

GI SPECIAL 7H8:



Majority Of Americans Oppose War In Afghanistan Support At “A New Low”

August 6, 2009 (CNN)

A new national poll indicates that support among Americans for the war in Afghanistan has hit a new low.

Forty-one percent of people questioned in a CNN/Opinion Research Corp. survey released Thursday say they favor the war in Afghanistan -- down 9 points from May, when CNN polling suggested that half of the public supported the war.

Fifty-four percent say they oppose the war in Afghanistan, up 6 points from May.

The CNN/Opinion Research Corp. poll was conducted July 31 through August 3

MORE:

Majority Of Britons Oppose War In Afghanistan; For Immediate Withdrawal

Jul 28 AFP

Most Britons believe the increasingly bloody war in Afghanistan is “unwinnable” and want troops pulled out, a poll suggested on Tuesday, as more soldiers' bodies were flown home.

The surge in troop deaths has sparked a political row over resources for troops in Afghanistan, with Prime Minister Gordon Brown forced to defend Britain's strategy after calls for more equipment and boosted soldier numbers.

But according to a poll in the Independent on Tuesday, the majority of Britons now think the war in Afghanistan is “unwinnable” and want troops to be withdrawn immediately.

Fifty-eight percent see the offensive against the Taliban as a lost cause, while 31 percent believe the conflict can be won, according to a ComRes poll conducted between July 24 and 26.

Fifty-two percent of the 1,008 polled want the troops out while 43 percent want them to stay put.

MORE:

**Because The USA And The UK Are
Political Dictatorships Where The
People With The Money Own The
Governments, What We The People**

Want Is Of No Concern To The Imperial Scum Who Rule Both Nations



30 July 2009 New Statesman

Obama's War: ENOUGH: ALL HOME, NOW



U.S. soldiers of the Task Force Mountain Warriors in Chapadara, at the Pech Valley in
Kunar Province August 6, 2009. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



U.S. 10th Mountain Division patrol near the village of Qol-e-Boton, in the mountains of Wardak Province, July 17, 2009. REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov



US Marines during a patrol in Nawa district in Helmand Province August 1.
(AFP/Manpreet Romana)



U.S. soldiers from 4th Brigade before a patrol to the village of Omar in the lower Korangal Valley in Afghanistan's Kunar Province July 23, 2009. REUTERS/Tim Wimborne



A U.S. soldier of 10th Mountain Division in Molahel village in the mountains of Wardak province in Afghanistan July 4, 2009. REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov



A U.S. soldier during a patrol in the village of Qol-e-Boton, in mountains of Wardak Province, July 17, 2009. REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov



Soldiers from 26th Infantry during an almost 24-hour long operation against the Taliban in the Korengal Valley of Afghanistan's Kunar Province, May 13, 2009. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)



A U.S. soldier of Task Force Mountain Warriors in a base in Chapadera, at the Pesh Valley in Kunar Province August 5, 2009. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



U.S. Marines from 5th Marines arrive to sleep for the night in a town in the Nawa district of Afghanistan's Helmand province July 6, 2009. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Resistance Attacks Capital Of Logar Province

Aug 10 By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press Writer

A half dozen Taliban fighters infiltrated a provincial capital just south of the Afghan capital on Monday and fired rocket-propelled grenades at government buildings, officials said. Two police and three attackers died in the violence.

The militants fired four RPGs at the governor's compound and two at the police chief's office in the city of Pul-i-Alam, the capital of Logar province, about 40 miles (60 kilometers) south of Kabul, said Din Mohammad Darwesh, the governor's spokesman.

The militants took up positions in a building behind the governor's house and were surrounded by Afghan soldiers and police, he said.

After the rockets were fired, a gunbattle broke out between Afghan forces and the militants, said Mustafa Musseini, the provincial police chief. Two Afghan police officers were killed, he said.

