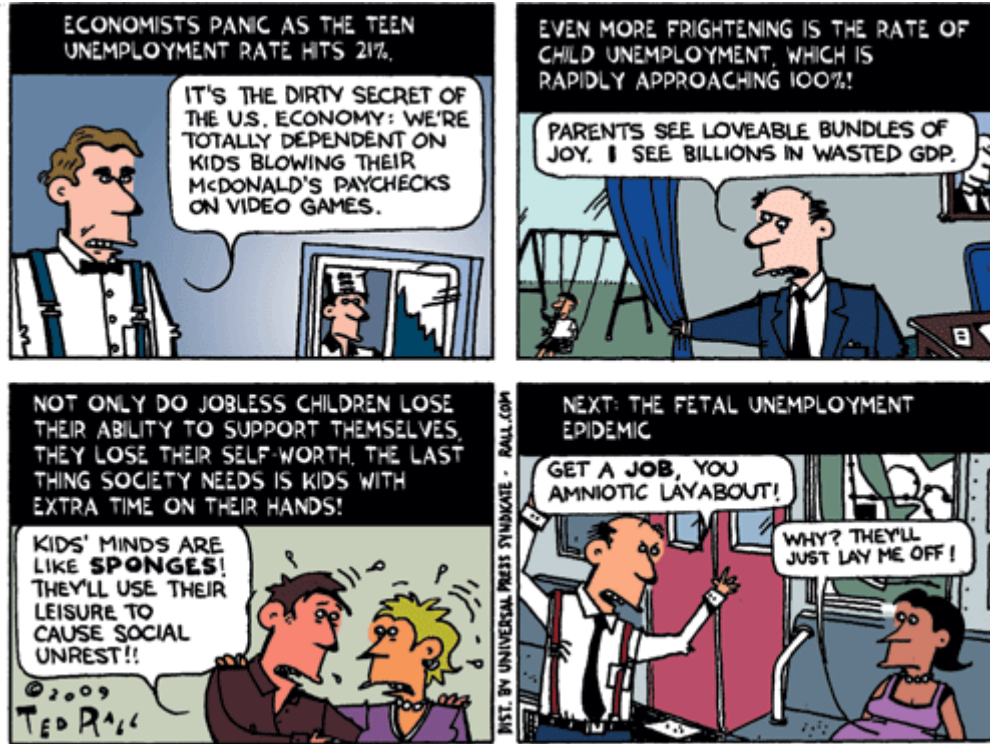


GI SPECIAL 7E8:



30,000 Defective Helmets: Recall Ordered After Ballistics Test Failure: “The Screws Would Likely Fail To Stop 9mm After The Coating Is Degraded”

The Army has recalled about 30,000 of its Advanced Combat Helmets after a manufacture's defect caused the helmets to fail ballistic testing.

The helmets issued to soldiers and Air Force personnel from November 2008 to February 2009 are the subject of an investigation by Army Criminal Investigation Command.

Gentex Corp. of Carbondale, Penn., was "supposed to provide a particular product and they provided something different," Lt. Col. Robert Myles, product manager for Soldier Survivability, told Army Times April 30.

Gentex notified the Army in January that one of its subcontractors used "a different finish on the screws than what is required by the government," Myles said. The finish is designed to protect the screws from corrosion.

The former subcontractor, A.J. Hughes Screw Products Company Inc., is under investigation by Army CID and Gentex is not, said Ken Lee, corporate counsel for Gentex.

The Army pulled samples of the helmets and found that extreme environmental conditions caused the substitute screw coating to degrade prematurely and create a weak spot in the helmet, Myles said.

Army equipment officials said "they take this incident with the helmet very seriously," but stressed that it's unlikely the helmets identified under Gentex contract number W911QY-05-D-0003 pose an immediate safety risk to soldiers and airmen wearing them, Myles said. **[Unless they get hit with a 9mm or better, that is.]**

During the ballistics tests, the Army put the helmets through extreme environmental tests, exposing them to salt water, diesel fuel and temperatures ranging from minus 60 degrees to 160 degrees Fahrenheit, said Barry Houck, deputy product manager for Soldier Survivability.

Testers then shot each of the ACH's four screws with 9mm ammunition. The ballistic material passed in all tests, but the screws did not, Houck said.

"On the extremes, we saw some potential for some failures that were unacceptable," Houck said, explaining that the screws would likely fail to stop 9mm after the coating is degraded.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Iowa Soldier Fatally Shot While On Patrol In Iraq

April 28, 2009 By WILLIAM PETROSKI, The Des Moines Register

A soldier from northwest Iowa who was serving his third combat tour overseas has been killed in Iraq, the U.S. Department of Defense said Monday.

