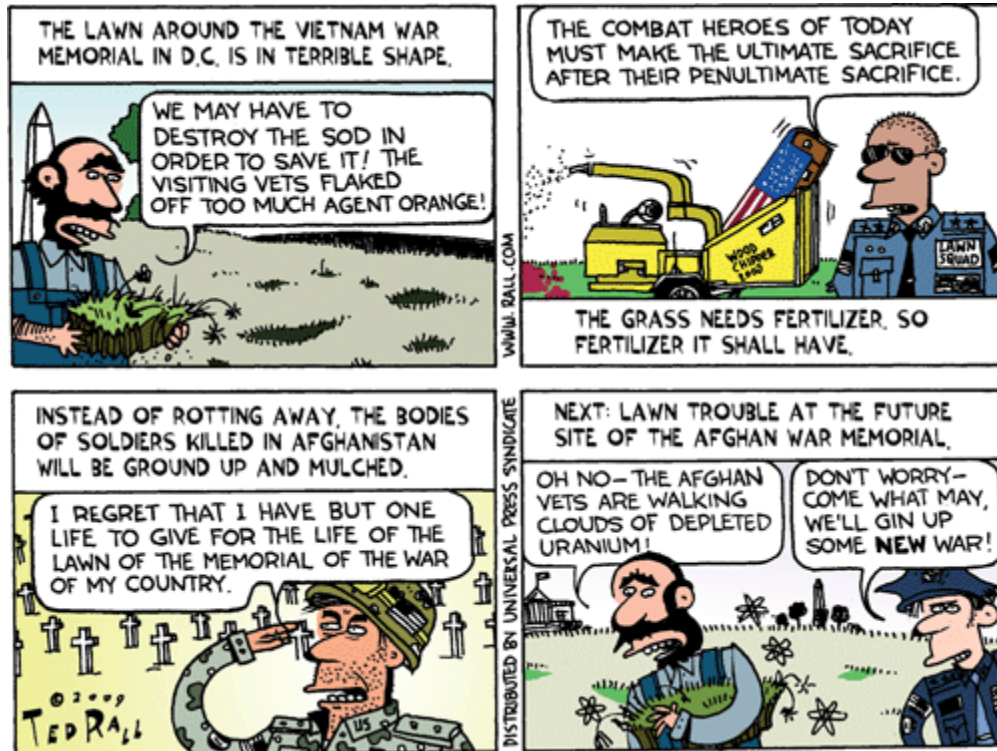


Military Resistance: 7J2:
[GI Special]



**“Outreach To Active
Duty Troops Will End
The Bloodshed For All”**

**“Members Of The Armed Forces
Get It”**

**“They Know The Deal And Fury Is
Mounting”**

“As The Sun Shines On Our Actions, More And More People Will Get The Idea That Outreach To Active Duty Troops Will End The Bloodshed”

By Elaine Brower, Traveling Soldier, September, 2009 - Issue 24

Here we reprint [in Traveling Soldier] with permission Elaine Brower's statement at the Military Project/IVAW Organizing Conference in Savannah, Georgia on September 6, 2009. She is a member of the Military Project and Military Families Speak Out.

I am a part of the so called “anti-war” movement, but am also a member of the Military Project. This dynamic puts me in a position to see the key importance, as well as differences, in how a march to specific military installations will be perceived and how it is truly necessary and LONG OVERDUE.

Those in the movement, who have marched endlessly on Saturdays in Washington, on the streets of cities around the country in the rain and snow to the deafening silence of not only millions of citizens but their government and corporate media, have all but given up.

Not because they are tired, but because they don't get it.

Almost 5 years ago, after I had attended so many demonstrations, I realized that the troops had to be thinking the same thing we were, the war was wrong, for so many reasons.

But mostly because they were being killed and maimed for nothing but the pursuit of empire.

So I stood in front of every military base I could get to and talked to the troops, marines and soldiers alike. In March of 2005 I accompanied my son to 29 Palms Marine corps. training base when he was leaving for Fallujah.

After a picnic with 3,000 marines, I left the base, headed for the main intersection, and handed out flyers that denounced the war in Iraq.

I had a huge banner that demanded Bush's resignation and spent the entire afternoon standing there, meeting and greeting marines who were more than happy to take my flyers.

Members of the armed forces get it.

They know the deal and fury is mounting, however slow it is, but the undercurrent of troops being miserable with the wars is there and starting to bubble up to the surface.

That's why this type of action is so critical. Getting behind anti-war veterans, being loud and clear in our support of GI resistance, could possibly break open the crack in the façade of our military machine.

