. government,” the audit states.

Army policy recommends property losses be investigated within 75 days, but the 10 probes DODIG reviewed averaged 318 days.

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.

MILITARY NEWS

National Guard Colonel Charged With Exposing Woman To HIV Recommended For Court-Martial



(Photo: Rob Curtis/Staff, Army Times)

December 4, 2014 By Michelle Tan, Staff writer; Army Times [Excerpts

An investigating officer has recommended a senior Army National Guard officer face court-martial on charges he knowingly exposed a woman to HIV by having unprotected sex.

Col. Jeffrey Pounding is charged with assault, adultery and conduct unbecoming an officer. If he is tried and convicted, Pounding could receive a maximum sentence of 15 years confinement, dismissal from the service, and total forfeiture of all pays and allowances.

The Article 32 hearing to determine if Pounding should face a court-martial took place Nov. 17-18 at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C.

The investigating officer, Lt. Col. Steven Bryant, has since completed his report and recommended a court-martial on all charges and specifications, according to officials at Fort McNair.

Pounding, a Special Forces officer who is assigned as the deputy director of the National Guard Bureau's strategic plans and policy directorate (J-5), faces one charge each of assault, adultery and conduct unbecoming an officer.

The woman who is accusing Pounding of exposing her to HIV said their relationship began when they were both at Texas A&M University. He was an Army fellow and she a member of the university staff, she said during the Article 32 hearing.

The two met for drinks, and their relationship quickly turned physical, she said.

"We'd see each other a few times a week, and we'd end up spending the night," she said from the witness stand.

The pair continued their relationship for more than two years, even after Pounding completed his fellowship at the university, the woman said. She also said she met Pounding in the Washington, D.C., area and near Fort Bragg, North Carolina, when he was on work trips.

The woman testified they did not use protection when they had sex, and he did not disclose his HIV status to her.

When asked if she would have had sex with Pounding if she knew his HIV status, the woman said: "Absolutely not."

During her testimony, the woman said she had since been tested twice and is negative for HIV.

The woman was on the stand for more than five hours, as James Gordon, Pounding's defense attorney, grilled her on her testimony, work history and personal life in an effort to determine her credibility.

The hearing was contentious at times, as Gordon and Bryant sparred over Gordon's line of questioning.

Pounding, who has been assigned to the Guard Bureau since early 2004, is accused of having unprotected sex with a woman who is not his wife during three different time periods, according to the charge sheet against him.

According to the charges, Pounding exposed his partner to the HIV virus, "a means likely to produce death or grievous bodily harm," through unprotected sex between Nov. 1, 2009, and May 31, 2010, in Bryan, Texas.

Another incident reportedly occurred Dec. 6-9, 2010, in Arlington, Virginia. A third incident is alleged to have occurred Sept. 6-9, 2011, in Southern Pines, North Carolina, according to the charge sheet.

Pounding knew he had the Human Immunodeficiency Virus but did not disclose that fact to his partner, according to the charge sheet.

VA Demands Dying Veteran Repay More Than \$6,000 In Pension

Overpayments Directly Caused By VA Incompetence: “We Got Knocked Down, And Now They Are Stomping On Us. We Don’t Have The Money To Pay Them”

December 3, 2014 By Hal Bernton, Seattle Times staff reporter

GOLD BAR, Snohomish County —

When Rob Arthur was diagnosed with brain cancer back in January, the gaunt, gray-haired Vietnam veteran decided to wed his longtime girlfriend, Debbie Shafer, in a hospital room.

The marriage has been a source of comfort for this couple as they face the challenges of an unforgiving disease, deemed terminal, in a trailer home set by the steep flanks of the North Cascade mountains.

It also has been a big source of stress in their dealings with the federal Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Last summer, the VA ruled that Arthur — his earnings boosted by his wife’s wages as a nurse’s aide — was no longer eligible for an income-based pension and would have to repay \$6,324 in checks mailed out during the more than six months that the department took to make this decision.

“They are mental abusers right now, is the way I look at it,” Shafer said. “And that’s not a kind way to look at your government. We got knocked down, and now they are stomping on us. We don’t have the money to pay them.”

These overpayments are more fallout from the troubled VA’s inability to keep up with a massive caseload of veterans who turn to the department for benefits.

These delays sometimes can create major financial problems for the veterans by sticking them with unexpected bills to repay checks they should not have received.

