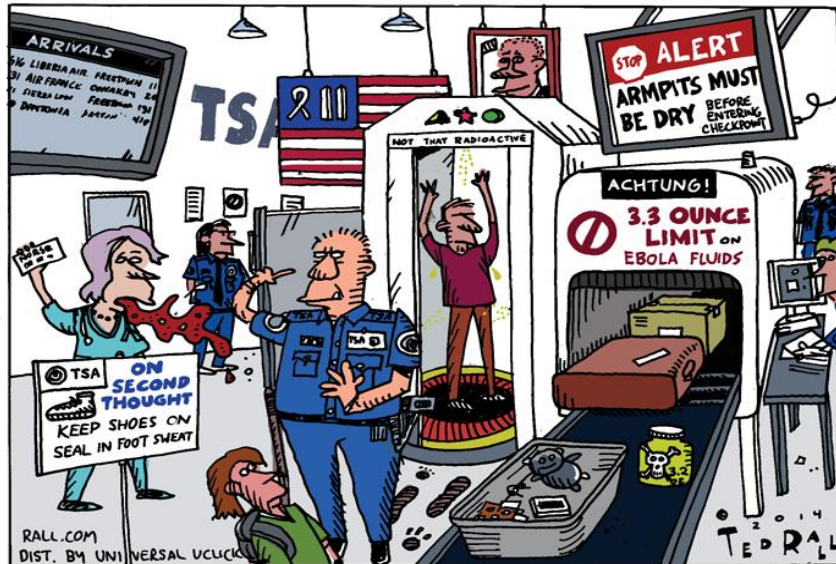


Military Resistance 13C5



First U.S. Military Combat Casualty In Iraq Since Start Of New War: Wounded At Besmaya Base Guard Tower; 2,850 U.S. Troops Now In Iraq

March 13, 2015 By Andrew Tilghman, Staff writer; Army Times

A U.S. soldier who was standing at a guard post at a military base in Iraq was apparently shot in the face Wednesday, the first enemy-inflicted wound to an American service member in Iraq since the start of the latest mission there nine months ago.

The soldier's wounds were described as a "laceration," and he was treated and immediately returned to duty, Army Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, said Friday.

"This is the first wound that is a result of direct or indirect fire to American personnel in Iraq since this mission began," Warren confirmed.

The shooting occurred at a guard post manned by two soldiers at the Besmaya Range Complex south of Baghdad at about 3 a.m. One soldier was in an elevated guard post overlooking the security perimeter and the other was on the ground, Warren said.

The ground-level soldier was "looking over a T-wall, they were trying to identify the source of some light that they'd seen," Warren said. "They saw a flash, heard a crack and the soldier who was looking over the T-wall barrier ... received the laceration."

The soldiers returned fire, Warren said.

The injury was minor and may not have been a direct shot. "Uncertain whether it was a ricochet. ... Certainly it was a result of the gunshot," Warren said.

Besmaya is one of three sites where U.S. military personnel are training Iraqi army soldiers. About 100 U.S. military trainers are at the base along with an undisclosed number of U.S. troops providing support and security for those trainers.

A total of 2,850 U.S. troops are now in Iraq.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Attack Headquarters Of South Western State

MARCH 12, 2015 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Insurgents attacked the headquarters of the South Western State government in Baidoa, killing at least four government soldiers, a Somali official said Thursday. Three of the insurgents were also killed in the morning attack, said a local official, Ahmed Mohammed.

Two explosions went off at the gate of the headquarters of the government offices followed by insurgents shooting their way onto the premises, said Capt. Hassan Hussein, a police official in Baidoa. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack but it is similar to those carried out by the Shabab, an Islamist extremist group.

Mr. Mohamed said two civilians believed to have been trying to steal the attackers' car died after it was detonated by remote control.

MILITARY NEWS

**Lesson Learned Still, Yet,
Again:
Locals Who Collaborate With U.S.
Occupation Troops Betrayed And
Abandoned;
“Yearslong Delays In Processing
Visas For Entry To The U.S.
Endangers Them”
“Thousands Who Served The U.S. In Iraq
And Their Relatives, Have Been
Kidnapped, Tortured, Placed On Death
Lists And Forced Into Hiding”**

March 10, 2015 By Miriam Jordan, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

When Army Col. Richard Welch sought to build local support for the U.S. mission to uproot al Qaeda in Baghdad, he relied on several Iraqis. But he credits one community leader with being particularly instrumental in helping stabilize the city's Ghazaliya district.

“You cannot overstate the impact he had,” said Col. Welch, a retired Green Beret who served in Iraq from 2007 to 2011. The work of the man spared countless U.S. and Iraqi lives, he said, and also made him a target of militia attacks.

That man is now a plaintiff in a federal lawsuit served Monday against the departments of State and Homeland Security on behalf of Iraqis who worked alongside Americans. The lawsuit claims that yearslong delays in processing visas for entry to the U.S. endangers them, especially amid spiraling violence by Islamic State militants and other factions hostile to the U.S.

