

GI SPECIAL 7C16:

The AIG Lads Celebrate Bonus Payments



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

“Seven Or Eight Months Into My Deployment, I Started Questioning Why I Was There”
“He, As A Soldier Who Served In Iraq, Wants Nothing More Than The End To A War He No Longer Believes In”

“He Came To Believe That The Reasons For Invading Iraq Were Lies”

“They Had More To Do With ‘Big Business’ Than Anything Else”



[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

Mar. 19, 2009 By CHRIS VAUGHN, Star-Telegram.com [Excerpts]

FORT WORTH — Dustin Alan Parks is accustomed to the angry stares. He listens to the snide comments, the outrage, the insults. Traitor. Terrorist. Pinko.

But Parks, in many ways, welcomes the hostility, virtually inviting it in a place like Texas. All he has to do is wear his favorite T-shirt — “Support G.I. Resistance.”

“I’m a tad confrontational,” he concedes.

Parks, 23, a combat veteran and card-carrying proselytizer for Iraq Veterans Against the War, uses the impromptu discussions to engage people in something more than a reflexive insult or stereotype, to try to get them to understand why he, as a soldier who served in Iraq, wants nothing more than the end to a war he no longer believes in.

Not that it always works. “It backfires all the time,” he said. “People think I’m some punk-ass kid, anti-war, anti-military, all about peace and love. I’m not against the military, and I love America.”

On Saturday, Parks takes his newfound activism to a new and much more public stage.

He organized what he calls the Rock Bottom Peace March at 10 a.m. in General Worth Square in downtown Fort Worth, just one day after the sixth anniversary of the U.S. launching of an invasion of Iraq.

In Fort Worth, home to tens of thousands of veterans, a naval air station and a handful of major defense contractors, one never knows what an anti-war rally will draw. Parks hopes for a few hundred people.

They'll have to stick to the sidewalks because Parks could not afford to hire off-duty police. "I'm just a college kid," he said.

Nonetheless, Fort Worth police Lt. Paul Henderson said officers will be on hand, though "we expect a peaceful demonstration."

Thin, heavily tattooed and unfailingly polite in spite of what he calls his combative personality, Parks enlisted in the Army two months after he graduated from high school in Monroe, La., in 2003.

"Every man in my family has been in the military," he said as an explanation.

He became a military policeman. He competed in the Military Police Warrior competition, placing twice. He earned four Army Commendations, five Achievement Medals. He served in South Korea.

He made staff sergeant in four years.

No one could accuse him of not being a squared-away soldier. But Iraq changed him, he said, more dramatically than he could have anticipated.

He spent 12 months in Mosul and Tall Afar in 2005 and '06, two cities that were havens for terrorists and insurgents. He and nine other soldiers lived in an Iraqi police station in an attempt to create a more professional force.

"Seven or eight months into my deployment, I started questioning why I was there," he said.

"I didn't see any progress. I was seeing friends pass away. I started doing more research, which I couldn't do much of until I returned home. I was trying to become enlightened, to try to find a reason why we were there."

His conclusions were reached gradually — there was never an "a-ha" moment — but were nonetheless striking.

He came to believe that the reasons for invading Iraq were lies, that they had more to do with "big business" than anything else. He faults Congress for not doing its job and calls the war "illegal" and "unconstitutional."

"We need to quit spending all these billions in Iraq, spend it on jobs and education in this country, not occupation."

"It's clear to me that whatever slight progress there has been, it doesn't justify the war in the beginning," he said.



Dustin Parks read the names all U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq during a protest Thursday at Fort Worth City Hall. Deborah Golden carries a sign in the background. S-T/Ben Noey Jr.

“I’ve talked to veterans in IVAW who served at all different times in Iraq, and among them, there is consensus that it is wrong.”

His five-year enlistment in the active Army ended last summer, and he moved to Fort Worth to attend the University of Texas at Arlington. He also, rather surprisingly, joined the Army National Guard.

He went to a handful of drill weekends before realizing that it wasn’t what he wanted.

He told his commander that he could not participate in the military anymore.

Although he risked a discharge that was less than honorable, putting at risk all the education and health benefits he had earned, his commander ultimately approved an early honorable discharge.

The IVAW, founded in 2004 and headquartered in Philadelphia, has about 1,600 members nationwide with chapters in Houston, Austin, Killeen and, soon, in Dallas-Fort Worth.

The organization’s executive director, Kelly Dougherty, a former Army National Guard soldier who served in Iraq in 2003-04, said it is far more difficult for a former serviceman to speak out publicly than many Americans realize.

She said soldiers come from a culture in which they keep their opinions on government foreign policy to themselves.

“It’s very much not the norm,” she said. “For people like Dustin, when you might be on a corner by yourself, putting yourself out there and exposing yourself to criticism, it really shows dedication and courage.”

Parks is a sophomore majoring in social work. He gets about \$1,300 a month in education benefits, not enough to pay for tuition and housing, so he lives with family in Fort Worth to cut expenses.

When not studying, he works on business related to the IVAW, passing out fliers all over the Dallas-Fort Worth area and speaking to veterans and civilians every chance he gets.

He keeps up with several buddies still in the Army, and he said they have mixed feelings about his activism. More than one has asked him, "Parks, what are you doing?"

But he said even the ones who disagree with him understand his right to free speech.

"This isn't a hobby for me," he said. "It's eating away at me. I can't stop until I fulfill this hunger."

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

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

Resistance Action

March 20 (KUNA) & (Reuters) & AFP

An Iraqi policeman was killed on Friday in an attack that targeted a tribal leader's house in the town of Fallujah. A bomber detonated his explosive belt at the home of one of the Sheikhs of Al-Bu Issa tribe, west of the city of Fallujah. The explosion killed one policeman and wounded two others who were taken to a hospital for treatment. Tribal elders leading the U.S.-allied awakening councils are often targeted.

A roadside bomb wounded a policeman and two civilians when it struck a police patrol in central Ramadi, 100 km (60 miles) west of Baghdad, on Thursday, police said.

A bomb exploded killing a policeman and seriously wounding two more on Friday evening in southern Iraq, a security officer said. "The bomb was intended for Colonel Sadiq al-Hulu, the commander of Misan province emergency regiment," said an Amara city police officer, asking not to be named. The device went off as a police patrol drove by one of the main highway intersections just southwest of Amara, some 200 miles (320 kilometres) from Baghdad. The colonel escaped injury.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE

END THE OCCUPATIONS

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Four Canadian Soldiers Killed, Eight Wounded Near Kandahar



An IED (Improvised Explosive Device) explosion during a mission in the Taliban stronghold of Zhari district in Kandahar province, southern Afghanistan, March 20, 2009. Roadside bombs killed four Canadian soldiers as well as a local interpreter in Afghanistan on Friday. Two bombs went off within hours of each other. The explosion in this picture was one of the two. REUTERS/Stefano Rellandini

March 20, 2009 By Murray Brewster, THE CANADIAN PRESS

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Four Canadian soldiers were killed and at least eight others injured Friday in two separate bombings outside of Kandahar city.

