

Military Resistance 7K1

Winning Hearts And Minds In Afghanistan!

**[In Afghan Culture, The Flags Flown By The
U.S. Occupation Soldiers Say “Hello There,
We Are Friends, Here To Help You And Mean
You No Harm. Have A Nice Day”**



U.S. special operations vehicle stuck in mud in Afghanistan's Farah province, Nov. 1, 2009. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“Obviously Morale Is Down”

“Taskforce THOR, Which Clears Roads Of Bombs And Other Explosives, Is Reeling After The Loss Of 11 Members”



A memorial to fallen members of Taskforce THOR, at their headquarters in Kandahar airfield October 29, 2009. Once stationed at a large base in Iraq, THOR now spends days at a time at remote frontline outposts in Afghanistan. They built their own headquarters in Kandahar after finding the building assigned to them full of rotting wood and rodents. REUTERS/Mohammed Abbas

Nov 1, 2009 By Mohammed Abbas, Reuters [Excerpts]

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan

Frustrated by their decreasing military role in Iraq as they hand over to Iraqi security forces, many U.S. soldiers are itching to join the war in Afghanistan.

When they get there, though, some are shocked by the escalating violence and relatively spartan conditions.

The thrill of leaving Iraq for more action in Afghanistan quickly wore off for one U.S. battalion after a string of deaths since they began to arrive in Kandahar in April.

Taskforce THOR, which clears roads of bombs and other explosives, is reeling after the loss of 11 members, and a monument to the dead has already been erected at their newly built headquarters at Kandahar airfield.

“It was good at first, as we were getting to do our job more. But as the missions went on we started to lose people ... people you worked with every day and joked around with are gone,” said Sergeant Marshall Wright.

First Lieutenant Matthew Fitzgibbon said the unit had made a far greater impact in Afghanistan than it ever would have in Iraq, but morale was down.

One of the battalion's platoons had recently been taken off the front line after four members were killed by a roadside bomb, he said.

“Obviously morale is down. Anyone who isn't down about losing a colleague needs a bit more time to look at the big picture,” he said.

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

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

British Soldier Killed Near Sangin

01 Nov 2009 Telegraph Media Group Limited

A British soldier was killed in an explosion yesterday near Sangin in central Helmand Province, Afghanistan, the Ministry of Defence said today. Next of kin have been informed.

The soldier was serving with the Royal Logistics Corps when he was killed.

Hometown Mourns Ochoa



Alfonso Ochoa Jr.

October 15, 2009 By Will Hoover, Advertiser Staff Writer

People in the home state of Lance Cpl. Alfonso Ochoa Jr. — the 20-year-old Kane'ohē-based Marine killed in action Saturday in Afghanistan — were saddened yesterday by news of the young man's death.

Ochoa, an Armona, Calif., native, died while supporting combat operations in Farah province, in the southwest part of Afghanistan.

“He was such a caring individual, who would give you the shirt off his back,” Mike Richardson, a close friend of Ochoa's, said on the Los Angeles Times' Web site. “He will truly be missed.”

“Alfonso is my hero,” added Eve Mendoza, another friend, also on the Times' site. “He showed me the ropes to life, and thanks to him I'm a better person.”

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger issued a statement calling Ochoa “a brave young man whose commitment to serving his country will always be remembered. We send our condolences to all of Alfonso's loved ones who are mourning this terrible loss.”

Flags at the state Capitol in Sacramento were flown at half-staff to honor Ochoa.

According to a report by CBS 47 TV in Fresno, shortly after his 18th birthday Ochoa transferred from Hanford West High to Hanford Adult School, so he could graduate early and enter the Marine Corps in January 2008.

Hanford West principal Bobby Peters remembered Ochoa as bright and respectful, and the kind of person who could be an inspiration to others, the CBS 47 report said. He described Ochoa as a good student who worked hard and didn't make excuses.

“He knew what he wanted to do,” said Peters, who recalled that during Ochoa's junior year the student told him he wanted to join the military as a way to serve his country, better his life and continue his education.

“He sticks out in my mind. ... His is one of those stories that I tell other kids when they may be facing some adversity in their life.”

Ochoa joined the Marines on Jan. 13, 2008, and reported to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, one week later.