Thousands of individuals who served the U.S. mission in Iraq, and their relatives, have been kidnapped, tortured, placed on death lists and forced into hiding, according to the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project, known as IRAP, which provides legal help to Iraqis and Afghans who worked for the U.S.

The lawsuit, filed by the nonprofit and the law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer US LLP, asks a Washington, D.C., federal court to order “prompt administrative action” on

the visa requests of the nine plaintiffs, whose real names aren't in the suit due to security concerns.

The plaintiffs have been waiting an average of four years, three months since submitting their applications to the U.S. embassy in Baghdad, the lawsuit says.

The reason for the delay in adjudicating such visas, including those of the plaintiffs, isn't clear.

Col. Steve Miska, who did three tours in Iraq and teaches national security at the Marine Corps University, said "all the bureaucratic incentives" impede decisions about visa applications from conflict areas.

As the visa case load piled up, Congress in 2013 mandated that the U.S. agencies complete all vetting, including background checks, within nine months of receiving an application. But, Katherine Reisner, IRAP's national policy director, said the government "has not made it a priority" to complete the process in a timely fashion.

The suit states that all plaintiffs remain in limbo since receiving approval from the chief of mission of the U.S. embassy in Baghdad, the first step in the process, and then completing a visa application.

Plaintiff "Foxtrot" was employed by companies in Iraq that delivered supplies. In a phone interview, he described his abduction and torture by militiamen who accused him of being a spy for the U.S. An American military medical report reviewed by The Wall Street Journal shows areas on his body where he sustained injuries.

He was transferred to Basra, where he lived on a compound near a port and did logistics work.

"He put his life in danger by working for us to rebuild the country that we put in shambles," said Foxtrot's American supervisor, Brent Ryther, who provided a letter in support of Foxtrot's visa application.

That was approved in March 2011 but has been in "administrative processing."

Last year, attackers shot at Foxtrot while he was driving, and he has separated from his family, out of safety concerns. "If I come under attack, they can kill my family," the 30-year-old said.

Plaintiff "Charlie," cited by Col. Welch for his work in Baghdad, became a target of car bombs, and U.S. military personnel intercepted a phone call about a plan to kidnap his son, according to the lawsuit.

The chief of mission approved his application in August 2011. Since passing an interview and medical exam in 2012, Charlie has been in administrative processing.

"My life has stopped for years," he said in an interview from Turkey. "They don't refuse me and don't approve me."

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

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

**Soldier Who Suffered Severe
Spinal And Head Injuries In 2013
Afghanistan Helicopter Crash, And
Family Of Another Soldier Who
Died, Sue War Profiteer:
“Failure Likely Caused By A
‘Malfunctioning FADEC’”
They ‘Knowingly Supply ... Customers
With Components That Fail’ And ‘Have
Concealed A High Rate Of Defects’”**



A front view of the wreckage from the March 16, 2013, helicopter crash north of Kandahar. Army photo.



An overhead view of the wreckage. Army photo.



1st Lt. Jonathon Kohl now lives at a center specializing in brain and spinal cord rehabilitation. COURTESY OF BAUM, HEDLUND, ARISTEI & GOLDMAN, P.C.

3.16.15 By Kevin Lilley, Army Times

A soldier who suffered severe spinal and head injuries in a 2013 helicopter crash in Afghanistan, and the family of another soldier who died in the crash, have sued engine-parts makers in a Pennsylvania court, claiming they “knowingly supply ... customers with components that fail.”

The March 16, 2013, crash of an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior came during a test-fire exercise north of Kandahar, according to a copy of the Army investigation provided by Baum, Hedlund, Aristei & Goldman, P.C., the Los Angeles based firm representing then-1st Lt. Jonathon Kohl and the family of Chief Warrant Officer 3 James Groves.

The investigator, whose name is redacted in the report, blamed “engine failure at low altitude” for the crash, a failure likely caused by a “malfunctioning FADEC,” or Full Authority Digital Electronic Control, which controls fuel flow to the engine.

The suit alleges Goodrich Pump and Engine Control Systems Inc. and Triumph Group Inc. “have concealed a high rate of defects” in the FADEC and “have failed in their duties to provide accurate and reliable troubleshooting information for the Kiowa aircraft,” as well as proper warnings for the crews of those helicopters.

Triumph Group announced its acquisition of Goodrich in a news release dated two days after the crash.

“The people who serve in the military put themselves in danger every day, and it’s ridiculous that the danger that they face isn’t minimized, especially when people know what’s going on,” said Timothy Loranger, a former Marine who is representing the plaintiffs.

“It’s important to me that we protect people. ... Ultimately, the goal is, let’s not let this happen again.”