U.S. helicopters patrolled the skies, and one fired a rocket at an attacker, killing him, Musseini said. Another attacker blew up a vest and killed himself, and a third attacker died in battle, Musseini said.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, said six militant bombers had entered Pul-i-Alam.

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

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

**War Profiteers Sending Useless,
Out-Of-Shape "Translators" To**

**Afghanistan Who Can't Even
Speak The Language:
“Millions Of Dollars Are Involved”
The Lying Recruiters Promise They'll
Never Face Combat:
“Troops Say Low-Skilled And
Disgruntled Translators Are Putting U.S.
Forces At Risk”**



This July 3, 2009 photo shows Josh Habib, left, a 53-year-old translator for the U.S. Marines, standing next to a U.S. Marine from the 2nd MEB, 1st Battalion 5th Marines as they patrol inside a village in the Nawa district of Afghanistan's Helmand province. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: Maybe if the US had a better idea of who the Iraqis and Afghans are, we might not have started killing them in the first place.]

Khalid Nazary, an Afghan-American citizen living in Kabul, called Mission Essential about a job and let an AP reporter listen.

He asked if he would go to “dangerous places.” “Oh, no, no, no. You’re not a soldier. You’re not a soldier. Not at all,” the recruiter, Tekelia Barnett, said. “You’re not on the battlefield.”

Jul 24, 2009 By Jason Straziuso, The Associated Press

NAWA, Afghanistan — Josh Habib lay in a dirt field, gasping for air. Two days of hiking with Marines through southern Afghanistan's 115-degree heat had exhausted him. This was not what he signed up for.

Habib is not a Marine.

He is a 53-year-old engineer from California hired by a contracting company as a military translator.

When he applied for the lucrative linguist job, Habib said his recruiter gave no hint he would join a ground assault in Taliban land. He carried 40 pounds of food, water and gear on his back, and kept pace — barely — with Marines half his age.

U.S. troops say companies that recruit military translators are sending linguists to southern Afghanistan who are unprepared to serve in combat, even as hundreds more are needed to support the growing number of troops.

Some translators are in their 60s and 70s and in poor physical condition — and some don't even speak the right language.

"I've met guys off the planes and have immediately sent them back because they weren't in the proper physical shape," said Gunnery Sgt. James Spangler, who is in charge of linguists at Camp Leatherneck, the largest U.S. base in Helmand province.

"They were too old. They couldn't breathe. They complained about heart problems," he said.

"We almost made a joke of it. We're almost receiving people on oxygen tanks and colostomy bags; it's almost getting to that point."

And that's not the worst of it.

Troops say low-skilled and disgruntled translators are putting U.S. forces at risk.

"Intelligence can save Marines' lives and give us the advantage on the battlefield," said Cpl. William Woodall, 26, of Dallas, who works closely with translators.

"Instead of looking for quality, the companies are just pushing bodies out here, and once they're out the door, it's not their problem anymore."

Spangler, 36, of Lecanto, Fla., emphasized that translators need to be physically fit.

"When we have convoys that are out days or weeks at a time and you have someone that's 60 or 70 years old, I have to put the directive in: I need someone younger, can get out of a vehicle quickly, can run for short periods if needed, anything that's required for combat operations with Marines," Spangler said.

The company that recruits most U.S. citizen translators, Columbus, Ohio-based Mission Essential Personnel, says it's difficult to meet the increased demand for linguists to aid the 15,000 U.S. forces being sent to southern, Pashto-speaking provinces this year as part of President Barack Obama's increased focus on Afghanistan.

Mission Essential's senior vice president, Marc Peltier, told The Associated Press that the linguists the company deploys to Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries meet government standards.

The military sets no age or weight requirements, he said.

How translators come to believe they won't face danger could originate with recruiters.

"They're going to tell you whatever it is to get you hired," Spangler said.

Khalid Nazary, an Afghan-American citizen living in Kabul, called Mission Essential about a job and let an AP reporter listen.