Master Cpl. Scott Vernelli and Cpl. Tyler Crooks — both of November Company, 3rd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment — were killed in an explosion at about 6:45 a.m. local time in the restive Zhari district west of the city.

Five others were injured in the attack.

About two hours later, Trooper Jack Bouthillier and Trooper Corey Joseph Hayes, both of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, were killed in a roadside bomb blast in the Shah Wali Kot district northwest of the city, a region where the Taliban have stepped up attacks in the last few months.

Three other soldiers were wounded in that attack.

All of the soldiers were taking part in a major operation aimed at attacking Taliban command centres and supply lines

In the attack on November Company, the blast could be faintly heard kilometres away at a Canadian forward operating base. Not long afterward, a platoon warrant officer gathered other senior officers to break the news. Word spread quickly around the base.

**“If You Enter A Pashtun House With
Your Armed Patrol, Disrobe Their
Women Or - Worse Still - Bomb A
Wedding By Remote Control, You
Will Suffer An Extended Family (And
Village) Rage For Eternity”
“And They Will Find Any Possible Way
To Hurt You”**

[Thanks to Carl Foster, Military Project & Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

Mar 20, 2009 By Pepe Escobar, Asia Times [Excerpts]

The “strategic reviewers” of United States President Barack Obama's “good war” in Afghanistan are almost finished.

Even before the new policy is set in stone - in Badakshan's famed lapis lazuli, maybe? - by Obama himself within the next few days (with sensitive covert aspects of course withheld from public opinion), its contours are raising many an eyebrow.

The new mix will likely feature an ongoing wild goose chase for “good Taliban”; an expanded Central Intelligence Agency-operated drone war (a George W Bush policy decision); assorted CIA and special forces cross-border attacks (also a Bush policy decision); more carrots for the Pentagon-friendly Pakistani army (and Inter-Services

Intelligence); more US troops in Afghanistan (starting with the announced 17,000 who will hit Helmand province before summer); and more training for the Afghan army.

The CIA and Pentagon couldn't be happier with their clean and safe - at least for the drones - remote-control war on the Pakistani tribal areas. But they want more.

Bombing Pashtun weddings and decimating tribals in Waziristan is not that much fun anymore.

Of all the national security adviser groups who are delivering their suggestions to the White House, two key reports want to (literally) go south.

Their authors are Central Command chief General David "I'm always positioning myself to 2012" Petraeus, and White House Afghan expert Lieutenant General Douglas E Lute.

What could be dubbed the "State Department scenario" boils down to no safe haven for al-Qaeda in Afghanistan in exchange for the US and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) getting out. It involves Obama's special envoy Richard Holbrooke hiring Professor Barnett Rubin of New York University and Pakistani journalist Ahmad Rashid as advisers.

The Pentagon strategy - so far - was basically an extended Petraeus' counter-insurgency gambit: the hunt for the "good Taliban" - a Hindu Kush replay of "Sons of Iraq" with convenient help from the House of Saud, which is more than glad to shower with gold any Taliban commander who wouldn't get cozy with al-Qaeda.

So now Petraeus has gone definitely schizo: while trying to locate these elusive "good Taliban", why not extend toy targets among Pashtuns and Balochis?

None of these strategies seem to understand the obvious: for the Pashtuns who happen to be Taliban it's not essentially about money (though Samsonites full of dollars help) or religion (strict application of Deobandi views): it's first and foremost about getting rid of foreign occupation.

A graphic example is what the Taliban have already demanded in not-so-secret negotiations: total control of at least 10 Afghan provinces (most of the south and southeast); a fixed timetable for total withdrawal from Western troops; and the release of the thousands of prisoners now congesting Bagram airbase.

Standard Western ignorance - imperial arrogance rather - filters to details like the New York Times dubbing the tribal areas "unruly".

This is ridiculous.

The tribal areas have been ruled for centuries by a very rigorous code - the Pashtunwali. Pashtuns are bound by honor to respect and abide by it.

The code requires any Afghan to defend the motherland (nowadays against what they see as US/NATO occupying troops).

They have to grant asylum to any fugitive - irrespective of his creed or caste (that was the case with Osama bin Laden).

Insult should be answered with insult. If you enter a Pashtun house with your armed patrol, disrobe their women or - worse still - bomb a wedding by remote control, you will suffer an extended family (and village) rage for eternity.

And they will find any possible way to hurt you.

More on Western arrogance.

For the New York Times, “fear remains within the American government that extending the raids would worsen tensions”.

As if people shouldn't be “tense” when their village is hit by missiles in the middle of the night.

And then the Times notes “Pakistan complains that the strikes violate its sovereignty”.

As if Pakistanis should shut up and be bombed quietly (as Zardari and the army, who control the failed - politically and economically - state of Pakistan actually do; after all they made a deal with Washington).

Somebody has to (but won't) tell Obama that a strong central government in Kabul capable of effectively overseeing all its provinces and porous borders is a mirage.

It would imply decades of nation-building - from which Washington has fled like the plague. The Taliban can be - at the most - contained in areas of the south and southeast.

As for NATO, it is not in the least interested in functioning as fodder for Petraeus' counter-insurgency schemes.

The US “won” the Vietnam war on film - via Francis Ford Coppola's Apocalypse Now, which felt like the war on ground level. Not “won”; “expiated” rather, via two Conradian characters, one representing the logical conclusion of the madness of the system (Colonel Kurtz) and the other representing a “correction” (Captain Willard) that was in the end meaningless.

The US has been winning the “war on terror” on TV - via the series 24, where hero, Jack Bauer, is basically a high-tech John Wayne. The more things change ...

If only Obama could have Jack Bauer waterboard Mullah Omar, torture Osama on a rack and then hang them both by a chain in a deserted warehouse.

In his absence, we all drone on.

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH;

ALL HOME NOW



A roadside bomb exploded in Naad Ali district of the southern Helmand province February 8, 2009 as two U.S. soldiers attempted to defuse the bomb, killing them. REUTERS/Stringer

TROOP NEWS

160 From Ft. Eustis Off To Obama's Imperial Slaughterhouse

March 23, 2009 Army Times

About 160 soldiers from Fort Eustis are being deployed to Iraq for a year. A departure ceremony took place March 11.

