

GI SPECIAL 7H12:



“I Would See Other Soldiers Coughing Up Blood Into Their Shirts” Iraq “Dust” That KBR Said Was Safe Ate A Hole In The Captain’s Nose: “About Half His 120 Soldiers Had Similar Symptoms”

8.17.09 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times [Excerpts]

Within 24 hours of landing at the Qarmat Ali water treatment plant, Russell Kimberling had developed symptoms from the orange dust that was everywhere.

Kimberling, a former captain and company commander in the 1st Battalion, 152nd Infantry Regiment, provided security for KBR contractors at the water plant in Basra, Iraq. Within a week of arriving, he developed headaches and a bloody nose.

The chemical eventually worked a hole all the way through the side of his nose, and he was medevaced to Germany.

About half his 120 soldiers had similar symptoms, he said during a Senate Democratic Policy Committee hearing Aug. 3.

After his return to Qarmat Ali, Kimberling said he was ordered to accompany several civilians who wanted to see the orange dust at the plant.

After arriving at the plant and kicking up some of the dust, Kimberling said, "I turned and noticed that the civilians were emerging from their vehicles in full white personal protective gear.

"They did not see fit to inform us that, for safety purposes, we should have been doing the same — since our arrival four months earlier."

Kimberling said he still does not know who the civilians were or what agency they worked for.

KBR officials later told him the orange substance was sodium dichromate, a "mild irritant and that one would have to literally bathe in it for any toxicity to occur."

Kimberling's nose is still red, he has joint aches, has tested low for testosterone and has a constant "overall malaise."

Former Staff Sgt. Russell Powell, a medic with the West Virginia National Guard, said more than half his men had nosebleeds, nausea and rashes, and coughed up blood.

"I had to provide cotton balls to other soldiers to shove up their noses to stop the nosebleeds," Powell said, his voice cracking.

"I would see other soldiers coughing up blood into their shirts while trying to protect their faces." He said his symptoms still have not subsided, and he can't take a full breath.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Kunar IED Kills U.S. Soldier

August 14, 2009 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: No. 617-09

Capt. John Tinsley, 28, of Tallahassee, Fla., died Aug. 12 in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C.

Marine Sgt. Bill Cahir, Former Express-Times Correspondent, Killed In Afghanistan



Bill Cahir

August 13, 2009 by Express-Times staff

Former Express-Times Washington, D.C., correspondent Bill Cahir has been killed in Afghanistan, a family friend confirmed this evening.

Cahir, a Penn State graduate who joined the Marine Corps Reserves in 2003, died in the Helmand River valley, the friend said. He was 40.

Cahir, a sergeant, served two tours in Iraq from August 2004 to March 2005 and from September 2006 to April 2007. He was deployed to Afghanistan this spring, the friend said.

Cahir's wife, Rene Browne, is pregnant, the friend said.

In January 2008, Cahir, a Bellefonte, Pa., native, left the Newhouse News Service, where he'd worked since 1999, to run for the 5th Congressional District's Democratic nomination. He lost the hotly contested primary to Mark McCracken, a Clearfield County commissioner.

At that time, Cahir said, "My journalism career is over. I'll talk to the Marine Corps and see what they want me to do and talk to my wife and see what she wants me to do."

Before joining Newhouse, Cahir worked for the Southampton Press, Education Daily and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee under Sen. Ted Kennedy.

Afghan War Killing Off Marine NCOs

8.17.09 Army Times

A dozen Marines have died in Afghanistan since the July 1 launch of Operation Khanjar — more than half of them noncommissioned officers and staff NCOs, leaders whose guidance and experience are not easily replaced.

The growing list of casualties includes two master sergeants and a staff sergeant. According to media reports, many were killed by improvised explosive devices, weapons Taliban fighters have capitalized on in recent weeks.

Marines of all ranks have died in Afghanistan “because nobody is sitting in the rear with the gear,” said the Corps’ top enlisted Marine, Sgt. Maj. Carlton Kent.

This year already is the deadliest in Afghanistan for the Corps, according to Defense Department statistics. Last year, 23 Marines were killed in action or died as a result of wounds they suffered there, compared with nearly 30 killed so far this year.

