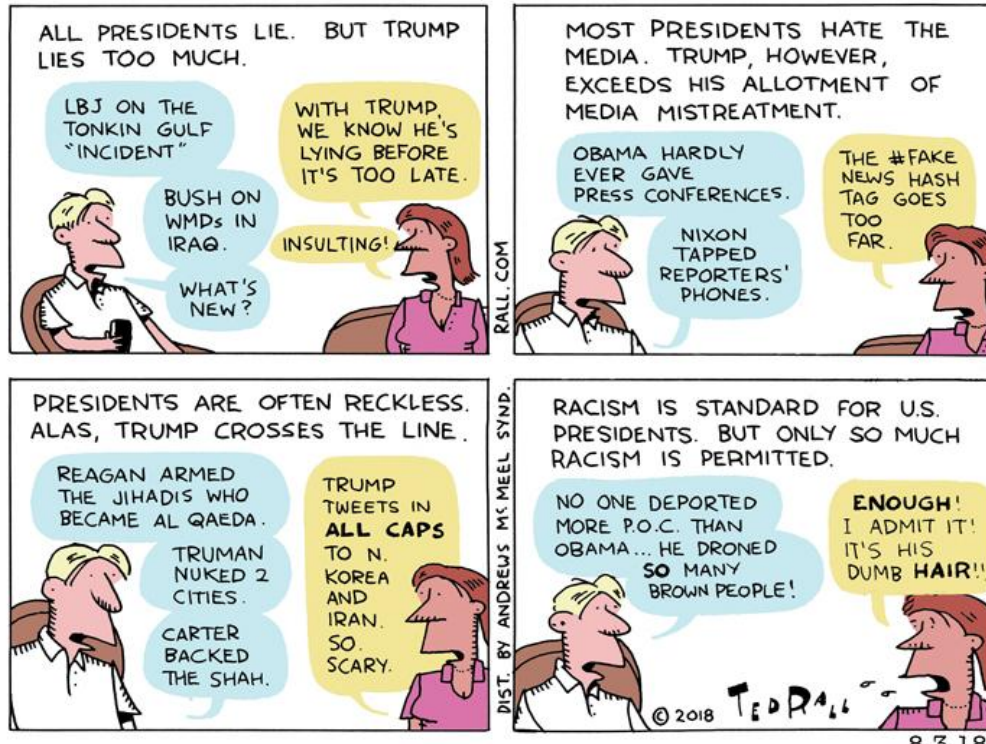


Military Resistance 16H3



AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

In “A Catastrophe” Taliban Offensive Kills More Than 200 Afghan Regime Troops On Four Fronts:
“The Government In Kabul And The Army Continued To Insist That

They Were In Full Control Of Ghazni”

“Video Posted On Social Media Sites, However, Showed Insurgents Strolling Casually Around The City”

“The Reinforcements Have Not Done Anything Effective”

August 12, 2018 ROD NORDLAND, FAHIM ABED AND MUJIB MASHAL; The New York Times

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan government forces lost more than 200 officers and soldiers in fighting over the past three days as Taliban insurgents launched sustained attacks on four different fronts.

The hardest-hit area was the southeastern city of Ghazni, where more than 100 police officers and soldiers had been killed by Sunday, a hospital official said, and the insurgents appeared to be in control of most of the strategic city aside from a few important government facilities.

Ninety miles west, in Ghazni Province, the Taliban seized control of the Ajristan District.

The elite army commando unit that had been defending the district disappeared for two days, and their superiors were uncertain of their fate.

When they found out on Sunday, estimates of the dead ranged from 40 to 100. Twenty-two survivors were carried to safety on donkeys by rescuers who found them lost in the mountains.

In Faryab Province, 250 miles to the northwest, an isolated Afghan National Army base of 100 soldiers lost more than half of its men in a Taliban assault that ended early Sunday morning. The defenders said they did not expect to last another night.

And 275 miles east of the Faryab base, in northern Baghlan Province, at a base at Jangal Bagh on the strategic highway between Pul-i-Kumri and Kunduz, insurgents killed seven policemen and nine soldiers and captured three other soldiers on Saturday.

With the tempo of the Afghan conflict steadily increasing, it was a bad few days for the Afghan government.

The fighting has demonstrated that the insurgents have a capacity for carrying out ambitious operations on multiple fronts, while the government has struggled to respond on a single front in Ghazni.

Baz Mohammad Hemat, the director of the Ghazni Hospital, said by telephone that 113 bodies had been taken to the hospital, along with 142 people who had been wounded, most of them in uniform.

“We’re running out of hospital rooms; we are using corridors and available space everywhere,” Mr. Hemat said. “Fighting is quite close to the hospital. The situation is really bad here. We’re receiving more and more wounded and dead every hour.”

The death toll appeared sure to rise, with numerous reports of bodies left unrecovered around the city.

“Heavy fighting is ongoing around the governor’s office, the Police Headquarters and the compound of the intelligence agency,” said Nasir Ahmad Faqiri, a member of the provincial council.

“The Reinforcements Have Not Done Anything Effective”

“The forces in Ghazni have resisted well, but naturally they have fought so long. The reinforcements have not done anything effective. All they have done is establish a base for themselves.”

He added, “Bodies are lying around, they have decomposed, and no one is doing anything to evacuate them.”

The Afghan minister of public health, Ferozuddin Feroz, said he had asked the International Committee of the Red Cross for “urgent help” in transporting the wounded and dead out of Ghazni.

Taliban fighters in Ghazni continued to take over guard posts that the police had abandoned. At one, an insurgent shot a black dog three times with his AK-47. Asked why, he answered that it was a police guard dog that had alerted officers when the Taliban approached in the night.

A senior Afghan official said that the authorities’ response to the Taliban attack on Ghazni had been chaotic.

Police officers who had been besieged in Ghazni Prison for two days were almost out of ammunition when the Afghan National Army reached them with supplies. It turned out, however, that the army uses American ammunition, while the police use Russian ammunition.

The government in Kabul and the army continued to insist that they were in full control of Ghazni.

Video posted on social media sites, however, showed insurgents strolling casually around the city. Numerous local residents confirmed that militants were commandeering homes to use as bases.

Taliban insurgents said they had amassed forces from several provinces for the attack on Ghazni, the fourth time they have tried to capture a provincial capital, most recently in May, when they attacked Farah in western Afghanistan.