U.S. Army Sgt. LeRoy O. Webster, 28, of Hartley died Saturday after being shot near Kirkuk while on patrol, military officials said.

Webster was a 1999 graduate of Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn High School, where he wrestled and played on the golf and baseball teams.

He leaves behind a wife, Jessica, who was his high school sweetheart, and three young daughters, Natasha, Kaydence and Jadyn.

"He was a good guy. He had a lot of friends. He liked to have fun," recalled Jim Thomas, a social studies teacher and the athletic director at Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn.

The Webster family had recently moved to Hartley from Texas, where LeRoy Webster had been stationed prior to being deployed to Iraq. Both the fallen soldier and his wife are from families who are well-liked and have deep roots in the area, Thomas said. His parents, Donald and Crystal Webster, still reside in Hartley.

"In a close-knit community like this, it hits everybody pretty hard," Thomas said.

Two of the Webster children attend Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn schools - one is in third grade, the other is in kindergarten - and the third is a preschooler, said Lynn Evans, the district's superintendent. He said a counselor would be available for the district's students today.

Webster was born in June 1980 in Spencer and grew up in Hartley. He joined the military as a member of the Iowa Army National Guard, and in 2002 he was called to duty with an Algona-based National Guard unit that provided security at a Department of Defense installation in Newport, Ind.

In 2004 and 2005, Webster served in Afghanistan with a Council Bluffs-based National Guard unit of the 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry. After that deployment, he moved to Sioux Falls, S.D., and transferred to the active-duty U.S. Army in 2006, said Lt. Col. Gregory Hapgood Jr., the Iowa National Guard's public affairs officer. From October 2006 to January 2008, he served with the Army in Baghdad.

Webster's last deployment to Iraq began in January, Hapgood said. He was serving with Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, of Fort Hood, Texas.

Webster's family issued a statement Monday night: "LeRoy was a wonderful husband and terrific dad to his three beautiful daughters. He was proud to serve in the United States Army. He will forever be deeply missed by his family and friends."

Webster received about a dozen awards and decorations during his military career, including the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

He was the 71st person with ties to Iowa to die in Iraq or Afghanistan from combat, illness or accident since March 2003.

“Eighty Percent Will Go Back To Fight The Government”

May 9, 2009 By SAM DAGHER, The New York Times Company [Excerpt]

The Awakening members in Dhuluiya will get their last paychecks from the American military this month, after which the government is supposed to take over, according to Mr. Jubouri's deputy, Mohammed, who also goes by the same tribal last name.

Most are certain that the government, still deeply suspicious of the Sunni Awakening groups, will delay their payments and drag its feet in finding them jobs in the army and the police as initially promised.

“Eighty percent will go back to fight the government,” Mohammed Jubouri predicted. “They will be outlaws.”

“New Comers Followed The Policy Of Former Regime By Giving Food For The Satisfied Bellies And Left The Hungry Mouths Eating Air”

May 10, 2009 By Correspondent Jenan, washingtonbureau.typepad.com/iraq/;
Inside Iraq

An American reader named Susan asked us to write about the homeless problem in Iraq.

This issue is a very complicated problem for Iraqi citizens.

During the era of the former regime, Saddam was generous in distributing properties for his followers, even though they were already rich. Iraqi society witnessed rich people getting richer while others couldn't get any land to sleep on (the homeless). At that time I heard about family consisting of 72 members living in 144 square meter home in one of Baghdad city. Yes, the people in that city were standing in a line to enter to bathroom.

This policy caused huge gaps among the classes of Iraqi society.

After the collapse of the former regime poor people in Iraq thought every thing would change and all Iraqis would take their rights of living a pleasant life and no Iraqi will stay without roof to protect him the cold of winter and the hot of summer.

Some of those people starting building homes on government land without waiting for the reconstruction projects. Their needs were bigger than waiting, they were in real need of a real roof like other people in the rest of world. With the absence of the authority of law people went far with their dreams and they built houses on the lands that belong to the state. They thought the new comers would understand their needs to have shelters. They thought at least the government would find them the substitute of the illegal shelters that they built.

Now those people have evacuation orders because their illegal houses deform the appearance of the cities.

And the new complexes are built to give to those who are not in need.

The new regime in Iraq raised the slogan of lifting oppression from deprived Iraqis. But six years passed and Iraqis are still waiting for their dreams to come true.

It was worthless waiting because the new comers followed the policy of former regime by giving food for the satisfied bellies and left the hungry mouths eating air.

Again Iraqi regime and his followers have every thing and Iraqi poor people are looking for shelters in overseas lands.

In the new Iraq still the lands and the houses are given to those who are not in need.

The officials and politicians now have properties in the highest neighborhoods and the poor in Iraq feel bitterness.

