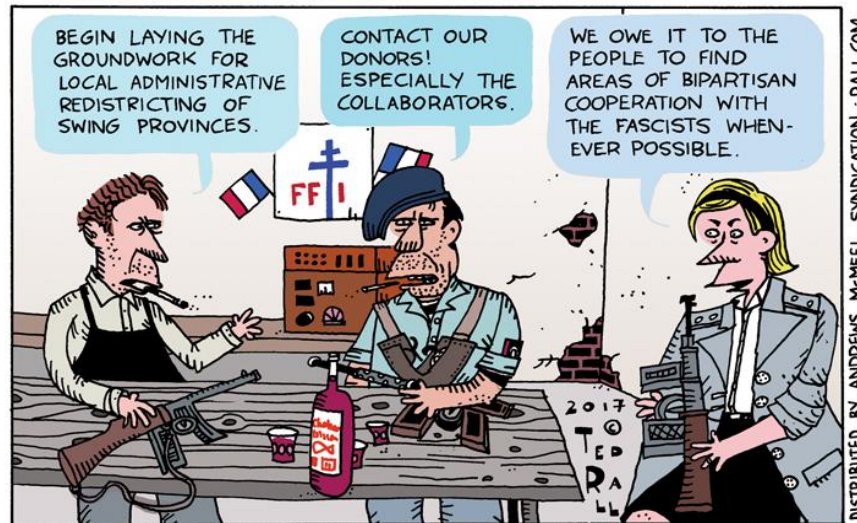


Military Resistance 15D1

DEMOCRATS AND THEIR MEDIA ALLIES SAY THEY'RE LEADING "**THE RESISTANCE**" TO DONALD TRUMP. IMAGINE IF THE **REAL** RESISTANCE OF WORLD WAR II HAD BEEN RUN BY THE DEMOCRATS...



U.S. Army Paratroopers From 2nd Brigade Combat Team Off To Trump's Imperial Slaughterhouse:

**“There Will Be Well Over 6,000
American Military Personnel On
The Ground In Iraq, Though
Officials Refuse To Say Precisely
How Many”**

“The Authorized Force Size Is 5,262, But The Pentagon Has Acknowledged The Number Is Greater” “Nearly 1,000 More Are On The Ground Inside Syria”

March 26, 2017 By: Andrew deGrandpre & March 27, 2017 By: Andrew deGrandpre and Michelle Tan; Military Times

WASHINGTON — An anticipated military escalation in northern Iraq will include up to 300 additional U.S. troops from the Army’s 82nd Airborne Division, an infusion of combat power intended to accelerate the ouster of Islamic State fighters from their stronghold in Mosul.

The paratroopers comprise two infantry companies and a route-clearance platoon from the division’s 2nd Brigade Combat Team, according to a U.S. defense official, who spoke to Military Times on the condition of anonymity. They are scheduled to depart from Fort Bragg in North Carolina on Tuesday.

As Military Times first reported Sunday, U.S. officials consider the deployment temporary, though they’ve not disclosed how long it could last.

The soldiers will contribute to what’s been described as an “advise and assist” mission, supporting Iraqi ground forces who are doing the bulk of the fighting against ISIS.

However, it’s likely at least some will be moved close to the action in Mosul, where an estimated 2,000 ISIS fighters remain hidden among the civilians they’ve trapped there. The combat engineers and explosives specialists inherent to a route-clearance unit could be called on to disable or remove roadside bombs as the Iraqis and their American advisers push deeper into the city.

The infantry soldiers could be tasked with a variety assignments. Photos released by the Army in late February and early March show various 82nd Airborne soldiers in and around Mosul, posted on city rooftops and manning mortar positions in the surrounding desert.

With the paratroopers’ arrival, there will be well over 6,000 American military personnel on the ground in Iraq, though officials refuse to say precisely how many.

The authorized force size is 5,262, but the Pentagon has acknowledged the number is greater — and has been for some time — as commanders leverage what they call “non-enduring” assignments like this one involving the 82nd Airborne.

It's believed there are closer to 6,000 Americans in Iraq, not including this new deployment. Nearly 1,000 more are on the ground inside Syria, where several hundred additional personnel arrived in recent weeks to bolster allied forces targeting the city of Raqqa, which ISIS considers its capital.

After five months, the battle for Mosul remains a slow, steady slog.

The extra manpower was deemed necessary by U.S. commanders who've been tasked by the White House with bringing more force to bear on ISIS in Iraq and in Syria, where another 900 Americans are on the ground supporting allied forces closing in on the city of Raqqa, which ISIS considers its capital.

That's expected to be a difficult fight, and the Pentagon is said to be contemplating an escalation there as well, though publicly officials dispute such reports.

It's a sensitive topic for several reasons, not the least of which centers around a deepening desire in Washington to reduce the perception abroad that America's military footprint is growing in the region. The Trump administration also has expressed a desire to curtail what information it telegraphs about military strategy.

MORE:

“About 1,000 Personnel, Mostly Americans, Are Based At Q-West Out Of A Total Of About 1,700 In The Area Of The Mosul Operation”

“An Offensive Role — A Rocket Battery Is Stationed Here And Regularly Fires Missiles At IS Positions In Western Mosul, And An Air Cavalry Troop Flies Its

Helicopters In Support Of Iraqi Forces On The Ground”

“More Troops Will Be Arriving But How Many And For How Long Depends On The Battle For Mosul And Its Aftermath”

“Our Goal Is To Get The Iraqis On Their Feet As Soon As We Can,” Coleman Said. How Long Might That Be? “Maybe In A Year Or So”

Mar 19, 2017 By Angus MacSwan, Reuters [Exceerpts]

U.S. troops are hard at work rehabilitating this battle-scarred, rubble-strewn airfield as a logistics and support hub for Iraqi and international forces in the decisive battle against Islamic State for the city of Mosul 60 km to the north.

The whirl of activity and the return of American soldiers signify a new U.S. build-up in Iraq 14 years on from the invasion that set off a conflict which has undergone various permutations.

Nine months ago, Islamic State still held Qayyara West. The hardline militants had seized it from the Iraqi army in 2014 and destroyed the place, demolishing buildings and breaking up the runway with jackhammers.