Despite the large number of insurgents fighting in Ghazni city, the Taliban also mounted deadly attacks in three other parts of the country from Friday through Sunday.

In Ajristan, a district in the rugged western part of Ghazni Province about 90 miles from the city, an entire Afghan National Army commando unit disappeared for two days after the Taliban drove two bomb-laden vehicles into its base on Friday, setting off powerful explosions that destroyed the base and killed an unknown number of soldiers and policemen there, according to a senior Afghan security official.

The official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the delicacy of the issue, said they feared that as many as 100 of the commandos and their police allies had been killed. “It was a catastrophe,” he said.

The survivors reportedly fled the base into the mountainous, arid terrain, according to Zamin Ali Hedayat, the governor of the neighboring district, Malistan. Mr. Hedayat said that 30 of the survivors — commandos and policemen — along with the local police chief, Obaidullah Khan, fled toward the Miramor District in the neighboring province of Daykondi. He said the Taliban ambushed them en route, beheading Mr. Khan and killing all 30 of the others.

There was no independent confirmation of that. The Taliban spokesman posted a Twitter message saying the Taliban had killed 43 in the Ajristan attack and took “39 hireling commandos” prisoner.

When a reporter called Mr. Hedayat to ask about the fate of the commandos, the governor said that the Afghan Ministry of Defense had just called him and asked the same thing. “I told them they did not come to my district,” he said.

Instead they were on a two-day trek to reach Miramor. Abdul Qader Haidari, the governor in Miramor, said 22 surviving commandos and policemen reached a roadless area in his district. “We went to meet them with donkeys and motorcycles,” he said. “We have them here now as our guests.”

A medic who treated them said they were in poor condition. “All of them walked for more than two days, and they didn’t know where they were going,” the medic, Nasir Akbari, said.

“One of them walked barefoot all the way; others their shoes were falling apart, their uniforms were torn and in bad shape.” The survivors told him that 40 of their number had been killed in Taliban ambushes on the way, he said.

In the Faryab attack far to the north, an Afghan National Army base had been under sustained attack for three weeks in the Ghormach District when the insurgents launched a particularly heavy attack Saturday and Sunday. More than half of the 100 defenders were either killed or wounded, according to First Lt. Shah Fahim, the platoon commander whose unit was defending the base. Lt. Fahim said that 21 soldiers and 15 border officers had been killed and that 33 soldiers had been wounded.

His company commander, Capt. Sayid Azam, was among the dead, he said. “The base is full of wounded and dead, and the whole place is covered in blood,” Lt. Fahim said. “It’s a miracle we’re alive. They attacked us with 1,000 militants and all kinds of heavy equipment.”

Four days before his death, Capt. Azam in Faryab spoke to a reporter by cellphone, his voice desperate and angry. “Since 20 days we are asking for help and no one is listening,” he said. “Every night fighting, every night the enemy are attacking us from three sides with rockets. We don’t know what to do.”

On Sunday, the reporter spoke by phone to Lt. Fahim, who said he expected a renewed attack Sunday night. “The Taliban are just on the other side of the wall,” the lieutenant said, weeping. “This may be the last time we speak.”

Ghazni City Up For Grabs After Coordinated Taliban Assault: “NATO’s Command Issued A Statement Claiming The Afghan Government Controls The City And Describes The Taliban Assault On Ghazni City As ‘Another Failed Attempt By Taliban’” “That Ignores The Fact That The Taliban Was Able To Mass An

Assault On A Provincial Capital By Controlling The Outlying Districts” “Insurgents Fought To Within 300 Yards Of The Governor’s Office And Police Headquarters”

A member of the Ghazni City council told the Times that “the government is lying about sending reinforcements and the situation being under control ... Nothing is under control, the security forces in government offices are just trying to block the Taliban from entering their offices.”

August 10, 2018 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 & By: Amir Shah, The Associated Press

Just after midnight on Aug. 10, the Taliban launched a coordinated assault on Ghazni City from multiple directions from outlying districts under its control. The status of the provincial capital of Ghazni remains unclear as communications have been severed.

An Afghan military helicopter crash landed in the city during the daytime fighting, and four Afghan soldiers on board were injured, one critically, said Mohammad Radmanish, spokesman for the Ministry of Defense.

The Taliban claimed they had downed the "enemy" helicopter in Ghazni but Radmanish said it was not immediately clear if the helicopter had been hit or crash landed due to other reasons.

Taliban fighters destroyed the telecommunications tower, located just outside the city, cutting all cellphone and landline access to Ghazni, according to Ali Akbar Kasemi, a lawmaker from the city.

Both the Afghan government (and Resolute Support) and the Taliban claim they control the city.

The Afghan government and Resolute Support have proven unreliable in the past when it denied that the Taliban took control of Kunduz City (in both 2015 and 2016), and Farah City earlier this year.

Resolute Support, NATO’s command in Afghanistan, issued a statement claiming the Afghan government controls the city and describes the Taliban assault on Ghazni City as “another failed attempt by Taliban to seize terrain, while creating strategically inconsequential headlines.”

However, that statement ignores the fact that the Taliban was able to mass an assault on a provincial capital by controlling the outlying districts.

Ghazni City has had a significant underground Taliban presence and FDD's Long War Journal has previously assessed the district as contested, despite the fact that Resolute Support currently assesses it as government controlled.

Additionally, the Taliban was able to plan, mass, and execute the attack undetected.

Resolute Support and the US military have repeatedly downplayed the Taliban's control of rural terrain and the importance these areas play in staging attacks on more populated areas, including at least eight provincial capitals and Kabul City.

The Afghan government also claimed its police and military forces in Ghazni City are in control of all areas and have driven out the Taliban.

The Taliban, on the other hand, released a statement at Voice of Jihad that claims that "Ghazni city falls to Mujahideen."

"Mujahideen seized control of Ghazni city and its all installations and military units," the Taliban claims.

The Taliban didn't limit its attacks to Ghazni City. According to TOLONews, the Taliban shut down the Kabul-Kandahar Highway (or Highway 1, also known as the Ring Road) – the main road between the north and south.

While it is difficult to determine who exactly controls Ghazni City, this New York Times report indicates that Ghazni City is not yet under full government control, and that the Taliban advanced into the city center.

"Government officials denied the city was at risk of falling, but they conceded that the insurgents had fought to within 300 yards of the governor's office and police headquarters," the Times reported.

