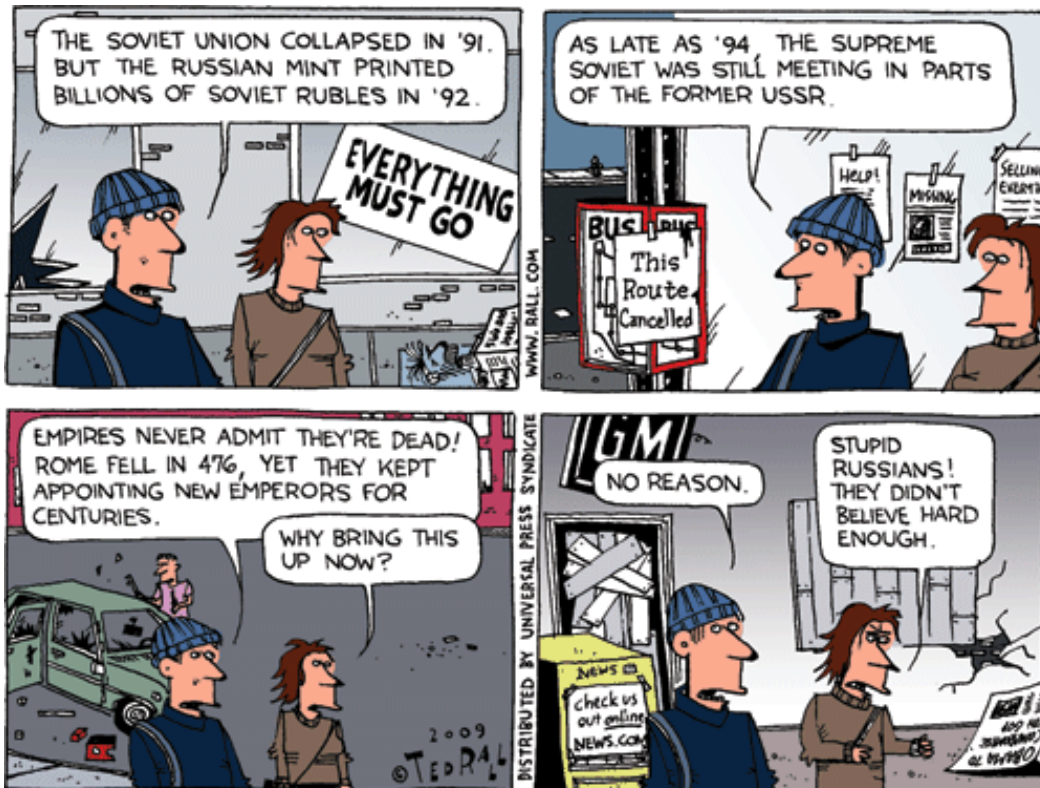


## GI SPECIAL 7A10:

### REGIME CHANGE:



## Shedding Blood Is The Objective:

[Update]

“Seems That If Only Your Mind Got Fucked Up In Battle, That’s Not Worth A Warm Bucket Of Spit To The Powers-That-Be”

From: Sandy Kelson  
To: GI Special  
Sent: January 19, 2009  
Subject: Purple Hearts

JANUARY 8, 2009 By Sandy Kelson [Military Project & Veterans For Peace]

**“You have to had shed blood by an instrument of war at the hands of the enemy of the United States,” (Mr. Bircher) said. “Shedding blood is the objective.”**

**The New York Times reports today that the Pentagon has decided that Purple Hearts will not be awarded to those soldiers suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).**

**Seems that if only your mind got fucked up in battle, that’s not worth a warm bucket of spit to the powers-that-be.**

They cite the usual reasons—including the canard that PTSD can be easily faked, so how then can the military know who is really deserving of their PTSD Purple Heart? Better to continue to insist that the medal is for physical injury only.

I have some thoughts on this.

The first is that the wounded war vet has symbolic value in our culture: we love nothing more than parading the gimps of war at special events, where we can honour those men (and, okay if we have to, women) who have sacrificed a limb in service to the nation.

Look, we say. Look at what he was willing to do.

He gave his left arm (or maybe his left nut) so that you might be free. Doesn't that inspire you, young man, to want to do the same for your country?

If the Pentagon starts awarding Purple Hearts to those with PTSD, what are you going to do with them at special ceremonies?

The tortured souls will duck when the 21-gun salute is sounded, and take cover when the Blue Angels fly overhead. We certainly don't want to suggest to anyone that war is hell — that the demons picked up in a war zone are forever, and that really, that life could be your future if you visit your local recruiting officer.

**I had a long-term relationship with a vet who had a Purple Heart — for losing most of his leg — and who also suffered PTSD.**

**Ultimately, it was the PTSD that made his life close to unbearable, and with no support offered to him, he self-medicated by drinking at least a bottle of Jameson’s every day.**

**I also find myself wondering if the Pentagon has heard that the “mind-body” distinction that we insist on in our philosophy and religions, etc, doesn’t quite hold in the medical literature.**

**The brain is part of the body, and bathed in a constant stream of stress hormones, triggered by memories, the physical self as well as the mental self are affected.**

The really cynical part of me wonders if this is yet another defense in the “we don’t torture” bullshit.

See, if we subject someone to sleep deprivation, stress positions, barking dogs, humiliation—well, we haven’t really hurt them, have we?

They may have PTSD, but we don’t recognize that as injury. It’s just all in their heads, and the Pentagon is not interested in what is going on in soldiers’ heads. It just wants their bodies for cannon fodder.

**If the mind comes back shattered, well, that’s not the Pentagon’s problem.**

**Did you know that those who do have Purple Hearts get priority treatment at VA medical facilities?**

**So, those who are suffering the psychological effects of war get fucked over that way, too.**

**No Purple Heart, go back to the end of the line.**

**We should be ashamed. We should push for recognition that PTSD is a physical injury that requires treatment, and goddamnit, it deserves a medal — whatever that fucking medal is worth.**

**If it gets you the golden ticket into treatment, then give it to them.**

**After all, haven’t we been saying for years that a “mind is a terrible thing to waste?”**

This morning’s NYT shares the Pentagon’s view of not awarding the Purple Heart for PTSD.