A resurgent Iraqi army recaptured it last July and soldiers from the U.S. 101st Airborne Division were deployed here in October as the offensive to recapture Mosul, Islamic State’s last stronghold in the country, got underway. The 82nd Airborne took over at Q-West, as the base is known, in December.

About 1,000 personnel, mostly Americans but including other members of the international coalition, are based at Q-West out of a total of about 1,700 in the area of the Mosul operation, base commander Lieutenant Colonel Sebastian Pastor said.

Designated in military parlance as an Intermediate Staging Base, it provides support and logistics for several Tactical Assembly Areas closer to the battlefield. U.S. advisors are out on the field but Q-West also has an offensive role — a rocket battery is stationed here and regularly fires missiles at IS positions in western Mosul, and an air cavalry troop flies its helicopters in support of Iraqi forces on the ground.

“It’s going to get bigger but it’s not going to get nicer,” said battalion planner Captain Anne Nagy, who is in charge of construction.

More troops will be arriving but how many and for how long depends on the battle for Mosul and its aftermath, Nagy said.

Handing over the airfield to Iraqi control is also a principle aim, said Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Carrie Coleman, head of the 370th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group detachment.

“Our goal is to get the Iraqis on their feet as soon as we can,” Coleman said.

How long might that be? “Maybe in a year or so.”

MORE:

Army Brig. Gen. Says “The Fight Will Not Stop In Mosul”

March 29, 2017 By Paul D. Shinkman, U.S. News & World Report [Excerpt]

Once Mosul is cleared and secured, attention will turn to “the other threats that exist,” says Army Brig. Gen. William Turner with the U.S.-led coalition headquarters in Baghdad. “We are trying to anticipate how best to posture ourselves.”

Turner oversees providing logistical support to all U.S. forces and some of the Iraqi military, as well as training local troops, police forces, emergency responders and counterterrorism units.

“The fight will not stop in Mosul,” he says.

MORE:

Some U.S. Troops In Mosul Fighting Out Of Uniform: “The Men’s Attire Is Indistinguishable Except For A Subtle Striped Camouflage Pattern Embedded Within The Westerner’s Uniform”

“When U.S. Troops Remove Their Identifying Markers, Addicott Said, They Risk Losing Their Protected Status As Lawful Enemy Combatants”

March 26, 2017 By: Andrew deGrandpre, Military Times [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — U.S. military advisers in Mosul have begun wearing black uniforms similar to those preferred by Iraq’s most elite troops, an attempt by the Americans to blend in as they move about the front lines in what’s become an arduous block-by-block fight with Islamic State fighters who remain entrenched there.

Multiple images of black-clad troops have been shared on social media in recent weeks. And while it’s common for U.S. special operations personnel to wear their partners’ military uniforms, this development is unique.

In Mosul, where the Iraqi-led campaign has worn on for five months, it demonstrates just how close to the action some Americans have moved since President Trump challenged the Pentagon to bring more force to bear on ISIS.

At the same time, it highlights seldom discussed tactics used by Navy SEALs and other clandestine units at the forefront of the war on terrorism.

U.S. officials in Baghdad told Military Times that individual unit commanders determine what uniforms are appropriate for specific missions, and that there is no overarching policy dictating what gear can be worn on the battlefields of Iraq and Syria. Coalition forces, the officials said, abide by longstanding law-of-war regulations that stipulate military personnel must distinguish themselves from civilians.

Typically, that’s done using uniform insignia, identifiable from a distance as outlined by the 1949 Geneva Conventions, said Jeffrey Addicott, who heads the Center for Terrorism Law at St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas. Before retiring from the Army, he was the senior legal adviser for all of its special forces units.

“In modern warfare,” Addicott said, “our uniforms have subdued identification so as to protect our soldiers from enemy attack. They can cover and conceal better.”

It would appear that’s what’s happening in Mosul.

In one of the images shared on Twitter this month, an unidentified U.S. service member is seen at the trigger of a MK13 sniper rifle, scanning for targets off in the distance.

Beneath his body armor, he wears a long-sleeve black blouse like those issued by the Iraqi Counter Terror Service, which has taken a lead role in the effort to liberate Mosul. The operator’s vest and helmet bear two brightly colored American flag patches.

In another photo, an unidentified dog handler is seen waving at a group of children as dozens of Iraqis mill about in a rubble-strewn city street. A third tweet shows what appears to be an American service member with his arm around the shoulder of an Iraqi operative.

Though their weapons and protective gear are unique, the men's attire is indistinguishable except for a subtle striped camouflage pattern embedded within the westerner's uniform.

When U.S. troops remove their identifying markers, Addicott said, they risk losing their protected status as lawful enemy combatants.

There are several reasons — ranging from political to practical — why special operators are disguising themselves in Mosul, said Clint Emerson, a retired Navy SEAL and author of "100 Deadly Skills: The SEAL Operative's Guide to Eluding Pursuers, Evading Capture, and Surviving Any Dangerous Situation."

Having armed American troops on the ground anywhere, he said, is a sensitive matter.

It also helps conceal their numbers during patrols and could reduce the risk of a "blue-on-blue" attack, Emerson said, referring to incidents of mistaken identity that have led to friendly forces firing on one another.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Capturing Sangin An 'Important Victory,' Taliban Says:
"The Group Is Outlining Its Strategy In Southern Afghanistan"
"The Mujahideen Have Opened Up Operational Lines Between Kandahar, Helmand And Uruzgan Provinces And Can Throw Its Brunt**

At A Time And Place Of Its Choosing” “Sadly, Resolute Support’s Only Response Was To Pretend Its Loss In Sangin And The Great South Was Really A Win”

March 30th, 2017 BY BILL ROGGIO, Long War Journal. [Excerpts] Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of FDD’s Long War Journal.

Last week, the Taliban overran the Sangin district center in Helmand province after Afghan forces retreated in the dead of night. Resolute Support attempted but failed to spin the defeat as a victory by claiming that the withdrawal from Sangin was planned long in advance and the Afghans left the Taliban “rubble and dirt.” The Taliban later described the district as “strategic and symbolic ... for both sides” and explained that its operations in the region would benefit.