We need to get as many of these veterans up front as possible, with civilians behind them in full view. The national as well as international media has never seen anything like this.

Those of us at this conference will build for it, create an excitement around it, call people to participate who have decided they are tired with marching in circles.

Something this visible and powerful will surely rattle the cages of those who think they are running the show.

As the sun shines on our actions, more and more people will get the idea that outreach to active duty troops will end the bloodshed for all.

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/)

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

U.S. Soldier Killed In Attack On American Headquarters In Baghdad

Oct 2 By CHELSEA J. CARTER (AP) & (Reuters)

A mortar or rocket attack killed a U.S. soldier in the U.S. military's sprawling Camp Liberty, near Baghdad airport, on Thursday, U.S. military said in a statement.

The Multi-National Corps-Iraq soldier was killed Thursday in what is at least the second attack in two weeks at Camp Liberty, part of a group of American bases that make up the American headquarters in Iraq known as Camp Victory.

A rocket struck Camp Liberty last week but caused no casualties, said Army Lt. Col. David Patterson, a military spokesman.

The death raised to at least 4,348 the number of U.S. military personnel who have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Resistance Action



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

Sept 29 (Reuters) & Sept 29 (Reuters) & Sept 30 (Reuters) & Oct 1 (Reuters) & Oct 2 By CHELSEA J. CARTER (AP)

A bomb smuggled into a village mosque Friday killed a prayer leader who also worked as a police officer in an area of northern Iraq considered the last stronghold of insurgents, an official said.

The explosives were hidden under a platform where Narjis Shiwash was overseeing prayers in Namrood, a village about 18 miles (30 kilometers) south of Mosul. Three worshippers were injured, said the police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to media.

The mosque was only lightly guarded and had none of the additional security cordons placed around many larger places of worship around Iraq during the height of sectarian bloodshed several years ago.

A roadside bomb targeting Iraqi oil police wounded three oil police in central Baghdad's Karrada district, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded three policemen when it exploded near their patrol in western Mosul, police said.

Insurgents killed three Iraqi soldiers and wounded another when they attacked an army checkpoint in Mahmudiya, 30 km (20 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded three policemen and two civilians when it struck a police patrol in eastern Baghdad on Tuesday, police said.

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

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“Bomb” Kills Two U.S. Troops Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan

Oct 2, 2009 KABUL (Reuters)

A bomber struck a convoy of U.S. forces in southern Afghanistan on Friday, killing two U.S. service members, a press officer for U.S. troops said.

Captain Elizabeth Mathias gave no further details of the attack.

Grenade Attack Kills U.S. Soldier Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan

10.2.09 AFP

A US soldier died after a grenade attack in the east of the country.

Khost Attack Kills U.S. Service Member



A damaged U.S. armored vehicle is carried away after it was targeted by an attacker in Khost province, eastern of Afghanistan on Sept. 30, 2009. An American service member was killed Wednesday in the attack, officials said. (AP Photo/Nishanuddin Khan)

RAF Gunner Killed In Helmand

2 Oct 09 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that a Gunner from 34 Squadron Royal Air Force Regiment was killed in Afghanistan yesterday, Thursday 1 October 2009.

The Gunner was killed as a result of an explosion that happened whilst on a force protection patrol near to Camp Bastion in central Helmand province yesterday afternoon.

Death Of Warren County Soldier In Afghanistan Leaves Loved Ones At Loss

September 22, 2009 By DENNIS YUSKO, Staff writer, Times Union

HORICON -- Jeremiah and Robert Monroe were inseparable: brothers and best friends.

Growing up in the Adirondacks, Robert looked up to Jeremiah, who was five years older. In recent years, Jeremiah admired Robert for enlisting in the Army and serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Last year, Jeremiah quit his job as a tradesman and became a combat engineer in the Army's 10th Mountain Division based at Fort Drum. The single father thought he could better support his young daughter and extended family with a military career.

On Thursday, Pfc. Jeremiah Monroe was killed on patrol in Afghanistan, two months after he arrived in the war zone with the Seventh Engineer Battalion. His brother, Staff Sgt. Robert Monroe Jr., has taken emergency leave from his Army post in Italy to escort Jeremiah's body home from Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. The younger brother is acting as the family's spokesman,

Jeremiah, 31, was sweeping the city of Kandahar for bombs when a large improvised explosive device, or IED, detonated near the heavily armored "Buffalo" vehicle he was driving, according to the military and his brother.

