

Military Resistance: 7J1:
[GI Special]



“Lots Of Smiles And Hellos”
**“We Noticed Our Handouts All
Over The Place; On Desks Right
Outside The Elevator On Both
Floors”**
**“There Were *Traveling Soldiers*
Everywhere!”**
**[Outreach To New York Army National
Guard 9.18.09]**

From: Alan S & Elaine B
To: GI Special
Sent: September 25, 2009
Subject: Outreach Report

“There were Traveling Soldiers everywhere!” reported one of our Military Project outreach group of 9. [Traveling Soldier is a newsletter produced by Military Project, featuring information for and from troops opposed to the Imperial wars in Iraq and Afghanistan: <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>]

This was eyewitness news at its best since Elaine B had actually entered the armory, the first of any of us to have done so in more than 4 ½ years of outreaching to the site.

Our valiant correspondent had been invited minutes before (on two separate occasions) by friendly officers after inquiring about a drill schedule and in the process of obtaining the schedule (yes, we now know when to go for at least another year) saw the copies of Traveling Soldier inside the armory first hand:

“I decided to cross over the line, backed by my friend RM from the Military Project. We walked right through the line of camouflage and duffel bags, up the steps and into the building. Not a peep from anyone, in fact lots of smiles and hellos.”

“We asked where the ‘office’ was, and was pointed to the elevator, told to go upstairs and it was right there.

“So we went to the elevator, and off came 4 soldiers ready to go to the buses. They smiled, we smiled and got in the elevator.

“As we did this we noticed our handouts all over the place; on desks right outside the elevator on both floors, on the steps.

“Some of the plastic bags we wrapped them in were open, and ALL of the cookies and brownies were gone!

“We went to the office and said we were there to obtain a drill schedule. Amongst at least 6 soldiers there, one female NCO, who looked familiar to me, carrying a duffel bag on her back larger than she was, said ‘oh, here...’ she turned around, reached into a wire basket on top of the room divider, and whipped around holding out the latest drill schedule for the entire year!

“She smiled and said ‘here you go!’ We said thanks so much, we’ll be back!”

All this took place after a very successful outreach on 9/18/09 that distributed 98 lit packets, hundreds of snacks, 20 “Sir! No Sir!” DVDs and, for the first time a handout of 34 “Querido Camilo” DVDs. [This is a DVD featuring Camilo E. Mejia, Iraq Veterans Against The War & Military Project, who was imprisoned by the Army for refusing to return to fight in Iraq after seeing the war was wrong.]

But no matter how joyful an outreach can be, these events always remind us of the serious nature of the work and responsibilities we have toward brave people undergoing enormous, unrelenting pressures: soldiers and their families.

No outreach is successful without personal contact and this one yielded its share.

We noticed a woman dropping off a soldier and in conversation learned her fears.

She was the soldier's mother, a hospital worker, and after telling us wars are all about money "and not knowing what we're doing over there," cited continuing verbal abuse and harassment her son was undergoing from a superior officer who was denying him promotion, thereby keeping him a truck driver, an extremely dangerous MOS when deployed.

The fatigue of her ever present concern clearly lined her face, she sighed, "but what can I do?"

We gave her a package of the publications being handed out to the soldiers, pointing out that there was information about the GI Rights Hotline inside where legal assistance was available for soldiers with harassment complaints, and also let her know how to get in touch with us if further information or contact would be helpful.

Another soldier seemed needful of telling some of us he had been to Iraq twice and didn't want to go back, so he decided to switch to the Guard thinking he wouldn't get deployed. He was a bit naive when it came to that point!

But he said that he kept his head "low" when he was in Iraq for 2 tours, one of which was 15 months, and pretty much did what they call "search and avoid" missions.

He said he was very lucky, never got into a firefight, never saw anyone killed. But hated being there. He's attending school, and hopes to return to the Middle East as a civil engineer to help build.

How many stories are there at this armory and all the others visited and unvisited?

And endless amount one would think since soldiers are as much part of the human community as non-soldiers.

It's past time to find those stories and put them in print so troops will know their true friends and allies; those willing to march with them to mutual destiny.

Are we going back in October?

Since we have the dates, how couldn't we?

MORE:

**ACTION REPORTS WANTED:
FROM YOU!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOTE WELL:

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

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

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

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

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs identifying information be published in reporting on the action.

