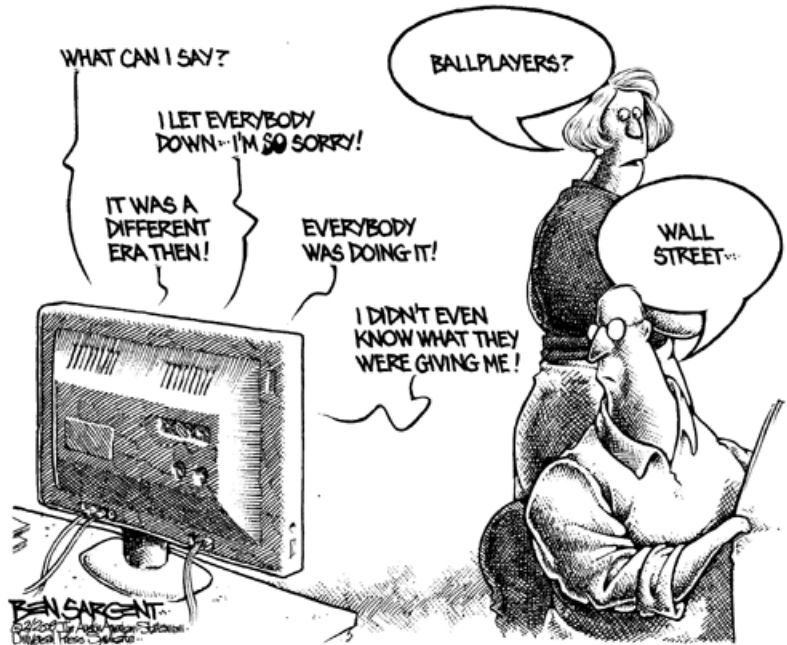


## GI SPECIAL 7C6:



**“Obama Said With A Straight Face, ‘Our Combat Mission In Iraq Will End’”**

**“Why? Because Obama Chooses Not To Call It Combat”**

**“What Are We Supposed To Call These 50,000 American Military Personnel, If They Are Not ‘Combat’ Troops?”**

# “Obama Wants Us To Call Them A ‘Transition Force’ – Presumably, They Will Transition To Death Anyone That Opposes Them”

“Obama thinks that by changing the nomenclature, he can announce ‘mission accomplished,’ declare peace, and then keep the war going indefinitely”

03/04/2009 By Glen Ford, Black Agenda Report [Excerpts]

From a supposed “antiwar” candidate, to a fan of the murderous “surge,” from a “no permanent bases” candidate to a “50,000 troops for the foreseeable future” president, Barack Obama, starting from the center, has progressed steadily rightward.

Barack Obama, who was never an anti-war candidate, reveals himself as a pro-war president who would rather mangle the English language than tell the truth.

Obama and his generals are agreed that the U.S. should leave about 50,000 U.S. troops in Iraq after the targeted withdrawal of so-called “combat” troops by the end of August, 2010.

So, what are we supposed to call these 50,000 American military personnel, if they are not “combat” troops?

Obama wants us to call them a “transition force” – presumably, they will transition to death anyone that opposes them.

Obama thinks that by changing the nomenclature, he can announce “mission accomplished,” declare peace, and then keep the war going indefinitely.

With the turn of a phrase, President Obama has placed himself to the Right of his own party, and stabbed all of his wishful anti-war supporters in the back.

When it comes to torturing the language, Obama is more shameless than Vietnam-era presidents, who persisted in calling U.S. troops fighting in that country “advisors” until the term became laughable.

As much as they would like to, the American generals in Iraq and their commander-in-chief can’t call the 50,000 soldiers and Marines that are to remain behind “advisors” – there are far too many of them, and they will continue to be organized for combat at the drop of a hat.

**Instead, the name-game describes the troops as a “transition” force, as opposed to a combat force.**

**Which doesn't mean they won't be in combat; on the contrary, armed Americans in full battle gear will be roaming around looking for targets and fighting alongside the Iraqi military.**

**It will look and sound just like combat; people on both sides and civilians will be killed, just like in combat, but it will not be combat because President Obama says the mission is "transition."**

After August of 2010, U.S. soldiers and Marines in Iraq will be engaged in "transitioning," not combat.

Obama is worried that many people may not be sophisticated enough to understand the fine distinction between combat soldiering and "transitioning."

"Let me say this as plainly as I can," Obama told Marines at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, last weekend.

"By August 31, 2010," Obama said with a straight face, "our combat mission in Iraq will end."

Why?

Because Obama chooses not to call it combat.

Obama has spoken. Semantics equals reality.

Which makes you wonder: what kind of semantic trick was Obama playing when he told the joint session of congress, "I can stand here tonight and say without exception or equivocation that the United States of America does not torture?"

If methodically killing people is not combat, then maybe the methodical infliction of physical and emotional pain isn't always torture.

Maybe torture, like combat, is in the eye of the beholder – or, more to the point, the Presidential Definer, the Semanticist-in-Chief.

Apparently, when Barack Obama promised change, he meant a change in definitions.