Welcome To Obama’s War: THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH; ALL HOME, NOW



United States Marines from 3rd Regiment, 2nd MEB, near the village of Dahaneh, Aug. 15, 2009, in Helmand Province of Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)



United States Marines with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Regiment, 2nd MEB, 2nd MEF, move positions to return fire against Taliban insurgents in the village of Dahaneh, Aug. 14, 2009 in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)



A U.S. Marine 2nd MEB, 2nd MEF, runs across a rooftop for more ammunition, during a firefight against Taliban in the village of Dahaneh Friday, Aug. 14, 2009, in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)



A U.S. Marine from 2nd MEF runs for cover from Taliban gunfire coming from a mountainside outside the village of Dahaneh, Aug. 13, 2009, in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)



A U.S. Marine with 2nd MEB, 2nd MEF runs across a rooftop for more ammunition during a firefight against Taliban in the village of Dahaneh, Aug. 14, 2009, in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)



United States Marines from 2nd MEB, 2nd MEF, take cover behind a mud wall during a firefight against Taliban in the village of Dahaneh, Aug. 14, 2009, in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)



United States Marines and Afghan National Army soldiers take cover behind a mud wall during a firefight with Taliban insurgents who were firing from an orchard across an open field in the village of Dahaneh, Aug. 14, 2009, in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)

Resistance Attack Bombs One Of Kabul's "Most Heavily Guarded Streets"

“Huge Explosion” Rocks Diplomatic District



A huge explosion rocked the diplomatic district of the capital on Saturday morning, killing seven people and wounding 91. Photo: Tyler Hicks/The New York Times



The blast occurred in one of the city's most heavily guarded streets, between the United States Embassy and the presidential palace. The embassy is about 100 yards from the site of the explosion, but heavy barriers and blast walls protect it from the street. Photo: Tyler Hicks/The New York Times

Aug. 15, 2009 Reuters and The Canadian Press & FOCUS News Agency & By James Rupert & Bloomberg

Afghanistan's Defence Ministry said at least seven people were killed and nearly 100 wounded in a blast outside the sprawling headquarters of the NATO-led international force, near the U.S. embassy, in Kabul.

The bomber set off the device at about 8:30 a.m. when Afghan soldiers stopped him outside the concrete barriers set in the street to protect the gate of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's International Security Assistance Force.

It shattered the front of the less-protected Afghan transport ministry across the street and smashed windows at the Spanish ambassador's home and Afghan shops down the street.

Some NATO troops guarding the gate were injured, according to soldiers at the scene. Most of those hurt were transport ministry employees arriving for work.

It is supposed that the car bomb held some 300 kg of explosive.

Four Macedonian soldiers suffer minor injuries outside the headquarters of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul, Makfax reported. They sustain grazes on their faces. The General Staff of the Macedonian Armed Forces says the soldiers received medical treatment immediately. Since their health condition was good, they returned to their usual work.

A spokesman for the International Security Assistance Force said there were some ISAF casualties, while an official with the Afghan Ministry of Transport, whose headquarters bore the brunt of the blast, said dozens of employees were hurt by flying glass. "Unfortunately, there are casualties," said Canadian Brigadier General Eric Tremblay, an ISAF [occupation] spokesman. "I am not going to go into numbers. There's Afghan civilians and there are ISAF military."

The blast shattered windows in the area and shook buildings in the Wazir Akbar Khan district, home to most major foreign embassies and organizations in the capital.

"The target was the U.S. embassy, but we could not reach it," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told Reuters by telephone from an undisclosed location.

The vehicle carrying Saturday's bomb appeared to have got through two lightly manned checkpoints before attempting to drive the wrong way through a major reinforced security post, where it was stopped.

Abdullah Latif, a driver with the Transport Ministry, said he heard a loud explosion and breaking glass.

“People were just arriving at work. There were tens of people injured by the glass,” he said.

Mohammad Moussa Zaher, a doctor at the Wazir Akbar Khan hospital, told Reuters that 55 people had been treated there.

One Canadian living in Kabul and an Afghan employee of the Canadian Embassy there were injured in Saturday’s bomb attack outside NATO’s headquarters.

Foreign Affairs officials say the Canadian, whose name hasn’t been released, suffered non-life threatening injuries while the Afghan embassy employee was seriously injured.

Resistance Attack Burns Fuel For Afghan Occupation Forces, As Usual



Afghanistan-bound fuel tankers for U.S. forces after an attack 45 kilometers (28 miles) from Quetta, Pakistan, Aug. 15, 2009. Freedom fighters attacked a truck terminal in the southwestern town of Yaro on Saturday, burning trucks carrying fuel to troops in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Shah Khalid)

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

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

***Good News For The Iraqi
Resistance!!***

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



Foreign occupation troops kick down the door of an Afghan citizen's house during an armed home invasion in the village of Dahaneh, Aug. 13, 2009, in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)

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

[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?]



