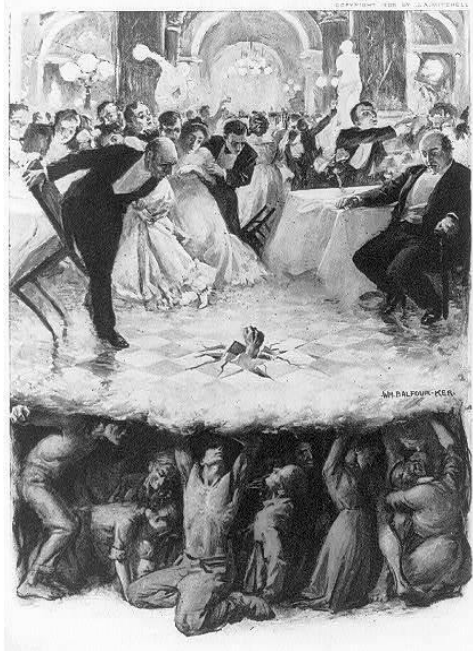


Military Resistance 13H9



**US Military Investigated For Lying
About Progress Of War On ISIS:
Officials At United States Central
Command “Improperly Reworking
The Conclusions Of Intelligence
Assessments Prepared For Policy
Makers”**

**“You’re Part Of A Large Structure That
Does Have A Vested Interest In
Portraying The Overall Mission As Going
Well”**

26 August 15 By Mark Mazzetti and Matt Apuzzo, The New York Times

The Pentagon's inspector general is investigating allegations that military officials have skewed intelligence assessments about the United States-led campaign in Iraq against the Islamic State to provide a more optimistic account of progress, according to several officials familiar with the inquiry.

The investigation began after at least one civilian Defense Intelligence Agency analyst told the authorities that he had evidence that officials at United States Central Command — the military headquarters overseeing the American bombing campaign and other efforts against the Islamic State — were improperly reworking the conclusions of intelligence assessments prepared for policy makers, including President Obama, the government officials said.

Fuller details of the claims were not available, including when the assessments were said to have been altered and who at Central Command, or Centcom, the analyst said was responsible. The officials, speaking only on the condition of anonymity about classified matters, said that the recently opened investigation focused on whether military officials had changed the conclusions of draft intelligence assessments during a review process and then passed them on.

The prospect of skewed intelligence raises new questions about the direction of the government's war with the Islamic State, and could help explain why pronouncements about the progress of the campaign have varied widely.

Legitimate differences of opinion are common and encouraged among national security officials, so the inspector general's investigation is an unusual move and suggests that the allegations go beyond typical intelligence disputes.

Government rules state that intelligence assessments "must not be distorted" by agency agendas or policy views. Analysts are required to cite the sources that back up their conclusions and to acknowledge differing viewpoints.

Under federal law, intelligence officials can bring claims of wrongdoing to the intelligence community's inspector general, a position created in 2011. If officials find the claims credible, they are required to advise the House and Senate Intelligence Committees. That occurred in the past several weeks, the officials said, and the Pentagon's inspector general decided to open an investigation into the matter.

Spokeswomen for both inspectors general declined to comment for this article. The Defense Intelligence Agency and the White House also declined to comment.

Col. Patrick Ryder, a Centcom spokesman, said he could not comment on a continuing inspector general investigation but said "the I.G. has a responsibility to investigate all allegations made, and we welcome and support their independent oversight."

Numerous agencies produce intelligence assessments related to the Iraq war, including the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency and others. Colonel Ryder said it was customary for them to make suggestions on one another's drafts. But he said each agency had the final say on whether to incorporate those suggestions.

“Further, the multisource nature of our assessment process purposely guards against any single report or opinion unduly influencing leaders and decision makers,” he said.

It is not clear how that review process changes when Defense Intelligence Agency analysts are assigned to work at Centcom — which has headquarters both in Tampa, Fla., and Qatar — as was the case of at least one of the analysts who have spoken to the inspector general. In the years since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the Pentagon has relocated more Defense Intelligence Agency analysts from the agency’s Washington headquarters to military commands around the globe, so they can work more closely with the generals and admirals in charge of the military campaigns.

Mr. Obama last summer authorized a bombing campaign against the Islamic State, and approximately 3,400 American troops are currently in Iraq advising and training Iraqi forces. The White House has been reluctant, though, to recommit large numbers of ground troops to Iraq after announcing an “end” to the Iraq war in 2009.

The bombing campaign over the past year has had some success in allowing Iraqi forces to reclaim parts of the country formerly under the group’s control, but important cities like Mosul and Ramadi remain under Islamic State’s control.

There has been very little progress in wresting the group’s hold over large parts of Syria, where the United States has done limited bombing.

Some senior American officials in recent weeks have provided largely positive public assessments about the progress of the military campaign against the Islamic State, a Sunni terrorist organization that began as an offshoot of Al Qaeda but has since severed ties and claimed governance of a huge stretch of land across Iraq and Syria. The group is also called ISIS or ISIL.

In late July, retired Gen. John Allen — who is Mr. Obama’s top envoy working with other nations to fight the Islamic State — told the Aspen Security Forum that the terror group’s momentum had been “checked strategically, operationally, and by and large, tactically.”

“ISIS is losing,” he said, even as he acknowledged that the campaign faced numerous challenges — from blunting the Islamic State’s message to improving the quality of Iraqi forces.