On March 25, the Taliban released a statement on Voice of Jihad entitled “The Strategic Victory of Sangin.” The most important part of the statement is the last paragraph, and particularly the last sentence (emphasis ours):

“Sangin is both a strategic and symbolic district for both sides. The British – who were initially allocated Helmand province – fought tooth and nail to defend this district and admit to having lost over a hundred soldiers in this district. For the Islamic Emirate the victory of Sangin symbolizes the unwavering spirit of the uprising against invaders and makes them the unchallenged masters of northern Helmand. With this important victory, **the Mujahideen have opened up operational lines between Kandahar, Helmand and Uruzgan provinces and can throw its brunt at a time and place of its choosing.**”

FDD’s Long War Journal has noted for some time that, in the south, the Taliban has been working to control a “belt” of districts that can be used to pressure other areas of the country. From Oct. 2015, when the Taliban took control of Ghorak district in Kandahar province (note, the district remains under Taliban control to this day):

“The Taliban control or contest a belt of districts in the south spanning from Farah to Helmand, Uruzgan, and now Kandahar. The Taliban may use its presence in this belt to threaten Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital of Helmand, or Kandahar city. The loss of either city would be a major blow to the Afghan government.”

The Taliban have effectively used this belt of bases in the south to sow chaos in the region.

Large areas of Nimroz and Farah are Taliban controlled or contested. All of Helmand is Taliban controlled or contested and the provincial capital has been under siege for more than a year.

All of Uruzgan's districts are contested; the Taliban controls all of the ground except for the district centers. Half of Kandahar is Taliban controlled or contested. The Taliban does admit the central areas of Kandahar are beyond its control and it is only conducting "guerrilla attacks" there." Much of Zabul and Ghazni are Taliban controlled or contested.

The Taliban's statement about its victory in Sangin is more than mere propaganda.

The group is outlining its strategy in southern Afghanistan.

Sadly, Resolute Support's only response was to pretend its loss in Sangin and the great south was really a win.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

Migrant Justice Activists Arrested By Immigration And Customs Enforcement Agents:

**“None Have Criminal Records, And All
Are Being Detained Pending
Deportation”**

**“It Is No Coincidence That Human Rights
Activists Are The First Victims Of
Trump's Deportation Policies In
Vermont”**

March 29, 2017 Socialist Worker

Supporters of three Vermont labor activists who were detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) rallied on March 28 outside a Boston court building before bond hearings were held for the three. Zully Palacios and Kike Balcazar were both freed on \$2,500 bond. Outrageously, the judge denied bond for Alex Carrillo because of a

DUI charge that has already been dismissed. The campaign to release Carrillo and fight the deportations of all three activists will continue.

This article is based on a speech that Scarlett Moore gave to a meeting of the International Socialist Organization (ISO) in Burlington after the three organizers were detained.



Protesters on the march in Boston to demand the release of three immigrant activists (Jesse Costa | WBUR)

IMMIGRATION AND Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents arrested Cesar Alexis Carrillo Sanchez on March 15 outside of Vermont's Chittenden County Courthouse, in front of his wife, who is an American citizen, despite the fact that they have a 4-year-old daughter and his wife will soon be having their second child.

Two days later, Jose Enrique Balcazar Sanchez, also known as Kike, and Zully Palacios Rodriguez were arrested by undercover ICE agents as they left the Migrant Justice offices in downtown Burlington. Alex and Kike are from Mexico. Zully is from Peru.

All three are members of Migrant Justice, none have criminal records, and all are being detained pending deportation. Despite their lack of criminal histories, it is believed that ICE has had them under surveillance for a significant period of time. It is no coincidence that human rights activists are the first victims of Trump's deportation policies in Vermont.

In the words of Will Lambek, a Migrant Justice staff member, "We have a rogue ICE agency here in the state that is targeting community leaders."

This isn't an isolated incident, and these repressive arrests are hardly unique to the new administration. Vermont's farmworkers have been arrested under the Obama administration, too, which claimed to pursue a "felons not families" policy, but deported more than 2 million people and paved the way for Trump's new policies.

By now, we've lived through two months of the Trump administration, and we have felt so many attacks on immigrants' rights, women's rights, trans rights and almost every other aspect of our humanity that we barely remember the first few days of executive orders way back in January.

With the chaos of the Muslim ban and the ensuing protests, a lot of orders went under our radars, or at least were not the focus of major social struggles at the time.

Five days after the inauguration and two days before the first Muslim ban, Trump signed an executive order titled "Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States" that, in a nutshell, drastically expanded the powers of the Department of Homeland Security and ICE. The order states:

"Tens of thousands of removable aliens have been released into communities across the country, solely because their home countries refuse to accept their repatriation. Many of these aliens are criminals who have served time in our federal, state and local jails. The presence of such individuals in the United States, and the practices of foreign nations that refuse the repatriation of their nationals, are contrary to the national interest."

Among other things, it authorizes the hiring of 10,000 more immigration enforcement officers, encourages the deputizing of other law enforcers by ICE, argues that sanctuary jurisdictions are working against our national security and therefore should be ineligible for federal funds, calls for weekly updates to a database of criminal activities undertaken by undocumented immigrants and establishes new enforcement priorities for ICE that essentially give agents the individual right to determine who is considered a criminal.

The rhetoric surrounding this policy is one of improving national security, preventing criminal activity and keeping jobs available for American workers; but this is just smoke and mirrors.

The truth is that the capitalist class needs our labor, whether we are legally American citizens or not. So by pitting so-called Native workers against immigrant workers, we are prevented from organizing across cultural and linguistic boundaries to work together in all of our own best interests.

If no one besides immigrant workers themselves are lobbying for their human rights, then big agricultural industries can use their political advantage to continue paying far below the minimum wage, neglecting workers' rights to days off or medical care and preventing them from access to public benefits we should all have a right to.

Meanwhile, nativist members of the working class are too scared of low-wage immigrant workers taking their jobs to direct their anger to the capitalist class is oppressing and exploiting them as well. We are carefully directed away from the understanding that workers rights are human rights, whether we are from the U.S., Mexico, Bangladesh or anywhere else.

Trump's plan probably isn't to deport 11 million people nationwide or all of Vermont's 1,500 migrant farmworkers, whose labor is necessary for American capitalists' profit margins.

