

Military Resistance 1314



POLICE WAR REPORTS

Cop Who Claimed He Was Targeted By Gunman Lied: “Massive Manhunt Launched After Millis Officer Reports Shooting”

Sep 03, 2015 WCVB.com

MILLIS, Mass. —A rookie police officer in Millis who said Wednesday that someone shot his cruiser before it crashed and burst into flames fabricated the story, police said.

The officer, 24, said he was traveling on Forest Road when he saw a red or maroon pickup truck traveling in the opposite direction. He said when the two vehicles met, the driver opened fire on the police cruiser, police say.

“My cruiser’s been shot at. I’m at Forest Road. It’s going to be a dark maroon pickup,” the officer radioed to dispatch at 2:17 p.m.

The officer said he spun around, and in an attempt to avoid the gunfire and seek shelter, he slammed into a tree and the cruiser burst into flames.

“We have determined that the officer’s story was fabricated. Specifically, that he fired shots at his own cruiser as a plan to concoct a story that he was fired upon,” Millis Police Sgt. William Dwyer said. “The evidence indicates the shots were not fired by a suspect, and there is no gunman at large in or around the town.”

A massive manhunt for the alleged gunman was launched. The neighborhood was immediately locked down while police units, including a SWAT team, K-9 officers and a Massachusetts State Police helicopter combed the area.

Residents who were told to stay indoors or couldn’t get home because of the lockdown said they were dumbfounded that the story may have been made up.

Dwyer said the officer is new to the force and has not yet attended the police academy. He said the officer will be terminated, and his name will not be released until the investigation is complete.

“I am very upset and don’t know how to feel right now,” Dwyer said. “The public is safe and should feel secure in their homes and the community.”

Cops Who Killed Man With Down Syndrome Over A Movie Ticket Blame Paramedics Who Tried To Save Him

September 2, 2015 By Jay Syrmopoulos, The Free Thought Project

The three cops facing a wrongful-death suit in connection with the death of a man with Down syndrome will argue that his death was the result of pre-existing medical conditions, according to filings with the U.S. District Court.

Tell me if you’ve heard this one before.

Police approach an individual regarding an extremely trivial matter. When the he doesn’t immediately comply with the commands of law enforcement he’s taken to the ground and roughed up by numerous cops.

In the course of the altercation, the man dies from asphyxiation.

Although this sounds very similar to the manner in which Eric Garner was killed by NYPD cops after an altercation about selling single cigarettes, this is actually the case of Ethan Saylor.

Saylor, a 26-year-old with Down syndrome, was at a movie theater with a health care aide watching “Zero Dark Thirty.” The movie had finished, but Ethan didn’t want to leave the theater after the film ended, hoping to watch it again.

The cinema manager, angry that the mentally-handicapped man didn't quite understand that one ticket is only good for one viewing, called three off-duty-deputies who were moonlighting as security guards.

The cops decided to forcibly evict Saylor from the theater, refusing to listen to his aide, who had already contacted Saylor's mother in an effort to defuse the situation.

Instead, as is all too common the case, the cops got violent, taking Saylor to the ground and piling on top of him as they attempted to handcuff him. In the process, this young man's trachea was fractured, and he died of asphyxiation.

The autopsy report indicated that Saylor died from asphyxiation, and had sustained a fracture to his larynx, with the coroner listing his cause of death as homicide.

While Saylor's death was ruled a homicide, an internal "investigation" cleared the three officers, Lt. Scott Jewell, Sgt. Rich Rochford and Deputy First Class James Harris, of any wrongdoing. No charges were brought against any of the officers involved in his death.

Much to the dismay of almost everyone involved in the case, a Frederick County grand jury declined to indict the deputies after their review of the case.

After the failure of the state to hold these officers criminally accountable for Saylor death, as is often the case when law enforcement kills a citizen, the family filed a wrongful-death suit against the deputies.

According to a report in The Frederick News Post:

"In the initial complaint, filed in October 2013, Saylor's family alleged violations of his civil rights and of the Americans with Disabilities Act by the state, county sheriff's deputies and the companies that employed the men as security guards at the Regal Cinemas Westview Stadium 16 theater."

"A year later, a federal judge dismissed all of the claims against the theater company, and also dismissed a simple negligence claim against the deputies and a wrongful-death claim against the state.

"Claims that the deputies — Richard Rochford, Scott Jewell and James Harris — were grossly negligent and that the state failed to train them were allowed to go forward."

While the family is certain that the fractured larynx was a result of the violent altercation, defense attorneys for the cops claimed in their latest court filings that the injuries found on Saylor were from the paramedic's efforts to save his life, and not their brutal attack.

One of the experts identified by the defense was Dr. Jeffrey Fillmore, the emergency department physician who treated Saylor at Frederick Memorial Hospital. According to court filing by the defense, Fillmore would testify that the autopsy and other evidence are not consistent with asphyxia as the cause of Saylor's death.

On Tuesday, attorney for Saylor's family, Joseph Espo, told the AP that his expert witnesses disagree with almost everything in the filing by the deputies' attorneys. Records indicate that those witnesses include a disabilities expert, a police liabilities expert, a pathologist and another medical doctor.

Perhaps one of the most heartbreaking aspects of this case is the fact that Saylor was an avid fan of law enforcement and was reportedly fascinated by police.

Some may argue that the cops did not intend to kill Ethan, but the fact that they couldn't de-escalate a simple situation over a movie ticket, and instead resorted to deadly violence speaks to the corrupting sickness that is prevalent in policing today.

