

GI SPECIAL 7F9:

CAN'T IMAGINE WHY THEY CALL AFGHANISTAN THE GRAVEYARD OF EMPIRES, CAN YOU?



US MRAP vehicle stuck in a dry river bed, Afghanistan. Photograph: Sean Smith, Guardian News and Media Limited. [Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

Nazi

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: June 12, 2009
Subject: Nazi

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.

Author of *Peace Speaks From The Mirror*

Nazi

when his tour is over
the nazi escapes from vietnam
on a secret plane to michigan
he wakes up from a dream
that told him the vietnamese
saw him as a nazi and he had to agree
yes those storm trooper boots
committed many war crimes
yes he killed women children
old men and covered it up
as just war as just following orders
but this time he wasn't going
to go it alone
his mind and body were
covered all over blood red
but the 80% in the rear who never fired a gun
were just as guilty as him
that if you were an engineer or a cook
you were just as guilty as him
no he wasn't going to take it anymore
yeah you can't hide behind
your desk like a clerk it didn't matter
if you were just in supply
you can look in your truck mirror
and lie but you were just as nazi as me
if you were just in the bars of saigon
getting drunk and not killing anyone
you are just as nazi as me
if you were a medic or doctor who
patched up my callused trigger finger
you are still a part of the cog
of the war machine
exercise your nazi get him back in the field
so you can say yes i smelled
the burning bodies in the death camps
but i didn't know anything about it
hey you just know you're a liar
and you're just as nazi as me
you can say i just drove a jeep
is all i did yeah you went home
told the peace people you never killed
and they hugged you like some kind of hero
as you shook your head
said the war is all wrong

but you know you're just as nazi as me
and those peace students staying out
of their war by going to a rich college
but not against all war just their war
protesting all over but
you didn't stop the war by protesting
so you're just as nazi as me
don't go screaming and pointing
your fingers all innocent
because it was the soldiers who came after me
who decided they didn't want
to be a nazi like me
so they quit fighting the war
didn't need any ammo supplies
or a clerk in saigon or a medic or doctor
or any jeep or truck driver
they didn't need more war money
from congress or the president
because they could smell the stench
in the wind of burning bodies
and they didn't want to be
a nazi like me
and they didn't want to be a nazi
like you

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

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

**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

ACTION REPORTS

Outreach At S[XXXX] To New York National Guard Armory: “Having A Member Of IVAW With Us Was Something New And Extremely Rewarding”



Elaine Brower & Josh S.

From: Elaine Brower, Military Project
To: GI Special
Sent: June 13, 2009 8:17 PM
Subject: S[XXXXX] New York National Guard Outreach today

So today was a very interesting day for doing outreach. Richie, me and our traveling visitor from Washington, D.C. said hello to our friends at the S[XXXXX] National Guard armory.

Josh S., Iraq war veteran turned conscientious objector, and a member of IVAW stopped in S[XXXXX] for the weekend on his educational tour around the country.

When we arrived at 6 AM, there were already about 20 cars in the parking lot, but a slow, steady stream of cars were entering the main gate where we stood with our DVD's

of “Sir, No Sir” and lit packets with a new issue a GI Special Guard handout, “Fight Back” IAW pamphlet, GI Rights Pamphlet and our statement “Why We Are Here.”

We positioned ourselves on the side where the cars were entering.

The cars were coming in fast, most slowed down as we were holding up our lit packets, trying to entice them into stopping. Some did, and took them with a good morning and a smile. Some whizzed by, in a hurry to go drill!

Some of the soldiers that were already inside, came out down to the main gate to go across to the coffee shop, so we were able to hand lit to them. Although no one said anything to us, you could see the recognition on most of their faces knowing who we were. About halfway into our outreach, a soldier came down to the front gate booth, about 30 yards away from us. He waved and said good morning, and sat inside. He had already received his handout earlier.

By 7:20 pretty much the last car in was an older soldier, who was high ranking, although we couldn't determine the exact rank because the windows were closed, arrived. He smiled and waved at us, some other soldier driving him in, but didn't take what we had to offer.

Josh had a great time, and was eager to involve the guard members in conversation, although handing lit through a passing car window is not really conducive to that!

Josh recounted an outreach attempt he had done in Quantico the week before with Sandy K., a member of the MP, and he said although it wasn't really successful in that they didn't get to speak to anyone since it was a Friday night and all the jarheads were in town at a local bar, they did get a chance to drop off IAW leaflets with information about an upcoming barbeque meet and greet.

So he felt that was important, and hoped that there was a good turnout for the D.C. IAW chapter who was hosting it.

So we finished up, and handed out 20 packets and 9 DVD's. Richie and I enjoyed having Josh there, and also having a member of IAW with us was something new and extremely rewarding in our small town of S[XXXXX].

He won't be back for our next outreach, sadly, but we will be, I think they expect to see us now, which gives me a warm fuzzy feeling!

MORE:

ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to GI Special for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so. If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

All identifying information – locations, personnel – will be omitted from the reports.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not in any way identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the wars.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs his or her name be listed as reporting on the action.