But you can bet that enough people will be abducted and deported that every single worker without documents to prove American citizenship will be scared to death of any law enforcement official, and you can bet that that fear will be used to prevent complaints on the job and repress activist movements across the country.

Proof of this is practically written into the executive order, particularly in Section 5, which describes who can be arrested and deported by ICE. Every word is a blatant attack on the presumption of innocence and whatever semblance of justice that the Department of Homeland Security pretended to have.

You can be arrested if you have ever been convicted of any criminal offense, have been charged with any criminal offense (even if you haven't been convicted), have committed acts that constitute a chargeable criminal offense (even if you've never been charged), have engaged in fraud or willful misrepresentation in connection with any official matter or application before a governmental agency (many undocumented workers need to use fake papers to find employment), have abused any program related to receipt of public benefit, are subject to a final order of removal but have not complied with a legal obligation to depart the United States, or in the judgment of an immigration officer pose a risk to public safety or national security.

When you give ICE agents the right to decide who is a criminal and who is not, without any due process of law, you aren't establishing a justice system. You are establishing a system by which opposition to the regime can be silenced, organizations to protect immigrants can be dismantled, those who have the guts to stand up for their own human rights can be indefinitely separated from their friends and loved ones and the capitalist system can be perpetuated with as little interference as possible.

Kike, Zully and Alex are not criminals. They are activists. Migrant Justice plays an enormous role in the Burlington community, and they offer the strongest representation that migrant workers in this state have access to.

Kike helped write the impartial policing law that is going before the Vermont legislature, was a key creator of the Milk with Dignity Campaign, was on the Vermont Attorney General's immigration taskforce, and was about to go on a speaking tour to advocate for migrant workers' rights and the Milk with Dignity campaign.

Zully was a key organizer of the campaign to free Victor Diaz, a fellow Migrant Justice activist who was almost deported under the previous administration.

The arrests of last week are nothing if not a targeted effort by ICE to dismantle the Migrant Justice organization, undermine the struggle for undocumented workers rights and in doing so attempt to dismantle the working class's ability to emancipate itself from an exploitative system.

Whether you were born in the U.S. or not, we all have a vested interest in standing up for Alex, Kike and Zully.

Last Saturday, an action in Burlington called for their release, as did actions at ICE offices in Williston and St. Albans earlier. Other actions will be taking place leading up to

International Workers Day on May 1, hopefully in collaboration with local organizing forces like the ISO and the Peace and Justice Center of Burlington.

It wasn't a single judge that stopped Trump's Muslim ban. It was thousands of people in the streets and occupying airports. It wasn't a kindhearted politician who established the DACA program. It was a campaign of undocumented students' protests during Obama's second campaign cycle. Public action freed Victor Diaz last year in Vermont.

Success isn't certain, but we have to remember that we do have real power when we take to the streets.

When we free Alex, Zully and Kike, we aren't just freeing three valued community leaders. We are working to free ourselves.

MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL

If you wish to receive Military Resistance immediately and directly, send request to contact@militaryproject.org. There is no subscription charge. Same address to unsubscribe.

Woman Exonerated For A Homicide After Spending More Than Six Years In Prison: “The Actions By Kentucky State Police Were Truly Outrageous”

March 28, 2017 by Andrew Wolfson, The (Louisville) Courier-Journal

LOUISVILLE — A woman who was exonerated for a homicide after spending more than six years behind bars can sue the Kentucky State Police detective she says framed her.

The U.S Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals Monday reinstated a lawsuit alleging malicious prosecution filed by Susan Jean King against Lt. Todd Harwood.

King alleges that Harwood, then a sergeant, lied before a grand jury that indicted her on a murder charge in the death of Kyle Breeden by falsely testifying that it was impossible to determine if the bullets found in King's floor and the ones found in Breeden's skull were a match.

In fact, Judge Danny Boggs of Louisville wrote for a three-judge appellate panel, a state police forensic examiner had told Harwood the bullets didn't match.

Boggs also noted that Harwood omitted from his testimony that King had only one leg, which would have undercut his claim that she dragged Breeden from her home and threw him off a bridge.



Susan Jean King. Photo: Courier-Journal

“We’re very pleased with the decision,” Thomas Clay, a lawyer for King, said. “It returns Susan Jean King’s case to court, where hopefully a jury will agree with us that the actions by Kentucky State Police were truly outrageous.”

The appeals court reversed U.S. District Judge Greg Stivers, who threw out King’s suit against Harwood and other defendants on the grounds that police had probable cause for her arrest and that the suit was filed too late.

The panel did affirm the dismissal of counts that named the state police and three of Harwood’s supervisors.

The Courier-Journal previously reported that after Breeden’s body was found in 1998 in the Kentucky River, his murder went unsolved for eight years, despite an investigation by six KSP detectives.

But when Harwood was assigned it as a cold case in 2006, it took him only 21 days to say he had solved it and that King was the culprit.

Facing 20 years to life if she went to trial and was found guilty, King, while maintaining her innocence, pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of second-degree manslaughter and accepted a 10-year sentence.

The Kentucky Innocence Project already had been working on the case for several years when on May 4, 2012, a serial murderer named Richard Jarrell confessed to a Louisville Metro Police detective that he had in fact killed Breeden.

After Harwood initially declined to interview Jarrell, then allegedly intimidated him into recanting his confession, Louisville Detective Barron Morgan reported the confession to the Innocence Project after getting permission from a supervisor.

The newspaper reported that then-state Police Commissioner Rodney Brewer complained to Louisville police Chief Steve Conrad, a longtime friend, that Morgan was meddling in a state police case, and Conrad subsequently transferred him to a graveyard shift as a patrol officer.

Conrad claimed the move was part of a broad reorganization, but Morgan said he was demoted as punishment, and he won \$450,000 from the city to settle his whistleblower lawsuit.

The Kentucky Court of Appeals vacated King's conviction after she had been released from prison on a 10-year sentence, calling it an "egregious violation" of justice, and prosecutors in Spencer County decided not to retry her.

Besides the homicide charge, Harwood also got King indicted for tampering with physical evidence, alleging in part that she had cleaned the floor of her kitchen, which he claimed was the crime scene.

But Boggs noted for the court that the KSP lab found no traces of cleaning solvent on the floor.