4 Black Parole Officers Held At Gunpoint By Police: “If These Guys Aren’t Safe, Imagine What A Young Black Man Feels About Interacting With The Police,” “They Have No Chance” “Ramapo Police Need To Explain ‘Why They Held The Parole Officers After They Were Identified’”

May 4, 2015 Lee Higgins, (Westchester County, N.Y.) Journal News

RAMAPO, N.Y. -- Four black parole officers on official business were held at gunpoint and detained by police last year, videos recently obtained by The Journal News show.

Black law enforcement leaders are criticizing Ramapo police for the incident last April, saying it highlights a larger problem with how police treat members of the black community.

“If these guys aren’t safe, imagine what a young black man feels about interacting with the police,” said Damon Jones, the New York representative of Blacks in Law Enforcement of America. “They have no chance.”

The state parole officers have a federal lawsuit pending against the town, its police department and others, alleging racial profiling and civil rights violations.

Jones said Ramapo police need to explain “why they held the parole officers after they were identified.”

Town officials maintain police did nothing wrong.

On a cloudy morning last April, just as the commuter rush was beginning to die down, at least five police officers surrounded the parole officers’ car at a busy intersection in Airmont near restaurants and often crowded shopping plazas.

Dash cam videos obtained by The Journal News under the Freedom of Information Law show police cars, with flashing lights, boxing in a vehicle later determined to be state-owned.

One police officer can be seen immediately drawing a gun and aiming at the vehicle, using his police SUV as cover.

Another officer can be seen reaching into the driver’s side of the state vehicle as parole officer Mario Alexandre emerges, raising his hands in the air.

After the parole officers were ordered out of the vehicle and were talking to police a third police officer carrying a rifle is shown approaching the group.

Police later said they were responding to a report of people wearing bulletproof vests in a car and that the parole officers did not make a courtesy call to alert the department that they were in town for an arrest. The parole officers’ car was not marked.

Jones, who viewed the videos at the newspaper’s office, questions why the parole officers were held at least six minutes after being identified over the police radio as state employees. “Would they receive the same treatment if these parole officers were white?” he asked.

The parole officers claim in their lawsuit that they were traumatized, humiliated and feared for their lives.

In the lawsuit, which also names Rockland County, the village of Suffern and Suffern Police Department as defendants, the parole officers claim they wore department-issued bulletproof vests and had gold badges and identifications clearly displayed on chains around their necks.

They also had an official sign on the dashboard, “State of New York — Executive Department — Division of Parole,” the suit claims.

It alleges police ran the plate of the vehicle and had also confirmed parole officers had been at a home in Suffern, attempting to execute an arrest warrant.

Alexandre and the other parole officers, Sheila Penister, Annette Thomas-Prince and Samuel Washington, are out on worker’s compensation, said state Department of

Corrections and Community Supervision spokeswoman Linda Foglia. She said she could not elaborate.

The newspaper only obtained the videos after appealing a denial of a Freedom of Information Law request with the town of Ramapo.

None of the four video clips contain audio from officers' microphones, so it's not possible to hear what appears to be a heated exchange between the parole officers and police.

The lawsuit claims the defendants "failed to provide complete and accurate copies of audio/video recordings" to the plaintiffs as "part of their cover up to avoid liability." It's not more specific.

The town wouldn't release the police reports to the newspaper, denying a FOIL appeal, saying there is an ongoing investigation.

Ramapo police declined to answer any questions, including about the audio, referring all questions to the town attorney's office.

"The actions of the town of Ramapo police were reasonable under the circumstances," said Ramapo Assistant Town Attorney Dennis Lynch, who declined to say what investigation might be underway. Patrick Withers, deputy town supervisor and a former NYPD officer, who viewed at least one dash cam video, said police acted appropriately. "I have no doubt when the court views all the documents and the evidence that our officers will be vindicated," he said.

Grant Valentine of Chestnut Ridge, a retired parole officer and NAACP member, said, "I think it was an absolute case of racial profiling."

He said there is no policy requiring parole officers notify police they are in town.

"I think what they saw was four black people they perceived to have guns in a car and they reacted based on those assumptions," he said.

The parole officers, he said, continued to be interrogated after being identified. "They are traumatized," he said. "They feel violated. They feel betrayed by one of their fellow police agencies."

The lawsuit, originally filed in October and amended last month, seeks an unspecified amount of money. It also asks for the court to require training of the police agencies involved "to prevent such conduct in the future."

Ken Cooper, a use-of-force expert and president of Tactical Handgun Training of New York Inc. in Kingston, who did not view the videos, said police had to go "full-court press" based on the report they received. Although law enforcement agencies aren't required to notify other agencies when they are in town, he said it's a good idea to make a courtesy call. "Is it proper and appropriate?" he asked. "Should it be done by all agencies? Absolutely, to avoid injury to any officers."

The uniformed officers, he said, were in charge, so it was proper for the parole officers to comply with their commands.

As soon as police realized they made a mistake, they should have apologized and let the parole officers go, he said.

Cooper said the situation could have ended tragically for officers and citizens.

“It could have been horrific had the egos gotten out of control,” he said.

