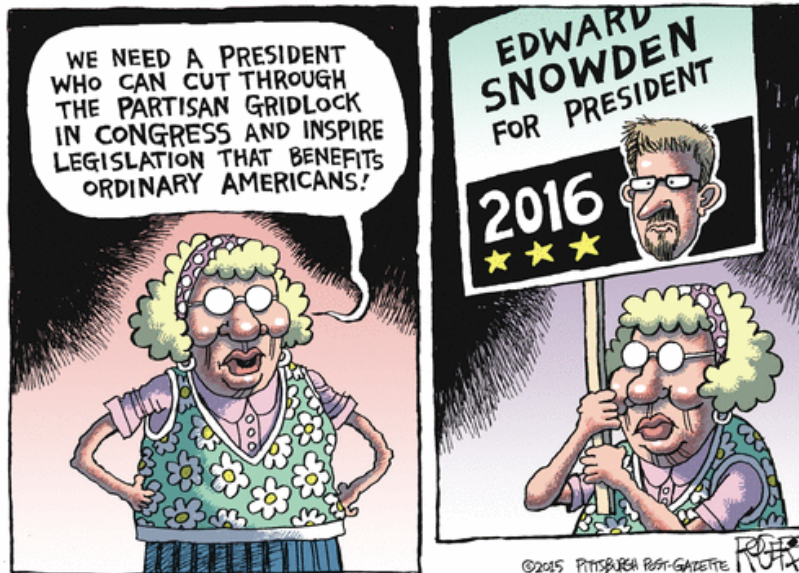


Military Resistance 13F1



Where's My Humvee? Iraq Losing Equipment To Islamic State At Staggering Rate: “Losses To Islamic State Include At Least 40 M1a1 Main Battle Tanks, 74,000 Machine Guns And 52 M198 Howitzer Mobile Gun Systems”

04 June 15 By Peter Van Buren, Reuters

Iraqi security forces lost 2,300 Humvee armored vehicles when Islamic State overran the northern city of Mosul in June 2014, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said on Sunday in an interview with Iraqiya state television.

Coupled with previous losses of American weapons, the conclusion is simple: The United States is effectively supplying Islamic State with tools of war the militant group cannot otherwise hope to acquire from its patrons.

In addition to the Humvees, Iraqi forces previously abandoned significant types and numbers of heavy weapons to Islamic State.

For example, losses to Islamic State include at least 40 M1A1 main battle tanks, as well as small arms and ammunition, including 74,000 machine guns, and as many as 52 M198 howitzer mobile gun systems.

“We lost a lot of weapons,” Abadi admitted.

To help replenish Iraq’s motor pool, the U.S. State Department last year approved a sale to Iraq of 1,000 Humvees, along with their armor upgrades, machine guns and grenade launchers. The United States previously donated 250 Mine Resistant Armored Personnel carriers (MRAPs) to Iraq, plus unaccountable amounts of material left behind when American forces departed in 2011.

The United States is currently in the process of moving to Iraq 175 M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks, 55,000 rounds of main tank-gun ammunition, \$600 million in howitzers and trucks, \$700 million worth of Hellfire missiles and 2,000 AT-4 rockets.

The Hellfires and AT-4’s, anti-tank weapons, are presumably going to be used to help destroy the American armor in the hands of Islamic State.

The United States is also conducting air strikes to destroy weapons seized by Islamic State.

It’s a surreal state of affairs in which American weaponry is being sent into Iraq to destroy American weaponry previously sent into Iraq. If a new sequel to Catch-22 were to be written, this would be the plot line.

The United States also continues to spend money on training the Iraqi military.

Some 3,000 American soldiers are currently in Iraq preparing Iraqi soldiers to perhaps someday fight Islamic State; many of the Americans are conducting the training on former military bases abandoned by the United States following Gulf War 2.0.

In addition, some \$1.2 billion in training funds for Iraq were tucked into an omnibus spending bill that Congress passed earlier this year. This is in spite of the sad reality that from 2003 to 2011, the United States spent \$25 billion training Iraqi security forces.

The return on these training investments?

The Iraqi army had 30,000 soldiers in Mosul, who ran away in the face of about 1,000 Islamic State fighters.

The same thing happened just a few weeks ago in Ramadi, where 10,000 Iraqi soldiers, collapsing faster than a cardboard box in the rain, fled ahead of only 400 Islamic State fighters. The Iraqis left behind more weapons.

In an interview with me a year ago, Chris Coyne, professor of economics at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, predicted this exact scenario well before the United States sent troops back into Iraq:

“The United States government provided significant amounts of military hardware to the Iraqi government with the intention that it would be used for good. However, during the Islamic State offensive, many of the Iraqis turned and ran, leaving behind the United States-supplied hardware. This weapons windfall may further alter the dynamics in Syria.

“Now the United States government wants to provide more military supplies to the Iraqi government to combat Islamic State. But I haven’t heard many people recognizing, let alone discussing, the potential negative unintended consequences of doing so.