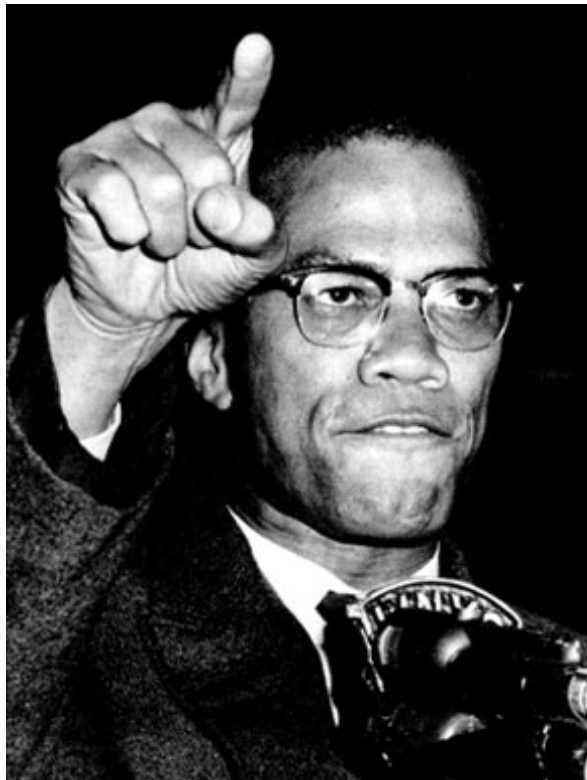
**MORE:**

# **The House Negro And The Field Negro: "The Slavemaster Took Tom And Dressed Him Well, And Fed Him**

**Well -- Gave Him A Long Coat And  
A Top Hat And Made All The Other  
Slaves Look Up To Him”**

**“Then He Used Tom To Control  
Them”**

**“The Same Strategy That Was Used In  
Those Days Is Used Today, By The Same  
White Man”**



Malcolm X, Message To The Grassroots, 10 Nov, 1963 in Detroit, MI:  
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/malcolmxgrassroots.htm>

[Excerpts]

First, what is a revolution?

Sometimes I'm inclined to believe that many of our people are using this word  
"revolution" loosely, without taking careful consideration what this word actually means,

and what its historic characteristics are. When you study the historic nature of revolutions, the motive of a revolution, the objective of a revolution, and the result of a revolution, and the methods used in a revolution, you may change words. You may devise another program. You may change your goal and you may change your mind.

A revolution is bloody. Revolution is hostile. Revolution knows no compromise. Revolution overturns and destroys everything that gets in its way. And you, sitting around here like a knot on the wall, saying, "I'm going to love these folks no matter how much they hate me."

No, you need a revolution.

Whoever heard of a revolution where they lock arms, as Reverend Cleage was pointing out beautifully, singing "We Shall Overcome"?

Just tell me.

You don't do that in a revolution.

You don't do any singing; you're too busy swinging.

To understand this, you have to go back to what young brother here referred to as the house Negro and the field Negro -- back during slavery.

There was two kinds of slaves.

There was the house Negro and the field Negro.

The house Negroes - they lived in the house with master, they dressed pretty good, they ate good 'cause they ate his food -- what he left.

They lived in the attic or the basement, but still they lived near the master; and they loved their master more than the master loved himself.

They would give their life to save the master's house quicker than the master would.

The house Negro, if the master said, "We got a good house here," the house Negro would say, "Yeah, we got a good house here."

Whenever the master said "we," he said "we."

That's how you can tell a house Negro.

If the master's house caught on fire, the house Negro would fight harder to put the blaze out than the master would.

If the master got sick, the house Negro would say, "What's the matter, boss, we sick?" We sick! He identified himself with his master more than his master identified with himself.

And if you came to the house Negro and said, "Let's run away, let's escape, let's separate," the house Negro would look at you and say, "Man, you crazy. What you mean, separate? Where is there a better house than this? Where can I wear better clothes than this? Where can I eat better food than this?"

That was that house Negro. In those days he was called a "house nigger."

And that's what we call him today, because we've still got some house niggers running around here.

This modern house Negro loves his master.

On that same plantation, there was the field Negro.

The field Negro -- those were the masses. There were always more Negroes in the field than there was Negroes in the house. The Negro in the field caught hell.

He ate leftovers.

In the house they ate high up on the hog. The Negro in the field didn't get nothing but what was left of the insides of the hog. They call 'em "chitt'lin" nowadays. In those days they called them what they were: guts. That's what you were -- a gut-eater. And some of you all still gut-eaters.

The field Negro was beaten from morning to night. He lived in a shack, in a hut; He wore old, castoff clothes.

He hated his master. I say he hated his master. He was intelligent.

That house Negro loved his master. But that field Negro -- remember, they were in the majority, and they hated the master.

When the house caught on fire, he didn't try and put it out; that field Negro prayed for a wind, for a breeze.

When the master got sick, the field Negro prayed that he'd die. If someone come to the field Negro and said, "Let's separate, let's run," he didn't say "Where we going?" He'd say, "Any place is better than here."

You've got field Negroes in America today. I'm a field Negro. The masses are the field Negroes.

When they see this man's house on fire, you don't hear these little Negroes talking about "our government is in trouble."