“At The End The Policeman Asked A Strange Question ‘Do Any Of You Have A Tooth Filling?’” [The Best Detecting Devices Or The Worst]

May 10, 2009 By Laith, Inside Iraq; washingtonbureau.typepad.com/iraq/;

When I talk about the detecting devices of the Iraqi security forces, I can't ever imagine in any way that they are real ones because I have been in many embarrassing situations because of them and the last one was only three days ago.

On Thursday, I went in a three hours trip to of the southern provinces. I went to the garage and I got in a mini bus. The trip started after a while. At the beginning, we had to drive slowly because of the crowded street of Baghdad and the security check points.

The bus in which I was passed through many different check points and everything was fine because no one suspects a mini bus full with people. After awhile we reached one more check point and the guys were very calm.

When the policeman was passing beside the bus, the aerial of the device detected something.

The policeman asked “any of you have a gun?” No body answered.

Then he asked “any of you wear perfume or have perfume in his or her bag?” Again, no one answered. He asked the driver “did you wash the car lately?” The driver’s answer was negative.

At the end the policeman asked a strange question “do any of you have a tooth filling?”

I was surprised by the question and to be accurate, I was shocked and said ‘yes, I do have” and I opened my mouth pointing to one of my tooth. The policeman looked at the filling and told the driver to go.

Since the security forces brought these devices, I have seen so strange incidents but the last one is the strangest at all.

I don’t know if these devices are so good to the extent that they can detect the simplest metal thing or very bad to the extent that they can detect anything but not bomb but if they are so good, then how did the car bombs swept Baghdad the last month?

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“Thousands Of U.S. Troops Are Being Rushed To Afghanistan Without The Equipment They Will Need To Fight”

“The Equipment Shortage Leaves U.S. Troops Vulnerable”

Casualties Up 75% Since The Beginning Of The Year

May 07, 2009 LARA JAKES, AP News

Thousands of U.S. troops are being rushed to Afghanistan without the equipment they will need to fight an emboldened Taliban, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates and military officials said Thursday.

Marines who arrived in southern Afghanistan this week mark the vanguard of the expansion Obama has ordered to reverse a war his commanders say they are not winning.

"I heard this on several occasions today, that the equipment is coming in behind the troops and is not here and available for them when they arrive," Gates said at a news conference Thursday night in Kabul before a fly-around through bases in Afghanistan. Gates attributed the delays to "the amount of equipment that has to be brought in and, frankly, the relatively limited infrastructure in terms of airfields and so on of how to get it in here."

He promised to pursue the problem after he returns to Washington on Saturday.

The scope of the equipment shortage was not immediately clear. One Marine corporal at Camp Leatherneck told Gates during a 15-minute town-hall meeting in sweltering heat that he needed more communications equipment.

The Pentagon has already been grappling with how to beef up mine-resistant patrol trucks that have shown success in Iraq but are not resilient enough to withstand Afghanistan's hilly and rugged terrain.

The equipment shortage leaves U.S. troops vulnerable as the Taliban and other extremist groups are ramping up attacks with Afghanistan national elections approaching.

In a chilling reminder of the risks U.S. troops face, Gates said casualties among American, Afghanistan and other international security forces are up 75 percent since the beginning of the year.

The United States is sending 21,000 troops to add to the 38,000 already in place.

***Good News For The Afghan
Resistance!!***

U.S. Occupation Commands' Stupid Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops



A foreign occupation soldier from the U.S. searches an Afghan citizens' house during an armed home invasion in Nerkh district of Wardak province in west of Kabul, Afghanistan, May 1, 2009. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

Afghan citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."

Notes From A Lost War:

"By Inserting Troops Into The Jalrez And Nerkh Valleys, He

**Said, He Had Pushed The
Insurgents Into Chak”
“The Colonel Said He Would Like
To Leave A Permanent Force In
Chak, As Well”
“But He Doesn’t Have Enough Men
To Spare”
“That’s Depressing,” He Said. “Chak
Is Burning”**



MAY 5, 2009 By MICHAEL M. PHILLIPS, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

Last year, it took a 150-man police escort to get Sayed Jawad Bahoner, the new subgovernor of this district, safely into Jalrez town to assume his post. He slept on the floor of his office building and rarely ventured more than 100 yards outside for fear of the insurgents who ruled the streets.

That was before February, when a company of American infantrymen dropped into town from helicopters and set up outposts along the Jalrez Valley. Mr. Bahoner feels so safe that in April, he summoned his wife and three children from their hideaway in Kabul and moved them into a house in town.

Late last month, U.S. and Afghan troops pushed into a nearby district, Chak, in search of the kidnapped father of an Afghan cabinet minister. They ended up in a two-day firefight that left an estimated two dozen insurgents dead. (The kidnappers subsequently released the minister's father.)