Grandfather Dies Four Days After 23-Year-Old Grandson Was Killed In Afghanistan

October 22, 2009 By John Darling, Ashland Daily Tidings

When Richard Routson got the news that his grandson, 23-year-old Kevin Thomson, was killed Oct. 3 in the war in Afghanistan, he didn't seem to absorb it. The 83-year-old

man had been in hospice care for three months with thyroid cancer at Mountain Meadows Retirement Community.

"I told him, but he was so sick. He didn't have a lot of expression," said his widow, Janet Routson, the step-grandmother of Thomson. "He was really starting to process it when the choir came to sing."

The Mountain Meadows choir, called the Meadowlarks, walked over from their practice on the spur of the moment and sang a plaintive song, "The Snow Begins to Fall," outside the Routson's window, in honor of Thomson on Oct. 7.

"The look of worry and concern on Dick's face, the look in his eyes, with Kevin dying and himself dying, you could see it was all sinking in — and Kevin's mother (a single mom with only one child) being left alone," Janet Routson said.

Madeline Hill, the creator of Mountain Meadows and an across-the-street neighbor of the Routsons, prompted the choir to their curbside performance.

"Dick was totally aware," Hill said. "I talked to him after the choir left. He was so incredibly grateful of the thoughtfulness of the community and how they honored his grandson. He patted his heart and put my hand on the same spot on his chest. It brought tears to my eyes."

Four days later, on Oct. 11, Dick Routson died.

Routson and his grandson were very close, Janet said. The soldier's mother, Debra Lee Routson, 47, is a traffic controller with Bulldog Trucking in Reno, Nev.

A winner of the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and other unit citations, Thomson was one of eight soldiers in his unit killed in Kamdesh, Afghanistan, near the Pakistan border, when enemy forces attacked their outpost with small arms, rocket-propelled grenades and indirect fire, according to www.freedomremembered.com.

News stories said the installation, Camp Keating, was overrun by 300 insurgents in a pre-dawn assault — and they called it the deadliest attack on U.S. forces in 15 months.

The serenade at the Routson's door, said choir member Norman Crane, "helped Dick and Janet bear up. I'm glad we could do it because we lost Dick soon after. We got a round of applause from them."

Choir leader Harriet Berman said, "So many of us are not touched by the war, but this was like it happened to a member of the family."

The song, she said, "is very dear to us and was chosen for its expressive and heartfelt mood."

It begins, "Soon the day is over/Soon the sky fades dim/Soon the Earth will sing its winter hymn."

“Singing for Dick did as much for us as it did for them,” said Berman. “The feeling of giving, being part of community, being able to comfort each other, it spread through the community.”

Deerfield Beach Soldier Killed In Afghanistan: Spc. Daniel C. Lawson Was A Father Of Three

October 20, 2009 By RAFAEL A. OLMEDA, South Florida Sun Sentinel

DEERFIELD BEACH — A Deerfield Beach man is among four soldiers reported killed in Afghanistan last week when their vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device in Kandahar province, the Department of Defense announced today.

Spc. Daniel Courtney Lawson, 33, was assigned to the 569th Mobility Augmentation Company, 4th Engineer Battalion, Fort Carson, Colo. Also killed in the Oct. 15 attack were: Staff Sgt. Glen H. Stivison Jr., 34, of Blairsville, Pa.; Spc. Jesus O. Flores, Jr., 28, of La Mirada, Calif; and Pfc. Brandon M. Styer, 19, of Lancaster, Pa.

Fort Carson spokesman Devin Fisher said Lawson joined the Army in January 2008 and was deployed to Iraq on Feb. 15, 2009. From there, he was sent to Afghanistan in May.

Lawson earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and Campaign Star, and the Iraq Campaign Medal and Campaign Star.

His mother, Carolyn Lawson, said joining the Army was partly a financial decision for Lawson, who was born and raised in Deerfield Beach and graduated from Deerfield Beach High School in 1994.

“He was so full of life,” his mother said. “Outgoing. Helpful. Kind. Considerate. A fun-loving, big kid.”

Married since 1998, Lawson and his wife, Latoria, have three children. His oldest daughter, Kiara, is 10. Kourtney, also a girl, is 8. And their youngest child, a 5-year-old boy, is named Kevon.

Lawson earned an associate's degree in computer programming from ITT Technical Career Institute and worked as a teacher's assistant in the Broward County school system.

But he joined the military for a more stable financial future for his family, she said.

“Each day, I'm accepting it a little bit more,” Carolyn Lawson said of losing her son. “My faith in God is that He knows what is best. That's where my strength comes from.”