A member of the Ghazni City council told the Times that "the government is lying about sending reinforcements and the situation being under control ... Nothing is under control, the security forces in government offices are just trying to block the Taliban from entering their offices."

The Resolute Support narrative that the Taliban failed in its attack may prove to be true, but if history is a guide, the NATO command should not be trusted to evaluate the status of provincial capitals and even district centers during Taliban assaults.

In the fall of 2016, Resolute Support maintained that the Afghan government controlled Kunduz City when the Taliban clearly controlled half of it. During that same time period, Resolute Support insisted that Nawa district in Helmand province was under government control while Afghan forces were holed up in a few buildings in the district center, surrounded by Taliban fighters.

Perhaps the most deceiving Resolute Support statement occurred in March 2017, when the Taliban overran the Sangin district center in Helmand province. Afghan

forces had to be evacuated by air under the cover of night to avoid being slaughtered. Resolute Support tried to spin the loss of Sangin as a victory. In reality, US aircraft leveled Sangin's district center after evacuating defeated Afghan forces.

Most recently, in May 2018, Resolute Support denied that the Taliban entered Farah City and took control of areas, including government buildings, even as the Taliban was releasing videos and photographs of its fighters patrolling the city and inside key installations.

MORE:

Ghazni City Remains Under Assault, Despite RS Assurances: “Afghan Forces Are Still Battling Entrenched Taliban Fighters Inside The City, And The Vital Kabul-Kandahar Remains Severed”



Tolo News 8.12.18

August 12, 2018 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

On Aug. 10, the day that Taliban launched its coordinated assault on the provincial capital of Ghazni City, Resolute Support assured the world that the attack was repelled and Afghan forces remained in control.

Resolute Support described the attack as a “failed attempt” that would be used by the press to generate sensational headlines.

Two days later, Afghan forces are still battling entrenched Taliban fighters inside the city, and the vital Kabul-Kandahar remains severed.

“Afghan forces held their ground and maintain control of all govt. centers,” Resolute Support proclaimed in a tweet on Aug. 10 just hours after the Taliban entered Ghazni City.

Resolute Support then took a poke at the press, anticipating that the so-called “failed attempt by Taliban to seize terrain” would create dramatic headlines in the press.

“Another failed attempt by Taliban to seize terrain, while creating strategically inconsequential headlines,” the NATO command stated.

If its past operations in Farah and Kunduz cities are any indication, it is unlikely that the Taliban will hold onto areas it controls in Ghazni City for long. The Afghan military and police still maintain numerical superiority over the Taliban, even if their esprit de corps and fighting capabilities are lacking. And the US military, with airpower, special forces, and other combat enablers, has proven to be the deciding factor in past engagements in major urban battles (US Special forces and air support were instrumental in regaining control of Kunduz City in both 2015 and 2016).

However, battles such as the one ongoing in Ghazni, expose the glaring weaknesses of the Afghan security forces and shed light on the Taliban’s ability to organize and mass for attacks against a numerically superior foe.

Additionally, these battles reveal a disturbing pattern of misinformation and deception by Resolute Support when it comes to assessing and reporting on the Taliban’s attacks on major cities as well as its assaults on district centers.

Resolute Support has issued inaccurate and overly optimistic statements claiming Afghan forces were in charge when the Taliban took full control of Kunduz City for two weeks in 2015, and partial control of Kunduz City in 2016 and Farah City in May 2018. Additionally, Resolute Support has misled the public about the status of districts such as Nawa in 2016 and Sangin in 2017 in Helmand.

Resolute Support has spun the narrative that Afghan forces are competent while the Taliban is incapable of overrunning and controlling major cities. While the performance of the Afghan security forces speaks for itself, this narrative ignores the fact that the Taliban is able to launch assaults on major cities by controlling remote and rural districts.

The US military, which makes up the bulk of Resolute Support’s command, has repeatedly dismissed the Taliban’s control of rural districts as “not important” and has said these districts have “less strategic importance” than more populous areas. The Taliban disagrees, and has used these “less strategic” districts to assault cities such as Ghazni, Kunduz, and Farah.

MORE:

The Taliban released a video showing its fighters in control of the Kabul-Kandahar highway. The jihadists set up checkpoints on the road as they raided the city of #Ghazni. #Afghanistan. 8:36 AM - Aug 12, 2018 Thomas Joscelyn @thomasjoscelyn

MORE:

Afghan forces are still battling entrenched Taliban fighters inside the city, and the vital Kabul-Kandahar remains severed. 9:38 AM - Aug 12, 2018 TOLONews @TOLONews

MORE:

**“It Is Over And The City Is Taken,’
Said A Man Standing Outside His
Home”**
**“Heavily Armed Taliban Patrolling In
The City”**
**The Highway Heavily Mined To Prevent
Regime Reinforcements From Arriving**

August 12, 2018 Reuters Staff [Excerpts]

Lawmakers from Ghazni in Kabul who managed to talk to some residents said the Taliban were in control of much of the city after launching an initial attack in the early hours of Friday.

“Only the governor’s office, police headquarters and intelligence agency’s compound are in the hands of the government and Taliban are pushing to take them,” said Chaman Shah Ehtemadi, a lawmaker from Ghazni.

“No one knows what the exact situation is because there is no communication service,” he said.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the insurgents had taken the district center of Khwajaumari, north of the city, and several areas in other districts of Ghazni province.

Many members of the security forces had surrendered, he said.

Local officials have warned for months that Ghazni, a city on the main highway linking Kabul with Afghanistan's south, was under threat, with the Taliban in control of most of the surrounding province.

With the highway heavily mined to prevent reinforcements from arriving, residents were largely trapped inside but some who managed to escape across fields on the city's periphery said many government buildings were ablaze.

President Ashraf Ghani made no mention of the crisis during an extended speech on youth affairs on Sunday and with little coming out from the government, people were left to rely on alternative sources of information.

Short videos circulating on social media, purported to be from Ghazni, showed a number of heavily armed Taliban patrolling in the city with a large plume of smoke and flames coming out from the town.

"It is over and the city is taken," said a man standing outside his home, with several Taliban insurgents nearby.

MORE:

Government Military Convoy Comes Under Attack By Insurgents While On Its Way To Relieve Ghazni: "The Main Highway Through Ghazni, The Kabul-Kandahar Highway – Has Also Been Closed To Traffic By The Taliban For Days"

August 12, 2018 Tolo News [Excerpts

A convoy of military vehicles heading for Ghazni city came under attack in Sayad Abad district in Maidan Wardak at about 5.30pm local time on Sunday.