U.S. officers suspect that some of the Chak militants may have been the same ones who fled the troop escalation in the Jalrez Valley.

"I'm optimistic, but I have to look at the worst-case scenarios," said Col. David Haight, commander of the Third Brigade of the 10th Mountain Division, whose 3,500 troops were sent in the closing months of the Bush administration to bolster the U.S. presence in Afghanistan.

Pashtun villagers, some of whose sons are thought to be part-time insurgent fighters, are particularly reluctant to be seen supporting the U.S. and the government.

Driving through the Jalrez Valley recently, one U.S. officer noticed anti-American graffiti written in Pashtu on a mosque. He stopped his armored vehicle and approached a cluster of young men at the gas station next door.

"I get upset when I see, 'Die Americans,' because I'm here to help," the officer told the men.

The insurgents, unable or unwilling to fight face-to-face, have resorted to scare tactics. **[Six years after the insurgency got rolling in Iraq, it's hard to believe this stupid bullshit is still being written. Guerrilla warfare requires fighting the occupying force at a time and place of the guerrillas' choosing. Duh. The British back in 1776 whined the same lame crap about why the U.S. revolutionaries were too cowardly to "fight face to face." What they cared about was winning. And they did, as you may have noticed. They were interested in victory, not getting in some stupid pissing contest with some stupid British officer "face to face". T]**

At night, they tack warnings to mosques and houses. "We consider anybody cooperating with the infidels to be their slaves," said one such night letter left at a Jalrez Valley home. "Those people who work for the infidels and invite others to work for them...will be slaughtered and hung on trees by the road."

The Americans have yet to face the challenge of a full fighting season. The snow remains thick in some mountain passes. As it melts, fighters can more easily return from Pakistan, where they are thought to seek sanctuary during the winter, and attempt to retake the initiative in the Jalrez Valley.

Then there's the simple question of numbers. Lt. Col. [Kimo] Gallahue's battalion represents an enormous increase in the U.S. presence.

But he still has only so many soldiers and Wardak has a lot of valleys.

Just 25 miles to the south of the Jalrez Valley, insurgents are a powerful force in Chak, where the Army fought the two-day battle in late April.

A few weeks earlier, Ismael Wafi, subgovernor of Chak District, requested a meeting with Lt. Col. Gallahue at his main battalion base.

Mr. Wafi complained that he was unable to get back to his district office: Insurgents had set up roadblocks and threatened to kidnap anyone tied to the government.

Each of the 13 subdistricts of Chak had its own Taliban commander and a sort of parallel government, Mr. Wafi told the colonel.

In a district of 114,000 people, there were just 30 police officers and no permanent U.S. base.

“Honestly, the whole area is full of Taliban,” he said. “When we go to the district center, we just stay in our offices.”

Lt. Col. Gallahue apologized.

By inserting troops into the Jalrez and Nerkh valleys, he said, he had pushed the insurgents into Chak.

Given his success in Jalrez, the colonel said he would like to leave a permanent force in Chak, as well.

But he doesn’t have enough men to spare.

Instead, he offered Mr. Wafi a ride home.

After a meeting ended, Lt. Col. Gallahue looked at a map and scanned the valleys he held and those he wished he held.

“That’s depressing,” he said. “Chak is burning.”

“Roadside-Bomb Casualties Have Increased Almost Fivefold Since 2007”

“Insurgents Are Building Larger Bombs And Finding New Ways To Conceal Them”

5.11.09 By Kris Osborn, Army Times [Excerpts]

Roadside-bomb casualties in March in Afghanistan have increased almost fivefold since 2007, according to the Pentagon’s Joint IED Defeat Office.

In March 2007, there were 163 incidents involving improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan, a number that includes actual explosions as well as bombs that were found and neutralized. The eight successful attacks wounded 16 U.S. and coalition troops.

In March 2008, there were 233 incidents, including 27 effective attacks that killed 12 troops and wounded 64 more.

This March, there were 361 incidents, including 27 effective attacks that killed 19 troops and wounded 56.

Pentagon officials say insurgents are building larger bombs and finding new ways to conceal them.

The counter-IED efforts in Afghanistan are different than those in Iraq, due largely to the terrain.

“Afghanistan is a much more impoverished country and never had a Department of Transportation compared to (Iraq). There are far fewer paved roads and the roads are much narrower,” said Comer [Ken Comer, who runs JIEDDO’s operations research systems and analysis division].

