

GI SPECIAL 7H5:

OBAMA'S WAR



A rocket propelled grenade explodes on a road near a U.S. Army convoy 4th Brigade during an attack by militants at Tantil in the Pesh Valley in Afghanistan's Kunar Province August 3, 2009. REUTERS/Tim Wimborne



An armoured vehicle of the U.S. Army's 4th Brigade fires its 50 caliber machine gun as it comes under attack by militants at Tantil in the Pesh Valley in Afghanistan's Kunar Province August 3, 2009. REUTERS/Tim Wimborne



U.S. soldier from 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY carries a damaged part of an MRAP vehicle after an IED attack on 2nd platoon Apache Company in Wardak province, Aug. 3, 2009, in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Dima Gavrysh)



U.S. soldier from 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum, NY inspects an IED attack site on an MRAP vehicle from 2nd platoon Apache Company in Wardak province, in Afghanistan Monday, Aug. 3, 2009. (AP Photo/Dima Gavrysh)



U.S. soldier from 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum, NY observes an IED attack site on an MRAP vehicle from 2nd platoon Apache Company in Wardak province Aug. 3, 2009, in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Dima Gavrysh)



U.S. soldiers from 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum, NY at an IED attack site on an MRAP vehicle, 2nd platoon Apache Company in Wardak province, Aug. 3, 2009, in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Dima Gavrysh)

MORE:

Up To Their Necks In The Blood: Rats Launch Campaign To Re-Elect Obama In 2012



Committees of Correspondence, Communist Party, Freedom Road Socialist Organization & Democratic Socialists Of America snack on the blood of Iraqis, Afghans and U.S. troops as they plan their campaign to elect Imperial Mass Murderer Obama in 2012.

Comment: T

"To decide once every few years which member of the ruling class is to repress and oppress the people through parliament--this is the real essence of bourgeois parliamentarism, not only in parliamentary-constitutional monarchies, but also in the most democratic republics." From "Experience Of The Paris Commune Of 1871;" V.I Lenin.

True then, true now, but starting to pick your favorite oppressor and kiss his Imperial ass only 9 months after the last election?

This puke pack of Imperial socialoids -- or is it socialites -- establish not merely a Guinness record for spineless groveling on their knees before the power of a new Emperor, they also take the record for being in such haste to do so they merely make themselves look ridiculous -- a pack of bumbling clowns tripping over their own feet as they haste to chase the chariot of their chosen Lord and Master.

Respect to the nameless Solidarity representative who refused to bow down and join them.

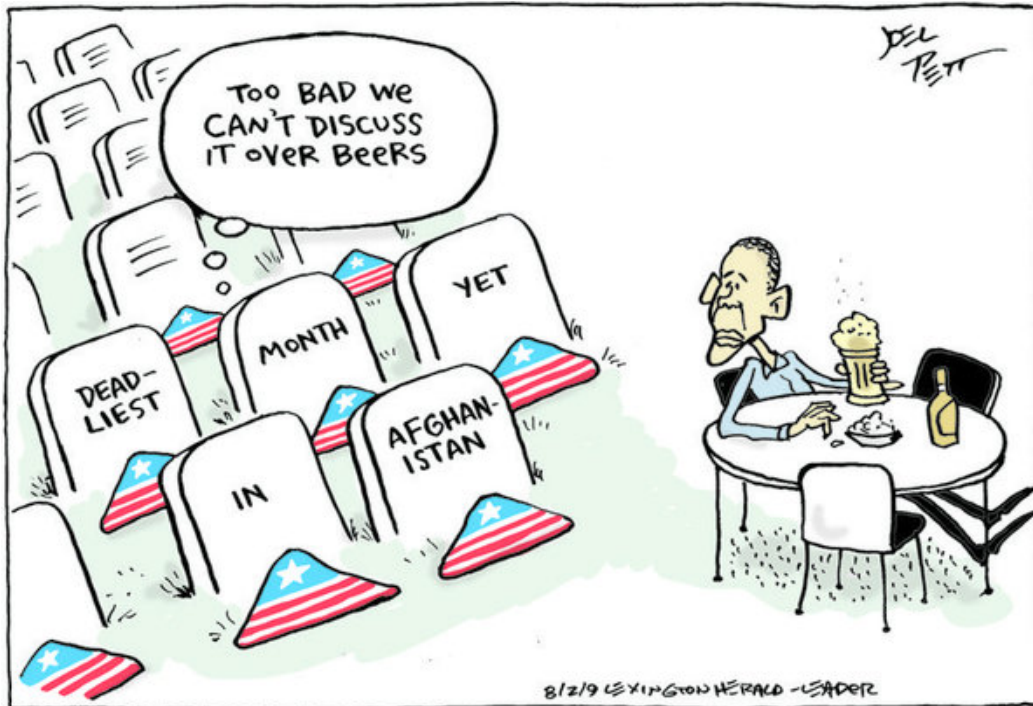
July 30, 2009 By Todd Chretien, Oakland, Calif.; Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

LAST WEEK, I attended a public forum hosted by the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism (CCDS) in San Francisco entitled, "Building the Left and the Progressive Majority."