The convoy was from Paktia province and had traveled through Logar province into Wardak when the incident happened.

The ambush happened about 80km from Ghazni city.

There have so far been no reports of casualties but according to sources clashes between insurgents and security forces from the convoy are ongoing.

Paktia borders Ghazni but the direct route has been under Taliban control recently, said a source adding that the convoy was forced to take a long route – through Logar and Wardak provinces – in order to get to Ghazni.

The main highway through Ghazni, the Kabul-Kandahar highway – has also been closed to traffic by the Taliban for days – which has affected hundreds of motorists.

The Provincial Police Chief Farid Ahmad Mashal also told TOLONews on Sunday afternoon that no government facilities in the city had fallen to the Taliban.

However, communication lines with the city have been disconnected for about three days and little information has been gleaned in the time.

Taliban stormed Ghazni City – 148 kilometers southwest of Kabul – at around 1am Kabul time on Friday.

Insecurity recently increased dramatically in Ghazni province, which led to the Independent Election Commission delaying parliamentary elections in the province.

MORE:

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN “Who Controls Ghazni Also Impacts How Freely The Insurgents Can Move Into Other Parts Of The Country” “Taliban Control Of Ghazni Also Raises The Possibility That Taliban Eventually Could Surround Kabul Itself”

Aug. 13, 2018 By Mujib Mashal, New York Times [Excerpt]

Rahmatullah Nabil, a former Afghan intelligence chief, said Ghazni also was important because some of its neighboring provinces border the tribal areas of northern Pakistan, where militants have long moved with impunity.

Who controls Ghazni also impacts how freely the insurgents can move into other parts of the country, Mr. Nabil said.

Taliban control of Ghazni also raises the possibility that Taliban eventually could surround Kabul itself.

MORE:

U.S. Government Downplays “Failed” Taliban Gains In Ghazni As At Least 100 Regime Forces Killed So Far

August 13, 2018 CBS/AP

KABUL, Afghanistan -- Afghan forces battled the Taliban in a key provincial capital for the fourth straight day on Monday, following a massive assault on the eastern city last week that overwhelmed its defenses and allowed insurgents to capture several parts of it, officials said.

The assault on Ghazni, the capital of Ghazni province, was a major show of force by the Taliban, who infiltrated deep into this strategic city barely 75 miles from the capital, Kabul.

The U.S.-led military coalition in Afghanistan has downplayed the significance of the siege, saying Afghan forces remain firmly in control of the city of Ghazni, but the U.S. has sent military advisers to aid Afghan forces, which have sustained serious losses.

Afghan Minister of Defense Tariq Shah Bahrami said Monday that 100 Afghan security and defense forces had been killed in the four days of fighting in Ghazni, in addition to as many as 30 civilians, reports CBS News' Mukhtar Ahmad.

Bahrami said Chechen and Pakistani fighters were among the Taliban militants operating in Ghazni, and that a total of at least 150 of the insurgents had been killed.

The multi-pronged attack on Ghazni began on Friday, with insurgents infiltrating people's homes and slipping out into the night to attack Afghan forces.

Najib Danish, the Interior Ministry's spokesman, said reinforcements have been sent to Ghazni and were trying to clear it of the Taliban on Monday.

Ghazni's hospitals are running out of medicines and people are unable to safely bring casualties, Peepkorn's statement added. Electricity, water supply and food are also running low, the statement said.

MORE:

Occupation Command Hides Status Of 7 Ghazni Districts As 3 More Fall To Taliban:

“Command In Afghanistan Has Intentionally Misled The Public About The Status Of Seven Of Ghazni’s Districts”

August 13, 2018 BY BILL ROGGIO & ALEXANDRA GUTOWSKI, Long War Journal. Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of FDD's Long War Journal. Alexandra Gutowski is a military affairs analyst at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

As the fight between the Afghan government and the Taliban for control of Ghazni City continues, three additional districts have been overrun by the Taliban. It has also come to light that Resolute Support – NATO’s command in Afghanistan – has intentionally misled the public about the status of seven of Ghazni’s districts.

Resolute Support claimed these seven districts were under government control. In reality, the Taliban physically controlled the terrain while the Afghan government operated them remotely from Ghazni City.

FDD’s Long War Journal reported on the Taliban takeover of two Ghazni districts on Aug. 11: Ajristan and Khwaja Umari. The New York Times confirmed that two additional Ghazni districts, Nawur and Jaghatu, have fallen to the Taliban.

Additionally, the Taliban has claimed that Deh Yak district is under its control. While the status of Deh Yak cannot be independently confirmed, LWJ takes this claim seriously given the accuracy of recent Taliban claims of the status of districts.

In a stunning development, The New York Times reported that seven districts in Ghazni province were administered “virtually” by local government based outside the district.

“Seven of Ghazni’s districts had effectively already been under insurgent control before the current fighting, with the Taliban controlling so much territory in those areas that government officials could not remain,” the Times reported.

“But to avoid having those districts counted as having fallen to the Taliban, the district governments moved their offices, including police and other administrative headquarters, to safer areas in other districts ... The seven districts with only a virtual local government presence are not listed in American military reports as controlled by the Taliban.”

(Note, Resolute Support no longer identifies districts as Taliban controlled; these districts are considered “high insurgent activity.”)

The Times, which names two of the districts — Rasheedan and Jaghatu — went on to note that Afghan officials moved the Rasheedan district center to Jaghatu, which was subsequently overrun. The Afghan government’s solution was to move Jaghatu, Rasheedan, and five other district centers to Ghazni City.

LWJ was able to identify three more of these phantom districts centers — Khogyano (Wali Muhammadi Shahid), Nawa, and Zana Khan — based on a somewhat cryptic tweet by Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid earlier today.

“Supposed district centers of Zana Khan, Nawa, Jaghatu, Rasheedan & Khogyano in Qala Sabz, Pelan Se & old Kandahar Hada areas inside #Ghazni city overrun, multiple gunmen killed & weapons/equipment seized. Enemy had setup centers for the said districts in #Ghazni city,” Mujahid proclaimed.

Following publication, the author of the New York Times story confirmed the identity of the two remaining districts in a message to LWJ. They are Waghaz and Giro.

With the fall of Ghazni City, these districts no longer have even virtual governance.

