

*Military Resistance:* [thomasfbarton@earthlink.net](mailto:thomasfbarton@earthlink.net) 10.17.09 *Print it out: color best. Pass it on.*

## **Military Resistance 7J12**

[GI Special]



Tactical Painting  
From Soldier X, Iraq 4.25.05

# **RALLY OUTSIDE OF FORT LEWIS GATES SUPPORT GI RESISTERS TRAVIS BISHOP AND LEO CHURCH**

**Stop The Abuse Of Army  
Prisoners - In The U.S. And  
Abroad!**

# **Restore Constitutional Rights At The Fort Lewis Brig: End The Illegal U.S. Occupations Of Iraq And Afghanistan!**

Submitted by mgibbs on Fri, 10/16/2009 <http://www.givoice.org/>

Start: 10/18/2009 - 3:00pm

End: 10/18/2009 - 6:00pm

Timezone: Etc/GMT-8

## **RALLY OUTSIDE OF FORT LEWIS GATES**

**Sunday, October 18, 2009**

**3:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

"Freedom Bridge" at Berkeley Ave. exit 122 off I-5  
Gather at nearby Coffee Strong, 15109 Union Ave. SW

**GI resisters Travis Bishop and Leo Church are being held virtually  
incommunicado at the Fort Lewis brig.**

**Most significantly, their 6th amendment right to have private conversations with  
their attorney has been violated on numerous occasions.**

But this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Fort Lewis authorities have severely restricted prisoners' access to visitors, phone calls, mail and books. The food is inadequate. There are no work or study programs available. Physical and psychological abuse regularly takes place during strip searches of prisoners. Prisoners have reported abusive guards but the abuse continues.

Free Travis Bishop!

He absolutely obeyed the law when he refused to deploy to Afghanistan

Free Leo Church!

The Army should have helped when his family was facing homelessness

Stop the Abuse of Army prisoners - in the U.S. and abroad!

End the Illegal U.S. Occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan!

**MORE**

## **Why Rally?**

# **Bottom-Feeding Scum-Suckers In Command At Fort Lewis Continue To Deny Prisoners' Right To Counsel**

October 13, 2009 Submitted by Andrew, G.I. Voice

**Hours after a press conference brought to light allegations of abuses at the Northwest Joint Regional Correctional Facility the lawyers for Travis Bishop and Leo Church have again been denied access to their clients.**

Travis Bishop and Leo Church have been held at the NWJRCF at Ft. Lewis since September. Since then they have had guards present during confidential phone conversations with their lawyers, have been strip searched in rooms equipped with video recording equipment, and have been forced to shower and use the restroom in the presence of female guards.

**Following the press conference, Mr. Branum contacted the legal office at the brig to arrange a visit between his clients, himself and his local co-counsel (Lagrand Jones).**

The legal office at the brig said he could not visit today because the brig needed to run a background check on him first (the first time he has ever been asked to complete a background check before visiting a client in confinement).

Mr. Branum called back a short time later and asked for this background check to be expedited as Mr. Jones was unavailable to visit tomorrow, however, Mr. Branum was told by the legal office that this could be done but that he still can't visit today due to staffing concerns.

**On further query, the legal office said they don't enough guards on duty to handle an attorney visit.**

"I was stunned to hear that the Fort Lewis brig is so short staffed that they can't handle an attorney visit on short notice.

**"I have visited state and county jails across the country, as well as military brigs at Ft. Sill, OK, Camp Lejeune, NC and Charleston, SC.**

**"I have never had a jail tell me that I couldn't handle an attorney visit due to being short-staffed," Branum said.**

"Besides the 6th Amendment issue, one has to wonder how short-staffed the Fort Lewis brig really is and whether they are maintaining safe staffing levels to maintain daily operations."

**MORE:**

# Who Are Travis Bishop & Leo Church?

10/08/2009 By Andrew, G.I. Voice [Excerpt]

Fort Lewis, Washington, October 9, 2009 – Veterans' groups are reacting with alarm to reports that two Army soldiers imprisoned in the Fort Lewis Regional Correctional Facility (RCF) have been subjected to human rights abuses.

Travis Bishop (recognized by Amnesty International as a "Prisoner of Conscience") resisted deployment to Afghanistan, and Leo Church left his unit to prevent his family from going homeless.

## **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**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **South Bend Soldier Dead**

October 06, 2009 By ERIN BLASKO, Tribune Staff Writer

SOUTH BEND — After he shipped to Iraq in November of last year, Spc. Paul Eugene Andersen kept in touch with his wife, Linda Andersen, through Skype, a Web application that enables video conferencing over the Internet.