The soldiers are assigned to the 149th Transportation Company. While in Iraq, they will support camp and forward operating base operations. The soldiers also will provide security for convoys.

Now For The Good News:

“The Guy Who Is Suffering Most Under Soldiers’ Load Right Now Is A Dismounted Soldier Walking In Afghanistan”

March 23, 2009 By Matthew Cox, Army Times [Excerpts]

Carrying too much equipment can be as deadly as enemy bullets, particularly when soldiers are trying to outmaneuver Taliban fighters accustomed to traveling light in the most extreme conditions of their homeland, Col. Bob Shaw, commander of the Asymmetric Warfare Group, told Army Times in a recent interview.

Grunts operating in remote places like the Korengal Valley must leave their combat outposts with everything they need for three days of battle strapped, tied or buckled to their bodies.

They haul extra bullets, fragmentation grenades, mortar rounds, weapons, body armor, food and water up steep ascents where the thinner air forces even the fittest specimens to suck wind.

“The guy who is suffering most under soldiers’ load right now is a dismounted soldier walking in Afghanistan,” said Jim Stone, who runs the Soldier Requirements Division for the Infantry Center at Fort Benning, Ga.

Dishonorable Filth In Command Of U.S. Concentration Camp At Guantanamo Knew Prisoners Were Innocent: And Kept Them Imprisoned Anyway

Wilkerson, who first made the assertions in an Internet posting on Tuesday, told the AP he learned from briefings and by communicating with military commanders that the U.S. soon realized many Guantanamo detainees were innocent but nevertheless held them in hopes they could provide information for a “mosaic” of intelligence.

March. 19, 2009 AP

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico - Many detainees locked up at Guantanamo were innocent men swept up by U.S. forces unable to distinguish enemies from noncombatants, a former Bush administration official said Thursday.

"There are still innocent people there," Lawrence B. Wilkerson, a Republican who was chief of staff to then-Secretary of State Colin Powell, told The Associated Press. "Some have been there six or seven years."

Wilkerson, who first made the assertions in an Internet posting on Tuesday, told the AP he learned from briefings and by communicating with military commanders that the U.S. soon realized many Guantanamo detainees were innocent but nevertheless held them in hopes they could provide information for a "mosaic" of intelligence.

"It did not matter if a detainee were innocent.

"Indeed, because he lived in Afghanistan and was captured on or near the battle area, he must know something of importance," Wilkerson wrote in the blog. He said intelligence analysts hoped to gather "sufficient information about a village, a region, or a group of individuals, that dots could be connected and terrorists or their plots could be identified."

Wilkerson, a retired Army colonel, said vetting on the battlefield during the early stages of U.S. military operations in Afghanistan was incompetent with no meaningful attempt to discriminate "who we were transporting to Cuba for detention and interrogation."

In his posting for The Washington Note blog, Wilkerson wrote that "U.S. leadership became aware of this lack of proper vetting very early on and, thus, of the reality that many of the detainees were innocent of any substantial wrongdoing, had little intelligence value, and should be immediately released."

Former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Vice President Dick Cheney fought efforts to address the situation, Wilkerson said, because "to have admitted this reality would have been a black mark on their leadership."

Wilkerson told the AP in a telephone interview that many detainees "clearly had no connection to al-Qaida and the Taliban and were in the wrong place at the wrong time. Pakistanis turned many over for \$5,000 a head."

16 Years After Warnings, Army Finally Says Deadly Drug Won't Be "Preferred" Treatment For Troops: Lariam Linked To Suicides, Anxiety, Paranoia, Depression, Agitation,

Panic Attacks, Hallucinations, Mood Changes, Aggression And Psychotic Behavior, Vertigo, Visual Disturbances, Ringing In The Ears, Rash And Irritability” Oh Yes, Let’s Not Leave Out “Permanent Damage To The Central Nervous System”

[It’s difficult to find words to express what punishment should be administered to the people at DoD responsible for taking 15 years to do anything at all about this toxic shit being handed out to troops, and even now the DoD rats responsible just stick in as second choice instead of first choice. And what about the drug company executives that stuffed their pockets with money from the profits their huge military contract brought them? What should happen to them? Use your imagination. T]

As long ago as 1993, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., asked the Pentagon to look at other options after media reports cited possible links between Lariam and suicides and other erratic behavior.

March 23, 2009 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times [Excerpts]

The Army has dropped Lariam — the drug linked to side effects including suicidal tendencies, anxiety, aggression and paranoia — as its preferred protection against malaria because doctors had inadvertently prescribed it to people who should not take it.

Lariam, the brand name for mefloquine, should not be given to anyone with symptoms of a brain injury, depression or anxiety disorder, which describes many troops who have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan.

The Army’s new choice for anti-malarial protection is doxycycline, a generic antibiotic.

In Afghanistan, the policy since 2004 puts doxycycline above mefloquine. In the Horn of Africa, Army directives have preferred mefloquine over doxycycline, but that should change under Schoomaker ’s memo.

In the past, the military has used mefloquine because troops have to take it only once a week, while doxycycline must be taken daily. And in some areas, the malaria parasite has become resistant to doxycycline.

But critics have long said the military exposed service members to an unacceptable risk by giving them a drug that could cause psychotic episodes.

As long ago as 1993, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., asked the Pentagon to look at other options after media reports cited possible links between Larium and suicides and other erratic behavior.

Jeanne Lese, co-director of Larium Action USA, has petitioned the military — as well as the Peace Corps — for years to stop using the medication.

“We’ve heard story after story,” she said. “The risk ... is just unacceptable. Why would you take this when you have other alternatives that are safer?”

Mefloquine was approved in 1989 by the Food and Drug Administration only to prevent malaria. Doxycycline has been used as an antibiotic for decades, with the worst side effect being photosensitive skin.

Mefloquine has been found to cause side effects in as many as 25 percent of people who take it, including vomiting, convulsions, psychosis, nightmares, dizziness, confusion, insomnia, unusual dreams, lightheadedness, vertigo, visual disturbances, ringing in the ears, rash and irritability.

It also can cause anxiety, paranoia, depression, agitation, panic attacks, hallucinations, mood changes, aggression and psychotic behavior, according to the Deployment Health and Readiness Library.

A 2004 study by the Walter Reed Institute of Research said mefloquine produces severe seizures and hallucinations and hospitalizations in one out of 10,000 people who take it, and dizziness, headache, insomnia and vivid dreams in up to 25 per-cent of patients.

The study also found that the drug crosses the blood-brain barrier and accumulates in the central nervous system.