During a news briefing last week, Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter was more measured. He called the war “difficult” and said “it’s going to take some time.” But, he added, “I’m confident that we will succeed in defeating ISIL and that we have the right strategy.”

But recent intelligence assessments, including some by Defense Intelligence Agency, paint a sober picture about how little the Islamic State has been weakened over the past year, according to officials with access to the classified assessments.

They said the documents conclude that the yearlong campaign has done little to diminish the ranks of the Islamic State’s committed fighters, and that the group over the last year has expanded its reach into North Africa and Central Asia.

Critics of the Obama administration's strategy have argued that a bombing campaign alone — without a significant infusion of American ground troops — is unlikely to ever significantly weaken the terror group.

But it is not clear whether Defense Intelligence Agency analysts concluded that more American troops would make an appreciable difference.

In testimony on Capitol Hill this year, Lt. Gen. Vincent R. Stewart, the agency's director, said sending ground troops back into Iraq risked transforming the conflict into one between the West and ISIS, which would be "the best propaganda victory that we could give."

"It's both expected and helpful if there are dissenting viewpoints about conflicts in foreign countries," said Micah Zenko, a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and author of a forthcoming book, "Red Team," that includes an examination of alternative analysis within American intelligence agencies.

What is problematic, he said, "is when a dissenting opinion is not given to policy makers."

The Defense Intelligence Agency was created in 1961, in part to avoid what Robert McNamara, the Secretary of Defense at the time, called "service bias." During the 1950s, the United States grossly overestimated the size of the Soviet missile arsenal, a miscalculation that was fueled in part by the Air Force, which wanted more money for its own missile systems.

During the Vietnam War, the Defense Intelligence Agency repeatedly warned that even a sustained military campaign was unlikely to defeat the North Vietnamese forces. But according to an internal history of the agency, its conclusions were repeatedly overruled by commanders who were certain that the United States was winning, and that victory was just a matter of applying more force.

"There's a built-in tension for the people who work at D.I.A., between dispassionate analysis and what command wants," said Paul R. Pillar, a retired senior Central Intelligence Agency analyst who years ago accused the Bush administration of distorting intelligence assessments about Iraq's weapons programs before the beginning of the Iraq war in 2003.

"You're part of a large structure that does have a vested interest in portraying the overall mission as going well," he said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two U.S. Soldiers Killed By Man In Afghan Government Army Uniform

August 27, 2015 Mohammad Stanekzai, Reuters

In Helmand, a man in Afghan uniform opened fire in the former British base of Camp Bastion, killing two US service personnel, before being shot and wounded. Another man in Afghan uniform was wounded in the return fire.

It was the second incident this year involving Afghan troops, or people wearing Afghan uniforms, shooting at foreign soldiers. No group has claimed the attack.

Pentagon spokesman Captain Jeff Davis said the attacker opened fire on the vehicle in which the Americans were travelling. He gave no more details.

An Afghan regional official said the incident involved Afghan special forces firing on allies at the former Camp Bastion, which was handed over to Afghan forces last year.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

**Taliban Seize Musa Qala District
Despite Repeated US Air Strikes
To Repel Them:
Taliban Overran Police And Army
Posts “Chasing The District
Government Out Of Town And
Confiscating Weapons”
“We Had Asked For Reinforcements For
Days But None Arrived And This Was
What Happened”**

August 27, 2015 Mohammad Stanekzai, Reuters & Aug 26 Ariana News & Aug 23 2015
By Khaama Press

Kabul: Taliban fighters seized Musa Qala district in Afghanistan on Monday despite repeated US air strikes to repel them, adding to the insurgents' recent advances in a heavily fought over region of opium farms and trade routes.

Helmand's Musa Qala district fell after the Taliban overran police and army posts to retake a district straddling smuggling routes that was wrenched from them by British and Afghan troops eight years ago.

Bashir Ahmad Shakir, a member of Helmand provincial council said Afghan security forces evacuated the district this morning at 9:00 am and Taliban fighters took the control of the district.

Three Afghan security members were killed and ten others including the district governor were wounded, Shakir added.

Abdul Majid Akhundzada who is a member of Helmand's provincial council told media that 45 soldiers have been martyred in a check post in Qasaban area while 20 others surrendered to Taliban.

According to the reports dozens of armed Taliban fighters raided over the district last night and surrounded the district and Afghan security forces pulled out of the area after two days resistance.

US warplanes have been bombarding Musa Qala since the weekend, killing up to 40 militants, with two new air strikes on Tuesday.

But they regrouped, chasing the district government out of town and confiscating weapons in what a spokesman for Afghanistan's 215th Maiwand Corps called a "tactical retreat" to protect civilians. Coalition military advisors have recently been working with the 215th Corps, which based in Helmand capital Lashkar Gah.

Last week, Afghan forces pulled out of the town of Nawzad, the headquarters of a neighbouring district that was also fiercely fought over when British and US forces were stationed in Helmand, the country's main opium production centre.

That means the Taliban currently control three districts in northern Helmand and have partial control of several others, including Kajaki, where they frequently disrupt supplies from a large US-built hydroelectric dam powering the province.

"We left the district early in the morning because the Taliban were attacking from all sides," said Musa Qala district Governor Mohammad Sharif. "We had asked for reinforcements for days but none arrived and this was what happened," he said.