“How do we know the weapons and supplies will be used as desired? Why should we have any confidence that supplying more military hardware to a country with a dysfunctional and ineffective government will lead to a good outcome either in Iraq or in the broader region?”

The impact of all these heavy weapons falling into Islamic State hands is significant for American foreign policy goals in the Middle East. A report prepared for the United Nations Security Council warns that Islamic State possesses sufficient reserves of small arms, ammunition and vehicles to wage its war in Syria and Iraq for two more years.

And that presumes the United States won’t be losing more tools of war to Islamic State, thanks to the Iraqi army.

MORE:

Pentagon To Bypass Iraqi Army And Supply ISIS Directly



An Abrams tank is loaded on a C-17 for delivery to the Islamic State. (Photo credit: US Air Force)

June 4, 2015 by Jay-B, The Duffle Blog

WASHINGTON — Recognizing the need for a new strategy to fight ISIS, the Pentagon announced today that it would no longer supply the Iraqi Army with American vehicles, artillery and rifles, and instead would supply materiel directly to ISIS.

CENTCOM spokesman Air Force Col. Patrick Ryder says the idea “would be a game changer.”

The plan has its roots in Army Capt. Noel Abelove’s PowerPoint briefing, which was hailed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, sources said. Abelove, a supply officer on the Joint Logistics Staff (J-4), realized that cutting out the Iraqi Army middlemen had numerous advantages.

“They taught me at West Point that ‘amateurs talk strategy but professionals talk logistics,’” Abelove told reporters. “The most important advantage is, we only supply about 40 percent of each ISIS requisition.”

Abelove continued: “Before, when we gave the (Iraqi) Army 100 percent, then we had to fly strike missions to destroy a lot of it a week or two later. This way we immediately degrade ISIS by over 60 percent, without having to use our increasingly scarce missiles and JDAMs, and more importantly, without having to put any airmen into harm’s way.”

Other sources indicate that supplying ISIS also reduces the risk of sensitive equipment being passed to Iran by Shiite commanders in the Iraqi Army, or being sold on Craigslist.

“A lot of these guys were piling a lot of cash into banks in Qatar and the Caymans,” according to an analyst who requested anonymity.

“Well, screw that. ISIS will literally burn anyone selling our gear.”

According to Ryder, an additional benefit will be improving military-to-military relations between the United States and the Islamic State.

“We have to meet them to deliver the stuff, and we have invited some of their top commanders as observers at CENTCOM,” he said. “Watching video of the Abu Sayyaf raid is a real ‘Come to Jesus!’ moment for them.”

The USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71), which recently joined 5th Fleet’s battle group in the Persian Gulf, will reportedly take a few weeks off in Bahrain.

According to Pentagon sources, this isn’t the end of the new approach.

“We’re going to offer them a slot on the F-35 development team,” a civilian logistician who reports directly to the Defense Secretary who requested anonymity said.

“We bankrupted the Soviets, and this might just bankrupt the Islamic State.

“Hard cash is the new soft power,” he concluded.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Taliban Capture Yamgan District Of Badakhshan Province

June 06, 2015 By RFE/RL's Radio Free Afghanistan

Officials say that at least three security personnel and eight Taliban fighters were killed when a district in northeastern Afghanistan fell under Taliban control after rebels attacked security checkpoints on June 6.

The militants attacked the Yamgan district of Badakhshan province overnight and seized most of it, said Laal Mohammad Ahmadzai, the provincial police spokesman.

Shah Waliullah Adeeb, the acting governor of Badakhshan, confirmed to RFE/RL's Radio Free Afghanistan that the district had fallen to Taliban fighters.

"Foreign insurgents are among the dead," he said, adding that the security forces were still fighting to regain control of the district.

Another provincial government official who requested anonymity said the district was under Taliban control and security forces had fled.

The Taliban also confirmed that its fighters had captured the center of the district.

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

MILITARY NEWS

“The Syrian Regime Retains Control Of About

A Quarter Of The Country”

**“The Army Has Declined To Half
The Size It Was Before The
Uprising”**

**“The Dwindling Ranks Are
Apparent Even In The Capital”**

**“Every Man In Syria...Tries His Best
Not To Serve In The Army”**

**“I Don’t Want To Be A Part Of A Conflict
Which Is For A Single Man’s Benefit”**

**“This Is A Conflict That We, The Normal
People, Have Nothing To Do With”**

Recently, the Syrian foreign minister asked Iran to send 100,000 fighters, according to the diplomat who regularly visits Syria. The request was denied because Iran feared turning the conflict into an open sectarian war, he said.

June 5, 2015 By Raja Abdulrahim, Wall Street Journal

Soon after the military police came looking for the 25-year-old computer engineer at his family’s home, he fled Syria.

He bribed a security officer to briefly remove his name from the list of men wanted for mandatory military service and paid a taxi driver \$1,000 to drive him across the border into Lebanon.