They say, "The government is in trouble." Imagine a Negro: "Our government"!

Just as the slavemaster of that day used Tom, the house Negro, to keep the field Negroes in check, the same old slavemaster today has Negroes who are nothing but modern Uncle Toms, 20th century Uncle Toms, to keep you and me in check, keep us under control, keep us passive and peaceful and nonviolent.

That's Tom making you nonviolent. It's like when you go to the dentist, and the man's going to take your tooth. You're going to fight him when he starts pulling. So he squirts some stuff in your jaw called novocaine, to make you think they're not doing anything to you. So you sit there and 'cause you've got all of that novocaine in your jaw, you suffer peacefully. Blood running all down your jaw, and you don't know what's happening. 'Cause someone has taught you to suffer -- peacefully.

There's nothing in our book, the Quran -- you call it "Ko-ran" -- that teaches us to suffer peacefully.

Our religion teaches us to be intelligent. Be peaceful, be courteous, obey the law, respect everyone; but if someone puts his hand on you, send him to the cemetery.

That's a good religion. In fact, that's that old-time religion.

That's the one that Ma and Pa used to talk about: an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, and a head for a head, and a life for a life: That's a good religion.

And doesn't nobody resent that kind of religion being taught but a wolf, who intends to make you his meal.

**The slavemaster took Tom and dressed him well, and fed him well, and even gave him a little education -- a little education; gave him a long coat and a top hat and made all the other slaves look up to him.**

**Then he used Tom to control them.**

**The same strategy that was used in those days is used today, by the same white man.**

**He takes a Negro, a so-called Negro, and make him prominent, build him up, publicize him, make him a celebrity.**



washingtonpost.com

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

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

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

**“And Today’s Show And Tell Is All About  
Ancient History, When Invading Foreign  
Armies Occupied Our Country”**



A U.S. soldier visits a classroom in Baghdad's Hurriya district March 5, 2009.  
REUTERS/Mohammed Ameen

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

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

**Notes From A Lost War:**



# **Deadly Fools In Command: “A Bleak Picture Of A Counterinsurgency Effort Undermined By Intelligence Failures That At Times Border On The Absurd”**

**“The Effectiveness Of The  
Intelligence Effort Being Quantified  
By Some Senior Officers Solely In  
Terms Of The Amount Of ‘Tip Money’  
Disbursed To Sources”**

**“Operational Commanders Continued To  
Indulge In The Fallacy Of Body Counts”**

[Thanks to Ward Reilly, Veterans For Peace. He writes: “Invading Afghanistan was the original ‘intelligence failure’”.]

6 March 2009 Peter Beaumont, The Guardian

A highly critical analysis of the US-led coalition's counterinsurgency in Iraq and Afghanistan has raised serious questions about combat operations in both countries - and the intelligence underpinning them.

The confidential document presents a bleak picture of a counterinsurgency effort undermined by intelligence failures that at times border on the absurd.

Based on scores of interviews with British, US, Canadian and Dutch military, intelligence and diplomatic officials - and marked for “official use only” - the book-length report is damning of a US military often unwilling to share intelligence among its military allies. It depicts commanders in the field being overwhelmed by information on hundreds of contradictory databases, and sometimes resistant to intelligence generated by its own agents in the CIA.

**Counterinsurgency efforts are also shown as being at the mercy of local contacts peddling identical “junk” tips around various intelligence officials, with the effectiveness of the intelligence effort being quantified by some senior officers solely in terms of the amount of “tip money” disbursed to sources.**

The report describes a rigid reliance on economic, military and political progress indicators regarded by the authors and interviewees as too often lacking in real meaning.

**Its sources complain of commanders who have slipped into relying on “the fallacy of body counts”, discredited after the war in Vietnam as a measure of success.**

The report, prepared by the RAND national defence research institute for US Joint Forces Command in November and leaked to the Wikileaks website, reveals the case of Dutch F-16 pilots in Afghanistan who were ordered by the US to bomb targets, only to be refused access to American “battle damage assessments” showing what they had hit, on the grounds that the Dutch were not “security cleared” to view them.

Another interviewee describes how coalition forces at Camp Holland near Tarin Kowt in southern Afghanistan maintained 13 different intelligence sections, including US, Dutch, UAE, and Australian, all operating with minimal co-operation.

“It would have been helpful (for us to have) combined them; then we would have known everything,” complained Lt Neils Verhoef, one of those interviewed for the report.

“One section knew the location of an IED factory, and we drove by it for three months.”

The unflattering document will make grim reading for President Barack Obama as he grapples with the worsening crisis in Afghanistan, confronted by an increasingly emboldened Taliban and its allies.

With counterinsurgency tactics now placed at the centre of the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the RAND report suggests that many of the national armed forces involved lack skills to operate effectively.

Quoting senior officers, it questions many everyday operations - from weapons searches to the killing or arrest of wanted individuals - suggesting that they “alienate” the local population for little measurable gain.