MORE:

Taliban Announce Capture Of Musa Qala District: “Mujahideen Are Now Pursuing The Convoy Which Came In As Reinforcements”



Aug. 26 Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

HELMAND,— Recent reports arriving from southern Helmand province say that Mujahideen of Islamic Emirate have managed to overrun Musa Kala district center, HQ building, Police HQ, PRT building and all surrounding check posts in an overnight assault.

The enemy fled their positions after suffering heavy losses when Mujahideen launched a coordinated assault 10:00 pm last night, bringing all the above mentioned areas under their control by 11:00 am this morning.

Mujahideen are now pursuing the convoy which came in as reinforcements and is currently retreating towards Gerishk district.

It is said that a sizable number of arms, ammunition, APCs, vehicles and other equipment has also been seized in the operation.

Taliban Mass In Northern Afghanistan To Swear Allegiance To New Emir:

“The Video Shows That The Taliban In Kunduz, Including Its Top Leaders, Do Not Fear Massing In The Open And Staying There For Extended Periods Of Time”

“At Least Seven US-Supplied Humvees And Nine Ford Pickup Trucks Are Manned By Taliban Fighters”

August 27, 2015 By Bill Roggio, Long War Journal [Excerpt]

Hundreds of heavily armed Taliban fighters gathered in the open in the northern Afghan province of Kunduz to pledge an oath of allegiance to Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour, the new emir of the group.

The Taliban released a video on Aug. 25 on its official website, Voice of Jihad, that showed the massing of jihadists in Kunduz and its leaders issuing lengthy speeches before pledging fealty to Mansour, who replaced Mullah Omar, the group's founder and first leader. The video was “published by Al Emarah Studio, part of the Multimedia Branch of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan's Cultural Commission,” the Taliban stated.

“A large number of Mujahid leaders, tribal elders, locals and ordinary Mujahideen in northern Kunduz province pledged their allegiance to the Islamic Emirate's new Amir ul Mumineen, Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour (HA), at the hands of the Jihadi in-charge (shadow governor) of Kunduz, Mullah Abdul Salam Akhond,” the Taliban said in the statement that accompanied the video.

Mullah Abdul Salam was one of several Taliban shadow governors who were detained by Pakistan in early 2010. He was later released and returned to Afghanistan and resumed his role as the Taliban's governor for Kunduz.

The video shows that the Taliban in Kunduz, including its top leaders, do not fear massing in the open and staying there for extended periods of time.

Members of the group do not appear all that concerned about the prospect of getting hit by a US or Afghan airstrike, and clearly control the ground in the area. Dozens of white Taliban banners are flying in the open.

Additionally, the video demonstrates that the Taliban has seized a number of military and police vehicles from the Afghan army and police. At least seven US-supplied Humvees and nine Ford pickup trucks are manned by Taliban fighters.

The vehicles and fighters line up in formation – with Humvees in one area, Fords in another, and scores of motorcycle-mounted fighters in front – to listen to its leaders give speeches and then recite the oath to Mansour.

Additionally, several jihadists mounted on horses are in the formation. While the commanders are talking, more fighters arrive in trucks and on motorcycles.

MILITARY NEWS

Two Senior Iraqi Commanders Killed By ISIS At Ramadi

August 27, 2015 Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

Two senior Iraqi military commanders have been killed in a car bomb attack north of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar Province.

Iraqi officials said Deputy Commander of Anbar Operations Command Major General Abdel Rahman Abu Raghif and Brigadier Safin Abdel Majid, head of the 10th division, were killed along with three other people in the attack.

Pro-government forces are battling Islamic State (IS) militants in Anbar Province.

Elsewhere, IS are reported to have seized new territory from Syrian rebels in northern Syria.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a U.K.-based group tracking the war, said it had seized five villages, including two near the Turkish border, from other Syrian insurgents.

Islamic State announced that it had captured three villages in the area and said its fighters had nearly encircled the rebel-held town of Marea, some 20 kilometers south of the Turkish border.

“Much Of Syria Slips Out Of The Control Of President Bashar Al-Assad”

“The Government Now Only Controls One-Sixth Of Syria’s Territory”

“You Know How On The Titanic, As It Is Sinking, You Have The Band Playing The Last Few Songs? It Is Sort Of Like That.”

“It Is Almost Manic In The Sense Of They’re Going Over The Top To Pretend That Everything Is Fine”

Aug. 26, 2015 By Raja Abdulrahim, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

On the day in May when Islamic State militants raised their black flag above the ancient city of Palmyra, the Damascus Opera House featured a singer in a rumpled black suit belting out traditional Arabic ballads.

Members of the audience were herded together so the half-empty auditorium appeared full on state television, and the crowd whistled, clapped and danced in the aisles for the benefit of the cameras.

This week, as the extremist militants blew up a 2,000-year-old temple in Palmyra, the opera house in the capital 150 miles to the west prepared to open an art exhibit.

“It is great that we still have these activities despite the war,” a man in his 50s was overheard telling his wife during the performance in May. “Syria is always strong.”

As much of Syria slips out of the control of President Bashar al-Assad, his ability to persuade his people that the country will remain normal as long as he is in power has become indispensable to his regime’s survival.

The government now only controls one-sixth of Syria’s territory, the IHS Conflict Monitor said in a report issued last week, and maintaining a semblance of ordinary life in that area has become more necessary than ever.

In Damascus, Tuesday is now ladies night at Z-Bar, featuring DJ Tareq.