**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: 888.711.2550

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Bomber Kills American In Mandozai

Sep 30, 2009 Reuters

KHOST, Afghanistan (Reuters) - A bomber rammed a car into a military convoy of foreign forces in southeastern Afghanistan Wednesday, killing one American, officials said.

The attack occurred as the convoy crossed a bridge in the Mandozai district of Khost province, bordering Pakistan, district chief Wali Shah said.

"One of the cars belonging to the troops is on fire and there are some casualties among them, but at this stage I have no precise information," he told Reuters, adding that a foreign helicopter could be seen evacuating casualties from the scene.

A NATO official said that one U.S. servicemember was killed by the blast, but gave no further details.

El Paso Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



J. Mills (Photo courtesy U.S. Army)

09/18/2009 By Chris Roberts, El Paso Times

EL PASO -- A native of this city who earned the right to wear the U.S. Army's Green Beret died Wednesday after a roadside bombing in Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Joshua M. Mills, 24, and two other Army Special Forces soldiers died the day after their vehicle was attacked as they patrolled the streets of Ghur Ghuri in the southern province of Helmand, according to Army officials.

"Josh loved his family, he loved his country, and he loved being a Green Beret," said Quent Mills, the soldier's older brother. Quent Mills is the head coach for Chapin High

School's varsity softball program. "He loved his job even though he knew it was dangerous."

Quent Mills said that early on, his younger brother had two career choices, one of which was the Army.

"He (also) wanted to be a paleontologist," Quent Mills said. "He loved dinosaurs."

At about age 8, he decided to leave the dinosaurs behind. Joshua Mills graduated from the Silva magnet school where he was a member of the Junior ROTC. He was on the rifle team, Quent Mills said.

"That was his favorite thing about high school -- ROTC," Quent Mills said.

He said his younger brother followed in their father's footsteps. Tommy Mills was an air defense soldier who retired from Fort Bliss.

Family was as important to Joshua Mills as career. Despite the demands of training and deployment, he almost always managed to make it home for Christmas, Quent Mills said.

"He would always try to surprise you," Quent Mills said, his voice breaking with emotion. "He'd come into town, but he wouldn't tell you. He would just show up on your doorstep."

The family managed to turn the tables this year when they all went to Fort Bragg, N.C., where Joshua Mills was stationed, to celebrate the Fourth of July. Another brother, a member of the U.S. Air Force, was not expected.

"That was the last time our whole family was together," Quent Mills said. "He was surprised."

Joshua Mills joined the Army in 2005 as a Special Forces candidate, and successfully completed the Special Forces Qualification Course in March of that year. He was a communications sergeant with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne). He also successfully completed the Basic Airborne Course and the Special Forces Sniper Course. Mills deployed to Afghanistan on July 15.

Survivors include his wife, Magen, and son, Malaki, of Raeford, N.C.; and his mother, Celeste, of El Paso.

Also killed in the attack were Sgt. 1st Class Bradley S. Bohle, 29, of Glen Burnie, Md., and Sgt. 1st Class Shawn P. McCloskey, 33, of Peachtree City, Ga. All three were in the same unit. According to the Army's Special Operations Command Web site, 36 soldiers in the 7th Special Forces Group have died supporting the war in Afghanistan.

Quent Mills said his brother loved the camaraderie of the Special Forces and believed in the mission.

"He didn't talk much about it," Quent Mills said. "They're not supposed to."

As a way of explaining his job, he translated the unit's motto, "De oppresso liber" for his brother. "It means 'Free the oppressed,'" Quent Mills said.

Gunnery Sgt. Edwin Wayne Johnson Jr. Remembered As Ideal Role Model To All

Sep. 20, 2009 BY ANDREA V. HERNANDEZ, Ledger-Enquirer

More than 200 friends and family members gathered at Wynnton Hill Baptist Church Saturday to say goodbye to Gunnery Sgt. Edwin Wayne Johnson Jr., a U.S. Marine from Columbus who was killed in an ambush in Afghanistan earlier this month.

Johnson, known to many by his middle name “Wayne,” was remembered as a friendly and hard-working role model who was devoted to his family and country.

“He was Superman,” said younger sister LaToya Lowe. “He always tried to help people do better for themselves. He was like the role model of the century. Everybody I know who knew my brother, they looked up to him.”