He asked if he would go to "dangerous places."

"Oh, no, no, no. You're not a soldier. You're not a soldier. Not at all," the recruiter, Tekelia Barnett, said. "You're not on the battlefield."

The Afghan-American asked repeatedly if he would be sent on battlefield missions.

Barnett said he would translate for soldiers at schools, mosques or hospitals.

After being pressed on the point, Barnett said the linguist would be subject to "any" assignment, and if he didn't want the task he could quit.

"They say you'll get a shower once a day, have access to Internet and TV, call home six times a week," Woodall said.

"And when the guys get out, they're completely shell-shocked. They've been lied to."

Habib, the translator who spoke to the AP while carrying a heavy pack in the stifling heat, said a Mission Essential recruiter originally told him that if he passed his language test, he would work out of the main U.S. base at Bagram about 30 miles north of the Afghan capital, Kabul.

"That's what she promised me over the phone. That was attractive to me, and it was safe," Habib said.

Once in Afghanistan, he says he was told he would lose his job if he didn't go with the Marines to Helmand.

"It's been very hard, very hard, physically," said Habib, a Pashto-speaking U.S. citizen born in Pakistan who says he signed up because he wanted to serve his country.

Troops and translators say they suspect recruiting companies try to send as many interpreters as possible to Afghanistan to collect fees.

Millions of dollars are involved.

Known as Category II translators — U.S. citizens who obtain a security clearance — such linguists earn a salary that starts at \$210,000 a year.

Mission Essential Personnel recruits and hires most Category II linguists in Afghanistan.

The military gave Mission Essential performance bonuses in each quarter last year....

When the company took over the Afghanistan language contract in late 2007, only 41 percent of linguists' jobs were filled. Today 97 percent of the jobs are taken.

At Camp Leatherneck, four U.S.-citizen interpreters spoke with AP but none gave his name for fear of losing his job.

The translators said dozens of linguists quit soon after arriving in Afghanistan in recent weeks.

Spangler declined to provide numbers but said “quite a bit” resigned or were fired because they were too old, unfit or couldn't speak Pashto.

Army Sgt. Will Gamez, 26, of Los Angeles, said he recently worked with a linguist who spoke only the Afghan language of Dari, instead of Pashto.

“If he doesn't go out, I can't do my job,” Gamez said. “If locals come up to us, we can't tell what they're saying.

“They might be warning us about a minefield. They might be warning us about an ambush.”

Welcome To Liberated Afghanistan! U.S. Occupation's Allies In Helmand? Cops Who Rape Kids

Jul 29 By Gareth Porter, IPS [Excerpts]

The strategy of the major U.S. and British military offensive in Afghanistan's Helmand province aimed at wresting it from the Taliban is based on bringing back Afghan army and police to maintain permanent control of the population, so the foreign forces can move on to another insurgent stronghold.

But that strategy poses an acute problem:

The police in the province, who are linked to the local warlord, have committed systematic abuses against the population, including the abduction and rape of pre-teen boys, according to village elders who met with British officers.

Anger over those police abuses runs so high that the elders in Babaji just north of Laskgar Gah warned the British that they would support the Taliban to get rid of them if the national police were allowed to return to the area, according to a Jul. 12 report by Reuters correspondent Peter Graff.

Associated Press reporters Jason Straziuso and David Guttenfelder, who accompanied U.S. troops in Northern Helmand, reported Jul. 13 that villagers in Aynak were equally angry about police depredations.

Within hours of the arrival of U.S. troops in the village, they wrote, bands of villagers began complaining the local police force was “a bigger problem than the Taliban”.

The brutality of the Afghan police toward the civilian population in Helmand was no surprise to Ambassador Ron Neumann, who was the U.S. envoy in Afghanistan from 2005 to 2007. Such abuses, including rape of pre-teen boys, “are part of the larger problem of repression and oppression” in Afghanistan, Neumann told IPS.