Lawson was the first serviceman from Broward to be killed in action this year, and the fourth from South Florida. Two others from South Florida are:

Maged M. Hussein, 43, of Wellington, an Army civilian employee killed on May 25 in Afghanistan;

Cpl. Christian A. Guzman Rivera, 21, of Homestead, killed Aug. 6 in Afghanistan;

Edward B. Smith, 30, of Homestead, killed Sept. 24 in Afghanistan.

Fallen Yorktown Soldier Coming Home



Army Spc. Anthony 'Gabe' Green: Courtesy photo

10/22/2009 By Zeke MacCormack, Express-News

Army Spc. Anthony "Gabe" Green cherished being a farmer and a soldier, and the Yorktown resident put both skills to use on duty with the Texas National Guard in Afghanistan, where he was killed Friday.

Green, 28, was deployed there in March on an Agricultural Development Team with the 143rd Airborne Infantry Brigade, based in Austin.

"He loved working with the (Afghans), teaching them how to irrigate from a windmill they erected, increasing their yield threefold," said A. Cornell Green, his father.

Green and a teammate, Sgt. Chris Staats of Boerne, died when an improvised explosive device hit their vehicle.

Graduating in 2000 from Yorktown High School, Green wed longtime sweetheart Lindsay Afflerbach five years later and went to work on her family's farm in DeWitt County, where they were raising two daughters.

"Gabriel was a loving daddy, devoted husband and he was the most wonderful, strong, brave and selfless man that I have ever known," his widow said Wednesday. "My

daughters, Kaydence and Madie, and I will carry his love and strength with us forever. We love him and will miss him more than words can express. We are very proud of him.”

One of eight children born to Patricia and Cornell Green, “Gabe” followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather in joining the military.

“We were all in the military at the same age, in combat,” said Cornell Green, 64. “He loved his country.”

Before being sent to Afghanistan, Gabe was twice deployed to Iraq between 2004 and 2007 and was wounded both times.

His familiarity with farm animals prompted the military to send Gabe to Texas A&M and Purdue University for coursework so he could serve as his unit’s veterinarian in Afghanistan.

Gabe, whose body is due to arrive home today, was promoted to sergeant upon his death.

Visitation is set for 6 p.m. Friday at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorktown, where a funeral will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday.

“He belongs to the community now,” Cornell Green said.

Blairsville Native Dies Serving In Afghanistan

October 23, 2009 By Jeff Himler, BLAIRSVILLE DISPATCH

BLAIRSVILLE -- Staff Sgt. Glen H. Stivison Jr. placed the welfare of the men in his Army unit above everything else, save that of his family.

True to form, the Blairsville native was leading a mission to assist fellow U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan Oct. 15 when his vehicle encountered a concealed explosive device, fatally injuring him and three other occupants.

Details of the ultimate sacrifice made by their 34-year-old son have been growing clearer in the days since a military officer arrived in Blairsville with the dread news for Glen Sr. and Jan Stivison.

Jan Stivison said Wednesday she was told her son's convoy of vehicles already was on the move when he decided they should alter their course to answer a distress call from a platoon that was under attack. The distressed platoon was “taking heavy fire, and one of their vehicles was hit,” she related.

But, she said, her son and his fellow soldiers “weren't able to reach the people they were going to help before the explosion,” along Highway 1 near Kandahar, Afghanistan. As was usual, she said, her son was in the lead vehicle of the convoy.

"My son's men loved him," she said, noting the mostly younger soldiers in his unit referred to him affectionately as "Papa Sti." Although, in terms of age, they were more like younger brothers, she said, "He referred to them as his kids."

"He told me his men would charge the gates of hell with nothing more than a spoon if he asked them to," she said. At the same time, "If they had to go out on a dangerous mission, they knew he'd be leading the charge."

A Department of Defense release Monday confirmed that Stivison was among four soldiers who died of wounds suffered when their vehicle was attacked with an improvised explosive device (IED) in Kandahar province. The others who perished were Pfc. Brandon M. Styer, 19, of Lancaster, Spc. Jesus O. Flores, Jr., 28, of La Mirada, Calif., and Spc. Daniel C. Lawson, 33, of Deerfield Beach, Fla. They all were assigned to the 569th Mobility Augmentation Company, 4th Engineer Battalion, based at Fort Carson, Colo.