Johnson, 31, was born and raised in Columbus. While growing up, he enjoyed playing competitive sports — especially football. After graduating from Columbus High School in 1996, Johnson enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served almost 13 years, spending time in Japan and Korea.

It was through the military that he would meet his future wife, Tasha, a fellow Marine. The couple married and have three young children, ages 2-7: Jaron, Jalissa and Toren.

Johnson's service in the Marines garnered him a host of military awards, including the Combat Action Ribbon, Afghanistan Campaign Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Medal. Johnson, who was a member of the 3rd Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.

Johnson was killed Sept. 8 alongside two other Marines and a Navy medical corpsman. The group came under attack by insurgents after entering a small village in the Kunar province to search for weapons and meet with village elders.

“He died doing what he loved to do,” Lowe said. “He loved being a Marine. It wasn't just a job for him, it was his life.”

During the funeral, family and friends listened as the Rev. Marvin Farrell Wilson III offered words of comfort.

“Wayne loved his life,” he said as the crowd began to clap. “His vision was to serve his country and serve it well, and I thank God for a man like that.”

Wilson then turned to Johnson's wife, who sat in a front pew at the church.

“God's grace and mercy is going to carry you forward,” he told her.

Several relatives and friends who spoke urged the crowd to celebrate Johnson's life and remember happier moments spent with him.

Theopolis Ramsey, Johnson's older cousin, lived with Johnson in the same Columbus home for seven years. He laughed as he recalled the mischief he and Johnson would get into when they were young.

Ramsey remembers a day when they — ages 5 and 7 at the time — found ants in the house. They decided to use broom straws and fire to get rid of the ants. While Ramsey was in the kitchen retrieving more broom straw, he said Johnson accidentally lit the bottom of the bed on fire.

"That was one of the worst whippings we got," Ramsey said with a laugh. "We would still laugh about it."

Ramsey said as they got older, his little cousin grew into a man who could provide great advice.

"He probably taught me just as much as I taught him," he said.

After the service, a motorcycle fleet of Patriot Guard Riders led the procession to Green Acres Cemetery, where Johnson was buried next to his mother, Barbara.

Peachtree City Soldier Dies In Afghanistan

September 18, 2009 By Megan Matteucci, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

A soldier from Peachtree City died this week in Afghanistan after his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device.

Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Patrick McCloskey, 33, was on his third deployment to Afghanistan, the Army said.

He was a father of two and a Green Beret based out of Fort Bragg.

McCloskey was born in New York, but grew up in Peachtree City.

McCloskey was patrolling in Ghur Ghuri on Tuesday when his vehicle hit a roadside bomb. He died the next day, the Army said.

Two other soldiers, Sgt. 1st Class Bradley S. Bohle, of Maryland, and Staff Sgt. Joshua M. Mills, of Texas, also died in the attack, the Army reported. The three were assigned to Company B, 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Airborne Group.

McCloskey enlisted in January 2002 and completed Special Forces training in May 2004, earning the "Green Beret" title.

He was deployed to Afghanistan in July 2009 as a member of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force. In addition to his three tours in Afghanistan, he served in Colombia as a Special Forces intelligence sergeant, the Army said.

McCloskey's numerous medals and awards include a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and the National Defense Service Medal.

He leaves his wife Jessica, daughter Katie and son Collin, of Raeford, N.C., along with his parents, Patrick and Kathryn McCloskey, of Fayetteville.

Local Family Remembers Son Killed In Afghanistan

9.21.09 Danielle Frizzi, WJW-TV

LAKEVILLE, Ohio - Damon Winkleman came from a long line of proud military men. His father has served 35 years in the U.S. Army Reserve, and has done three tours since Sept. 11, 2001. His oldest brother Jason also served in the Army, and brother Nathan is currently serving in Iraq.

When Damon decided to join the Army, no one in his family was surprised.

Sunday, the Winkleman family got the news that Damon had been killed while serving in Afghanistan. He was a U.S. Army combat medic, and that morning he was rushing to the aid of other soldiers when the vehicle he was in was involved in a rollover accident.

"Pretty much everything Damon did focused on other people first and himself second," Damon's father Richard Winkleman said.