“It can be an incredible hardship,” said Amy Fairweather, a policy director at San Francisco-based Swords to Plowshares, a nonprofit veterans service organization.

“The onus should be on the VA to take care of these matters and not to go after destitute or low-income veterans to pay back pensions.”

The 68-year-old Arthur and his wife say they accept the loss of the pension. But they want the VA to drop demands to pay back the pension checks sent out earlier this year.

“We simply cannot afford to survive should we be held responsible for this debt,” Arthur wrote in a letter to the VA, requesting a hardship exemption.

“We did not do anything to deceive the Department of Veterans Affairs. We completed any and all documentation required of us in a timely fashion.”

Arthur’s military service dates back to 1964, when he was a 17-year-old Montana youth who faced the draft and opted to join the Navy.

Arthur served as a boiler tender aboard an aging destroyer that cruised off the coast of Vietnam. While at sea, he says, he took a violent tumble when a railing gave way and he fell on a capped-off pipe in the bilge that rammed him in the small of his back.

Arthur failed to convince the VA that his subsequent ailment — degenerative disease of the spine — resulted from the fall. So he was never approved for disability compensation that is paid regardless of a veteran’s income.

But by 1998, Arthur was in such poor shape that he could no longer work as a canvas maker for boats, and his subsequent poverty enabled him to qualify for a VA pension of about \$1,000 a month that was subject to revocation if his earnings improved.

Last year, Arthur’s health took a downturn when he suffered a seizure that sent him to the hospital in Everett.

The diagnosis, a brain tumor, prompted the couple’s January wedding, with Arthur changing from a patient gown to bluejeans for a ceremony presided over by a minister and celebrated with sparkling apple cider.

“I figure that if anything happened to me, she would get the rights to everything I had,” Arthur recalled.

A few weeks after the wedding, Arthur notified the VA of his change in marital status and disclosed his wife’s \$22,000-a-year income.

Such notifications have sometimes been a low priority once they arrive at the VA, according to a former VA employee, who processed claims for five years in the Pacific Northwest.

“I would work on them part time, and would end up finding that a veteran owed a back payment of \$30,000, and I would feel bad for the guy,” said the former employee, who requested anonymity because he may seek future employment with the federal government.

In the months ahead, Arthur and Shafer are hoping the VA will grant their request to back off the debt collection. In the meantime, they are grateful for radiation treatment that has given Arthur the chance of surviving another year, and they savor their life together.

Shafer prepares her husband the same breakfast each morning — four sausage links and two scrambled eggs. Four days each week, she heads down to Everett to work as a

nurse's aide, while he stays back in the trailer with Simon, a Husky-Australian Shepherd mix.

While she's gone, Shafer worries that her husband might suffer another seizure, and she wonders at what point she will have to quit her job to become a full-time caretaker at home.

The debt owed the VA adds to the uncertainty over the future. Shafer frets that the department might try to garnish her wages, or even take part of her husband's Social Security check.

Earlier in the fall, she sent the VA a \$5 check to start to pay off the debt.

"I don't have time for all this. I want to spend my time with Rob," Shafer said. "I want him to die in peace."

Former Air Force Chief Prosecutor Calls Military Justice System "Fundamentally Broken" "I Have Personally Seen The Abuse And Injustice Victims Of Sexual Assault Face In The Military" "He Leaves Service For Victims Advocacy Group"



(Photo: Air Force)

November 26, 2014 By Kristin Davis, Staff writer; Air Force Times [Excerpts]

The Air Force's former chief prosecutor, who won a sexual assault conviction against an F-16 pilot that was later overturned by a three-star general, is leaving the military for high-profile victims advocacy group Protect Our Defenders.

In a statement, retired Col. Don Christensen called the military criminal justice system "fundamentally broken" and said the only way to help fix it is from the outside.

"As a military prosecutor, I have personally seen the abuse and injustice victims of sexual assault face in the military," Christensen said in a statement released Nov. 26 by Protect Our Defenders.

"At first, I truly believed as the Chief Prosecutor of the Air Force I could help fix the broken military justice system from the inside."

Then in February 2013, Lt. Gen. Craig Franklin, then-commander of the Third Air Force, overturned the conviction of Lt. Col. James Wilkerson, a fellow F-16 pilot and the inspector general of Aviano Air Base, Italy.

A jury of officers had found Wilkerson guilty of sexual assault just three months earlier, sentencing him to a year in prison and a dismissal that would have stripped him of his retirement.