Speakers included representatives from CCDS, the Communist Party, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and Solidarity.

All the speakers stressed the need to build independent social movements to "hold Obama's feet to the fire," something I entirely agree with.

However, with the exception of the Solidarity representative, who argued that the Democratic Party has historically been the "graveyard of social movements," all the other speakers asserted that a central task for socialists was to begin working now to ensure Obama's re-election in 2012.



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

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED
THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**FUTILE EXERCISE:
ONLY 15 MILLION MORE HOLES TO GO:
ALL HOME NOW!**



U.S. soldiers check a hole inside a house at the town of Jalawla, in Diyala province, 115 km (70 miles) northeast of Baghdad May 17, 2009. REUTERS/Saad Shalash

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

IED Ambush Kills 3 U.K. Troops In Helmand, Another Severely Wounded

Aug 07, 2009 Ministry of Defence

It is with great sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that three soldiers from The Parachute Regiment were killed in Afghanistan yesterday, Thursday 6 August 2009.

The soldiers were killed yesterday afternoon while undertaking a routine security patrol alongside Afghan National Security Forces to the north of Lashkar Gah when the Jackal

vehicle they were travelling in was hit by an explosion, followed by a small arms fire attack.

It is believed that the three men were killed in the initial blast. A fourth member of the patrol remains in a critical condition.

Farah IED Kills U.S. Soldier

Aug 6 (Reuters)

FARAH - A U.S. soldier was killed by a roadside bomb in the western province of Farah while on patrol on Wednesday, the U.S. military said.

U.S. Service Member Killed By Something Or Other In Eastern Afghanistan

Aug 07, 2009 The Associated Press

NATO said an American service member was killed in an attack on a convoy Friday morning in eastern Afghanistan. The alliance did not immediately provide further details.

Resistance Action



The damaged caused by a bomb explosion on the out skirts of the center of Ghazni province west of Kabul, Afghanistan, Aug. 7, 2009. Two security guards of a road

construction company were killed and two more got injured. (AP Photo/Rahmatullah Naikzad)

Aug 07, 2009 The Associated Press & Aug 6, 2009 By Ismail Sameem (Reuters)

Afghan officials said roadside bombs killed five policemen and an Afghan guard in the south.

The policemen were killed when their vehicle hit a buried bomb in Kandahar's Arghandab district late Thursday, said Abdul Jabar, the district chief.

A blast Friday in Kandahar's Zhari district killed an Afghan guard escorting a NATO supply convoy, said Niaz Mohammad Sarhadi, a local official. Four other guards were wounded, he said.

A bomb exploded near a police vehicle on Thursday in Naad Ali district, in Helmand, killing five policemen and injuring three.

LAGHMAN - Taliban guerrillas ambushed trucks carrying supplies for foreign troops on a road linking the capital with the eastern region on Thursday, killing two drivers, the Interior Ministry said.

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

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

Great Moments In U.S. Military History: Air Strike Kills Afghan Farmers Loading Cucumbers In A Taxi

08/06/09 MSNBC

A police chief said a U.S. airstrike Wednesday night killed five farmers loading cucumbers into a taxi.

District police chief Niaz Mohammad Sarhadi said the five were farmers trying to move cucumbers from the rural Zhari district to the city of Kandahar.

It is common for farmers to work at night in southern Afghanistan's blazing summer temperatures.

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT THE PACK OF TRAITORS THAT RUN THE GOVERNMENT IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE TO DEFEND THEIR IMPERIAL DREAMS:
That is not a good enough reason.**



U.S. soldiers of the 26th Infantry walk through a village above the U.S. base Camp Blessing in Afghanistan's Kunar Province, May 4, 2009. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of U.S. Army Sgt. Juan C. Baldeosingh, North Carolina National Guard, at Arlington National Cemetery, Aug. 4, 2009. Baldeosingh, 30, of Newport, N.C., was killed June 29 in Baghdad after an improvised explosive detonated near his vehicle. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

**This One Dedicated To The
Scum-Sucking Filth Out There
Who Labor Day And Night To
Demonize Veterans And Troops
As Homicidal Maniacs:
Soldier Faces Prison For Killing Dog
That Repeatedly Tried To Attack His
Wife And Kids:
“A Vicious Dog That, In Spite Of A Court
Order, Crossed Over Onto Private
Property And Attacked The Homeowner”**

“The Owner Was Carrying -- Legally -- The Means With Which To Defend Himself And Did So Efficiently”

Given the dog's history, the neighbors' corroboration, the limited damage and the subsequent escalation of charges, it is hard not to think that this is a case of demonization.

