

GI SPECIAL 6/24:

**U.S. Citizens Have Objections To Handing
Over \$700 Billion Of Their Tax Money To Wall
St. Rats:**

They Propose An Alternative Solution:



Angry crowd in front of New York Stock Exchange, Wall St.: 9.25.08 [PIB News] [This photo via Max Watts, Australia, who began helping GIs resisting the Vietnam War in the 1960's, and has never stopped helping soldiers opposed to Imperial wars.]

**Dutch Platoon In
Afghanistan Refuses
Combat Order:**

Will Be Sent Home; “The First Time An Entire Dutch Platoon Has Been Suspended From Active Service”

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, The Military Project & Veterans For Peace, who sent this in!]

September 26, 2008 Radio Netherlands

In Afghanistan, a Dutch Task Force Uruzgan platoon has been temporarily suspended from active service for collectively refusing to carry out an order.

The 24 scouts refused to provide support and defence to a less-well trained and experienced unit. They wanted their commander to reverse the roles, but he refused and suspended the unit.

The incident may lead to a criminal investigation.

In this case the scouts will be sent back to the Netherlands.

According to defence experts this is the first time an entire Dutch platoon has been suspended from active service.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE?

Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on 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 the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 917.677.8057

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

MND-B Soldier Dies Of Wounds From SAF Attack

September 30, 2008 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory
RELEASE No. 20080930-16

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier died of wounds at approximately 6:30 p.m. at a Coalition force Combat Support Hospital Sept. 29.

The Soldier was wounded when his patrol came under small-arms fire at approximately 5:30 p.m. in northern Baghdad.

The Soldier was quickly transported to the medical facility by air medevac; however, the Soldier later succumbed to the wounds.

San Antonio Soldier Killed In Helicopter Crash



First Sgt. Ordóñez was posthumously promoted to Sergeant Major and is survived by his wife Leticia, sons Julio and Jacob, and daughters Joyce and Judith. (News 4)

9/23 WOAI

One of the soldiers killed in a helicopter crash in Iraq last week was from San Antonio.

The CH-47 Chinook was en route to Balad Air Base after midnight on September 18th and was about 60 miles west of Basra at the time of the crash.

Seven national guardsman were killed in the crash. Four of those were from Texas, including 1st Sgt. Julio Ordóñez of San Antonio. The other three were from Oklahoma.

First Sgt. Ordóñez was posthumously promoted to Sergeant Major and is survived by his wife Leticia, sons Julio and Jacob, and daughters Joyce and Judith.

Sgt. Major Ordóñez was born in Honduras and joined the military on 29 Apr, 1982. Before joining the Texas Army National Guard he served with HHC, 6-112th in Arkansas as a helicopter engineer. His awards include: Army Achievement Medal, national

Defense Service Medal, and Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development ribbon.

The army believes a mechanical problem caused the crash. The crash is currently under investigation.

South Carolina Staff Sgt. Killed In Baghdad



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Joseph Taylor, 26, of Charleston, S.C. was killed in Baghdad, Iraq, by small arms fire on patrol Sept. 21, 2008. (AP Photo/US Army via Post and Courier)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Afghan Policeman Kills American
Soldier:
Opens Fire On U.S. Troops Inside
Paktika Police Station;**

“Three Or Four American Soldiers Wounded”

Sept. 29, 2008 The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan - An Afghan policeman opened fire on U.S. troops inside a police station in eastern Afghanistan, killing an American soldier and wounding several other people, officials said Monday.

The shooting took place in Paktia province on Sunday after American troops and Afghan police brought militant suspects to the station. An officer already at the station then opened fire, a NATO official said on condition of anonymity because the information was not supposed to be released publicly.

Paktia provincial police chief Gen. Esmatullah Alizai confirmed that a policeman shot an American. “Yes, this incident happened,” he said before abruptly hanging up the phone.

A statement from NATO’s International Security Assistance Force issued Monday said that an “altercation” took place in the station.

The Americans and Afghans were on a joint patrol when they were attacked by a roadside bomb Sunday. No one was injured.

Militants observing the attack then shot gunfire at the Americans and Afghans before fleeing. After military fighter aircraft tracked down the militants, the soldiers apprehended them and tested them for explosives residue, the NATO official said. The suspects tested positive.

Seven detainees were then taken to the Afghan police station in the Jaji district center of Paktia, where the Afghan policeman opened fire.