Winkleman says words can't express the pride he has for his son. Damon graduated from Loudonville High School in 2004, and went to military school after graduation.

Last month, the family spent some time with Damon before he was deployed to Afghanistan. His brother Jason was the last to see him.

"As he was getting ready to head back in he gave me a hug and I looked at him and he said I'll see you soon and that was the last I saw or heard from him," Jason Winkleman said.

Jason says his youngest brother had a quick wit, and he could always make people laugh.

"Just pride knowing that my brother never took a life and died trying to save somebody else, and at the end of the day that's what I'm going to hang my hat on," Jason Winkleman said.

Funeral arrangements for Damon Winkleman are pending.

Soldier Who Grew Up In Arundel Dies In Afghanistan

September 19, 2009 By Don Markus, Baltimore Sun

Ethel Bohle was in the attic of her Severn home Friday morning, retrieving photos of her grandson, Brad, from more than five dozen albums and recalling memories of the 29-year-old soldier who was killed this week in Afghanistan.

One of her favorite memories involved her husband, Edward, who died three years ago.

"They would do woodworking together, and Brad even had a lathe in his house," she said. "After they were done working, Pop would make him a milkshake and shave the ice for it. When Brad's father came to tell me the bad news, he said, 'I guess Brad and Pop are having a milkshake.' "

Sgt. 1st Class Bradley Bohle, an Army Green Beret medic serving in the 3rd Division, 7th Special Forces Group, was killed with two other soldiers when their Humvee was hit by an improvised explosive device Tuesday while they were patrolling in Helmand province.

Sergeant Bohle, who grew up in Glen Burnie, is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, and three daughters, ages 9, 6 and 3. They were living in Sanford, N.C., near Fort Bragg. Sergeant Bohle had been in the military since graduating from North County High School in 1998.

It was his second tour of duty in Afghanistan since completing Special Forces training at Fort Bragg in March 2008. According to his grandmother, his first tour ended in December, and he returned in July.

"I didn't worry about him as much as I should have," Ethel Bohle said. "But that's the way he made us feel, like nothing was going to happen to us. He was so calm. I know he was a good soldier. We're going to miss him very much."

Sergeant Bohle's body arrived at 3 a.m. Friday at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, according to his grandmother. He was the 10th soldier from Anne Arundel County to be die in the line of duty in Afghanistan or Iraq since 2003.

Ethel Bohle said her grandson "pretty much grew up in my house" while his mother, Linda, was studying to be a teacher and his father, Donald, was working.

In Sergeant Bohle's high school yearbook at North County, where he transferred as a senior after spending his first three years at Glen Burnie High School, he said his career aspiration was to be a soldier. He played lacrosse and wrestled at North County.

Sergeant Bohle's younger sister, April Clark, is in a National Guard unit stationed in Goldsboro, N.C.

"He was my best friend and my hero," she told The Gazette suburban Maryland newspapers.

Through a relative, Sergeant Bohle's wife and father declined comment.

Sergeant Bohle, who had already earned a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart, will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. According to his grandmother, the Singleton Funeral Home in Glen Burnie would be handling arrangements and a Mass will be celebrated at St. Bernadette Church in Severn.

“If They Went There, He Said, They Would Need An Escort Of Multiple Police Trucks, Equipped With Rocket-Propelled Grenades And Machine Guns”

9.29.09 By LORI HINNANT, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

In Baghlan and Kunduz provinces, north of Kabul, militants have periodically grabbed control of stretches of highway outside the provincial capital.

After a recent interview, the deputy police commander of Baghlan asked an American Associated Press reporter and an Afghan colleague where they planned to travel next.

Upon hearing it was the next town up the road — outside the capital Pol-i-Kumri — he smiled.

If they went there, he said, they would need an escort of multiple police trucks, equipped with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns.

Then he stopped smiling.

"Please don't go," he said.