[images.google.com]

English soldiers search an American settler's house (1770's)

Declared Bill Ehrhart, a marine in Vietnam:

In grade school we learned about the redcoats, the nasty British soldiers that tried to stifle our freedom. Subconsciously, but not very subconsciously, I began increasingly to have the feeling that I was a redcoat. I think it was one of the most staggering realizations of my life.

TROOP NEWS

More On The Deadly Burn Pits: “She Couldn't Get Approval For A Pulmonary-Function Study Of Troops Before They Leave And After They Return From Doha, Kuwait”

8.17.09 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times [Excerpts]

NEW YORK — Coleen Weese first heard about open-air burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan early on, when a commander in Iraq sent her an e-mail saying his troops were living in a plume of smoke from the base waste-disposal site.

“I said, ‘Well, that’s not good, move it,’ ” recalled Weese, environmental medicine program manager for the Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.

The commander asked if maybe he should test it first. “No, really, you want to solve the problem,” she told him. He e-mailed back that they had moved the trash dump.

But most bases in the war zones still have active burn pits, and the troops say they still live in the path of the plumes.

“(Iraq’s Joint Base) Balad has a 10-acre burn pit,” Weese said. “That floored me. It has never been the preventive medicine opinion that you should just burn stuff.”

As units left Iraq, they’d dump all of their spare equipment into the pits without sorting for hazardous material. There have been reports of everything from batteries to medical waste being dropped in the pits and burned.

But she couldn’t get approval for a pulmonary-function study of troops before they leave and after they return from Doha, Kuwait.

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 Lurks Everywhere:
Kidnapping. Falsified Documents:
Meet The Sleazebucket Car Dealers Who
Prey On Our Troops:**

“A Superior Officer Lures Recruits To A Dealership For A Fee — A Common Occurrence”



Photo: Matt Eich/Aurora Select

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: “Time to get the troops home and have them fight GREED right here.”]

By Stephanie Mencimer July/August 2009 Mother Jones. Additional reporting by Taylor Wiles. [Excerpts]

ONE DAY in April, a 19-year-old sailor named William Kirkgaard was walking to the store at the Norfolk naval station when a man in a black Ford Mustang pulled up and asked for directions to the main gate.

Kirkgaard indicated the way, whereupon the man, who said he was a former Marine, began asking questions: Why don't you have a car? Are you a member of the Navy Federal Credit Union?

Claiming he worked there, Kirkgaard says, the man then offered him a ride to the credit union to open an account—the first step toward buying a car.

So the sailor got in.

But an ominous feeling overtook him as the Mustang drove on and on. "I kinda thought I was gonna die at that point," he says.

The real destination, it turned out, was Tidewater Auto Brokers, a used car dealership in Virginia Beach, about 14 miles away.

Mustang Man didn't work for the credit union, and the Marines say they have no record of his having served, either. He was a used car salesman.

Kirkgaard had maybe \$20 to his name — not enough to get a taxi back to the base, much less buy a car.

He'd only been in the Navy 10 months and had never bought a car without his parents. He didn't even have a driver's license on him, which meant he couldn't legally drive off the lot.

Still, Mustang Man, whose real name is Jesse Neely, eventually persuaded him to test-drive a 2005 Dodge Stratus with 78,000 miles and a \$10,000 sticker price. It shook violently and the "check engine" light flashed.

Kirkgaard told Neely he didn't want the car, he says, but he naively agreed to give the dealership his personal information. Afterward, employees asked him to sign some paperwork; the sailor obliged without much thought.

"Congratulations," they told him. "You just bought a car."

Kirkgaard says he tried to return the Dodge the next day, but the dealership told him (falsely) that it was illegal to cancel a sales contract in Virginia.

A saleswoman did offer to reduce the price to \$7,900—hardly a deal given the car's roughly \$6,000 blue-book value.

Kirkgaard, out of desperation, signed the new contract. He then left the car in the parking lot with the keys inside and sought assistance from a lawyer back at the base. He was legally on the hook for the full price, plus 15 percent interest.

"I'm screwed," Kirkgaard told me soon after.

Mustang Man has been busy, apparently. Kirkgaard knows another sailor who was delivered to Tidewater after Neely allegedly offered him a ride to the movies.