Its editorial board urges immediate care for those with PTSD, but it provides no suggestions for how to change the military so that treatment will be easier to come by.

**Well if one has his arm broken without blood being spilt, or suffers a concussion with permanent brain damage, or Agent Orange disease, or knocked unconscious by an enemy head smack with an entrenching tool - No purples?**

**What about a bullet wound of the foot inflicted by a fellow soldier at the request of the shot soldier.**

**After all there is blood and it was inflicted by PTSD contracted as a direct result of combat.**

**Grown people arguing about this??**

I'd like to aid in giving purple hearts (interpret that as you will).

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

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

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Baghdad Car Bomb Wounds Two U.S. Soldiers**

01/20/09 The Associated Press

A car bomb targeted a U.S. convoy shortly after 3 p.m. in a northwestern area of Baghdad called Mansour, killing three Iraqi civilians and wounding the two U.S. soldiers, the U.S. military said.

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### **Iraq Checkpoint Flowers Can't Mask Fear And Danger**

01/18/09 Mohammed Abbas, Reuters [Excerpts]

Flowers and paint cannot mask bullet and shrapnel marks in the concrete blast walls of Iraq's checkpoints, where recruits like 23 year-old Jawad Jaddou face frequent attacks doing one of the world's most dangerous jobs.

"When I leave the house I tell them not to ask for me ... I won't get married because I have this job. I can't leave a woman and children on their own," Jaddou said.

Some blast walls are painted with idyllic images of Iraq, such as palm groves, and many checkpoints are adorned with garlands of plastic flowers to make them look less forbidding. One features flowers planted in old artillery shells.

But reminders of the extreme danger people at checkpoints face are often close by.

Near Jaddou's post is a picture of a police captain who died at a checkpoint, one of many such posters commemorating the sacrifice of dead security men that are put up close to roadblocks around Iraq.

Many were killed stopping bombers. Violence has dropped sharply in Iraq in the past year, but insurgents have shown they are still able to conduct spectacular bomb attacks.

Last week, a bomb left near a checkpoint a few minutes walk from Jaddou's killed a guard who had been married for a fortnight.

Soldiers manning another checkpoint were fatalistic.

"You could die in your in wife's lap ... If I kept thinking I might die, I wouldn't do anything," said soldier Abu Ahmed.

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



U.S. soldiers examine the remains of a vehicle used in a car bomb attack in Falluja December 28, 2008. REUTERS/Muhanned Faisal

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# Local Soldier Dies In Afghanistan



Photo of Jessie Cassada taken Nov. 21, 2008. SPECIAL TO THE TIMES-NEWS

January 7, 2009 By Mark Schulman, Times-News Staff Writer

A 2007 East Henderson High School graduate died Tuesday while fighting in Afghanistan, according to a friend. Lance Cpl. Jessie Cassada, 19, died in combat, his best friend, Cameron Sproles, said in an interview.

The last time Sproles spoke to Cassada was Christmas Day.

“He was a great guy,” Sproles said. “Everyone said he was a Southern gentleman and was well-mannered. He really loved his family and friends.”

Cassada joined the Marine Corps and was deployed to Afghanistan in November.

Sproles created a Facebook page online dedicated to his friend. It reads: “To remember Jessie, he was a joy to all of us. Jessie lost his life at the young age of 19 overseas fighting for our freedom. Jessie, you were my best friend and you are going to be missed greatly.”

According to the Operation Enduring Freedom casualty database [icasualties.org](http://icasualties.org), an unidentified soldier died Tuesday in Southern Afghanistan. The military has not released any details on the combat death.

Cassada’s stepfather is Carroll London, his mother is Pat Cassada and he has two little sisters, Lisa, 15, and Crystal, 17, according to Sproles.

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## Acting Corporal Richard ‘Robbo’ Robinson Killed In Helmand

19 Jan 09 Ministry of Defence

It is with great sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that Acting Corporal Richard 'Robbo' Robinson, from 1st Battalion The Rifles, was killed in Helmand province, Afghanistan, on Saturday 17 January 2009.

Acting Corporal Robinson died as a result of enemy fire during an ambush north of Sangin District Centre while on a patrol to dominate ground with his Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT) and the Afghan National Army (ANA) platoon with whom he had been operating since September 2008.

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## Canadian Soldier Wounded In IED Attack In Panjwaii

Jan. 19 2009 CTV.ca

A Canadian soldier has been seriously wounded in an improvised explosive device attack while conducting a routine foot patrol in Panjwaii district in Afghanistan on Monday morning.

The incident occurred at about 9 a.m. local time, while Canadian and Afghan National Security Forces soldiers were on a joint patrol about 23 kilometres west of Kandahar City.

The wounded soldier has been transported to a medical facility at Kandahar Airfield where he is in fair condition, Canadian military officials confirmed Monday.

**In the last seven weeks alone, IEDs have killed 10 Canadian soldiers and wounded several others.**

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## Afghan Occupation Forces Supply Route Attacked Again

January 19, 2009 By Ibrahim Shinwari, LANDIKOTAL, Pakistan (Reuters)

LANDIKOTAL, Pakistan (Reuters)

Supplies to Western forces in Afghanistan through Pakistan's Khyber Pass were briefly suspended on Monday after militants attacked an army camp, killing a paramilitary soldier and wounding 10, an official said.

Pakistani supply routes from the port of Karachi to land-locked Afghanistan are vital for Western forces battling a resurgent Taliban.

A government official in Khyber said early on Monday supplies through the pass had been suspended indefinitely after militants attacked a military camp with rocket-propelled grenades.

But he later said the route had been reopened after security forces captured 10 men suspected of carrying out the attack.