GI SPECIAL RAFFLE REPORT

Super big thanks to everybody who sent in contributions to the GI Special fund raising raffle.

Total received: \$1491.49

The drawing of winning entries has been done, thanks to some disinterested hospital worker volunteers doing it blind, and the winners are being notified in series. T

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Whittier Soldier Killed Serving In Afghanistan After Exactly 15 Years In The Army



Army Sgt. Blue Rowe, 33, of Whittier, was killed serving in Afghanistan on May 26, 2009

06/01/2009 By Bethania Palma Markus Staff Writer, Los Angeles Newspaper group

WHITTIER - To his fellow soldiers, he was known as First Sgt. Blue C. Rowe. But to his nieces and nephews, he was known affectionately as "Uncle Blue."

Rowe, a noncommissioned officer for the U.S. Army, was serving his first tour of duty in Afghanistan. He was on his way home to Whittier when he was killed May 26 by an improvised explosive device (IED) in Panjshir, Afghanistan, on his 15th anniversary in the military, his family said. He was 33.

"He was a Southern gentleman," said his wife, Cindy Rowe, 37. "He was good to me, good to our son, good to the family."

The couple met 13 years ago while serving in Croatia, when Cindy was a medic for Rowe's unit, she said. They married after two years. Rowe then moved from his native Arkansas to join Cindy and the rest of her family in Southern California.

"He was a big-hearted person," said sister-in-law Mindy Morales. "He was the funniest guy."

Morales said Rowe and his wife had just bought a home in Whittier. Rowe only had the chance to spend a few days there before he was killed, she said.

Rowe was a loving father to his 7-year-old son Andrew, his relatives said. He was also known as a doting, adventurous uncle to seven nieces and nephews.

When the family would go camping together, Rowe would take the kids on “missions,” said sister-in-law Ruby Covarrubias, 33, of Chino.

“He’d draw up a map for them and pack up their snacks and water like they were really in the military,” she said. “He was an awesome uncle and an awesome dad.”

Rowe joined the Army in 1994, Army officials said. He served from 2002 to 2009 in the Army Reserve’s 426th Civil Affairs Battalion based in Upland.

Rowe worked as a military policeman in Korea, Germany and the Balkans, officials said. He was deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom from September 2004 through July 2005.

He was mobilized again last July for duty in Afghanistan.

Cindy Rowe said she was working for the Los Angeles Police Department as an officer but took a job with the Veteran’s Administration when the couple learned Blue would be sent back into the line to duty.

“I’m a veteran, my husband is a veteran,” she said. “It feels good to be around your own.”

Rowe was coming home early to surprise their son, Cindy Rowe said. The family then planned a vacation in Washington D.C. to celebrate the child’s birthday this month.

“I miss him,” she said. “Instead of burying him I wish we were going on that trip. I wish I could wake up and see it’s not true.”

Family And Friends Remember Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Alan Hall



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Alan Hall, killed in action in Afghanistan on Monday

June 05, 2009 Patricia C. McCarter, Alabama Live

HARTSELLE, AL -- He was a toddler who loved wearing camouflage.

When he got just a little bit older, Jeffrey Alan Hall frequently coerced his parents into playing Army with him.

“He was the sergeant, and I was the cook,” said Hall’s mom, Annette.

“And I was the private,” added his father, Charles.

He attached handmade parachutes to his pet hamster and dropped them off his bunk bed, playing out his dream of being an Army Ranger.

“But he dropped them on a pillow,” his father quickly added. “Nobody got hurt, but they were probably surprised.”

Always, always, always, Hall wanted to be in the Army. In 2000, he made it. After a few tries, he even accomplished the feat of becoming a Ranger.

And Monday, on a roadside in Afghanistan, he died doing what he was called to do.

“In his 28 years, he experienced everything he wanted,” Annette said. “Scuba diving, jumping out of airplanes, hot motorcycles, fast cars, fine wine, good cigars, beautiful women. He was a Tasmanian devil, a whirl of energy, pushing everything to the edge.”

Hall’s parents lived in Huntsville until last year, when they moved to the country outside Hartselle. Family and friends gathered at their home Thursday afternoon to console one another and recall stories of the young man who loved University of Alabama football, bowhunting, spearfishing and getting into occasional trouble with his childhood buddies.

Mark Sturges, who has been Hall’s best friend since they met in second grade at Grace Lutheran School, said his pal’s motto was to set the standard, “always go for top shelf.”

So when Staff Sgt. Hall, who also attended Grissom High School and Huntsville Christian Academy, called and talked about “this girl, this girl, this girl” he’d met while stationed at Fort Drum in New York, Sturges knew she had to be special.

“He’d always said that the woman for him had to be sassy, tall, brunette, beautiful and know how to put up with him,” Sturges said. “And he found her.”

Allison Ramorini Hall said there was a spark the first time a mutual friend introduced them. And when he was deployed to the war on terror for the second time just five months after they met, they both knew they’d keep up the relationship.

“The longer he was gone, the closer we got,” said Allison, 27. “The key word that got us through those 16 months was ‘faith.’ We’d tell each other to just have faith.”