August 5, 2009 Penny Coleman, AlterNet [Excerpts] Penny Coleman is the widow of a Vietnam veteran who took his own life after coming home. Her book Flashback: Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Suicide and the Lessons of War was released on Memorial Day 2006.

Last March, a member of one of the U.S. military's special operations forces (SOF), home from Iraq for a family emergency, shot and killed a dog that attacked him on his front lawn.

He is now facing multiple felony charges and maybe a prison sentence.

At this soldier's request, I will call him Brian, although that is not his real name, and I will refer to his service unit simply as a special operations force (e.g., the Army's Green Berets, Delta Force, Rangers, or the Navy's SEALs), to protect the identity of the elite team he works with.

Their missions are often clandestine and dangerous, not to mention controversial. And so, even the publicity of a trial, much less a felony conviction, would very likely deprive Brian of his career. He is still hoping a judge can be persuaded to dismiss the charges altogether -- hence his insistence on camouflaging his identity.

He has a stellar military record, including a Bronze Star, and his civilian record is completely clean.

Family and friends I have reason to trust described him to me as "a straight arrow," "an outstanding soldier," "a good father" and "a good person."

Brian was granted an emergency leave to support his wife and family after she miscarried with their third child. He arrived on a Monday.

On Tuesday, after dropping off his two sons at school, he returned home, and as he was walking from his car the dog attacked. He shot it three times with the handgun he legally carries. He then called 911.

The police arrived, heard Brian's account of what had happened, heard a number of neighbors tell stories about how dangerous the dog was and left without issuing Brian so much as a summons.

But several days later, two felony warrants issued and a misdemeanor charge by local animal control officers was made.

And on Saturday morning, the county police arrived at his home, arrested and handcuffed him in front of his wife and children, and took him off to jail where he was held for three days.

Brian retained a local lawyer and, in the subsequent weeks, one of the felony charges and the misdemeanor charge were dropped. The felony animal-cruelty charge remained.

But at his arraignment, he was charged with an additional felony (destruction of property) and three more misdemeanors (disorderly conduct, firing a weapon in a prohibited area and another animal-cruelty charge).

A trial date was set for September.

One might imagine that veterans would get equal, if not preferential, treatment when they come in contact with the criminal justice system. Not so.

Over three decades, surveys done by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) have consistently found that veterans get longer sentences than non-veterans -- on average two years longer -- for the same crime.

And that is in spite of the fact that they tend to be better educated, are more likely to have been employed at the time of their arrest and are more likely to be in jail for a first offense -- all of which should be factors in their favor at sentencing.

Instead, they are held either to a higher standard, as in, "They should know better."

Or a lower one that demonizes them, as in, "He's a trained killer. Think of our women and children. Get him off our streets."

But either way, the scales of justice tend not to tip in favor of those who have served in the military.

Is that what is going on in Brian's case?

Arguably, Brian should never have been arrested, let alone charged.

This dog had a reputation for aggressive behavior and had repeatedly tried to attack his wife and kids.

On one occasion, it chased them into their house and continued to bark and snarl and leap at the glass storm door behind which they had retreated. His terrified wife filed a complaint with the local animal-control agency.

The dog's owner was ordered to keep the animal on her own property. That report is documented. It seems the owner had chosen to ignore -- and the dog had clearly not understood -- those instructions.

By contrast, Brian's behavior appears to have been disciplined. In keeping with his training, he put three well-aimed shots into the dog: two to stop forward movement, and a third to prevent the possibility of further damage from a wounded attacker.

Given the dog's history, the neighbors' corroboration, the limited damage and the subsequent escalation of charges, it is hard not to think that this is a case of demonization.

In this case, the "victim" was a vicious dog that, in spite of a court order, crossed over onto private property and attacked the homeowner.

The owner was carrying -- legally -- the means with which to defend himself and did so efficiently.

In this case, even though Brian had recently come from a combat zone, and even though he had recently lost a child, there is no indication that he is suffering any form of traumatic stress.

His family is adamant that they "have neither seen or heard of any behaviors that indicate that he has PTSD."

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

Cockroach Alert: Infiltrator Who Spied On Iraq Veterans Against The War, Among Others, Exposed In Olympia, Washington:



July 23, 2009 Seattle Indymedia

He is really: John Jacob Towery II

He works for:

Fort Lewis Force Protection – Fusion Cell (the intelligence analysis function of Fort Lewis' I Corps)

agent_orange@riseup.net is a spy for Fort Lewis.