Like many young men living in government-controlled parts of Syria, he had been putting off conscription by paying \$2,000 a year, hoping to avoid becoming cannon fodder for a military that has been hemorrhaging soldiers, either by death or defection, after more than four years of war.

The reluctance of young men like him to join has left the Syrian army even weaker as it fights a multifront war.

Instead, it has pulled inward, focusing on protecting parts of the country that are essential to President Bashar al-Assad's seat of power, say Middle East diplomats and a Syrian government official.

That weakness was most apparent during recent defeats in the northwest province of Idlib and the city of Palmyra; rebels and opposition groups said regime forces withdrew quickly rather than fight a prolonged battle.

Monitoring groups and diplomats estimate the Syrian regime retains control of about a quarter of the country, with the rest held by the extremist Islamic State, myriad opposition rebels and Kurdish groups.

"Every man in Syria...tries his best not to serve in the army," the young engineer said. "He can't imagine himself being a part of what's happening, part of a long war that doesn't seem to have an end."

Finding that many men aren't answering their conscription notices, the regime has for months been aggressively sweeping up men in neighborhood raids, at road checkpoints and at border crossings—and sending them to the front lines, according to residents and rebels, who have captured many of these draftees on the battlefield.

"I don't want to be a part of a conflict which is for a single man's benefit," said a 29-year-old who has a good job in Damascus but is making plans to flee the country anyway. "This is a conflict that we, the normal people, have nothing to do with."

Since the start of the antigovernment uprising in 2011, the military hasn't allowed any soldiers to be discharged, according to a brigadier general in Homs province.

More recently there has been a crackdown on granting delays in military service.

One officer was executed by the regime because of the large number of postponements he allowed in exchange for bribes, the brigadier general said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights estimates the army has declined to 200,000 soldiers and officers, half the size it was before the uprising. An assessment released last year by the Center for Strategic and International Studies put Syria's armed forces at 178,000, down from 325,000.

They are aided by about 80,000 militia fighters.

"Of course they are overstretched and weakened....I think they are reassessing their own strategy," a diplomat based in Syria said. "It's a matter of surviving. I don't think the Syrian regime has the ability to think long term."

The country's forces, he said, are focused only on protecting key areas like Damascus, Homs and the coastal provinces, a stronghold of the Alawite, the minority branch of Shiite Islam to which President Assad belongs.

“They didn’t look so optimistic and so assured that they will have victory against the opposition,” said another diplomat who visited Syria last month.

“The loss of Palmyra changed very much the image among the supporters.”

Ali Haidar, Syria's reconciliation minister, conceded that the army wasn't capable of defending every part of the country, such as the remote city of Palmyra. The regime faced sharp criticism in the wake of its rapid takeover last month by Islamic State militants. But Mr. Haidar said defending the desert outpost would have taken a large toll on Syrian forces.

“The wide deployment of the Syrian military is being studied anew,” he said. The aim is “to draw primary defensive lines to achieve victories that are more strategic than protecting remote areas and areas that are empty of residents and of economic life.”

The dwindling ranks are apparent even in the capital. Security checkpoints, which used to be manned by young conscripts and were an important show of the government’s control, are now staffed by middle-aged men and sometimes even women. The younger men are all needed at the front lines.

The National Defense Forces and popular committees—militias turned into official security branches—tempt recruits with \$100 monthly salaries and special services at businesses and bakeries, where people line up for hours just to buy bread.

But when weighed against the multiple defeats the armed forces have suffered and videos of soldiers killed at the hands of rebels or Islamic State, the incentives have proved less than convincing to many.

As a result, there appears to be a growing dependence on foreign fighters, who have played an important role ever since the militant Shiite group Hezbollah helped retake in 2013 the strategic town of Qusayr along the Lebanese border.

Since then the Syrian government's foreign force has included advisers from Russia and Iran's Revolutionary Guard, Iraqi and Afghan Shiite fighters and most recently, Arab nationalist fighters from Egypt, Tunisia and Lebanon.

Recently, the Syrian foreign minister asked Iran to send 100,000 fighters, according to the diplomat who regularly visits Syria. The request was denied because Iran feared turning the conflict into an open sectarian war, he said.

For the Syrian regime, a big test is the continuing battle for Qalamoun, a mountainous region bordering Lebanon and close to the capital.

In recent weeks, Hezbollah has taken to giving media tours of newly seized areas in the Qalamoun region, eager to promote even incremental successes against a backdrop of bigger defeats elsewhere in the country. The rebels though, controlled only a small portion of Qalamoun to begin with.

Even though Hezbollah once spoke of a limited presence in Syria along the Lebanese border and around Damascus, it has recently accepted an expanded role.

“Our presence will expand everywhere our responsibility requires,” Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said in a speech last month, noting that “the situation has gone beyond” protecting shrines in Damascus for two years already.

“And we are able to help the army and its people and the resistance in Syria for victory and responding to the attack,” he said.