TROOP NEWS



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Returning to Conus or returning to theater?"]

British Soldier Refuses To Go Back To Afghanistan: "We Are Not Helping Them By Splattering Them All Over The Place"

[Thanks to Max Watts, Australia, who sent this in. For more about Max Watts, see the RECEIVED department, below. T]

30 July 2009 by John Millington in Westminster, Morning Star

A British soldier who is refusing to return to Afghanistan has handed in a letter to Downing Street calling for the withdrawal of all British troops.

Lance Corporal Joe Glenton, from the Royal Logistics Corps, says he will not return to Afghanistan on combat duty to fight "an unjust war."

With senior military figures in full desert camouflage looking on disgruntledly, Mr Glenton stood defiantly for pictures outside the Ministry of Defence with his wife and anti-war supporters.

Speaking to the Morning Star afterwards, Mr Glenton said that he had been "amazed" at the amount of support he had received even from people "he did not know."

Revealing how his opinion of the war had changed, Mr Glenton said: "I thought I was going over there to help the people of Afghanistan.

"But we are not helping them by splattering them all over the place."

Mr Glenton added that he believed the aim of the occupation was to "dominate a strategically important country so oil could be extracted from the Caspian Sea.

"That is not why I signed up," added an emphatic Mr Glenton.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to:

The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.
Phone: 917.677.8057

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

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

**I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace**

**“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**

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

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

**Firearms are second only to the Constitution in importance; they are the peoples' liberty's teeth.
-- George Washington**

**The VA Hospital:
“We Deserve To Be Remembered
Strong And Young, Indefatigable And
Undefeatable — Not Mutilated, Bent,
Scabrous, Hollowed Thin, Wheezing,
Chair-Bound, Addicted, Obese”
“The Timelessly Romantic Image Of
Good-Looking Corpses On The Hoof, Not
Dying Slowly Behind Closed Doors”**

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: “This man writes some haunting stuff.”]

July 21, 2009 By Jack Lewis, Crosscut Public Media

Jack Lewis deployed to Iraq in late 2004 with a detachment of Army Reserve soldiers in the 361st Psychological Operations Company.

His writing experience includes a couple of hundred news and opinion pieces in small newspapers, for which he received a Society of Professional Journalists editorial writing award and the Darrell Bob Houston Journalism Prize.

There's a special smell at the VA Hospital.

Of course, hospitals always smell like hospitals — disinfected hourly, bubbling with chemical extracts, running with pus — but the veterans hospital bears its own terrifying sensuality.

It's the smell of poverty, piss, and plastic clothes; of post-desperation resignation.

Here you may experience a tour through one of your possible American futures. Do you notice how there are more and more of us drifting out of our fog and into your comfort zone, violating the personal airspace of your gentility?

Get used to it.

We're not only your fellow citizens.

In this hospital — this particular road to Hell fully staffed by the well-intentioned — we're also your warhammers, your clear-eyed hoplites, your guardians.

Prior to our rheumy declines into twitchy, muttering, gimpy dissolution, we were something else: strong, resolute, arrogant, fierce.

Trained to a high order, we were committed with our lives to preserve your ordered calm at the cost of lives — some of our own; many of theirs.

We saw ourselves perfect and invincible and set out to prove it to you, our soft-bellied regents, for your indulgence and for the smiles of your smooth-limbed daughters. These delusions fired our distant, fitful dreams between the thudding, brimstone blasts.

They never stopped. We hear them still.

You don't expect us to strap on weapons now.

We're no longer allowed to be your weapon, and that takes everything away.

Still we stare past you, hollow-eyed, watching hands and eyes and movement patterns for proximate threats.

Listening for attacks, we are inundated by auto-booting, massive attack viruses composed of combat video loops that play again and again, asleep or awake, continually throttling up the engines of our obsolete machinery so that we shake and shudder,

whining like leashed dogs with our need to rush once more into the night and bark, bark, bark at your fears.