Two weeks after he got back to Fort Drum, he formally proposed, though they’d already planned the wedding.

“He wanted to do it right,” Allison said. “So he took me to our favorite restaurant and asked me officially.”

One year and a day after they wed, baby Audrey Faith was born. Allison said he never left her side, “not even once,” during her 24 hours of labor. He got to be with his daughter until she was 6 months old.

Then came his third deployment, this time to Afghanistan.

“He didn’t want to go, and he thought about trying to get out of it, but he didn’t want to leave his men,” Allison said. “He knew it was his job. He was born to do this.”

He was due back at Fort Drum for a short leave in late July. Then he’d be back for good in January. Next April, he was supposed to become a Ranger trainer at Camp Merrill in Georgia, an assignment that would take him out of the combat zone.

“For this deployment, we got him his own Internet account and a webcam, so we could see each other and talk almost every day if he wasn’t out on a mission,” Allison said. “In the winter, he said things were pretty calm. But in the spring, activity had heated up. He didn’t talk about it much. He just wanted to talk about what was happening at home.”

‘Buck up and carry on’

The call his family got Monday night was one they might have privately feared, but never spoke out loud.

“It was horrible, of course,” his mother said. “I fell to my knees and I screamed. ... But I tell you the truth, he is here with me now. He is holding me up, and that is where I’m getting my strength.

“I hear him, and what he’s saying is, ‘Buck up and carry on.’ “

Hall, 28, died Monday from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated next to his vehicle in the Nerkh district an hour west of Kabul, according to the Department of Defense.

An Honor Ceremony is planned for Hall when his body is returned to Huntsville later this weekend. As of Thursday evening, his family hadn’t been notified when that would be.

King High School Graduate Killed In Afghanistan

June 2, 2009 By Mike Baird, Corpus Christi Caller-Times

CORPUS CHRISTI — Corpus Christi native Matthew Dwight Ogden, who joined the military to help turn his life around, was killed Monday in Afghanistan.

Ogden, 33, an Army infantry gunner, died alongside three other U.S. soldiers when the military vehicle they were in ran over an explosive device, said Ogden’s father, Michael Ogden.

“He was putting some trouble behind him,” said Ogden, who said their relationship hadn’t been close recently. “In his mind the military was where he could try to settle down.

“I know Matthew thought he was doing the right thing by going to Afghanistan,” said Ogden, a local auto appraiser. “I’m proud to have a son who cared to fight for all our freedom.”

Matthew Ogden, who was divorced with no children, last logged into his MySpace page on May 23. In an early reference he tells that he joined the Army about a year ago on a friend’s advice, and didn’t regret being in the infantry. At the time he was stationed at Fort Drum in New York. His page contains music from Slipknot and several YouTube videos of U.S. troops. Some are tributes to the 1st Infantry Division known as the Big Red One. Another is a memorial to fallen soldiers and others are of troops mostly in Iraq.

He is the first Coastal Bend resident killed in either the Afghanistan or Iraq wars since August 2007 and the first from Corpus Christi to die since December 2006.

No additional information about Ogden’s death is available from the Department of Defense. The military cannot by law release information until 24 hours after the last next of kin of each soldier involved has been notified, said Wayne Hall, an Army spokesman.

Ogden’s relatives said they were notified about 7:30 p.m. Monday, but Hall did not know if the families of the other soldiers killed had been reached. He also could not provide Ogden’s rank or unit.

Ogden, who called himself Oggie on his MySpace page, is a 1994 King High School graduate who also attended Flour Bluff schools, his family said. He completed basic coursework at King, where he also participated in drama, school officials said.

The soldier worked a variety of construction jobs and at a floral shop, before a brush with the law led him to the military to turn his life around, his father said.

“Matthew was on the right track,” said A.C. Gilmore Jr., owner of Blossom Shop Florist where Ogden worked for more than three years. He learned floral arrangements, delivered bouquets and helped with handyman work at the shop, Gilmore said. “He came to see me before he went overseas and he’d turned into a fine fellow.”

Obama Address Gets Cool Afghan Reception: “I Listened To All Of It, But It Was For The Americans And Their

Interests. We Afghans Are Just Onlookers”

“No One Believes That The Americans Will Leave Afghanistan”

“The U.S. Is Pursuing An Overarching Regional Goal In Asia, And Using The Conflict With The Taliban To Establish And Justify An Armed Presence There”

Abdullah, a student at Kabul University, told IWPR that he was still finding it hard to trust Obama, “We.. understand...that all the leaders of the world say something and do something else. So I am not expecting Obama to do what he said.”

June 9, 2009 By Sayed Yaqub Ibrahimi in Kabul, IWPR'S AFGHAN RECOVERY REPORT, No. 321 [Excerpts]

When United States president Barack Obama took to the podium at Cairo's Al-Azhar University on June 4, the eyes of the world were upon him. His stirring address was heralded as a major step towards forging a new relationship between the United States and the Muslim world.

But in Afghanistan most eyes were focused firmly on the day to day problems of a country where security is in decline, the insurgency is on the rise, and a disappointed and alienated population is just trying to survive.