Pakistani Taliban have stepped up attacks on the main route through the Khyber Pass since last year and security forces responded with an offensive in late December to clear militants off the route.

The Sunday night attack was the most serious in the region since then.

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## Resistance Action

14 January 2009 BBC & Jan 17 (KUNA) & AFP & Jan. 19 (Xinhua) & (AP) & (AFP) & January 20, 2009 Agence France-Presse

**Taliban militants stormed a police post near Afghanistan's western border with Turkmenistan, killing three policemen and capturing eight others, local officials said on Tuesday.**

**The armed insurgents attacked the post in the northwestern province of Badghis on Monday, deputy provincial governor Abdul Ghani Sabir told AFP.**

**Sabir had no information on any casualties among the attackers.**

**Provincial police chief Mohammad Ayob Niazyar said reinforcements had been scrambled to the remote area, where Taliban attacks are rarely reported.**

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**On Tuesday several rockets were again fired at a NATO supply depot terminal on the outskirts of Peshawar, damaging a number of trucks.**

An attack was carried out on a military convoy in Afghanistan's eastern province of Nangarhar this afternoon in Chapparhar district. Ahmad Zia, spokesman for Nangarhar governor, said three four police sustained injuries.

A roadside bomb struck a police van in Khost city, wounding one police officer, head of crime department of police Mohammad Guldad told Xinhua.

A car bomb attack near the gates of a U.S. base in eastern Afghanistan on Monday killed one Afghan and wounded several more, officials said. The attack targeted Forward Operating Base Chapman in Khost City, near the border with Pakistan, said Lt. Cmdr. James Gater, a spokesman for the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan.

Explosives mounted on a bicycle blew up Tuesday in the centre of the southern city of Kandahar as a police vehicle passed by, witnesses said. "Two policemen were killed,



one policeman and a civilian have been wounded,” said the provincial government spokesman, Zalmay Ayobi.

A deadly roadside bomb exploded under a police vehicle in the southern Helmand province on Monday, a local official said. Two policemen were killed.

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## TROOP NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY  
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR  
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



Staff Sgt. Joshua Rath's body is escorted by a U.S. Army Honor Guard at his funeral at East Lawrence Cemetery in Cado, Ala. on Jan. 19, 2009. Rath, 22, died Jan. 8 from a suicide bomb while patrolling a market in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/The Decatur Daily, John Godbey)

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## **Dugway's Secret Tests:**

# **Vets Link Health Problems To Chemical Exposure**

## **“I Have No Idea What I Was Exposed To,” Long Said. “They Should Have Let Us Know What We Were Close To”**

### **“They’re Getting The Information They Want From My Body, But I Have To Pay For It ... I’m Still A Lab Rat”**

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in.

[She writes: “I knew a man who had been in the nuke tests in Nevada who died of cancer. He knew where it came from. He told of how he tried to become one with the ground in his foxhole when it went off. With his face pressed into the earth, it was brighter than staring into the sun.]

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**Government records show there may be hundreds, possibly thousands, more veterans like Anderson and Bunn — soldiers who were told shadowy military tests at Dugway and elsewhere wouldn't hurt them but who decades later can't explain what's happening to their bodies.**

Dec. 28, 2008 By Stephen Speckman, Deseret News [Excerpts]

Dwight Bunn easily becomes breathless and says he has lung scarring from exposure during chemical tests conducted in secrecy on troops while he was stationed at the Army's Dugway Proving Ground in Tooele County from 1962 to 1963.

David W. Davidson tried to hold his breath while being gassed at Dugway back in 1961. But he now has a laundry list of health maladies, any one of which may be connected to that day 47 years ago.

A doctor told Samuel Waller Anderson Jr. that the peripheral neuropathy in his feet and numbness in his hands was caused by some kind of exposure to chemicals. Anderson was stationed at Dugway from 1952 to 1956 and also was a guinea pig during tests at the isolated 1,300-square-mile Army base.

Government records show there may be hundreds, possibly thousands, more veterans like Anderson and Bunn — soldiers who were told shadowy military tests at Dugway and elsewhere wouldn't hurt them but who decades later can't explain what's happening to their bodies.

The claims made by Bunn, Davidson and Anderson are also the type of stories that the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs want to hear. Both departments in September set up a Web site, [fhp.osd.mil/CBexposures](http://fhp.osd.mil/CBexposures), which is partly intended to jog the memories of former soldiers, most of whom are now in their 60s and 70s.

The Web site details what types of chemical and biological agents were used in myriad tests at Dugway and other military bases and even at sea. The tests all took place toward the end of World War II and during the Cold War from the 1950s to the 1970s.

**Back then, subjects used in the tests were told to keep quiet, and for decades, most stayed true to their government's heavy-handed request.**

In some tests, soldiers simply weren't told what was happening at the time, and to this day, they still don't know much about what went on.

As of this month, the Defense Department had received e-mails from 119 individuals who had visited the Web site. Department officials had responded to 107 of the inquiries, in some cases directing vets to VA sources for help with filing claims.

A telephone hotline listed at the site has drawn 43 calls. Out of 614 benefit claims filed with the VA attempting to link old military tests with current health issues, 39 have been granted, according to a Defense Department official over health affairs.

**But at least a few former soldiers say they feel like lab rats again, giving the government what it wants but getting little in return.**

As of this past June, the U.S. Force Health and Readiness Programs counted 10,500 veterans who may have been exposed to toxic chemicals during more than two decades of tests, which government officials say are no longer conducted on humans.

"As part of this accelerated program, experiments used service members as human volunteers to determine the effects of chemical agents, as well as to develop therapeutics and prophylactics," Defense Department officials now admit on their new Web site.

Bunn, 64, doesn't figure the Defense Department or VA will come through for him, but he's trying, hopeful he'll get the benefits he thinks he deserves.