The explosive device cut short the military career of Glen Stivison Jr., a 13-year Army veteran, husband and father of two boys. But his mother noted the combat engineer had completed the requirements for promotion to first sergeant and is expected to receive that recognition posthumously, along with the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

The latter honor, she said, stems from an incident when Glen Stivison Jr. was credited with saving the life of his own first sergeant in late July, after the other officer stepped on a hidden IED that blew away the lower part of his right leg.

She said her son quickly applied a tourniquet and called in assistance to have his first sergeant and friend promptly evacuated for medical treatment.

"They say, because of my son's quick action, his very close friend is alive today," and recuperating at Walter Reed Army Hospital, Jan Stivison said.

Jan Stivison said her son had talked about joining the armed services while still a student at Blairsville High School. After he graduated in 1994, he initially pursued studies at Lock Haven University and Westmoreland County Community College.

When he was 21, he took a trip to Pittsburgh to take a military entrance test. His mother recalled cautioning him, "Don't sign any papers." But, at dinner that evening, he surprised his parents with the news that he'd enlisted in the Army.

Glen Stivison Jr. completed tours in Korea and Iraq before heading back to the Middle East in February. She said her son initially returned to Iraq but his unit was reassigned in May to Afghanistan to help clear explosives from roads.

Jan Stivison noted, when she became concerned about her son's safety on his latest mission, he replied simply, "I am a soldier. This is my job."

She said her son also reassured her: "He said, 'I'm Iron Man. Nothing's going to happen to me.'"

When Stivison's unit arrived in Afghanistan, he told his mother that the soldiers slept in tents but that cots were in short supply. Illustrating his regard for the men in his unit, she said, her son used his cot to stow his equipment and slept on the ground along with the other soldiers.

“He said, 'When my men have cots, I'll use a cot,'” she recalled.

“It took them two months to get cots.”

Stivison was able to return to his home in Colorado Springs, Colo., to see his wife, Eryn, and their children -- Andrew Wyatt, 6, and William Blaze, 8 -- during a leave in late September, before returning to duty in Afghanistan.

During such leaves, his mother said, “He spent as much time as he could with his kids. He went to school and ate lunch with them, and he went to their after-school activities. He took them to track practice and ran along with them.”

Family members drove to Dover, Del., last Friday to witness the arrival back on U.S. soil of Stivison's remains. Jan Stivison said she planned to return today to Dover so she can accompany her son's body to Colorado Springs, where a visitation will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Shrine of Remembrance Funeral Home.

Funeral services are scheduled for 11 a.m. Monday at the Shrine of Remembrance “America the Beautiful” Chapel. Committal services with full military honors will follow.

Jan Stivison said a memorial service will be scheduled at a later date in Blairsville, at the First United Methodist Church.

Glen Stivison Jr. last returned to his hometown during a two-week break at Easter, during which he helped celebrate the 80 birthday of his maternal grandmother, Georgia Graham, who resides in the Aultman area.

Though he was known for his quiet demeanor as a youth, Stivison left a strong impression on those who knew him as he was growing up in Blairsville.

Before graduating from Blairsville High School, Stivison played for three years at offensive and defensive lineman for football coach Ab Dettorre.

Dettorre recalled Stivison as “a team kind of player” who enjoyed football. “He was a tough kid. He was ready to get in the dirt and play the game.”

Off the field, he said, Stivison was mature and courteous. “He was a good kid. If he was your neighbor, and your mower broke, he'd cut your grass.”

Stivison also wrestled in high school and enjoyed the outdoors, Dettorre said.

Dettorre called Stivison's death “a whole community loss.”

“I just feel so bad,” the coach said. He was a gentleman. Unfortunately, he died way too young.”

Jim Yohe, a retired Blairsville teacher who resides in Myrtle Beach, S.C., fondly remembered Stivison as a student in his U.S. history class.

“He was an extremely even-tempered person who was quiet and a hard worker,” Yohe said. “He was just the kind of guy you'd like to have around.”

Blairsville Elementary teacher Kathy Frola taught Stivison as a first-grader and helped organize an effort by students at the school to send letters and a Christmas care package to the soldier in 2003, when he was completing his first tour in Iraq. At the time, Stivison's younger brother, Ben, was a student in Frola's classroom and another brother, Billy, was a fourth-grader at the school.

“We were very proud of Glen,” Frola said. “The first-graders considered him our hero.”

“Our sympathy goes out to his family,” she said. “He was a wonderful young man.”

During last Friday's home football game at Blairsville, a moment of silence was observed in memory of Glen Stivison Jr. and the U.S. flag was flown at half-staff.