And he: Infiltrated Olympia Port Militarization Resistance Sept 2007 through June 2009 (at meetings, and as an administrator of the Olympia PMR listserv)

He also infiltrated North West Anti Imperialist Direct Action Coalition, (NWAIDAC) also in person.

So we:

Removed him from an admin role over the Oly PMR listserv.

Set his email to “no delivery” for the OLY PMR listserv.

Investigated him for about a month to make sure the person we saw in meetings really lived at the address we had for him.

Got photo proof of his residency there.

Outed him at an Olympia City Council meeting on July 21, 2009.

He lives in Spanaway, WA with his spouse and kids. We have the address. He's the registered owner of the address. We've photographed his vehicles at that address. We've photographed him on his motorcycle here in Olympia.

He was born in this week in 1964.

He's a motorcycle rider with the Iron Butt Association. He has a license plate frame on his motorcycle which also says this. You can look him up on the internet and find him listed as being a member with them at:
home.comcast.net/~clwhite6/Certified_IBA_Rides.pdf

He's also:

A_O on Myspace

<http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendid=270017706>
(A_O) = Agent Orange, get it?

and ironically enough, his identity was passed around by other intelligence folks who thought he was a local anarchist on Myspace.

He says he's not on Facebook.

He planned to come to the Sunday Aug 2nd Oly PMR Meeting at Mixx96.

From his email:

From: "Towery II, John J CIV USA IMCOM"

To: "LEWIS DES Fusion Cell"

Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 3:47 PM

Attach: 20081212 Daily.doc

Subject: (U // FOUO) 20081212- Fort Lewis Force Protection Daily Update(UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: FOUO

Please find attached the Fort Lewis daily force protection update. This document is FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY and intended for Force Protection and Law Enforcement personnel only. You may communicate contents in the summary within your organization, but if you wish to distribute outside of this community, contact the Fort Lewis FP Fusion Cell at the points of contact below. If you want to get a copy of the FY09 Threat Assessment for Fort Lewis email the lewispmfusioncell@conus.army.mil.

John J. Towery

Fort Lewis Force Protection

COM: 253-966-7317

DSN: 347-7317

john.towery@conus.army.mil

john.towery@us.army.smil.mil

ICE Survey for FP Support is at:

https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&service_provider_id=101874&site_id=348&service_category_id=29

How did we get this?

This email was forwarded to us via public documents request.

This email's author's name is consistent with a redacted identity in other documents we got from a separate request through a separate city... which would only be redacted if it served a legitimate law enforcement purpose to withhold the name.

Being in our meetings qualifies for that, in our opinion.

Signed: PMR-INFO

This is also in part the work of others, as yet to name themselves...

(There were at least 8 and possibly more people who helped put together the items, which together made this identification possible. I cannot name any of you, that is your own tale to tell.)

MORE:

Army Investigating Their Employee Who Spied On Anti-War Organizations

Note: "Fusion cells," more formally known as "Fusion Centers" are nests of traitors determined to destroy the Constitutional rights guaranteed to American Citizens by the Bill of Rights. The enemy combatants who staff them coordinate various police state functions, merging local, state, and national government spying on U.S. citizens, gathering up information about "local crimes" and "suspicious activities." It will be necessary for our troops to disperse them in the course of restoring our liberties. For more about them, see page 8, Civil Liberties Newsletter, Summer 2009, published by the American Civil Liberties Union. T]

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer & Sandy Kelson, Military Project, and Ward Reilly, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

August 1, 2009 By WILLIAM YARDLEY, The New York Times & July 29, 2009 By Amy Goodman, Huffington Post [Excerpts]

SEATTLE — The Army says it has opened an inquiry into a claim that one of its employees spent more than two years infiltrating antiwar groups active near one of the nation's largest military bases.

The groups say the employee infiltrated their activities under an assumed name and gained access to their plans as well as names and e-mail addresses of some members.

The man, John J. Towery, a civilian employee at Fort Lewis, south of Tacoma, Wash., works as a criminal intelligence analyst for the post's Force Protection Division, say officials at Fort Lewis, the nation's third largest Army post.

The Army would not disclose the nature of the investigation or address the claim that Mr. Towery had shared information about civilians. It said Mr. Towery was not available for an interview.

“Mr. John Towery performs sensitive work within the installation law enforcement community, and it would not be appropriate for him to discuss his duties with the media,” the Army said in written statement. **[Especially “not appropriate” for this lying rat piece of shit to admit he broke the law, and that Fort Lewis command knew about it, and also participated in his criminal acts. Oops. See the three paragraphs in boldface below re what the law is. T]**

Brendan Maslauskas Dunn said he met Mr. Towery in spring 2007, when Mr. Maslauskas Dunn became involved with Port Militarization Resistance, a group that has frequently tried to disrupt military shipments in Olympia, Tacoma and other ports nearby. Mr. Maslauskas Dunn, who was also active in at least one other group, Students for a Democratic Society, said Mr. Towery had identified himself as John Jacob, using his middle name as his last.