A 2006 study out of Walter Reed found that rats given a single dose suffered impairment of motor function and degeneration of brain stem nuclei, as well as activity that suggested sleep disorders.

The data also suggested the drug could lead to permanent damage to the central nervous system.

**After Three Desolate Months In Iraq,
Disgusted By What She Saw Of The
War, She Deserted And Fled With Her
Family To Canada:**

“Rivera Began To Imagine What It Would Be Like If Foreign Soldiers Broke Into Her Apartment In The Middle Of The Night And Dragged Her And Her Husband, Mario, Out Of Bed In Front Of Their 4-Year-Old Son And 2-Year-Old Daughter”



Kim Rivera, the first female Iraq war deserter to seek refuge in Canada, waits for a streetcar in Toronto. Photo: Ian Willms

The Canadian government ordered her to leave the country by January 27 or be deported to the United States, where there's a warrant for her arrest.

March 10, 2009 By Megan Feldman, Miami New Times [Excerpts]

Just five feet tall, with a baby strapped to her chest and a soft, faltering voice, Kim Rivera is anything but soldierly.

Yet two years ago, she was a private in the War on Terror, guarding a gate with an M4 rifle and frisking Iraqi civilians at a base in eastern Baghdad.

Now, on a Wednesday evening in January, the 26-year-old mother of three stands in a room in frigid, snow-covered Toronto. Auburn hair pulled back in a low ponytail frames her fair-skinned face and round blue eyes. She places a hand on her bundled baby as she faces some 100 people seated on folding chairs inside a modest apartment building's community room.

Rivera clears her throat and unfolds a sheet of paper.

"I was fighting your kind for killing my kind," she begins, reading a poem she wrote last summer and dedicated to the people of Iraq. "I was fighting for your liberty; I was fighting for peace."

She pauses and takes a deep breath. "But in reality, I was fighting to destroy everything you know and love."

The audience listens in silence. Some nod. A few wipe tears from their eyes. They are peace activists and professors, fellow American Iraq War deserters in their 20s and American hippies in their 60s, Vietnam draft-dodgers and Canadian mothers. They're all rooting for Rivera, red-state warrior turned peacenik deserter.

They're hoping and praying that by some lucky chance or the benevolent hand of a politician or judge, the young mother will escape the deportation order that has been issued here and the court martial that awaits back home.

Three years ago, before Iraq and Canada, Rivera's dreams of going to college and developing a career had faded.

She'd spent five years working at Wal-Mart in her hometown of Mesquite, Texas, met her husband in the store's food court, and had her first two children. After several years of living with relatives and struggling to save for their own apartment, Rivera saw the Army as the only way out. Through the military, she could make more than \$10.50 an hour plus get health insurance and a higher education. She enlisted in early 2006.

When she signed the contract, she thought of the war in Iraq as a remote and necessary evil.

She was raised to praise the Lord and praise her country, and if that meant ridding the world of terrorists while allowing her and her family to get ahead, so be it.

Yet after three desolate months in Iraq, consumed by homesickness, missing her children, and disgusted by what she saw of the war, she deserted while on leave in 2007 and fled with her family to Canada.

But the Canadian government ordered her to leave the country by January 27 or be deported to the United States, where there's a warrant for her arrest.

Desertion, according to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, carries penalties of up to five years in prison, a dishonorable discharge, and, in wartime, a potential death sentence.

As the first known female soldier to walk away from the war in Iraq and fight for residency in Canada, Rivera has become a poster girl for a new generation of war deserters and, in particular, the small colony of American deserters living in Toronto and hoping they'll get to stay there.

More than 15,000 soldiers have deserted the Army since 2003, and most are thought to be living in the United States, keeping a low profile, and trying to avoid a traffic ticket or anything else that would alert authorities to their presence.

Army spokesmen stress that only 1 percent of all soldiers desert and that the problem is not large enough to warrant pursuing them for prosecution.

Nevertheless, desertion rates have nearly doubled, rising from 2,610 in 2003 to 4,698 in 2007, and military records show a crackdown on deserters since the war in Iraq began.

But although in 2001 only 29 deserters were prosecuted, in 2007 that figure was 108.

The War Resisters Support Campaign estimates that several hundred deserters are living in Canada. Of those, just around 40 have come forward to file asylum claims. The others, living under the radar without legal status and likely waiting to see how their peers' cases pan out, have little to stoke their hopes.

While an estimated 25,000 draft-dodgers and deserters migrated from the United States to Canada during the Vietnam War, the notion that Canada will absorb today's deserters as it did their predecessors is dead wrong.

The Canadian government — led by conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper — has so far rejected all of the deserters' requests, and the soldiers referred to as “war resisters” by their supporters are awaiting review from the country's federal courts to determine their fate.

The case of Robin Long, a soldier from Boise, Idaho, who last summer became the first deserter to be deported from Canada, provides a preview of what lies in store for deserters upon their return home.

Long was handed over last August to officials at Fort Carson, Colorado. She pleaded guilty to desertion and is serving a 15-month prison sentence at Miramar Naval Brig near San Diego.

More recently, Cliff Cornell, a deserter from Arkansas who lived in British Columbia since leaving his unit four years ago when he was ordered to Iraq, opted to return to the United States in February after exhausting his legal options.

As the community of war resisters in Toronto braces for legal blows, deserters from California, Connecticut, Texas, Oklahoma, New Jersey, and Florida continue to rely on the help of Canadian antiwar activists and American Vietnam-era draft-dodgers.

The War Resisters Support Campaign, led by New York-born Vietnam deserter Lee Zaslofsky, has organized the rally for Rivera and two other Toronto resisters facing deportation.

A member of parliament is here to speak, as well as a local city councilman and various deserters and activists.

All watch silently as Rivera attempts to describe the emotional and philosophical about-face that led her to abandon her unit and flee to Canada. It's an internal sea change she

often finds difficult to articulate. So tonight, less than a week before her scheduled deportation date, she relies on the last stanzas of her poem.

“I was becoming something that wasn't me, that I didn't stand for as a person,” she says, choking up. Then she makes a plea: “Canada, I am here. Will you take the time and the heart to understand what I am now fighting for, with words and not a gun?”

In October 2006, Private First Class Rivera deployed to Iraq with the 704th Support Battalion out of Fort Carson.

She arrived at Forward Operating Base Loyalty in eastern Baghdad to find a different war than the one she expected.

Instead of driving a truck, she was guarding a gate. Instead of doing “lots of rebuilding,” as she'd thought the Army would be doing, most of the troops seemed to be dedicating their time to raids on civilian homes.

She didn't like the way a lot of guys acted when they returned from patrol.