Guess Who



Taliban troops are seen in an undisclosed position in Afghanistan in this picture released to Reuters May 9, 2009. Picture taken May 8, 2009. REUTERS/Stringer

Resistance Action

May 9, 2009 Associated Press & 10 May 2009 DPA

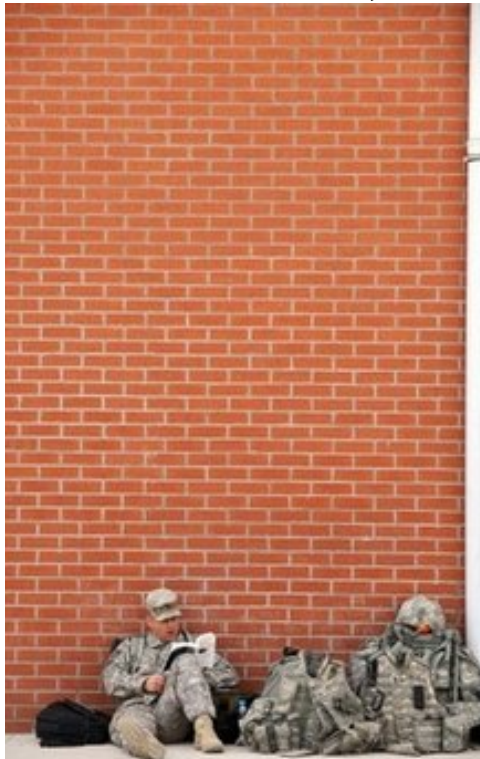
An unmanned U.S. aircraft crashed in the central province of Ghazni. A Taliban spokesman said the insurgents had shot down the drone.

Eight civilians working with a road construction company were killed on Sunday in a roadside bomb blast in eastern Afghanistan, while three others were killed in a similar attack in southern region, officials said.

Meanwhile, a separate roadside bomb struck a vehicle carrying road construction workers in southern Zabul province on Sunday, killing three workers, interior ministry said in a separate statement.

The workers were building outposts for border police forces in the district.

BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: COME ON HOME, NOW



May 1: A US soldier rests on a brick wall at a newly-opened military airport in Kabul.
(AFP/Massoud Hossaini)

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

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

TROOP NEWS

**THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THE TROOPS
HOME:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



The remains of U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Tyler J. Trahan of Freetown, Mass. May 1, 2009 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Trahan, 22, died on April 30 while conducting combat operations in Fallujah, Iraq. Trahan was assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit Twelve in Norfolk, Va., and was deployed with an East Coast based Navy SEAL team.

**Extremist U.S. Military
Chaplains Gave Aid And
Comfort To The Afghan
Resistance Movement:
They Helped Recruit Even More
Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops:
Film Shows Fanatics Told U.S.
Soldiers In Afghanistan To “Hunt
People For Jesus... So We Get Them
Into The Kingdom”
They Also Instructed Soldiers How To
Violate General Order #1**



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) & Ward Reilly, Veterans for Peace & Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in. SSG N writes: "I don't think Dale Carnegie would approve."]

But in another piece of footage taken by Hughes, the chaplains appear to have found a way around the regulation known as General Order Number One.

May 04, 2009 & Al Jazeera & by Peter Graff, Reuters & By Jeremy Scahill, Rebel Reports & May 05, 2009 McClatchy -Tribune News Service

New video evidence has surfaced showing that US military forces in Afghanistan have been instructed by the military's top chaplain in the country to "hunt people for Jesus" as they spread Christianity to the overwhelmingly Muslim population.

What's more, the center of this evangelical operation is at the huge US base at Bagram, one of the main sites used by the US military to torture and indefinitely detain prisoners.

Trying to convert Muslims to any other faith is a crime in Afghanistan.

The fact that the video footage is being broadcast on Al Jazeera guarantees that it will be seen throughout the Muslim world.

It is likely to add more credence to the perception that the US is engaging in a war on Islam with neo-crusader forces invading Muslim lands.

In a video obtained by Al Jazeera and broadcast Monday, Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Hensley, the chief of the US military chaplains in Afghanistan, is seen telling soldiers that as followers of Jesus Christ, they all have a responsibility "to be witnesses for him."

"The special forces guys - they hunt men basically. We do the same things as Christians, we hunt people for Jesus. We do, we hunt them down," he says.

"Get the hound of heaven after them, so we get them into the kingdom. That's what we do, that's our business."

Military chaplains stationed in the US air base at Bagram were also filmed with bibles printed in the country's main Pashto and Dari languages.

The footage, shot about a year ago by Brian Hughes, a documentary maker and former member of the US military who spent several days in Bagram, was obtained by Al Jazeera's James Bays, who has covered Afghanistan extensively.

Qatar-based Al Jazeera television showed footage of a church service at Bagram, the main U.S. base north of the Afghan capital Kabul, in which soldiers had a stack of bibles in the local languages, Pashtu and Dari.

Bays also obtained from Hughes a Pashto-language copy of one of the books he picked up during a Bible study lesson he recorded at Bagram.

A Pashto speaker confirmed to Bays that it was a Bible.