Harwood also alleged King had destroyed evidence by later tearing out the floor, when he knew she had it replaced because of flood damage, the Courier-Journal reported.

Harwood, who received a KSP "Commissioner's Commendation" in 2009 for his "outstanding achievement in solving Breeden's murder," is still on the force. He is now a lieutenant and paid \$70,346 a year.

Brewer retired last year.

MILITARY NEWS

Schools For Military Children Running Out Of Paper And Supplies "Military Base Schools Suffer From Low Public School Budgets Nationwide"

MARCH 27, 2017 By Lizann Lightfoot, MilitaryOneClick [Excerpt]

In early March, our military base's elementary school ran out of paper. There are still three months left in the school year, but the teachers had no paper to print out homework, classroom activities, or tests. The school was waiting for a final shipment to arrive, but the budget did not allow for any more paper to be purchased for the school year.

The teachers' solution? Stop printing homework.

One teacher sent home a note stating that since "85% of the class was performing at or above grade level, homework is not necessary for the remainder of the school year." The note allowed parents to vote on whether or not their children should continue to do written homework like math problems and reading comprehension questions.

Not only does this mean that the teacher was fine with 15% of her class falling short for the year, it also indicates that the school grossly miscalculated their paper needs. The entire school considered dropping homework because of the paper shortage. Elementary students said they were spending most of the day playing computer games because there was no paper to practice writing and math problems.

Our school isn't the only one with severe budget issues.

Military base schools suffer from low public school budgets nationwide.

Schools on military bases are often managed by the local public school district, so they rely on the public school budget for supplies and maintenance.

The military base school described above is one of many schools across the country that has to ration paper and photocopies. Sometimes copier limits are determined by printer rental agreements; however, limitations on paper are strictly because of low budgets and it is common for schools to run out of funding for supplies, especially towards the end of the year:

In 36 out of 50 states, annual budgets for public schools have decreased dramatically since 2008. Even though enrollment has increased slightly, many schools are required to spend less now than they did nine years ago.

Public schools in Philadelphia, PA run out of paper so regularly that there are annual paper drives from organizations dedicated to raising funds for inner-city schools.

The Lawton Public School District near Ft. Sill, Oklahoma only holds classes four days a week towards the end of the year, partly because of budget shortages. Their total instruction days for the year are only 167, even though state requirements are 180 days.

Four-day weeks are also a common solution in Arizona.

Public schools near Ft. Carson, Colorado, are facing budget cuts that may close several area schools.

Although the national average spent per student is \$11,845, the public school district around Camp Pendleton, California spends only \$8,690 per student, which includes teacher salaries and property maintenance.

The budget is similar in the district adjacent to MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina. At Ft. Hood, Texas, the average is slightly lower. Around Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, schools spend only \$6,600 per student. You can check your school district budget on the interactive map [here](#).

Other military base schools are federally funded by the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA). They manage schools at international military bases, as well as 12 bases in the continental US.

Why are DoD schools running out of paper and supplies?

The DoD budget for Printing and Reproduction has remained unchanged for the past three years: \$1,156,000 for 133,000 students. That is a printing budget of only \$8.69 per student per year or around \$217 per classroom of 25 students. The allocated budget must cover paper, ink, and staples.

DoD school budgets are allocated as tightly as possible and a majority of funds are funneled into maintenance or repair costs.

About half of the DoD's 175 schools are 50 years old. A study conducted in 2011 found that 75% DoD schools were beyond repair or would require "extensive renovation to reach minimum standards."

Making the necessary repairs to bring all DoD schools up to minimum standards would amount to \$4 billion. For the past three years, the allocated budget has averaged just over \$100 million per year.

The 2011 study made a priority list of which schools needed the most funding. However, the 2017 DoD budget acknowledges that not all schools on the list ever received necessary funds. The budget asks the Secretary of Defense to "conduct an updated assessment and create a new list."

Teachers at base schools are instructed to plan ahead so they don't exceed their paper allowance. If they run out, they have two choices: Buy paper themselves or ask the parents to donate.

In our case, the parents were happy to help. Within a day, many parents had purchased a ream of paper and brought it to the school. Word spread quickly among the base community. Many people who had no children of their own made a trip to the office supply store to buy paper for the base school. It was a tidal wave of support for an underfunded school. By the end of the week, the school reported that they now had enough paper to complete the school year!

Parent involvement is one of the reasons that military children at DoD schools continually perform well, despite budget obstacles. Some DoD schools have test scores ranked near the top of their state.

Although military families have low incomes, high minority rates, and often only a high school diploma for parents, DoD schools have relatively few discipline problems and some of the highest test scores in the nation for minority students. Parents should continue to stay involved and assist with school needs whether their base school is publicly or DoD funded.

National Guard Whistleblower Says He Was Forced To Retire For Exposing Misconduct: “Two Of His Former Supervisors Have Reported That Lovelace Suffered Retaliation”

“Lovelace ‘Was A Target, And He Remained A Target’ After The Bee’s Stories, Tiggs Said”

“Nuismer ‘Had It Out For’ Lovelace, Lt. Col. George Leone, Another One Of Lovelace’s Reviewers, Told The Army Investigator”



Retired Maj. Joseph Lovelace helped expose severely degraded conditions at Camp Roberts, a California National Guard post near Paso Robles. Jayson Mellom Special to
The Bee

MARCH 27, 2017 MARCH 27, 2017, Sacramento Bee

Nine months after he talked with a reporter to expose wasteful spending and mismanagement in the California National Guard, Maj. Joseph Lovelace abruptly received three unexpected performance reviews filled with what he viewed as false praise.

“With strong mentorship” and “supervision,” he was capable of making good decisions, one review read. He could succeed at a higher rank, it said, “with continued mentorship.”

The polite phrases carried an underlying message that senior Army officers recognize as career-killing language: Lovelace’s command did not want him to move to a higher rank, and without a promotion, the Iraq veteran would be compelled to retire.

Now out of the Army, Lovelace is still fighting to overturn the three performance reviews he received in a three-week cluster five years ago.

By holding back his career by impeding his promotion to lieutenant colonel, he argues, the reviews effectively trimmed his lifetime earnings because he would have earned more money in retirement at the higher rank.