The general's action overturned all that, reinstating Wilkerson into the Air Force.

Afterward, Christensen said in his statement, "I watched at least 30 commanders come to the defense of Wilkerson ... and blatantly attack the prosecution, judge, investigators, and the jury. ...

"I realized that in order to see substantial change, I would need to leave the Air Force, breaking a military tradition that has been a part of my family for over 150 years."

The Air Force ultimately reduced Wilkerson to the rank of major and kicked him out of the service after discovering that nearly a decade earlier he'd fathered a child with another woman while married. Franklin, who came under fire again after refusing to send a separate sexual assault case to trial, retired in January.

Military commanders continue to decide whether sex crimes should be prosecuted. "Your rapists' boss should not decide whether to investigate or prosecute a sexual assault allegation or pick the jury," Christensen said in his statement.

"The decision to prosecute is a legal decision that must be entrusted to professional, legally trained prosecutors, the jury should be randomly selected, not hand picked by the accused's commander. The military justice system must be changed. I am leaving the institution I love and joining Protect Our Defenders in order to fix this broken system."

The former prosecutor will serve as the nonprofit's president.

In an interview with Air Force Times last April, Christensen described sitting next to a colleague when he learned Franklin had overturned Wilkerson's conviction.

"I turned to (him) and said, 'We just lost military justice.' I never thought (Franklin) would do this. I never saw this coming. I knew this would have huge, huge repercussions," he recalled.

"Up until this point, I had never really given (the power to overturn a conviction) a lot of thought, because I had never seen a convening authority do it," Christensen said. "This case brought it to the forefront. It makes sense that the convening authority doesn't need to be provided with that power.

"When you win or lose before a jury or judge, you understand it," he said. "This was surprising and disappointing."

Christensen described in The New York Times story delivering the news to the victim, Kim Hanks, that Wilkerson's conviction had been overturned. She sobbed, he said. The prosecutor said he had no explanation but that "this will never happen again."

In a statement, the nonprofit's founder, Nancy Parrish, wrote "we are honored and humbled that Colonel Don Christensen has decided to join Protect Our Defenders, to stand with survivors and help us end the epidemic of sexual assault in the military, and stop the retaliation against victims. Col Christensen has dedicated his life to the military, and his distinguished career speaks for itself. ...

"With over two decades of experience as a military prosecutor, defense attorney, and judge, Col Christensen knows the ins and outs of our military justice system. He has seen, up close and personal, the lack of justice victims too often receive in the military justice system, which puts a victim's fate in the hands of the rapists' boss rather than professional, legally trained experts."

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.

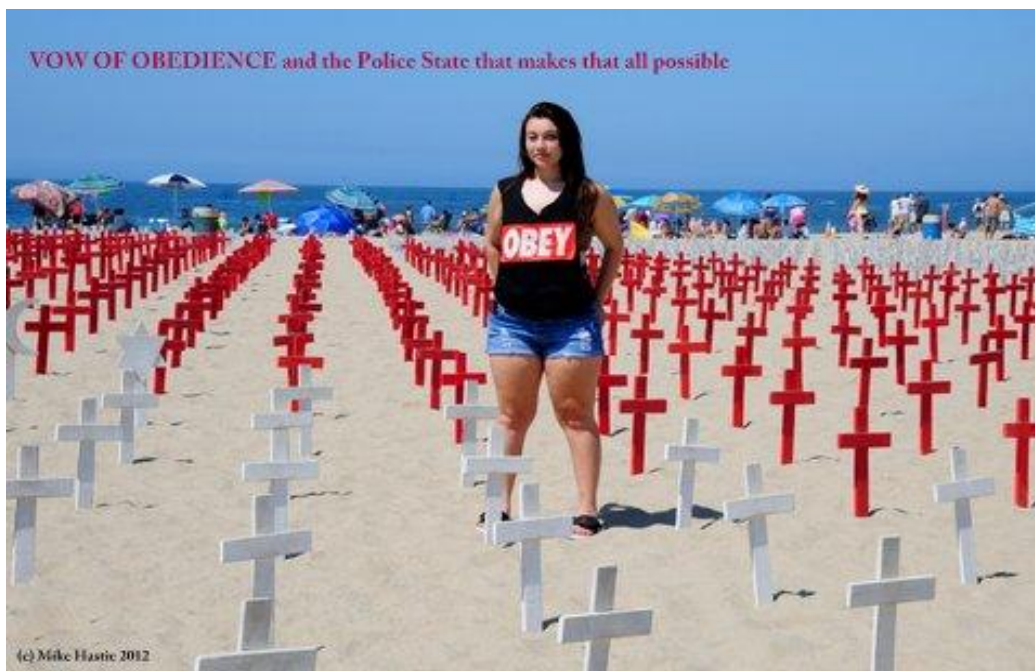
“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace**