In other footage captured at Bagram, Sergeant Jon Watt, a soldier who is set to become a military chaplain, is seen giving thanks for the work that his church in the US did in getting Bibles printed and sent to Afghanistan.

"I also want to praise God because my church collected some money to get Bibles for Afghanistan. They came and sent the money out," he is heard saying during a Bible study class.

It is not clear that the Bibles were distributed to Afghans, but Hughes said that none of the people he recorded in a series of sermons and Bible study classes appeared to be able to speak Pashto or Dari.

"They weren't talking about learning how to speak Dari or Pashto, by reading the Bible and using that as the tool for language lessons," Hughes said.

"The only reason they would have these documents there was to distribute them to the Afghan people. And I knew it was wrong, and I knew that filming it ... documenting it would be important."

It is not clear if the presence of the Bibles and exhortations for soldiers to be "witnesses" for Jesus continues, but they were filmed a year ago despite regulations by the US military's Central Command that expressly forbid "proselytizing of any religion, faith or practice".

But in another piece of footage taken by Hughes, the chaplains appear to have found a way around the regulation known as General Order Number One.

"Do we know what it means to proselytize?" Captain Emmit Furner, a military chaplain, says to the gathering.

"It is General Order Number One," an unidentified soldier replies.

But Watt says "you can't proselytize but you can give gifts".

The footage also suggests US soldiers gave out Bibles in Iraq.

In his address to a Bible study group at Bagram, Afghanistan, Watt is recorded as saying: "I bought a carpet and then I gave the guy a Bible after I conducted my business.

General Order Number 1 from the U.S. military's Central Command forbids active duty troops -- including all those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan -- from trying to convert people to their religion, considered a crime in many Muslim countries.

Under the U.S. military code of conduct, armed forces on active duty are prohibited from trying to convert a person's faith.

Ahmed Shah Ahmedzai, a former Afghan prime minister, told Al Jazeera from Kabul on Monday: "This is a complete deviation from what they are supposed to be doing.

"I don't think even the U.S. constitution would allow what they are doing ... it is completely against all regulations.

U.S. military regulations expressly forbid "proselytizing of any religion, faith or practice".

The U.S. military denied Monday it has allowed soldiers to try to convert Afghans to Christianity.

MORE:

Shoot Your Chaplain

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: May 08, 2009
Subject: Shoot Your Chaplain

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

Shoot Your Chaplain

**Onward Christian Soldiers
convert the Muslims
with your Arab Bibles
that the christian coalition
evangelical mad phony
sick preachers gave you
when Bush and Chaney
ousted most of the Chaplains
and filled the ranks with
madman lunatics
from 700 club approved
Jerry FaHell College
psychopathic christians
killers devoted with
their twisted non religion
con-men who want
to make a United States
Of Christians and spread
their manure to other countries
like Iraq and Afghanistan
to their gentle naive
little children their crazy
arab bibles in different
dialects because deep down
they use but really hate
the Jews and with their**

mental illness Muslims too
all their atomic bomb
end days like with the
godless Russians but now
the swine are handing
out their pearls of ugliness
and filth like pigs who wallow
in their own feces mud
and urine and making
grunting sounds
with their upside down crosses
converting Soldiers
by driving a nail into
each hand so they
will use their gun to
hand out their bloody perverted
message of insanity.

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

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

**“Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.”
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

Grunts



Homeless Vietnam Veteran In San Francisco 2004.

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: May 07, 2009
Subject: Grunts

Grunts

**Lying is the groundwork before you ever put boots on the ground.
Every generation of soldiers experience it,
because they never read their history.**

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
May 7, 2009**

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

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

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

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**“Since September 29, 2000 Israel Has
Killed 6,248 Palestinians:
“1,487 Of These Have Been Children”**

May 8th, 2009 By Dorothy Naor, Withstringsattached.org

I write to you as a Jewish woman who is both American and Israeli.

I have lived in Israel for over 50 years, and I can tell you that I have had enough of wars and insecurity.

America keeps on sending us billions of dollars in weapons every year.

yet, Israel has become the least safe country for Jews to live in (except for war zones such as Afghanistan, where no one is safe).

Nowhere else in the world since WWII have we Jews lived through 12 wars/battles/campaigns – all in less than 61 years.

Nowhere else in the world since WWII have so many Jews been killed in violence—over 23,000 since Israel came into being.

Nowhere else in the world have so many Jews been injured.

And yet, we have no security. 61 years of the use of force have not brought us Israelis one iota of security.

To make matters worse, those of us who are seeking peace find ourselves harassed by the Israeli police.

A number of my colleagues have had their computers confiscated, been called to interrogations, or have been made to sign declarations forbidding them to talk with one another.

To add insult to injury, the police actions were carried out on Israel's Memorial Day to send a subtle message to the public that our activism may compromise Israel's security.