She was speaking to him Thursday afternoon when the connection terminated, a common occurrence because of the frequent sandstorms in the largely arid country.

Several hours later, just before midnight, she awoke to a knock at the door.

"I asked who it was," Linda Andersen said Thursday from the dining room of her home on Sunset Lane, "and they said it was the National Guard.

"I asked them to hold on a minute," the 55-year-old said through tears, "because I wanted to make sure I was dressed decently enough."

When she opened the door, she was met by a chaplain.

"I knew it wasn't good after that," she said.

Not long after his face disappeared from Linda Andersen's computer monitor, Paul Andersen, a member of the 855th Quartermaster Company based out of South Bend, reportedly died from wounds suffered during an attack on his Baghdad camp by enemy forces.

The Department of Defense announced his death Monday on its Web site.

A 24-year-veteran of the armed forces, the 49-year-old was scheduled to return home Nov. 4, according to family.

"He said we were going to spend Christmas and Thanksgiving together," Linda Andersen said.

Paul Andersen was completing his second tour of duty in Iraq, his wife said. He was assigned to "laundry and bath," she said, which meant he traveled base-to-base in a large vehicle containing laundry and shower facilities for soldiers.

"It's the most important part of the military," Linda Andersen's son, Gregory Jester, said of the job. "It makes you look good and smell good."

Linda Andersen said she worried about her husband's safety, but that her anxieties were somewhat soothed by the fact that his job rarely put him in harm's way.

"He always said he was in a safety zone," she said, "so I didn't have to worry about him."

The particulars of the attack on Paul Andersen's camp are not known. The Department of Defense has only said it involved "indirect gunfire."

Linda Andersen said she is not sure she wants to know more than that.

"I couldn't really say whether I want to really know," she said. "I don't know how much my brain and heart can take. I don't know how much they can comprehend."

Linda Andersen said she last saw her husband in August. He returned home on leave to celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary, she said.

The couple married in 2004, just four months after they met at the home of an acquaintance, Linda Andersen said.

"I backed up and stepped on his foot," she recalled laughing, "and I just asked him what the hell he was doing and please get out of the way."

"He just stood there."

Linda Andersen said her husband explained to her early on his commitment to the Army, and that she fully accepted and supported his decision to serve.

Just prior to his death, she said, he had re-enlisted for six more years.

The past four days have been difficult to comprehend, she said.

"Hell. Tiring. Unbelievable," she said and then paused. "There are no words really that can describe how I feel.

"I take a deep breath and sometimes it helps, and sometimes it doesn't."

Paul Andersen is survived by his wife; three biological children; three step-children; one biological grandchild; and eight step-grandchildren.

His body is scheduled to return to South Bend later this week from Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Del., where it arrived Saturday.

Linda Andersen's son, Thomas Klempay, will accompany the body.

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## **Resistance Attack Destroys Bridge In Iraq "Used Heavily By The U.S. Military"**



The bridge destroyed in a truck bomb attack in Ramadi, Oct. 17, 2009. REUTERS/Ali al-Mashhdani)

17 October 2009 (AP)

Iraqi police say a bomber blew up a dynamite-laden truck in western Iraq and destroyed a key bridge on a highway used heavily by the U.S. military.

A police officer said there were no casualties in the Saturday morning blast, which occurred near the city of Ramadi, about 70 miles (125 kilometers) west of Baghdad.

The highway links Iraq to neighboring Syria and Jordan.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Three U.S. Troops Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan**

October 17, 2009 From the Associated Press

KABUL — Bomb attacks have killed three American troops in Afghanistan.

Two U.S. troops were killed Friday in an explosion in the nation's east. Another U.S. service member was killed the same day in a bombing in the south.

**No further details were released.**

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### **Dreams Die With Bomb In Afghanistan**

October 6, 2009 By Sean Rose, Courier-Journal

Army Staff Sgt. Edward Bernard Smith was not looking for a relationship when he met his future wife at a club at Fort Knox.

But they were drawn to each other and discovered they had much in common.

“He was looking for the same thing I was looking for,” Jamie Welch Smith said. “He was my best friend, we could talk about anything.”

Edward and Jamie Smith, of Ekron, Ky., had been married for 3½ years when he was killed by a makeshift bomb in Afghanistan on Sept. 24. He was 30.

Edward Smith had already served one year in Iraq before reporting to Fort Knox in 2005 for the Army's Armor School, according to the Army. He was transferred to Fort Lewis, Wash., in 2007, and his brigade was deployed in July, according to an Army spokesman.