That sailor ended up paying \$11,000 for a 2005 Dodge Neon he didn't want. He, too, abandoned it at the dealership the next day, prompting Tidewater to phone the sailor's superior, Chief Electrician's Mate Larry Gordon.

"They called me up saying they wanted to press charges against him because he left the car there," Gordon told me. "They are really preying on these sailors."

Tidewater's owner did not return calls seeking comment. When I informed Neely of the complaints, his immediate response was, "Jesus, are you serious?" He admitted he'd picked up the sailors, but claimed they came voluntarily and seemed eager to buy.

"If he's over 18 years of age and he's willing to sign a contract," the salesman argued, "I don't see how you can be forced."

So many young enlistees have been targeted in recent years that some officers now call predatory dealers a threat to national security. Yet authorities ranging from local prosecutors to state regulatory boards to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to the

military itself have done relatively little to address the proliferation of dubious auto sales-and-credit tactics. (Many used car dealers make more money selling loans than selling cars.)

"I wish there were some aggressive enforcement of the consumer protection laws, especially where military personnel are involved," says Steve Lynch, a Coast Guard attorney who has seen many a Coastie get stung.

Beyond saddling service members with debt, sour car deals can result in bad credit, making it hard for soldiers to obtain the security clearances they need to get promoted.

Hard-sell tactics can even affect unit cohesion, says Dwain Alexander II, a Navy Legal Services lawyer at the Norfolk naval station, if a superior officer lures recruits to a dealership for a fee — a common occurrence.

"If you can't trust the guys who your life depends on," he says, "that's really bad."

THE HAMPTON ROADS region of southeast Virginia, home to 14 major military installations, is overflowing with used car dealers.

They hang their shingles here by the dozens, feeding on a steady supply of 18- to 22-year-old enlistees giddy at the prospect of their first real paycheck. "The guys buy the cars as soon as they get here," says Alexander. "There's a beach. They can't pick up girls without a car."

One showroom a stone's throw from the Little Creek naval base lures sailors with pool tables and the promise of free lunch for those who bring a few friends.

Others feature video games and big-screen TVs, bikini car washes and Hooters nights featuring all-you-can-eat wings. (The slogan on Tidewater's website: "All Military. All Ranks. 0 Down.")

When such promotional strategies fail to put boots on the lot, some dealerships resort to more aggressive methods like bird-dogging — the illegal tactic of paying service members and others to drag their buddies down to the lot, or local cabbies to bring in kids who arrive at the airport fresh from boot camp.

One local dealership even convinced a USO volunteer to forward contact information for the newbies coming in at Norfolk International Airport.

Salespeople would then call and claim, say, that the recruit had won a prize, and would he like to come down and collect it?

Kirkgaard's story isn't even the worst of it.

In 2004, a Norfolk-area dealership called Carland lost its license for essentially kidnapping young Marines from bases in North Carolina and northern Virginia.

The victims had made the mistake of calling "Kim," a name listed on business cards someone had sprinkled around Camp Lejeune and other bases. (It stood for "kids in the military," military lawyers later discovered.)

The card promised discounts, and when Marines called, Carland sent an employee to pick them up and drive them to its lot nearly four hours away.

It was a one-way trip; the hapless grunts were told that they'd have to buy a vehicle in order to get back to base and not be declared AWOL. One stressed-out Marine paid \$23,000 for a 1997 Civic, nearly quadruple its value.

Navy lawyer Alexander sees a steady stream of sailors trapped in bad car deals.

They make particularly good targets for credit shenanigans, since the government makes it easy for dealers to garnish wages when an enlistee defaults on a loan.

The upshot, Alexander says, is that his clients typically overpay by at least \$2,000, often enough to trigger chronic money woes.

FOR ALL ITS war-fighting skills, the military is ill equipped to take on a bunch of unscrupulous businesspeople.

While its lawyers can help individual soldiers, litigation is expensive and time-consuming. Alexander says his office sued a dealer called Hollywood Wholesale Inc. a few years ago, but the owner simply changed the business name and transferred the property to his brother. Alexander won a \$50,000 judgment plus \$25,000 in attorney's fees, but only managed to collect \$3,000. "Getting a judgment against a car dealer is extremely difficult," he says.

The military isn't without options. Most bases have disciplinary control boards that can declare a dealership off-limits, making it a crime for service members to patronize it. But while effective — it wreaks havoc on sales — this off-limits designation is rare.

Commander Art Record, vice chairman of the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board for the Hampton Roads area, says the board first gives dealers the opportunity to change their practices.