“I cannot remember when a speech changed people's lives,” said Mohammad Hanif, a resident of Kabul.

“I listened to all of it, but it was for the Americans and their interests. We Afghans are just onlookers. There will not be any benefit for us there.”

Abdullah, a student at Kabul University, told IWPR that he was still finding it hard to trust Obama, “We.. understand...that all the leaders of the world say something and do something else. So I am not expecting Obama to do what he said.”

The point that stuck in many Afghan minds was Obama's insistence that the US had no interest in remaining in Afghanistan .

“Make no mistake: we do not want to keep our troops in Afghanistan,” said the president. “We seek no military bases there. It is agonising for America to lose our young men and women. It is costly and politically difficult to continue this conflict.

“We would gladly bring every single one of our troops home if we could be confident that there were not violent extremists in Afghanistan and Pakistan determined to kill as many Americans as they possibly can. But that is not yet the case.”

With no sign of an end to the insurgency and more US troops expected to be deployed in the near future, many Afghans believe the Americans are consolidating their presence in the country.

Journalist and political analyst Daad Noorani summed this up neatly. “With the situation getting more complicated by the day, no one believes that the Americans will leave Afghanistan,” he said.

Alim Mushfiq, chief editor of Nawai Kuhsar weekly in northern Afghanistan, noted that while the US president acknowledged a military solution alone was not the answer to Afghanistan’s problems, he was nonetheless planning to increase his forces here.

“Regarding conflicts in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Islamic fundamentalists in both countries, his speech had a big paradox, as he mentioned that military power cannot resolve the problem of two countries but practically we are seeing that he is sending extra troops in Afghanistan,” said Mushfiq.

“It seems that still there is a big space between US politicians’ speeches and acts.”

Indeed, there is a common perception in Afghanistan that the US is pursuing an overarching regional goal in Asia, and using the conflict with the Taleban to establish and justify an armed presence there.

“Epidemic, Record-Breaking Corruption Taking Place”

June 5, 2009 By Jonathan Landay, senior national security and intelligence correspondent for McClatchey Newspapers; In These Times [Excerpts]

The Bush administration promised a Marshall Plan for Afghanistan that it did not deliver.

Another thing contributing to this sense of betrayal is the absolutely epidemic, record-breaking corruption taking place-fueled by an unprecedented amount of foreign currency floating around Afghanistan.

And this corruption goes from the cop on the beat right up to the highest levels of the Afghan government. It is eating the heart out of the U.S.-led enterprise.

Whether by choice or out of anger at their government or the United States, there are people who are willing to provide the Taliban with sanctuary, shelter, food, and recruits.

**BAD IDEA:
NO MISSION;
POINTLESS WAR:
ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. Marines patrol a village in the Golestan district of Farah province, May 1, 2009.
REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

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

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

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

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

TROOP NEWS

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



The remains of U.S. Army Sergeant Justin J. Duffy June 4, 2009 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Duffy, of Cozad, Neb., died Tuesday in Baghdad when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. (AP Photo/ Gail Burton)

**War Resister, Victor Agosto, Needs
Your Support;
“If Soldiers Won’t Fight Their Wars, The
Wars Won’t Happen”**



Iraq Veterans Against The War [ivaw.org]

Active duty soldier and IVAW member, Victor Agosto, has refused to fight in Afghanistan and may face court martial for his actions.

Adding your name to our support petition can help his case:
http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5966/petition.jsp?petition_KEY=383

Victor returned to Ft. Hood, Texas after his deployment in Iraq and got news that his unit would be sent to Afghanistan. He had already been questioning his service in Iraq and saw parallels with Afghanistan.

“Both occupations fuel the insurgencies in those countries. We are creating ‘terrorists’ and we are killing so many innocent people,” Victor concluded. In May, he told his unit command he would not go.

Victor has overtly refused to follow any order that has anything to do with his taking an action that would support the occupation of Afghanistan. If he continues to refuse orders, he almost assuredly will face court martial and likely jail time.

“The only way to make them (politicians) responsive to the needs of the people is if soldiers won’t fight their wars, and if soldiers won’t fight their wars, the wars won’t happen.

“I hope I’m setting an example for other soldiers,” says Victor.

And it seems his example is already affecting positive change. He and other soldiers from Ft. Hood have become regulars at Under the Hood cafe, an anti-war GI coffeehouse IVAW members helped establish near Ft. Hood. Another member of his unit also has refused to deploy to Afghanistan.

There are many more soldiers and Marines who feel the way Victor does, but face tremendous pressures to remain silent and go along with the status quo.

This is why public support for his case is so important right now.

Make a donation to Victor’s legal defense:
<https://co.clickandpledge.com/sp/d1/default.aspx?wid=27370>

Psychologist For Ft Drum Afghan War Vet To Describe Planned Testimony Before An Army “Sanity Board” At Ft Drum:

“Loope Faces Court Martial For Leaving Ft Drum In 2007 In Search Of Mental Health Treatment He Was Not Offered On Base”

From: CitizenSoldier1@aol.com

Sent: June 11, 2009

Subject: Advisory: Psychologist for Ft Drum Soldier to Brief Press before Army Hearing

Press Advisory

Event: Thursday, June 18th @ 8:30 a.m.