The government continues to host events such as a conference in May to mark World Migratory Bird Day, even though half the country’s human population, or some 11.5 million people, have been forced from their homes.

Weekend pool parties, a summer ritual, go on as usual despite a water crisis plaguing much of the country.

“We’re hearing of these over-the-top parties. It is almost manic in the sense of they’re going over the top to pretend that everything is fine,” said Amr al-Azm, a professor of Middle East history and anthropology at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, Ohio.

“You know how on the Titanic, as it is sinking, you have the band playing the last few songs? It is sort of like that.”

On Mr. Assad’s Instagram account, the Syrian leader is pictured meeting with soldiers and clerics while his wife Asma greets top students, mothers and members of the country’s Special Olympics team.

Although few foreign tourists now dare visit Syria, state media gave daily coverage to a weeklong visit in April by a delegation of French tourists.

Photos of crowded clubs and art exhibits in regime-controlled areas posted on social media contrast with images from the rest of Syria: limp bodies being pulled from rubble, barefoot children in tent cities and corpses of Islamic State victims hung from crosses.

“Showing Damascus as still living a normal life was one of its goals from the beginning,” a resident of the capital said of the regime. It is “focused on activities and parties and other things that are far from our reality.”

Hotel rooms and chalets in the coastal cities of Latakia and Tartous had to be booked a month in advance this summer, as vacationers from Damascus and Homs flooded to the Mediterranean coast beaches to swim and sunbathe as in years past.

In the city of Aleppo, some residents still take to the sidewalks at night to picnic and barbecue, a city tradition that survives despite the perils of rocket and artillery fire from rebel groups.

After an attack in June that state media said killed 23 and wounded dozens of people, Aleppo’s governor said life was normal in the city’s markets.

“The government has to maintain this facade of everything is OK. Otherwise, these people don’t feel safe,” Mr. Azm said. “Already the credibility of the regime has been questioned repeatedly every time the regime loses an important battle.”

Nowhere is the regime’s portrait of life in Syria more skewed than on social media, especially the Twitter feed for SANA, Syria’s state news agency.

Between tweets about government forces killing terrorists—the catchall term for all government opponents—are posts about disco and salsa parties.

But a Twitter campaign by SANA in June that urged followers to “snap us your moments of summer in #Syria using the hashtag #SummerInSyria” was used by opposition groups and activists to tweet photos showing child victims of government airstrikes, burning buildings and destroyed markets.

Yet the Assad government remains unflagging in its determination to convey a sense of business as usual, despite a death toll that now exceeds 240,000 and the apparent

resolve of pro-regime forces to fulfill the pledge they have left scrawled on the walls of opposition-controlled towns and neighborhoods—“Assad, or we burn the country.”

In May, the government hosted a “Reconstruct Syria” conference that promoted green and other forms of renewable energy, even though outside the convention center much of Syrian territory was in darkness because of damage to the power grid.

And while generators work to ensure the lights stay on all the time at the opera house, performers such as the rumple-suited balladeer don't measure up to the legendary Lebanese singer Fairuz and productions of “Carmen” that once were staged there.

Nevertheless, theater officials have introduced a new dress code. Jeans and T-shirts are out, and men are now required to wear neckties.

A selection of ties is available for those who arrive at the opera house without one.

3,500 Afghans Fight In Syria As Iran Use Refugees To Bolster Assad: “Many Afghan Shiite Fighters Have Suffered The Fate Of Being Used As Cannon Fodder”

Aug 26 2015 By Mirwais Adeel, Khaama Press

The latest estimates suggest at least 3,500 Afghans are fighting in Syria in support of Bashar al-Assad, shedding light on growing recruitment of Afghans in the conflict which was around 500 less as compared to estimates three months back.

Relatives of a number of those killed while fighting for the Syrian regime have said the Afghan nationals are lured by the month salary of \$700 and Iranian residency permit.

Phillip Smyth, an expert on Shiite militant groups, told AFP an estimated 2,000 to 3,500 Afghans are currently fighting in Syria.

He said “In terms of how they are recruited, deployed, and utilized in Syria, many Afghan Shiite fighters have suffered the fate of being used as cannon fodder.”

Smyth further added “Some are coerced to fight; others promised residency papers for their family, and a small salary. It demonstrates Iran's exploitation of Afghan Shiite refugees.”

This comes as a video emerged from Syria three months ago which purportedly showed the capture of four Afghan nationals by the Syrian rebels.

Two teenage boys are also seen among those captured during the clashes apparently by the rebels belonging to the Free Syrian Army.

The group was reportedly deployed to Syria to take part in the ongoing conflict by Iran's Revolutionary Guard.

The men appearing in the video introduces them while speaking in Dari language and describes unemployment as the main reason behind their decision to fight in Syria.

Dozens of Afghan nationals were reportedly killed late in December last year while fighting in support of the Syrian regime led by Bashar al-Assad.

According to the estimates back in April, some 3,000 Afghan nationals have been deployed to take part in the ongoing Syria conflict.

The Afghan militants are fighting on both sides of the Syrian war, in support of the Syria Bashar al-Assad and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) militants.

Informed sources in the Afghan government have also confirmed that the number includes Iranian-backed Shiites fighting a proxy war in support of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and against Islamic State and other rebel groups.

The participation of Afghan militants in Syria war has sparked concerns among the Afghan officials some will return to fight in Afghanistan under Islamic State's banner.