**An anonymous source quoted in the report stated that “operational commanders” continued to “indulge in the fallacy of body counts, and a month in which more Taliban are killed than in the previous month” was seen as progress.**

**He added: “This is actually more likely to reflect the fact that there are more enemy on the battlefield than there were before.”**

Despite the huge emphasis on counterinsurgency tactics in Iraq and Afghanistan in the last two years, the report's authors, Russell Glenn and Jamie Gayton, find it necessary to remind military readers of the importance of the civilian population in their efforts, not least in protecting civilians “against attack by both the enemy and your own forces”.

“Those interviewed in support of this research,” they wrote, “noted with no little frustration that coalition forces themselves too frequently neglect to treat local community members properly.”

Perhaps most damning of all, however, is the suggestion from several of those interviewed that often they felt that an overall strategy for what they were supposed to be doing was entirely lacking.

**One of those interviewed was Brigadier General Theo Vleugels, who described his 2006 command experience in southern Afghanistan in terms worthy of a passage from Joseph Heller's *Catch 22*.**

**“We didn't have a campaign plan when we started, but we later got one from my higher headquarters that was close to ours, which is not surprising as they told us to do what we told them we would do.”**

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## UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW



U.S. soldiers are seen close to their damaged Humvee armored vehicle after a car bomb attack in Basoud district of Ningarhar province east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Feb. 5, 2009. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)

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# **“Death To America, Death To The Government, Death To The Governor”**

7 March 2009 (AFP)

KHOST, Afghanistan - Nearly 150 people on Saturday demonstrated in eastern Afghanistan over the deaths of four people killed in a night raid that US-led coalition forces said was targeted at insurgents.

Carrying the coffins of the victims, protesters blocked the road between Gardez and Khost for two hours, according to an AFP correspondent.

“Death to America, death to the government, death to the governor,” the demonstrators chanted, before throwing stones at a convoy of soldiers from the International Strategic Assistant Force (ISAF).

The demonstrators said the four dead were not linked to the Taliban.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

### **Soldier Who Fought Recall To Active Duty From IRR Receives Honorable Discharge**

[Thanks to Mike Woloshin, Veterans For Peace, for posting.]

March 6, 2009 AP

A North Carolina mother who reported for Army duty with her two young children said Friday she is happy and relieved that the military granted her an honorable discharge.

Lisa Pagan was back home in Davidson on Friday after spending a week at Fort Benning, waiting to learn if she would be put on active duty, possibly facing a tour in Iraq or Afghanistan.

In her first interview since leaving Fort Benning, Pagan said it was "nice to be home." "After I was told I could leave, my first thought was: God finally answered my prayers. I've been going to church every weekend and saying my prayers. I'm just going to let this set in.

"I know what I did was controversial, but it was something I had to do," she said.

**Pagan had been fighting the Army since she was recalled to active duty in November 2007, saying she had no one to care for her children.**

A former truck driver in the Army, Pagan was recalled four years after being released from active duty, which is allowed under the military's "individual ready reserve" program.

Attorney Mark Waple said Pagan was discharged due to family hardship.

Soldiers can appeal, and nearly a third have won permission to remain in civilian life. Pagan filed several appeals, arguing that because her husband travels for business, no one else can take care of her kids. Her appeals were rejected.

So she reported for duty Monday at Fort Benning, Ga., with her children, 4-year-old Elizabeth and 3-year-old Eric.

Her children spent the week in an Army day care center, while she was processed for active duty -- filling out paperwork and undergoing medical tests. But from the time she arrived, she said she believed she would be discharged.

"My commander was very supportive," she said.

Waple agreed, saying the commanders at Fort Benning were "a breath of fresh air."

"When Lisa and her husband made the decision she would comply with her orders to go and report to Fort Benning, the jurisdiction in her case changed from the reserve command in St. Louis to the command at Fort Benning. And evidently, they took a closer look at the situation and made the right decision," he said.

About 1,000 have failed to report, and most of those cases are still under investigation, he said. Another 360 soldiers have been separated from the Army either through "other than honorable" discharges or general discharges.

Pagan, who held the rank of specialist, said she was worried about receiving a dishonorable discharge.

On the roughly six-hour drive home, she said she so happy she called her husband, who was on a business trip in Ohio, to share the good news.

"He was excited," she said. "Now we can focus on other things. The whole thing has been stressful. I'm just glad it's over," she said.

## **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**

## **Army Officer Charged With Stealing Iraq Relief Funds**

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project & SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. SSG N (ret'd) writes: "The wars not over until all the stealing is done. Only the dumb ones get caught, he should have kept it in the mattress. Our Joes get to pay for missing TOE out of their own pocket."]

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Mar 6, 2009 AFP

A US military officer has been charged with stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash intended for relief and reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the US Department of Justice says.

Capt. Michael Dung Nguyen, 28, is accused of stealing more than \$690,000 entrusted to him as the battalion civil affairs officer in Muqdadiyah, Iraq.

While stationed in Iraq between April 2007 and February 2009, Michael Dung Nguyen, 28, is alleged to have stolen more than \$690,000, sending it back to his home in north-western Oregon, the department said in a statement.

The indictment said Nguyen mailed bundles of stolen \$100 bills home before he returned from Iraq and that he opened bank accounts in his home state of Oregon and elsewhere.