He said he worked as a civilian at Fort Lewis doing computer support, Mr. Maslauskas Dunn said.

Mr. Maslauskas Dunn and another member of the group, Drew Hendricks, said that Mr. Towery had been among a handful of people who ran e-mail lists for some of the groups and that this had given him access to names and e-mail addresses.

Mr. Hendricks, who said he lived in Olympia and repaired printers for a living, said Mr. Towery had drawn his suspicion more than once in the past, including after he posted inaccurate information about a military movement on an activist Web site.

Yet he and Mr. Maslauskas Dunn, who said he worked as a janitor at a lumber mill in Shelton, Wash., said Mr. Towery’s identity was inadvertently discovered after a public records request made with the City of Olympia. The request yielded an e-mail message Mr. Towery had sent to another person with a military address relating to the protesters’ activities.

Stephen Dycus, a professor at Vermont Law School who focuses on national security issues, said the Army was prohibited from conducting law enforcement among civilians except in very rare circumstances, none of which immediately appeared to be relevant to the Fort Lewis case.

Mr. Dycus said several statutes and rules also prohibited the Army from conducting covert surveillance of civilian groups for intelligence purposes.

“Infiltration is a really big deal,” he said. He said it “raises fundamental questions about the role of the military in American society.”

Catherine Caruso, a spokeswoman for Fort Lewis, said in a written statement that “the Fort Lewis Force Protection Division, under the Directorate of Emergency Services, consists of both military and civilian employees whose focus is on supporting law enforcement and security operations to ensure the safety and security of Fort Lewis, soldiers, family members, the work force and those personnel accessing the installation.”

Larry Hildes, an attorney representing Washington activists, says the U.S. attorney prosecuting the cases against them, Brian Kipnis, specifically instructed the Army not to hand over any information about its intelligence-gathering activities, despite a court order.

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**

“In America’s First War Against Islam, We Were The Ones Who Introduced The Use Of Suicide Bombers”

“We Have Been Conditioned Into Thinking Of Suicide Bombers As Targeting Civilians And So Putting Themselves Beyond The Established Conventions Of War”

“We Kill Civilians — We Call It Collateral Damage”

“The Nuclear Attacks Against Hiroshima And Nagasaki Made The Idea Of Conventional Armies Clashing In An Area Far From Civilian Life A Quaint Legacy Of The Past”

August 7, 2009 By John Feffer, Alternet.org [Excerpts] John Feffer is co-director of Foreign Policy In Focus.

In America’s first war against Islam, we were the ones who introduced the use of suicide bombers. Indeed, the American seamen who perished in the incident were among the U.S. military’s first missing in action.

It was September 4, 1804. The United States was at war with the Barbary pirates along the North African coast. The U.S. Navy was desperate to penetrate the enemy defenses.

Commodore Edward Preble, who headed up the Third Mediterranean Squadron, chose an unusual stratagem: sending a booby-trapped U.S.S. Intrepid into the bay at Tripoli, one of the Barbary states of the Ottoman empire, to blow up as many of the enemy’s ships as possible. U.S. sailors packed 10,000 pounds of gunpowder into the boat along with 150 shells.

When Lieutenant Richard Sommers, who commanded the vessel, addressed his crew on the eve of the mission, a midshipman recorded his words:

“No man need accompany him, who had not come to the resolution to blow himself up, rather than be captured; and that such was fully his own determination!’ Three cheers was the only reply. The gallant crew rose, as a single man, with the resolution yielding up their lives, sooner than surrender to their enemies: while each stepped forth, and begged as a favor, that he might be permitted to apply the match!”

The crew of the boat then guided the Intrepid into the bay at night.

So as not to be captured and lose so much valuable gunpowder to the enemy, they chose to blow themselves up with the boat.

The explosion didn’t do much damage — at most, one Tripolitan ship went down — but the crew was killed just as surely as the two men who plowed a ship piled high with explosives into the U.S.S. Cole in the Gulf of Aden nearly 200 years later.

Despite the failure of the mission, Preble received much praise for his strategies.

“A few brave men have been sacrificed, but they could not have fallen in a better cause,” opined a British navy commander. The Pope went further: “The American commander, with a small force and in a short space of time, has done more for the cause of Christianity than the most powerful nations of Christendom have done for ages!”

Preble chose his tactic because his American forces were outgunned. It was a Hail Mary attempt to level the playing field.

The bravery of his men and the reaction of his supporters could be easily transposed to the present day, when “fanatics” fighting against similar odds beg to sacrifice themselves for the cause of Islam and garner the praise of at least some of their religious leaders.