LWJ has previously assessed three of these districts as controlled by the Taliban based on press reporting: Jaghatu, Nawa, and Zana Khan. Long War Journal previously assessed Rashidan, Waghaz, and Giro as contested and was unable to determine the status of Khogyano (Wali Muhammadi Shahid).

All five are now reflected as Taliban controlled in our mapped assessment.

The US military, in its most recent quarterly report on Afghanistan, maintained a far more optimistic assessment. It has described Khogyano (Wali Muhammadi Shahid), Jaghatu (Bahrami Shahid), and Rasheedan as government influenced. It conceded that Nawa is insurgent influenced, its strongest assessment, given that Resolute Support refuses to use the term “Insurgent Control.” The military described Zana Khan, Waghaz, and Giro as Contested.

MORE:

Ghazni Residents Who Fled The City In The Past Few Days Said The Situation In The Province Was Unbearable: “Taliban Cut Electricity And Water Supplies”

14 Aug 2018 Tolo News [Excerpts]

A number of Ghazni residents who fled the city in the past few days and made their way to Kabul said the situation in the province was unbearable and that the Taliban had cut their electricity and water supplies.

The residents said Taliban fighters also set fire to many buildings in the city as well as houses and that residents were in a desperate situation.

“Our city has burned down, our homes have burned down, and we have lost everything. What do we need to do for government to hear our voices?” asked Fatima.

According to residents, the bodies of soldiers and civilians also lay on the streets of the city for days as people were too afraid to retrieve them.

Residents also said the people in the city are running out of food – this in addition to not having contact with the rest of the country as cellphone services have been disconnected.

In Afghan North, Soldiers Surrender To Taliban After Base Is Cut Off: “The Taliban Is Routinely Outmatching Afghan Forces In Battles In Remote Districts”

August 14th, 2018 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

More than 40 Afghan soldiers surrendered to the Taliban after their base in the northern province of Faryab was besieged for 48 hours.

At least 43 soldiers were killed and 17 more were captured in the fighting that led up to the surrender, yet another indication that the Taliban is routinely outmatching Afghan forces in battles in remote districts.

The Taliban surrounded the Afghan base, known as Chenayeeha in the contested district of Ghormach, and cut the troops off from resupply, according to TOLONews.

“According to local officials, over 40 security force members have surrendered to the Taliban after they received no help nor ammunition supplies despite repeated requests,” the Afghan news agency reported.

The Taliban, in an official statement released on Voice of Jihad, claimed that the Afghan soldiers who surrendered subsequently joined “the Mujahideen.”

“(A)ll the gunmen inside the base with a total number of 57 have laid arms before Mujahideen of Islamic Emirate overnight, handing over 8 tanks, 2 DShK guns, 2 mortar tubes along with several other rifles and ammunition to Mujahideen,” the group claimed.

The “tanks” are likely US-supplied up-armored Humvees. According to the Taliban, 43 Afghan soldiers were killed and 17 more were captured before the remaining soldiers surrendered.

“Mujahideen are happy as the rest 57 have laid arms and save their lives,” the Taliban proclaimed.

Incidents such as these have become all too common in Afghanistan. Just last weekend, the Taliban destroyed a company of Afghan Army Commandos in Ajristan. The Taliban has become adept at cutting off bases in outlying districts and besieging them for days before overrunning them.

The Afghan military often is incapable of mustering forces to relieve the beleaguered troops resupplying the bases to keep the troops in the fight.

Afghan and Coalition forces almost always refrain from targeting the Taliban after they overrun military outposts and bases.

Instead, the Taliban is allowed to loiter at their captured bases and celebrate their victories in broad daylight, without fear of being targeted.

Afghan Collaborator Regime Urged By U.S. Government To Abandon Countryside To Taliban: Offers Silly Excuses For Doing So

August 13, 2018 By JEFF SCHOGOL, Task And Purpose [Excerpt]

As of May 2018, about 35% of the Afghan population – nearly 12 million civilians – either lived under the Taliban’s direct rule or in contested areas, according to the latest report to Congress from the Special Investigator General for Afghanistan Reconstruction.

Despite the Afghan government’s goal of bringing 80% of the civilians living in government-controlled territory by the end of 2019, the Taliban continues to control more of the Afghan population.

In the meantime, the New York Times has reported that U.S. military commanders are urging Afghan security forces to consolidate their checkpoints by withdrawing from sparsely populated areas.

“The relocation of forces doesn’t mean retreat,” said Madina Qasimi, charg  d’affaires and deputy chief of mission at the Afghan embassy in Washington, D.C.

“No country is able to man every kilometer of its territory by a soldier,” she said. “If soldiers are not present in a district it doesn’t mean it is under Taliban control.”

[“The relocation of forces doesn’t mean retreat,” said Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America.

[“No country is able to man every kilometer of its territory by a soldier,” he said. “If our soldiers are not present in Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, Missouri, Louisiana or South Carolina, it doesn’t mean they are under Yankee control.”]

Meet The Teenager Born After 9/11 Who Will One Day Command All Forces In Afghanistan: Destined To Lead “Operation Everlasting Support”



May 7, 2018 By The Shammer, Duffle Blog

ATLANTA, Ga. — Marco Estevez considers himself an average teenager. He barely squeaks by in his classes, enjoys spending time with his friends, and doesn’t know what he’s going to do when he grows up.

But little does this 16-year-old student know that in just 42 short years, he will become the commanding general of all allied forces in Afghanistan.

Though his classmates say he “doesn’t pay attention to politics” and prefers to “keep it real,” Estevez will soon make history by becoming the first soldier born after September

11, 2001 to lead the soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen deployed to the so-called Graveyard of Empires.

Estevez, a high school junior, has no aspirations of joining the military at this time. Being from a middle-class family, he doesn't see the need to sign his life away to Uncle Sam when he can attend university instead.

However, all that will change in six years when he graduates with a B.A. in English from a for-profit college and finds himself working as a barista at Starbucks. He'll eventually enlist in the U.S. Army to get stable entry-level work and benefits and start repaying his student loans at 46% interest.

Due to his can-do attitude and education level, future-Pvt. Estevez will quickly be pitched the idea of applying for Officer Candidate School. Ironically, he will forgo the opportunity until he realizes his girlfriend of two weeks is pregnant, prompting him to stay in the military longer for the TRICARE and other benefits.

Soon thereafter, this reluctant leader will choose the officer route for the better salary, placing him on a career-trajectory that will culminate in his command of all military and government personnel participating the Forever War, which will by then be renamed "Operation Everlasting Support."