The individual deposits were less than \$10,000, but he sometimes made numerous deposits on the same or consecutive days, according to the indictment.

U.S. Attorney Karin Immergut said an investigation began after Internal Revenue Service agents spotted a suspicious pattern with the deposits.

She said the charges indicate a "flagrant and reprehensible disregard" for military honor.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Paul Papak set a May 5 trial for Nguyen, who will be tried as a civilian.

Nguyen was released to return to Fort Lewis near Tacoma, Washington, where he is stationed.

The funds were swiped from the Commander's Emergency Response Program which was designed to empower local commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan to respond to humanitarian relief and reconstruction efforts.

After making the deposits "in a manner intended to avoid detection", according to the Justice Department, Nguyen allegedly attempted money laundering with the purchase of high-end goods.

He bought a luxury BMW and a 2009 model Hummer truck, along with computers, other electronic equipment and furniture.

If convicted, he faces up to 30 years in jail.



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: We've got a three front war. Iraqistan and class. Bin Laden may defeat us because of our own folly.]

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## **Tens Of Thousands Of Unopened Letters Related To Benefits Claims Found at V.A.: “Frustrated Claimants Either Give Up Or Die”**

# **“WE WERE DEFRAUDED, DUPED, LIED TO AND USED AND THOSE OF US WHO SEE THIS DEMAND JUSTICE”**

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro & Sandy Kelson, Veterans For Peace & Military Project & Clancy Sigal & SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in.]

## **Comment By Sandy Kelson:**

**From my military experience, from what I read of and heard from hundreds of soldiers and veterans it is obvious that we are heroes when we charge but bums when we come back.**

**We are cannon fodder pure and simple.**

**Just as our enemies are killed for the cause de jure our politicians kill us for the same cause while the vast majority of the children of our politicians, dems and republicans alike, are protected from the horrors.**

**All elected and appointed federal gvmnt members should be required to submit to the same veterans administration for their health care.**

**Same bureaucracy, same facilities, same doctors, same waits, delays, anger and frustration.**

**ONLY WHEN THIS HAPPENS WILL VETERANS GET THE CARE THEY DESERVE AS THE VICTIMS OF US IMPERIAL DESIGNS DISGUISED AS DEFENSE.**

**WE WERE DEFRAUDED, DUPED, LIED TO AND USED AND THOSE OF US WHO SEE THIS DEMAND JUSTICE.**

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Mar 4, 2009 By Rick Maze - Staff writer, Army Times [Excerpts]

A new report about Veterans Affairs Department employees squirreling away tens of thousands of unopened letters related to benefits claims is sparking fresh concerns that veterans and their survivors are being cheated out of money.

VA officials acknowledge further credibility problems based on a new report of a previously undisclosed 2007 incident in which workers at a Detroit regional office turned in 16,000 pieces of unprocessed mail and 717 documents turned up in New York in December during amnesty periods in which workers were promised no one would be penalized.

The worst case uncovered by auditors involved the New York regional office, where employees testified that managers told staff to put later dates on claims to make it appear claims were being processed faster.



**Kathryn Witt of Gold Star Wives of America said survivors trying to receive VA benefits have long complained about problems getting accurate information and missing claims.**

**“When they call to check on the status of the claim, they are often told that the VA has no record of their claim and that they should resubmit their paperwork,” she said.**

In one case, a woman claimed she had to submit paperwork to VA three times to prove she was married and had three children, Witt said.

And having to resubmit the same claim, she added, does nothing to reduce the backlog that already forces survivors to wait six to nine months for simple claims to be approved.

Kerry Baker of Disabled American Veterans said a short-term answer could be to scan all documents related to claims into computer systems. Baker, DAV's assistant national legislative director, said this could be done at one or more large-scale imaging centers that would transform paper into electronic records.

**“A large section of the veterans community and representatives of the community have long felt that the Veterans Benefits Administration operates in such a way that stalls the claims process until frustrated claimants either give up or die,” Baker said.**

**“Denying earned benefits by illegally destroying records should serve as the proverbial wake-up call that signals the urgency of this overdue transformation,” he said.**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Resistance Action**

March 5 (Reuters) & 03/06/09 (AP) & March 7, 2009 AFP

A parked car bomb wounded a policeman when it struck a police patrol in southern Mosul, in the north of Iraq, police said.

A car bomber wounded a soldier near an army patrol in northern Mosul, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded Muhsin Taha al-Mismar, the head of the education office of Salahuddin Province, in a town near the city of Tikrit, 150 km (95 miles) north of Baghdad, police said. Mismar's driver was also wounded in the blast.

Insurgents in a car shot and wounded police Brigadier- General Salam Salman while he was heading to work in central Baghdad, police said.

On Friday, a roadside bomb exploded near a police checkpoint in Mishahda, 20 miles (30 kilometers) north of Baghdad, killing two policemen and wounding three others, said an Iraqi police official.