VOW of OBEDIENCE



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: December 05, 2014
Subject: VOW of OBEDIENCE

**This photograph was taken at Arlington West
in Santa Monica, California on August 19, 2012.**

War
after
War
after
War
after
War
after
War,
and a Police State that makes sure
this continues to be a sacrament.
Insanity is praying for peace but
worshiping war.
Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
December 5, 2014

War is peace.
Freedom is slavery.
Ignorance is strength.
George Orwell
1984

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

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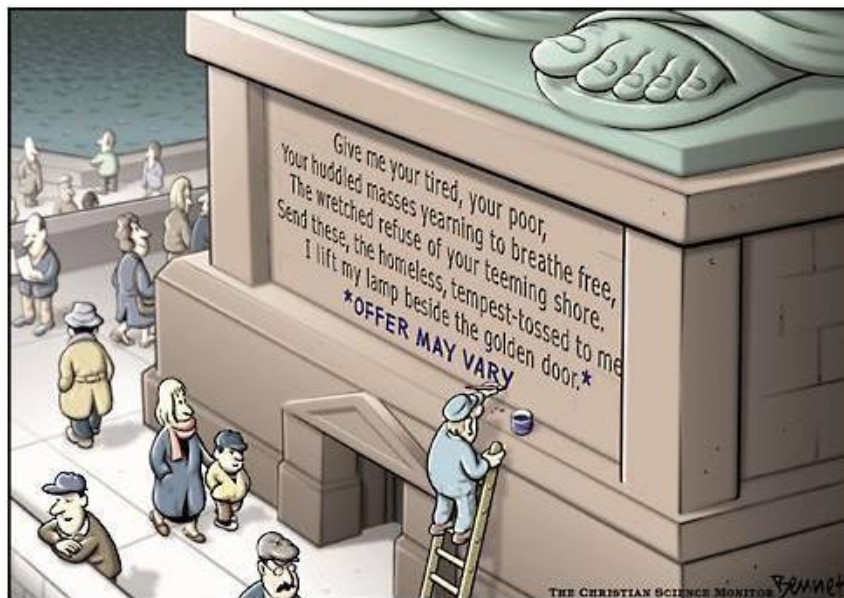
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DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**Another Cop Kills Another
Unarmed Black Man:
“He Was Not Armed When A
Police Officer Fired Two Bullets,
Killing Him In The Presence Of His
Girlfriend And 15-Month-Old
Child”**

**“What The Police Say Happened, It
Doesn’t Make Any Sense At All”
Enemy Spokesman Says “The Officer
Was Doing Exactly What We Want Him
To Do”**



December 5 By Terrence McCoy, The Washington Post's [Excerpts]

It's a pattern that by now has now become familiar. An officer confronts a man he believes is behaving suspiciously. The man runs. A struggle ensues.

The result, shown again this week in the killing of Romain Brisbon, has been another death of an unarmed African American man at the hands of a white police officer.

And now, as protesters deluge the streets of Chicago and New York to condemn what they describe as a failed justice system, some say his name deserves a spot next to those of Michael Brown and Eric Garner.

Many facts about Brisbon's death, however, remain sketchy.

To police, Brisbon was a man with a criminal record who may have been in the middle of drug deal when a lone police officer confronted him.

To friends, 34-year-old Brisbon was a gentle father of four who was dropping off fast food for his kids at his family's apartment.

One matter beyond dispute: He was not armed when a police officer fired two bullets, killing him in the presence of his girlfriend and 15-month-old child.

"What happened here is a police officer murdered my client," attorney Marci Kratter, who represented Brisbon in a prior DUI case, told The Washington Post in a phone interview.

"And what the police say happened, it doesn't make any sense at all. There's something not right with it."

Police said the officer responded appropriately under the circumstances, and investigators did find a gun and marijuana inside Brisbon's black Cadillac. Maricopa County court records show Brisbon pleaded guilty to felony burglary and possession of marijuana in 1998, and to driving under the influence in 2009.