Groves, the pilot, and co-pilot Kohl had finished a simulated engagement during the live-fire test and were turning to prepare for another simulation when a low RPM warning sounded, the investigation states. The crash took place nine seconds later.

The report does not find fault with the actions of Groves or Kohl during those nine seconds — actions pieced together using helicopter wreckage, cockpit recordings, the investigator’s own flight experiences and a radio transmission from Groves stating the helicopter was “going in.” The investigation states that Groves executed the “proper emergency procedure.”

Groves, who had nearly 4,400 flight hours, eventually performed a “flare maneuver” to “allow the aircraft to decelerate before impact and enable the aircraft to disintegrate in successive stages starting with the tail,” the report states.

Groves was found dead at the scene, according to the report. Rescuers dragged Kohl from the wreckage and onto a UH-60L Black Hawk for evacuation.

Kohl suffered “permanent physical injuries,” according to the lawsuit.

He uses a wheelchair, and his place of residence is listed in the suit as a center specializing in brain and spinal cord rehabilitation. Kohl’s wife also is listed as a plaintiff.

The suit, filed March 2 with the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, seeks compensation of at least \$100,000, “and any other relief which this Court deems just and proper.”

“Veteran Lives Just A Few Miles From A Psychiatrist Who Can Help Treat His Posttraumatic Stress”

“VA Officials Won’t Pay For The Treatment”

“VA Officials Say Gendron Doesn’t Qualify For Private Care Options Because There Is A VA Clinic Just 12 Miles From His Home”

“It Doesn’t Have The Personnel Or Services He Needs, But It’s Enough To Disqualify Him From The Program”

3.16.15 By Leo Shane III, Army Times [Excerpts]

Air Force veteran Mark Gendron lives just a few miles from a psychiatrist who can help treat his posttraumatic stress disorder.

But Veterans Affairs Department officials won’t pay for the treatment.

“So I’m paying for it myself,” the 55-year-old Minnesota resident said. “I don’t understand why I have to. They sent me a card that was supposed to let me go see any doctor. But VA won’t let me use it.”

Gendron is one of tens of thousands of veterans left scratching their heads about the VA’s new Choice Card program, designed to give veterans in remote areas or facing long wait times a chance to turn to private care providers.

The closest available VA psychiatrist Gendron can visit is 70 miles away in St. Cloud, an unbearable burden for the retired vet who is also his disabled son’s primary caregiver. Private care options are supposed to be open to any veterans who live more than 40 miles from a VA facility.

But VA officials say Gendron doesn’t qualify for the private care options because there is a VA clinic just 12 miles from his home.

It doesn’t have the personnel or services he needs, but it’s enough to disqualify him from the program.

“I just want to get the care I need,” he said. “I shouldn’t have to deal with this.”

Lawmakers and veterans groups have been dismayed with the implementation of the new Choice Card system so far, complaining that program officials seem more focused

on keeping individuals out of the program than getting it running. VA officials note that Congress — not the department — set the eligibility rules and needs to make fixes if gaps are emerging.

A survey the week of March 2 by the Veterans of Foreign Wars found 80 percent of individuals who thought they qualified for the outside care options were rejected by VA, a figure the group calls unsettlingly high.

VA officials have received more than 500,000 inquiries into the program since cards went out last fall, but only about 30,000 have been able to receive private care appointments through the program, and only a small fraction of those veterans live far enough from VA facilities to qualify.

Veterans who are denied help from the Choice Card program can request a “geographic burden” exception if they think the 40-mile rule is being applied unfairly. But fewer than 50 veterans have done so, prompting VA officials to ask if patients and administrators are aware of the option.

And while the fight over the program rages in Washington, D.C., veterans like Gendron are left waiting for a fix.

The Minnesota veteran said he already has an overdue bill of about \$1,500 for outside VA medical services, a debt that will only grow with his new out-of-pocket psychiatry expenses.

“There’s a problem with what they’re doing,” he said. “I don’t understand why I’m left suffering here, and that’s what really bothers me.”

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

**One way to stop the next war is to continue to tell the truth about this one.
-- Kathy Kelly**

Veterans For Peace Confronts The Assassination Drones



Photograph by Mike Hastie. Taken across the road from Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs, Nevada March 3-6, 2015

From: Mike Hastie

To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: March 09, 2015
Subject: VFP Confronts Assassination Drones

Veterans For Peace Confronts The Assassination Drones

**A picture is worth a 1,000 words.
From watching these Drones land
all day at Creech Air Force Base to
witnessing the greed and fantasy world
of downtown Las Vegas forty-five miles
away, the contrast was schizophrenic.
The diabolical power of Drone Warfare is
like a silent crib death that leaves no trace.
America, you will eventually get away with
nothing.**

**Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
March 9, 2015**

**Blessed are the peacemakers,
who came from all over the
country to protest.
CODEPINK you were awesome.**

**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**

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.**

ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversary Of A Fighter For Liberation: March 16, 1827



Carl Bunin's Peace History March 10-16

The first newspaper owned and edited by and for African-Americans, Freedom's Journal, was published in New York City.