Coming after the loss of four other relatives in the last 18 months, Jeremiah's death has struck the family hard. Robert Monroe Sr., died from a brain tumor six months ago. The Monroe brothers also lost their grandfather, aunt and uncle.

"Right now, it's real difficult times," Robert Jr. said from his mother's home in Warren County. "We're getting through the initial shock, and I'm doing my best to keep this family together."

The funeral will be 10 a.m. Saturday in St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Chestertown with visiting hours from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. Friday in the Barton-McDermott Funeral Home. Jeremiah Monroe will be buried next to his father in Underwood Cemetery.

In addition to his mother Delores and his brother, Jeremiah is survived by his 9-year-old daughter Delilah Rose, and her mother, Michele.

"He knew exactly what he was getting into, but he joined because he wanted to serve his country," Robert Jr. said. "He made the ultimate sacrifice."

The attack on Jeremiah's vehicle came as violence in Afghanistan has surged. The number of U.S. service members killed in the eight-year war has increased every year since 2004. So far, 362 Americans have died in 2009, up from 294 in all of 2008, according to the Web site icasualties.org.

More than 3,500 soldiers with Fort Drum's Third Brigade Combat Team are now in Afghanistan, base spokesman Capt. Frederick Harrell said. The 10th Mountain Division has lost 27 soldiers in Afghanistan this year, and a total of 82 since 2003, he said.

Jeremiah Monroe arrived at Fort Drum last July and landed in Afghanistan a year later. One of his unit's primary responsibilities was searching for and bombs made by insurgents. He already had received the Purple Heart and other awards for actions overseas, Harrell said.

Raised in Brant Lake in the town of Horicon, Monroe was a talented artist who could draw just about anything, his brother said. He also loved sports and NASCAR and had been doing carpentry, plumbing, masonry and other skilled labor for several.

“We haven’t had the easiest life. We have had some hard times,” Robert Jr. said. “But it brings us closer. We are a tight family, and it helps during these difficult times to have a loving family and community.”

U.S. Military Copter Shot Down In Nangahar

Oct 1 By LORI HINNANT, Associated Press Writer & Reuters

Thursday, a U.S. military helicopter made an emergency landing after coming under rocket-propelled grenade fire in eastern Afghanistan’s Nangahar province, U.S. military spokeswoman Capt. Regina Willis said.

Captain Elizabeth Mathias said the helicopter was damaged in the dawn incident in Nangahar province near the eastern border with Pakistan.

“It did land due to enemy fire. Light injuries. None killed. Nothing severe,” she said.

Resistance Attack Burns Two U.S. Fuel Trucks In Northern Afghanistan



Oil tankers set on fire by Taliban militants in Kunduz, Afghanistan, Oct. 2, 2009. (AP Photo)

Oct 2, 2009 South Asia News

Kunduz, Afghanistan - Taliban insurgents burned two fuel tanker trucks Friday in the northern Afghan province of Kunduz, nearly a month after a deadly airstrike on militant-hijacked petrol trucks in the same province.

The trucks were transporting fuel to foreign armed forces from the Tajik border and were on their way to Kabul when they were ambushed by the Taliban, provincial Governor Mohammad Omar said.

The attack happened on the outskirts of the provincial capital, also called Kunduz, Omar said, adding that both drivers were able to escape unharmed.

Noor Ahmad, one of the drivers, said the Taliban opened fire near the Aliabad district outside Kunduz City and shot out the trucks' tyres.

He said he and his fellow driver then ran to a police station. When they returned, they found the trucks destroyed by rocket-propelled grenades and automatic gunfire, he said.

We Walked Into A Trap, A Killing Zone Of Relentless Gunfire And Rocket Barrages From Afghan Insurgents
“We Will Do To You What We Did To The Russians,’ The Insurgent’s Leader Boasted Over The Radio”
“We Are Pinned Down. We Are Running Low On Ammo. We Have No Air. We’ve Lost Today”
“The Ethnic Pashtun Villagers Pride Themselves On Their Rejection Of Official Authority, Their History Of

Resistance And Their Disdain Of Foreign Forces That Many Regard As Occupiers”

We waited more than an hour for U.S. helicopters to arrive, despite earlier assurances that air cover would be five minutes away.

September 8, 2009 By Jonathan S. Landay, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

GANJGAL, Afghanistan — We walked into a trap, a killing zone of relentless gunfire and rocket barrages from Afghan insurgents hidden in the mountainsides and in a fortress-like village where women and children were replenishing their ammunition.

“We will do to you what we did to the Russians,” the insurgent’s leader boasted over the radio, referring to the failure of Soviet troops to capture Ganjgal during the 1979-89 Soviet occupation.