A roadside bomb targeting a security patrol killed one policeman and injured two others in a northern Baghdad suburb on Friday, police said. The blast occurred about 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of the centre of the Iraqi capital in Tarmiyah

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



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

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

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

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

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# **March 7, 1932; Five Ford Workers Killed And Nineteen Wounded By Police And Company “Security” Armed With Pistols, Rifles And A Machine Gun**



Carl Bunin Peace History March 3-9

**The Ford Hunger March began on Detroit’s East Side and proceeded 10 miles seeking relief during the Great Depression.**

Facing hunger and evictions, workers had formed neighborhood Unemployed Councils. Along the route, the marchers were given good wishes from Detroit Mayor Frank Murphy as well as two motorcycle escorts, and thousands joined the marchers along the route.

At the Detroit city limit, the marchers were met by Dearborn police and doused by fire hoses. Despite the cold weather, they continued to the Employment Office of the Ford River Rouge plant, from which there had been massive layoffs.

**Five workers were killed and nineteen wounded by police and company “security” armed with pistols, rifles and a machine gun.**

According to Dave Moore, one of the marchers, “That blood was black blood and white blood.

One of the photos that was published in the Detroit Times, but never seen since, shows a black woman, Mattie Woodson, wiping the blood off the head of Joe DiBlasio, a white man who lay there dying . . . It’s been 75 years, but when you drive down Miller Road today, your car tires will be moistened with the blood that those five shed.”

Grave markers with the words "His Life for the Union" pay tribute to them in Woodmere Cemetery on Detroit's West Side.

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## **March 7, 1965: Anniversary The First March From Selma: A Day That That Shook The World**



Alabama police attack Selma-to-Montgomery marchers

Carl Bunin Peace History; Americaslibrary.gov [Excerpts]

March 7, 1965

When 525 people started a planned march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, on Sunday March 7, 1965, it was called a demonstration. When state troopers met the demonstrators at the edge of the city by the Edmund Pettus Bridge, that day became known as "Bloody Sunday."

In Selma, African Americans made up almost half the population, but only two percent were registered voters. Discrimination and intimidation tactics aimed at blacks kept them from registering and voting. The demonstrators marched to demand fairness in voter registration.

The sheriff warned the people that they had two minutes to break up the march, but the deputies attacked sooner. The demonstrators were tear-gassed, clubbed, spat on, whipped, trampled by horses, and jeered by others for demanding the right to register to vote.

Television and newspapers carried pictures of the event that became known as "Bloody Sunday."

The images sickened, outraged, and electrified people throughout the country.

Within 48 hours, demonstrations in support of the marchers were held in 80 cities. Many of the nation's religious and lay leaders, including Martin Luther King, flew to Selma. After one more failed attempt, King led a peaceful march from Selma to Montgomery. Congress responded to these events by enacting the Voting Rights Act of 1965.



## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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**Main Citizens Rebel and Win As  
Local Government Defies Their  
Will And Tries To Sell Their  
Water Rights To A Powerful  
Corporation:  
Nestle Corp Threatens “To Show  
Their Hand”  
But The Citizens Show Their Fists:  
“We Are Duty-Bound Under The Maine  
Constitution, To Oppose Such Tyranny  
And Usurpation”**



Symbol Credit: 1775, Philadelphia Marine Corps, First U.S. Revolution

**In Maine, we were tired of Nestlé behaving like a colonial power, with a right to our water resources. We have decided to stand up to power. We have ignored the voices of the weary and defeated ... “**

March 4, 2009 Jamilla El-Shafei, Socialist Worker

COMMUNITIES IN Maine have been engaging in a struggle to protect their groundwater resources from the multinational corporation Nestlé Waters N.A., the largest food and beverage company in the world.

Nestlé, which is in the business of mining water to fill plastic bottles for their labels such as Poland Springs, seeks to expand its business by increasing the number of wellheads throughout the state. It is pumping millions more gallons of spring water from aquifers each day.

They take the water for next to nothing, or for nothing at all, in exchange for the promise of future jobs that don't always materialize.

Nestlé then sells the water at a profit margin that can be over 1,000 percent.

None of these profits are used to address the grave environmental costs: receding water levels in lakes and ponds, drawn-down wells and ultimately depleted aquifers, damage to roads from the large tanker trucks used to transport water, the impact of plastic waste.

Activists in Maine are also well aware that Nestlé is not just interested in expanding its business for the purpose of filling water bottles today.

Nestlé is interested in the control of Maine's abundant water resources and is positioning itself to capitalize on the emerging crisis of global water scarcity.

Activists contend that access to water is a human right and should not be sold only to those who can afford it.

When Nestlé came knocking on the door in Kennebunk, Wells and Shapleigh, activists organized a very effective opposition.

Last June, activists in Southern Maine were able to halt a proposed 50-year contract between Nestlé and the Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells (KKW) Water District.

The proposed deal had been kept very quiet until three weeks before the contract was to be signed, when a press release in the local paper alerted organizers who called for a town meeting. The event was well publicized in regional media outlets with attention-grabbing headlines like “Water Battle Begins.”

The water district's superintendent was invited to answer questions from concerned citizens. The Town Hall was packed, with standing room only, and citizens stood in line for three hours to pose questions to the superintendent--100 percent of them opposed the deal.

However, in spite of the communities' opposition to the idea of selling their water resources, the KKW Water District was going to proceed with the contract.

The activists remained undaunted.