An Army investigation concluded in 2014 that the reviews were handled inappropriately, and two of his former supervisors have reported that Lovelace suffered retaliation after he identified himself as a source for Sacramento Bee stories in 2011.

But the reviews stand, and Lovelace is contesting them through a Pentagon agency, saying he was driven out of the National Guard for drawing attention to neglected problems.

“Even if I was as terrible as they thought I was, they still couldn’t have done what they did,” Lovelace, 46, of Paso Robles, told The Bee.

Lovelace, who once was a rising star in the National Guard coming out of 2007 Iraq deployment, was a source for Sacramento Bee stories that exposed illegal retention bonuses the National Guard handed to tens of thousands of citizen soldiers.

Lovelace also called public attention to severely dilapidated conditions at Camp Roberts, an Army post near Paso Robles, where sewage bubbled up from showers, old buildings decayed and materials bought for repairs were left out in the open until they, too, deteriorated.

The stories led to a shake-up in the California National Guard’s command and prompted changes in an organization that current commander Maj. Gen. David Baldwin at the time said had “lost its focus on the value of selfless service.”

They also shaped a law that gave more independence to the California Military Department’s inspector general and enhanced protections for whistleblowers.

The Defense Department does not have a regulation that would prevent troops from sharing unclassified information with the press or any outside investigators. Lovelace was not charged with violating a military policy.

Capt. William Martin, spokesman for the California National Guard, said in a written statement that Lovelace received a fair review and an opportunity to succeed after his Camp Roberts assignment.

“More than six years ago, the Military Department took decisive action on behalf of Maj. Lovelace. Our inquiry determined areas where the then-leadership of Camp Roberts could improve, and they did so,” he said. “Subsequently, Maj. Lovelace was assigned to several other key assignments and ultimately retired from active service in 2015.”

Lovelace said he was punished in a subtle manner, first in a conversation with his then-commander, who told him he would not be promoted under her watch, and then with the batch of reviews that practically made sure of it, according to documents from the Army investigation into his performance reviews that he released to The Bee.

His former commander, now retired Col. Barbara Nuismer, stood by the reviews when she spoke with an Army investigator in 2013. She said they were shaped by Lovelace's failure to accomplish a key project, his tardiness for certain functions and a temper he revealed when he was challenged.

In 2013, she told the Army investigator that her comments in the reviews – the ones that emphasized that Lovelace needed “supervision” and “mentorship” – were not meant to hold him back. “It speaks of his potential for higher rank if his performance improves,” she said at the time. “I had no malice nor did I retaliate against Maj. Lovelace for his public declaration to the news media,” she told the investigator.

But that is not how the officers around her and Lovelace perceived their interactions after the commander learned that Lovelace spoke with The Bee.

Two of her subordinates told Army investigators she prodded them to put criticism of Lovelace in writing.

One of the two, now retired Lt. Col. Marcus Tiggs, told the investigator that he felt Nuismer “influenced” him in such a way that he included unwarranted derogatory information in one of Lovelace’s reviews.

Lovelace “was a target, and he remained a target” after The Bee’s stories, Tiggs said.

Nuismer “had it out for” Lovelace, Lt. Col. George Leone, another one of Lovelace’s reviewers, told the Army investigator.

Lovelace said his trouble started shortly after The Bee’s story on deteriorating conditions at Camp Roberts was published in March 2011, when soldiers began hunting for the whistleblower who brought a reporter and photographer on base for the story.

Lovelace identified himself as the source rather than let suspicion fall on a sergeant who did not speak with The Bee but was named in the story.

“There was no way in hell I was going to let him go down for it,” Lovelace said.

On April 2, 2011, Nuismer called him to her office for a closed-door meeting, according to a memo Lovelace wrote and signed that day. By his account, she said, “this whole article was caused by you. All of the articles were caused by you. You caused this firestorm.”

Lovelace wrote that Nuismer told him he would not be promoted under her command, and that other senior leaders would not want him on their staffs because he was not trustworthy.

Soon, a series of written reprimands followed.

On April 3, Tiggs disciplined Lovelace for being late to their unit’s morning formation.

Tiggs later told an Army investigator that he did not want to write the reprimand because Lovelace had called Tiggs ahead of time to tell him that Lovelace would be late. Nuismer compelled Tiggs to discipline Lovelace.

More written reprimands came on July 1 and July 15. On Aug. 1, Nuismer wrote two more. One was an overall criticism of his performance, noting he was not moving fast enough to update a comprehensive plan for the camp’s shooting ranges.

The other chided Lovelace for not waiting long enough outside Nuismer’s office on July 27 when, as she later acknowledged, she was 45 minutes late for an appointment they had scheduled.

“You are expected to be at your place of duty at the appointed time and your failure to be at my office at the appointed time or alternatively to inform me why is unacceptable. This requirement is not negotiable and I expect you as an officer to set the example for our soldiers. You continue to put your desires and priorities ahead of this command’s missions and this will not be tolerated in the future,” Nuismer wrote in the reprimand.

Nuismer told The Bee last week that Lovelace had a number of performance problems that she wanted documented regardless of the story on Camp Roberts. When she told Lovelace he would not be promoted, she said, she was referring to his failure to advocate for his subordinates. He should have been speaking up more often to improve conditions on post, she said. “There’s a pattern,” said Nuismer, now retired. “Each one of those things (in the counseling memos) had significant consequences.”

In late December 2011, Lovelace suddenly received the first of three performance evaluations that would be handed to him over three weeks.

Army officers told The Bee that soldiers occasionally can receive a burst of performance reviews – particularly if one is late – but those instances are rare. Normally, officers receive them once a year, or at the conclusion of an assignment.

One review, by Tiggs, was 10 months late. Another, by Leone, covered five months between March and August of 2011. The last and most critical, by Lt. Col. Robert Wooldridge, was for August through November of 2011. "Maj. Lovelace's inconsistent duty performance ranged between good and acceptable, depending on the day and the task," wrote Wooldridge.

Lovelace appealed the stacked evaluations a year after he received them, arguing they misrepresented his service and lacked objectivity.

By Army regulation, officers are supposed to have an opportunity to rebut criticism in their performance evaluations. Lovelace was not granted that right.