1 Marine vs. 30 Cops: Sgt. Shamar Thomas

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: “Just read the stuff on protests. I think its time to run this again.”]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmEHcOc0Sys>

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**The past year – every single day of it – has had its consequences. In the obscure depths of society, an imperceptible molecular process has been occurring irreversibly, like the flow of time, a process of accumulating discontent, bitterness, and revolutionary energy.
-- Leon Trotsky, “Up To The Ninth Of January”**

In Desperate Search For Heroes



Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: June 01, 2015
Subject: In Desperate Search For Heroes

In Desperate Search For Heroes

**When you bury the truth of the Vietnam War,
you once again give birth to Wall Street murder.
The "Seven-Eleven" bumper sticker, "Support
The Troops," ultimately became the windup
lie for the racket of war. "American Sniper,"
the mega box office hit that duped a nation.
Betrayal, the bounty hunter that came home
from Iraq to kill the troops.**

**Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
June 1, 2015**

**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**

Disappeared Day

**From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: June 06, 2014
Subject: Disappeared Day**

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

Disappeared Day

**370,000 American men did not appear
when they were drafted for WWII,
instead they disappeared.
Other young American men
deserted when they saw
they were going to be sacrificed**

**in a manmade killing machine
to land on the beaches
of Normandy that later on
General Ike had one shot,
in a firing squad
blindfolded as a traitor,
a gentle man who didn't deserve it.
Ike wanted to show in frustration
what would happen to other deserters
but it didn't work because the deserters
were choosing life
in a life or death situation
and they disappeared.**

Written by Dennis Serdel for others when they see the rows of crosses

BEYOND CHICKAMAUGA

By Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance

I declare Chickamauga was terrible enough to behold but this one here takes the moldering cake it does. Lost a little toe there and might be fixing for a whole foot – or more! - on this red stained killing mattress I'm affixed to. See that soldier, his skull showing white for the sun and those (alongside him) revealing even more for an inner bleaching? Yes sir, I surely believe, regardless which Jehovah you might be listening to, some kind of judgment is at hand.

Damn hill back a ways cost us half a battalion or my name ain't a patriot's curse on the dying breath of a best friend I'm sworn to remember. When I pray to the day's Jehovah I'm sure to remind him I'd prefer the shade of a mothering tree to sleep by unless its poor, twisted trunk ain't already shattered by fire that could a been anybody's.

But dreaming won't get this here ugly hole of mine plugged I reckon. Wish I could find a bit of rag to accomplish that but I'm fresh out what with lending out all the pieces I already had and the same goes for everyone else. Can't be over-equipped for battle I guess; never know what it brings and what it don't.

Lord knows I writ enough letters to family appraising one and all of the more than excellent chance of me never shadowing a friendly doorstep again - except with the waste of dreams this here war's so good at providing.

Makes no difference what battles are for, what worth there is while trying to save your hearing from insanity's roar that surely narrowed someone else's existence – IF the poor sonuvabitch got this far in the first place. The dead don't care much either way.

If I knew your name, curious as you are, I reckon I'd address you as such but misfortune's come where we'd best not know each other. Not meaning to be rude you understand but one fight pretty much yields another and I feel it coming sure as you're sitting there. You see, it ain't the arms, heads or legs so much but the too often

questioned souls that go forever uncounted for is what plagues us – be we dead or on that sky-less road to nowhere.

Anyway, I expect I'm half way there as the crow flies but still listening for a command that might take me someplace my comrades can toast a new arrival, secure and gleeful they got where they were going - scrubbed clean of blood crust, free of life swallowing air that once was fresh.

One might hope Paradise rests on the other side of that there coin - but you never know.

“Feeling The Futility Of Demonstrating And Of Working Within A Rigged Electoral System, The Movement And Its Press Turned Increasingly Toward The One Group Capable Of Ending The War With Direct Action: The People Forced To Fight It”

Excerpts from *Vietnam And Other American Fantasies*; H. Bruce Franklin; University Of Massachusetts Press; Amherst, 2000

Feeling the futility of demonstrating and of working within a rigged electoral system, the movement and its press turned increasingly toward the one group capable of ending the war with direct action: the people forced to fight it.

Liberation News Service's "Special Issue on Soldiers" gave prominence to stories from *Vietnam GI* and *The Bond*.

And the summer of 1968 became the "Summer of Support" for the GI antiwar movement.

The main focus was on coffeehouses, which were already centers for active-duty and other resisters near major bases in Missouri, Texas, South Carolina, and Washington state, while new ones were being opened in California and New Jersey.

When the manager of the Oleo Strut, the coffeehouse near Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas, "stood up before the G.I.s and announced that the Oleo Strut was part of the Summer of Support," LNS reported, the soldiers "responded with a standing ovation" because "this was their coffee-house, and, should trouble come, many of them will defy the army."

Indeed, within weeks the Oleo Strut proved to be a center of the insurrection that led to dozens of soldiers refusing to go to Chicago to suppress the antiwar demonstrations taking place outside the Democratic convention.

Simultaneously there emerged at Fort Hood itself *The Fatigue Press*, an underground paper published by the GIs, whose editor was arrested by base authorities two weeks after the Chicago confrontation.