He now lives in North Bend, Wash. Decades ago, he took part in Project 112, which spawned Project SHAD (Shipboard Hazard and Defense). Those projects were designed to test defenses against chemical and biological warfare on land and at sea. Many of Project 112's tests were conducted at Dugway.

**Bunn said he's been trying since 2002 to get the VA to pay for tests on his lungs that will determine the best treatment options. His lung scarring makes it hard for him to exhale, although he inhales with relative ease.**

**To date, he has had to pay about \$3,000 out of pocket for tests. A simple walk to the mailbox or playing with his granddaughter leaves the former private first class struggling to breathe. He wants relief.**

Bunn said the VA has told him that his condition is related to exposure to asbestos during childhood.

He disagrees, pointing to a time at Dugway when he spent a week in the hospital after one test.

"I'm not even sure what they were testing," Bunn said.

"They told me when they let me out that my lungs would not function correctly. But they had the greatness to write it up as an upper respiratory infection."

**On Nov. 5, Bunn contacted someone at the phone number listed on the new Web site. A month later, he was still waiting to hear about something that will help him.**

"All I want is my medical benefits," Bunn said. "I want this service-connected so that they'll pay for all these tests. I'm still a guinea pig.

**"They're getting the information they want from my body, but I have to pay for it ... I'm still a lab rat."**

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Samuel Anderson, 78, was a pilot in charge of shadowing a drone aircraft that sprayed nerve gas during tests at Dugway in 1955. A photographer on board his plane was supposed to record the drone's activity. During one flight, Anderson received an alarming call over his radio.

"They kept yelling at me, 'Return to base, return to base,'" Anderson recalled. "I wasn't really certain what the situation was. Someone told me I had flown through the (nerve gas) cloud."

Right after he landed, Anderson and the photographer stripped to their underwear and were sprayed with a decontaminant. "I thought: This is serious business. This is not play time," Anderson said.

**In the years that followed his honorable discharge from the Army as a first lieutenant in 1956, Anderson, who now lives in Knoxville, Tenn., said his feet burned after exercise.**

**He eventually was diagnosed as having neuropathy, which long term means he may completely lose feeling in his feet or even be forced to amputate one or both of them.**

After Medicare covers some of Anderson's medication, he pays about \$7,000 a year of his own money to treat the neuropathy.

He and his wife live on the stocks they have invested in over the years, and with the downturn in the economy, a lot of that money is disappearing, making the increasing cost of medication more of a worry for them.

Because Anderson didn't serve overseas, he never felt worthy of approaching the VA for benefits. The new Web site and his worsening financial situation have changed his opinion.

"I can't get it out of my mind that ... this is related to what happened to me at Dugway," Anderson said.

**Anderson told his buddy Amos E. Long about the new Web site. They were at Dugway at the same time in 1955. They now keep in touch.**

**Long, 76, lives in Alabama. For years, he has suffered problems with his feet. One doctor told him he has nerve damage.**

"When I wake up, it feels like my ankles are the size of volleyballs," said Long, who left the Army as a first lieutenant.

Long's job was in meteorology, to go out into the field at about 2 a.m. and test surface wind direction and speed prior to tests, as well as during or after tests.

He recalled a road being closed when one cloud of chemicals drifted off base.

"I don't have any idea where it went," Long said about the cloud. "All we had to do was to protect our people."

**Long had his own experience with being exposed to something, he doesn't know what, and being decontaminated afterward. He has been unsuccessful so far in getting the VA to pay for testing and treatment for his feet.**

**"I have no idea what I was exposed to," Long said. "They should have let us know what we were close to."**

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Despite what went on at Dugway and the risks soldiers took during tests, at least one man isn't claiming any related health problems.

Jerry Reed finished "Chemical School" in Alabama in 1959 near the top of his class, earning him a trip to Dugway in June 1959. He can still remember arriving.

"When they put us on that old Army bus and took us out past Saltair and down Skull Valley, I was convinced it was the end of the world and I would never go home again," he said.

Reed, 67, contrasted growing up in rural Arkansas surrounded by green trees and waist-deep grass with coming to a “forbidding” place at Dugway.

“The NCO that met us at the main gate said, ‘We don’t worry about you going AWOL, we just watch you walk away for three days and then go out and pick you up,’” he said.

Reed and Anderson have stories about tests using mosquitoes and fleas. Neither man knew exactly how the insects were being used, but they guess it may have had to do with finding a way to spread chemical or biological agents.

For other tests, Reed donned a rubber suit and would decontaminate an area where animals had been exposed to nerve agent and had died within seconds or minutes. He said the animals were doused with gasoline, burned and buried in a trench.

**Reed said he’s still trying to get his mind around how naive the soldiers were to allow themselves to be used as “guinea pigs.”**

**But it was a different climate back then, he said. “I guess we just totally believed that they would not do anything that could harm us.”**

Reed, who in the Army reached the rank of staff sergeant, said his “health issues” now are more related to age and weight and that he enjoyed 40 years of good health after Dugway. “I have no ax to grind with the Army,” he said. “I am proud of my service, strange as it was.”

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Davidson, 72, of West Haven, spent about nine months at Dugway in 1961, and he remembers how so-called volunteers were chosen for tests.

“They just said, ‘You, you, you and you,’” Davidson said.

For one test, the former sergeant remembers everyone being lined up without gas masks in a field and being gassed by something, forced to gut it out until the gas cloud went away.

“We had to stay in it and then report back,” Davidson said. “I tried to hold my breath as long as I could. When I took a breath, it took me right to my knees.”

He isn’t sure what the gas was and didn’t dare ask back then.

“We were in the service,” Davidson said. “We just obeyed. You did what you were told to.”

When asked what health problems he has today, Davidson has to retrieve a list written on a piece of paper. Prostate cancer, kidney failure, skin cancer and congestive heart failure appear to be the worst among his maladies.