It appeared the same year slavery was abolished in New York state.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

The Chickens Come Home To Roost: Two Ferguson Police Shot

March 13, 2015 By Ben Kesling, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

CLAYTON, Mo.—Law enforcement has been chasing “scores” of leads but has made no arrests in the shooting of two Ferguson, Mo., police officers early Thursday morning, according to local police.

Protesters gathered in the early evening Wednesday as some celebrated the announcement of the resignation of Thomas Jackson, the Ferguson chief of police, following a scathing report on the police department by the U.S. Justice Department.

Others rallied to call for the resignation of Mayor James Knowles who has said he has no intention of stepping down.

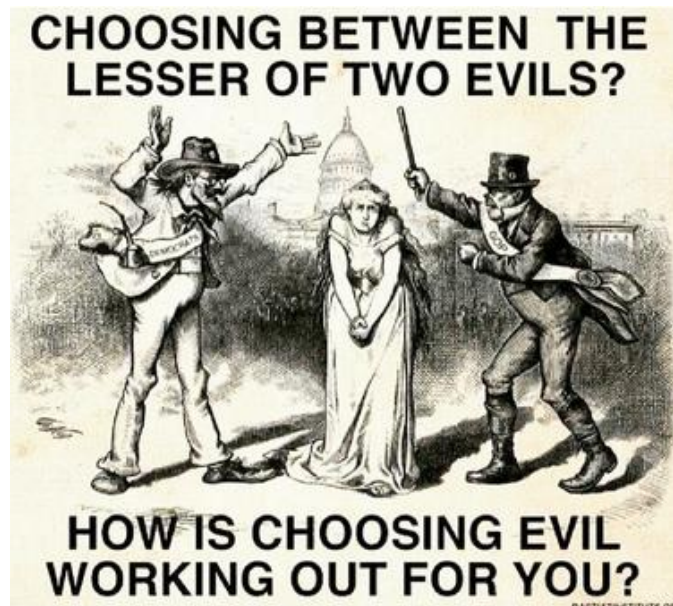
The two officers were wounded just after midnight Thursday as protester numbers dwindled.

According to witnesses, perhaps four shots were fired from behind where most people stood, hitting one officer in the face and the other in the shoulder. Witnesses said they heard the snap and whiz of rounds going by.

St. Louis County Police and Missouri State Highway Patrol took over supervising protest security in Ferguson beginning Thursday night in part as a reaction to the shooting.

The Justice Department last week issued a report documenting bias and racism in the Ferguson Police Department.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Forces Shoot Little Kid With Rubber-Coated Bullet In Occupied Jerusalem



Anas Yahya Abdeen was shot with rubber-coated bullet while standing in a balcony in his family home.

03/07/2015 Ma'an

JERUSALEM -- Seven-year-old Anas Yahya Abdeen was reportedly shot with a rubber-coated bullet by Israeli soldiers on Friday evening in his house in the Ras al-Amud neighborhood east of the Old City of Jerusalem.

According to his father, the boy was hit after Israeli troops stormed the house of Abd al-Razeq al-Salayma who allegedly drove his vehicle into a group of Israeli border police in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood earlier on Friday.

Anas was standing in the balcony opposite to the house of al-Salayma family when "all of the sudden he started to cry and shout, and we realized later that he was hit by a black rubber-coated bullet in his arm," the father explained.

Separately, a young Palestinian man was shot with a rubber-coated bullet in his forehead during clashes in the Ein al-Luza area of the Silwan neighborhood southeast of the Old City, according to Majdi al-Abbasi of the Silwan-based Wadi Hilweh Information Center.

He added that clashes broke out in the area between young Palestinian men and Israeli troops, and that Israeli troops arrested a 14-year-old boy Mustafa Baydoun while he was standing outside his house in Baydoun area of Silwan, where clashes also ensued.

Israeli police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld informed Ma'an of heightened security measures to be taken throughout Jerusalem on Friday, following the alleged attack by al-Salayma.

Two Shot By Occupation Troops For Driving While Palestinian

March 07, 2015 by IMEMC & Agencies

Israeli soldiers shot and injured, on Friday at night, two young Palestinian men, after firing rounds of live ammunition on their car, driving near the al-Jalama roadblock, north of the northern West Bank city of Jenin.

Medical sources said Mustafa Samir Ballout, 20, from Jenin city, suffered a moderate injury before the soldiers moved him in a military ambulance to an Israeli hospital.

The Ballout family denied some reports, on Facebook and by a few agencies, alleging their child was killed, and said he is still receiving treatment in the Israeli Hospital.

In addition, resident Yousef Abdullah Abu Na'sa, 18, was shot in the abdomen before local medics moved to Khalil Suleiman Hospital in Jenin.