Dashing from boulder to boulder, diving into trenches and ducking behind stone walls as the insurgents maneuvered to outflank us, we waited more than an hour for U.S. helicopters to arrive, despite earlier assurances that air cover would be five minutes away.

U.S. commanders, citing new rules to avoid civilian casualties, rejected repeated calls to unleash artillery rounds at attackers dug into the slopes and tree lines — despite being told repeatedly that they weren’t near the village.

“We are pinned down. We are running low on ammo. We have no air. We’ve lost today,” Marine Maj. Kevin Williams, 37, said through his translator to his Afghan counterpart, responding to the latter’s repeated demands for helicopters.

Four U.S. Marines were killed Tuesday, the most U.S. service members assigned as trainers to the Afghan National Army to be lost in a single incident since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

Eight Afghan troops and police and the Marine commander’s Afghan interpreter also died in the ambush and the subsequent battle that raged from dawn until 2 p.m. around this remote hamlet in eastern Kunar province, close to the Pakistan border.

Three Americans and 19 Afghans were wounded, and U.S. forces later recovered the bodies of two insurgents, although they believe more were killed.

The Marines were cut down as they sought cover in a trench at the base of the village’s first layer cake-style stone house.

Much of their ammunition was gone.

One Marine was bending over a second, tending his wounds, when both were killed, said Marine Cpl. Dakota Meyer, 21, of Greensburg, Ky., who retrieved their bodies.

“We’re Pinned Down”

A full moon was drenching the mountains in ghostly light as some 60 Afghan soldiers, 20 border police officers, 13 Marine and U.S. Army trainers and I set out for Ganjgal at 3 a.m. from the U.S. base in the Shakani District.

The operation, proposed by the Afghan army and refined by the U.S. trainers, called for the Afghans to search Ganjgal for weapons and hold a meeting with the elders to discuss the establishment of police patrols. The elders had insisted that Afghans perform the sweep. The Americans were there to give advice and call for air and artillery support if required.

Dawn was breaking by the time we alighted for a mile-long walk up a wash of gravel, rock and boulders which winds up to Ganjgal, some 60 rock-walled compounds perched high up the terraced slopes at the eastern end of the valley, six miles from the Pakistani border.

Small teams of Afghan troops and U.S. trainers headed to ridges on the valley’s southern and northern sides, setting up outposts as the main body headed slowly up toward the village and, unbeknownst to us, into the killing zone.

The terrain — craggy ravines and sweeping, tree-studded mountains riddled with boulders and caves — was made for guerrilla warfare.

The ethnic Pashtun villagers pride themselves on their rejection of official authority, their history of resistance and their disdain of foreign forces that many regard as occupiers.

A possible clue to what was to come occurred when the lights in Ganjgal suddenly blinked out while our vehicles were still several miles away, crashing slowly through the semi-dark along a rutted track toward the village.

The first shot cracked out at 5:30 a.m., apparently just as the four Marines and the Afghan unit to which they were attached reached the outskirts of the village. It quickly swelled into a furious storm of gunfire that we realized had been prepared for our arrival.

Several U.S. officers said they suspected that the insurgents had been tipped off by sympathizers in the local Afghan security forces or by the village elders, who announced over the weekend that they were accepting the authority of the local government.

“Whatever we do always leaks,” said Marine Lt. Ademola Fabayo, 28, a New Yorker who was born in Nigeria and is the operations officer for the trainers from the 3rd Marine Division. “You can’t trust even some of their soldiers or officers.”

Sniper rounds snapped off rocks and sizzled overhead. Explosions of recoilless rifle rounds echoed through the valley, while bullets inched closer to the rock wall behind which I crouched with a handful U.S. and Afghan officers.

Lt. Fabayo and several other soldiers later said they'd seen women and children in the village shuttling ammunition to fighters positioned in windows and roofs. Across the valley and from their ridgeline outposts, the Afghans and Americans fired back.

At 5:50 a.m., Army Capt. Will Swenson, of Seattle, WA, the trainer of the Afghan Border Police unit in Shakani, began calling for air support or artillery fire from a unit of the Army's 10th Mountain Division.

The responses came back: No helicopters were available.

"This is unbelievable. We have a platoon (of Afghan army) out there and we've got no Hotel Echo," Swenson shouted above the din of gunfire, using the military acronym for high explosive artillery shells.

"We're pinned down."

The insurgents were firing from inside the village and from positions in the hills immediately behind it and to either side. Judging from the angles of the ricochets, several appeared to be trying to outflank us to get better shots.