Who wants to look at that? Americans are a proud people.

In the land of the free, few visit the home of the brave. People have better things to do than sit with old ones on their ice floes, floating away into frozen dreams.

No one told us that Valhalla would smell like this, but for God's sake don't you tell anyone.

We deserve to be remembered strong and young, indefatigable and undefeatable — not mutilated, bent, scabrous, hollowed thin, wheezing, chair-bound, addicted, obese.

Standin' tall and lookin' good, oughta march through Hollywood.

The timelessly romantic image of good-looking corpses on the hoof, not dying slowly behind closed doors.

Who we were is more important to your story than what we have become.

We, who subsisted on pride, wish not to tarnish yours.

Episode Two: Rules Of Engagement Available Now



From: Displaced Films
To: GI Special
Sent: July 27, 2009
Subject: Spread the word

This is Where We Take Our Stand, the series that tells the riveting and timely story of the hundreds of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who testified at last year's Winter Soldier investigation, continues today.

Here is the link: <http://thisiswherewetakeourstand.com/>

So far close to 40,000 people have viewed episode one (For Those Who Would Judge Me) and the trailer, and that's just a start.

Watch episode two, tell friends, forward this email, spread the word and fan the debate. These stories must be heard.

Episode Three: Why We Fight will launch August 10, 2009.

Episode Four: Broken Soldier will launch August 24, 2009.

Episode Five: This is Not Human Nature will launch September 7, 2009.

Episode Six: No Longer a Monster will launch September 20, 2009.

Spread the link, mark your calendar, stay tuned!

ADD US ON

**TWITTER
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WWW.THISISWHEREWETAKEOURSTAND.COM

Where's the debate?

Are we watching passively while Barack Obama carries out the same policies as George W. Bush?

When an American bombing raid this May killed over two hundred civilians in a village in Afghanistan, it was met with a deafening silence.

When Obama's promised "withdrawal" from Iraq leaves 130,000 troops there for at least two more years and 50,000 permanently, it's hailed as an end to the occupation. And who is demanding to know just what the mission really is when 30,000 more troops are sent to Afghanistan?

Where's the debate?

In March of 2008, two hundred and fifty veterans and active duty soldiers marked the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq by gathering in Washington, DC, to testify from their own experience about the nature of the occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq. It was chilling, horrifying, and challenging for all who witnessed it. Against tremendous odds, they brought the voices of the veterans themselves into the debate.

That was then.

This is now.

Today, we present to you This is Where We Take Our Stand, the inside story of those three days and the courageous men and women who testified.

And we present this story today, told in six episodes, because we believe it is as relevant now as it was one year ago. Maybe more.

Here is our challenge to you: Watch the series; spread it far and wide; and ask yourself is this about the past, or the present and future.

Then add your voice.

If you are a veteran or active duty, present your own testimony.

If you are not, but you are still a living, breathing member of the human race, then do whatever you can to join and fan the flames of debate.

- Displaced Films and Northern Light Productions

**“The Pentagon Is Killing GI After
GI After GI For No Reason”
“It Is Also Killing Afghans For No
Reason”
“Loyalty To America Would Seem To
Consist In Refusing To Do It”**

[Thanks to Linda O, who sent this in.]

July 28, 2009 Fred Reed, Lewrockwell.com

I love it.

The following is an account of Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, talking to Albert Jazeera:

“When asked why the United States was not in FATA [The Federally Administered Tribal Areas in Pakistan] despite having the knowledge that Al Qaeda was present there, he (Admiral Mullen) said, ‘Because FATA is in Pakistan and Pakistan is a sovereign country and we don’t go into sovereign countries.’”

Hahn?

The hell we don’t.

What was this buoyant cannibal thinking?

The US loves to go into sovereign countries.

It hardly does anything else.

I suppose Iraq wasn't sovereign.

It isn't now, but it was.

How about Panama, Laos, Cambodia?