“Three-Day Strike Declared By Gaza’s Fishermen” “Protest Over Killing Of One Of Their Colleagues And The Injury And Arrest Of Two Others By Israeli Naval Forces Last Saturday”

13 Mar 2015 by Gisha, ReliefWeb

Yesterday marked the end of a three-day strike declared by Gaza’s fishermen in mourning and protest over the killing of one of their colleagues and the injury and arrest of two others by Israeli naval forces last Saturday.

This was the first time since the deadly fighting over the summer of 2014 that a fisherman has been killed off the coast of Gaza.

Sources inside the Strip report, however, that fishing in the area has become increasingly unsafe and that naval forces fire on fisherman sailing no farther than six nautical miles off the coast – the Israeli-imposed fishing zone.

Palestinian human rights organization Al Mezan said that the fishermen were shot at a distance of only four nautical miles off the coast, a statement that has been confirmed by the Gaza Strip Fishermen’s Association.

In fact, according to the Palestinian agricultural coordinator, most cases in which Palestinian fishermen were shot or arrested occurred at a distance of four to five nautical miles off the coast.

Gaza fishermen have reported difficulties fishing in the permitted fishing zone due to heavy fire toward them.

Mohammad, 16, told Oxfam: “We were about three miles out when the (Israeli) military boats approached us and shouted at us to jump in the water and swim towards them. My friend who was with me immediately jumped. But in winter you can imagine how cold the water is... I was too scared and panicked and refused to jump.

“Then one of the soldiers shot me in the hand with a rubber bullet. They brought their boat next to mine and arrested me. We were taken away, interrogated and released the next day. But they didn’t return our boat and fishing nets. We lost everything”.

Mohammad’s father estimated the damage he sustained at 17,000 USD.

Oxfam said there were dozens of similar reports in January and February of 2015 – fishermen who were shot, arrested and had their equipment confiscated even when they were fishing inside the permitted fishing zone.

It is important to note that the enforcement of travel restrictions cannot be achieved through live fire.

According to both Israeli and international law, the use of live fire is allowed only as a last resort, in cases where there is an immediate and substantial threat to one’s life, and in circumstances where self-defense is not possible by less violent means.

In light of the ongoing incidents of fire, which Gaza fishermen report experiencing, and the fatal shooting in the case described above, it is hard not to get the impression that the navy deviates from these rules at the expense of the right to life and physical integrity of the fishermen.

Israel has been imposing fishing restrictions off Gaza’s coast for years, without really clarifying the difference between three, six or say nine miles. In the Oslo Accords, Israel undertook to allow fishing at a distance of up to 20 nautical miles off Gaza’s coast, but the maximum distance that was actually permitted was 12 miles.

In 2006, after Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit was taken captive in the Strip, Israel reduced the fishing zone to six nautical miles and it has since fluctuated between six and three nautical miles at different times. Officially, the fishing zone currently stands at six nautical miles off the coast, which is far from sufficient for the needs of Gaza’s fishermen, one of the Strip’s most disadvantaged populations.

Gaza’s fishing industry has a long and proud history. When the closure was imposed in 2007, Gaza’s fishermen could no longer sell their catch in Israel and the West Bank. The restrictions on the fishing zone have also significantly reduced the catch and caused overfishing in the permitted zone which resulted in a depletion of fish breeding grounds.

To the best of our knowledge, Israel has never explained why Gaza's fishermen are confined to six nautical miles off the coast.

The frequent reduction of the fishing zone following rocket fire toward Israel, and its expansion as a "humanitarian gesture", raise grave concern that the size of the fishing zone is not determined solely by security factors.

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

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

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

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**Hard Times In Eastern Ukraine:
“This War Was Artificially Created;
Nobody Wants It”
“If We Don’t Have Any Help From
Russia And This Isn’t Solved In**

March, There Will Be A Social Explosion Here”

“People Are Fainting From Hunger”

The small amounts of cash on hand – he estimates just 20 percent of the DPR’s fiscal needs – are now being spent in three-month cycles, with the Russian-backed military the top priority.

Pensioners and workers get paid only every three months.

March 11, 2015 By Scott Peterson, Staff writer; Christian Science Monitor

NOVOAZOVSK and DONETSK, UKRAINE —

The hotline rings 50 times a day in this remote outpost of eastern Ukraine’s breakaway rebel republics.

The angry queries pour forth: When will payments or salaries be paid? When will the self-declared, pro-Russian Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) restore normal food supplies and jobs? And can the new guard get factories and mines working at pre-war levels?

“People are desperate, we can hear them crying,” says Yevgenia Gorbinka, an official who works in the southern Novoazovsk regional administration building, which overlooks the blustery Sea of Azov and has a stark, Soviet-style sense of functionality. “Some people understand that it’s a new government, and a new country is being built. Some don’t.”

“If we don’t have any help from Russia and this isn’t solved in March, there will be a social explosion here,” warns Olga Gregoriyeva, another local administrator. “People are fainting from hunger.”