On the day that the Nestlé contract with the water district was to be signed, a press conference was organized by activists of Save Our Water, which brought National Public Television's NewsHour with Jim Lehrer to the event.

The TV crew's appearance apparently embarrassed the water district superintendent and trustees.

So they refused to hold their publicly advertised meeting in the Town Hall for public comment before the signing of the contract. Instead, they held the meeting in a small room, prohibiting most of the public from attending.

The citizens grew angry at this blatant abuse of the democratic process. Under the glare of the media's spotlight, the water district postponed the signing of the contract. And after the NewsHour segment, which showcased the community's rage, the water district's proposed contract with Nestlé was “indefinitely tabled.”

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IN THE meantime, Nestlé had its eye on another source of groundwater in Shapleigh, Maine. It mounted an expensive public relations campaign, even sending “representatives” door to door to convince the community that the company would be a good neighbor.

But the corporation that has been masquerading as a “good neighbor” in Maine was recently implicated in the killing of labor union organizers in the Philippines and exploiting children. The community in Shapleigh did its homework and decided that it didn't want to do business with Nestlé.



Yet the corporation persisted. Mark DuBois, the company's natural resources manager, threatened (on video) "to show their hand" when the community passed a 180-day moratorium prohibiting Nestlé from testing wells and preventing the signing of a proposed contract between Nestlé and the town's selectmen.

**Activists in both Shapleigh and the KKW Water District teamed up with attorney Thomas Linzey of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund to craft a rights-based ordinance to ensure that decisions made by citizens for their communities would not be overruled by the legal clout of corporations like Nestlé.**

The concept of the rights-based ordinance was pioneered by Linzey, who helped to write Ecuador's new constitution, which gives entity rights to ecosystems. Ecuador is the first country in the world to protect its natural resources from corporate exploitation in this way.

**In Shapleigh, the town's selectmen favored a contract with Nestlé and refused to put the activists' rights-based ordinance on the town meeting warrant, so citizens collected enough signatures to petition the selectmen for a "special town meeting."**

**At that meeting on February 28, the citizens of Shapleigh voted to pass the ordinance.**

**The ordinance not only gives citizens the right to local self-governance, but it declares that the water in the town is held in public trust as a common resource for the benefit of residents and that natural ecosystems of which they are part.**

Most importantly, the radical section two states:

**"We believe that the corporatization of water supplies in this community--placing the control of water in the hands of a corporate few, rather than the community--would constitute tyranny and usurpation; and that we are duty-bound under the Maine Constitution, to oppose such tyranny and usurpation."**

**"That same duty requires us to recognize that two centuries' worth of governmental conferral of constitutional powers upon corporations has deprived people of the authority to govern their own communities, and requires us to take affirmative steps to remedy that usurpation of governing power."**

**In Maine, we were tired of Nestlé behaving like a colonial power, with a right to our water resources. We have decided to stand up to power.**

**We have ignored the voices of the weary and defeated who believe that people will never vote to remove power from corporations or give nature the right to protect itself from exploitation.**

**We want to encourage other communities to join us. The time is now!**

**MORE:**

# **“Here The Content Goes Beyond The Phrase”**

**“Precisely In Such Epochs Of Revolutionary Crisis They Anxiously Conjure Up The Spirits Of The Past To Their Service, Borrowing From Them Names, Battle Slogans, And Costumes In Order To Present This New Scene In World History In Time-Honored Disguise And Borrowed Language”**

**The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte  
Karl Marx 1852**

[Excerpts]

Men make their own history, but they do not make it as they please; they do not make it under self-selected circumstances, but under circumstances existing already, given and transmitted from the past. The tradition of all dead generations weighs like a vampire [German: nachtalb] on the brains of the living.

**And just as they seem to be occupied with revolutionizing themselves and things, creating something that did not exist before, precisely in such epochs of revolutionary crisis they anxiously conjure up the spirits of the past to their service, borrowing from them names, battle slogans, and costumes in order to present this new scene in world history in time-honored disguise and borrowed language.**

Thus Luther put on the mask of the Apostle Paul, the Revolution of 1789-1814 draped itself alternately in the guise of the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire, and the Revolution of 1848 knew nothing better to do than to parody, now 1789, now the revolutionary tradition of 1793-95.

In like manner, the beginner who has learned a new language always translates it back into his mother tongue, but he assimilates the spirit of the new language and expresses himself freely in it only when he moves in it without recalling the old and when he forgets his native tongue.

When we think about this conjuring up of the dead of world history, a salient difference reveals itself.

Camille Desmoulins, Danton, Robespierre, St. Just, Napoleon, the heroes as well as the parties and the masses of the old French Revolution, performed the task of their time – that of unchaining and establishing modern bourgeois society – in Roman costumes and with Roman phrases.

The first one destroyed the feudal foundation and cut off the feudal heads that had grown on it.

The other created inside France the only conditions under which free competition could be developed, parceled-out land properly used, and the unfettered productive power of the nation employed; and beyond the French borders it swept away feudal institutions everywhere, to provide, as far as necessary, bourgeois society in France with an appropriate up-to-date environment on the European continent.