**Enemy Combatants Destroy
Home Of Muslim Customs
Agent:
“Pakistani American Muslim
Asserted His Rights When Law
Enforcement Officers Entered His
Home In The Middle Of The Night,
Over His Objection Without A
Warrant”
“Prosecutors Charged Moneeb With
Possession Of Stolen Property”
“Case Later Dismissed”**

May 4, 2015 By Henry K. Lee, SF Gate

Santa Clara police trashed the home of a Muslim federal customs agent, leaving his Quran and religious writings strewn about, while searching for a \$300 camera that he knew nothing about, according to a federal civil rights lawsuit filed Monday.

Muhammad Moneeb, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent, said police, acting on a “baseless accusation,” were armed with assault rifles and accompanied by dogs when they used a battering ram on March 27, 2014, to break down the door of the home on Lincoln Street he shared with his parents.

During the “military-style” raid, police left the family’s copy of the Quran and other religious writings on the floor, took pictures of framed religious calligraphy prints written in Arabic and squeezed out toiletries, said the suit filed in U.S. District Court in San Jose.



Photo: Family Photo

“They went out of their way to destroy this particular house,” said the family’s attorney, Michael Haddad. “They’re looking for a camera, and they squeezed out all the toothpaste from the tube and removed all the wax from the deodorant. No one’s hiding a camera in there. This whole law enforcement response was overkill and made no sense.”

Santa Clara police Lt. Kurt Clarke declined to comment Monday, citing the pending litigation. The suit, which seeks unspecified damages, named the city, Police Chief Michael Sellers and 15 officers.

Moneeb; his father, Muhammad Ikram (an agricultural specialist with the customs agency); and mother, Hazakat Ikram, said they were mistreated because they are Muslim Pakistani Americans.

The police visit centered around the whereabouts of a dashboard camera that had last been in the possession of Moneeb’s uncle, Aftab Choudry.

Choudry had leased a Prius to drive for Uber and got into a car crash on Feb. 8, 2014, Haddad said. Choudry removed the contents of the car, including the dashboard camera, before he had the car towed to Moneeb’s driveway, believing it would be safe there, the suit said.

The camera got lost, and police went to Moneeb’s house two days after the crash to look for it, according to the suit.

Moneeb told officers that he didn’t know where the camera was, repeatedly told them to leave and insisted that the home couldn’t be searched without a warrant.

“Ultimately, I worry that Mr. Haddad’s allegations that such action was taken because Mr. Moneeb was a Pakistani American Muslim who asserted his rights when law enforcement officers entered his home in the middle of the night, over his objection without a warrant, are true,” said Brice Hamack, an attorney with the Council on American-Islamic Relations in San Francisco.

Prosecutors charged Moneeb with possession of stolen property even though the camera was never found, Haddad said. The case was later dismissed, but for a time Moneeb was placed on restricted duty and had his gun removed, the attorney said.

Moneeb’s uncle later agreed to a civil settlement with the camera owner, agreeing to donate \$400 to charity.

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

It would be a fundamental mistake to suppose that the struggle for democracy can divert the proletariat from the socialist revolution, or obscure, or overshadow it, etc. On the contrary, just as socialism cannot be victorious unless it introduces complete democracy, so the proletariat will be unable to prepare for victory over the bourgeoisie unless it wages a many-sided, consistent, and revolutionary struggle for democracy.”

-- V. I. Lenin, Collected Works, 4th English Edition; Vol. 22

The Death of Obedience

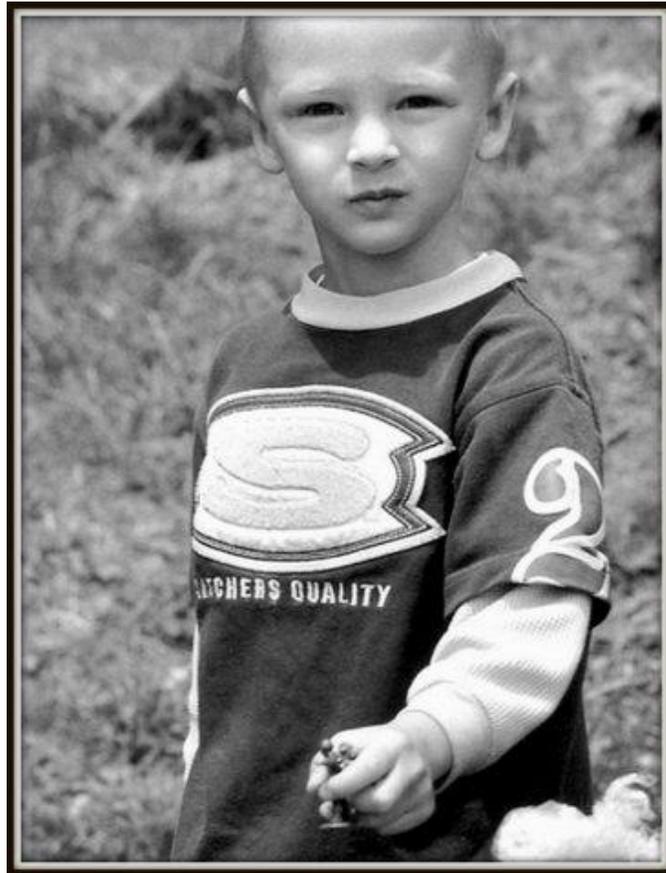


Photo by Mike Hastie:
This picture of a small boy playing with toy soldiers was taken at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Portland, Oregon. It was Memorial Day in 2003, two months after the U.S. started bombing Baghdad.