The events that led to Brisbon's death began with a tip, Phoenix police spokesman Trent Clump told reporters on Wednesday. The tipster said that a drug deal was going down inside a black Cadillac SUV parked near a 7-Eleven. So a nearby 30-year-old officer, who wasn't named by police, responded to the call, later approaching the car, reported the Arizona Republic.

Clump claimed the officer saw Brisbon exit the car and remove something from its rear.

When the officer asked Brisbon to show his hands, the man allegedly put them in his waistband.

[ANOTHER DEADLY WAISTBAND REACH! SEE THE STORY BELOW ON FATAL BLACK WAISTBAND REACHING. T]

That prompted the officer to draw his weapon, and Brisbon took off running. "Witnesses indicated to us that the suspect was verbally challenging to the officer," the Arizona Republic quoted Crump saying.

When the officer caught Brisbon, there was a scuffle.

According to reports, Brisbon somehow made it to the house of his girlfriend, who had opened the front door — and the cop and Brisbon literally stumbled inside.

Clump said the officer thought he felt the butt of a gun jutting from Brisbon's pocket.

“During the struggle, Brisbon put his left hand in his pocket and the officer grabbed onto the suspect's hand, while repeatedly telling the suspect to keep his hand in his pocket,” the spokesman said.

“The officer believed he felt the handle of a gun while holding the suspect's hand in his pocket.”

Two shots were fired, killing Brisbon.

And only afterward did the officer discover what had been inside Brisbon's pocket: a prescription pill vial containing Oxycodone pills. The original label had been scratched off. There was no gun.

Crump said, as the Phoenix New Times reported, the officer was in the right.

Investigators did discover a semiautomatic handgun and some marijuana inside the SUV.

“Let's be very clear: The officer was doing what we expect him to do, and that is, investigating crimes that neighbors are telling him are occurring in that apartment complex. This one went bad, from the standpoint of how it ended, but the officer was doing exactly what we want him to do.”

To neighbors and Brisbon's attorney, what happened was a little more complicated. They say there was no drug deal — but a fast-food delivery.

And indeed, according to the Arizona Republic, french fries were strewn outside the apartment door.

To them, it's also unclear why the officer acted alone.

“I'm not sure why a lone police officer would have felt the need to go in there,” Kratter told The Post.

“If the officer felt a pill bottle and believed it was a butt of a handgun, it calls into question his competence because I don't know anyone who can mistake a plastic bottle for a butt of a gun. How much larger is a gun than a pill bottle?”

The officer was said to be distraught after the killing. Kratter, who launched an investigation into the killing, said she spoke to one neighbor who heard what had happened that night. “He didn't hear any screaming or anything like that,” she said. “He heard what sounded like scuffling, then gunshots, then the officer screaming, ‘F–k! F–k! F–k!’”

But it was too late. Brisbon died there.

“Who’s gonna argue with police?” friend Brandon Dickerson, who had been with Brisbon, told the Arizona Republic.

“He had no death wish.”

MORE:

HERE IT IS!

There Is A Bizarre Urge Among Young, Unarmed Black Men To Provoke Their Own Murder By ‘Reaching For Their Waistbands’” “If Police Accounts Are To Be Believed, This Compulsion Only Exists Among Young Black Men”

November 28-30, 2014 by JOHN ESKOW, CounterPunch

If police accounts are to be believed, there is a bizarre urge among young, unarmed black men to provoke their own murder by “reaching for their waistbands” when cops are aiming service revolvers at them.

Just this week we heard Officer Darren Wilson claim that one of the reasons he killed Michael Brown was that the young man “reached for his waistband,” and – in what I guess was just an incredibly weird coincidence – we heard Cleveland police claim they killed a 12-year-old kid with a toy gun because he also “reached for his waistband.”

But this odd compulsion is not a new one.

In 2011, fully half of all the young black men shot by LA cops were cut down because—again, if police accounts are to be believed – they too were “reaching for their waistbands.”

The epidemic also spread to Houston, where multiple police accounts cite the same excuse.

Oscar Grant, the young man killed by Oakland cops on a subway platform – and the subject of the movie “Fruitvale Station”—was shot for the exact same reason.

If police accounts are to be believed, this compulsion only exists among young black men.

I have been approached by angry or frustrated cops several times in my life – twice as an angry young protestor, eager to defy them – and have never felt even the slightest urge to reach for my waistband.

Maybe white skin contains a protein that protects against this terrible compulsion?

And exactly what is it that these dead young men were hoping to find in those waistbands?