The blowing up of the Intrepid was not the only act of suicidal heroism in U.S. military history.

Our World War II propaganda films — er, wartime entertainments — often featured brave soldiers facing certain death.

In *Flying Tigers* (1942), for example, pilot Woody Jason anticipates the Japanese kamikaze by several years by flying a plane into a bridge to prevent a cargo train from reaching the enemy.

America did not, of course, dream up suicide missions. They form a rich vein in the Western tradition.

In the Bible, Samson sacrificed himself in bringing down the temple on the Philistine leadership, killing more through his death than he did during his life.

Given the plethora of suicide missions in the Western tradition, it should be difficult to argue that the tactic is unique to Islam or to fundamentalists.

Yet some scholars enjoy constructing a restrictive genealogy for such missions that connects the Assassin sect (which went after the great sultan Saladin in the Levant in the twelfth century) to Muslim suicide guerrillas of the Philippines (first against the Spanish and then, in the early twentieth century, against Americans).

Uniting our suicide attackers and theirs, however, are the reasons behind the missions. Three salient common factors stand out.

First, suicidal attacks, including suicide bombings, are a “weapon of the weak,” designed to level the playing field.

Second, they are usually used against an occupying force.

And third, they are cheap and often brutally effective.

Non-state actors are even more prone to launch suicide missions against occupying forces.

Remove the occupying force, as Robert Pape argues in his groundbreaking book on suicide bombers, *Dying to Win*, and the suicide missions disappear.

It is not a stretch, then, to conclude that we, the occupiers (the United States, Russia, Israel), through our actions, have played a significant part in fomenting the very suicide missions that we now find so alien and incomprehensible in Iraq, Afghanistan, Chechnya, Lebanon, and elsewhere.

Finally, the technique “works.”

Suicide bombers kill 12 times more people per incident than conventional terrorism, national security specialist Mohammed Hafez points out.

The U.S. military has often publicized the “precision” of its airborne weaponry, of its “smart” bombs and missiles. But in truth, suicide bombers are the “smartest” bombers because they can zero in on their target in a way no missile can — from close up — and so make last-minute corrections for accuracy.

In addition, by blasting themselves to smithereens, suicide bombers can’t give away any information about their organization or its methods after the act, thus preserving the security of the group.

You can’t argue with success, however bloodstained it might be.

We tend to ascribe heroism to our soldiers when, against the odds, they sacrifice themselves for us, while we assume a glassy-eyed fanaticism on the part of those who go up against us.

After all, our soldiers are indoctrinated into a culture of heroic sacrifice just as are the suicide bombers of Hamas.

Suicide missions are, then, a military technique that armies use when outmatched and that guerrilla movements use, especially in occupied countries, to achieve specific objectives.

Those who volunteer for such missions, whether in Iraq today or on board the Intrepid in 1804, are usually placing a larger goal — liberty, national self-determination, ethnic or religious survival — above their own lives.

We have been conditioned into thinking of suicide bombers as targeting civilians and so putting themselves beyond the established conventions of war.

As it happens, however, the nature of war has changed in our time.

In the twentieth century, armies began to target civilians as a way of destroying the will of the population, and so bringing down the leadership of the enemy country.

Japanese atrocities in China in the 1930s, the Nazi air war against Britain in World War II, Allied fire bombings of German and Japanese cities, the nuclear attacks against Hiroshima and Nagasaki, U.S. carpet bombing in Cambodia and Laos, and the targeted assassinations of the Phoenix program during the Vietnam War, Russian depredations in Afghanistan and Chechnya, the tremendous civilian casualties during the Iraq War: all this has made the idea of conventional armies clashing in an area far from civilian life a quaint legacy of the past.

We have our suicide bombers — we call them heroes. We have our culture of indoctrination — we call it basic training.

We kill civilians — we call it collateral damage.

We — the inhabitants of an archipelago of supposedly enlightened warfare — have been indoctrinated to view the atomic bombing of Hiroshima as a legitimate military target and September 11th as a heinous crime against humanity.

We have been trained to see acts like the attack in Tripoli as American heroism and the U.S.S. Cole attack as rank barbarism.

Explosive vests are a sign of extremism; Predator missiles, of advanced sensibility.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

While U.S. Troops Are Slaughtered In Afghanistan --- Obama And The Pack Of Imperial Traitors Who Run The Government Obsess About Measuring “Metrics”

[Thanks to Clancy Sigal, who sent this in.]

August 6, 2009 By DAVID E. SANGER, ERIC SCHMITT and THOM SHANKER, New York Times [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — As the American military comes to full strength in the Afghan buildup, the Obama administration is struggling to come up with a long-promised plan to measure whether the war is being won.