As the underground press threw itself into the Summer of Support, there was a noticeable shift away from civilians leading soldiers toward soldiers providing leadership for the entire antiwar movement.

Before long, this trend would dramatically change the form and content not just of opposition to the Vietnam War but of the war itself.

The reversal of roles was aptly symbolized by a teach-in held in Berkeley's Provo Park on August 10, 1968, chaired by ex—Green Beret Donald Duncan. Students now came not to teach soldiers about the war, but to learn from them.

The Ally, a GI newspaper whose first issue in February had explained the profound significance of the Tet offensive, now reported the lessons brought to the teach-in by vets and active-duty GIs from the army, navy, coast guard, and marines.

The underground press, especially the rapidly proliferating papers published by military personnel, were filled with stories of the insurrections, mutinies, and fraggings that were crippling U.S. combat potential in Vietnam.

SDS criticized itself for not having taken previous work within the military seriously enough and emphasized that “showing that the Left supports the soldiers” is no less important than showing “that the soldiers support the left.”

Perhaps the most compressed fantasy projecting what America's war against Vietnam was doing to America is a fourteen-line poem by Steve Hassett, who served as an infantryman and intelligence analyst in Vietnam:

**And what would you do, ma,
if eight of your sons step
out of the TV and begin
killing chickens and burning
hooches in the living room,
stepping on booby traps
and dying in the kitchen;
beating your husband and
taking him and shooting
skag and forgetting in
the bathroom?
would you lock up your daughter?
would you stash the apple pie?
would you change the channels**

“Strategy Was Torpedoed By A Massive Antiwar Movement Among The Sailors”

**“In San Diego On November 10, I
Found Five Aircraft Carriers Tied Up,
All Forced Out Of Combat In The Gulf
Of Tonkin By Their Crews, Each Of
Which Was Publishing An Antiwar —
And Increasingly Revolutionary—
Newspaper On Board”**

**“Not Since Pearl Harbor Had The U.S.
Navy Been So Crippled”**

Excerpts from *Vietnam And Other American Fantasies*; H. Bruce Franklin; University Of Massachusetts Press; Amherst, 2000

Meanwhile, the United States poured even more massive amounts of money and arms into South Vietnam, giving the Saigon government overwhelming superiority in numbers, firepower, and modern weapons, including the world's fourth-largest air force.

But in the spring of 1972, “Vietnamization” took a body blow when the DRV [North Vietnam] launched a major offensive that routed Saigon's army, despite all its numerical and technological advantages, and captured large sections of South Vietnam. All that saved Saigon's forces from total collapse was U.S. airpower.

But with no reliable army on the ground, U.S. strategy was forced to shift almost entirely to aerial technowar.

One main component was to be a flotilla of Seventh Fleet aircraft carriers (twice as many as in 1971) massed in the Gulf of Tonkin, bringing warplanes closer than the fighter-bombers based in Thailand and the B-52s on Guam to targets all along the narrow land of Vietnam.

This strategy was torpedoed by a massive antiwar movement among the sailors, who combined escalating protests and rebellions with a widespread campaign of sabotage.

The actions of these sailors cannot be written off the way some revisionist historians have tried to explain away the fraggings, sabotage, and mutinies of the ground troops as merely attempts at self-preservation.

The sailors could not be motivated by any desire to avoid wounds or death because their ships were not in any danger of enemy attack.

So what were their motives?

Many of them shared the same revulsion that had inspired those first antiwar actions by hundreds of merchant seamen in 1945, a revulsion now immeasurably intensified by the kind of war being waged by the United States against the people of Vietnam.

In 1970 and 1971 ships had been sporadically forced out of action by outbreaks and even sabotage by crew members.

Occasional inconspicuous newspaper articles allowed perceptive members of the general public to get inklings of what was happening to the fleet.

An early example was the destroyer Richard B. Anderson, which was kept from sailing to Vietnam for eight weeks when crew members deliberately wrecked an engine.

Toward the end of 1971, the sailors' antiwar activities coalesced into a coherent movement called SOS (Stop Our Ships/Support Our Sailors) that emerged on three of the gigantic aircraft carriers crucial to the Tonkin Gulf strategy: the USS Constellation, the USS Coral Sea, and the USS Kitty Hawk.

(One early act was a petition by 1,500 crew members of the Constellation demanding that Jane Fonda's antiwar show be allowed to perform on board.)

On these three ships alone that fall, thousands of crew members signed antiwar petitions, published onboard antiwar newspapers, and supported the dozens of crew members who refused to board for Vietnam duty.

In March 1972 the aircraft carrier USS Midway received orders to leave San Francisco Bay for Vietnam.

A wave of protests and sabotage swept the ship, hitting the press when dissident crewmen deliberately spilled three thousand gallons of oil into the bay.

In June the attack carrier USS Ranger was ordered to sail from San Diego to Vietnam.