Jamie Smith said she and her husband planned to have a baby when he returned next July.

Jamie Smith had two children when she met Edward Smith, who is originally from Homestead, Fla., near Miami. She said he was great with her kids and, as the oldest of six children in his family, practically had to raise his siblings after their mother died when he was 18.

“He was wonderful, there’s nothing bad you can say about him,” she said. “He just did everything in his power to try to make us happy. He was just that type of person.”

Edward Smith enjoyed playing basketball and video games and spending time with her children, Jamie Smith said.

He joined the Army to try to find a career and make something of himself, she said. He wanted to become a physical education teacher after leaving the Army.

“We’re OK but we’re taking it really hard,” she added. “He was our everything.”

His funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at the Prichard Chapel at Fort Knox, with burial in Zion Grove Cemetery in Ekron. Visitation will be at Hager Funeral Home in Brandenburg, Ky., from 4 to 9 p.m. on Thursday and noon to 1:15 p.m. on Friday.

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## Area Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



September 26, 2009 By Randy Ludlow and Spencer Hunt, THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

A stunned Columbus neighborhood flew American flags from homes yesterday in honor of one of its own who was killed in Afghanistan this week.

Army Sgt. Titus R. Reynolds, 23, of the Far East Side, was killed in action not long after arriving in Afghanistan, family and friends said.

Rod Reynolds, Titus’ father, said his son died while riding in a Stryker vehicle that triggered a roadside bomb.

Three soldiers died in Afghanistan on Thursday when their Stryker vehicle hit a bomb in its path, the Pentagon announced earlier. Mr. Reynolds did not know whether it was the same incident that involved his son.

Titus Reynolds was nearing the end of his four-year Army stint and had been promoted to sergeant in June, Mr. Reynolds said.

He and his wife, Nikki, would have celebrated their first wedding anniversary in about a month.



Titus' father described his son as a talented musician who played electric guitar and bass at their church. He said Titus was a good-looking young man, so much so that waitresses would give him their phone numbers on outings to restaurants.

"It happened many times," Mr. Reynolds said.

He said his son tried to reassure him about going to Afghanistan, saying that as a sergeant he would be able to assess dangerous situations.

"I don't know how you can watch for roadside bombs" and improvised explosive devices, the father said.

The Reynoldses' neighbors along Manor Drive, a neighborhood near Reynoldsburg, were quick to honor Titus' service and sacrifice as word of his death spread.

"We have flags from one end to the other," said Sheryl Sycks, who lives on Manor Drive.

"Titus would do anything for you. He was nice and mannerly, such a sweet kid," she said, recalling Titus going out of his way to help neighbors lug groceries from their cars into their homes.

Emil Davitian, 25, a neighbor and childhood friend, said Titus' home was a natural gathering place for neighborhood kids. He said it often fell to Titus and him to organize the games that their younger siblings and friends would play.

"We would get together and have video-game tournaments," Davitian said. "The Sony PlayStation was at my house, and the Nintendo 64 was at his."

Davitian said the news of Titus' death was devastating to him. "It's very hard to grasp. It feels like it's unreal," he said. "You hear a lot about lives being lost on TV and the news, but you really don't understand until it hits home to someone really close to you, to a good person like him."

Titus Reynolds attended Reynoldsburg High School, and Sycks said he also attended a vocational school.

Records show that Reynolds was based at Fort Lewis near Tacoma, Wash. A base spokeswoman said the Army cannot release details until the Department of Defense officially releases news of Reynolds' death.

Besides his father, Titus Reynolds is survived by his mother, Elizabeth, as well as two brothers and a sister.

**He was the third central Ohio soldier to die in the past three weeks.**

Army Staff Sgt. Shannon M. Smith, 31, of Marion, and Pfc. Zachary T. Myers, 21, of Delaware, were killed with another soldier on Sept. 8 when their armored vehicle was hit by an explosive in Baji, Iraq.

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# Ex-Salem Resident Killed In Kandahar



Kevin Graham, a former Salem resident, was killed by an explosive device while serving in Afghanistan on Saturday. Graham, an Army Specialist, was 27 years old. (KENOSHA NEWS PHOTO BY Photo courtesy Sean Graham)

October 1, 2009 BY MATTHEW OLSON, KENOSHA NEWS

The question was not if Kevin Graham was going to enter the military, it was when.

“He always had a soft spot for the military,” Sean Graham, Kevin’s brother, said.

The former Salem resident spent his youth reading about military conflicts and absorbing war-time stories before he joined the Army two years ago.