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

<p>What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms. -- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787</p>

“Whilst Large-Scale Industry Preached Freedom And Peace Between Nations It Also Turned The World Into An Armed Camp As Never Before In History”

Comment: T

As may be seen in the article below, the enemy of every American soldier is the Imperial Government in Washington DC.

The class of capitalists who command the political power of this society have heaped up the wealth on top, and keep grabbing for more, using their government to do it, while the rest of us try to scrape buy, unable to buy what capitalism could produce.

Thus we see the present mountain of idle productive capacity worldwide, while trillions of \$ of the wealth our labor produces are appropriated by their class and sits hoarded in their banks, finding no profitable investment for them anywhere, as they will only produce what we need if there is profit in it for them.

Those who are not rich and powerful have nothing to gain from Imperial wars of invasion and occupation, earnestly work for their defeat, and offer every possible assistance to the soldiers organizing against Imperial war.

There are many thousands of U.S. soldiers today who understand who their enemy is: the Imperial domestic enemy headquartered in Washington DC.

Americans who have nothing to gain from Wars of Empire -- civilians and troops together -- will strike down the Imperial regime that infests Washington DC, thereby regaining our liberties and wellbeing.

That storm will come.

From: KARL MARX; The Story of His Life
By Franz Mehring, 1918
Translated from the German by Edward Fitzgerald

The capitalist mode of production, an embodied contradiction, both produces and destroys modern states.

It intensifies all national antagonisms to the utmost and at the same time it creates all nations in its own image.

So long as the capitalist mode of production exists, these contradictions are insoluble, and therefore the brotherhood of man about which all bourgeois revolutions have sung so sweetly has suffered defeat again and again.

Whilst large-scale industry preached freedom and peace between nations it also turned the world into an armed camp as never before in history.

However, with the disappearance of the capitalist mode of production its contradictions will vanish also. It is true that the proletarian struggle for emancipation must develop on a national basis because the capitalist process of production develops within national limits, and in the beginning therefore the proletariat in each country finds itself face to face with its own bourgeoisie.

Despite this, however, the proletariat need not submit to the merciless competition which has always destroyed all bourgeois dreams of international peace and freedom.

As soon as the workers realize that they must get rid of competition in their own ranks if they are to offer effective resistance to the superior power of capital — and this realization coincides with the first awakening of their class-consciousness — then it is only a step to the deeper realization that competition between the working classes of the various countries must cease too, and still further that the working classes must cooperate internationally if they are to overthrow the international dominance of the bourgeoisie.

Very early in the history of the modern working-class movement therefore, a tendency towards internationalism made itself felt.

What the bourgeoisie, thanks to the narrowing of its horizon by its profit interests, regards as unpatriotic, as ignorance and lack of understanding, is in reality a vital condition for the very existence of the proletarian struggle for emancipation.

Although this struggle can solve the antagonism between nationalism and internationalism, whilst the bourgeoisie is condemned to writhe under it as long as it lives, the workers possess no magic wand in this respect any more than in any other, and they are not able to turn the hard and difficult climb into a level and easy path.

The modern working class has to fight its battles under conditions created by historical development.

Guantanamo Bay Begins Construction On Senior Care Wing



August 26, 2015 The Onion

GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA—

Saying the expansion would ensure the facility is adequately prepared for upcoming challenges, officials at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp announced Wednesday that they had broken ground on a new geriatric care wing.

“Our senior care center will be located immediately adjacent to Camp Delta and will contain all of the essentials our detainee population will need in the years ahead, including easy-access ramps from the confinement block to the exercise yard as well as wall-mounted grab bars and no-slip mats in the shower area,” said Brigadier General Marion Garcia, who added that the facility’s 116 beds and each of its various enhanced interrogation rooms would be located on the ground floor so that inmates will not have to go up or down any stairs when moving about, thereby avoiding unnecessary strains on their joints and helping to prevent falls.

“We also plan to mount defibrillators throughout the corridors and in every solitary confinement cell, and make sure that our on-site clinic is stocked with ample stores of

hypertension medicines and BPH treatments. As our detainees' needs change, so will our facility."

Garcia added that the new space would be able to make use of a number of supplies already in the detention camp's possession, including its stock of feeding tubes and Ensure.

Pentagon Angered At Speed Of French Military Awards System



August 27, 2015 by Lee Ho Fuk, The Duffle Blog

WASHINGTON, D.C. — American military officials are reportedly shocked at the speed at which France was able to approve of their nation's highest award which was presented to American Airman Spencer Stone, Spc. Alek Skarlatos, and some random civilians who participated in the righteous beating of a terrorist last week in Paris.

"This was easy when we originally thought it was Marines," said Sergeant Maj. of the Marine Corps Ronald Green. "I had their charge sheets all written up and was ready to read them their Article 31 rights over the phone, but man, what a letdown."

Other senior members of the armed forces are grappling with how to deal with this blatant breach in the American military tradition of foot dragging and outright dismissal of awards for junior enlisted personnel.

"There's no way Airman Spencer rates an actual Legion d'Honneur," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody. "We'll probably just submit it as a Letter of Appreciation in his record book. It's not like it will get him any points for promotion anyway."

Shortly after Cody's remarks, it was announced Airman Spencer would be nominated for the Air Force's highest non-combat award for being wounded while engaging in hand-to-hand combat with a fully armed enemy.