"I think the remarks and errors were intentional and motivated out of retaliation, personal bias and other factors unrelated to my performance with the specific intent of harming my future career as an Army officer," he wrote in a Jan. 15, 2013 memo requesting an investigation into the reviews.

The final National Guard report on Lovelace's performance was finished in May 2014. The report took a meandering path because Col. Saul Rangel, the officer assigned to conduct it, turned in a report without key interviews in July 2013. He was ordered to go back to primary sources.

Rangel concluded that Lovelace was denied "due process" because he was not allowed to rebut criticism in his reviews before they were placed in his record.

However, based on his interviews, Rangel wrote that he did not believe there was enough evidence to say the reviews were a form of retaliation. Rather, he believed they reflected strained relationships in Nuismer's command. Maj. Gen. Lawrence Haskins, who reviewed Rangel's report, also declined to strike the performance reviews. Although the investigation uncovered evidence suggesting the command at Camp Roberts had a bias against Lovelace, Haskins wrote that there was "a factual basis" for the criticism Lovelace received.

"I do not find sufficient evidence to conclude (Nuismer) or (the lieutenant colonel) abused the process, rendered unsubstantiated comments out of personal bias or engaged in reprisal or retaliation," Haskins wrote.

Lovelace retired from the National Guard in July 2015 and has been trying to launch a small business. He receives an Army pension based on his 24-year military career and his rank as a major. Today, he's also appealing the 2012 performance reviews through an Army agency that can change or correct military records.

In his initial request for an investigation into his performance reviews, Lovelace argued that the attention he helped bring to Camp Roberts strengthened the National Guard's hand in arguing for a bigger budget and improvements. If he could go back in time, he said he'd make the same choice again to blow the whistle on its disrepair.

"It was the right thing to do," he said.

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 is a two class world and the wrong class is running it.
-- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers

**“Soldiers, Take Power Into Your
Own Hands!”**

“Elect Your Own Commanders”

**“Those Coming To Join You Include Not
Only Friends But Also Officers, Who Are
Former Enemies And Who Only Pretend
To Be Your Friends”**



Russian soldiers celebrate the end of Tsarist rule following the February Revolution
(Wikimedia Commons)

[The context and background for this leaflet appeal to Russian soldiers appear below after the leaflet. From Socialist Worker newspaper, March 20, 2017.]

March 14 1917 Petersburg Interdistrict Committee of the RSDRP, Petersburg Committee of Socialist Revolutionaries

It has come to pass! You enslaved peasants and workers arose, and with a crash the autocratic government collapsed in disgrace.

Soldiers!

The people were patient for a long time. The peasants long suffered under the power of the gentry landowners, the land captains, the district police officers and the whole gang of servants of the tsarist autocracy. Millions of peasants became swollen from hunger while the State Treasury, the monasteries and the landowners seized all the land, and while the nobles got fat from sucking the people's blood. Without land, the peasant cannot even put his chickens out to feed!

Brother soldiers!

As peasants, as workers, what do you need? All the land and full freedom--that is what you need!

You did not shed your blood in vain.

For two days Petrograd has been under the power of soldiers and workers.

It has been two days since the dissolved State Duma elected a Provisional Committee, which it calls a Provisional Government. Still, you have not heard a word from Rodzianko (chair of the Duma) or Miliukov (Kadet Party leader and Provisional Committee spokesman) about whether the land will be taken from the gentry landowners and given to the people. The prospects are poor!

Soldiers! Be on your guard to prevent the nobles from deceiving the people!

Go ask the Duma: Will the people will have land, freedom, and peace?

Soldiers! Why does the Duma say nothing about this?

Autocratic arbitrariness needs to be completely uprooted. The people's cause will perish unless we conclude the business by convening the Constituent Assembly, to which all peasants and all workers would send their deputies--not like in the current Duma, composed of the wealthy and highest ranks of society, which dooms the people's cause!

Take power into your hands, so that this Romanov gang of nobles and officers does not deceive you.

Elect your own platoon, company and regiment commanders. Elect company committees for managing food supplies. All officers should be under the supervision of these company committees.

Accept only those officers whom you know to be friends of the people.

Obey only delegates sent from the Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies!

Soldiers! Now, when you have arisen and achieved victory, those coming to join you include not only friends but also officers, who are former enemies and who only pretend to be your friends.

Soldiers!

We are more afraid of the fox's tail (intrigues) than the wolf's tooth (outright aggression). Only the workers and peasants are your true friends and brothers. Strengthen your unity with them!

Send your delegate-representatives to the Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies, already supported by 250,000 workers in Petrograd alone. Your representatives and worker deputies should become the people's Provisional Revolutionary Government. It will give you both land and freedom!

Soldiers, listen to us! Demand an answer from the Duma right now. Will it take land from the gentry landowners, state treasury and monasteries? Will it transfer land to the peasants? Will it give the people complete freedom? Will it convene the Constituent Assembly? Don't waste time!

Soldiers! Talk about this in your companies and battalions! Hold meetings! Elect from among you commanders and representatives to the Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies.

All land to the peasants!

All freedom to the people!

Long live the Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies!

Long live the Provisional Revolutionary Government!

Petersburg Interdistrict Committee of the RSDRP
Petersburg Committee of Socialist Revolutionaries
March 1917

[The context and background for this leaflet appeal to Russian soldiers

[A note on Russian dates: The Julian calendar used by Russia in 1917 ran 13 days behind the Gregorian calendar that is in general use today. In the "View from the Streets" series, centennials are reckoned by the Gregorian calendar; dates are given with the Gregorian ("New Style") date first, followed by the Julian date in parentheses.]

One hundred years ago on March 14, 1917 (March 1 according to the Julian calendar then in use in Russia), the Social Democratic Interdistrict Committee (Mezhrayonka), supported by the Petersburg Committee of Socialist Revolutionaries, issued an appeal to soldiers.

At that time, the Duma Committee and the Petrograd Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies were striving to bring order to the revolutionary events on the streets and to prevent the Tsarist autocracy from restoring its control over the city. Dominated by moderate socialists, the soviet pursued a policy of cooperation with liberals in the Duma.