The police officer wounded three or four American soldiers, an Afghan interpreter for the military and one of the detainees, the NATO official said.

“It’s not indicative of the whole police force,” the NATO official said.

“It’s one crazy guy. **[Yeah, sure, whistle in the dark some more.]**”

Two Canadians Wounded During Outpost Attack West Of Kandahar City:

Rat Officer Says “It’s Not Something We Would Consider Worrisome”

September 28, 2008 Tom Blackwell, Canwest News Service

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - Two Canadian soldiers were hurt, one of them seriously, when Taliban insurgents attacked an outpost west of Kandahar City on Saturday with small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

One of the soldiers has been released from hospital, and the other is in stable condition but will be transferred to a U.S. military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany.

Both men had called their next of kin on their own.

The incident happened in the restive Panjwai district, about 30 kilometres west of the city, in a combat outpost - one of the smallest of the fortified bases Canada maintains in the Kandahar countryside.

The insurgents attacked first with small-arms fire, then with rocket-propelled grenades.

The two soldiers were injured when struck by shrapnel from the grenades.

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The two soldiers were injured when struck by shrapnel from the grenades, said Cade [Colonel Jamie Cade, deputy commander of Canada’s mission in Kandahar].

Cade said assaults on Canadian outposts such as the one Saturday are nothing unusual.

“It’s pretty much a standard tactic we’ve been encountering. It’s not something we would consider worrisome,” he said.

More Stupid, Lying U.S. Command Propaganda Blows Up:

“Militants Battling U.S.-Allied Pakistani Forces Are Getting Weapons And Reinforcements From Afghanistan”

“Movement Is Taking Place To Pakistan From Afghanistan”

“It’s Coming. Heavy Weapons Are Coming. The Militants Are Coming”

[Remember all that lying bullshit propaganda from U.S. command about how everything in Afghanistan would be fine if only those nasty militants quit coming over from Pakistan to fight the Occupation. Oops. T]

Sep 29 Reuters

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (Reuters) - Militants battling Pakistani forces are getting weapons and reinforcements from Afghanistan, security officials said on Monday, vowing no let-up in their offensive in the northwest.

Government forces launched an offensive in the Bajaur region on the Afghan border in August after years of complaints from U.S. and Afghan officials that Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan were getting help from Pakistani border areas such as Bajaur.

Now the tables have turned and the militants locked in heavy fighting with Pakistani forces are getting help from the Afghan side of the border, officials said.

“The Pakistan-Afghan border is porous and is now causing trouble for us in Bajaur,” a senior security source in the military told a news briefing.

“Now movement is taking place to Pakistan from Afghanistan,” said the official, who along with a colleague at the briefing, declined to be identified.

The officials did not blame the Afghan government for sending militants across the border but called on Kabul and U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan forces to stop the flow.

“Stop the reverse flow in Bajaur. It’s coming. Heavy weapons are coming. The militants are coming,” a second Pakistani official said.

“The Mamund valley is likely to erupt, in our view, in about 48 to 72 hours,” one of the officials said.