That is the challenge in Ukraine’s two breakaway regions in the eastern industrial heartland, which have seen their declarations of independence devolve into a war that has killed 6,000 people, with Russian troops and hardware backing separatist militias.

But while a recent cease-fire appears to be holding, the sheer volume of unmet needs and expectations, as social and financial structures have collapsed, are making many here bitter, hungry, and afraid.

In recent days, local officials have drafted a letter to Russian counterparts across the border, asking for 11,000 food packages with rice, oats, pasta, sugar, oil, and canned goods. The dream of building self-sufficient republics is now hostage to the war, making day-to-day survival the top priority for DPR administrators – and testing the viability of redrawing borders in the 21st century.

“Our people are very enduring,” says Ms. Gregoriyeva, “but everyone has their limit.”

Away from the front lines, schools still function, utilities work, and teams can even be found fixing war-damaged gas lines and electrical cables.

But the Ukraine government stopped bank operations and pension payments in contested areas last November. Savings are dwindling, and officials are running out of creative ways to fill the gaps.

"It's all about the cycle of money," says Boris Litvinov, an economist and senior member of the DPR regional council in Donetsk.

The small amounts of cash on hand – he estimates just 20 percent of the DPR's fiscal needs – are now being spent in three-month cycles, with the Russian-backed military the top priority.

Pensioners and workers get paid only every three months.

"The situation is critical now, to be honest," he says as he sits under a portrait of Soviet strongman Josef Stalin, whom he calls an "outstanding crisis manager."

The region, in fact, has a multitude of resources, Litvinov notes. Russia is temporarily providing free gas supplies, there is no shortage of coal to fire up power stations, and rail and road infrastructure is vast, if aged. But banks are in disarray, and many factories are crippled.

Litvinov meets daily with people to convince them not to leave.

"Not everything has been ruined, and every day of peace we spend repairing things, so we are moving up," says Litvinov. Investors from Israel to Hong Kong have been in town, too, offering everything from agricultural expertise and rail projects to \$52 million specifically to pay people to stay put until the war is over.

DPR officials have managed to conjure some assistance for struggling residents. In the ravaged northeastern town of Debaltseve, for example, they gave pensioners – who stopped receiving payments last year – the equivalent of \$72 after fighting ended there last month.

“Everywhere It Looks Like They Are Sitting There In Ministries To Show That They Exist, But They Can’t Solve Anything”

But they have not won over everyone.

"I am not impressed, because it may be the first payment and the last," says Anna Kompaniets, a Debaltseve resident now living as a refugee in a train carriage in the government-controlled city of Slavyansk, north of the DPR.

In Donetsk, one resident charges that the situation is not sustainable. "My impression is, it is totally fake. Everywhere it looks like they are sitting there in ministries to show that they exist, but they can't solve anything."

In Novoazovsk, on the south coast, the story is much the same. The “people’s republic” handed out 1,000 hryvnia (about \$40) to the most needy individuals last November.

In the hallway of the administration building, notices list amounts to be paid monthly to pensioners (\$40), single mothers (\$20), caretakers of children younger than three years old (\$20), orphans (\$88), and many others.

But even those small payments have only been sporadic, if they were paid at all. DPR officials have promised to make a single payment this month, but funds beyond that are uncertain.

Beside the hotline calls, Novoazovsk officials have also received 279 requests in 40 days for support in the form of cash or food. They are carefully logged in a thick file, by category: pensioners, Chernobyl nuclear disaster survivors, “invalids,” and more. Only 9 percent of the problems are resolved, they say.

At the top of the pile is a letter from Svetlana Lituk, a 75-year-old former librarian who qualifies for help as a “Child of War” – World War II. Ms. Lituk writes that she has nothing to eat and asks for only \$8 to tide her over, “just to buy food for me.”

During a visit to Lituk’s apartment, a parakeet twitters as she explains how she has survived without her pension.

The one-time \$40 DPR payment she got last December is now gone. She was able to stretch it because the DPR ordered that pensioners don’t have to pay utility bills or rent for now.

“I don’t buy any fats or any milk because I have no money, that’s why I made this request,” says Lituk, sitting beside a pile of rugs that she sews to keep busy. “I have macaroni and some porridge, but I would love to have some fat.”

Echoing many pro-Russian residents here, she says she “trusts Putin” and voted to break away. “Of course I voted for an independent republic, but I can see it’s very hard right now,” says Lituk. “It will get better. I have no intention to go back to Ukraine.”

Salaries have not stopped for everyone. One eight-man team doing welding repairs on a gas line near the village of Noorlivka, where fighting has destroyed villages in the northeast of the Donetsk region, is still getting paid for their work.

“We don’t know who pays, but they paid cash,” says Igor, whose team wears state gas company uniforms. Despite the fighting and extensive damage to some gas lines, “everything will be restored,” he says.