In the last year, seven Norfolk-area dealers have appeared before the board, but only one is currently off-limits, and that dealership has closed its doors.

The brass has also taken steps to educate enlistees, who now get some financial literacy counseling in boot camp.

"It's so unfair to put all of the burden on the troops," says Rosemary Shahan, president of the California nonprofit Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety, who has been fighting sleazy dealers since the 1970s. "They have enough to worry about. They're protecting us. We need to step up and protect them."

FEDERAL LAWMAKERS have been more inclined to protect the dealers, a politically savvy bunch who doled out more than \$9 million to federal candidates during the 2008 election cycle alone.

In 1982, after the FTC ordered auto dealers to post signs on used vehicles, disclosing any known defects, the dealers squealed and Congress eviscerated the new rule.

The commission hasn't tried anything so bold since.

In any case, the feds have limited authority. Regulation of auto sales falls largely to state dealer boards. But the dealers, who have even more clout in local and state politics, tend to dominate.

Virginia, for instance, requires that dealers hold 16 of the 19 seats on its board.

The current board can, and occasionally does, revoke a dealer's license or impose fines for illegal practices, but it has only 11 investigators to monitor nearly 3,600 dealerships. In most cases, it doesn't take action until after a consumer successfully sues the dealer, and even then, only if the dealer fails to pay.

People in the industry "know what they need to do to stay legal," says Bruce Gould, the board's executive director. "There's a moral problem with it, but not a legal one."

The regulatory vacuum has allowed notorious operators to flourish.

Take Charlie Falk, a Virginia used car legend with a lot on the highway that runs between the Little Creek naval base and Oceana naval air station.

In 1977, Falk served several days in jail for rolling back odometers. In the 1990s, his business was the target of a racketeering suit that accused him of "churning" — selling at inflated prices and quickly repossessing the vehicles after customers missed even a single payment.

His dealerships would then resell those cars while suing the original buyers to collect on their high-interest loans.

Falk ultimately settled the racketeering case, which involved thousands of customers, by paying \$400,000 in damages and writing off \$10 million in loans.

Despite all this, state regulators have never shut down any of Falk's lots, nor has the military ruled any of them off-limits.

Local politicians have also left Falk alone, although Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.) alerted the Navy last year after a Falk dealership unleashed a 30-minute infomercial featuring hot chicks in military uniforms. (The dealership yanked the ads when the military threatened to charge it with improper use of a uniform.)

Tom Domonoske, a Virginia lawyer who specializes in consumer credit, says better policing is needed, not just of dealerships but also of the finance industry. Here's why:

Suppose a customer with decent credit is eligible for a loan at 7 percent interest. If a salesman can convince the customer to accept a 10 percent rate — a feat Domonoske says many dealers accomplish by lying — he can then sell the loan to a bank or finance company and pocket the extra 3 percent as a perfectly legal kickback.

This percentage cut encourages dealers to inflate sales contracts with pricey add-ons and even to falsify loan documents so that customers qualify for more loan than they can afford.

Banks and finance companies have largely turned a blind eye to these practices, Domonoske says. Many sell the loans to Wall Street, so what does it matter if the customer defaults? The easy credit, Alexander argues, "funds criminal conduct, bird-dogging, and provides incentives for the overpricing of vehicles for massive profit to dealers."

CASE IN POINT: In April 2008, Raenitra Mackingtee, then a 19-year-old enlistee at the Norfolk naval station, wanted to trade in her 2006 PT Cruiser for something with better mileage. She visited Diamond Motorcars, a Virginia Beach dealer, and settled on a 2002 Honda Civic priced at \$15,000.

But Mackingtee still owed more than \$19,000 on the Cruiser. No problem, the salesman said. He'd pay off her loan, credit her \$10,000 for the trade-in, and get her a bigger loan to cover the balance on the Cruiser loan plus the price of the Honda. After taxes, fees, and add-ons, the grand total came to nearly \$27,000.

The salesman had her log in to her account at the Navy Federal Credit Union—which, despite its name, is a private company.

Then, Mackingtee says, she let him fill out an online loan application on her behalf.

The credit union approved her loan at 12.25 percent interest, but when she picked up the loan check, something was wrong.

The promissory note listed a 2006 Dodge Charger. "I was like, I didn't get no Dodge," Mackingtee told me later. When she phoned the dealer to see how this phantom car had ended up on her loan application, the salesman obfuscated. He insisted she bring in the check anyway, because they'd already sold her trade-in.

If she didn't buy the Honda, she'd have no way to get to work on the base. So she did.