The pair turned back to Kabul.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATIONS</p>
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**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.**



Sept. 13, 2009: A member of the U.S. Army's 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment (Airborne), based at Fort Richardson, Alaska, patrols through Zerok District, East Paktika province in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Dima Gavrysh)



Sept. 15, 2009: A member of the U.S. Army's 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment (Airborne), based at Fort Richardson, Alaska, slides down a hill during a patrol in Zerok District, East Paktika province in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Dima Gavrysh)



A patrol by U.S. Marines 1st Battalion 5th Marines crosses an earthen bridge across a canal, in Nawa district, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Sept. 26, 2009. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



U.S. Marines with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 5th Marines on a patrol in an area frequented by Taliban militants, in Nawa district, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Sept. 28, 2009. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE

END THE OCCUPATIONS

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

TROOP NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS



The casket containing U.S. Army Cpl. Benjamin S. Kopp, of Rosemount, Mn., during his funeral at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, August 7, 2009. Kopp was killed on July 18, 2009 in Afghanistan. REUTERS/Larry Downing

**How Do You Know You Live In
A Dictatorship Run By
Washington DC Politicians?**

58% Of Americans Are Opposed To The War On Afghanistan: Support At 39%, Down from 53% in April: And The War Goes On And On And On



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "The picture reminds me of Wal-Mart employees at an official cheering meeting, one they have no choice in attending. How many of the soldiers really believe what they are being told?."]

September 15, 2009 By Paul Steinhauser, CNN Deputy Political Director

Support for the war in Afghanistan is at an all-time low, according to a new national poll.

A CNN/Opinion Research Corp. survey released Tuesday morning indicates that 39 percent of Americans favor the war in Afghanistan, with 58 percent opposed to the mission.

Support is down from 53 percent in April, marking the lowest level since the start of the U.S. military mission in Afghanistan soon after the September 11, 2001, attacks.

"Most of the recent erosion in support has come from within the GOP," said Keating Holland, CNN's polling director. "Unlike Democrats and independents, Republicans still favor the war, but their support has slipped eight points in just two weeks."

"The Afghan war is almost as unpopular as the Iraq war has been for the past four years," Holland said, noting that support for the war in Iraq first dropped to 39 percent in June 2005 and has generally remained in the low to mid-30s since.

TROOP-KILLER

DOMESTIC ENEMY UNFIT FOR COMMAND UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE



Obama, London April 2, 2009. REUTERS/Jason Reed

**“I Don’t See Anyone In Congress
Getting Shot At Every Day For Their
Pay”
“And They Get To Go Home At Night”**

Letters To The Editor
9.28.09
Army Times

I just read the article in the Sept. 14 issue (“Plan would shrink raises to pay for other programs”).

I do not see how the Congressional Budget Office can even entertain a thought of reducing the pay raises of our soldiers.

They state that they are trying to cut pay raises to overstrength military occupational specialties and increase pay to critical MOSS. Most of us in the Army only get the yearly 3.4 percent raise (or whatever they give us).

How can anyone think about not giving the soldiers (all soldiers) a higher or at least the same type of pay raise our civilian counterparts are getting? I don't see anyone in Congress getting shot at every day for their pay. And they get to go home at night.

I think it should be criminal for anyone to try to save money by taking it away from the soldiers. Stop some of the overspending or stop one or two of the new programs, but do not take money from the troops.

Sgt. 1st Class Glen Tilson
Fort Benning, Ga.

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

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

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**

**“While there is a lower class I am in it; while there is a criminal element I am of it; while there is a soul in prison, I am not free”
-- Eugene V. Debs**

**“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**

**"When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, "No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country."
-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq**

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**

We stand in a moment of time between the eternal past and the eternal future, content that, for us, all that was before and all that will be cannot exist for us, and yet we exist because all that was before us gave us our moment in time, and we will share the responsibility for all that will exist in the eternal future.
-- Abraham Lincoln

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

**“We’ll Have Deployed Over 135,000
Troops To Afghanistan For The
Purpose Of Rounding Up Fewer Than
A Dozen Bad Guys”
“Daffy Duck And Wiley Coyote Could
Come Up With A Better Strategy Than
That”**

September 25, 2009 By Chris Floyd, Empire Burlesque

McChrystal’s report is incoherent on the subject of strategy.

It says, 'We must conduct classic counterinsurgency operations' and states that success depends not on 'seizing terrain or destroying insurgent forces' but on 'gaining the support of the people.'

That’s laughable in light of the fact that classic clear-hold-build counterinsurgency operations involve seizing terrain and destroying the insurgent forces that occupy it.

The notion that we can separate the Afghan people from the insurgents is as ludicrous as the idea of invading Mexico to separate the Hispanics from the Latinos.