Given the Cosby-condemned fashion of wearing saggy jeans, these kids have to reach pretty far down to reach their waistbands--a posture which would leave them completely defenseless against an armed cop.

What a powerful compulsion this must be!

I've spent a good amount of time on police ridearounds in New Orleans. If you want to see young black men, New Orleans at 3 AM is a good place to do so.

I remember one night as my cop hosts were rolling up slowly on a kid they suspected of a robbery: no shirt, Saints cap, saggy jeans exposing his boxer shorts. The kid sauntered on with an exaggerated cool: he knew the cops were watching him, and the cops knew that he knew. One of the cops poked my elbow, chuckled, and said: "Watch this. That kid's gonna break." "When?" I asked. "The second he reaches down to hitch up his drawers." As I watched, another cop counted down: "Three seconds to draw--hitchin'. Two...one..."

At just that second, the kid reached down, hitched up his drawas, and "broke"--took off sprinting down an alley. They pursued him for a while, then lost interest.

It was the only time I ever saw any gesture that was even vaguely waistband-related, and the kid only did it so that he could run without being tripped by his low-slung Levis.

Two weeks later, one of the cops in that squad car – a funny guy, a seemingly decent guy, you would've liked him – was briefly suspended, pending the investigation of an "incident" in which he shot and killed a young black man in the black man's own back yard.

The kid had reached for his waistband, if police accounts are to be believed.

My old squad-car host was cleared in a few days and returned to duty.

This has gone on far too long.

I am going to take my own mixed-race son to a neurologist today, if not sooner, to have him checked for traces of this horrible Waistband-Reaching Syndrome. I'm concerned that, one day, it could get him killed...

...if police accounts are to be believed.

MORE:

Cops Murder Another Unarmed Black Man: “They Opened Fire On, Shooting Him A Total Of 23 Times” Admission From An Officer Who Said ‘He Wasn’t “Fucking Doing Nothing – So We All Shot Him”’ “The Grand Jury Did Not Indict The Officers”

04 December 14 By John Vibes, The Free Thought Project [Excerpts]

Martinsburg, Virginia – This week, the family of a Virginia man who was killed by police is filing for an appeal in their lawsuit against the city, which was railroaded out of court last year after the incident occurred.

In the aftermath of this case, it was discovered that police not only shot an innocent man 23 times while he was surrounded by a half dozen officers, but also that those officers attempted to plant evidence, tamper with the crime scene, make false statements and stage a massive cover up for a murder.

On March 13, 2013, Wayne A. Jones was walking down the street, directly next to the sidewalk, on the side of the road. He was approached by a police officer who began to interrogate him about how he was walking.

Jones responded by telling the officer that he was trying to “reach a distance.”

Before he was able to explain what that meant, the officer began getting aggressive with him, and began to ask if he was carrying any weapons or drugs. Knowing that he had a pair of scissors in his pocket, Jones asked the officer, “what is a weapon?”

The officer told him in so many words that anything could be considered a weapon, so Jones admitted calmly, “I do have something on me then.”

Again, without giving Jones the ability to even finish what he was saying, the officer got aggressive, this time grabbing him and attempting to subdue him.

Throughout the altercation Jones continued to ask “What did I do to you?” and “What do you want?”

But since the two were no longer in view of the vehicle’s dashboard camera, it is hard to see exactly what is happening during that struggle. Next, you can hear the officer use his taser on Jones, at which point Jones begins to run down the street.

Next, multiple other police cars arrived on the scene, which later provided more dash-cam evidence to provide insight into what actually happened.

By the time other cars arrived on the scene, it seems as if Jones was laying on the ground with several police officers standing over him, yelling at him, punching and kicking him, and using Tasers on him multiple times.

With Jones on the ground, one of the officers shouted “drop his fucking ass, drop his ass!!”, and they opened fire on him, shooting him a total of 23 times.

After the shooting, police can be seen pacing around the body and tampering with the crime scene.

Later, it was revealed that the police officers there tried to plant multiple knives on his body and claim that he “had a knife.”

However, the officers did such a poor job at covering their tracks while planting the weapon that they could not even enter it as evidence in the case.

One of the officers even went so far as to say that he was stabbed, although it was later found that he was not stabbed, and no knife belonging to Jones was actually found or entered as evidence.

The cover-up didnt stop there, when the police finally released the dash-cam footage it was obviously tampered with, large segments of audio and video were missing from the footage, and the time-stamps did not even match up.