"What are you going to do?" Maj. Talib, the operations officer of the Afghan army unit, asked Maj. Williams through his translator.

"We are getting air," Williams replied.

"What are we going to do?" Talib repeated.

"We are getting air," Williams replied again, perhaps knowing that none was available but hoping to quiet Talib.

At 6:05 a.m., as our position was becoming increasingly tenuous, Swenson and Fabayo agreed that it was time to pull back and radioed for artillery to fire smoke rounds to mask our retreat.

"They don't have any smoke. They only have Willy Pete," Swenson reported, referring to white phosphorus rounds that spew smoke.

Fifty minutes later, as a curtain of white phosphorus smoke roiled across the valley, Swenson and Fabayo unleashed an intense volley of covering fire while the rest of us sprinted back some 20 yards to a series of dirt furrows, weighed down by our flak vests and water carriers.

The two officers raced back to join us. Everyone jumped up and ran for the next stone wall. Everyone but me. Afraid that too many people were jammed together as they raced, offering easy targets, I waited behind for a break in the gunfire, an Afghan border police officer crouched next to me.

We soon noticed that the insurgent snipers were trying to outflank us again. I saw one up on a small rise fire and miss us by several feet. My companion decided that it was time to go and bolted away across the wash, but the gunfire grew too intense, and again I pulled my body into the dirt and rocks.

I wasn't as terrified as I was angry: angry at the absence of air support, angry that there was no artillery fire, angry that Williams' interpreter had been killed, angry at the realization that the operation had obviously been betrayed and angry at myself for not bolting with the others.

I knew it was time to move when I saw a gaggle of Afghan soldiers pounding through the boulders past me, their commander, a bright 26-year-old lieutenant named Ruhollah, hopping between two of them, a bullet wound in his groin. Staying put was no longer an option.

Bundling my legs beneath me and grabbing the small bag I use to carry my pad, pens, glasses and other necessities, I sprang and ran, trying to weave as bullets kicked up dust around me.

I reached the next wall and plunged behind it, nearly falling on top of Swenson, Fabayo and several badly wounded U.S. soldiers.

As Fabayo cracked off rounds, Swenson lay flat on his back, clasping a pressure bandage to the shoulder of one soldier with one hand and holding the microphone of his radio in the other, calling out insurgents' positions to two U.S. helicopters that finally had arrived.

It was now 7:10 a.m., and with the helicopters prowling overhead and firing into the hillsides, the incoming gunfire slackened enough for us to move again.

I stumbled down the valley to safety after I helped one of the injured soldiers into a medivac helicopter.

Capt. Swenson and Lt. Fabayo headed off to find vehicles and, together with Cpl. Meyer, crashed back up the way we'd just fled to retrieve the bodies of the dead Marines and any other casualties they could find.

“There Is No Way To Be 100 Percent Certain That We Are Not Training The Taliban,” Said Colonel Brown: “Wages, At About \$120 A Month, Often Lag Behind What The Taliban Pay Their Foot Soldiers”

Oct 2, 2009 By Maria Golovnina, Reuters [Excerpts]

KABUL

Gun shots ring sharply across a valley littered with rusting hulks of Soviet tanks as Afghan soldiers crouch down and open fire into the dusty haze.

No one fires back and enemy positions are empty.

Here at the Kabul Military Training Centre, the exercise is part of U.S. efforts to put the Afghan army on its own feet in hopes that, one day, Western troops could leave Afghanistan.

Once a Soviet military base, the facility is now at the heart of plans by General Stanley McChrystal, U.S. and NATO military chief in Afghanistan, to create a strong enough Afghan fighting force capable of defending its country from the Taliban.

“A lot of these guys have a lot of experience,” said Staff Sergeant David Adams, a U.S. mentor from Arizona as he pointed at a group of soldiers receiving instructions in the blistering heat on how to storm and secure buildings.

“If you talk to these guys about how to execute an ambush, they’ve done it many more times than I have,” he added, smiling.

Desertion is a big problem.

Up to seven percent of soldiers disappear after a few weeks of training, mentors say, raising suspicions that some of the skills are leaking to the Taliban.

“There is no way to be 100 percent certain that we are not training the Taliban,” said Colonel Brown.

A point of resentment shared by soldiers in most armies, Afghan recruits often complain about low wages.

These concerns are embittered by the fact that wages, at about \$120 a month, often lag behind what the Taliban pay their foot soldiers.

“We need more money,” said Sergeant Hakimullah, an Afghan officer who supervises some of the training. “What I get is not enough to support my family of 15.”