Resistance Action

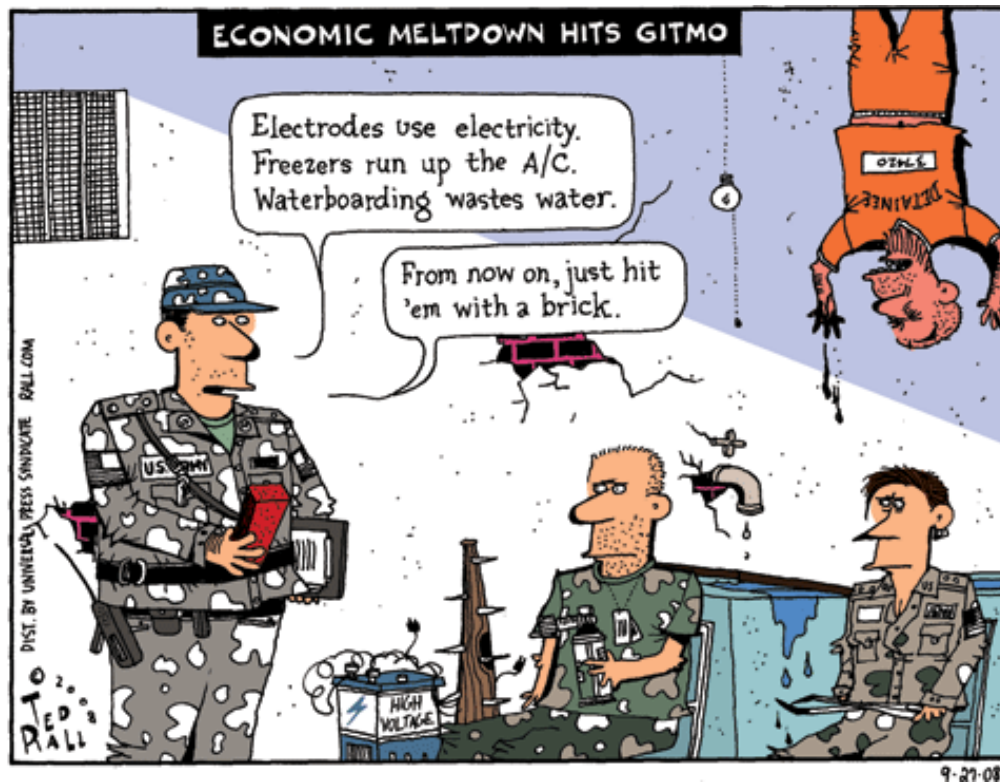
Sep 27 (AFP) & September 28, 2008 By RAHIM FAIEZ Associated Press Writer & September 29, 2008 (AP) & (CNN)

Three policemen were killed in Ghazni on Friday when militants linked to Taliban attacked their patrol, he said.

In Kandahar province, a bomber on a motorbike attacked a border police convoy in Spin Boldak district, killing four policemen. The blast wounded two officers.

Guerrillas targeting an Afghan provincial council chief killed four of his bodyguards in the southern city of Kandahar. They tried to kill Mohammad Hashim, the provincial council chief of neighboring Zabul province, said Fauwzia, a council member who goes by one name. The attack late Sunday sparked a clash between Hashim's bodyguards and the militants in which four bodyguards were killed, she said.

TROOP NEWS



Good Times From Iraq!

“I Know Someone In Big Army Is Reading This So I Will Say This”

“Have You People Not Picked Up On The Fact That The More You Mess With Me With The More Hell I Will Raise???”

“I In No Way Support Military Action In Afghanistan” “I Think There Was Never Really An Objective And If There Was One We Screwed That One Up Too”



[Thanks to Katherine G, Pham Binh, The Military Project & Ward Reilly, Veteran, for sending in.]

September 17, 2008 By Casey J Porter

Whew! I finally have the time to sit down and type something out.

Actually I am on radio watch, again. But for over a week now I have been on a sandbag detail for the Battalion.

I am the Sergeant in charge of it and I hate it.

It's not the Soldiers I don't like, it's everything else.

Our Command Sergeant Major (CSM) has extended the detail and added tasks to it without warning.

We were given the order to rearrange the sandbag entry ways into a bunker because they did not look professional. After completing that task the very next day we were told to tear down the entry ways and the reinforcing sandbag walls on the concrete bunker and redo all of it.

Had we done something wrong?

No, we had in-fact improved on the original job.

But we were still ordered to tear it all down because it was a mix of cloth and plastic style sandbags.

The cloth style sandbags were there from the original job and we re-used them to fix the bunker. There was never any guidance given to the types of sandbags used. There is also no safety difference in the two types of bags.

These Soldiers have done nothing wrong.

This is not a detail to be given as punishment for anything.

The people on the detail are not people who have helped me make my films or anything.

We have been working as long as nine hours during the day in the hottest season of the year.

Many of the bunkers we have been doing don't really seem to serve a safety purpose.

Some of the bunkers we are working on seem to have no real safety value except to look as if we have done something "high-speed" in Army terms. You might refer to it as "looking pretty".

Some of these bunkers we work so hard on are right outside hard-shell buildings that are already reinforced with sandbags.

Why would you, in a rocket or mortar attack, run out of your reinforced room into a bunker that provides the same level, or less in some cases, of safety? I hope no one scratches their heads when people do not re-enlist.

I also got fucked out of my leave.

I am coming in November now.

When I asked my new Sergeant about it he asked me: "Did you re-enlist?" My answer was no.

All the people in this Company who are going on leave in October have kids or re-enlisted. My leave was still going to go through Delta Company, but they fucked me.

You know, you might not agree with my view on things, but don't act like a spoiled brat because you couldn't shut me down.