“We have very small salaries, so if we aren’t paid then who will be?” says Sergei.

But they may be the lucky ones.

“The main difficulty is to persuade the whole world that we want to be on our own,” says DPR official Litvinov. “We want the world to understand that we will never go back to Ukraine, that’s what the world needs to accept.”

“This war was artificially created; nobody wants it,” says Gregoriyeva.

“People here say America is challenging Russia and we are just the battlefield. We understand, but how to explain to people: Yesterday they were healthy and wealthy, and today they have no legs and no house? All because Uncle Sam wants to challenge Uncle Putin.”

Conspirators Charge And Deny Chechen Conspiracy To Kill Nemtsov: 15th Century Schemes And Plots Everywhere And Nowhere: “He Described Being Held In Custody For Two Days A Yellow Bag Over His Head”



Questioning A Suspect: “The Innocent Have Nothing To Fear!” [Executedtoday.com/]

March 11, 2015 By Alec Luhn, VICE News [Excerpts]

It looked like one of the speediest murder investigations in Russian history. Nine days after the assassination of Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, a lead suspect had been detained and had reportedly confessed to the crime.

But now the Chechen security officer accused of killing Nemtsov has claimed that law enforcement authorities forced him to confess.

Nemtsov, a prominent critic of President Vladimir Putin who was working on a report detailing Russian military support for rebels in eastern Ukraine, was killed by four shots to the back while strolling with his girlfriend some 300 feet from the Kremlin.

Zaur Dadayev, the recently dismissed deputy commander of an interior ministry battalion in the Russian republic of Chechnya, was arrested in the neighboring Ingushetia region and brought to Moscow, where he was charged for his alleged involvement in the crime on Sunday.

A judge said at the hearing in Moscow that Dadayev had confessed his guilt.

But on Tuesday Dadayev professed his innocence to members of a prisoners' rights monitoring group in Lefortovo detention center, and said that he had been pressured to confess.

He described being held in custody for two days with his hands and feet in shackles and a yellow bag over his head, according to a member of the monitoring group who also writes for the Moskovsky Komsomolets newspaper.

"They were yelling the whole time, 'You killed Nemtsov?' I was answering no," Dadayev said.

"When I was detained, I was with a friend, my former subordinate Ruslan Yusupov, and they said that if I agreed they would let him go. I agreed. I thought that I would save him, and they would take me to Moscow alive. Otherwise what happened to Shavanov would have happened to me."

Beslan Shavanov, another member of the North battalion that is suspected of involvement in the murder, was killed in the Chechen capital of Grozny when police attempted to detain him on Saturday. Law enforcement sources reported that he had blown himself up with a grenade.

Four other suspects from Russia's Caucasus were detained besides Dadayev. One of them, Anzor Gubashev, has also been charged with the murder.

The prisoners' rights monitors described cuts and bruises on Gubashev's arms and legs. His brother Shagid, who is also a suspect, told them that police officers had beaten him.

"I thought they would take me to Moscow, and here I would tell the court the whole truth, that I'm not guilty. But the judge didn't even let me speak," Dadayev said.

In court, Dadayev pointed one finger at the heavens in a common Muslim sign of faith. His only remark to reporters was, "I love the Prophet Muhammad." According to the

monitors, he would have had to make a motion in court to speak, but the hearing was only to determine a period of arrest for the suspects.

The accused killer added that he had asked relatives to arrange a lawyer for him but had not heard back.

Dadayev's family hired a lawyer named Zaurbek Sadakhanov to defend him, but then mysteriously dismissed him the next day.

Sadakhanov has said that he was not allowed to visit his then-client in detention, and that Dadayev's testimony to investigators was therefore not legally obtained.

The North battalion is an elite counter-terrorism unit of 700 men that the Russian news site Gazeta.ru has reported "is considered part of the personal guard of Ramzan Kadyrov," Chechnya's authoritarian leader. It is commanded by the brother of Duma deputy Adam Delimkhanov, a cousin of Kadyrov whom the Chechen leader has called his successor.

Investigators have reportedly been coming to accept the theory that Dadayev organized the crime himself.

In an Instagram post, Kadyrov said Dadayev had been "shocked" by support for the satirical Charlie Hebdo magazine in Paris, which was attacked by Islamic radicals in January over its caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad. Rosbalt news agency quoted law enforcement forces as saying that Dadayev had confessed that he had planned the murder himself in revenge for statements he said Nemtsov had made against Muslims.

But few experts believe that Dadayev decided on his own to coordinate a hit on Nemtsov.

Gregory Shvedov, editor of the news site Caucasian Knot, told VICE News that Chechnya's higher leadership controls the movements of its men, making it unlikely that Dadayev traveled to Moscow and killed a prominent dissident near the Kremlin without his superiors' knowledge.