Afghan Soldiers Deserting Kandahar Province: “Many Of Them Are Migrating Back To The Comparatively Safer Northern Territories”

Sep 30, 2009 Bill Graveland, THE CANADIAN PRESS

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – At a time when every experienced Afghan soldier on the ground in Kandahar is worth his weight in gold, many of them are now leaving in droves over something as simple as a pay dispute.

There are about 2,600 Afghan soldiers at work in Kandahar province, braving daily skirmishes with the Taliban and the ever-present dangers of improvised explosive devices and suicide bombers – many of them having left friends and families behind in northern Afghanistan.

Now, because there's no longer a financial premium for working in the volatile southern provinces, many of them are migrating back to the comparatively safer northern territories, to the consternation of Canada's Operational Mentor Liason Team, which coordinates their training.

"Part of the problem is they used to get an incentive for working here in the south, and they've blanketed the incentive," OMLT commanding officer Col. Gregory Burt said in an interview with The Canadian Press.

"In other words, a guy doing guard duty in Kabul gets the same incentive as the guy getting shot at every day down here in the south."

Burt, who is wrapping up his tour to Afghanistan, said he started looking into the matter a couple of months ago when he noticed many of the Afghan soldiers were either not renewing their military contracts or choosing instead to go AWOL – absent without leave.

Or so he thought at first.

"They've gone AWOL from here, but they're signing up in the north and getting in again, and are getting the same (pay)," said an exasperated Burt.

"Or, there are guys finishing the three-year contract who go up to the north and get back in."

Many departing soldiers don't even turn in their uniforms, because they plan on wearing them up north, he added.

There are roughly 80,000 Afghans serving in the Afghan National Army; the average Afghan soldier makes about US\$200 per month – a significant improvement over pay rates just a few years ago. Those soldiers deployed in Kandahar used to get an undisclosed premium – "enough to make a difference," Burt said – to create an incentive for the tougher assignment.

Now, all the soldiers receive the same salary.

"It was being down south and getting danger pay, plus it was in a way isolation pay for being away from their family," he said. "So, if you get the same thing working near your family, where are you going to go?"

Resistance Spreading To The Afghan North

01 October 2009 Written by Jalal Mirzad, Quqnoos [Excerpts]

Taliban have surprisingly intensified their insurgent attacks in many northern Afghan provinces since this spring.

Taliban militants are reportedly present at large groups in the northern provinces of Kunduz and Baghlan, where they have recently carried out multiple attacks against Afghan and international forces.

The widespread violence in the Afghan north has provoked 'serious concerns' both for Afghan government and the people as NATO and US troops have shifted their supplying route to the north through the Middle East.

Taliban militants across the Afghan border in Pakistani have set dozens of US and NATO supplying trucks on fire over the past two years, forcing the international troops to seek an alternative supplying line.

WELCOME TO OBAMA'S WAR: REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW



A soldier from the U.S. Army's 118th Military Police Co., based at Fort Bragg, N.C., respond to shots fired at a combat outpost in the Jalrez Valley in Afghanistan's Wardak Province, Sept. 18, 2009. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)



U.S. Army soldiers from 4th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment from Fort Drum, N.Y., investigate a rocket attack on their combat outpost in the Jalrez Valley in Afghanistan's Wardak Province Sept. 24, 2009. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)



CPL Mark Colborn from the U.S. Army's Alpha Company, 3rd brigade of 10th Mountain Division based in Fort Drum, New York, searches for IEDs laid by the Taliban in the fields along the road near the village of Sha Mazar in Logar province September 26, 2009. REUTERS/Nikola Solic

TROOP NEWS

**THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THE TROOPS
HOME:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



A wounded U.S. soldier receives first aid inside a bunker in the village of Bargematal, Nuristan province, August 25, 2009. REUTERS/Oleg Popov

**“I Don’t See Any Real Positive
Changes” In The VA:
“All They Do Is Give Me Wellbutrin For
My Depression And Ask Me Why I Think
I’m Raging. Then It’s ‘See You In Six
Months’“**

Oct 1, 2009 By Jamie Reno, Newsweek Web Exclusive [Excerpts]

Dorman Branch, a Marine sergeant from Clinton, La., who saw heavy combat in Afghanistan, was diagnosed with severe PTSD and degenerative disc disease and is on 80 percent disability.

He says that to see a doctor he has to drive 130 miles to New Orleans.

There is no rural outreach program yet in Branch's neck of the woods.

"I don't see any real positive changes" in the VA, says Branch, who has trouble sleeping, hearing loss, memory loss, severe headaches, and anger issues.