“We tore their house up!” she recalls one soldier saying, jocular and triumphant. She observed he seemed pretty happy about it. “Hell fuckin' yeah!” he replied. “They prolly killed my buddy.”

Rivera began to imagine what it would be like if foreign soldiers broke into her apartment in the middle of the night and dragged her and her husband, Mario, out of bed in front of their 4-year-old son and 2-year-old daughter.

Before she left for Iraq, she and Mario's money crunch had forced them to shuttle between their parents' homes while trying to save for their own place. Their money problems caused fights and left Rivera feeling stressed about her family back home.

At FOB Loyalty, Rivera got in trouble with her commanders for talking too much to Mario on the phone, though one night the habit might have saved her life. One mortar explosion after another rocked the base while she was talking to her husband. When she returned to her bunk, a sizable piece of shrapnel lay on her pillow.

In December 2006, an Iraqi man walked through the gate with a little girl, and Rivera moved to frisk them.

She assumed the man was coming to file a reparations claim for damage caused by American forces. Rivera stopped dead when she turned to the girl. The child looked to be the same age as her daughter, Rebecca. The toddler screamed and wailed inconsolably, her cheeks streaked with tears.

Long after the pair had disappeared, Rivera couldn't stop thinking about them. She couldn't shake the feeling that everything was wrong. The bloodshed. The loss. The fact that her children were on the other side of the world.

She returned home in January for two weeks' leave. Rivera had trouble sleeping.

Every time a car door slammed, she'd flatten herself onto the floor.

Her mother-in-law, Reyna Rivera, recalls her having panic attacks and crying on the floor, begging God for a way to avoid another stint in Iraq. "She wasn't stable enough to handle that, and she shouldn't have been there in the first place," Reyna says. "To think of her going back — my God."

Mario, searching for options online, came across the website for the War Resisters Support Campaign in Toronto. He called Zaslofsky, the coordinator, who told him the organization would help provide legal aid and temporary housing. The idea at first struck Rivera as ridiculous. They didn't know a soul in Canada. At the same time, she couldn't bear the thought of going back to Iraq.

She and Mario loaded the kids into their Geo Prism and drove north. On February 18, 2007, they reached Niagara Falls and drove across the Rainbow Bridge. It was a gray, dreary day as they made their way over the river gorge. Dark storm clouds gathered behind them, but as they emerged on the other side of the bridge in Ontario, the sun came out. Rivera took it as a sign they did the right thing.

It's late January, and the past few days have brought grim news to Lee Zaslofsky's small office on the fourth floor of a brick building that houses unions and peace organizations.

Along with Rivera, two other deserters living in Toronto have been denied residency and are scheduled to be deported by the end of the month.

To add insult to injury, immigration minister Jason Kenney was quoted on the news complaining that the "bogus refugee claimants" were clogging up the courts. Zaslofsky's group has declared the last stretch of January "Let Them Stay Week" and is holding nightly rallies and advocacy events, as well as pushing around-the-clock phone calls to the immigration ministry and the Prime Minister's Office requesting the government reconsider its view that desertion does not merit shelter in Canada.

On this overcast afternoon, Zaslofsky, a mustached 60-something with bright blue eyes and thinning brown hair, sits at his desk, typing furiously. The wall behind him is papered with posters. One, an image of a soldier with his back turned, reads, "Stop the deportations now" and "War resisters welcome here."

Another advises, "Cut and run. In an immoral war, it's the thing to do." Amid the flyers are several photographs. One shows Jeremy Hinzman, a paratrooper from South Dakota who served in the Army's 82nd Airborne Division. In 2004, after eight months in Afghanistan and with orders to deploy to Iraq, Hinzman fled north with his wife and 1-year-old son to become the first deserter of his generation to seek political refuge in Canada.

The deserters have become a tight-knit community, enjoying weekly dinners at a Chinese restaurant, keeping tabs on one another's court cases, and celebrating the babies born to resisters and their spouses. To Zaslofsky, the young men and women have become his surrogate children.

Unlike their counterparts during Vietnam, many of today's resisters were raised in conservative swaths of rural America.

Take Joshua Key, who lived in a mobile home in the tiny town of Guthrie, Oklahoma.

A burly welder with tattooed arms, the 30-year-old grew up admiring his grandfather who fought in the Korean War. By age 12, he was shooting snakes with AK-47s and Glocks, and 10 years later, he joined the Army after struggling to support his wife and children on his earnings from KFC.

He recalls his wife saying, "You get 'em, Josh, before they get you. Even if it's a kid. They're terrorists too." Key never dreamed that after a tour in Iraq, he'd be living in self-imposed exile, the author of a book titled *The Deserter's Tale*, his autobiography as told to Canadian writer Lawrence Hill.

Ryan Johnson, a slight, bearded 25-year-old from California's Central Valley who looks more like an organic farmer than a soldier, says he enlisted because he was tired of working factory jobs at places like Frito-Lay and couldn't afford college. His mother, a homemaker, and his stepfather, a UPS driver, kept yellow ribbon bumper stickers on their cars and voted Republican.

Another difference in the deserter generations seems to be their level of combat experience.

John Hagan, a sociologist at Northwestern University and the author of *Northern Passage*, a book about the migration of Americans to Canada during Vietnam, says 80 percent of the 25,000 draft-age men who fled to Canada bailed after receiving draft notices and never actually fought.

Most Iraq War deserters now in Canada served for at least two years.

Patrick Hart, a former sergeant from New York who served with the 101st Airborne Division, was an active-duty soldier for nearly 10 years and did one tour in Iraq.

Dean Walcott of Connecticut served in the Marine Corps for nearly five years and did two Iraq tours. Phil McDowell of Rhode Island joined the Army after the September 11, 2001 attacks and fled to Canada in 2006 because he received stop-loss orders to return for a second tour in Iraq.

Most of the deserters are able to work pending the resolution of their cases.

Key does welding. Johnson picks up carpentry projects, and Rivera worked nights at a bakery before she had her third child.

Many of the deserters are estranged from their families, who disapprove of their decision. Rivera says she hasn't spoken to her mother since she left Texas. She and Mario checked their phone messages when they arrived in Ontario to hear her mother saying that if Rivera didn't turn herself in, she'd call the police and report Mario for kidnapping her and the kids. According to Mario's mother, Reyna, that's just what she did. Rivera's mother, Cathy Miller, didn't return phone calls for this story, but Reyna says that for months she received calls from Mesquite investigators asking about Mario and a kidnapping allegation.

For Ryan Johnson, losing his family has been the hardest part of moving to Canada. His mother is so ashamed of her son that she tells friends he's still serving in the Army and deployed overseas. "My grandfather died last year," Johnson says. "He was one of the people who pretty much raised me, and he stopped talking to me because of the decision I made. A lot of my family has disowned me."