**About a month ago, Davidson contacted the VA for help in paying for tests and treatments for his health conditions.**

**But he has run into a glitch: He has been told there are no records of what sort of gas was used in 1961.**

**“Good grief! They used to take us out and gas us,” he said.**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Resistance Action**

Jan 18 (Reuters) & Jan 19 (Reuters) & Jan. 20 Al Nisr Publishing & Reuters & AP

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb wounded three policemen in the Mashtal district of east Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb targeting a lorry carrying pre-cast blast walls wounded two civilians in the Yarmouk district of west Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents in a car killed two guards protecting a communications tower on Saturday in northeastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

MOSUL - Gunmen in a car shot dead an off-duty policeman on Saturday in northern Mosul, police said.

BAGHDAD - The deputy head of the U.S.-backed neighbourhood patrols programme was wounded when a bomb exploded near his house on Saturday in the al-Furat district of southwestern Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb wounded three policemen on Saturday when it targeted their patrol near central Baghdad's Al-Shaab stadium, police said.

BAGHDAD - A mortar round wounded two Iraqi soldiers on Saturday in the Jamiaa district of western Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol in the Zaafaraniya district of southeast Baghdad killed an off-duty police captain and wounded a policeman, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol wounded one soldier in east Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Another senior Iraqi education official has escaped assassination while travelling to central Baghdad on Tuesday, the government said in a statement. Five guards were injured when a roadside bomb hit the convoy of Higher Education Ministry undersecretary Ammar Aziz Mohammad Ali, police said. The deputy minister's vehicle and one other in the convoy were slightly damaged.

Police shot dead a bomber wearing an explosives belt when he tried to approach their checkpoint in western Mosul, north of Baghdad, police said. One policeman was wounded in the incident.

Three Iraqi army soldiers were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near their patrol in northern Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded five members of a U.S.- backed neighbourhood patrol on Monday in Adhamiya district of northern Baghdad, police said.

Iraqi border patrol commander Col. Abdul Majeed Mohammed was killed by a bomb placed under his truck near Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, 550 kilometers (340 miles) southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009

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

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

## OCCUPATION PALESTINE



Carlos Latuff



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# **“The Military Invasion Of The Gaza Strip By Israeli Forces Bears A Direct Relation To The Control And Ownership Of Strategic Offshore Gas Reserves”**

## **“Developing Palestine’s Energy Resources Wouldn’t Be In Israel’s Self-Interest. The Oil And Gas Revenues Would Empower The Palestinians”**

January 11, 2009 Michel Chossudovsky, Global Research [Excerpts]

The military invasion of the Gaza Strip by Israeli Forces bears a direct relation to the control and ownership of strategic offshore gas reserves.

Discovered in 2000, there are extensive gas reserves off the Gaza coastline.

British Gas (BG Group) and its partner, the Athens based Consolidated Contractors International Company (CCC) owned by Lebanon’s Sabbagh and Koury families, were granted oil and gas exploration rights in a 25 year agreement signed in November 1999 with the Palestinian Authority. . .

The BG license covers the entire Gazan offshore marine area, which is contiguous to several Israeli offshore gas facilities. . . 60 percent of the gas reserves along the Gaza-Israel coastline belong to Palestine.

The issue of sovereignty over Gaza’s gas fields is crucial. From a legal standpoint, the gas reserves belong to Palestine.

The death of Yasser Arafat, the election of the Hamas government and the ruin of the Palestinian Authority have enabled Israel to establish de facto control over Gaza’s offshore gas reserves.

British Gas has been dealing with the Tel Aviv government.

In turn, the Hamas government has been bypassed in regards to exploration and development rights over the gas fields. . .

Under (a) proposed 2007 agreement with BG, Palestinian gas from Gaza’s offshore wells was to be channeled by an undersea pipeline to the Israeli seaport of Ashkelon, thereby transferring control over the sale of the natural gas to Israel.

The deal fell through. The negotiations were suspended. . . Israel's intent was to foreclose the possibility that royalties be paid to the Palestinians. . .

The invasion plan of the Gaza Strip under "Operation Cast Lead" was set in motion in June 2008, according to Israeli military sources. . .

That very same month, the Israeli authorities contacted British Gas, with a view to resuming crucial negotiations pertaining to the purchase of Gaza's natural gas: The sources added that BG has not yet officially responded to Israel's request, but that company executives would probably come to Israel in a few weeks to hold talks with government officials.

Pakistan Daily - The world has been watching Israel's genocide of the Palestinians for a long time but incredibly, the media never mentions the Palestinians' natural resources or the fact that Israel has thwarted Palestine's efforts to develop them.

The Palestinians are usually portrayed on television as victims of impossible, cyclical poverty. Ironic the Palestinians wouldn't have to live in poverty if Israel would let them develop their natural resources.

But developing Palestine's energy resources wouldn't be in Israel's self-interest. The oil and gas revenues would empower the Palestinians. They wouldn't have to starve to death or struggle in poverty.

**Empowered Palestinians would be able to invest in infrastructure of their legal government, Hamas. . . .**

**The major corporate media has completely ignored and/or has remained blissfully ignorant about Palestinian oil and gas because it goes against the script of how powerful hidden western corporate and government interests want to portray Palestine.**

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## **Oh Quiet Night, Only Six Homes Were Bombed**

**“The Evidence Piling Up Points To  
A Deliberate Campaign And Policy  
Of Targeting Civilians”**

**“Wafa Al Masri, 40 Years Old, And  
Nine Months Pregnant Was Walking**

# **To Kamal Odwan Hospital , To Give Birth. With Her Was Her Sister, 26 Year Old Raghada Masri” “Witnesses Said They Were Hit Directly By A Missile From A Surveillance Drone”**

[Thanks to Max Watts, Australia, who sent this in.]

January 12, 2009 By EWA JASIEWICZ, CounterPunch

Ewa Jasiewicz is an experienced journalist, community and union organizer, and solidarity worker. She is currently Gaza Project Co-coordinator for the Free Gaza Movement.