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: September 07, 2015
Subject: a picture for you

The Death of Obedience

**You join the U.S. military thinking you are going to defend your country.
You spend months of intense training that will make you a soldier.
Your ego and your pride becomes the high grade oil that makes all the moving parts work smoothly.
Your equipment is the best in the world.
The pay and the benefits are more than acceptable, seeing that you could not find a job before enlisting.
When you arrive in-country at the age of 19, you are more than ready to be tested by the training you are convinced has prepared you for war.
You wear your unit patches with dignity.
You are ready to obey orders.
Then one day, eleven months after arriving at this place, and shortly after returning from a combat mission, you realize the entire war is a profound lie, and that you are the enemy.
You have just taken part in a killing frenzy, that broke every moral rule that was ever taught to you by a so-called civilized society.
Everything you have ever been taught at home, at school, and at church has just stopped.
You are in an emotional whiteout.
There are only 30 days left in your tour, so you just walk around in what appears to be slow motion, and the only thing you really hear is the ringing in your ears.
You never fire another round from your M-16.
It's over.
When you arrive home after taking a cab from the airport, the first thing your father asks you is how you are doing.
You answer by saying everything is fine.
Your mother says she loves you, and they are so happy you are home.
Both of your parents notice that your face has changed, as you look much older, but**

they are afraid to say you have aged.
They can see grief in your eyes.
Your mom says you can stay in your old
bedroom until you report to your next duty
station.

After dinner, you go up to your room and
straight to the closet. You remember that
your mother stored your old toy soldiers
there in a shoe box.

She just couldn't give them away.

When your parents are asleep later that
night, you grab the box of soldiers and
head to the garage and look for a can of
lighter fluid. When you find the container,
you notice your dad's American flag hanging
on the wall. You also grab it and the matches
your dad always kept in a certain drawer.
You take a walk in the woods behind your
parents house like you did thousands of
times as a child growing up.

After five minutes of walking you come to
a clearing where you use to play.

You spread the American flag on the ground,
pour the toy soldiers in the center, pour the
lighter fluid on the toy soldiers, strike a match,
and light the whole goddamn thing on fire.

It's over.

You will not report to your next duty station.

The price of freedom is beyond belief, as your
old belief system goes up in flames.

Profit is the lubricant that oils the war economy.

Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
September 7, 2015

In memory of six friends who didn't
die in Vietnam, but as a result of being
there.

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

Much Of The 21st Century Worldwide Tendency Towards Politics Disguised As Religion Expresses Rage Against Capitalism, Which Has Become A Religion Disguised As Economics: “During One Period Of History Hegemony Belongs To Religion, During Another To Politics, And So Forth”

Comment: T

In attempting to defend reactionary social systems, some argue that nothing happens without the “will” or “permission” of this or that supernatural being.

Many politicians will agree that the slaughter of Afghans by the U.S. Empire is done with the “will” or “permission” of God. Bush once said that God had spoken to him personally and commanded him to “strike” Saddam Hussein.

When Obama demands God bless America at the close this or that major public pronouncement, he is merely doing his job, as he protects and defends the Empire over which he presides, with the full backing, in that work, of the political layer of the capitalist elite who rule this nation.

Part of that job, as is true for various politicians in many other nations, is invoking the name of this or that supernatural entity said to be blessing the nation, seeking thereby to gain the favor of the reactionary and credulous to prop up the Imperial regime.

Viewing the world as a material reality and having no fear of or belief in assorted supernatural creatures that human have created in their own image would be a recommendation for political leadership, rather than a condemnation.

Religion has been and continues to be used by those in power to justify their greed for Empire, their murderous local dictatorships, and all forms of tyranny and oppression.

There are no world religions that have not been so used by wealthy and powerful oppressors.

If indeed nothing anywhere occurs without the “will” of some God, and if indeed such a being exists, he or she or it is a mass murdering monster.

It is one thing to believe in a supernatural being. That is one among many bedrock democratic rights guaranteed in any decent society.

It is quite another to defend evil by throwing down the “will of God” argument for everything that occurs, up to and including the rape-murders of small children, the oppression of women as a gender, the torture of Jews and Muslims by the Spanish Inquisition, and the current Imperial butchery loose in the world.

That is a political argument valuable only to tyrants and oppressors.

Excerpt from: The Monist View Of History, By G.V. Plekhanov; 1895; St. Petersburg, Russia

Up to this point our propositions, of necessity, were very abstract.

But we already know that there is no abstract truth, truth is always concrete.

We must give our propositions a more concrete shape.

Those to whom the English aristocrats of the Restoration were “in contradiction” were extreme religious fanatics; in order “to do the opposite” to what they were doing, the reactionaries had to go as far as materialism.

In France of the eighteenth century things were exactly opposite: the defenders of the old order stood for religion, and it was the extreme revolutionaries who arrived at materialism.

The history of human thought is full of such examples, and all of them confirm one and the same thing: in order to understand the “state of minds” of each particular critical epoch, in order to explain why during this epoch precisely these, and not those, teachings gain the upper hand, we must as a preliminary study the “state of minds” in the preceding epoch, and discover what teachings and tendencies were then dominant.

Without this we shall not understand at all the intellectual condition of the epoch concerned, however well we get to know its economy.

But even this must not be understood in abstract fashion, as the Russian “intelligentsia” is accustomed to understand everything.

The ideologists of one epoch never wage against their predecessors a struggle *sur toute la ligne*, on all questions of human knowledge and social relations.