A few months later, the credit union sent Mackingtee a letter seeking the Charger's title as collateral. She couldn't produce it, of course, so the bank jacked up her rate to 18 percent. This raised her monthly payments from \$515 to \$600—not insignificant for someone making \$1,680 (plus a housing allowance) before taxes. Desperate, she contacted Alexander at Navy Legal Services, who explained that no bank would make a \$27,000 loan for a Honda with a blue-book value of \$9,800.

The salesman knew she wouldn't qualify, Alexander believes, which is why he listed a \$25,000 Dodge on the loan application.

While Mackingtee's problem might seem clear-cut, the dealer has refused to make things right.

Alexander hasn't been able to help much, either; since she allegedly let the salesman use her account, it's her word against his. Diamond's sales manager insists his staff did nothing wrong. "If anyone's lying, she is," he says. The credit union, meanwhile, won't budge on the interest rate—if Mackingtee, who recently gave birth to her first child, defaults, the lender can simply garnish her wages.

And though she notified the Virginia Beach police of the incident, nothing has come of it.

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.**

**"The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!"
-- Camille Desmoulins**

An Appeal: You Can Help Active Duty Troops And Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans Meet To Organize Armed Forces Resistance To Wars Of Empire

Why will active duty troops and Iraq/Afghanistan veterans meet with civilian activists in Savannah, Georgia, Labor Day weekend?

No doubt Barrack Obama's inauguration in January was a great moment for all people concerned about ending racism and promoting the equality that Thomas Jefferson wrote about in the Declaration of Independence.

But in the context of the grand struggle to achieve equality for all humans in all areas of life, the President's inauguration was a mere baby step.

A baby step whose ensuing honeymoon period has ended.

As President Obama continues to prolong a withdrawal from Iraq and actually escalate the occupation of Afghanistan, the need to continue reaching out to and organizing with veterans protesting the occupations has never been greater.

For this reason, The Military Project is working to facilitate a meeting of anti-occupation troops in September.

This meeting is to take place near Fort Stewart in Georgia.

We are aiming to not only to make gains in the Southeast region of the United States, but to boost the profile of outreach to soldiers on a national level.

To achieve this, representatives from Iraq Veterans Against the War from around the country are being invited to lead the discussion and planning to be conducted in Georgia in September.

The Military Project will be present to share opinions and facilitate, but truly The Military Project is interested only in empowering the anti-war veterans movement.

We are asking for a donation to The Military Project that will be used for the sole purpose of transporting veterans to Georgia in September.

Your money will not be used for any sort of overhead cost.

The Military Project is taking care of that.

But we do need help bringing the veterans' representatives from around the country to this meeting.

No one's voices and no one's actions are more important than those of veterans in the struggle to bring home our armed forces from two occupations they should never have been asked to take part in.

President Obama made a lot of popular statements about ending the current "wars" in his historic campaign, but he has made it clear that we cannot count on him to turn those messages into action.

If we want the occupations to end immediately, we are going to have to work for it ourselves.

Please help The Military Project carry out its primary and sole mission of supporting the anti-war soldier.

We cannot possibly transport all of these veterans needed at the Conference in Georgia by ourselves.

Our goal is to take any donation that you make for this cause, and turn it into action that will be more significant than just a baby step in the fight for equality.

Very respectfully,

Fabian Bouthillette, Lieutenant, USNR

Member, Iraq Veterans Against the War
Member, Military Project Organizing Committee

Jeff Englehart, Former Spc., U.S. Army, Iraq Service
Member, Military Project Organizing Committee
Member, Iraq Veterans Against the War

Camilo Mejia, Former Staff Sergeant, Florida National Guard
Member, Military Project Organizing Committee
Member, Iraq Veterans Against the War

YOU CAN SEND YOUR SUPPORT BY MAIL OR CREDIT CARD:

BY MAIL:
IF YOU SEND A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER,
Make Payable To: The Military Project

Mail to:

The Military Project
Box 126
2576 Broadway
New York, N.Y.
10025-5657

CREDIT CARD OR PAYPAL PAYMENT THROUGH OUR PAYPAL ACCOUNT:

CLICK ON THIS PAYPAL LINK OR COPY IT INTO YOUR
BROWSER ADDRESS FIELD:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=5069540

<p>POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED</p>

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS

Lying Is The Most Powerful Weapon In War



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: August 12, 2009
Subject: Lying Is The Most Powerful Weapon In War

Lying Is The Most Powerful Weapon In War

Yesterday, August 11, 2009, I left a picture and a statement at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The picture is of a medevac helicopter in my unit in Vietnam.