More info: (212) 679-2250

Dr. David Ogren, a clinical psychologist with + thirty years' experience evaluating and treating trauma-related psychological disorders, will summarize testimony he will offer before Army psychiatric panel investigating mental state of Specialist Trevor Loope, 23, of Austin, TX.

Loope faces court martial for leaving Ft Drum in 2007 in search of mental health treatment he was not offered on base. Prior to this, he'd served fifteen months' combat duty in Afghanistan with the Third Brigade.

Ogren and Tod Ensign, lawyer for the “Different Drummer”: project near Ft Drum, will conduct a press briefing about Loope's hearing at the Day's Inn, 110 Commerce Park Dr., Watertown, on June 18th at 8:30 a.m.

After fifteen months combat in Afghanistan, Loope returned to Ft Drum suffering from several well-known symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (sleep disturbance, hyper-arousal, depression, flashbacks, suicidal ideation, etc)

Despite his best efforts, he was offered only psychotropic drugs and no therapy to treat his mental health problems.

He left base in search of mental health treatment, which he found in Austin, TX

He surrendered on Dec. 3, 2008 during a meeting of the Ithaca City Council. It had adopted a “sanctuary resolution” in support of war resisters on Oct. 1st. Since then, he has been serving with his brigade at Ft Drum.

Two weeks ago, he was formally charged with AWOL with trial by Special Court Martial set for July 1, 2009. If convicted, he could be sentenced to a year in prison and given a Bad Conduct Discharge, which would bar him from any mental health treatment by the Veterans Administration.

The Army “sanity board” composed of three mental health professionals, will convene at Ft Drum's mental health facility (old post) at 10:00 a.m. on June 18th. They will consider

testimony, including Dr.Ogren's, about Loope's past and present mental state and draw conclusions about his mental capacity.



MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOUNDATION
MIKEY WEINSTEIN, PRESIDENT

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in.]

Troops Invited:

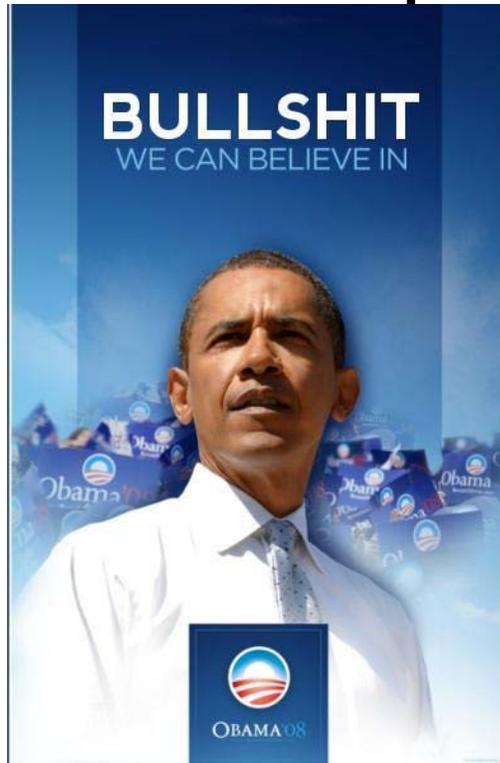
Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

GI Special Available In PDF Format

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email contact@militaryproject.org

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Obama In Cairo: “One Might Even Marvel At How Dishonest The Cairo Speech Was”



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in.]

[From Max Watts, Australia, who began helping GIs resisting the Vietnam War in the 1960's, and has never stopped helping soldiers resisting Imperial wars.]

11 Jun 2009 By Michael Brull, NewMatilda.com [Excerpts]

Obama's speech to the Muslim world was delivered in Cairo, after visiting Saudi Arabia.

Egypt is a police state; Saudi Arabia is perhaps the most misogynistic theocracy in the world.

The unpopular governments of both are dependent on longstanding US support, which Obama did not threaten in any way.

When confronted with some of Amnesty's criticisms of Mubarak, Obama refused to even call Mubarak "authoritarian", instead praising the Egyptian Government as a "stalwart ally", and a "force for stability and good in the region".

As Hossam el-Hamalawy wrote, the visit was a “clear endorsement of...the ailing 81-year-old dictator who has ruled with martial law, secret police and torture chambers.

“No words that Mr. Obama will say can change this perception that Americans are supporting a dictator with their more than US\$1 billion in annual aid.”

Earlier, in Saudi Arabia, he said he was “struck” by the “wisdom and graciousness” of Saudi King Abdullah. As’ad AbuKhalil wondered if he would next “praise the public beheadings in the kingdom as example of ideal justice”.

Not long ago, there was an American politician who took a different view of all this. He took a stand against the war in Iraq before it was launched, and said that the US had other battles that were more important.

“You want a fight, President Bush?” he asked.

“Let’s fight to make sure our so-called allies in the Middle East, the Saudis and the Egyptians, stop oppressing their own people, and suppressing dissent, and tolerating corruption and inequality, and mismanaging their economies so that their youth grow up without education, without prospects, without hope, the ready recruits of terrorist cells.”