Nor can we pretend to be the good guys when the Karzai government we prop up is as bad or worse than the insurgents. McChrystal admits that Afghans have 'little reason to support their government.'

McChrystal says he sees no sign of al-Qaeda in Afghanistan.

So, his argument goes, in order to disrupt al-Qaeda terror network, we need 45,000 more troops to occupy a country al-Qaeda is not in to make sure it doesn’t come back.

And what exactly is this al-Qaeda juggernaut we've come to quake in fear of?

As former CIA officer Philip Giraldi recently noted, 'An assessment by France's highly regarded Paris Institute of Political Studies (suggests that) Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda has likely been reduced to a core group of eight to ten terrorists who are on the run more often than not.'

If McChrystal and his allies get their way, we'll have deployed over 135,000 troops to Afghanistan — on top of the roughly 130,000 troops still in Iraq — for the purpose of rounding up fewer than a dozen bad guys.

Daffy Duck and Wiley Coyote could come up with a better strategy than that.

Our military leadership and its supporters are a thundering herd of buffoons whose only real objective is to keep the cash caissons rolling and the gravy ships afloat and the wild blue budget sky high.

We throw good money at these gooks, and they still don't like us to invade their country and kill their people!

Really!

What does an empire have to do to get a little love around here?

“Movements Are Bound To Be Confused At The Beginning, Confused Because The Thinking Of The Masses At First Moves Among Contradictions, Lack Of Clarity, And Lack Of Cohesion, And Also Because Of The Role That Prophets Still Play In Them”

On The History Of Early Christianity, By Friedrich Engels, *Die Neue Zeit*, Vol. 1, 1894-95
[Excerpts]

And just as those who have nothing to look forward to from the official world or have come to the end of their tether with it — opponents of inoculation, supporters of abstemiousness, vegetarians, anti-vivisectionists, nature healers, free-community preachers whose communities have fallen to pieces, authors of new theories on the origin of the universe, unsuccessful or unfortunate inventors, victims of real or imaginary injustice who are termed “good-for-nothing pettifoggers” by the bureaucracy, honest fools, and dishonest swindlers — all

throng to the working-class parties in all countries — so it was with the first Christians.

All the elements which had been set free, i.e., at a loose end, by the dissolution of the old world came one after the other into the orbit of Christianity as the only element that resisted that process of dissolution — for the very reason that it was the necessary product of that process — and that it therefore persisted and grew while the other elements were but ephemeral flies.

There was no fanaticism, no foolishness, no scheming that did not flock to the young Christian communities and did not at least for a time and in isolated places find attentive ears and willing believers.

And like our first communist workers' associations, the early Christians, too, took with such unprecedented gullibility to anything which suited their purpose

In fact, the struggle against a world that at the beginning was superior in force, and at the same time against the innovators themselves, is common to the early Christians and the socialists.

Neither of these two great movements was made by leaders or prophets — although there are prophets enough among both of them — they are mass movements.

And mass movements are bound to be confused at the beginning, confused because the thinking of the masses at first moves among contradictions, lack of clarity, and lack of cohesion, and also because of the role that prophets still play in them at the beginning.

This confusion is to be seen in the formation of numerous sects which fight against one another with at least the same zeal as against the common external enemy.

So it was with early Christianity, so it was in the beginning of the socialist movement, no matter how much that worried the well-meaning worthies who preached unity where no unity was possible.