Kevin Graham, a 27-year-old Army Specialist, was killed Saturday in Kandahar, Afghanistan, when the Stryker Brigade vehicle he was driving was struck by an improvised explosive device.

Kevin’s brother Sean said he will not forget the memory of his late brother, whom Sean remembers as a gentleman with a clear sense of duty and service.

The Graham family moved to Salem in 1991. Kevin and his parents moved to Kentucky in 2005.

Sean Graham said Kevin’s passions at a young age included reading about World War II and talking with relatives, including his Vietnam War veteran father, and acquaintances about their military experiences.

“He was a military kind of guy,” Sean Graham, who currently resides in Kansasville, said. “He loved to sit and listen to those stories. And he would read the accounts and cross check that with the people who were there.”

One of Kevin’s traditions as a youth was to see the warbird military planes that would land at the Kenosha Regional Airport on their way to Experimental Aircraft Association

fly-ins in Oshkosh. Sean Graham said his brother would run errands for the flight crews, which led to Kevin getting to take a flight on one of the planes.

“They don’t give those away to anyone,” Sean Graham said. “It spoke to the kind of person he is.”

Kevin Graham also was passionate about cars, spending hours fixing up a 1965 Pontiac LeMans that he had bought.

“He went to all of the car shows and cruise-in nights,” Sean Graham said.

Sean Graham said Kevin was greatly affected by the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 and was motivated to respond.

“He was very proud of his country and Sept. 11 ate at him,” Sean Graham said. “Over time, he felt like he needed to do something to serve his country. He was quiet, but he definitely knew what right and wrong was. And he would always stand up for what was right.”

Kevin enlisted with the Army in September of 2007 and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, based in Fort Lewis, Wash.

“I thought he had given that dream up, so I was a little shocked at first,” Sean Graham said. “But he was just so proud to be in the military and I was so proud of him. We all were.”

Kevin Graham’s first deployment to Afghanistan began in July of this year. Sean Graham said nine soldiers from that unit had been killed before Kevin’s death and the family knew his deployment was dangerous. “Kevin did it for the love of his country,” Sean Graham said.

Sean Graham said he just wants all people to respect and honor the veterans they know and see. “If you run across a vet, just say thank you,” Sean Graham said. “Shake their hand. You would not believe what it means when you walk up to them and say thank you.” Sean Graham said he was proud of the service his brother gave and the life he lived.

“He really did live life to the fullest,” Sean Graham said. “He did so much in a short amount of time.”

Sean Graham said he will remember his brother’s quiet nature and sense of humor, his love of old cars and ability at trap shooting and the time the brothers were able to spend working out with each other over the last year. And Sean Graham said he will most of all remember the person that Kevin always was.

“I think about his pride and his stability,” Sean Graham said. “He was a solid citizen and a solid gentleman. That’s really what I think of him as. He was just so proud to wear the uniform and he was so proud of what we had done.”

A memorial service for Kevin Graham is scheduled on Oct. 8 in Fort Lewis, Wash. and Sean Graham said the family will likely also hold a memorial service in this area as well.

Kevin Graham is survived by his parents — Dan and Sandy Graham — who reside in Fairdealing, Ky., and three older brothers — Scott, Sean and Daniel — who live in Wisconsin and Illinois.

Kevin Graham was married in March and his wife and 6-year-old stepson reside in the state of Washington.

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## **Loudoun Family Mourns For ‘The Life Of The Party’**

October 9, 2009 By Kafia A. Hosh, Washington Post Staff Writer

The August weekend before Stephan L. Mace was to return to his deployment in Afghanistan, the 21-year-old Army specialist missed a planned fishing trip with his father.

Larry Mace said he received a text message from his son implying that he had struggled with saying goodbye. Mace said he figured Stephan avoided him because he was worried about a looming danger: a Taliban stronghold in the village near his Army base in Afghanistan.

"He knew he had to go back to it," Mace said. "He didn't think he could tell me goodbye." It was one of the last times Mace would hear from his son.

Stephan, a member of the Army's 61st Cavalry Regiment who grew up in Purcellville, was among eight soldiers killed Saturday in Afghanistan during one of the deadliest attacks on U.S. forces by the Taliban.

He was remembered this week for his cheerful personality, a bright smile and sparkling blue eyes that family members said could light up any room or lift any mood.

"He was the life of the party," his father said. "He had that energy from the day he was born. He loved life. He lived it every day."