January 23 is cold and overcast, and only four days remain before the Riveras are scheduled to be deported.

[Alyssa] Manning, their lawyer, hasn't yet heard from the federal court about a stay of deportation, and all they can do at this point is pray. On this chilly morning, Kim has awoken with a head cold. Christian and Rebecca are chasing each other around the living room of the family's two-bedroom apartment on the upper floor of a cramped high-rise.

"Stop that," Rivera tells them. "Mommy's sick." She shakes her head. "Who knows what's going to happen to me in the next few days, and I'll be sick on top of it. Great."

She rises from the couch to dress and run errands. She'll strap the baby to her chest and go to the pharmacy to pick up Mario's medication for high blood pressure. She tries to take good care of her husband.

She's well aware of the fact that they are in this situation because of her, and while she doesn't regret joining the Army, she says, "I needed the experience to open my eyes."

Sometimes when she looks at her husband, she is amazed. "I can't believe I found someone to love me through all of this," she says. "It's amazing. I mean, we've known each other since we were 17, and he stuck with me through everything. Not even my parents could do that."

While she cooks eggs in the kitchen, the phone rings. Mario, sitting at the computer, picks it up. His eyes widen as he listens.

"Oh, that's great. Wait until I tell Kimberly," he says.

He listens and nods and then hangs up. He calls to his wife, who appears holding a spatula.

"So unfortunately, Alyssa called about the stay," he tells her.

Rivera's breath catches. "Uh-huh?"

"We didn't get it," he says, trying unsuccessfully to disguise his grin.

"Are you messing with me?" Rivera says.

Her husband laughs. "We got it."

"For how long?"

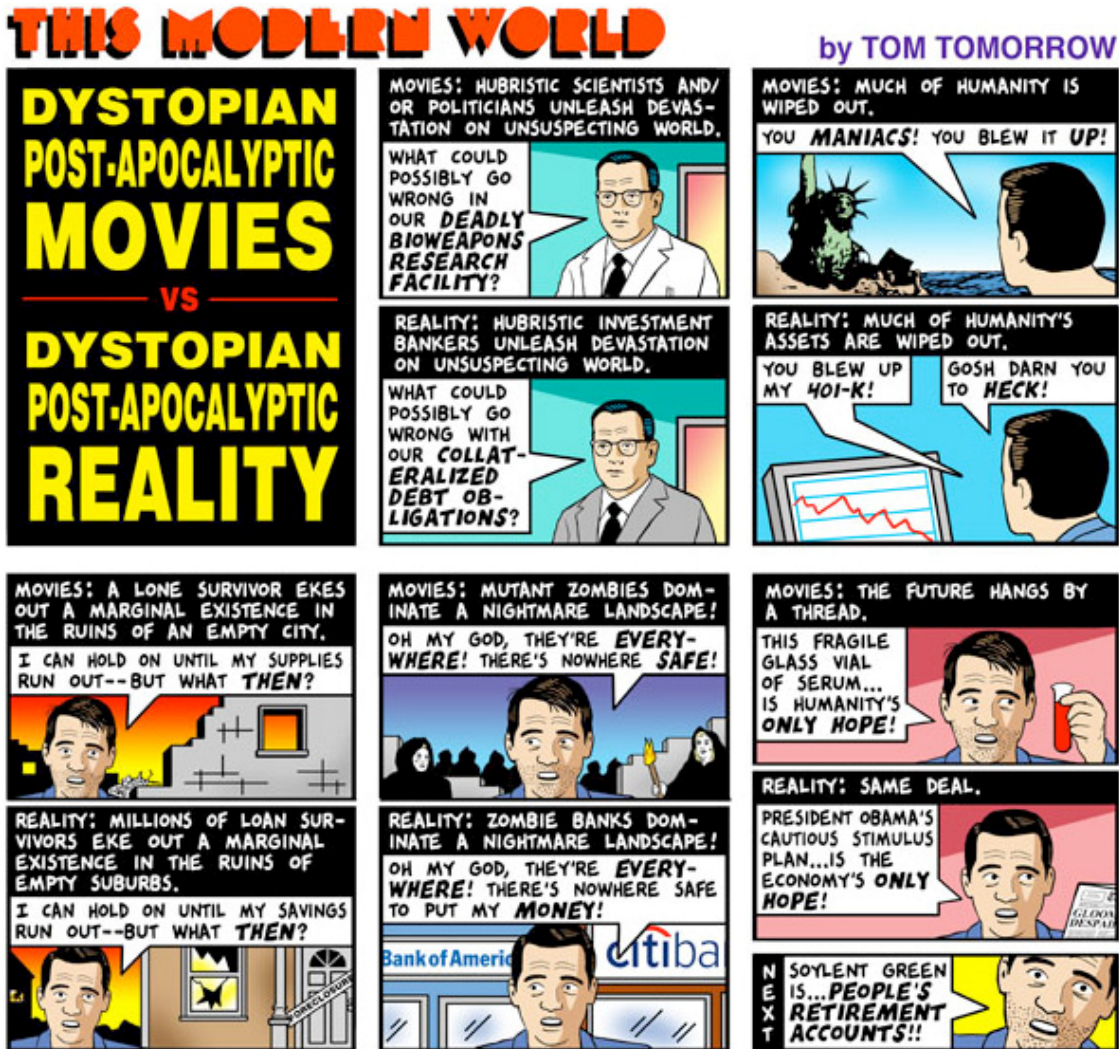
"Maybe through June. We don't know." Rivera exhales, her shoulders relaxing a bit. "All I can say is thank God."

Mario nods. "That buys us a few months," he says. "But we're not out of the woods yet."

3.18.09 Courage To Resist update:

On March 10, 2009 war resister and mother Kimberly Rivera was ordered to leave Canada, with her husband and three young children, by March 26 or face deportation.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

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

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS



**The War Comes Home Now:
Rising Body Count on Main Street:
The Financial Meltdown Is Beginning
To Be Measured In Blood:**

“Stories Of Resistance To Eviction, Armed Self-Defense, Arson, Self-Inflicted Injury, Murder, As Well As Suicide In Response To The Foreclosure Crisis”

October 19, 2008 By Nick Turse, Tomdispatch.com [Excerpts]

On October 4, 2008, in the Porter Ranch section of Los Angeles, Karthik Rajaram, beset by financial troubles, shot his wife, mother-in-law, and three sons before turning the gun on himself.