I know someone in big Army is reading this so I will say this:

Have you people not picked up on the fact that the more you mess with me with the more hell I will raise???

Keep it up if you want, but I am unbreakable.

Big Army, you need me, I don't need you.

I am behind on so many things. I wanted to make a rebuttal video to that video I posted about the Soldier who made a pro McCain ad.

I am not going to make a support Obama video though. I know that many people who support me are Obama supporters.

I will say that I like the fact that he voted against the war in Iraq and stuck to his guns about it. Clearly, he was right.

But I don't see him bringing an end to this mess.

It's no secret that he has met with defense contractors and you know what that means.

I think what he is going to do is pull troops out of Iraq but just ship them over to Afghanistan.

He might draw down troops to make himself look good, but in the end there is just too much money in it for him to put it all to an end.

I will never, and have never, understood why people support political candidates with so much fervor.

They should be questioned, scrutinized, and kept in check. Not treated like rock stars.

We already know McCain is a bastard. I think it is because the American people think that if they just vote in the Presidential election they are doing their part. Now, I know there are Obama supporters who also do much more than just support him and him alone.

But I just do not trust him or anyone else. To get to the level they're at now they had to play the standard political game.

Until we fix the system we can not expect a broken one to give us great results.

Bush called for troop reductions in Iraq. Aw, how sweet of him! He is drawing down a Brigades worth of troops in Iraq. That is about 4,000 troops out of 145,000.

But is he really drawing down troops? No, not at all.

That Brigade he is referring too is most likely my Brigade. When we leave, which can't come soon enough, we will most likely not be replaced by anyone.

But the Brigade that would normally fill our spot in the endless war will be sent to Afghanistan.

You know, that other country in the Middle East where we have completely dropped the ball. But to most Americans that is the acceptable war.

Although my main focus is the war here in Iraq, I in no way support Military action in Afghanistan.

I think there was never really an objective and if there was one we screwed that one up too.

By where is that one guy? Damn, what is his name? I can't remember... I think it's... Oh, yeah! Osama Bin Laden!

But I'm sure he will be ok. He smart enough to know to hide out in Saudi Arabia, the country we would never attack. No, I am not saying we should move south and pick a fight with them.

Draft Charlie Wilson! You know, I really like that film.

But I like it as a film, not as proof of historical fact. Separate the fiction from the fact and you will quickly see that he was no hero. But again, I really like do like the film.

I still think Transformers is more fact based though. An old beat up Camaro could still whoop the crap out of a Saleen S281 Mustang in a street race or in a giant robot death match.

Casey J Porter

Troops Cordially Invited:
Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

Outprocessing UA Marines At Quantico

There was enough comment from many Marines present who's lives intersected with those being processed out to indicate that many of them had thought of going UA as well; in fact some had gone UA but then had decided to be retained.

By Robert Dove, Cambridge AFSC, GI Rights Hotline, via Vietnam Veterans Against The War 9.18.08

I've had long talk with a Marine released from Quantico, VA and he gave me lots of information about his experience there. I thought it was worth passing on.

Marines who are being processed out are held in Pruitt Hall (2074 Anderson Ave), 2nd Deck, which is a separate wing of the building. The group is known collectively as the Casual Platoon.

Folks are housed 2 to a room; each room has its own bathroom complete with shower. People are allowed to have pretty much anything they want in their rooms (TV, electronic games, etc.). They are allowed to have cell phones.

There is a lounge (where smoking is allowed) and people can hang out for conversation, TV and movie watching and, yes, pool.

The facility holds about 30 people.

There are no more jump suits. If you don't bring cammies with you when you turn yourself in, they will make you buy them.

Wake up is at 6 am and work is done in two groups (S4 and G5). One group works from 7:30-3, the other from 8-4.

There is a two hour space in the middle of the day (11-1) as a break for rest, lunch and formation (headcount).

During the work week, formation happens at 6:45 am, 12:30 pm and at the end of the day. The work week is Monday thru Friday and either Saturday or Sunday.

Those who are on "Extended Punishment Duty", report to the duty person from 6-8 pm Monday through Friday for additional work, which can last 2 hours and frequently lasts a lot less.

On the Saturday or Sunday when you are not working, you need to check in with the duty person every 2 hours.

The work groups are essentially divided up into office maintenance and groundskeeping, with some overlap. The hardest time is of course on the one day off from work, when it is easy to get bored.