We gave Pakistan, until recently sovereign, the choice of inviting us to kill its people with drones, or else be bombed into the Stone Age.

Recently we have bombed Somalia, technically sovereign.

When the Pentagon's alpha-floater says something so transparently nonsensical, so patently false, one wonders: Is he merely lying, or does he somehow actually believe this stuff?

I mean, drugs are supposed to be discouraged by the Navy.

Next, more comic-book moral leadership, this time from Ralph Peters, the pay-per-view Clausewitz for Fox News.

Walphie, a retired colonel, is hugely in favor of the war against Islam.

Grrrrr. Fierce he is.

He is a retired "intelligence" officer, and therefore all-wise in things military. And he is Upset. Good.

Before exploring his upsettance, we might note that Walph is of the school of martial ferocity holding that other people should go get killed.

Not Walph.

He is what in a forgotten war in Asia we called a REMF.

That's Rear-Echelon Motherfucker.

It refers to paper-pushers who sit safely way behind the lines while men in the military fight.

Walph spent his career largely in Europe, a real hardship post. I mean, sometimes your martini might not be properly chilled. A veritable Tamerlane of the cocktail circuit, Walph.

But don't underestimate him. The blood lust of a podium doughnut is a thing to reckon with, I reckon. Kings faint. Empires quail.

Another point worth considering is that "intelligence officer" doesn't mean "an intelligent officer."

Except during WWII, the intel analysts have had a dismal record.

Just off the top of my head, Naval Intelligence didn't know where the Japanese fleet was in 1941, oops. The Korean War caught the spooks flatfooted, as did the entry of the Chinese into the war.

The intel weenies didn't predict that the Viets would fight, though the French experience wasn't secret.

There was the comic-opera Son Tay raid, in which the military choppered into Hanoi to rescue American POWs, only to find that the spooks hadn't noticed the prisoners had been moved.

The CIA didn't predict that the Cubans would fail to turn against Castro in the Bay of Pigs. They were surprised when the Berlin Wall went up, and when it came down, and again when the USSR, its chief object of study, went tits up.

There was the clownish business of the Glomar Explorer. The Air Force bombed the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade because the weenies didn't know where it was (try the phone book, maybe?). They didn't warn that the Arabs might fight in Iraq, perhaps never having heard of Israel. They didn't predict 9/11, and can't find bin Laden.

I'm impressed, Walph. You're an intelligence officer.

Now, why is Peters all wrought up?

It seems that an American private by name of Bowe Bergdahl got captured by the Taliban in Afghanistan, or got tired of killing Afghans and deserted, or something.

Bergdahl then showed up all over the internet drinking tea with his captors in a video in which he pleaded for America to bring its troops home.

Peters waxed wroth over this "disloyalty," and opined that it would be a good thing if the Taliban killed the kid to save the cost of a trial.

There is something unseemly in this over-promoted clerk, for whom a war wound would mean a paper cut, savaging a young man in the hands of the Taliban. If Bergdahl was captured against his will, and the Taliban are as bad as the Walphies tell us, he faces torture if he doesn't cooperate.

How manly of Walph to urge that Bergdahl be peeled alive and have his joints crushed.

Typical officer.

After the death of my father, a veteran of the Pacific in WWII, I found a published letter he had written to the Washington Post during Korea. Dad, who spent his life as a weapons-development mathematician, was no peacenik.

He said that captured American troops should be told to confess to anything whatever rather than be tortured.

You are a hell of a man, Walph. You really are.

But suppose that Bergdahl got tired of killing people he had no reason to kill, and escaped to the Taliban.

Why would this be disloyalty to the United States?

Where is the benefit of the war to America?

The Pentagon is killing GI after GI after GI for no reason.

It is also killing Afghans for no reason.

Loyalty to America would seem to consist in refusing to do it.

There are countervailing retired colonels. Try Lt. Karen Kwiatkowski, (she has an archive at lewrockwell.com).