Major Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, the Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard, agrees. "Spc. Skarlatos hasn't even earned an ARCOM yet," said Hokanson. "How in the world can we justify this medal? Besides, I don't have one."

Hokanson further pointed out that Skarlatos hadn't re-certified on the online Level 1 Antiterrorism Awareness module so he couldn't possibly rate a medal for actually fighting terrorism.

Some senior officials speculate the French didn't bother to hold an awards board, where in American tradition, awards are sent back to be rewritten multiple times until the originator quits trying in frustration. In other cases the submission is downgraded to a certificate of commendation so junior service members do not earn an award greater than any officers they are subordinate to.

"Rank has nothing to do with the military awards process," said Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark Milley. "Except that it does." Senior enlisted from both services are salivating in anticipation of forcing both servicemen to verbally provide the guidance allowing them to wear the award.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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

ANNIVERSARIES

Honorable Anniversary: August 28, 2008



Iraq Veterans Against The War, Denver [www.ivaw.org/]

**“Soldiers In Uniform Began The
Four-Mile March To The Pepsi
Center In Downtown Denver To
Protest The Iraq War”**

[From GI Special 6H20: 8.29.08]

The thing that stays with me is the sight of those troops looking worried but determined in the face of police force and possible public hostility, trying to make their statement for peace, and how, at the last moment, the whole, huge crowd of

civilians had joined them, lifting up their little march and transforming it into an enormous, uplifting show of support.

August 28, 2008 By Ruth Conniff, The Progressive & By Patti Thorn, Rocky Mountain News (Colorado) &lvaw.org/ & By Paul A. Anthony, Rocky Mountain News [Excerpts]

It started as a modest sized march.

Two squads of 25 IVAW members each formed up outside the venue and began marching to the Pepsi center.

From the Rage Against the Machine concert at the Denver Coliseum, about 150 soldiers in uniform began the four-mile march to the Pepsi Center in downtown Denver to protest the Iraq War.

The squads were led by members in dress uniforms and combat uniforms, with thousands of supporters marching behind them in support.

The group of mostly young people walked behind a banner that said: “Support GI Resistance.”

“Support GI Resistance”



Protesters march behind Iraq Veterans Against The War Wednesday from the Denver Coliseum to the Pepsi Center after a concert by Rage Against the Machine. Tim Hussin: The Rocky Mountain News

Though the event, co-sponsored by the anti-war group Tent State University and Iraq Veterans Against the War, was unpermitted, the parade proceeded peacefully.

Behind the troops, who marched calling cadence and chanting antiwar slogans, came a larger group in civilian clothes, cheering and waving signs, and growing larger and larger as the marchers wended their way through the downtown.

Wearing T-shirts and stickers with slogans such as “Arrest Bush” and “Make Out Not War,” they sang rolling chants, Marine- style. “Tell Me What We’re Marching For,” sang one group. “Stop the torture, stop the war,” answered another.

People lined the streets to watch, most approvingly.

As the marchers wound their way through the neighborhoods west of the coliseum, they found solidarity with a group of Latinos holding up an anti-war sign and cheering them on.

“Si, se puede!” shouted some young marchers. “Yes, we can!”

Not everyone was as respectful.

From the balcony of an apartment complex, a man yelled at the throngs of protesters to move on. “Don’t come back here,” he said.

But one protester had the last word: He suggested the man join the Army.

As they drew near the heavily guarded convention center, cops in riot gear lined the street, and helicopters buzzed overhead. At an intersection, the group stopped facing squad cars with lights on and a phalanx of black-clad police.

“We can go on here or not,” one of the march’s organizers told the troops through a megaphone. The march was unauthorized and it was unclear whether the police intended to have a confrontation.

She seemed to be trying to calm everyone for a moment, pointing out that the Denver police so far have not been “prone to violence.”

The march continued, and the civilians bringing up the rear cheered.

It was quite a spectacle: the soldiers in dress uniform and fatigues, and the cops in riot gear watching them from the sidelines.

The soldiers chanted:

“Everywhere we go
People want to know
Who we are
Where we came from.
We are the veterans
Iraq War veterans
Antiwar veterans
Pissed-off veterans”

At an intersection, the group stopped to read a letter to Barack Obama asking that he agree to three core principles: the immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq, full and adequate health care for all returning U.S. service members, and reparations to the Iraqi people.

The letter also upbraided the Democratic Party for their “initial and continued” support for the war.

The police presence intensified. I passed a cop videotaping the marchers and a marcher in a green “copwatch” vest videotaping him right back.

Over the long course, from the outskirts of town into the denser downtown, the energy from the crowd seemed to build. The marchers chanting had a hypnotic effect.

“It’s alright
It’s OK
Remember MLK
He tried to lead the way
But he was shot one day
early in the morning”



Members of Iraq Veterans Against The War (IVAW) march in downtown Denver, leading several thousand activists towards The Pepsi Center. (Photo: Rocky Mountain News)

Thus far, the march has been peaceful and well received, as residents along the route sprayed the marchers with hoses and provided water from their homes and businesses.

More and more people joined the march, until, suddenly, looking back as the group crossed a bridge and then paused right outside the Pepsi Center, you could see several thousand people in a line stretching as far as the eye could see.

As the group passed into the perimeter of the convention hall, the police presence grew more threatening.