When someone turns themselves in, there is a period of time when nothing happens; then they are given Non Judicial Punishment.

Right before the NJP, they are given the opportunity to agree to be retained in the Marines.

After NJP begins, you are on restriction (which means all that formation stuff, checking in to see you have disappeared again).

The Marine I've been working with was at Quantico 7 weeks and it was almost 3 weeks before he was NJP'd, during which time his girl friend was allowed to visit on weekends.

But there is no consistency nor any rational plan to the way things work.

During his time, he saw people turn themselves in, be NJP'd in a matter of hours, and discharged in 3 weeks time.

He also saw people sent almost immediately to the brig.

It did not appear that it had anything to do with being arrested or turning yourself in, but, in the case of the brig, some less obvious judgment about being a flight risk.

There was some speculation among the Marines there that the brig might have been used when there was no more room in the dormitory.

The length of time at Quantico seemed likewise to have no pattern, but rather simply a matter of who was on hand when to do the paper work and whether they knew what to do and whether or not they cared about doing it.

It was observed that there were no staff assigned primarily to handle this process; the officers all had other duties as well. There were two corporals whose job was described as "troop handlers." They were decent enough and did not seem to be very intent on punishing anyone.

There was enough comment from many Marines present who's lives intersected with those being processed out to indicate that many of them had thought of going UA as well; in fact some had gone UA but then had decided to be retained.

So there was some sympathy for those at Pruitt Hall.

The corporals also chose someone from among the Casual Platoon to do the wake up and act as a conduit for information and actually do the formation drill itself. So, the "leader" would do the head count and then simply report to one of the corporals that all was in order.

"Casual" indeed!

Words of advice from the Marine who has just been released:

Show up in your uniform so they cannot possibly charge you with the intention of not returning (and bring those cammies along, too); and don't turn yourself into other bases and especially the local police (presumably it goes better for you if you don't make the Corps do any more work than it has to when processing you out).

Hope this is helpful.

My own experience has been that when I can tell service members recent stories about others who have gone through the process, that it is very grounding for them and can help with the terrible fear that many of them experience when contemplating turning themselves in.

THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH; ALL HOME, NOW



A 101st Airborne soldier as his position comes under fire. Photograph: Sean Smith; Guardian [UK] May 19, 2008. [Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

“Top-Sheeting” At VA Fucks Disabled Troops;

“The Error Rate On Cases Remains High”

“Veterans With Identical Disabilities Are Still Receiving Different Ratings From Different Regional Offices”

September 29, 2008 By Rick Maze, Army Times [Excerpts]

A Veterans Affairs Department requirement for all claims processors to complete 80 hours of training a year does not seem to be working, a key House lawmaker said Sept. 18.

Rep. John Hall, D-N.Y., chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs disability assistance subcommittee, said VA “seems to be falling short” because fewer than half its claims processors are passing an open-book certification exam.

In addition, Hall said, veterans with identical disabilities are still receiving different ratings from different regional offices, and the error rate on cases remains high.

VA has hired about 3,100 more people in the past two years to help manage a backlog of about 400,000 claims — depending on who is counting and how — and processing an original claim takes six months, on average.

Michael Ratajczak, a decision review officer in VA's Cleveland regional office, told the House subcommittee that finding time for training is difficult for VA workers because the workload is large and managers are reluctant to allow time to study.

Ratajczak, testifying on behalf of the employee union, said concentrating on production goals at a time when veterans' claims are increasingly complex hurts veterans and is “disrespectful to claims processors.”

He suggested managers who push for faster work might benefit from spending half of their day working on claims “to keep a fresh perspective of what it takes.”

Nicholas Bartzis, who also works at the Cleveland office, said he never completed the promised formal training because “case production requirements for the station trumped my individual training needs.”

More training, he said, would eliminate instances in which “benefits may be awarded to some veterans but are denied to other veterans ... similarly situated.”

Ronald Abrams, joint executive director of the National Veterans Legal Services Program, agreed that the production push is part of the problem.

“Most of the most egregious VA errors are a result of premature adjudications,” he said.

Bartzis described a practice that he called “top-sheeting” in which claims processors who are behind on their productivity goals quickly process a file “and hope that somehow the claim is rated correctly ... or any error is not caught.”