Estevez will furthermore break ground as the first general or flag officer to have attended OCS with a bachelor's degree from a for-profit school, and as the first US military officer to have purple hair and ear gauges in his command photo.

Reporters attempted to ask the subject of this story how he feels about fighting in a war that started before he was born, but our emails went unanswered as he was too busy watching porn through his VR goggles.

At press time, several think-tanks have predicted that Marco Estevez will also be the first general officer to retire without paying off his college debt.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

Worthless North Carolina Piece Of Shit Scumbag Attacks And Arrests Navy Vet For No Apparent Reason:

“The Video Then Shows Him Put His Knee Into Her Back Before He Sits On Her As He's Handcuffing Her”

August 2 By: The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Prosecutors are reviewing a police video of a white North Carolina state trooper who yanked a black driver to the ground to determine whether criminal charges against the officer are warranted.

At a hearing Thursday, a judge ordered authorities to release to news outlets the video taken from a dashboard camera that shows former Trooper Michael G. Blake arresting Navy veteran Kimberly Ingram in March near the Raleigh airport.

Wake County District Attorney Lorrin Freeman said she is reviewing Ingram's case to determine if criminal charges are warranted against Blake. She said the State Bureau of investigation is also looking into the traffic stop and has interviewed Ingram.

Ingram filed a civil suit in June against the Highway Patrol over Blake's actions.

The video from March 28, 2018 shows Blake following Ingram's car down a highway. She exits onto another road, and Blake — emergency lights flashing — follows her into a parking lot. He then reaches into Ingram's car to pull her out and appears to push her face-first toward the pavement.

"Get on the ground!" he's heard saying.

The video then shows him put his knee into her back before he sits on her as he's handcuffing her.

Ingram protests, saying: "Check my record. I have no record. I was trying to pull over."

Ingram's lawsuit said she was left handcuffed for nearly two hours while a canine unit was brought in to search for drugs, but none were found. She claims the handcuffs made her wrists go numb. Her lawyer says her wrists are sensitive because of carpal tunnel syndrome and a prior hand injury.

She was initially charged with failing to stop for a law enforcement vehicle, but the charge was dropped.

Weeks after the confrontation with Ingram, Blake and two other law enforcement officers were charged with assaulting a Raleigh pedestrian.

Blake was fired after the pedestrian's April arrest.

Lawyers for Blake expressed concern to the judge Thursday that video of the March arrest could prejudice potential jurors in the case involving the pedestrian. North Carolina state law generally requires a judge to sign off on release of police video.

After the hearing, which was held for the judge to consider a petition by the news media to release the video, defense attorney Joe Cheshire said Blake has served honorably during 20 years in the military and law enforcement. His client had to make split-second decisions during arrests and did nothing wrong, he said.

“We don’t understand why we just throw our public servants under the bus without an absolute clear understanding of what happened,” he said.

[Gee, could it be that people are getting fed up with enemy combatants in blue like scumbag Blake? His lawyer should be thankful Blake hasn’t been shot in self-defense by some citizen he chooses to torment. At least not yet. T

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it.

-- Karl Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach"

5 Dead In Ol' Maryland

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: August 11, 2018
Subject: 5 Dead In Ol' Maryland by Dennis Serdel

5 Dead in Ol' Maryland by Dennis Serdel

Nixon's Coming and 4 dead
in Ohio
Sure stopped
the Burning of ROTC's
and Violent Protest
by the Hard Line Students
and Hippies.
His Impeachment
was caused by him
handing over
the White House Tapes.
Hitler is Alive and Well
in Donald Trump.
He has some Tapes
but Tweets and a Big Mouth
will work to Impeach this
Mad Mad Man Man
as he tries to Shut Down
the Freedom of the Press
and TV as He hams it Up
with North Korea
and keeps the Mexican
Children locked Up
in Wire Cages.
He has Fox News
in his back pocket
but even some of them
are backing away
like the "Fake News"

he calls much
of the "Press."
Russian made and
If He sounds like
"Yes and No" in his Crazy
Talking He thinks he
can weasel out
Of Anything
even his political
promises to get elected
like any cornered
Political Rat would do.
just Richard Nixon.

written by Dennis Serdel
Vietnam Infantry 1968

"All the News Just Repeats Itself like Some Forgotten Dream that We Have Both
Seen" by John Prine 1971

ANNIVERSARIES

**August 14, 1980:
Polish Workers Strike Against
Dictatorship:
“They Had Illusions In The Army,
And Did Not Make Any Serious
Effort To Win Over Rank-And-File
Soldiers”**

Carl Bunin Peace History August 13-19 [Excerpts]

9 August 2000 BY CHRIS SLEE, Green Left Weekly [Excerpts]



After months of labor turmoil, more than 16,000 Polish workers seized control of the Lenin Shipyards in Gdansk.

Twenty years ago, on August 14, a strike began at the Lenin shipyards in Gdansk, Poland, which led to the birth of the independent Solidarity trade union movement. This movement went on to play a crucial and contradictory role in the restoration of capitalist rule in Poland at end of the 1980s.

The initial issues that sparked the shipyards strike were wages and the sacking of a militant worker, Anna Walentinowicz. The strike quickly spread to other workplaces, reflecting the widespread discontent with the system of bureaucratic “socialism” established in Poland in the late 1940s.

The authorities were forced to negotiate and, in an agreement signed at Gdansk on August 31, conceded a list of demands including the right to form independent trade unions. Solidarity was formally established as a trade union on September 17.

Solidarity developed into a mass social movement challenging Poland’s Stalinist regime. It was violently suppressed in December 1981 when martial law was declared by General Jaruzelski, who held the posts of Communist Party first secretary, prime minister and defence minister.

Remnants of the movement continued to organise illegally, re-emerging into legality in the late 1980s. The movement was then converted into a right-wing political party which won the elections in June 1989 and formed a government that set out to restore capitalism.

How did a movement that grew out of a working-class struggle against Stalinism become an agent of capitalist restoration?

Part of the answer lies in the ideological limitations of the leadership. Lech Walesa, the main leader of the Gdansk strike and subsequently the central leader of the union, was a

militant worker, but also a socially conservative Catholic. The same was true of many other working-class activists in the union. The striking workers at Gdansk sang hymns and held mass in the shipyard.