Stephan Mace, the second eldest of four brothers, attended Loudoun Valley High School. An avid outdoorsman, he spent his summers as a teenager hunting in South Africa with a friend. He left high school early and earned a General Educational Development degree before joining the Army.

His grandfather, John Petro, remembered the day he accompanied Mace to an Army recruiting office. Petro said the recruiters were instantly impressed with Stephan's athletic ability and his high marks on a military aptitude test.

"They had the entire recruiting staff around him trying to get him to join," Petro recalled. But Mace hesitated.

"He resisted it right then, wanted to think about it," Petro said. "Then he went and signed up one day."

Mace's parents said they had reservations at first about his desire to join the Army, but they ultimately backed his decision.

"I voiced my concerns," said his mother, Vanessa Adelson. "But we also supported him in everything he did. I wasn't going to sit there and talk him out of it, because I knew that was important to him." Family members said Mace had plans to attend college after his military service.

Adelson said she is focused on celebrating her son's life.

"It was an incredible life," she said. "The 21 years that that boy was on this Earth, he did more and saw more than most of us will do in a lifetime."

Among Mace's survivors is youngest brother Christopher, 17, who has just completed Army basic training.

Mace's funeral is scheduled for 1 p.m. Monday at Purcellville Baptist Church, with burial Oct. 19 at Arlington National Cemetery.

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## **Local Soldier Remembered After Death In Afghanistan**

October 05, 2009 cfnews13

SATELLITE BEACH -- A Brevard County man was killed while fighting for his country in Afghanistan.

Sgt. Roberto Sanchez, 24, died from wounds suffered after his unit was attacked last Thursday in the country's Kandahar province.

Sanchez is an alumni of Satellite Beach High School, class of 2004. His family now lives in Tennessee.

Family members said everyone called him Robert.

He was an Army Ranger, which is an elite position with Special Operations Force with the Army. Sanchez's family said he died doing what he loved.

"A true and caring friend and a great human being, he really was, honestly. Honestly, I don't think there was anyone that had a bad word to say about Robert Sanchez, not that I've known of or ever known of," said Ken Wilson, Sanchez's Uncle.

The Army reports that this was Sanchez's fifth deployment.

Sanchez's family is working on the details for his funeral and said his body is expected to be flown back to Patrick Air Force Base on Wednesday.

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## Ex-Carson Soldier Dies From Injuries Suffered In Afghanistan

October 08 RICH LADEN, THE GAZETTE

A former Fort Carson soldier who has lived in Fountain with his family for the past 9 1/2 years and who deployed to Afghanistan last year from Fort Riley, Kan., died Wednesday from injuries suffered in a Sept. 8 ambush, according to his wife.

Sgt. Kenneth W. Westbrook, 41, was shot in the right shoulder and right cheek when he and others were attacked in Kunar province, Charlene Westbrook said Thursday. He was transferred to a hospital in Germany and had been at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C., since Sept. 11, she said.

The ambush was chronicled in a harrowing account Sept. 12 by a reporter for McClatchy Newspapers, who was embedded with United States forces. The story described Westbrook as being "gravely wounded when a bullet gouged his right cheek and then tore into the base of his neck."

The Department of Defense has not released information about the death.

Westbrook had been in Afghanistan since November 2008, where he trained Afghan border police, and was due to return next month, Charlene Westbrook said. He had planned to retire from the Army, where he had spent 22 years, soon after his return to Fountain, south of Colorado Springs, his wife said.

"This was going to be his last mission," she said.

The couple, originally from New Mexico, would have marked their 22nd wedding anniversary Oct. 20, said Charlene, who last saw her husband when he was home in May. They have three sons: Zachary, 20; Joshua, 18; and Joseph, 14.

"He was an avid fisherman, he loved hunting, he loved the outdoors," Charlene Westbrook said.

"He loved, loved, loved his boys, and was so proud of them. He loved being a soldier and wanted to retire and just enjoy the outdoors with us and go camping with us and take mountain drives."

Westbrook had served in Iraq in 1991 when he was stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky., and returned to Iraq in 2007 while stationed at Fort Carson, Charlene Westbrook said.

**Westbrook's older brother, Alan, a member of the Army National Guard from New Mexico, was killed by an improvised explosive device while on patrol in Iraq on Oct. 1, 2005.**

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# Parents Remember Mid-South Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

Oct 05, 2009 By Nick Kenney, WMC-TV

A Memphis soldier was killed Friday during a firefight with insurgents in Afghanistan.

Brandon Owens, 21, a Private First Class in the U.S. Army, was struck down by small arms fire during a battle in the nation's Wardak province.