The Naval Investigative Service reported a large-scale clandestine movement among the crew and at least twenty acts of physical sabotage, culminating in the destruction of the main reduction gear of an engine; repairs forced a four-and-a-half-month delay in the ship's sailing.

In July the aircraft carrier USS Forrestal was prevented from sailing by a major fire deliberately set by crewmen, which caused millions of dollars of damage to the captain's and admiral's quarters of the ship.

In September and October the crew of the Coral Sea, which had been publishing the antiwar newspaper *We Are Everywhere* for a year, staged renewed protests against the war, with over a thousand crewmen signing a petition to “Stop Our Ship.”

It was forced to return to San Francisco Bay, where crew members held a national press conference and helped organize support rallies and other demonstrations.

Almost a hundred crew members, including several officers, refused Vietnam service and jumped ship in California and Hawaii.

In September crew members of the aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga organized their own “Stop It Now” movement, and navy intelligence tried unsuccessfully to break up the SOS movement on the showpiece carrier USS Enterprise, home of the antiwar paper *SOS Enterprise Ledger*.

A bloody September battle between groups of marines on the amphibious landing ship USS Sumter in the Gulf of Tonkin off Vietnam was not made public until the following January.

One of the most serious outbreaks took place in October on the Kitty Hawk, where organized antiwar activities (including publication of the antiwar paper *Kitty Litter*) had continued during its eight-month tour off Vietnam.

When the ship was ordered to return to Vietnam from Subic Bay instead of continuing its voyage home, African American members of the crew led a major rebellion, fought hand-to-hand battles with the marines sent to break up their meeting, and reduced the ship to a chaos of internal fighting for several hours.

Four days later, fighting spread to the Kitty Hawk’s oiler, the USS Hassayampa. The Kitty Hawk was forced to retire to San Diego, whence it sailed to San Francisco in early January, where it underwent a “six-month refitting job.”

The sailors’ movement had thus removed this major aircraft carrier from the war.

Especially damaging were the synergistic effects of the protests, sabotage, and rebellions on the aircraft carriers central to Pentagon strategy.

For example, when the House Armed Services Committee investigated the hundreds of reports of “successful acts of sabotage,” one conclusion reached in their report was that the rebellion on the Kitty Hawk had been precipitated by the orders to return to Vietnam, orders mandated because two other aircraft carriers had been disabled: “This rescheduling apparently was due to the incidents of sabotage aboard her sister ships U.S.S. Ranger and U.S.S. Forrestal”

In October and early November, incidents of sabotage and an open revolt brewing on the Constellation forced it to return to San Diego, where 130 sailors prevented the ship’s departure for two months by refusing to reboard and staging a militant demonstration onshore, resulting in their discharge from the crew.

The media called this a “racial outbreak,” but the picture in the San Francisco Chronicle, captioned “The dissident sailors raised their fists in the black power salute,” shows mainly white sailors with upraised arms and clenched fists.

When I went to speak in San Diego on November 10, I found five aircraft carriers tied up, all forced out of combat in the Gulf of Tonkin by their crews, each of which was publishing an antiwar — and increasingly revolutionary— newspaper on board.

That night I addressed hundreds of these crew members in San Diego antiwar movement centers, where men from the different aircraft carriers and their attendant vessels were getting together to build a fleet-wide organization.

In December the Ranger, all repaired now, finally made it to the Gulf of Tonkin, where it was immediately disabled by a deliberately set fire.

The navy admitted that this was the sixth major disaster on a Seventh Fleet carrier since October 1.

Meanwhile, the internally embattled Constellation was not even able to sail from San Diego for Vietnam until January 5, 1973, three weeks before the signing of the Paris Peace Accords; the rebellious crewmen had in effect permanently removed another major aircraft carrier from the war.

Not since Pearl Harbor had the U.S. Navy been so crippled, and then the damage had been done by an enemy defeated in combat.

“During The Work Stoppage There Were Cheers Whenever A B-52 Was Shot Down”

Individual pilots — one with more than two hundred previous combat missions — refused on moral grounds to participate in the bombing.

After the first nights of heavy losses, many of the B-52 crews voiced their opposition to the kinds of risks they were being asked to take in a conflict that had obviously been decided.

The most serious actions took place among air crews of the supersecret 6990th Air Force Security Service based on Okinawa, whose mission was eavesdropping on North Vietnamese air defense communications in order to give timely warnings to the B-52 crews.

Because they had firsthand knowledge of the DRV's [North Vietnam's] preparations for peace and were outraged by the nature of the bombing, they staged a work stoppage verging on open mutiny.

According to Seymour Hersh, who interviewed at least ten members of the unit in early 1973, during the work stoppage there were cheers whenever a B-52 was shot down.

Some of the men were later court-martialed under stringent security.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

A SWAT Team Raiding A Family Home Kills Their Dog Because They Are Unable To Pay Their Natural Gas Bill:

“An Officer Pointed His Firearm At Her Son’s Head And Said ‘One Word, Motherfucker, And I’ll Put Three In You’”

“The Citations Issued To Zorich Were For Substandard Siding, Guard Rail, Screens, Window Glass And Deck”

June 5, 2015 By Matt Agorist, The Free Thought Project

St. Louis, MO — Nothing says Police State USA quite like a SWAT team raiding a family home and killing their dog because they are unable to pay their natural gas bill.