Religious beliefs do not necessarily prevent political leaders from playing a progressive role. But the fact that the dominant section of Solidarity's leadership belonged to a church committed to the defence of private property, and hailed its right-wing social teachings, was a problem. It became an even bigger problem when this leadership became the government of Poland and began to implement those teachings.

Another component of Solidarity's leadership was a group of intellectuals who had been active in KOR (the Committee for the Defence of the Workers), an organisation that had carried out solidarity with workers' struggles during the 1970s.

The key figure in this group was Jacek Kuron. In the 1960s he and Karol Modzelewski had called for the seizure of power by the working class. But by the time Solidarity was formed, Kuron had modified his ideas, replacing the perspective of revolutionary overthrow of the Stalinist bureaucracy with one of gradually reforming the state under pressure from mass organisations and struggles.

At that time, Kuron's perspective was still one of reforming the socialist state rather than restoring capitalism. Pressure for reform came mainly from Solidarity, which was then a mass workers' movement imbued with the idea that workers were entitled to control the factories and play a leading role in society.

But after this movement was crushed by Jaruzelski's repression, Solidarity's leadership (including both its Catholic and "leftist" components) adopted a perspective of capitalist restoration. (Kuron himself later became minister of labour in Walesa's pro-capitalist government). The adoption of a policy of capitalist restoration by Solidarity's leadership was made easier by the confused political outlook of most Solidarity activists.

During 1980-81, Solidarity grew to include 10 million members. The consciousness of the activists was mixed. They fought for immediate economic demands (e.g., wage rises) and democratic demands (e.g., freedom of speech). They also struggled for control of the factories, in many cases voting the factory directors out of office and replacing them with new ones.

These demands and struggles represented a progressive response to Stalinist bureaucratic rule. Yet there were also some less progressive elements in the workers' consciousness.

In addition to the socially conservative attitudes promoted by the Catholic church, many workers were impressed by the relative prosperity and democratic rights existing in the advanced capitalist countries and failed to see that the prosperity and freedom of a few imperialist countries is based on the exploitation and repression of people in the Third World.

Not understanding imperialism, they failed to solidarise with Third World struggles for national liberation. While expressing a general sympathy with workers everywhere, most did not take much interest in workers' struggles in the West. Solidarity's newspaper had hardly any international news.

Solidarity lacked a clear program and strategy for overthrowing the bureaucratic regime and creating a democratic worker-ruled society. The organisation's draft program made reference to socialism as one source of inspiration, along with Christianity and democracy.

Solidarity activists carried out a struggle for self-management in many workplaces, but did not have a clear understanding of the need for socialist planning.

They had illusions in the army, and did not make any serious effort to win over rank-and-file soldiers.

While Solidarity was not a consciously socialist organisation, neither was it consciously anti-socialist. As British academic Martin Myant observed in *Poland: a Crisis for Socialism* (1982): "It advocated equality and was particularly emphatic about the need for an adequate assured minimum income and an end to special privileges for a wealthy minority. Many of the specific demands were, even if the authors of the program avoided making the point, quite incompatible with capitalism."

During 1980-81, neither the government nor the leadership of Solidarity could have carried out a program of capitalist restoration, even if they had wanted to.

This was because the workers would not have allowed it. Workers in the factories were attempting to bring the enterprises under their own control, and would not have accepted handing them over to capitalist owners.

The crushing of this working-class upsurge created the conditions in which capitalist restoration could be carried out with little resistance a few years later. In the demoralisation following martial law, pro-capitalist attitudes were able to become dominant in Polish society.

Today, there is a lot of discontent with the results of the restoration of capitalism in Poland and other former Stalinist-ruled states, but still no mass revolutionary parties with a clear socialist perspective.

A mass upsurge of working class and popular discontent is necessary but not sufficient. A struggle to win the movement to a clear socialist perspective is necessary.

August 15, 1876: Historic Betrayal

Carl Bunin Peace History

August 15, 1876:

Congress passed a law to remove the Lakota Sioux and their allies from the Black Hills country of South Dakota after gold was found there. Often referred to as the

“starve or sell” bill, it provided that no further appropriations would be made for 1868 Treaty-guaranteed rations for the Sioux unless they gave up their sacred Black Hills, or Paha Sapa. That treaty had granted them the territory and hunting rights in exchange for peace.



Lakota Sioux watch as their Black Hills are invaded. Painting by Howard Terpning

[Excerpts]

STATEMENT OF MARIO GONZALEZ, ATTORNEY, CHEYENNE RIVER AND PINE RIDGE WOUNDED KNEE SURVIVORS' ASSOCIATIONS AND OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE, SUPPORTING PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL AND HISTORIC SITE TO COMMEMORATE THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE 1890 INDIAN MASSACRE AT WOUNDED KNEE CREEK, SOUTH DAKOTA, IN THE HEARING OF SEPTEMBER 25, 1990, BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS, U.S. SENATE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

[Excerpts]

Mr. Chairman, and honorable Members of the Committee, my name is Mario Gonzalez. I am an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and a descendant of Chief Lip's Band. I am appearing here today as the attorney for the Wounded Knee Survivors' Associations and the Oglala Sioux Tribe. I am honored to appear before the Committee to discuss events surrounding the December 29, 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre.

I am also related by blood to some of the victims and survivors of the massacre. Dewey Beard, the last survivor of the Battle of the Little Bighorn and an 1890 Massacre survivor, was a first cousin to my great-great-grandmother, Rattling Hawk. Dewey's real mother, Seen By Her Nation, and my great-great-grandmother, Jealous Of Her, were sisters.

One cannot understand what happened at Wounded Knee without understanding something about the Sioux people and their history.

The term "Sioux" should be distinguished from the word "Siouan," which refers to a linguistic stock that the Sioux are a part of. Other Siouan peoples include such Tribes as the Mandan, Omaha, Otoe, Winnebago and Osage. The Sioux refer to themselves as "Lakota," "Dakota," or "Nakota," depending on whether the "L," "D" or "N" dialect is used.

It is also important to understand that the term "Sioux Nation" has been used to refer to different entities at different times. According to the Indian Claims Commission, the Sioux people were divided into seven divisions:

- Mdewakantons
- Sissetons
- Wahpakootas
- Wahpetons
- Yanktonais
- Yanktons
- Tetons

The Mdewakantons, Sissetons, Wahpakootas, and Wahpetons, or eastern Sioux, are sometimes referred to as "Santee" or "Mississippi" Sioux and speak with the "D" dialect. The Yanktonais also speak with the "D" dialect. The Yanktons speak with the "N" dialect and the Tetons with the "L" dialect.