The man who denounced these “so-called allies” of America was none other Barack Obama.

Neither government has changed since then. The only observable change has been in Obama during his quest for power.

Meanwhile, Obama called upon the Palestinians — but not Israel — to end all violence.

The Palestinians’ armed “resistance...is wrong and does not succeed”, as proven, in Obama’s opinion, by US history.

Perhaps Palestinians should study US history, and learn of how slavery was abolished through non-violent struggle.

Then they could learn of America’s non-violent struggle for independence, and its general pursuit of non-violence and avoidance of military campaigns across the world.

As the world knows, Obama is currently engaged in non-violent struggle in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq.

Obama said no system of government “can or should be imposed upon one nation by any other.”

In practice, let’s look at the case of Afghanistan.

It was supposedly liberated from Taliban rule by the US and the “Coalition of the Willing”.

The exact nature of the “sovereign government” they installed for the Afghans was candidly discussed recently in the Washington Post:

“In November 2003...the Bush administration dispatched Zalmay Khalilzad, its foremost expert on Afghanistan, as ambassador to Kabul...Khalilzad was far more than an ambassador. US diplomats described his role as the country’s chief executive — with Karzai as the figurehead chairman — for the 19 months of his ambassadorship.

“By his own account, Khalilzad ate dinner six nights a week at the presidential palace, where he met with Karzai and his advisers into the evening. No significant decision was made by Karzai in that time without Khalilzad’s involvement, and sometimes his cajoling and prodding, the diplomats said.”

When Khalilzad thought the governor of Herat should be transferred, Karzai was reluctant. However, Khalilzad went to visit the governor, and announced that the governor would become a cabinet minister.

“A few days later, Karzai issued an edict” announcing this too.

“‘Karzai was being his usual indecisive self, so Zal drove the steel rod up his spine,’ said a US official.”

It was because of this “tactic, applied repeatedly”, that Karzai “was seen by many Afghans as a puppet of the US.”

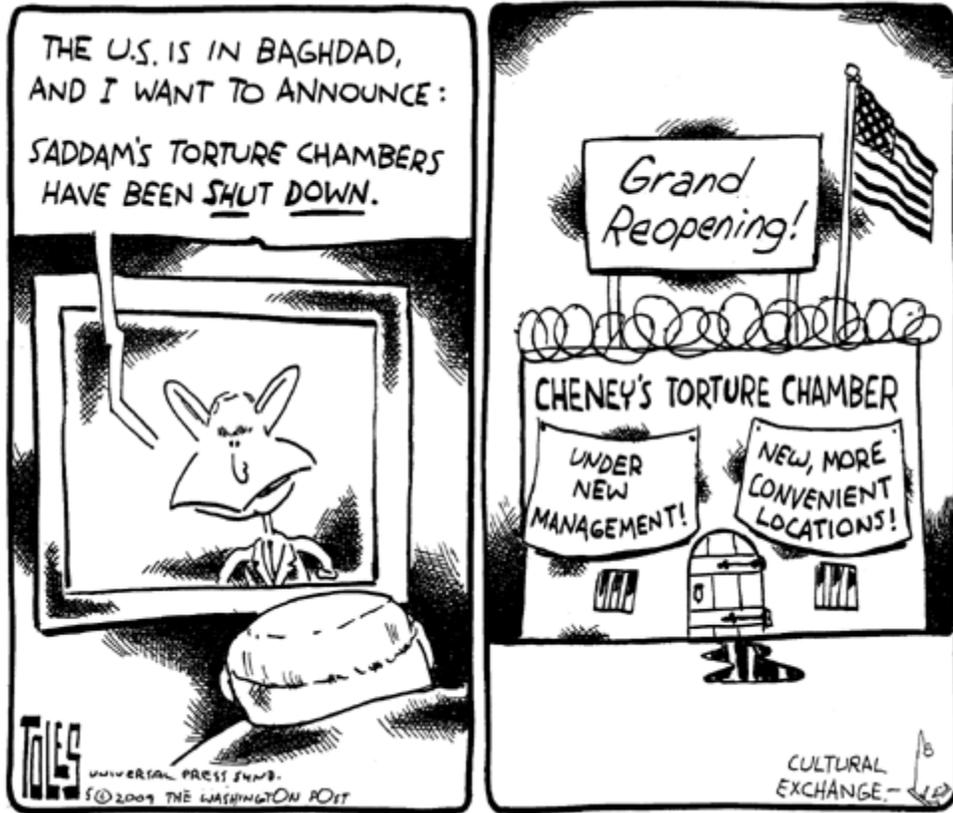
Quite plainly, Karzai earned this reputation.

However, since he started stepping out of line, with such outrages as criticising the US bombing of civilians in his country, the Obama administration has decided Afghanistan needs a new government.

According to the New York Times, the new “chief executive officer” of Afghanistan may be none other than Khalilzad. In effect, this new position would mean being “prime minister, except not prime minister because he wouldn’t be responsible to a parliamentary system”.

Plainly, this is not exactly in line with Obama’s declaration about not imposing a government upon another nation.