Even with the edits, the dash-cam footage does provide a number of clues into what actually took place, including one admission from an officer who said “he wasn’t “fucking doing nothing – so we all shot him.” **[The officer is wrong. Obviously, Jones was reaching for his waistband. T]**

It is also important to point out the incredible lack of remorse exhibited by the officers in the videos. In one of the videos, after the killing, the officers can be heard casually talking about the weather and about how skoal chewing tobacco is a “man’s cigarette.”

The Martinsburg District Attorney called a Special Grand Jury to hear the evidence against the five officers involved, and as with most police murders, the Grand Jury did not indict the officers.

The family of Jones immediately filed a lawsuit against the city, but were railroaded out of court due to filing technicalities.

Now the Jones family is filing for an appeal, and are hoping to raise the funds to get a decent lawyer so they can actually follow through with their case.

You can donate to the family's legal fund at the following link.
[<http://www.gofundme.com/standwithwayne>]

Help to get justice for the Jones family by donating and/or sharing this story with others.

NY City Patrolmen's Benevolent Association Jackal-In-Chief Whines That Police Officers Were "Thrown Under The Bus" By De Blasio In Wake Of Eric Garner Grand Jury Decision: Says "New Yorkers Should Be Afraid Of The Criminals, Not The Police"



Lynch

December 4, 2014 CBSNewYork/AP [Excerpts]

NEW YORK — A heated war of words has erupted between Mayor Bill de Blasio and Patrolmen's Benevolent Association President Patrick Lynch, following a Staten Island grand jury's decision not to indict an officer in the death of Eric Garner.

Lynch said the mayor needs to do more to support New York City cops.


“What police officers felt yesterday after that press conference is that they were thrown under the bus,” Lynch told reporters, including WCBS 880’s Irene Cornell, on Thursday. **[If only, but not a chance. T]**

Lynch was responding to de Blasio’s speech Wednesday after the grand jury declined to charge Officer Daniel Pantaleo in Garner’s death.

The mayor said he and his wife, Chirlane, have had to have painful conversations with their teenage son, Dante, about “how to take special care with any encounter he may have with police officers.”

Lynch slammed the mayor’s comments, saying “our city is safe because of police officers” and said New Yorkers should be afraid of the criminals, not the police. **[Lynch. How appropriate. T]**

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



CHANGE WE CAN BEREAVE IN

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we’ll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to injustices, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

Vietnam GI: Reprints Available

Vietnam GI

January, 1969

Free to Servicemen

"... he threw his rifle at his Commanding Officer..."



Below is an interview with a Marine who didn't like the war and figured out why. This guy is a Platoon SGT with five years in the Green Machine, and over a year in Nam, mostly in long range recon with Charlie Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion. VGI speaks to him while he was on leave awaiting his second tour. Since he doesn't ETS until 1972 we've let out his name.

VGI: How did you feel about the war when you went over there. Did your feelings change?

A: When I first went over there, I thought it would be a great thing to get, and a great new experience of being in war. I really thought it was going to be something different. But then I got put on some of those patrols and I got to see the people and got to talk to the people. This was the big thing that finally changed me. I finally saw that it wasn't worth while, and that they actually don't want our help because it actually isn't help.

VGI: Did you have any contact with the Vietnamese, with the people?

A: There was a place called Ben Son and for a while I was stationed down at the bridge there. This is where I lived, ate, slept, drank, everything. There were houses right next to my bunker, we had an address for ours and we gave everybody else addresses. We explained to the people what the addresses were and they got all shook up about the whole thing, were they got addresses too.

VGI: What was it like, living there?

A: We lived with them, we shared our food with them. They used to really go for the little treats in the canteen packs, the gum and the cation cigarettes and everything, and in turn they'd bring back bananas. There was this one girl, her name was—I can't think of her name now—I had her picture but I lost it. This one girl, she really stood out in my mind because she used to come over and bring us beer every day and in turn, all she expected from us was the empty boxes of cations, that's all she wanted, the empty boxes. But then we started putting little things in the empty boxes and told her we wanted her to have them.

VGI: What would she want with the empty boxes?

A: I don't know, the Vietnamese people, they could take an empty can of nothing and make something out of it. She made me a soapbox which she had made out of a cation tin. She had pounded it out with a nail and a hammer. It had a little handle on it and I wore it all the time. I actually got to feel naked after I lost it.