Our crime?

We dared to ask questions.

We dared to ask whether militarism was the only way. We are undeterred. We will continue asking.

It is your time to ask too.

If you are an American, please take a moment right now to call on Congress to ask the question: what happened with your US tax dollars in Gaza?

If you live in another country, ask yourself whether your government is involved in this trade of weapons and destruction.

Here in Israel, we do not need more US weapons. We need you to help us achieve peace-lasting peace.

There can be no peace, however, until the Palestinians have justice.

The Palestinian catastrophe since 1948 has included expulsion from their homes and lands, and for those who remained in the West Bank and Gaza, extra-judicial executions, land confiscations, no freedom of movement, nor the freedom to build homes and communities, Palestinians live always with the fear of Israeli military incursions.

Since September 29, 2000 Israel has killed 6,248 Palestinians. 1,487 of these have been children.

Israel's Memorial Day is the saddest day in the year for me, not only because of those who are already buried, but because of all those who might be killed for generations to come unless you help us achieve a just peace.

Sincerely,

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

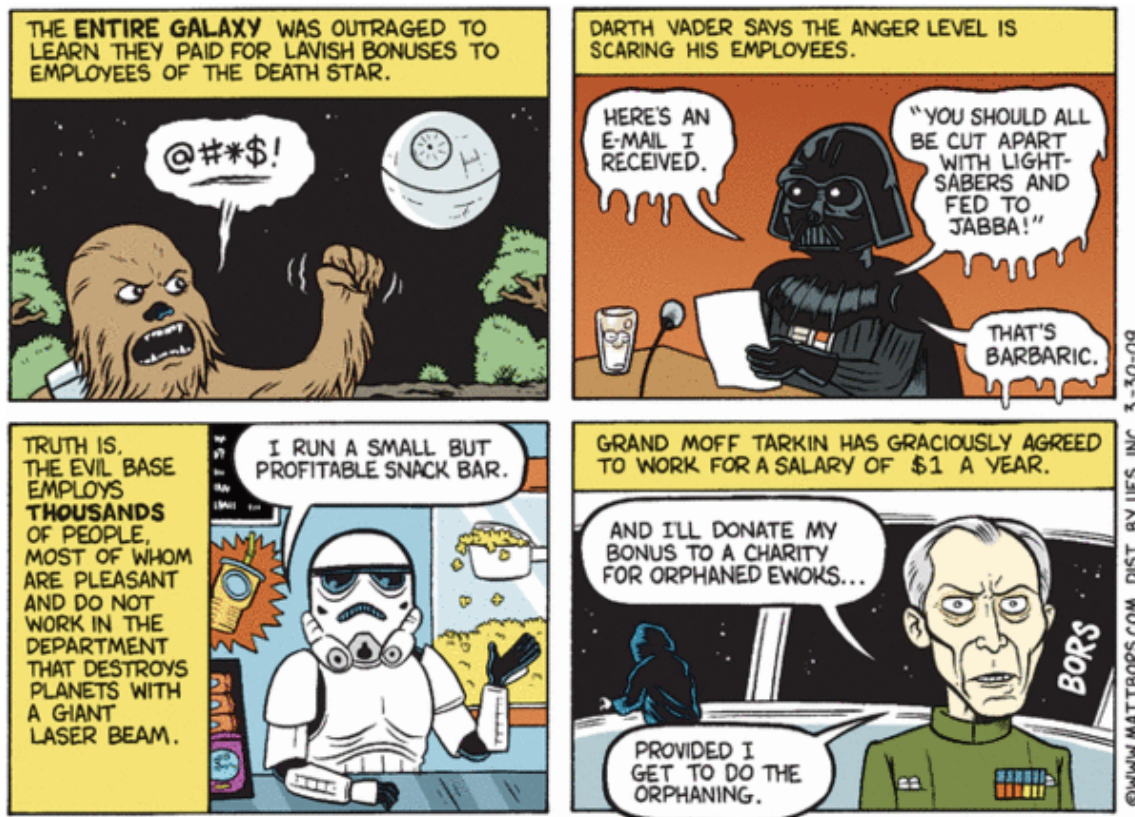


[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Class war 101. This is too easy."]

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

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS

CLASS WAR REPORTS



France: Laid Off Continental Workers Occupy Sarreguemines Factory

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, & United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan. He writes: "IF THE PIGS CAN USE GUNS & DOGS THEN SO CAN WE."]

8 May 2009 By Antoine Lerougetel, World Socialist Web Site [Excerpts]

Workers from German tire maker Continental's plant in Clairoix, France, which is slated for closure, occupied the Continental factory in Sarreguemines on May 6. They left that evening, after the government promised to move up the date of its planned meeting with Continental management and the French trade unions from May 27 to May 12.