The woman whose dog was killed and home destroyed by SWAT officers is Angela Zorich, and her story about her police state experience will shock the conscience.

According to a federal lawsuit filed this month, Zorich was the victim of a massive military-style raid and subsequent puppycide. The raid was carried out because police said they needed “to check if her home had electricity and natural gas service.”

“This is an example of police overreaching and using excessive force to get a family out of their house,” said Kenneth Chackes to the Riverfront Times, the attorney who represents Zorich.

According to the lawsuit, on April 25, 2014, St. Louis County Police officers came to her house. Her son cursed at them. They inspected the home's exterior and placed a "Problem Properties" sticker on the front window.

Days after being publicly shamed and labeled by the St. Louis Police Department as a "Problem," on April 28, Zorich called them to follow up. She was told by police that she was being investigated for failing to have natural gas or electric service; two violations against city code.

Zorich admitted to the police that she did not have gas, but said that she did have electricity.

Zorich asked for another inspection to prove that she had the utilities. The officer told her that was fine, but that the investigation would continue.

The next day, on April 29, 2014, the home of Angela Zorich was raided by multiple officers from the St. Louis County Police Tactical Response Unit.

The Riverfront Times outlines the details of the lawsuit:

Zorich was at home with several family members and her pit bull, Kiya, when a St. Louis County Police Tactical Response Unit burst through the door without knocking, according to her suit. The unit had at least five officers with M-4 rifles, supported by at least eight uniformed officers.

The officers entered so quickly, Zorich's suit alleges, that Kiya didn't even have time to bark. A tactical officer fired three shots into the dog, and the dog's "bladder and bowels released and she fell to the floor." The dog "was laying on the floor in her own waste and blood struggling to breathe. She had a gaping hole in her chest."

Zorich claims the officers kept trying to talk to her about the natural gas, but she was focused on her dog, whom she'd raised as a puppy and who (she says) had "never shown aggression to any person."

At one point in the raid, Zorich alleges, an officer pointed his firearm at her son's head and said "One word, motherfucker, and I'll put three in you."

Zorich was subsequently taken into custody at the police station.

When she was finally let go and allowed to return to her home, she found to be completely trashed.

Beds had been overturned, and items that were once on shelves had been thrown to the floor.

The citations issued to Zorich, which had allegedly justified the heavily militarized raid on her home, were for substandard siding, guard rail, screens, window glass and deck.

A dozen armed men dressed for war, were dispatched to a woman's home, killed her dog, and kidnapped her because of some moldy wood and her inability to pay her gas bill. In what world is this considered justice?

The apologists will say that Angela Zorich provoked police into this action against her. If she didn't want to be raided, they will say, she should have just paid her gas bill. The thought of the raid being retaliatory in nature won't enter their minds.

Named in the lawsuit is the county of St. Louis and two officers, Corey Zavorka and Robert M. Rinck.

Her allegations include unlawful seizure and unlawful infliction of emotional distress (for the killing of the dog) and unlawful retaliation.

Hopefully, with her legal team, Zorich gets the actual justice she deserves.

Ramsey Orta, Who Filmed Police Murder Of Eric Garner, Out Of Jail: Huge International Support Raises His Bail Money; “Ever Since He Went Public With The Video, The Police Began Following Him, Randomly Searching Him, Driving By His Home And Flashing Floodlights Into The Windows”

On August 2, one day after the medical examiner ruled Garner's death a homicide, police broke into Orta's home in the middle of the night and arrested him on weapons possession charges, though no guns were found and no DNA linked Orta to any guns.

June 4, 2015 by Lichi D'Amelio, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

Nearly a year has passed since Eric Garner's murder on July 17 at the hands of New York City police officer Daniel Pantaleo.

One wonders what story the officers on the scene in Staten Island that day would have told had it not been for the video footage--now seen around the world--of police surrounding Garner and forcing him to the ground as Pantaleo choked him to death.

The murder was filmed by Ramsey Orta, Garner's 22-year-old friend. Orta's steady hand during the terrifying encounter produced a video that has since been viewed by millions around the world.



Ramsey Orta. Socialist Worker

Time magazine's Paul Moakley made a short film about Orta's video that won this year's prestigious World Press Photo Multimedia Award. "This award belongs to Ramsey Orta," Moakley said, "who shot this shocking video."

But Orta wasn't able to celebrate with Moakley because he was behind bars. Unbelievably, Ramsey Orta--and not Daniel Pantaleo--is the only person related to the Garner case who has been arrested and charged with any crime.

On August 2, one day after the medical examiner ruled Garner's death a homicide, police broke into Orta's home in the middle of the night and arrested him on weapons possession charges, though no guns were found and no DNA linked Orta to any guns.