Monday in Memphis, Brandon's parents recalled that whether he was in his high school basketball uniform or a uniform issued by the Army, Brandon wore an infectious smile while remaining focused on a serious goal.

"I think he wanted to go out and make a difference in the world," said his mother, Lynda Owens. "Do something that would be a solution and not a problem."

Brandon played basketball, loved music, and planned to marry his high school sweetheart. He graduated from Wooddale High in 2007, and soon after joined the Army as a military policeman.

"I was worried about the decision," Lynda Owens said. "I didn't want him to go, but I knew that he was having a vision, trying to have a plan for his future."

Friday, his parents returned home to find their worst fear: two soldiers waiting to give them the news that their son had been killed by enemy fire.

"He's one of those children, you know, we'll always be proud of," Brandon's father, Eric Owens, said.

"He was brave," Lynda Owens added. "I will always will love him"

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**U.S. Intelligence Estimate Confirms  
250,000 U.S. Combat Troops Will Be  
Necessary To Defeat Afghan  
Insurgents:  
[They Now Have 25,000 Active Duty  
Troops]**

**[Counterinsurgency-For-Beginners established years ago the basic rule of thumb that a 10 to 1 ratio is necessary to defeat a national resistance movement. T]**

October 15, 2009 Seattle Times

WASHINGTON - A recent U.S. intelligence assessment has raised the estimated number of full-time Taliban-led insurgents fighting in Afghanistan to at least 25,000, underscoring how the crisis has worsened even as the U.S. and its allies have beefed up their military forces, a U.S. official said Thursday.

The U.S. official, who requested anonymity because the assessment is classified, said the estimate represented an increase of at least 5,000 fighters, or 25 percent, over what an estimate found last year.

**Not included in the 25,000 tally are the part-time fighters - those Afghans who plant bombs or support the insurgents in other ways ...**

"The rise can be attributed to, among other things, a sense that the central government in Kabul isn't delivering (on services), increased local support for insurgent groups, and the perception that the Taliban and others are gaining a firmer foothold and expanding their capabilities," the U.S. official said.

The estimated increase in the insurgents' ranks occurred as the numbers of U.S., British and other Western troops also increased, possibly suggesting the growth in international forces is bolstering an impression among many Afghans that they're under foreign occupation. **[Gee, imagine that! How could they ever get that silly idea?]**

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## **REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW**



Soldiers from the U.S. Army's Alpha Company, 3rd brigade of 10th Mountain Division based in Fort Drum, New York, patrol a mountain pass on the road connecting Altimur and Kerwar in Logar province September 29, 2009. REUTERS/Nikola Solic





At dawn inside a small patrol base, a U.S. Marine wraps himself in a camouflage blanket against the desert night chill in Nawa district, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Sept. 30, 2009. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



Soldiers from the U.S. Army's Charlie troop, 371 Cavalry, 3rd brigade of 10th Mountain Division based in Fort Drum, New York, patrol in Kherwar district in Logar province October 2, 2009. REUTERS/Nikola Solic



U.S. Marines counter fire against Taliban positions during a firefight in Nawa district, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Oct. 2, 2009. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



Soldiers from the U.S. Army's Charlie troop, 371 Cavalry, 3rd brigade of 10th Mountain Division based in Fort Drum, New York, patrol in Kherwar district in Logar province October 3, 2009. REUTERS/Nikola Solic

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## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

# **Rebels Attack AMISOM Bases In The Road Which Connects The Presidential Palace And The Airport**

10.16.09 MOGADISHU (Mareeg) & Shabelle Media Network

At least two civilians were killed in Mogadishu fighting between government soldiers backed by African Union [occupation] troops and the Islamist rebels, witnesses said on Friday.

Nine civilians were also injured in the fighting which erupted in Mogadishu early on Friday.

The fighting took place a base of African Union troops in Makka al Mukarrama road in Mogadishu. Residents said the sound of heavy gun fire could be heard around the area where the fighting erupted.

The rebels attacked at AMISOM bases in the road which connects the presidential palace and the airport.

The two sides have used heavy machine guns and mortars in the fighting.

The Islamist rebels vowed to continue the fighting until the African Union troops leave the country.

Reports say that one civilian was killed and another one was wounded as the fighting between the transitional government troops and the Islamist fighters of Harakat Al-shabab Mujahideen continued in Bur-dhuhule in Bakol region.

Locals said that the fighting started as TFG soldiers loyal to Aden Mohamed Nor (Saransor) who is one of the government officials in the region attacked parties of the village and the clash sides continued a while there where the two sides exchanged heavy gunfire during the fighting in Wajid district in the region.