In fact, one might even marvel at how dishonest the Cairo speech was.



Ahmadinejad Wins Stanley Cup: Scores Two Hat Tricks in Upset



June 13, 2009 The Borowitz Report

In what many are describing as an upset victory of unprecedented proportions, Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad defeated the Pittsburgh Penguins last night to win the 2009 Stanley Cup, Iran's Interior Ministry announced today.

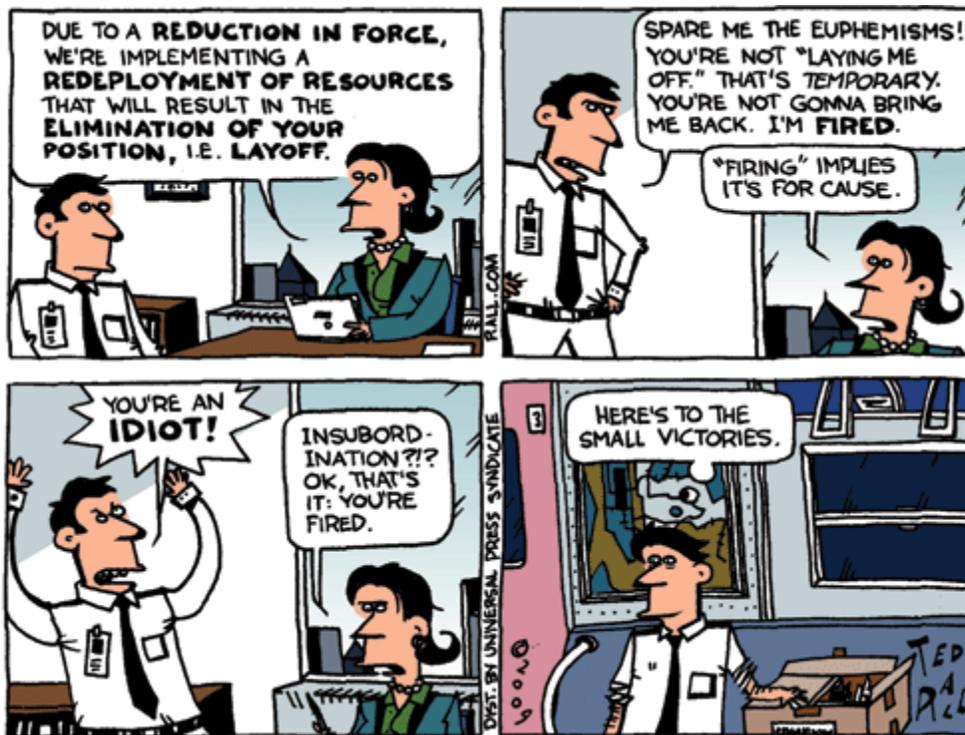
According to the ministry, which Mr. Ahmadinejad runs, the Iranian hard-liner defeated the Penguins by a score of 6-0, scoring two hat tricks in the victory.

But Penguins star Evgeni Malkin immediately disputed Mr. Ahmadinejad's claim, arguing that the Iranian president did not even appear in the game.

Mr. Ahmadinejad scoffed at Mr. Malkin's charge, stating, "He's just pissed that I was named MVP."

The Iranian president took time out from celebrating his Stanley Cup win to announce that he had just been named Poet Laureate of England.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



**Scumsucking Rats Infesting The
NY Police Department Fake Drug
Evidence Against Immigrants:
Ruined Lives?**

They Really Don't Give A Shit -- Until They Get Caught And Start Whining

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in.]

Elsewhere, Philadelphia prosecutors dismissed more than a dozen drug and gun charges against a man last month when a narcotics officer was accused of making up information on search warrants.

6.13.09 By TOM HAYS and COLLEEN LONG, The Associated Press [Excerpts]

When undercover detectives busted Jose and Maximo Colon last year for selling cocaine at a seedy club in Queens, there was a glaring problem: The brothers hadn't done anything wrong.

But proclaiming innocence wasn't going to be good enough. The Dominican immigrants needed proof.

"I sat in the jail and thought ... how could I prove this? What could I do?" Jose, 24, recalled in Spanish during a recent interview.

As he glanced around a holding cell, the answer came to him: Security cameras. Since then, a vindicating video from the club's cameras has spared the brothers a possible prison term, resulted in two officers' arrest and become the basis for a multimillion-dollar lawsuit.

The officers, who are due back in court June 26, have pleaded not guilty, and New York Police Department officials have downplayed their case.

But the drug corruption case isn't alone.

On May 13, another NYPD officer was arrested for plotting to invade a Manhattan apartment where he hoped to steal \$900,000 in drug money.

In another pending case, prosecutors in Brooklyn say officers were caught in a 2007 sting using seized drugs to reward a snitch for information.

And in the Bronx, prosecutors have charged a detective with lying about a drug bust captured on a surveillance tape that contradicts her story.

Elsewhere, Philadelphia prosecutors dismissed more than a dozen drug and gun charges against a man last month when a narcotics officer was accused of making up information on search warrants.