In one of his two suicide notes, Rajaram wrote that he was “broke,” having incurred massive financial losses in the economic meltdown. “I understand he was unemployed, his dealings in the stock market had taken a disastrous turn for the worse,” said Los Angeles Deputy Police Chief Michel R. Moore.

The fallout from the current subprime mortgage debacle and the economic one that followed has thrown lives into turmoil across the country.

In recent days, the Associated Press, ABC News, and others have begun to address the burgeoning body count, especially suicides attributed to the financial crisis.

Suicide is, however, just one type of extreme act for which the financial meltdown has seemingly been the catalyst.

Since the beginning of the year, stories of resistance to eviction, armed self-defense, canicide, arson, self-inflicted injury, murder, as well as suicide, especially in response to the foreclosure crisis, have bubbled up into the local news, although most reports have gone unnoticed nationally -- as has any pattern to these events.

While it's impossible to know what factors, including deeply personal ones, contribute to such extreme acts, violent or otherwise, many do seem undeniably linked to the present crisis. This is hardly surprising.

Rates of stress, depression, and suicide invariably climb in times of economic turmoil.

As Kathleen Hall, founder and CEO of the Stress Institute in Atlanta, told USA Today's Stephanie Armour earlier this year, “Suicides are very much tied to the economy.”

With predictions of a long and deep recession now commonplace, it's not too soon to begin looking for these patterns among the human tragedies already sprouting amid the financial ruins.

Extreme Evictions

In February, when a sheriff's deputy went to serve an eviction notice on a home owner in Greeley, Colorado, he found the man had slashed his wrists and was lying in a pool of blood.

Rushed to a nearby hospital, the man survived, while the Sheriff's office tried to downplay economic reasons for the incident, saying, according to the Denver Post, that "it wasn't linking the suicide attempt to the eviction because the man had known for a week that he was to be kicked out."

In March, Ocala, Florida resident Roland Gore killed his dog and his wife, set fire to his home which was in foreclosure, and then killed himself.

In April, Robert McGuinness, a 24-year-old process server, arrived at the Marion County, Florida doorstep of Frank W. Conrad. According to an article in the local Star Banner, the 82-year-old Conrad was reportedly "cordial" at first.

When McGuinness produced the foreclosure notice, however, Conrad got angry and left the room. He returned with a .38 caliber pistol and announced, "You have two seconds to get off my property or you will go to the hospital."

Marion County sheriff's deputies later arrested Conrad.

On June 3rd, agents of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) set out to inform New Orleans resident Eric Minshew that he would be evicted from his "Katrina" trailer. After Minshew threatened them, the FEMA employees called the police.

When they arrived, Minshew allegedly threatened them as well and "locked himself in his partially-gutted home, adjacent to his trailer."

A SWAT team was called in and tear-gassed the man. Interviewed by the Times-Picayune, local resident Tiffany Flores said, "Some SWAT members told my husband they had never seen anyone withstand that much tear gas."

The standoff went on for hours before "an assault team of tactical officers" invaded the home.

Though Minshew opened fire, they eventually cornered him on the upper floor. When -- they claimed -- he refused to drop his weapon, they gunned him down.

That same day, in Multnomah County, Oregon, sheriff's deputies served an eviction notice on a desperate tenant. According to Deputy Travis Gullberg, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Public Information Officer, the evictee promptly pulled a gun from his pocket and pointed it at his head before being disarmed by the deputies.

Hard Times

Recently, according to the Los Angeles Times, Rich Paul, a vice president at ValueOptions Inc., which handles mental health referrals, said that over the last year

stress-related calls arising from foreclosures or financial hardship had gone up 200% in California.

Of course, many victims of the linked economic crises never receive treatment.

In July, Sacramento County Sheriff's Deputy Mark Habecker told the Sacramento Bee that twice this year "homeowners about to be evicted have committed suicide as he approached to do a lockout." In another case, he said, "a fellow Sacramento deputy found a note in the home that told him where to find the foreclosed homeowner's body." The Bee reported that such cases "received no publicity when they happened," which raises the question of just how many similar suicides have gone unreported nationwide.

In July, when police delivered an eviction notice at the Middleburg, Florida home of George and Bonnie Mangum, the couple barricaded themselves inside. Eventually, George Mangum was talked into surrendering and was arrested.

"He did the only thing he knew to do, protect his family, all he did was sit on the other side of the door and say I have a gun, I have a gun and that's why he's going to jail because he threatened the police," said Bonnie.

The couple's daughter Robin added, "This is my home, this is all our home and I don't think it's right. My dad was a Green Beret, he's sick, how are you going to kick him out?"

Pinellas Park, Florida resident Dallas Dwayne Carter was a 44-year-old disabled, single dad who lost his job, fell into debt, and was faced with eviction.

"He always talked about needing help -- financially and help with the kids," neighbor Kevin Luster told the St. Petersburg Times.

On July 19th, Carter apparently called the police to say he was armed and disturbed. When they arrived, Carter fired his pistol and rifle inside the apartment, before emerging and pointing his weapons at the officers on the scene.

Police say they ordered him to drop them. When he didn't, they killed him in a 10-round fusillade.

On July 23d, about 90 minutes before her foreclosed Taunton, Massachusetts home was scheduled to be sold at auction, Carlene Balderrama faxed a letter to her mortgage company, letting them know that "by the time they foreclosed on the house today she'd be dead."

She continued, "I hope you're more compassionate with my husband and son than you were with me."

After that, she took a high-powered rifle and, according to the Boston Globe, shot herself.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Balderrama's husband John said, "I had no clue." His wife handled the finances and had been intercepting letters from the mortgage company for months.

"She put in her suicide note that it got overwhelming for her," he said. In the letter, she wrote, "take the insurance money and pay for the house."

The day after Balderrama took her life, 50 miles away in Worcester, Massachusetts, a 64-year-old man, who had already been evicted, barricaded himself inside his former home. Police were called to the scene to find him reportedly prepared to ignite four propane tanks. "His intention was to burn the house down with him in it," Sgt. Christopher J. George told the Telegram & Gazette. With the man becoming "even more despondent" as "a moving van arrived on the street," police stormed the house to find him "holding a foot-long knife to his own chest" as a piece of paper burned near the propane. The man was disarmed and the fire extinguished.

That very same day, in Visalia, California, a Tulare County sheriff's deputy tried to serve an eviction notice to Melvin Nicks, 50. Nicks responded by stabbing the deputy with a knife and barricading himself in the house for several hours. He later surrendered.

No Way Out

Bay City, Michigan residents David and Sharron Hetzel, both 56, "lost their home to foreclosure and filed for bankruptcy protection. But they did not follow through with the Chapter 13 proceedings." On August 1st, say police reports, David Hetzel mailed a letter of apology to his family members. Later that night, according to the local police, he attacked his sleeping wife, striking her in the head with a golf club and repeatedly stabbing her with a kitchen knife.