The French Utopians of the nineteenth century were completely at one with the Encyclopaedists on a number of anthropological views; the English aristocrats of the Restoration were quite at one with the Puritans, whom they so hated, on a number of questions, such as civil law, etc.

The territory of psychology is sub-divided into provinces, the provinces into counties, the counties into rural districts and communities, and the communities represent unions of individuals (i.e., of individual questions).

When a “contradiction” arises, when struggle blazes up, its passion seizes, as a rule, only upon individual provinces – if not individual counties – and only its reflection falls upon the neighbouring areas.

First of all that province to which hegemony belonged in the preceding epoch is subjected to attack.

It is only gradually that the “miseries of war” spread to its nearest neighbours and most faithful allies of the province which has been attacked.

Therefore we must add that, in ascertaining the character of any particular critical epoch, it is necessary to discover not only the general features of the psychology of the previous organic period, but also the individual peculiarities of that psychology.

During one period of history hegemony belongs to religion, during another to politics, and so forth.

This circumstance inevitably reflects itself in the character of the corresponding critical epochs, each of which, according to circumstances, either continues formally to recognize the old hegemony, introducing a new, opposite content into the dominating conceptions (as, for example, the first English Revolution), or else completely rejects them, and hegemony passes to new provinces of thought (as, for example, the French literature of the Enlightenment).

If we remember that these disputes over the hegemony of individual psychological provinces also extend to their neighbours, and moreover extend to a different degree and in a different direction in each individual case, we shall understand to what an extent here, as everywhere, one cannot confine oneself to abstract proposition.

Let us consider the operation of this law.

When a certain class is the enslaver of all in the eyes of the rest of the population, then the ideas which prevail in the ranks of that class naturally present themselves to the population also as ideas worthy only of slave-owners.

The social consciousness enters into “contradiction” to them: it is attracted by opposite ideas.

But we have already said that this kind of struggle is never carried on all along the line: there always remain a certain number of ideas which are equally recognized both by the revolutionaries and by the defenders of the old order.

The strongest attack, however, is made on the ideas which serve to express the most injurious sides of the dying order at the given time.

It is on those sides of ideology that the revolutionaries experience an irrepressible desire to “contradict” their predecessors.

But in relation to other ideas, even though they did grow up on the basis of old social relations, they often remain quite indifferent, and sometimes by tradition continue to cling to them.

The “state of minds” of any given age can be understood only in connection with the state of the minds of the previous epoch.

Army Clerk Refuses To Issue DD214s: “She Asserted She Never Would Have Volunteered For A Position Where She Would Be Forced To Provide Services To Soldiers Who Have Not Served Up To Her Standards”

September 7, 2015 by blondesoverbaghdad

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — Based on her deeply held beliefs of the “sanctity of military service,” admin clerk Spc. Kim David has been refusing to issue DD214s to service members whose records do not share her military service values, Duffel Blog has learned.

“It wasn’t a spur of the moment decision,” said David. “It was thought out, and I consulted the army values, all seven of them, before taking these actions.”

Spc. David’s actions — or lack thereof — have stirred controversy across the installation, drawing sharp criticism from those who feel the 19-year-old clerk is obligated to perform her duties as assigned regardless of her beliefs, while others complain she should not be evaluating others’ service after she was caught using her Government Travel Card to buy Joel Osteen DVDs.

Some soldiers have come to her defense, seeing her stance as bravery in the face of the deteriorating power of the E-4 mafia. “David doesn’t have to process anyone’s DD214 that doesn’t embody the army values like we do,” said Spc. Trevor Koch, a medic and vocal supporter of David’s growing contingent.

“Just the other day, I did a multi-source feedback on one of the lieutenants in the unit. Looked like everyone said he was a shit-bird. That’s why I’m not going to update his vaccinations properly in MEDPROs.”

Spc. John David Riley, the first soldier David refused to process a DD214 for, did nothing above standard for the army and deserved to continue serving until he distinguished himself, said David, when called before a judge at her Court Martial. Riley is still waiting on a folding chair assuming that any minute now his DD214 will be complete and could not be reached for comment.

David, a Rowan County, Ky. native, testified that she joined the army to be a cook and was forced into the administration position. She asserted she never would have volunteered for a position where she would be forced to provide services to soldiers who have not served up to her standards.

David herself has previously collected a string of Article 15’s for public indecency, dereliction of duty, and misappropriation of government equipment in addition to the investigation into her Government Travel Card Charges.

“I’ve made mistakes,” said David. “I know I have. But I’m only accountable to the army. I can’t be fired. No one else on this post knows how to generate a DD214.”

ANNIVERSARIES

September 9, 1971: Heroic Anniversary; The Attica State Penitentiary Revolt



Carl Bunin Peace History September 3-9

The interracial revolt was led by blacks but featured cooperation between prisoners of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

It was finally brutally suppressed by the state five days later, upon orders from Gov. Nelson Rockefeller who refused to become directly involved.

29 prisoners and 10 guards were shot and killed by attacking state troopers in the bloodiest prison confrontation in U.S. history.

The prisoners had been demanding improvements in their living and working conditions at the increasingly overcrowded facility.

PBS.org/ [Excerpts]

On the morning of Monday, September 13, 1971, Governor Nelson Rockefeller arrived at his Fifth Avenue apartment for a meeting with some of his advisors. It had been a tough weekend, but he had finally reached a decision. It was, he told them, “a matter of principle.”

The Attica State Penitentiary — the scene of an inmate uprising just five days earlier — was to be retaken by force.