The following February--two months after a grand jury decided not to indict Pantaleo for the murder of Garner, sparking a national wave of outraged protest--Orta was arrested along with his mother and brother on drug charges.

No drugs were found in this case, but the judge set his bail at an absurdly high \$100,000.

While the Staten Island District Attorney and most media outlets have claimed that the charges against Orta are "unrelated" to the Garner case, there's plenty of reason to be skeptical.

According to Orta, ever since he went public with the video, the police began following him, randomly searching him, driving by his home and flashing floodlights into the windows.

Early last summer, Orta had decided to start documenting the abuse he saw police routinely dole out to friends and neighbors.

In fact, just a week before Garner's murder, Orta filmed the same officers handcuffing, throwing to the ground and beating another friend of his. This is part of the reason he was so ready with the camera when police showed up to harass Garner.

During his time at the city jail on Rikers Island, Orta was so terrified of retaliation that he refused to eat any food provided by the jail, deciding instead to stick to what was available pre-packaged from the commissary.

His fears turned out to be well-founded in March when 19 inmates became sick from what they believe were pellets of rat poison that guards put in their meatloaf--the latest chapter of a brutal history that led the U.S. Attorney last year to release what the New York Times called "a graphic 79-page report that described a 'deep-seated culture of violence' against youthful inmates at the jail complex, perpetrated by guards who operated with little fear of punishment."

Not getting poisoned is only one way that Orta has been luckier than many other prisoners. Perhaps the most incredible part of his story is that he made bail.

In early March, Orta's aunt Lisa Mercado started a GoFundMe account called Standing up for Ramsey Orta in the hopes that supporters would understand the retaliatory nature of the charges and, like her, see Orta for the hero who he is.

Mercado set a goal of \$16,000--the portion of the bail needed to pay a bondsman to secure Orta's release. Soon, donations began trickling in--five dollars here, ten dollars there, the occasional hundred dollars as well--along with words of encouragement and gratitude.

The first month of the campaign generated a few thousand dollars. The family was extremely grateful, but it also seemed like freedom was going to take a while. For Orta, who was at the mercy of Rikers Island guards who knew him as the guy who filmed the murder of Eric Garner--his terror seemed like it would never end.

But in early April, there was a surge in the number of people making donations. The total jumped from about \$4,000 to \$10,000 on April 6, and by the next day, it became clear that the goal would be reached--and surpassed. Upwards of \$50,000 was donated by supporters around the country and internationally to bail Ramsey Orta out of jail.

Mercado and her family sent out tearful, grateful updates and pictures to supporters in the days leading up to Orta's release.

After some pushback from the DA's office, which tried to claim that because of the many anonymous donations, the bail money could have come from potentially "illegal sources," Orta was finally released on April 10.

"What's happening now is that people are beginning to realize that police officers can and do lie about the circumstances of arrests and of what happens," Orta's lawyer Ken Perry said on Democracy Now!

"And that you can't just take their word just because they're police officers. I've seen too many times in trial where just because a police officer says something, it becomes gospel. We know that that's not the case, and that's why this is so important."

While Orta thankfully made it out of Rikers in one piece, he continues to pay a steep price for his decision to air the now infamous video. He has a long road ahead in legal battles--not to mention continuing police harassment. Orta and his entire family have had to relocate out of Staten Island, which is home to many members of the NYPD.

The heroic actions of people like Ramsey Orta are a major reason why this movement has gained strength and confidence in standing up and challenging the police narrative that has, thus far, dominated the airwaves whenever a police officer murders somebody.

Now that he is out of prison, it's up to the movement to make sure that Ramsey Orta--and others who bravely film the police--are able to stay out.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Frustrated NSA Now Forced To Rely On Mass Surveillance Programs That Haven't Come To Light Yet



June 1, 2015 The Onion

FORT MEADE, MD—Expressing frustration over Congress' decision to let the provisions allowing the bulk collection of phone data expire, annoyed National Security Agency officials reported Monday that the organization would now be forced to rely exclusively on mass surveillance programs that have yet to come to light.


“Unfortunately, lawmakers chose to limit our intelligence-gathering capabilities by discontinuing key sections of the Patriot Act, and now we have no choice but to depend

on a number of other civilian-monitoring initiatives that continue to remain hidden from the public,” said NSA director Michael Rogers, adding that, although the agency still has a wide variety of covert hacking, wiretapping, and GPS-tracking programs at its disposal that have not yet been exposed by whistleblowers or investigative journalists, the end of its ability to record the phone data of millions of Americans still represents “a fairly sizable inconvenience” for the organization.

“Obviously, we will continue to carry out our duty of protecting the United States, but without the powers granted to us under Section 215 of the Patriot Act, I guess we’ll just have to make do with our Dark Sky systems, the Linguos Protocol, and Project OPTIC, among several dozen others.”

Rogers noted that while the NSA was disappointed to see the old metadata collection program lapse, ultimately the capabilities of its newer surveillance projects make the old one look miniscule in comparison.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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