On the front of the helicopter is painted the word: "WHY"

By 1970-71, most of the soldiers in my unit knew the war in Vietnam was a lie.

I put the picture and statement on a piece of 9"X12" black matt board. Because the writing is small in the picture, I will re-write the text.

**At the top of what I will call the poster, is written the statement:
Lying Is The Most Powerful Weapon In War.**

Under that statement is the picture of the medevac helicopter.

**Under the picture of the helicopter is written:
Medevac Helicopter An Khe, Vietnam 1970.**

**Under that is written the main statement:
58,000 American soldiers died in Vietnam.**

Their average age was 19--from the senior prom to Vietnam.

**The only dominoes
that fell over in the Vietnam War,
were U.S. Government lies.
If you want to honor a vet, and be part of their healing,
listen to the agony of their betrayal,
and be willing to have your own
belief system shaken to the core.**

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71**

**In memory of Bobby, Willie, and Sean.
They did not die in Vietnam, but as a
result of being there. When you take
your last breath, your eyes open to a
new world.**

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**

August 15, 1876: Historic Betrayal



Lakota Sioux watch as their Black Hills are invaded. Painting by Howard Terpning

Carl Bunin Peace History

August 15, 1876:

Congress passed a law to remove the Lakota Sioux and their allies from the Black Hills country of South Dakota after gold was found there. Often referred to as the "starve or sell" bill, it provided that no further appropriations would be made for 1868 Treaty-guaranteed rations for the Sioux unless they gave up their sacred Black Hills, or Paha Sapa. That treaty had granted them the territory and hunting rights in exchange for peace.

[Excerpts]

STATEMENT OF MARIO GONZALEZ, ATTORNEY, CHEYENNE RIVER AND PINE RIDGE WOUNDED KNEE SURVIVORS' ASSOCIATIONS AND OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE, SUPPORTING PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL AND HISTORIC SITE TO COMMEMORATE THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE 1890 INDIAN MASSACRE AT WOUNDED KNEE CREEK, SOUTH DAKOTA, IN THE HEARING OF SEPTEMBER 25, 1990, BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS, U.S. SENATE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

[Excerpts]

Mr. Chairman, and honorable Members of the Committee, my name is Mario Gonzalez. I am an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and a descendant of Chief Lip's Band. I am appearing here today as the attorney for the Wounded Knee Survivors'

Associations and the Oglala Sioux Tribe. I am honored to appear before the Committee to discuss events surrounding the December 29, 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre.

I am also related by blood to some of the victims and survivors of the massacre. Dewey Beard , the last survivor of the Battle of the Little Bighorn and an 1890 Massacre survivor, was a first cousin to my great-great-grandmother, Rattling Hawk. Dewey's real mother, Seen By Her Nation, and my great-great-great-grandmother, Jealous Of Her, were sisters.

One cannot understand what happened at Wounded Knee without understanding something about the Sioux people and their history.

The term "Sioux" should be distinguished from the word "Siouan," which refers to a linguistic stock that the Sioux are a part of. Other Siouan peoples include such Tribes as the Mandan, Omaha, Otoe, Winnebago and Osage. The Sioux refer to themselves as "Lakota," "Dakota," or "Nakota," depending on whether the "L," " D" or "N" dialect is used.

It is also important to understand that the term "Sioux Nation" has been used to refer to different entities at different times. According to the Indian Claims Commission, the Sioux people were divided into seven divisions:

- Mdewakantons
- Sissetons
- Wahpakootas
- Wahpetons
- Yanktonais
- Yanktons
- Tetons

The Mdewakantons, Sissetons, Wahpakootas, and Wahpetons, or eastern Sioux, are sometimes referred to as "Santee" or "Mississippi" Sioux and speak with the "D" dialect. The Yanktonais also speak with the "D" dialect. The Yanktons speak with the "N" dialect and the Tetons with the "L" dialect.

The Tetons, or the western Sioux, were sub-divided into seven bands:

- Blackfeet
- Brule
- Hunkpapa
- Minneconjou
- Oglala
- Saris Arc (No Bows)
- Two Kettle

The Teton Bands held aboriginal title to a vast territory west of the Missouri River in what are now the States of North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado. Much of this territory was held jointly with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Nations. The Big Horn Mountains were the western boundary. The Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers were the northern boundary. The Republican River was the southern boundary.