Trouble was in the air in the summer of 1971. The Vietnam war, court-ordered busing of students to integrate schools racially, and student protests had shaken the country.

Prisons were seeing a surge in the pressure — both from within and from without prison walls -- to recognize the rights of inmates, fueled in part by racial unrest. In the imposing Attica State Penitentiary, a maximum-security facility 30 miles south of Buffalo, New York, the tension had been particularly palpable for months.

Inmates, who were predominantly African American and Puerto Rican, were incensed at the deteriorating living conditions — among them the fact that they were only entitled to one shower a week and one roll of toilet paper a month.

Overcrowding had also become a source of resentment in a facility where the capacity limit had been exceeded by almost forty percent.

It was this pent-up unrest that prompted one of the guards to forcefully suppress a scuffle between two prisoners on September 9, 1971. The two inmates were taken to isolation cells. Rumors circulated that they would be tortured.

Confrontations escalated between the prisoners and the guards.

More than one thousand strong, the inmates quickly took control of the prison and set fire to several of its buildings. By the time the state police was summoned and managed

to recapture part of the facility that afternoon, the inmates had regrouped in one of the yards and were holding 40 hostages in a ring of wooden benches.



Their demands were soon made public: federal takeover of the prison, better conditions, amnesty and the removal of the prison's superintendent.

In their statement, they criticized the “unmitigated oppression wrought by the racist administrative network of this prison throughout the year,” and the “ruthless brutalization and disregard for the lives of the prisoners here and throughout the United States.”

Those words had a troubling ring for Nelson Rockefeller, who in his last years as governor had toughened his stand on crime and political dissent.

He believed that the rebellion was led by revolutionaries, and that any sign of compromise would have a domino effect throughout the nation. Having sent one of his closest aides to the scene, he retreated to the Rockefeller estate in Pocantico Hills, just a few miles outside of New York City.

Four hundred miles upstate, things were quickly heating up. A group of observers had been trying in vain to come up with a compromise package.

On Sunday, three days after the outbreak, they issued a statement, calling on Rockefeller to come to the prison to avert a “massacre... so we can spend time and not lives in an attempt to resolve the issues before us.”

The pressure on the governor to come to Attica was mounting, as the inmates and even the Commissioner of Correctional Services, Russell Oswald, urged him to address the situation in person.

“We must have Rockefeller,” said one of the inmates’ leaders. “We got to have Rockefeller here to save our lives and those of his hostages. ... I say his hostages because he created this situation.”

But Rockefeller wouldn’t budge.

Saying that his physical presence on the site would not “contribute to a peaceful settlement,” he vowed to stand fast and rely on his aides on the scene, among them Robert Douglass.

“In life it’s not easy to face a hard decision, particularly when human lives are involved,” he told Commissioner Oswald, “But I think we have to look at these things not only in terms of the immediate but in terms of the larger implication of what we are doing in our society.”

By Sunday night, hopes for a non-violent compromise solution were wearing thin, and on Monday morning Rockefeller, determined to appear firm, authorized the operation to reclaim the facility.

It was 9:46am when a state police helicopter started dropping tear gas over the yard and walkways where the inmates were holding the hostages at knife-point.

Gunfire broke out, and within 6 minutes, 2,200 lethal missiles were discharged.

The use of shotguns, with their imprecise range, increased the bloodshed.

Ten hostages and twenty-nine inmates died — a horrific toll that was especially appalling after it was revealed that all the hostages had died from gunshots inflicted by state troopers and guards.

Rockefeller was also spared the sight of the capture’s grim aftermath.

Once the prison was reclaimed, guards, enraged by the events, ordered the inmates to crawl naked into the yard, beating them with clubs as they passed through.

One of the leaders, Frank Smith, was stripped naked and forced to lie on a table balancing a football under his chin for hours, threatened with being shot if he let it fall to the ground.

The extent of the chaos was not acknowledged by Governor Rockefeller, who said that the state troopers had done “a superb job.”

One year later, an investigative commission would reach a very different conclusion.

Its report stated that the operation had been ill-conceived, poorly executed and probably unnecessary, and stressed the fact that Rockefeller should have gone to Attica, “because his responsibilities as the State’s chief executive made it appropriate that he be present at the scene of the critical decision involving great risk of loss of life.”

In spite of the public outrage, Nelson Rockefeller's hard-line stance in the Attica crisis made him more palatable to the conservatives who were now in control of the Republican Party.

He never publicly regretted the way he handled the situation, saying only that he wished he had been more aware of the "tremendous need that existed" at the Attica facility.

Yet the impact of the Attica crisis would be long lasting.

In August 2000, almost thirty years after the prisoners' revolt, the state of New York paid up to \$8 million to the 1,280 men harassed during the attack, after their lawyers filed a class-action lawsuit against prison and state officials in 1974.

The verdict, however, had little echo within the walls of the Attica Correctional Facility, where overcrowding is still a problem.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Bejjia village Iraq, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

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.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Solidarity: Germans Welcome Refugees; “Germans Have Taken To Social Networks To Explain What They Have Done For Refugees And To Urge Their Friends To Do The Same” “We All Can Do Something”



Supporters wave to refugees in front of accommodations for immigrants in Heidenau, eastern Germany, on Aug. 29. (Jens Meyer/AP)

September 2 By Rick Noack, Washington Post [Excerpts]

Much has been written about the dark side of how Europe is dealing with the influx of refugees. But in Germany, individuals are finding innovative ways to welcome those who have fled their countries.