Those “metrics” of success, demanded by Congress and eagerly awaited by the military, are seen as crucial if the president is to convince Capitol Hill and the country that his revamped strategy is working.

Senior administration officials said that the president’s national security adviser, Gen. James L. Jones, approved a classified policy document on July 17 setting out nine broad objectives for metrics to guide the administration’s policy on Afghanistan and Pakistan. Another month or two is still needed to flesh out the details, according to officials engaged in the work.

“We have been in Afghanistan now for more than seven and a half years,” said Representative Ike Skelton, a Democrat of Missouri and the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

“These metrics are required to help make the case for the American people that actual progress is being made, or if we need to change the course to another direction. I think that time is not on our side.”

“The metrics are critically important to keep everyone’s feet to the fire on this and for the public to know how we’re doing and have some ways to measure it and not have just rhetoric,” said Senator Carl Levin, Democrat of Michigan and chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

MORE:

The Only Metrics That Mean Shit:

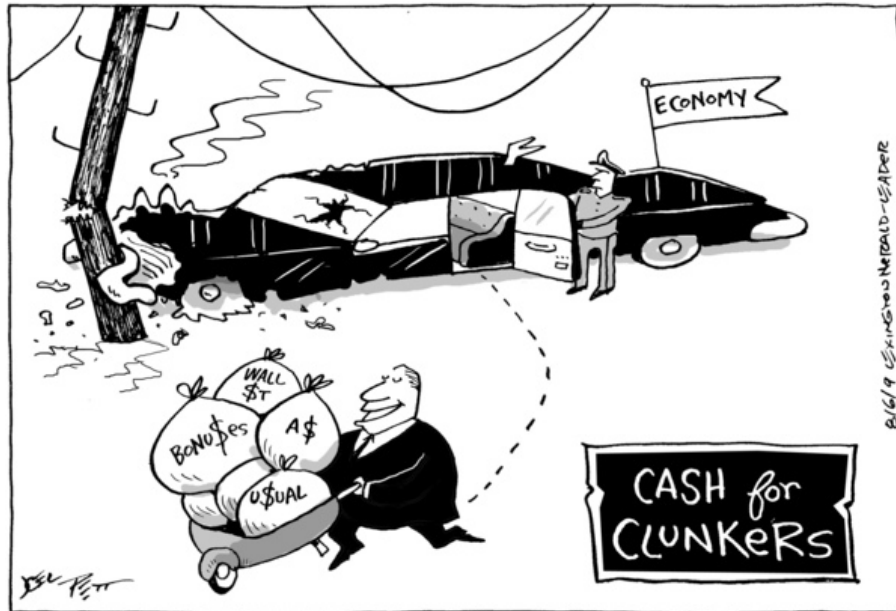


Spent rounds at the feet of a soldier from the U.S. Army 26th Infantry as he returns fire on a Taliban position as their base Camp Restrepo comes under attack in the Korengal Valley of Afghanistan's Kunar Province on May 8, 2009. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)



Marines unload the remains of Pfc. Donald W. Vincent, 26, of Gainesville, Fla., from an U.S. Air Force C-17 during a dignified transfer ceremony at Dover Air Force Base, Del., July 28, 2009. According to the Department of Defense, Vincent, died July 25, of wounds sustained in combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Kevin Wolf)

CLASS WAR REPORTS



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

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.

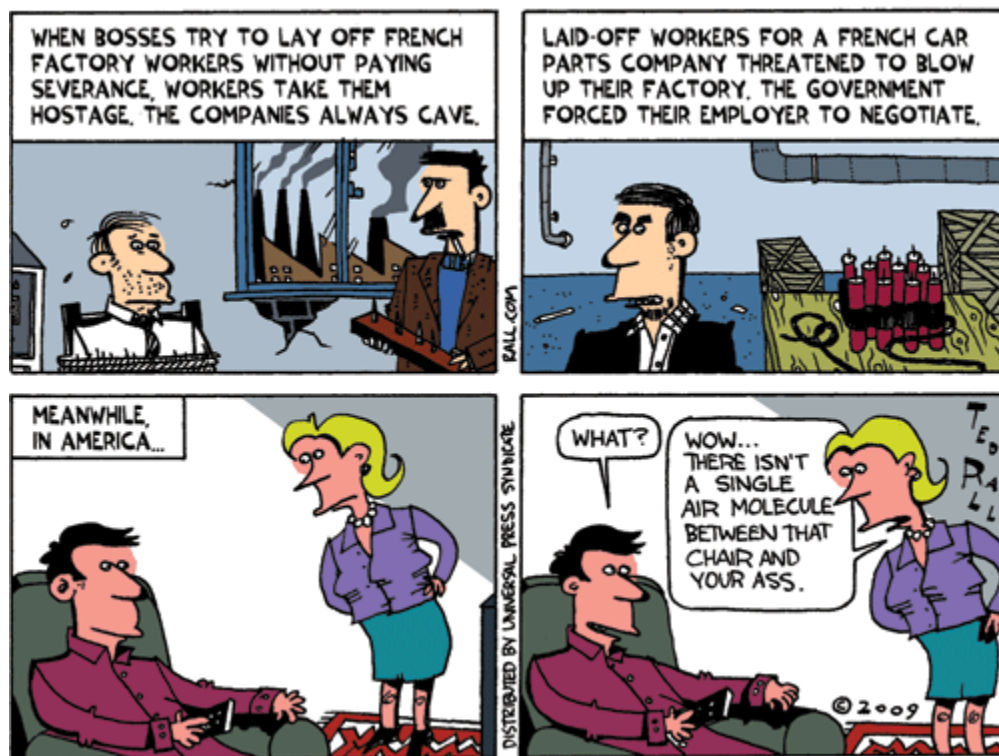
Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