The Tetons, or the western Sioux, were sub-divided into seven bands:

- Blackfeet
- Brule
- Hunkpapa
- Minneconjou
- Oglala
- Saris Arc (No Bows)
- Two Kettle

The Teton Bands held aboriginal title to a vast territory west of the Missouri River in what are now the States of North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado. Much of this territory was held jointly with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Nations. The Big Horn Mountains were the western boundary. The Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers were the northern boundary. The Republican River was the southern boundary.

In 1874 the United States Army planned and undertook a military expedition into the Black Hills portion of the Great Sioux Reservation. The expedition was led by Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, who sent out glowing reports of gold.

This led to an invasion of the Hills by white miners and settlers in violation of the 1868 Treaty and created intense pressure on Congress to open the Hills for settlement. The influx of miners and settlers into the Hills increased when President Grant refused to enforce the Treaty and remove these trespassers. In the winter of 1875 and 1876, most of the Sioux were residing on the Great Sioux Reservation, keeping the peace they promised to maintain under the 1868 Treaty.

Others were exercising their hunting rights with their Cheyenne and Arapahoe allies near the Big Horn Mountains. Contrary to the terms of the Treaty, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs sent instructions to the hunting parties that if they did not return to the Great Sioux Reservation by January 31, 1876, they would be declared "hostile." The Sioux were under no legal obligation to return and could not return because of the weather. They were attacked, but defeated General Crook at the Battle of Rosebud and annihilated Lt. Col. Custer at the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876.

The U.S. violated Articles 11 and 16 of the 1868 Treaty by attacking the Sioux while they were exercising their right to hunt near the Bighorn Mountains. Although some refer to the Battle of the Little Bighorn as a "massacre," it was clearly a battle in which the Indians were defending their families against an egocentric Indian fighter who planned to capitalize on the event and become President of the United States.

The United States Government resented its defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. The Battle, therefore, marked the beginning of a course of dishonorable dealings by the federal government with the Sioux people to [get] revenge [for] Custer's defeat. This course has continued down to the present time.

On August 15, 1876, Congress passed an appropriations bill, often referred to as the "starve or sell" bill, which provided that no further appropriations would be made for the subsistence of the Sioux under the 1868 Treaty unless they gave up the Black Hills and reached an accommodation with the United States that would enable them to become self-supporting.

To accomplish this session, Congress requested the President to appoint a commission to negotiate an agreement with the Sioux to buy the Hills.

The 1876 Commission, however, could not obtain the requisite number of signatures required by Article 12 of the 1868 Treaty, so Congress took matters into its own hands and enacted the proposed "Agreement" into law on February 28, 1877. This enactment confiscated the Black Hills, the 1851 Treaty lands, and hunting rights recognized under the 1868 Treaty.

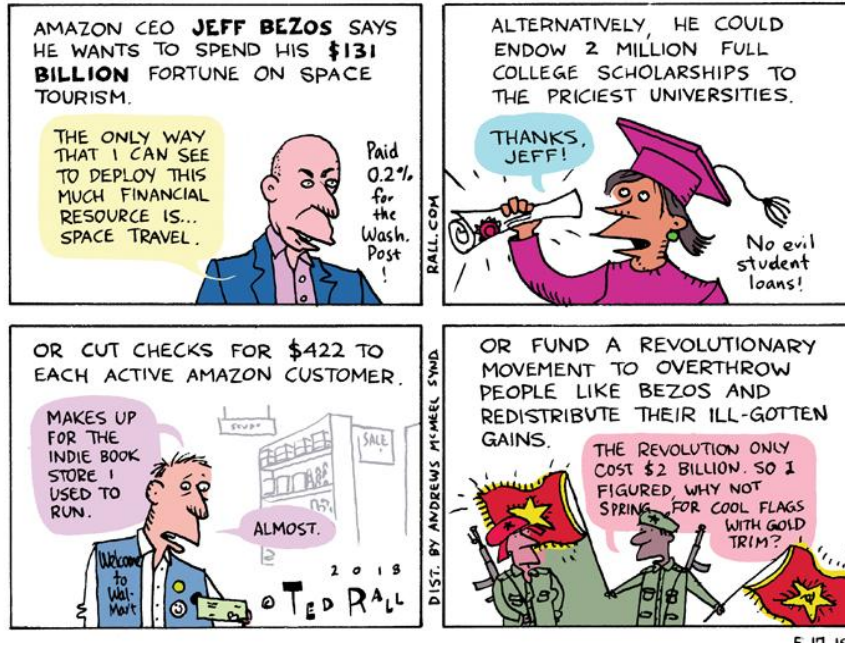
YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Military Resistance Newsletter, P.O Box 2604, N.Y., N.Y. 10108 or email contact@militaryproject.org:

Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication.

Same address to unsubscribe.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

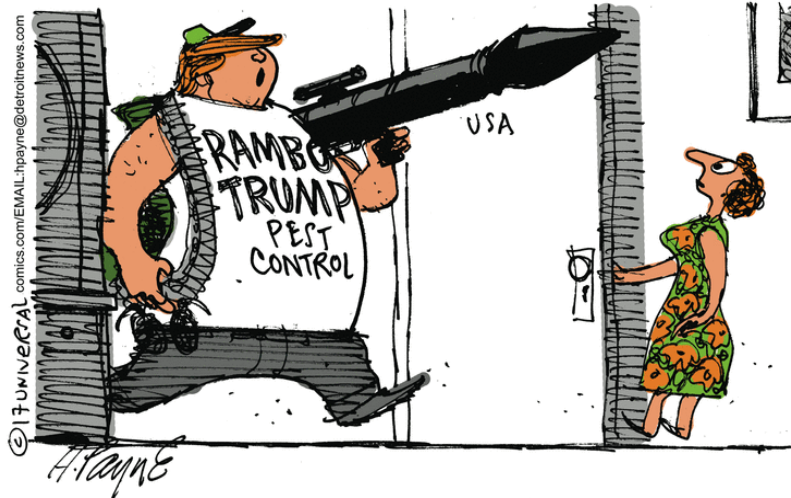


OCCUPATION PALESTINE



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."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



"GOT ILLEGALS?"

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



CHANGE WE CAN BEREAVE IN

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 Newsletter, P.O Box 2604, N.Y., N.Y. 10108.

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