“Hey, those ones have masks,” someone pointed out. A group of police in gas masks were pulling on thick gloves and grabbing their batons. A white van with police in black flak jackets hanging off it rolled alongside the marchers.

The feeling of the whole, thousands-strong group was moving. “It’s beautiful,” one marcher said, looking back at the crowd in the late afternoon sun. Joey Minicucci, 18, of Littleton, noted that his brother was in the military and would soon be sent to Iraq. That was one of the reasons he was going to the march.

Anne Hill, of Montrose, had other reasons. “I’m marching because it seems to be the last vestiges of our free speech and because people have demands and our government’s not listening,” she said.

The march came to a standstill at the perimeter of the Pepsi Center around 6:30 p.m., at which time the veterans attempted to have their statement delivered to Obama.

Tension with police seemed to escalate, until several veterans stepped forward and saluted police. “We are your brothers and sisters in arms,” said one.

“We don’t want to hurt you. We don’t want you to hurt us.”

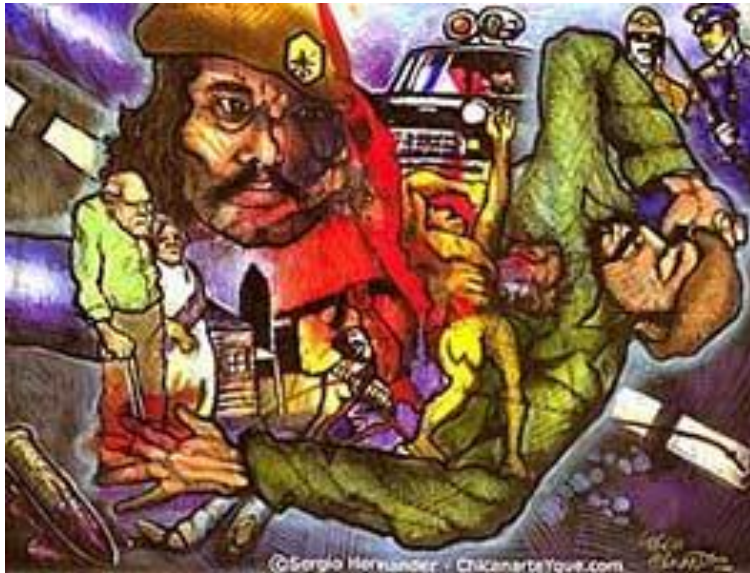
With that, the standoff melted away and soon an appropriate aide was contacted. “I figured as long as we kept things peaceful, they would hear us, and they did,” said Army veteran Jeffrey Wood.

Nancy Pelosi, meanwhile, was answering tough questions from the founder of Digg on CNN about why the Democrats in Congress have failed to pull the troops out of Iraq.

The thing that stays with me is the sight of those troops looking worried but determined in the face of police force and possible public hostility, trying to make their statement for peace, and how, at the last moment, the whole, huge crowd of civilians had joined them, lifting up their little march and transforming it into an enormous, uplifting show of support.

August 29, 1970: In Memoriam: The Los Angeles Police Murder Ruben Salazar As Thousands Of Chicanos

Demonstrate Against The War On Vietnam



Carl Bunin Peace History Aug 27-Sept 2

Between 15 and 30 thousand predominantly Chicanos (Americans of Mexican descent) gathered in East LA's Laguna Park as the culmination of the Chicano National Moratorium.

It was organized to protest the disproportionate number of deaths of Chicano soldiers in Vietnam (more than double their numbers in the population). There had been more than 20 other such demonstrations across the southwest.

Three died when the anti-war march turned violent. The Los Angeles Police Department attacked and one gunshot, fired into Silver Dollar Bar, killed Ruben Salazar, a Los Angeles Times columnist and a commentator on KMEX-TV (he had been accused by the LAPD of inciting the Chicano community).

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**Solidarity:
Belgraders Embrace Syrian
Refugees;
“People Keep Coming To The Park
Bringing Clothes, Food, Even Money”
“During My Playing And Teaching
Session With At Least 20 Kids -- The
Mothers Came Over And Threw Rose
Petals All Over Us”**



Aug. 27, 2015 Katarina Subasic, AFP

Belgrade –

Gordan Paunovic couldn't sleep the night after he met a Syrian refugee family in a Belgrade park, where hundreds of migrants pause for a rest before continuing their journey towards EU.

"I wondered all night if I should have invited some of them into my home, to offer them a shower and to spend at least one night in a bed," he recalls. The next day he and his wife Susanne Simon-Paunovic went back to the park with a lunch for the family.

"We brought a tablecloth. We didn't want it to be yet another fast food meal from a plastic bag, but something that would remind them of lunch at home, at least for a moment," Gordan said.

"We ate together, as a family and friends," in the park with no name on Karadjordjeva Street, he added.

That was just the beginning of a surge of solidarity shown by Belgraders in recent weeks to some of the thousands of migrants passing through the town on their way to what they hope will be a better life in western Europe.

Having endured the horrors of war themselves and hosted hundreds of thousands of refugees during the conflicts that tore Yugoslavia apart in the 1990s, Belgraders have responded with sympathy to the influx of migrants, bringing with them all sorts of aid.

Local authorities and human rights organisations have opened an information centre, providing all necessary information to refugees in Arab, Urdu and Farsi on where and how they can meet their needs, but also receive medical aid and psychological help and support.

A taxi association sends drivers free of charge to donors' homes to pick up donations and to transport offered aid to collecting centres.