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## **Beit Hanoun and Jabaliya in the Gaza Strip.**

**Last night was a quiet one in Jabaliya. ‘Only’ six homes bombed into the ground, the Market, again, maybe four lightly injured people – shrapnel to the face injuries – and no martyrs.**

**Beit Hanoun saw a young woman, Nariman Ahmad Abu Owder, just 17, shot dead as she made tea in her family’s kitchen.**

**It was 9pm in the Hay Amel area when witnesses reported ‘thousands’ of bullets shot by tanks onto homes in Azrah Street.**

We got a call to go to Tel Al Zater looking for the dead and injured, around 2am. ‘This area is dangerous, very very dangerous’, warned one volunteer rescuer Mohammad al Sharif as our ambulance bumped along sandy, lumpy ground, lighting up piles of burning rubbish, stray cats, political graffiti, and the ubiquitous strung out coloured sack cloth and stripy material in large thin squares, tenting the pavements.

What is it? Protection, I am told, so that the surveillance planes won’t see the fighters. Palestinian body armour.

Mohammad, and Ahmad Abu Foul, a Civil Defence medical services coordinator told me they had been shot at by Israeli snipers yesterday.

Mohammad had recounted the story, still counting his blessings, earlier on at the ambulance station. They’d gone hurtling over graves and tombstones to fetch casualties when Israeli snipers opened fire. They’d laid down flat on the ground until the firing stopped. Ahmad, 24, another rescuer here, told me he had been shot in the chest – in

his bullet proof vest – close to the Atarturah area whilst trying to evacuate corpses three days ago.

His brother, he had told me, had been injured 14 times working as a paramedic. ‘14 times. Then he got hit by an Apache. Then it was serious. That took him out of work for a few months’, he explained.

Back to Tel Al Zater, we searched with micro torches, sweeping over slabs of broken homes and free running water from freshly smashed pipes. A black goat was trapped in a rubble nest. We stepped over broken blown in metal doors off their hinges. Nothing, none, ‘snipers’, on our minds. We ended up leaving with one casualty, lightly injured, more in shock than anything else.

Explosions continued through the night. Abrupt slumps into concrete echoing around the hospital, like rapid beats to a taut drum skin.

This morning was a different story.

I’ve been finding that the most missile-heavy times seem to be between 7-9am. I counted 20 strikes in those two hours this morning. I’d come to Mohammad’s house. He went straight to bed, exhausted. I’d caught some sleep spread across the front seats of the rickety ambulance, waking up periodically to respond to calls.

At Mohammad’s I did some badly overdue washing and went towards the roof with it.

‘Ewa, do you want to martyr yourself?’ said Sousou, Mohammad’s 19 year old sister, a bright sciences student unable to finish her studies due to her university – the Islamic University – having been bombed last week. Hanging out washing on the roof here is a potential act of suicide – there are stories of people having been shot dead on rooftops.

Walking down the street to buy bread, also a potential act of suicide.

Visiting family, going to the market, drinking tea in your own home – a potential act of suicide? In the end I do go up, with 9 year old plucky Afran, who hands me pegs nervously as we scan the skies periodically, while the murderous sneer of Israeli surveillance drones leers above us.

## **Zomou**

The call comes as soon as I get to Al Awda. It’s 11.40am. A strike in Mahkema street, Zomou, Eastern Jabaliya .

The streets of Moaskar Jabaliya are fuller than I’ve seen them for weeks. Fruit and vegetable sellers with wooden carts full of clay clodded potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines, mountains of strawberries, bags of flour, plastic bottles of vegetable oil and rice, line the streets. The reason everyone’s here, exposed like this is because with the market being bombed, the streets have become the market.

We roar through manically, siren blaring, Abu Bassem, one of the oldest and most hyper ambulance drivers, yells hoarsely at anyone nonchalant enough to not notice the

screaming column of ambulances zooming towards them, past broken buildings, debris covered streets, twisted tin can warehouses and rubble homes.

Out of the city, we're met by a crowd running towards us with a blanket hump on the back of a donkey cart.

Jumping out I see bloodied legs and arms sticking it out of it, 'Shoohadda!!' Martyrs - yells the crowd running along with it, whilst others gesture wildly to go on, go on ahead.

Jumping back in we get to the house where it all happened.

A woman in her 50s, in black, has her arms around a large, lifeless woman. Pools of blood surround them. They're cramped into a corner, the woman crying and clinging to her.

We need to peel her away and lift the woman, cold, lifeless and shoeless, onto a stretcher.

This is Randa Abid Rubbu, 38. Her relative or friend comes in too, unable to stand, unable to speak or move, we drag her on and she has to slump on the ambulance floor.

Next we bring in Ahmad Mohammad Nuffar Salem, 21, with 16 shrapnel injuries, tearing at his own clothes in pain, they needed to be cut off.

### **Six members of the Abid Rubbu family were killed in the strike on their house.**

It happened at 11.40am. Ahmad, 21, explains 'We were all eating together, and then we were struck'. The consensus amongst paramedics was that it was a tank shell, although the family thought it was a shell from an Israeli naval vessel.

Mohammad Abid Rubbu, 50, explains to me, that in the night his other family homes were struck three times by F16 fighter jets.

'Thirty of us spent the whole of last night hiding under ground, in the basement. Our whole street was full of fire. They (the Israelis) spent one and a half hours attacking us. They destroyed three of our family's homes. All the martyrs today, they were underground with us last night'.

### **Kamal Odwan's 'Mosque'**

Kamal Odwan Hospital is the main port of call for the bulk of emergency services, once a local clinic, it has now grown, concomitantly with the population of the north, now 350,000, into a hospital.

Since the bombing of an average of one in ten mosques in the Jabaliya area according to local Imams, Kamal Odwan is now also a prayer site, an open-air mosque. Rows of men kneel together daily in the car-park round the corner from the overflowing morgue; praying also takes place at the side of the lines of parked ambulances and in the little garden area in front of the reception and ER.