"All they do is give me Wellbutrin [a legal drug] for my depression and ask me why I think I'm raging. Then it's 'see you in six months.'

"I can't work. My wife is in school. I was diagnosed with degenerative disc disease five years ago and just got surgery recently. I have a great caseworker, but she's the only one who's really helped us."

To date, the VA has diagnosed 111,239 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans with PTSD, but has treated only a small percentage of those.

Of course, studies from RAND and many others suggest that the number of veterans with PTSD is far greater.

Meanwhile, the lives of far too many veterans with untreated PTSD and unprocessed disability claims tragically deteriorate.

And the problem will likely get worse before it gets better: up to 1 million new veteran patients are expected to flood the VA by the end of 2013, including an unprecedented number of women (11 percent of the total troops deployed since 9/11 are women).

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

Firearms are second only to the Constitution in importance; they are the peoples’ liberty’s teeth.

-- George Washington

“Your Cat’s Thought Process Isn’t As Short-Circuited As The Cognitive Quagmire Going On In The Minds Of McChrystal And The People Backing Him”

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

September 29, 2009 By Jeff Huber, Daily Kos

Commander Jeff Huber, U.S. Navy (Retired) writes at Pen and Sword .

Everything we're doing in Central and Southwest Asia supposedly has something to do with eradicating al-Qaeda, yet there is no sign of al-Qaeda in Afghanistan.

The argument for persisting in Afghanistan says that we have to make sure al-Qaeda doesn't go back there, yet as former CIA officer Philip Giraldi recently noted, credible assessments suggest 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."

For the sake of keeping fewer than a dozen evildoers out of Afghanistan, Gen. Stanley McChrystal and his legion of supporters in the Pentagon, Congress and the media insist we need to bring increase U.S. troop levels to over 100,000, and the overall coalition force level to a half-million, the number of troops we had on the ground at one point in Vietnam.

The half-million figure comes from the counterinsurgency field manual (FM 3-24, Counterinsurgency), which calls for 20 to 25 counterinsurgent forces per every 1,000 locals, and Afghanistan contain a tad over 28 million locals.

Your cat can do the math from there.

What your cat can't tell you is the thought process behind the conclusion that it makes sense to pit a half-million persons under arms against a force of eight or ten persons who aren't in the vicinity of where you plan to place your half-million armed people.

That's because your cat's thought process isn't as short-circuited as the cognitive quagmire going on in the minds of McChrystal and the people backing him.

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

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The Dismantling Of A Belief System



From: Richard Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: October 01, 2009
Subject: The Dismantling Of A Belief System

The Dismantling Of A Belief System

**There is nothing more terrifying than being afraid of your own thoughts.
This is the internal turmoil of being betrayed by your government in a time of war.
I did not serve in Vietnam for the cause of freedom.
I served massive corporate greed in America for the cause of profit.
Betrayal is never brought to the forefront, because to do so is to admit the war was wrong in the first place.**

Denial becomes the lethal suppressant of truth.
Lying is the most powerful weapon in war.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
October 1, 2009

He who does not know history,
is destined to remain a child.
Marcus Cicero

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

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

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

The Jerry Rescue:
Most Honorable Anniversary:
October 1, 1851
**“A Group Of Men Forcibly Overpowered
The Guards With Clubs And Axes And
Freed Jerry A Second Time”**

Carl Bunin Peace History October 1-7

In the “Jerry Rescue,” citizens of Syracuse, New York, broke into the city’s police station and freed William Henry (called Jerry), a runaway slave working as a barrel-maker.

The federal Fugitive Slave Law required “good citizens” to assist in the return of those who had fled “ownership” by another.

A group of black and white men created a chaotic diversion and managed to free Jerry but he was later re-arrested.

At his second hearing, a group of men, their skin color disguised with burnt cork, forcibly overpowered the guards with clubs and axes and freed Jerry a second time; he was then secretly taken over the border to Canada.

NYHistory.com

Among the more interesting events in Syracuse history is the story of the Jerry Rescue.

The event occurred on October 1, 1851, while the anti-slavery Liberty Party was holding its New York State Convention.

Leaders of the local Abolition movement, including Underground Railroad Stationmaster Jermain Loguen and others, had organized a local committee to thwart enforcement of the recently adopted Fugitive Slave Law.

The previous May, then Secretary of State Daniel Webster repeated his previous criticism of the Abolitionists and their promise to thwart the law. Webster proclaimed from a balcony facing Syracuse City Hall that the law "will be executed in all the great cities - here in Syracuse - in the midst of the next Anti-Slavery Convention, if the occasion shall arise."