The esteemed independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta reported on Tuesday that Putin was informed last week of a Chechen "hit list" that included Nemtsov's name. The Russian president was reportedly told that a former North battalion officer who was related to a high-ranking Chechen official had ordered the hit. Novaya Gazeta identified the officer only by the name "Ruslan."

Russian anti-corruption activist Alexei Navalny tweeted that the man was likely Ruslan Geremeyev and that the influential relative in question was Senator Suleiman Geremeyev, a cousin of Delimkhanov.

Novaya Gazeta suggested that Nemtsov might have been killed as a stand-in for another opposition leader on the list: exiled Putin foe Mikhail Khodorkovsky. After Khodorkovsky spoke out in support of Charlie Hebdo, Kadyrov declared that he was an "enemy of all Muslims in the world, which means he's also my personal enemy."

Shvedov speculated that Nemtsov might have been killed by Chechen officials hoping to please Kadyrov.

As in the cases of various other killings of regime critics suspected of being politically motivated, Nemtsov's associate Ilya Yashin said that he fears that officials who might have helped plot the dissident's murder may never be brought to justice.

Putin's bestowal of a medal of honor to Kadyrov was interpreted by many political analysts as a signal that Kadyrov was not to be touched in the course of the Nemtsov investigation.

Iran Offers To Mediate Talks Between Republicans And Obama



Photograph by ALIREZA SOTAKBAR/AFP/Getty

March 10, 2015 By Andy Borowitz, The Borowitz Report

TEHRAN — Stating that “their continuing hostilities are a threat to world peace,” Iran has offered to mediate talks between congressional Republicans and President Obama.

Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, made the offer one day after Iran received what he called a “worrisome letter” from Republican leaders, which suggested to him that “the relationship between Republicans and Obama has deteriorated dangerously.”

“Tensions between these two historic enemies have been high in recent years, but we believe they are now at a boiling point,” Khamenei said. “As a result, Iran feels it must offer itself as a peacemaker.”

He said that his nation was the “logical choice” to jumpstart negotiations between Obama and the Republicans because “it has become clear that both sides currently talk more to Iran than to each other.”

He invited Obama and the Republicans to meet in Tehran to hash out their differences and called on world powers to force the two bitter foes to the bargaining table, adding, “It is time to stop the madness.”

Hours after Iran made its offer, President Obama said that he was willing to meet with his congressional adversaries under the auspices of Tehran, but questioned whether “any deal reached with Republicans is worth the paper it’s written on.”

For their part, the Republicans said they would only agree to talks if there were no preconditions, such as recognizing President Obama’s existence.

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Vietnam GI: Reprints Available

Vietnam GI

January, 1969

Free to Servicemen

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



WHEN HAWKS RETIRE

All of us who've had our "free" 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-Mo.), the Senate Judiciary Committee highest ranking opponent 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 get firsthand information on 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 returned from the Senate, thus depriving our Congress of all his "facts" (except on nightclubs and night hotels).

Going to and from Europe Long traveled on Senate funds, but while on TDY there, he economized by using US military aircraft, cars and chauffeurs to get income. 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 great fact is that while the government hawks are giving in Paris, thousands of our buddies are still dying in Nam. In fact, since they began talking last May, 7,000 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 shipping us home.

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

Below is an interview with a Marine who didn't like the war and figured out why. This guy is a Platoon SGT with the 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 Nam tour. Since he doesn't ETS until 1973 we've left out his name.

VGI: How do 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 in pay, 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 near 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, soon they got addresses too.

VGI: What was it like, being there?

A: We lived with them, we shared our food with them. They used to really go for the little treats in the cation 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 stands 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 this empty box of crates, 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 case of nothing and make something out of it. She made me a sander 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.

But yet, later on, during the Tet holidays, the Viet Cong came in and burned out half of the village, and the market naturally went in panic. In order to stop them, the VC took this girl and they cut off her breast. She was brought up to the hospital and lost the girl.

VGI: Did the brass give you any stink 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 the last whole bunch of plywood on it and we took this plywood over to a village chief in Ben Son, he was one of

the older. 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 money when we didn't get recognized 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 things when COL Bud Fisher, when he would call his men to dismantle their personal-carrying fancy-knives, take them out on a company deep 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 flame 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 stretchers, 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 this?

A: There was this little village just out of Ben Son where we brought our rice and got our rice. It's real pretty, it's really nice. It was just this small village, maybe 15 or 17 houses. It was a "gray to white" village, off and on there'd be Viet Cong raiding the area. No hospitals at all, they'd just go in three to be resupplied. Yet one day, they found out that VC were coming into that village and they called "Pull". "Pull" came over and loaded 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 sort of adopted this kid, this little two-year old. He took the kid real close. When we went on K and K we brought him back tops and trucks 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 supposed to see the new tops. I mean, the tops they play with, old machine cars and stuff like that, get those tops. They're a farming 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, so north who was intent on coming down

Continued on page 8

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.

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