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

Resistance Action

Sept 28 (Reuters) & By Amal Jayasinghe AFP & 9.29 Reuters

A roadside bomb wounded the mayor of Samarra, Mahmoud Khalif, and four of his guards in central Samarra, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb struck the convoy of the governor of Salahuddin province, wounding three of his guards, on Saturday north of Tikrit, 150 km (95 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

In clashes with police on Saturday in Tuz Khurmato, 170 km (105 miles) north of Baghdad, three policemen were wounded.

Insurgents targeting a police vehicle in a drive-by shooting wounded one policeman in southern Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

The highway from the Iraqi capital Baghdad to Khanaqin is regarded as one of the most dangerous because of the regular roadside bomb attacks, landmine explosions and ambushes. On the highway, Iraqi soldiers have their camps on hilltops with checkpoints at regular intervals. On Sunday morning, the Kurdish mayor of the nearby Saadiyah town, Ahmad al-Zarqushi, was wounded in a roadside bomb attack, police Major Shriko Baajilan said, adding that six of his men were also wounded.

Insurgents killed an off-duty policeman in a drive-by shooting in western Mosul, police said.

An unidentified sniper shot dead two Iraqi soldiers and one civilian in a checkpoint in Zayouna district, eastern Baghdad, police said.

One policeman and one civilian were wounded by a roadside bomb in Kirkuk, police said.

Guerrillas killed two brothers working for the Iraqi security forces while they were off duty in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATIONS**

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. Frederick Douglas, 1852

Cops Vs Protesters At The RNC



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: September 18, 2008
Subject: Cops vs Protesters at the RNC

Cops vs Protesters at the RNC

This protester was being arrested, because the cops said he was inciting a riot. This was of course bull shit. This man turned out to be an ex-Army medic. He was filming the police with his small digital camera, and after he was arrested, he never got his memory card back. He was held for 36 hours, and released after the charges were dropped. I had met him a couple of days before, we exchanged information, and he called me when I returned to Portland. He is a devoted activist, and a very kind man.

Mike Hastie

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004**

**“When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, “No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country.”
-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq**

“Kick’ m In The Ass”

[Huey Long, later Governor of Louisiana, after the great Louisiana flood of 1927:]

“Listen up!

“They’re lying!

“The President’s lying! The rich fat jackals that are drowning you will do it again and again and again.

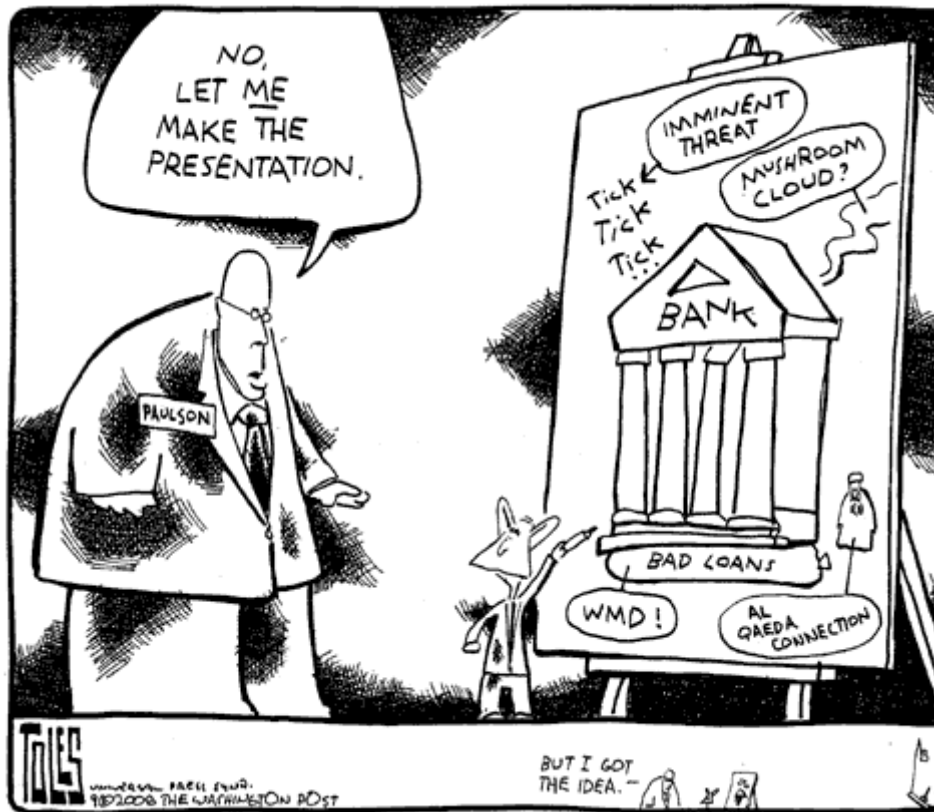
“They lead you into imperialist wars for profit, they take away your schools and your hope, and when you complain, they blame Blacks and Jews and immigrants.