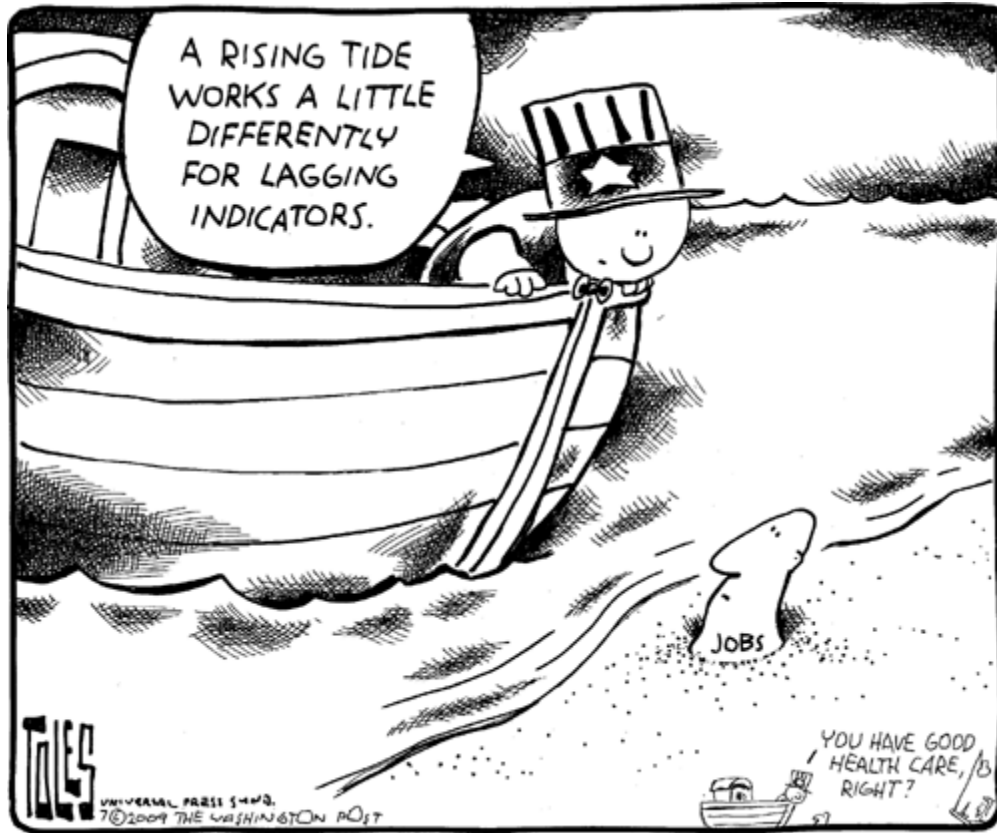
Troops Invited:

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 to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW 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

CLASS WAR REPORTS



U.S. Job Seekers Exceed Openings By Record Ratio: Employment Prospects Worse: “I’m Just So Scared, I Can’t Even Put It Into Words”

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

Sept . 27, 2009 By Peter S. Goodman, The New York Times [Excerpts]

Despite signs that the economy has resumed growing, unemployed Americans now confront a job market that is bleaker than ever in the current recession, and employment prospects are still getting worse.

Job seekers now outnumber openings six to one, the worst ratio since the government began tracking open positions in 2000.

According to the Labor Department's latest numbers, from July, only 2.4 million full-time permanent jobs were open, with 14.5 million people officially unemployed.

In Milwaukee, Debbie Kransky has been without work since February, when she was laid off from a medical billing position — her second job loss in two years. She has exhausted her unemployment benefits, because her last job lasted for only a month.

Indeed, in a perverse quirk of the unemployment system, she would have qualified for continued benefits had she stayed jobless the whole two years, rather than taking a new position this year.

But since her latest unemployment claim stemmed from a job that lasted mere weeks, she recently drew her final check of \$340.

Ms. Kransky, 51, has run through her life savings of roughly \$10,000. Her job search has garnered little besides anxiety.

"I've worked my entire life," said Ms. Kransky, who lives alone in a one-bedroom apartment.

"I've got October rent. After that, I don't know. I've never lived month to month my entire life. I'm just so scared, I can't even put it into words."

Last week, Ms. Kransky was invited to an interview for a clerical job with a health insurance company. She drove her Jeep truck downtown and waited in the lobby of an office building for nearly an hour, but no one showed.

Despondent, she drove home, down \$10 in gasoline.

Two recent surveys of newspaper help-wanted advertisements and of employers' inclinations to add workers were at their lowest levels on record, noted Andrew Tilton, a Goldman Sachs economist.

From the beginning of the recession in December 2007 through July of this year, job openings declined 45 percent in the West and the South, 36 percent in the Midwest and 23 percent in the Northeast.

Shrinking job opportunities have assailed virtually every industry this year.

Since the end of 2008, job openings have diminished 47 percent in manufacturing, 37 percent in construction and 22 percent in retail. Even in education and health services — faster-growing areas in which many unemployed people have trained for new careers — job openings have dropped 21 percent this year. Despite the passage of a stimulus

spending package aimed at shoring up state and local coffers, government job openings have diminished 17 percent this year.

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“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War



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