Sources said that the Islamist fighters of Harakat Al-shabab Mujahideen are now controlling the village where the war started while the government soldiers left to the side of Yed village in Bakol region.

Latest reports from the region indicate the situation of the village where the fighting happened returned calm on Friday and witnesses told Shabelle radio that the forces of

Harakat Al-shabab Mujahideen imposed curfew into the village in southern Somalia.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

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



The funeral of Army Staff Sgt. Nekl B. Allen in Parma, N.Y., Sept. 22, 2009. Allen was killed in combat in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/ David Duprey)

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**DoD Traitors At Work Killing More  
U.S. Soldiers:  
Investigators Find “The Army Made  
Critical Mistakes In Tests Of A New  
Body Armor Design”  
War Profiteers That Passed The  
“Incorrect Measuring Of The Amount Of  
Force A Plate Can Withstand” Were**

# Awarded Contracts “Potentially Worth \$8 Billion”

[Thanks to Pham Binh & Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance who sent this in.

10.16.09 By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts] [Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & Military Project, who sent this in.

WASHINGTON – The Army made critical mistakes in tests of a new body armor design, according to congressional investigators who recommend an independent review of the trials before the gear is issued to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Government Accountability Office report says the Army strayed from established testing standards and concludes several of the designs that passed would have failed had the tests been done properly.

The Army has ordered about 240,000 of the new type of bullet-blocking plate to be used in ballistic vests, but doesn't plan to rush the armor into combat. The plates will be stored until needed to meet future demands, according to service officials.

The testing at issue took place last year. Companies that passed were awarded contracts potentially worth \$8 billion to manufacture an improved plate design.

The body armor used by most American forces consists of a ballistic vest with two large, specially hardened ceramic plates that protect most of the upper body from enemy bullets and shrapnel.

The plates and vests go through demanding trials during the design phase. Later, after production begins, sample plates are shot at on ranges to ensure there has been no deviation from the specifications. These so-called "lot acceptance tests" require a quick turnaround so manufacturers can keep their production lines moving.

**The GAO says the Army's most significant departure from testing standards was the incorrect measuring of the amount of force a plate can withstand.**

**Correctly calculating this is important because the depth of the indentation on the plate shows the amount of blunt force trauma to the soldier.**

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## “I Guess If We Don't Look Right, We Can't Fight Right”

Letters To The Editor  
10.19.09  
Army Times

I have been deployed to Iraq four times now.

Each time I go, I get new uniforms issued to me, as well as other new gear.

The new gear is great, but there is one problem:

We can't wear half the stuff or, if we can, it has to be during certain times, and then you have to have a letter from the president to wear them.

Why issue gear and equipment we can't, or won't, ever use?

The perfect example is the new Army combat shirts. In order to wear them, a soldier must have his Army Combat Uniform top and a brown shirt because it can't be worn where he can be seen.

**There is a reason we were issued it — because it helps soldiers downrange fight the heat.**

**But if it can't ever been worn, why bother giving it to a soldier?**

If not, we all know the Army is 90 percent (about appearance) and 10 percent about it working.

I guess if we don't look right, we can't fight right.

Sgt. Billy A. Jones  
Fort Stewart, Ga.

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## **“Suffering A Traumatic Brain Injury, Or Concussion, Soon After An Initial Injury Can Lead To Brain Damage Or Death”**

10.19.09 Army Times

Suffering a traumatic brain injury, or concussion, soon after an initial injury can lead to brain damage or even death for anyone younger than 18 years old, according to Patrick McCulloch, a doctor at the Methodist Center for Sports Medicine in Houston.

“Second impact syndrome occurs when the brain swells rapidly after a person suffers a second concussion before symptoms of the first have subsided,” McCulloch said.

**“It doesn't matter how severe it is or if the second concussion occurs days or weeks after the first concussion.”**

**While those injuries usually refer to the concussions sustained during athletic events, researchers at the U.S. Military Academy have also determined the same follows for troops injured in combat.**

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## **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**

**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**

## **Yes**

“The business of government is to keep the government out of business – that is, unless business needs government aid.”

-- Will Rogers

“What we have in this country is socialism for the rich and free enterprise for the poor.”

-- Gore Vidal

### **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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550**

## **10.17.1898: Shameful Anniversary The American Empire Destroys Puerto Rican Independence**





Carl Bunin Peace History October 15-21

One year after Spain granted Puerto Rican self-rule following their rout in the Spanish-American War, troops raised the U.S. flag over the Caribbean island nation, formalizing American authority over the island's one million inhabitants.