“Then they drown your kids.

“I say, Kick’m in the ass and take your share of the wealth you created.”

[Excerpt from The Armed Madhouse; Greg Palast; Dutton; New York City 2006.]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**George W. Bush Got It Absolutely,
Totally, 100% Right!**

“Do not fight for a dying regime. It is not worth your life.” [March 19, 2003, ABC News]

**TRAITOR
DOMESTIC ENEMY
UNFIT FOR COMMAND
UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE**



(AFP/Jim Watson)

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!**

**NEED SOME TRUTH?
CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

CLASS WAR REPORTS

The Working Class



“This Past Week Marks A Decisive Turn In The Evolution Of American Capitalism,” Wrote David

Wessel Of The Wall Street Journal”

“The Capitalist System Has Failed Spectacularly”

“If Wall Street Gets Away With This It Will Represent A Historic Swindle Of The American Public--All Sugar For The Villains, Lasting Pain And Damage For The Victims”

September 22, 2008 Editorial, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

THE BUSH administration’s treasury secretary, Henry Paulson, is demanding the financial equivalent of martial law--\$700 billion and a blank check to rescue the Wall Street system from the catastrophe caused by the blind greed of the super-rich parasites who run it.

“This past week marks a decisive turn in the evolution of American capitalism,” wrote David Wessel of the Wall Street Journal.

“Black September, the biggest financial shock since the Great Depression, is prompting a Republican Treasury secretary and Federal Reserve chairman to devise the most muscular government intervention in the economy since the Great Depression in an effort to prevent the economic devastation of the Great Depression.”

Indeed, the meltdown on Wall Street is an indictment of the whole free-market system, whose drive to enrich a tiny minority produces chaos in the best of times, and untold misery and suffering in the worst.

What Paulson wants to do is save this system at the expense of the rest of us--so the same priorities can be re-imposed.

A national health care program, patterned on Medicare? Too expensive.

A spending plan to rebuild crumbling public schools? Unaffordable.

A government program to rebuild collapsing infrastructure and put the unemployed to work?

Naïve nostalgia for the New Deal of the 1930s.

But now that the workings of the market caused some of Wall Street's most revered names to disappear overnight and threatened the wealth of the superrich, it's time to give Treasury Secretary Paulson--himself a former Wall Street CEO--unlimited personal power to spend hundreds of billions of taxpayer money to buy up the bad debts tied to the housing crisis.

Now Paulson wants total control of \$700 billion of taxpayer money to buy up bad mortgage-backed securities from both U.S. and foreign financial institutions.

"Comrade Paulson seizes the economy's commanding heights," economist and New York Times columnist Paul Krugman wrote on his blog in an ironic reference to socialism.

But Paulson's nationalizations and bailout plans are the polar opposite of socialism, an economic system in which a democratically planned economy is controlled by the workers who produce the wealth.

On the contrary, Paulson wants to dispense with even the veneer of democracy that exists under the Washington system--and concentrate in his own hands complete control over huge parts of the economy.

At this moment of acute crisis, the realities of the U.S. political system are on display.

The people who matter most aren't voters and citizens, or even those elected to represent them in Congress or the White House.

Instead, crucial government decisions are being personally carried out by a man worth \$500 million, who will act in the interests of his class.

"If Wall Street gets away with this," wrote William Greider in the Nation, "it will represent a historic swindle of the American public--all sugar for the villains, lasting pain and damage for the victims."

It's impossible to foresee the next twists and turns in a crisis that was unimaginable just a short time ago.

But one thing is already crystal clear: The capitalist system has failed spectacularly.

RECEIVED

Re: 1st Brig. 3rd Inf. Div.

From: [xxx Armed Services]

To: GI Special

Sent: September 28, 2008
Subject: 1st Brig. 3rd Inf. Div.

Col. Cloutier is clueless.

My God, what the fuck is wrong with people if they can believe this is a good thing.

[XXX]

They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.



Reply: Word up. T



GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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