"People keep coming to the park bringing clothes, food, even money. They play with the kids and that is really nice, it helps the children for a moment to forget the ordeal we are going through," 28-year old Hiba said.

Travelling with her sister and three nieces to Germany where her two brothers live, Hiba, a lawyer by training, said she hoped to bring her husband and two sons, who have stayed in Damascus, to join her once she gets settled.

"After our ordeal in Macedonia where we spent three days on the border and where police beat people, we feel welcome in Serbia where even the police at the entrance gave toys to the children," she told AFP, while waiting in the park for a bus to take her to the north towards EU member Hungary.

Hundreds of her fellow compatriots and other nationals were spread out throughout the park, sleeping on the ground or in some of the dozens of small tents set up for them.

Most of those in the park are Syrians, but there are also people from Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and elsewhere.

The only water truck is thronged by people trying to wash, women doing their laundry and men grabbing a chance for a shave.

Social networks are playing an important role as people share their experiences in the park and inspire others to make their way there.

Jelena Milic brought a refugee family to her home for a day and a half. Her story went viral on the internet as she posted photos of the smiling children luxuriating in a bed.

"I posted photos so their family can see they were fine, making my Facebook profile a contact point for them, but it went viral and it helped spread the information about other activities to help the refugees," Milic told AFP.

She organised a group of people to produce a map in Arabic showing local banks, the Belgrade mosque and other points of interest to the migrants while in the Serbian capital.

Milic said she was very proud of her fellow citizens' response. "This is the same group of people that welcomed poor people" during the wars in 1990s, she said, referring to the period when Serbia hosted hundreds of thousands of refugees.

"People here have war memories and that makes them sympathetic for the refugees," Simon-Paunovic agreed.

"When I tell vendors at the Kalenic open market that I am buying fruit for refugees, they always add a kilo of fruit free of charge for them. Each time," she said, adding that people "from throughout ex-Yugoslavia are offering help".

But both she and Milic say that the migrants especially appreciate the time that local people are prepared to spend with them.

"What gives them dignity is to eat with them, to spend some time with them, to talk to them. That's what they need, a sense of normality," she said.

"Once they reach their destination they all message us and that feedback is priceless."

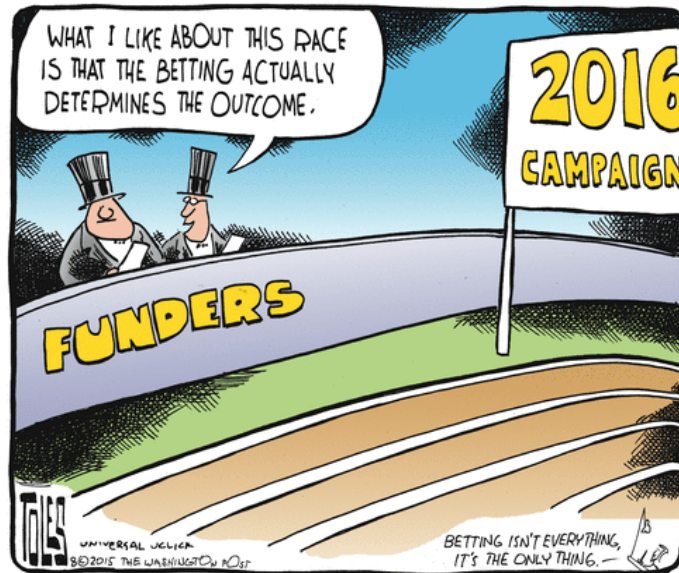
Simon-Paunovic, a German national, goes to the park daily and spends hours playing with children, drawing and teaching them the German alphabet and numbers or how to write their names in German.

One day she came up with a "flower project: handing roses to the female refugees and kids". "Later on -- during my playing and teaching session with at least 20 kids -- the mothers came over and threw rose petals all over us.

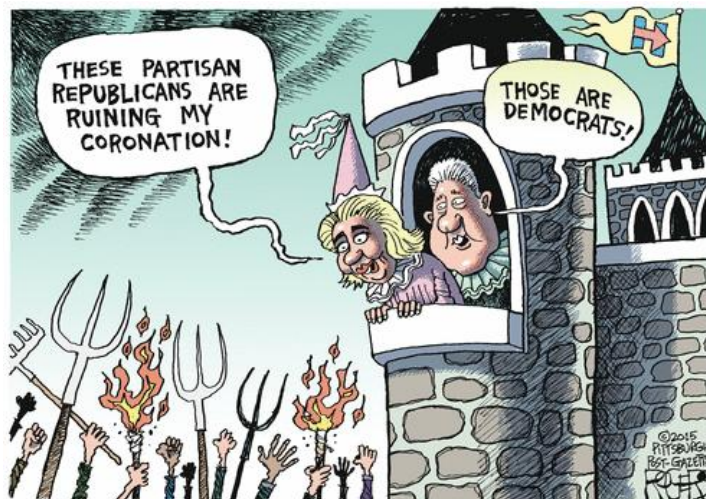
But not everyone is as enthusiastic about welcoming those transiting Serbia. Milic said she had received a number of xenophobic comments and threats over her efforts to provide aid.

Some extreme-right groups and political parties have called for a wall to be erected on the border with Macedonia, similar to the one Hungary is building on its frontier with Serbia.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



YOUR INVITATION:

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



Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out
Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website
<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.