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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## Rochester Scum In Blue Attack March Against Imperial Wars

October 12, 2009 By Brian Lenzo and Adriano Contreras, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

ROCHESTER, N.Y.--Rochester Students for a Democratic Society's "Funk the War 2: Revenge of the Funk"--a protest/dance party marking the eighth anniversary of the occupation of Afghanistan--was brutally attacked by Rochester police on October 7.

The protest drew 60 people and was especially significant because it is the first time the Rochester antiwar movement has observed the anniversary of the Afghanistan war.

Demonstrators chanted, "Stop the war--yes we can! U.S. out of Afghanistan" and beat drums, eventually blocking two lanes of traffic on main street.

**As protesters approached an Army recruiting station, the Rochester police exploded--driving two cars in front of the march with approximately 12 cops on foot, charging at the protesters with clubs and pepper spray.**

The first person arrested was one of the few African American students in the crowd. As protesters erupted into chants of "Let him go" and "Racists cops go home," police charged onto the sidewalk, tackling two student leaders to the ground.

They wrestled a cameraman into the base of a light pole and slammed a young woman's face into the pavement. Over 30 police cars were on the scene in seconds, and police in riot gear ran around swinging clubs and intimidating demonstrators.

The march was completely dispersed, and police chased protesters all over downtown. In all, 12 people were arrested and three were injured. One student went to the hospital for cuts and bruises.

Following the demonstration and persistent hounding by march participants, the news of the brutality hit the local news, becoming the top story for two days.

**Police claimed protesters blocked a fire truck and assaulted officers.**

**However, thanks to the presence of members of Rochester Indymedia and their cameras, the police attack was caught on video and was included in news broadcasts and shown to the city council for review.**

A press conference two days later further exposed police and media lies about the incidents that day.

Due to public pressure, a civilian investigation headed up by the Rochester City Council and a police internal investigation have begun. Organizers' demands include a formal apology from the police department.

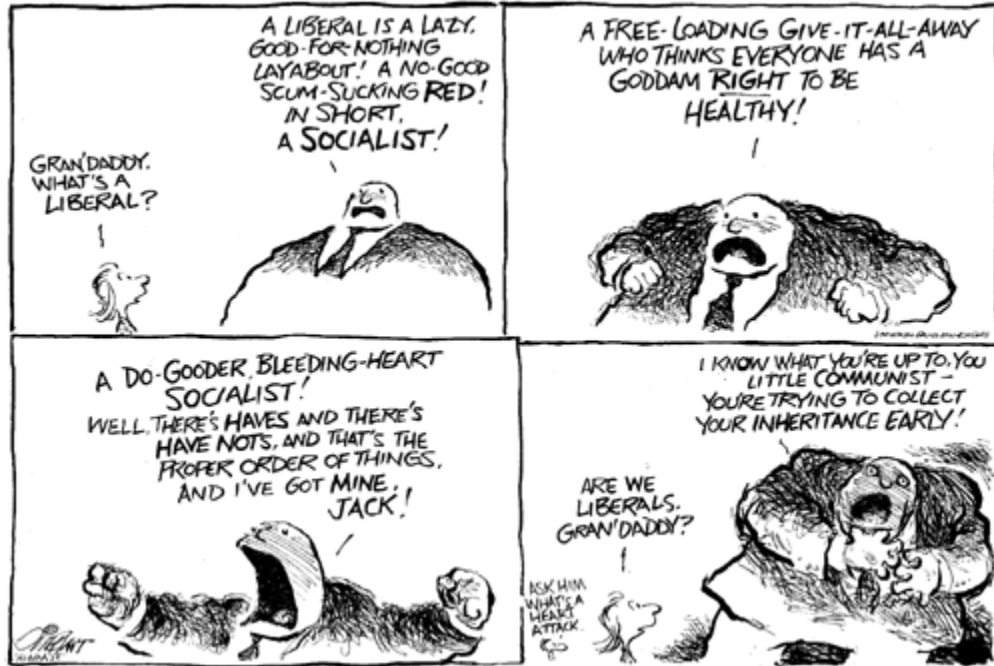
This unprovoked brutality was only a taste of what many in the Black and Latino communities have faced for years, a lesson not lost on the participants.

This shows the importance of continuing to oppose the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as organizing against police violence here at home.

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

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

# CLASS WAR REPORTS



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*This is how Obama brings the troops home,*  
**BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.**



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[www.militaryproject.org](http://www.militaryproject.org)

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**ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!**

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

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