In 1874 the United States Army planned and undertook a military expedition into the Black Hills portion of the Great Sioux Reservation. The expedition was led by Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, who sent out glowing reports of gold.

This led to an invasion of the Hills by white miners and settlers in violation of the 1868 Treaty and created intense pressure on Congress to open the Hills for settlement. The influx of miners and settlers into the Hills increased when President Grant refused to enforce the Treaty and remove these trespassers. In the winter of 1875 and 1876, most of the Sioux were residing on the Great Sioux Reservation, keeping the peace they promised to maintain under the 1868 Treaty.

Others were exercising their hunting rights with their Cheyenne and Arapahoe allies near the Big Horn Mountains. Contrary to the terms of the Treaty, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs sent instructions to the hunting parties that if they did not return to the Great Sioux Reservation by January 31, 1876, they would be declared "hostile." The Sioux were under no legal obligation to return and could not return because of the weather. They were attacked, but defeated General Crook at the Battle of Rosebud and annihilated Lt. Col. Custer at the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876.

The U.S. violated Articles 11 and 16 of the 1868 Treaty by attacking the Sioux while they were exercising their right to hunt near the Bighorn Mountains. Although some refer to the Battle of the Little Bighorn as a "massacre," it was clearly a battle in which the Indians were defending their families against an egocentric Indian fighter who planned to capitalize on the event and become President of the United States.

The United States Government resented its defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. The Battle, therefore, marked the beginning of a course of dishonorable dealings by the federal government with the Sioux people to [get] revenge [for] Custer's defeat. This course has continued down to the present time.

On August 15, 1876, Congress passed an appropriations bill, often referred to as the "starve or sell" bill, which provided that no further appropriations would be made for the subsistence of the Sioux under the 1868 Treaty unless they gave up the Black Hills and reached an accommodation with the United States that would enable them to become self-supporting.

To accomplish this cession, Congress requested the President to appoint a commission to negotiate an agreement with the Sioux to buy the Hills.

The 1876 Commission, however, could not obtain the requisite number of signatures required by Article 12 of the 1868 Treaty, so Congress took matters into its own hands and enacted the proposed "Agreement" into law on February 28, 1877. This enactment confiscated the Black Hills, the 1851 Treaty lands, and hunting rights recognized under the 1868 Treaty.

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR**

NOT ANOTHER LIFE



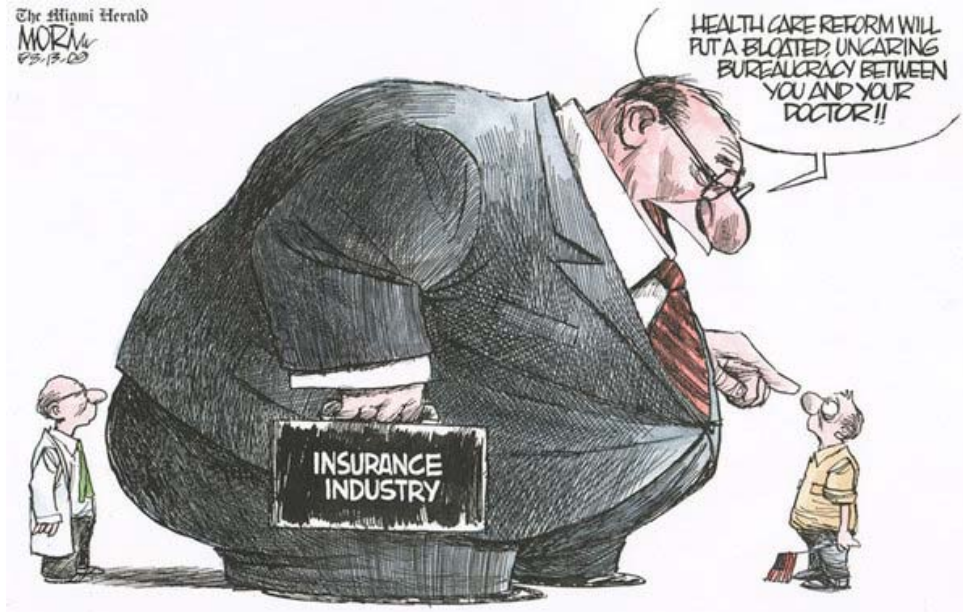
The burial service at the Massachusetts National Cemetery, July 31, 2009 in Bourne, Mass., for a soldier who died after being mortally injured in a roadside bomb blast in southern Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Lisa Poole)

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

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