And so it did.

Around noon on October 1, federal marshals from Rochester, Auburn, Syracuse, and Canandaigua, accompanied by the local police, arrested a man who called himself Jerry. also known as William Henry.

Jerry was working as a barrel maker, and was arrested at his workplace. He was originally told the charge was theft until after he was in manacles. On being informed that he was being arrested under the Fugitive Slave Law, he put up substantial resistance, but was subdued.

Word of the arrest quickly reached the Convention, then in session at a nearby church. There are reports that the wife of Commissioner Sabine, who would hear the case, had already leaked plans of the arrest.

By pre-arranged signal, church bells began ringing, and a crowd gathered at Sabine's office, where Jerry had been taken for arraignment.

An immediate effort to free the prisoner was unsuccessful, and though he escaped to the street in irons, he was rapidly recaptured.

The arraignment was put off until evening and relocated to a larger room. A large crowd gathered in the street, this time equipped for a more serious rescue attempt.

With a battering ram the door was broken in and despite pistol shots out the window by one of the deputy marshals, it became clear that the crowd was too large and determined to be resisted.

The prisoner was surrendered, and one deputy marshal broke his arm jumping from a window to escape the crowd.

The injured prisoner was hidden in the city for several days in the home of a local butcher know for his anti-abolitionist sentiments, and later taken in a wagon to Oswego, where he crossed Lake Ontario into Canada.

The following day, Gerrit Smith introduced the following resolution, adopted at the Liberty Party convention:

“WHEREAS, Daniel Webster, That base and infamous enemy of the human race, did in a speech of which he delivered himself, in Syracuse last Spring, exultingly and insultingly predict that fugitive slaves would yet be taken away from Syracuse and even from anti-slavery conventions in Syracuse, and whereas the attempt to fulfill this prediction was delayed until the first day of October, 1851, when the Liberty party of the State of New York were holding their annual convention in Syracuse; and whereas the attempt was defeated by the mighty uprising of 2,500 brave men, before whom the half-dozen kidnapers were ‘as tow’, therefore,

“Resolved, That we rejoice that the City of Syracuse- the anti-slavery city of Syracuse- the city of anti-slavery conventions, our beloved and glorious city of Syracuse- still remains undisgraced by the fulfillment of the satanic prediction of the satanic Daniel Webster.”

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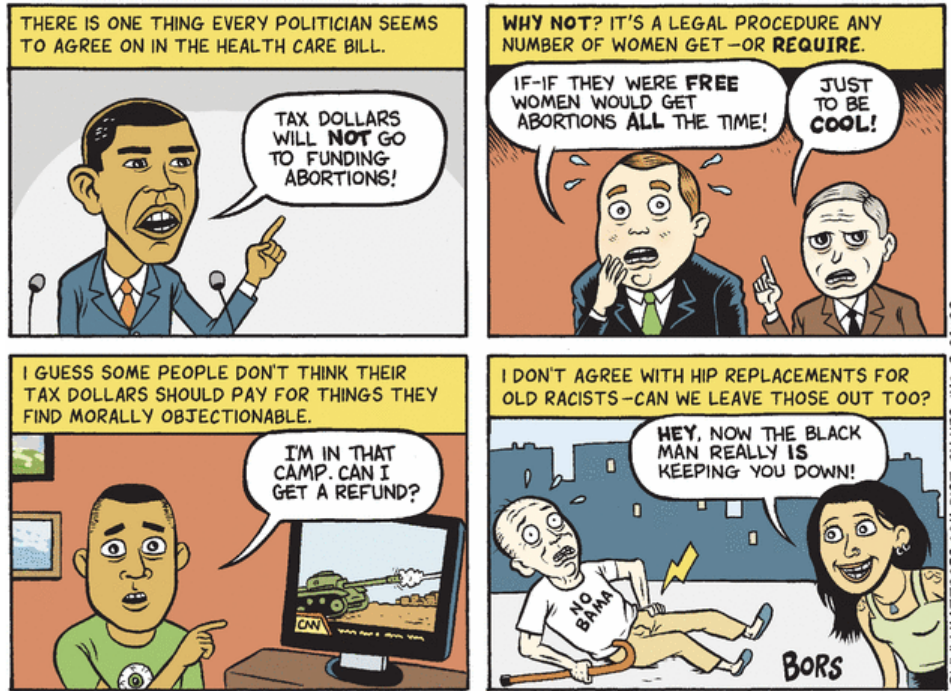
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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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