The revelations in New York have triggered internal affairs inquiries, transfers of commanders and reviews of dozens of other arrests involving the accused officers. Many drug defendants' cases have been tossed out. Others have won favorable plea deals.

Peter Moskos, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, agrees the majority of narcotics officers probably are clean. But he also believes the city's unending war on drugs will always invite corruption by some who don't think twice about framing suspects they're convinced are guilty anyway.

"Drugs are a dirty game," Moskos said. "Once you realize it's a game, then you start playing with the rules to win the game."

Just ask the Colon brothers.

The brothers' evening started much like any other.

Max's friend worked at a bodega down the street from Delicias de Mi Tierra, where they'd sometimes drink and play pool in the evenings. This night, the pool table was closed. They instead sat at the bar.

Security cameras ended up filming their every move.

The brothers barely moved from the same spot for about 90 minutes as the undercovers entered the bar and mixed with the crowd.

Moments after the officers left, a backup team barged in and grabbed six men, including the brothers.

Paperwork signed by "UC 13200" — Officer Henry Tavarez — claimed that he told a patron he wanted to buy cocaine. By his account, that man responded by approaching the 28-year-old Max, who then went over to the undercover and demanded to pat him down to make sure he wasn't wearing a wire.

Max collected \$100 from Tavarez, the report said. The officer claimed to see two bags of cocaine pass through the hands of three men, including Jose, before they were given to him.

Jose was released after a court appearance. His brother was shipped off to Riker's Island until he could make bail.

"I was scared," Max said of his time at Rikers. "I don't get into trouble, and here I am with real criminals."

The moment Jose walked out of the holding cell, he made a beeline for Delicias and asked for a copy of the security tapes from the night they were arrested, Jan. 4, 2008.

"I knew it would be the only way to defend myself, because I knew the police would not believe me," he said.

The owner of Delicias queued up the tapes and the two waded through an entire day's worth of surveillance — until they found the two hours the men spent in the club that night — supposedly selling drugs.

Jose quickly got the tape to defense attorney Rochelle Berliner, a former narcotics prosecutor. She couldn't believe what she was seeing.

"I almost threw up," she said. "Because I must've prosecuted 1,500, 2,000 drug cases ... and all felonies. And I think back, Oh my God, I believed everything everyone told me. Maybe a handful of times did something not sound right to me. I don't mean to sound overly dramatic but I was like, sick."

What the tape doesn't show is striking: At no point did the officers interact with the undercovers, nor did the brothers appear to be involved in a drug deal with anyone else.

Adding insult to injury, an outside camera taped the undercovers literally dancing down the street.

Berliner handed the tape over to the District Attorney's integrity unit. It reviewed the images more than 100 times to make sure it wasn't doctored by the defense before deciding to drop all charges against the brothers in June.

Six months later, Officer Tavaréz and Detective Stephen Anderson pleaded not guilty to drug dealing and multiple other charges that their lawyers say were overblown.

Anderson's attorney has described him as a seasoned investigator who had no reason to make a false arrest. Tavaréz, his attorney said, was a novice undercover merely along for the ride.

Life quickly deteriorated for Max and Jose after their arrest.

They owned a successful convenience store in Jackson Heights, but lost their license to sell tobacco, alcohol and lottery tickets. The store closed a week before their case was dismissed.

"My life changed completely," Jose said. "I had a life before, and I have a different existence now. ... Now, I'm not able to afford to live in my own house or care for my children."

Jose has found construction work, while Max commutes two hours to Philadelphia to work at a relative's bodega. They stay away from the old neighborhood, where they say ugly rumors about them persist.

The brothers have filed a \$10 million false arrest lawsuit against the police department, the officers involved and the city.

"I'm angry because, why'd it happen to me? I know a lot of people ... they don't go the right way and they can get away with it," Max said. "I'm young and I try to go the right way and boom, this happened to me. So I'm angry with life, too."

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

RECEIVED

**Demolition Of Public Housing Is No Stimulus
To New Orleans:
RENOVATE AND REOPEN THE IBERVILLE
COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING!**

Rally for Renovation of Iberville Community Center!

Saturday, Noon

June 20, 2009

**Iberville Housing Development
Corner of Basin and Bienville
New Orleans**

June 13, 2009 NOLA_C3_Discussion

The proposal by the Housing Authority of New Orleans to demolish the apartment building not so long ago envisioned as the community center for the Iberville Housing Development is a step backward for affordable housing in the Crescent City.

The demolition of this building would deprive working class New Orleanians of what should be a source of affordable housing. We demand that the Housing Authority of New Orleans repair and reopen this building rather than demolish it.

That working class New Orleanians need the affordable housing that the renovation of the Iberville apartment building could provide is beyond question. New Orleans suffers from the highest per-capita homeless rate of any major city in the United States.

Unemployment in Orleans Parish jumped from 4.4% in March 2008 to 7.3% in March 2009. Renovating the Iberville apartment building, rather than destroying it, would provide more affordable housing. It would also, if done correctly, provide jobs to public housing residents at a time of rising unemployment. This is the sort of stimulus that New Orleanians really need.

Sponsor
C3/Hands Off Iberville 504-587-0080.



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

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

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