Six yrs. later on, during the Tet holidays, the Viet Cong came in and burned out half of the village, and the women naturally went in panic. In order to stop them, the VC took this girl and they cut off her breasts. She was brought up to the hospital and here she died.

VGI: Did the brass give you any slack about being with the Vietnamese?

A: The incident when I almost got into trouble was, there was a convoy of about 12 to 14 trucks. I think it was. We had a whole bunch of plywood on it and we took the plywood over to a village chief in Ben Son. he was one of

the aides. We dropped off something like 14 sheets of plywood. Naturally, when we got back, there was one truckload of plywood missing, and they asked where it was. They later found out that I had given it to this village chief, not for my own good relations with him, but because there was times when we didn't get rations at our observation point, and they brought us food. So we gave them something else in return.

interview

VGI: What are some of the things you saw and did that led you into deciding in the middle of Nam not to fight anymore?

A: Well, I saw times when COL Bill Fisher, when he would tell his men to dismantle their personnel-carrying flame-throwers, take them out on a company sleep and put them back together once they got out. He went into a village and told them, "Are there any Viet Cong here?" The village chief naturally said "No" because he knew that if he said yes, he didn't know what'd happen to him. Then COL Fisher said, "Well, if there is any Viet Cong in this village, we'll show you what's going to happen." He sent one of his liaison men up to the house, he didn't check to see if there was anybody in it or not. Later we found out there was a woman in there who was real sick, she couldn't move or anything. She was burned to death. It was terrible. And seeing guys being carried in on ponies. A full-grown man weighed about two pounds after he was brought in as a sack of raw flesh or something like that.

VGI: Did you see any other incidents like that?

A: There was this little village just out of Ben Son where we brought out rice and got out rice. It's not poetry, it's really true. It was just this small village, maybe 16 or 17 houses. It was a "gray to white" village, off and on there'd be Viet Cong raiding the area. No hostilities at all, they'd just go in there to be resupplied. Yet one day, they found out that VC were coming into that village and they called "Puff". "Puff" came over and leveled the whole village down. I think maybe three people lived out of the whole thing. One was a little baby about two years old whose mother and father was gone.

One of the guys sent of adopted this kid, this little two year old. He took the kid real close. When we went to R and R we brought him back toys and books and things like that. It was really something, because they don't get too many trucks over there. We'd round up a few dump trucks and stuff like that from Hong Kong. They were really surprised to see the new toys. I mean, the toys they play with, old cation cans and stuff like that are their toys. They're a starving people if you just have an opportunity to see them, to get to know them. They're really great.

VGI: How do you think they feel about us?

A: This one incident—I know of the letter one north Vietnamese who was down south wrote to his brother up north who was intent on coming down

(Continued on page 8)

WHEN HAWKS RETIRE

All of us who've had our "five" trips to Sunny Nam and South Korea shouldn't feel guilty about accepting such "gifts" from the Government. Lots of hawk politicians are taking Government trips too. Of course, their trips are a little bit different.

Take Senator Edward V. Long (D-La.), the Senate Judiciary Committee highest ranking retirement in January was speeded up by graft scandals. The good Senator decided that as a last sacrifice to his country he would give himself TDY to Europe. The reason was to "see firsthand differences in foreign aid and military assistance programs." Doubtless, that's why he took his wife along.

Of special interest was his visit to

Switzerland, which neither gets US aid nor wants any. It doesn't really make any difference, since as soon as Senator Long returned from his "fact-finding mission" he retired from the Senate, thus depriving our Congress of all his "facts" (mostly on nightclubs and ritzy hotels).

Going to and from Europe Long traveled on Senate funds, but while on TDY there, he accompanied by using US military aircraft, cars and chauffeurs to get around. The Pentagon ordered the red carpet rolled out around the world. Nothing too good for a retiring hawk politician. As the saying goes, in America we're all equal — only some are more equal than others!

As we go to press we learn that the government has finally agreed on the shape of the table and seating arrangements for the Paris talks. Now that everyone is seated and comfortable, maybe we can expect further "breakthroughs."

The grim fact is that while the government benches are being in Paris, thousands of our buddies are still dying in Nam. In fact, since they began talking last May, 1,000 GIs have been killed in action.

Talks or no talks, the only solution is to get the hell out of Nam, immediately. Stop talking and start dropping us home.

The next issue of VGI will discuss the Paris talks in greater detail. By that

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command.

The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

Military Resistance has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.

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