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/)

Violent 77 Day Factory Occupation By Korean Auto Workers Saves Half Their Jobs:

**“I Am Sorry That We Could Not Get A
Better Deal, But I Am Proud That We
Fought Hard”**

**“The More The Company Squeezed Our
Human Rights, The More Resolved
Those Who Remained Became”**



As the news of the deal spread, workers' family members and supporters gathered at the factory gates. The workers began to leave the factory on police buses. They were greeted by supporters holding placards and banners and singing labor songs as they stepped off the buses in downtown Pyeongtaek, and workers hugged their tearful wives and children.

PYEONGTAEK, South Korea — Violent, fiery clashes between the police and workers at a South Korean auto factory ended on Thursday after the company agreed to keep half the workers at the plant rather than lay them all off in a restructuring, union and company officials said.

After the concession by Ssangyong Motor Company, South Korea's fifth-largest automaker, the workers agreed to end their 77-day occupation of the plant, which had virtually become war zone. The confrontation was closely monitored by foreign investors as a test of will both for South Korean unions, known for their militant activism, and for President Lee Myung-bak's government, which has vowed to ensure more "flexibility" for companies to shed workers at times of economic distress.

In a series of raids this week on the plant, about 40 miles south of Seoul, police commandos rappelled from helicopters as workers hurled firebombs. Hundreds were injured.

By Wednesday, the police had overrun most of the facility and cornered 500 workers in a paint shop filled with flammable liquids.

The compromise between the union and management, which will retain 48 percent of the jobs at the factory, diffused further violence.

As the news of the deal spread, workers' family members and supporters gathered at the factory gates. The workers began to leave the factory on police buses. They were greeted by supporters holding placards and banners and singing labor songs as they stepped off the buses in downtown Pyeongtaek, and workers hugged their tearful wives and children.

Despite the violence, the workers said — and the management officials indicated — that the jobs of a majority of the workers who remained at the factory till the end would probably be saved.

The police were questioning about 100 union members over suspicions that they incited violence, but the management promised not to press criminal charges.

There had originally been more than 900 workers occupying the plant, but many had left after a court ordered the strike to end weeks ago and the police shut off the factory's water supply. Those who remained inside said they were driven to fight harder partly because they were afraid of being unemployed amid a global recession.

"I am sorry that we could not get a better deal, but I am proud that we fought hard," said Moon Jae-myong, 57. The oldest worker on strike, Mr. Moon said he has worked for Ssangyong's car repair department for 21 years.

Ham Bong-deuk, 38, said when he joined the strike, he had thought it would end in a week or two.

But when the company cut water and blocked food supplies three weeks ago, it actually helped the workers tighten their ranks.

“My wife, my father, my mother-in-law all called my cellphone and urged me to give up and come out,” Mr. Ham said.

“We could not wash. We smelled. Cockroaches and mosquitoes thrived. Some workers gave up and left. But the more the company squeezed our human rights, the more resolved those who remained became.”

Outside the plant, sporadic clashes continued even after the deal was signed. Non-union workers and burly men hired by management for security beat at least one journalist and a few union sympathizers while police officers looked on. One man, with blood flowing from his face, was carried away in an ambulance.

The company announced a restructuring and cost-cutting program in April that called for the layoffs of 36 percent of the company’s remaining work force, including all 970 workers at the plant here. The workers began occupying the plant on May 22.

RECEIVED

Comment On GI Special 7H4

From: David H [Veterans For Peace]
To: GI Special
Sent: August 07, 2009
Subject: 7H4

I just want to thank you for this publication.

I don't know how much feedback you get, but I look forward to seeing it. The current issue is wonderful.

REPLY:

Message much appreciated; lots of people; civilians, veterans, active duty send in the material that makes it all possible, so this will be posted for them to see also.

T

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