The emergency staff, the families and friends of new martyrs, all pray together in perhaps the last place of sanctuary in Jabaliya, knowing that as soon as they set foot outside, they're fair game for snipers, surveillance drones, Apaches, Cobras, F16 and F15 fired missiles, shrapnel, flying chunks of house, glass, and nails that are shredding people here. White phosphorous too is reportedly being used, along with a white mist of nerve gas hanging in Jabaliya a few days ago and over Beit Hanoun, in the Zoumou street area.

Today at least three casualties, all of them elderly women, were brought into Beit Hanoun hospital suffering from inhalation of this gas, which chokes people, tightening chests and nasal passages and rendering people dizzy and disorientated; we were all affected by it, despite being maybe half a kilometre away from the site of its' release.

As I finish writing this now, in the offices of Ramatan News, the same gas, nerve fraying, chest tightening, tear-inducing and confusing is seeping into the offices.

The director of public relations at Kamal Odwan, Moayad Al Masri, whose family now lives in the Fakhoura School refugee camp gives me the stats for the past week.

Every day approximately 20 people are being killed, by tank shelling, apache, F16, and surveillance plane missile strikes.

December 27th 14 people killed, 52 injured, 28th, 6 killed, 22 injured, 29th 15 killed, 102 injured, 30th, 2 killed, 11 injured, 31st, 3 killed, 3 injured, New Years Day, 17 killed, 67 injured, January 2nd 6 killed, 10 injured, Jan 3rd, 13 killed, 43 injured, Jan 4th, 28 killed, 35 injured, Jan 5th, 15 killed, 98 injured, Jan 6th 50 killed, 101 injured, Jan 7th, 17 killed, 33 injured, Jan 8th, 11 killed, 53 injured, Jan 9th, 15 killed and 63 injured, January 10th 22 killed and 53 injured, and today, this morning six people had been killed so far.

Four of them children.

**Two sisters Saher Ghabban 16 and Haowla Ghabban 14, and Fatima Mahrouf 16 and Haitham Mahrouf.**

**Witnesses report that they were leaving their home at the UNRWA Beit Lahiya school, to go home to wash and make food. They were walking near strawberry fields in Sheyma when they were struck by a surveillance plane missile.**

I go to meet a friend from Beit Hanoun at the hospital. It takes stopping five different taxi drivers before I finally get one who agrees to take me. Missiles have been falling throughout the afternoon 'ceasefire'. Everyone has heard about cars and their passengers zapped in two by missiles from surveillance drones.

We all engage in a kind of Russian roulette every time we move, knowing we might be the unlucky ones next.

**In Beit Hanoun we hear about six families from the Abu Amsha House - 50 people- having to flee their four story home after the IOF called to give them five minutes to leave or before being bombed.**

**As the families frantically gathered their belongings – mattresses, blankets, clothes, documents, photographs – and made their way down the stairs, an Israeli F16 war plane bombed them. 27 were injured, four of them seriously, including one with shrapnel in the spinal area.**

### **A house upon them**

We meet Mohammad Zoadi Abu Amsha, a United National employee running a local job creation programme and the son of Hajj Zohaadi Amsha, the owner of the destroyed house.

**Mohammad's house, opposite the Abu Amsha house, had its windows blown out in the attack.**

**I asked him why he thinks the house was targeted.**

**'This is the policy of Israel , the logic is to make us leave this land, make us leave our homes, to clear this land for their occupation and ownership of it. That's what this is about.**

**"There were no fighters here by the way' he says, 'This is a civilian house, my father is 80 years old, he worked as a teacher for the UN'.**

As we're talking, children that have gathered around us point to the sky, 'look, look, Apache' they say. And we look at it, flying silently across the sky, puffing out a perfect line of burning dazzle flares.

A boy of about 10 spots a piece of missile, the size of a large marrow, electronic parts still intact, and lugs it up to us, 'Take care' we shout to him; he scrambles over debris and then lobs it onto the ground in front of us. All our hearts skip a beat.

Back at Kamal Odwan, we hear the news.

**Wafa Al Masri, 40 years old, and nine months pregnant was walking to Kamal Odwan Hospital , to give birth. With her was her sister, 26 year old Raghada Masri. They were passing through the Dewar Maboob crossroads in the Beit Lahiya Project area. It was 4.30pm.**

**Witnesses said they were hit directly by a missile from a surveillance drone.**

Daniel, a half Ukrainian paramedic here described the scene.

'Her legs were shredded, there was just meat, and she had a serious chest injury, hypoxemia'.

Wafa was transferred to Shifa for a double leg amputation, from the Fema (upper thigh area down). Paramedics were apprehensive about her or her unborn child making it.

Medics managed to save the right foot of Raghada Masri, 26.

I visited her at Kamal Odwan today.

**Visibly distressed and writhing in pain, she recounted the story: ‘We were walking down the street when we heard the sound of the plane, I can still hear ringing in my ears.**

**‘We were hit by a missile. We were in the area right in the main street, in broad daylight.**

**‘We would never have expected this. I saw smoke, and I saw Wafa’s legs all mangled. She was thrown metres away from me, I was thrown too. Her mandeel was torn off her head, her hair was all burnt, she didn’t look like my sister, her hair was gone, everyone was saying to me, ‘she’s a martyr, she’s a martyr.’**

**‘Today I learned medics managed to save one leg and that she gave birth to a healthy boy.**

### **Bombing civilians**

**At 5pm, whilst we’re gathering info on the bombing of Wafa and her sister, ambulances and taxis bring over casualties. There’s been a tank bombing of an apartment building, the Burge al Sultan, in Jabaliya.**

**Three dead, two of them children, and five injured.**

Again Daniel brought them in. He’s sitting in the ambulance stunned and staring into space.