Nonetheless, the Soviet's "Order No. 1," issued on March 14 (March 1) in response to soldiers' pressure and published on March 15 (March 2), called for soldiers to elect representative committees all along the chain of command, stipulated that officers treat soldiers respectfully, and asserted the soviet's primary influence over soldiers by stating that they should obey only Duma commands that did not contradict soviet resolutions.

The Duma Committee announced the formation of the Provisional Government on March 15 (March 2), and Nicholas II abdicated on behalf of himself and his son. By March 16 (March 3), the autocracy had collapsed. Thus, the ground had been prepared for the period of "dual power" in Petrograd--between the rival Duma and Provisional Government and the Petrograd soviet--that prevailed between the February and October Revolutions.

The Interdistrict Committee, co-authors of the appeal below, wanted to rally all the factions of the Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party (RSDLP), but later in 1917 fused with the Bolshevik current. Their leaflet here presented a militant alternative to the Duma Committee's course. According to historian Michael Melancon, it circulated on March 14 (March 1), 1917, probably before Order No. 1 was issued, and may have influenced the wording of Order No. 1. Alexander Shlyapnikov, who published the leaflet in 1923, states that the executive committee of the Petersburg Soviet confiscated it on the morning of March 15 (March 2).

This leaflet was translated and the above annotation written by Barbara Allen, author of the biography Alexander Shlyapnikov, 1885-1937: Life of an Old Bolshevik. It is part of

the an SW series giving a view from the streets during the 1917 Russian Revolution. The series is edited by John Riddell and co-published at his website.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Protesters Stormed And Set Fire To Paraguay's Congress On Friday After It Votes To Let President Run Again

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

1 April 2017 Reuters [Excerpts]

Protesters stormed and set fire to Paraguay's Congress on Friday after the senate secretly voted for a constitutional amendment that would allow President Horacio Cartes to run for re-election.

The country's constitution has prohibited re-election since it was passed in 1992 after a brutal dictatorship fell in 1989.

"A coup has been carried out. We will resist and we invite the people to resist with us," said Desiree Masi from the opposition Progressive Democratic Party.

Firefighters managed to control the flames after protesters left the congress building late on Friday night. But protests and riots continued in other parts of Asuncion and elsewhere in the country well into the night, media reported.

Earlier, television images showed protesters breaking windows of the congress and clashing with police, burning tires and removing parts of fences around the building. Police in riot gear fired tear gas and rubber bullets.

Several politicians and journalists were injured, media reported, and the interior minister, Tadeo Rojas, said several police were hurt. One member of the lower house of congress, who had been participating in protests that afternoon, underwent surgery after being hit by rubber bullets.

The number of casualties was unknown.

Cartes called for calm and a rejection of violence in a statement released on Twitter. "Democracy is not conquered or defended with violence and you can be sure this government will continue to put its best effort into maintaining order in the republic," he said. "We must not allow a few barbarians to destroy the peace, tranquility and general wellbeing of the Paraguayan people."

The unrest coincides with a rare high-level international event in the landlocked South American country. Thousands of business people and government officials descended on Asuncion this week for the Inter-American Development Bank's annual board of governors meeting.



Protestors set fire to Paraguay's Congress building. New York Daily News

While Paraguay long suffered from political uncertainty, the soy and beef-exporting nation has been attracting investment in agriculture and manufacturing sectors in recent years as Cartes offered tax breaks to foreign investors.

Instability in the country of 6.8m is a concern for its much larger neighbors Brazil and Argentina.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said it was monitoring the events. "I call on political leaders to avoid inciting violence and seek dialogue," the commission's regional representative for South America, Amerigo Incalcaterra, said in a statement.

The senate voted earlier on Friday during a special session in a closed office rather than on the senate floor. Twenty-five lawmakers voted for the measure, two more than the 23 required for passage in the 45-member upper chamber.

Opponents of the measure, who claim it would weaken Paraguay's democratic institutions, said the vote was illegal.

The proposal will also require approval by the lower house, where it appeared to have strong support. A vote which had been expected early on Saturday was called off until the situation calmed down, said the chamber's president, Hugo Velazquez.

Several Latin American countries, including Paraguay, Peru and Chile, prevent presidents from running for consecutive terms in a region where memories of dictatorships remain ripe.

Paraguay's measure would apply to future presidents and Cartes, a soft-drink and tobacco mogul elected to a five-year term in 2013.

His strongest backers want him to be allowed to run for another term, but critics have said a constitutional change aimed at benefiting a sitting president would be unfair.

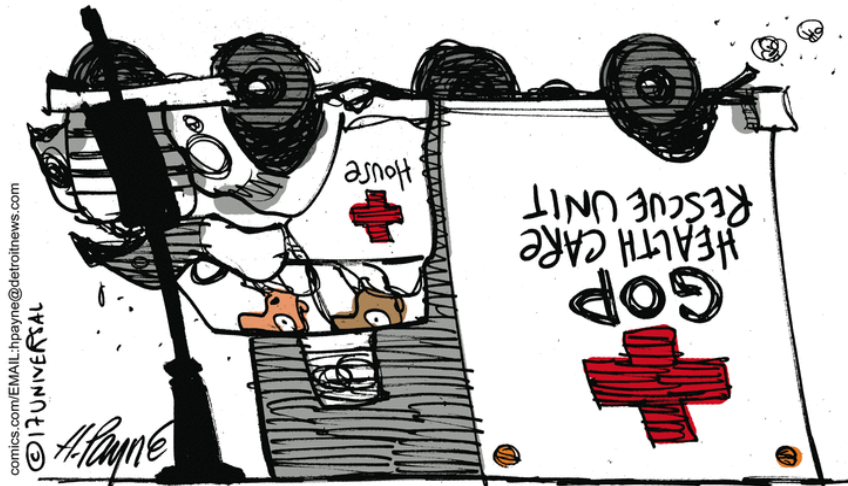
The change would also apply to former president Fernando Lugo, whose supporters want to be allowed to run for another term. Congress ousted Lugo in 2012, saying he had failed in his duty to maintain social order following a bloody land eviction. The rapid impeachment drew strong criticism in Latin America, especially from fellow left wing governments.

A similar re-election proposal had been rejected in August and congress this week voted to change the rules that required lawmakers to wait a year before voting again.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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