1. Germans are cooking with refugees

One reason for the tensions in eastern Germany is that many people “know only a few or no foreigners; they are scared because they have no idea what to expect from the influx of refugees,” political scientist Werner Patzelt explained to The Washington Post, referring to anti-refugee and anti-Islam protests in the eastern part of the country.

One Berlin-based group wants to help Germans and foreigners learn about each other through cooking. The group has compiled a book with more than 30 recipes published alongside stories of refugees who explain why they fled their countries.

“The cooks in this book came to Germany as refugees or asylum-seekers to find a new home. In this cookbook, they share not only exceptional delicacies from around the world but also fascinating stories about their homeland and their culture,” the group says on its Web site.

2. Welcoming refugees goes viral

Social media has played an ambiguous role in how Germans have dealt with the refugees in recent months: Platforms such as Facebook have been used to organize pro-refugee events, but some people have used the relative anonymity of the Internet to stir up hatred. Media outlets have been flooded with comments that often crossed the line between criticism and hate speech, which is a serious crime in Germany. Several commentators had their accounts deleted or have been sued and even fined as a consequence.

However, there has also been an opposing trend: Using the Hashtag #WelcomeChallenge, people have organized mass donations.

In online videos, Germans have taken to social networks to explain what they have done for refugees and to urge their friends to do the same.

“We all can do something,” German movie director Michael Simon de Normier was quoted as saying by the German newspaper Der Westen in a video. “What’s important is to send a signal. It’s all about (creating) a welcoming culture.”

In a Facebook group that has 10,000 members, Germans try to match up requests for donations and services with volunteers. This campaign and others appear to have been a success so far: Many reception centers and groups say they are receiving so many donations that they cannot accept all of them.

In some villages and cities, refugees have been welcomed by residents who awaited them at reception centers. For instance, in the city of Hof, as many as 3,000 people greeted new arrivals last week.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, refugees were welcomed with flowers.

3. Some Germans are accepting refugees as their roommates

Although they could earn money by renting their spare room on Airbnb or other platforms, some Germans are inviting refugees to stay in their homes for free.

On a Web site that's similar to standard accommodation Web sites, those interested in participating share their offerings.

One of those who benefited from this idea is a 19-year-old Syrian named Salah, who found shared accommodations in the western German city of Darmstadt within days. His roommates made the decision to host him because they wanted to help refugees but also wanted to learn more about a different culture. "At the latest, when we got to know him, we were sure that we'd feel comfortable with him," one of the hosts, Lukas, told the German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

Hosting refugees privately has become more popular as officials become increasingly unable to provide adequate apartment or reception center spots. Many refugees are still housed in tent camps, despite the fact that it is unclear whether alternative housing can be provided before the typically cold German winter arrives.

In Dresden, in eastern Germany, doctors warned that the situation in a large reception center had become so disastrous this summer that it resembled a "humanitarian emergency."

4. Young entrepreneurs created a smartphone app that welcomes refugees

Dresden has seen a wave of anti-immigration protests and has been the center of the so-called Pegida movement, which attracted as many as 20,000 weekly protesters this year but has since shrunk.

After months of negative headlines coming out of the city and neighboring villages, arson attacks on refugee housing projects and violence between police officers and right-wing extremists, a group of young entrepreneurs decided to show that there are many people who support the refugees.

They created an app that allows refugees to access crucial local services and information. The app answers basic questions such as: What's the address of the local authority responsible for immigration matters? How does one submit in the necessary paperwork?

5. Refugees are allowed to take college courses for free

About 60 German colleges, including elite institutions such as the University of Munich, are allowing refugees to attend courses as guest students for free. The schools are even paying for transportation and offering scholarships for books, as WorldViews reported earlier.

Migrants are unable to earn degrees while their asylum applications are being processed. But by attending lectures, they might be able to learn German more quickly and assimilate.

"Migration is a task for all of society, and universities must do their part," the president of the University of Hildesheim, Wolfgang-Uwe Friedrich, told Handelsblatt.

Meanwhile, a Berlin-based student has founded an online university specifically dedicated to refugees interested in pursuing their studies.

Many young Syrians, in particular, were forced to interrupt their education and are looking for ways to pursue their studies in Germany. The university advertises its programs with the slogan: “Internationally accredited degrees. For everyone. Anytime. Everywhere. For free,” and is being financed by private sponsors.

“So what is the catch? There is no catch,” the organizers wrote on their Web site.

“Then why are we doing this ? We are doing this because the time has come for us as humans to realize that the only way for us to live peacefully and prosper is by aiding each other to find our own ways in life.”

MORE:

Solidarity #2



A young migrant boy tries on shoes donated by the people of Hungary at Keleti station in Budapest on September 7, 2015 in Budapest, Hungary.

**“Today’s Economic Crisis Has
Affected All Spheres Of Life In
Russian Society”
“Mass Poverty, Growing
Unemployment And The**

Unannounced But Already Palpable Austerity Policies Of The State” “The Russian Government Conducts A Policy Of Expropriation Of The Majority Of The Population”

Sept. 4, 2015 Coordinating Council of the Russian Socialist Movement via LeftEast

Today’s economic crisis has affected all spheres of life in Russian society.

The processes we witness in economics, politics, and ideology look like constant escalation of unreason.

The unending sequence of media scandals obscures the reality of mass poverty, growing unemployment and the unannounced but already palpable austerity policies of the state.