At the start of this week, the jobless workers of Clairoix decided to step up their campaign to regain their jobs by crossing the French-German border and appealing for solidarity with their German colleagues in the Continental factory in Aachen.

More than 300 workers from Clairoix set off on Wednesday morning in 60 cars, to meet up with colleagues at the Continental factory in Aachen.

They were prevented from doing so by the trade union bureaucracy. According to the May 5 Aachener Zeitung, Continental European works council chairman Bruno Hickert "urgently warned his colleagues to act prudently. 'Any riots would only hurt us!' He had attempted to persuade the French not to hold a demonstration and made them aware of the German way of doing things."

Alerted by the planned arrival of the French delegation, a large contingent of German police arrived to block off the factory. The parking area in front of the factory was completely occupied by police, who arrived in 20 cars. Mounted police were sent from Düsseldorf and dog teams were also at hand, and special police observers controlled the streets leading to the Aachen factory in Phillipsstrasse.

Libération on May 6 reports that, on learning of the police presence in Aachen the convoy of Clairoix workers "changed course and made for (Continental's) Sarreguemines" site on the French side of the Franco-German border.

The Sarreguemines factory houses the head office of Continental's French operation. Management at the Sarreguemines factory had evidently been alerted to the arrival of the Clairoix workers and had locked the workers inside the factory.

Police and CRS riot police units were also called to repel the Clairoix workers, who managed to force their way into the plant but were unable to enter the production areas at the site. Police and CRS units also guarded the Sarreguemines courthouse and the government buildings.

Le Nouvel Observateur gives this account of the arrival of the Clairoix workers at the Sarreguemines plant: "With cries of 'We're at home here' and 'Continental solidarity,' the 'Contis' opened the bolts at the entry gate of the Mosel department site and went into the site.

They failed however to make their way into the production buildings whose doors were bolted or obstructed by steel pallets. The factory doors finally opened to let a hundred workers out while their Clairoix comrades shouted, "Let our comrades out" and "It's the bosses who should be locked up."

According to Sarreguemines workers who spoke to WSWS reporters on Thursday, scuffles broke out between some trade unionists from the Sarreguemines factory who

managed to climb through windows and confront the workers from Clairoux. News magazine Le Point quotes the CFDT (French Democratic Confederation of Labour) spokesman Jean-Luc Niedlander: "Nobody discussed it with us. You came without letting us know."

Upon finding out when he arrived in Sarreguemines that the factory had been occupied, Hickert once again made clear his hostility to the struggle of the Clairoux workers and refused to talk with the protesters. The news agency AZ quotes Hickert with the comment: "We are not used to such a way of doing things."

The declared purpose of the Clairoux workers' action at Sarreguemines is to bring forward from May 27 a scheduled tripartite meeting between French trade unions, the German owners and the French government. CGT Clairoux representative for the plant Xavier Mathieu, addressing the workers occupying the Sarreguemines plant, stated: "We are here and here we'll stay until we have a nearer date."

The Clairoux workers left the Sarreguemines factory on Wednesday evening, after the announcement that the meetings would be brought forward from May 27 to May 12.

For its part, the CGT also refuses to conduct any struggle to regain the jobs of the French workers and made clear that the only goal of the union is to obtain redundancy payments for the sacked workers. Bruno Levert, CGT representative at Clairoux, told Le Monde on May 6 that he no longer believed that the French government would find a buyer for Continental and declared: "Continental is not going to lose market share with a buyer. If they close Clairoux, it's just to win market share elsewhere in Europe. All we want is for Continental to give us what it owes us, that is our redundancy package."

Since the beginning of the year, Continental has axed the jobs of 7,000 of its total worldwide workforce of 133,000. The factory in Clairoux has already been closed and further job cuts and plant closures are being prepared.

The Clairoux closure means the loss of 1,120 jobs. When workers heard that the appeal to keep their factory open had been lost, they ransacked the government offices in Compiègne in anger. Court hearings are now pending for workers accused of damaging property at the site of the factory. Venomous remarks have been made by members of the government calling for a crack down on "active minorities."

On April 23, Clairoux workers travelled to Hanover in Germany, where the Continental factory is also threatened with closure. As they arrived in Hanover, the French delegation was given a warm welcome by their German colleagues who had gathered at Hanover's main rail station early that morning to greet them on arrival in their chartered train. The French and German workers then carried out a joint demonstration through the city.

The assembled German workers carried placards in German and French declaring: "Dear colleagues from Clairoux, welcome to Hanover," as well as: "Proletarians of all countries, unite!"

When the French contingent finally arrived, German workers took up their slogan: "Tous ensemble, Continental—solidarité" (All together, Continental—Solidarity).

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 cosine-58884@mypacks.net : Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057



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