Once the new social formation was established, the antediluvian colossi disappeared and with them also the resurrected Romanism – the Brutuses, the Gracchi, the publicolas, the tribunes, the senators, and Caesar himself. Bourgeois society in its sober reality bred its own true interpreters and spokesmen in the Says, Cousins, Royer-Collards, Benjamin Constants, and Guizots; its real military leaders sat behind the office desk and the hog-headed Louis XVIII was its political chief.

Entirely absorbed in the production of wealth and in peaceful competitive struggle, it no longer remembered that the ghosts of the Roman period had watched over its cradle.

But unheroic though bourgeois society is, it nevertheless needed heroism, sacrifice, terror, civil war, and national wars to bring it into being.

And in the austere classical traditions of the Roman Republic the bourgeois gladiators found the ideals and the art forms, the self-deceptions, that they needed to conceal from themselves the bourgeois-limited content of their struggles and to keep their passion on the high plane of great historic tragedy.

Similarly, at another stage of development a century earlier, Cromwell and the English people had borrowed from the Old Testament the speech, emotions, and illusions for their bourgeois revolution.

When the real goal had been achieved and the bourgeois transformation of English society had been accomplished, Locke supplanted Habakkuk.

**Thus the awakening of the dead in those revolutions served the purpose of glorifying the new struggles, not of parodying the old; of magnifying the given task in the imagination, not recoiling from its solution in reality; of finding once more the spirit of revolution, not making its ghost walk again.**

**There the phrase went beyond the content – here the content goes beyond the phrase.**

<b>Troops Invited:</b>
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**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**

## **RECEIVED**

### **Re: Loss Of Benefits For Refusal To Report For IRR**

From: Jeff Paterson  
To: GI Special  
Sent: March 06, 2009  
Subject: RE: GI Special 7C1: Which Side Are You On?

Last week you included an IRR-related article and commented on it.

Soldier Mom Plans To Report For Duty With Kids: Four Years After She Was Honorably Discharged From The Army, Recalled From IRR; "I Have To Bring Them With Me," She Said. "I Don't Have A Choice"

Your commentary: (There are not and can be no military "charges" for "refusing her orders" because no military orders may be given to a civilian. However, the individual may be stripped of service-connected benefits for refusing to report to base and by so reporting, thereby return to active duty status. See more below.)

This is somewhat confusing.

**Individuals who do not physically report for activation are sometimes discharged under "general" or "other than honorable" conditions from the IRR.**

The important thing for people to understand is that one's discharge status from the IRR has no impact on one's discharge status from active duty. There is no impact on your DD-214, GI Bill, VA benefits, etc.

We have put great effort into collecting and verifying the information we recently published, "Resisting Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) recall":  
<http://www.couragetoresist.org/x/content/view/658/110/>

Sincerely,  
Jeff Paterson  
Courage to Resist Project Director

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## REPLY: T

**The point made in the comment cited above, that was poorly constructed and therefore lacking clarity, is that refusal to report to base for IRR means that no military charges may be brought against an individual, who remains a civilian unless he or she reports, but certain specified benefits may be taken away for the refusal to report, at the discretion of separation boards, when and if an “other than honorable” discharge is applied by the separation board. Thanks for the pointing out the need for clarification.**

From the Courage To Resist article cited above:

**“Courage to Resist is unaware of any IRR resister who has faced legal consequences or a loss of benefits.**

**“That doesn’t mean it is impossible for any particular case to be a first.”**

## **MORE:**

9 January 2006 By ROBERT BURNS; “Army Begins Action to Discharge Reservists”; Associated Press/AP Online [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON - The Army took initial steps Monday to expel dozens of reservists who failed to report for active duty, in effect warning hundreds of others that they too could be penalized if they don't heed orders to return to active service.

The proceedings mark a turning point in the Army's struggle to deploy thousands of soldiers from the Individual Ready Reserve, a rarely mobilized group of reservists, to war zones in which some have resisted serving.

These are soldiers who had previously served on active duty but not completed their eight-year service obligation. Unlike those in the National Guard or Army Reserve, they are not required to stay in training. Many have requested a delay in returning to service, have asked to be exempted or have ignored their orders.

The Army announced that about 80 soldiers will face review panels, known as separation boards, although the number may grow.

**If the panels conclude they intentionally did not obey a mobilization order, they would face one of three levels of discharge from the service: honorable, general or other-than-honorable.**

In its announcement Monday, the Army said that in addition to those who have openly refused to report for duty, those who do not respond to repeated communications from the Army may face discharge proceedings.

All of the 80 who now face discharge proceedings are enlisted soldiers, according to Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty, an Army spokesman. It was not immediately clear, he said, how long

it had been since the Army took discharge action against IRR soldiers who refused to be mobilized, but it probably has been more than 15 years.

Of the three possible types of discharge that an IRR soldier may face in these proceedings, the most severe is “other than honorable.”

**While a soldier given an honorable or general discharge would continue to be eligible for payment for accrued leave, and for health benefits and burial in an Army national cemetery, those given an “other than honorable” discharge would not be.**

Two even more severe types of discharge - bad conduct and dishonorable - will not be considered in the IRR cases, the Army said.



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