After that, he began setting fires throughout the house before crawling into bed beside his wife and killing himself with "a single, fatal wound to his torso."

On August 12th, sheriff's deputies arrived at the Saddlebrook, New Jersey home of 88-year-old Beatrice Brennan, another victim of the mortgage crisis, who had refinanced her home and fallen behind on payments.

Refusing to stand idly by while his mother was put out on the street, her 60-year-old son John pulled a .22 caliber handgun on the lawmen. That sent the movers, waiting for a court-imposed 10 a.m. deadline, scurrying for their van. Brennan was able to delay the eviction briefly before a SWAT team arrested him and his mother lost her home. "I'm heartbroken over this," Vincent Carabello, a longtime neighbor, told the local paper, the Record. "How could this happen?"

Roseville, Minnesota resident Sylvia Siefertman was under a great deal of stress and beset by financial difficulties. She worried about how she would care for her two 11-year-old daughters.

On August 21st, according to police reports, Siefertman "repeatedly stabbed the girls and herself." "She reached her limit," her friend Carrie Micko told the Star Tribune. "She

couldn't cope anymore... she felt that her daughters were suffering because she was failing to provide for them." As Micko further explained, "After a series of financial mishaps, she just couldn't see her way through. She was under extreme financial, emotional and spiritual distress and didn't want to fail them."

By Any Means Necessary

The Boston Globe reported that, on September 5th, "(f)our protesters trying to prevent the eviction of a Roxbury woman from her home were arrested... after they chained themselves to the steps of her back porch." As 40 protesters chanted in the street, officials from Bank of America ordered Paula Taylor out of her house.

"This is our eighth blockade and the first time there have been arrests," said Soledad Lawrence, an organizer with City Life, a non-profit organization seeking to halt the large numbers of foreclosures and evictions in Boston neighborhoods. "They can be more aggressive and we'll be more aggressive," she added.

On September 25th, as politicians in Washington tried to hash out a massive bailout package for financial institutions, six Boston police officers confronted about 40 City Life activists in front of the home of Ana Esquivel, a public school employee, and her husband Raul, a construction worker, both in their fifties. T

he Globe reported that four protesters were arrested as police shoved their way through in order to allow a locksmith into the house to bar the Esquivels from their home.

"We've been destroyed by the bank," Ana Esquivel said, sobbing. "The bank is too big for us."

While the Esquivel blockade failed, Steven Meacham, a City Life organizer, told a Globe reporter that "the protests have helped to stop about nine evictions. In the successful blockades, the homeowners were given additional time by their mortgage holders to negotiate alternatives to foreclosure."

Two days earlier, Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies came to the Monrovia home of 53-year-old Joanne Carter and her 67-year-old husband John to serve an eviction notice. Joanne Carter refused to accept it. According to "Monrovia spokesman" Dick Singer, as reported in the Pasadena Star-News, she "told deputies she had guns in the house and showed them a shotgun."

The next day, Monrovia police officers showed up at the home after being informed that the woman "may have made threats to a workers compensation agency."

Police Lieutenant Michael Lee said that Carter told them if they "tried to come in, she would defend her house at any means necessary."

She and her husband then reportedly barricaded themselves inside, after which a shotgun was fired. Police from other local departments were called in. Following an hours-long standoff, the Carters surrendered and were arrested.

That same day, in northern California, Cliff Kendall, Petaluma's chief building official, shot himself with a rifle. A week earlier, Kendall had learned that he was being laid off. "He was afraid we'd lose our home, and we probably will because I can't afford to keep it," his wife Patricia, who is on disability with a back injury, told the Press Democrat. "He was extremely upset about it and hurt."

On October 3rd, the day before Karthik Rajaram's mass murder/suicide in Los Angeles, 90-year-old Addie Polk was driven to extremes by the financial crisis. With sheriff's deputies at the door, Polk evidently took the only measure she felt was left to her to avoid eviction from her foreclosed home. She tried to kill herself.

Her neighbor Robert Dillon, hearing loud noises from her home, used a ladder to enter the second floor window.

He found Polk lying on her bed. "Then she kind of moved toward me a little and I saw that blood, and I said, 'Oh, no. Miss Polk musta done shot herself.'"

While she was in the hospital recovering from two self-inflicted gunshot wounds, Fannie Mae spokesman Brian Faith announced the mortgage association had decided to forgive her outstanding debt and give her the house "outright."

On October 6th, in Sevier County, Tennessee, sheriff's deputies, with police in tow, arrived to evict Jimmy and Pamela Ross from their home. They heard a shot and entered the home to find 57-year-old Pamela dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the chest.

Neighbor Ruth Blakey told WVLT-TV, "I know she really hated to leave that house. She did not want to leave that house."

Wanda Dunn told neighbors she would rather die than leave her home. On October 13th, the day she was to be evicted, the 53-year-old Pasadena, California native apparently set fire to the home "where her family had lived for generations" before shooting herself in the head.

"We knew it was going to happen," neighbor Steve Brooks told the Los Angeles Times. "It was nobody's fault; it was everybody's fault."

Outsourcing Suicide

In September, readers at Slate's "Explainer" column asked the following question: If the financial crisis was so dire, "how come we aren't hearing about executives jumping out of windows?"

Writer Nina Shen Rastogi dutifully answered:

"Because the current situation hasn't had nearly as devastating an effect on people's personal finances. The Great Crash of 1929 -- and, to a lesser extent, the crash of 1987

-- did lead some people to commit suicide. But in nearly all of those cases, the deceased had suffered a major loss when the market collapsed. Now, due in large part to those earlier experiences, investors tend to keep their portfolios far more diversified, so as to avoid having their entire fortunes wiped out when stocks take a downturn."

Perhaps this is true.

So far, at least, Wall Street's suicides seem to have been outsourced to places that its executives have probably never heard of.

There, on the proverbial main streets of America, the Street's financial meltdown is beginning to be measured not only in dollars and cents, but in blood.

Right now, there are no real counts of the many extreme acts born of the financial crisis, but assuredly other murders, suicides, self-inflicted injuries, acts of arson and of armed self-defense have simply gone unnoticed outside of economically hard-hit neighborhoods in cities and small towns across America.

With no end in sight for either the foreclosures or the economic turmoil, Americans may have to brace themselves for many more casualties on the home front.

Unless extreme economic steps, like mortgage- and debt-forgiveness, are implemented, the number of extreme acts and the ultimate body count may be far more extreme than anyone yet wants to contemplate.

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: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

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