**‘In all my days, I’ve never seen anything like this’, he says. ‘First they fired one missile at the roof of the building, this got people running out of the building. Then they fired another one, at the people outside, and then when we turned up, they fired another one. I don’t understand. And they were all civilians’.**

**The weapon of choice was a Kadifa – a tank shell that releases tiny flechettes; spiked arrows that tear into flesh at lightning speed.**

Daniel went on to say that ambulance staff and helpers were shot at by snipers when evacuating casualties.

Ashar al Battish, 33, lost his two brothers in the attack. ‘Kids were playing in the street, and then three missiles were shot at us. He – he says, gesturing to his brother on an ER bed – was shot by a sniper in the chest, and another sniper’s bullet grazed his face’.

When I began writing this I was on the fifth floor of the Al Awda Hospital, a few things have happened in between. I was buying coffee, snickers bars to chop up for the guys, and some shampoo when from the local shop when we got a call at around 9.30pm, to pick up casualties from the Bier Najje area, Western Jabaliya.



We wove our way up, a column of rickety vans. Our ambulance had a plastic bin bag held up with brown parcel tape for a back window after it was blasted out last week – too close to an F16 repeat attack.

When we reached the casualty zone, near a mini roundabout flanked with painted portraits of pale PFLP fighters, and orange groves on our right, we drove slowly up towards the leading ambulance which had stopped up ahead.

As we were approaching, the crew suddenly came running towards us, waving their arms for us to move, move, get back, get back. We reversed sharply and a minute later advanced again as they receded back to the ambulance. I jump out with the stretcher and start to assemble it but I'm told, 'Get back inside, get back inside, this is a dangerous area!'

They have their casualty, we pick up another with a leg injury on our way back, and when we get back to base it transpires that a surveillance plane missile was shot directly onto the crew ahead but failed to explode.

Unknown to us, it had been lying beside the ambulance when we came up to see about the injured.

As well as this, there were two F16 missile strikes on targets just a few hundred metres away from Al Awda. Both enormous bangs shook the building, shattered a window and sent everyone running for cover.

### **An empty dead-zone**

I asked the paramedics, what happened when they went to collect bodies and the injured from the areas where street fighting is taking place, places like Tel Al Zater, Salahadeen Street, Atahtura, Azbet Abu Rubbu - closed to everyone and anyone but the Israeli Occupation Forces.

During 1-4pm there is supposed to be a ceasefire and co-ordination between paramedics and the Israeli army, through the Red Cross.

Of the three paramedics I asked, all of their replies were the same. 'We saw none'. 'It was like a ghost town'.

Despite being finding bodies over the past week, including one baby which had been half eaten by dogs – photos, film and witnesses at Kamal Odwan confirm it – and bodies which had been run over by tanks, when they went yesterday, they found nobody, and came back to base empty handed.

'I think the Israelis must have taken the bodies away, I think they must have taken them away by bulldozer and buried them'. The terrifying thing is that there are still people trapped in their homes if their homes are still standing, without food, water, or electricity.

Refugees at the Al Fakhoura school report not being able to recognise their areas, their streets after the heavy fighting and destruction of so many houses. When these areas

are finally accessible to people, the full extent of the killing and destruction will at last be known.

Meanwhile, as the killing continues, the Ministry of Health ambulances in the north are becoming slowly paralysed. Four M.O.H. ambulances based at Kamal Odwan have no fuel and have been grounded, two have just half a tank each. One in Beit Hanoun has also been immobilised.

A senior source coordinating the rescue services who did not wish to be named, said, 'We haven't got the capacity now to respond. The Civil Defence and the Red Crescent will go out, we cannot, only in case of a major emergency. In case of another strike like the one at Fakhoura, the injured will have to be transported by donkey cart. People will die'.

Petrol is available, just a short drive away in Salahadeen Street, although Israeli Occupation Forces control the area and won't let any vehicle pass. To add to the M.O.H's woes, the radios they've had since the beginning of the invasion have had no service – there's been no radio contact between the base and ambulances and the Jawwal mobile network is also frequently down.

So everybody who can, still keeps going.

Israeli war planes keep targeting civilians.

The evidence piling up points to a deliberate campaign and policy of targeting civilians.

And the bombs keep falling, thudding all around all of us, everywhere we go, everywhere we sleep, everywhere we walk, drive, sit and pray.

Everyone is exhausted and just wants these attacks to end and for a real ceasefire to materialise.

**[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: [www.rafahtoday.org](http://www.rafahtoday.org) The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]**

#### **Troops 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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057**

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



RECEIVED

# “ Hamas, The Elected Government Of The Side Attacked, Is Excluded From Peace Negotiations ”

From: JM  
To: GI Special  
Sent: January 18, 2009  
Subject: Comment on a peace deal

This is a complete farce of a peace negotiation.

1) Olmert saying he loves children and he was protecting those killed by his bombs and white prosperous. Are world leaders stupid enough to believe this?

2) Hamas, the elected government of the side attacked, is excluded from peace negotiations.

3) World leaders are trying to outdo each other with offers to stop Hamas getting arms to fight for Gazan freedom. International law says an occupied country has the right to fight for it's freedom. Israel still treats Gaza as an occupied country denying it the basics of life - can any one deny this? In today's world the "underground," that fought Hitler's occupation of Europe, would be classified terrorist and prevented from getting arms to resist. The world would be very different now if world leaders then thought the way they do today.

4) Is the way this peace deal is being conducted an indication of fear. Israel's a very wealthy country, possibly the leader in arms production, and drunk on the idea of power. It wants land and domination of the Middle East. Are its aims supported by the so called world leaders or do they act out of fear. No one knows how many nukes are hidden in Israel or how many new weapons it has developed.

5) Maybe history is just repeating itself. World leaders watched Hitler's rise to power with friendly eyes some even helping it.

6) However it's viewed this peace deal favours a murderous aggressor and denies the rights, of an oppressed people. I'm ashamed to be a citizen of a wealthy country. Why have I more right to freedom, work, education and food, than my brothers and sisters in Gaza?

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<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2008/index.html>;

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