She suspects that Peters is worried because the Bergdahl affair may indicate that the troops are getting fed up and preparing to bail by one route or another.

True? I don't know.

Yet it has to be the prevailing nightmare in the Five-Sided Death Box.

This sure happened in our Asian foray into the dissemination of democracy.

Fraggings were the most conspicuous form of disagreement, but there were enough unreported mutinies and refusals to fight.

Then I find this: "A U.S. military spokeswoman in Afghanistan, Lt. Cmdr. Christine Sidenstricker, said the Taliban was using their captive for propaganda. 'They are exploiting the soldier in violation of international law,' she said. U.S. military spokesman

Colonel Greg Julian added, "We condemn the use of this video and the public humiliation of prisoners."

Most harrumphish, Christine is.

This brings me back to the question of Admiral Mullen's assertion of the obviously untrue.

Humiliation of prisoners?

Does this twit Christine Whatever compartmentalize her mind to the point that she isn't aware of Guantanamo?

As for international law, I have the impression that torture of prisoners transgresses it.

Torture is American national policy.

Anyway, who was humiliated, the prisoner or the Pentagon?

Christine will of course say whatever she is told to say, that being the function of flacks, flacks being the low-rent Goerings that they are. I need a drink.

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

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

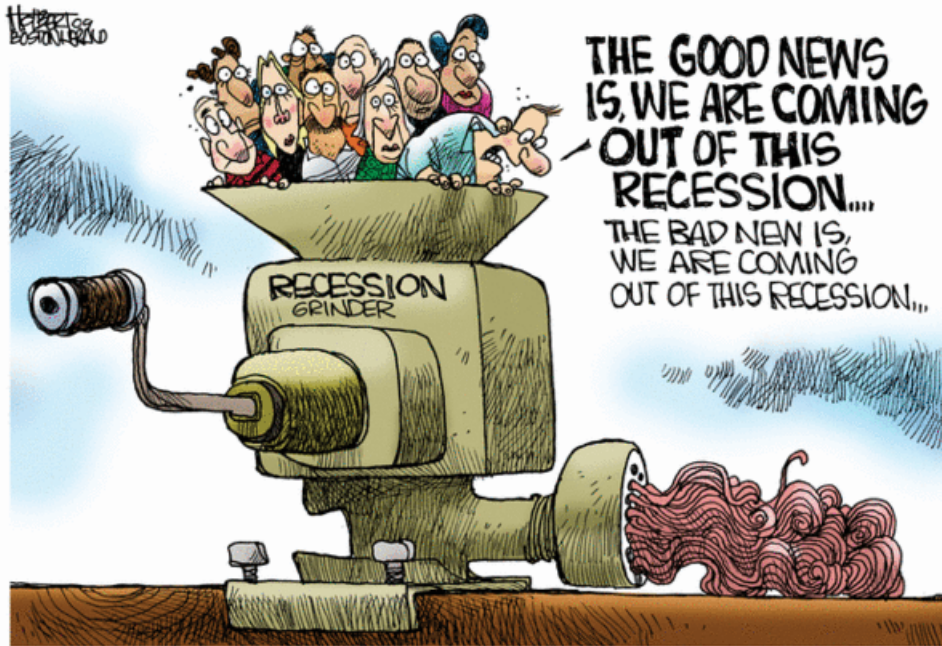
DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



CLASS WAR REPORTS



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

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/)

RECEIVED

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US IN THE
CELEBRATION OF
MAX WATTS 80TH BIRTHDAY**



Sunday 23rd August 1-6pm

@

**Gloria's Café
82 Audley St,
Petersham
Australia**

Bring your Max Stories!

[max says: if it's in the papers it may be true]

RSVP : Lydia on 9818 7217;
email: lydiakovach@bigpond.com

[Max Watts began helping GIs resisting the Vietnam War in the 1960's, and has never stopped helping soldiers resisting Imperial wars. T]

Got an opinion? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.

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