We see the sunset of the social populism of the Putin era, marked by the quiet forgetting of his “May orders,” a long list of economic promises to the population he made as part of his 2012 Presidential campaign. The more difficult life becomes, the more frequently we hear on the media calls for national unity.

The causes of the current crisis lie not only in Kremlin’s military adventures or in the sanctions from the West.

Its fundamental origins lie in the exhaustion of the post-Soviet capitalist model based on extraction of natural resources and obedient labor.

The Russian elites are currently considering two ways out of the crisis.

The first is the so-called path of “structural reforms,” that is, mass privatization, including of state corporations, pension reforms, commercialization of medicine, education, and so on, for the sake of attracting investment.

As part of this package, relations with the West have to be normalized to end the economic sanctions over Russia, and maybe, a measure of political liberalization has to be introduced.

The second scenario involves printing of money, further collapse of the ruble, a program of internal investment and massive cheapening of the labor force, superbly suited to Russian businesses who export goods to foreign markets for hard currency.

As part of this program, we could have an ideology of “Russia’s special way” and so on.

As always in such circumstances, the government chooses a third option—remaining in place while selectively borrowing of elements from the above two.

But all the different factions of the elite behind the different scenarios agree on the following: the price of the crisis must be borne by the population.

Silently observing the collapse of the national currency, refusing to index salaries and pensions, the Russian government conducts a policy of expropriation of the majority of the population.

At the same time, government officials cynically boast of the gains in productivity purportedly achieved through wage decreases and the untimeliness of tax increases for the rich.

Denying the growth in the number of jobless, the government refuses to take measures to create new workplaces, adopting the neoliberal position that unemployment is “natural.”

The policies of import substitution have increased food prices and led to the enrichment of local oligarchs.

Neither protectionist measures nor the so-called free trade have much to do with the interests of most people.

Our demands are the demands of those denied a voice in the existing system—waged laborers, debtors, and retirees:

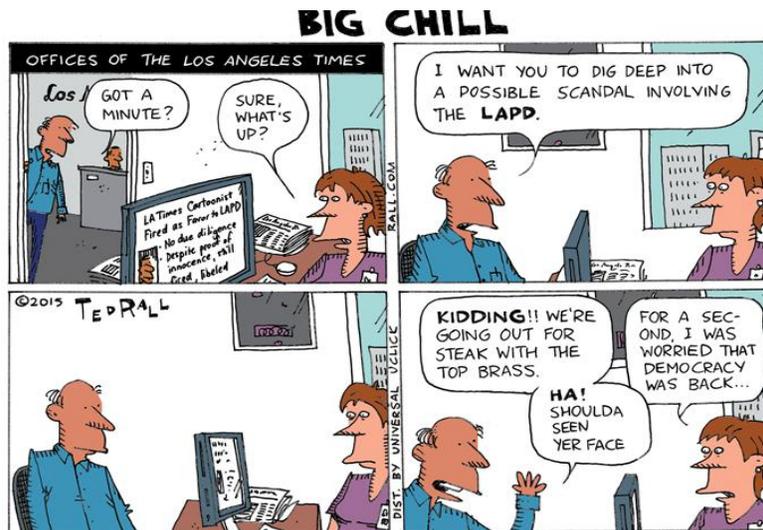
- Obligatory indexation of salaries, both in state and the private spheres, and pensions.
- Defense of worker rights, including the rights for just compensation in case of dismissal, the right to form a union, to strike, etc.
- Abandonment of all plans to reduce the financing of the social sphere: education, healthcare, and culture. End to the pre-emptory financing of the military and the police.
- Effective defense of debtor rights. Regulating the bloated market of consumer credit banks developed in recent years.
- Restoring a progressive tax scale.
- Transparency in the financing of state corporations and genuine court cases against corrupt high-ranking officials.
- Introduction of a price ceiling for vital goods of and freezing the rents of state housing.
- Refusal to increase pension age.

Russia needs a political and social transformation, which cannot be achieved by the current elite.

This is a task beyond the capacity of the liberal opposition, whose leadership's understanding of the economy is hardly any different from that of the government's economic bloc.

We see the way out of the crisis in the formation of a wide protest movement whose agenda will not be limited to the democratization of the whole political system but will include the defense of the people's social and worker rights.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Unarmed Palestinian Teen Attacked My Zionist Mob In Occupied Jerusalem

September 08, 2015 by IMEMC News

A Palestinian teenager was attacked, on Tuesday morning, by a number of Israeli extremists, while heading to his work in West Jerusalem, and suffered various cuts and bruises. The Wadi Hilweh Information Center in Silwan (Silwanic) in occupied Jerusalem said three assailants, chased Mustafa Jamil al-Hashlamoun, 18 years of age, before one of them struck him with a baton, and the three proceeded to assault him.

He also said that he managed to escape during the attack, and went to his workplace, suffering various cuts and bruises, in addition to sharp pain in his right arm. The Police arrived at the scene, and initiated an investigation into the assault.



Image By Wadi Hilweh Information Center - Silwanic

To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to: <http://www.palestinechronicle.com/>
The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

Military Resistance www.militaryproject.org

*This is how Obama brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*

A photograph showing several soldiers in military uniforms carrying a wounded comrade on a stretcher. The scene is outdoors, possibly in a conflict zone. The soldiers are wearing helmets and carrying equipment. The image is framed with a white border.

*Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org*

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