Tuesday, in a show of support for the Stivison family, faculty and staff at all buildings in the Blairsville-Saltsburg School District raised more than \$1,000 that will be given to the family to help with travel expenses or other needs. Employees who dressed down in jeans that day paid \$5 toward the fund drive while some participants donated more.

As the Stivisons struggle to cope with their loss, Jan said, “Blairsville has been wonderful. So many people are praying for us and have opened up their hearts and wallets to help us.”

Area Guardsman Killed In Afghanistan

10/19/2009 By Zeke MacCormack - Express-News

Fredericksburg native Christopher Staats, sent to Afghanistan in March to help farmers, was one of two Texas National Guardsmen killed when an improvised explosive device hit their vehicle Friday.

“Chris' entire goal was to help the Afghan people become self-sufficient,” Montaigne Staats said Sunday of her husband. “I'm so proud of Chris for his hard work, his dedication, his service and belief in helping others.”

Spc. Anthony G. Green, 28, of Yorktown, also died in the attack in Wardak province, which wounded two other soldiers. He and Staats, a 32-year-old staff sergeant, were assigned to the 143rd Infantry Detachment in Austin.

They were the 11th and 12th Texas National Guardsmen to die in Iraq and Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001.

Staats lived in Boerne and worked at Halff Associates, a San Antonio engineering firm.

He and his wife, who teaches fifth grade in Harlandale Independent School District, were married in 2005, eight days before he left on a yearlong peacekeeping mission to Kosovo. They have no children.

His deployment to the more dangerous conflict in Afghanistan led Montaigne Staats, 29, to go into "survival mode" and stop watching news.

"I knew there was a lot of fighting going on, and Chris couldn't tell me about it," she said.

Her husband graduated from Texas A&M in 2002 with a degree in renewable natural resources.

"He was among 12 people selected from across the state to be on an agribusiness development team," she said.

Since getting the news, Staats' friends and relatives have been consoling each other at the family homestead in Fredericksburg, where Staats will likely be laid to rest.

"The soldiers came here Friday night," said Bobby Staats, Chris Staats' father. "They said he was in a vehicle and an IED went off, and really more than that I don't know."

In joining the guard upon graduating from Fredericksburg High School in 1996, Chris Staats followed the lead of his father and his older brother, Garrett, 38.

Chris Staats was anxious about working in Afghanistan. But, his father said, "He said, 'It is what it is.' That's what his job was."

Staats' mother, Lorna Eckhardt, speaking for herself and her husband, Gary, said, "We're proud of him, and he'll be missed."

Staats' widow draws strength from the words of her husband's comrades. "They said 'Chris was a man's man.' It's true," said Montaigne Staats. "They were saying he really was the glue that held them together, and was pushing for a lot of things to help the people in Afghanistan."

Son Of Fayetteville Woman Is Killed In Combat In Afghanistan



Army Pfc. Brandon M. Styer (Courtesy)

10.16.09 By ROSCOE BARNES III, Staff writer, Publicopiniononline.com

Pfc. Brandon M. "B-Sty" Styer, son of Jill M. Myers of Fayetteville, was among four U.S. soldiers who died recently from wounds suffered in an attack while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, according to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Styer, 19, was assigned to the 569th Mobility Augmentation Company, 4th Engineer Battalion, Fort Carson, Colo.

He died on Oct. 15 in Kandahar province, Afghanistan, Defense reported.

Styer and the three other soldiers were wounded "when enemy forces attacked their vehicle with an improvised explosive device," according to Defense. The other soldiers were Staff Sgt. Glen H. Stivison Jr., 34, Blairsville; Spec. Jesus O. Flores Jr., 28, La Mirada, Calif.; and Spec. Daniel C. Lawson, 33, Deerfield Beach Fla.

Styer served in the military as a combat engineer.

He and the three men who died with him reportedly "patrolled routes to find and destroy bombs, like the one that took their lives," according to a writer for the Denver Post.

Chuck Plunkett of the Denver Post wrote that the incident happened "less than two weeks after eight Fort Carson soldiers died in a fierce gun battle near the border with Pakistan in remote mountains."

Styer was a 2008 graduate of Conestoga Valley High School, Lancaster. He enlisted in the Army during his senior year.

In addition to his mother, and stepfather, Scott A. Myers, his twin sister, Alyssa M. Styer, is a resident of Fayetteville. His own place of residence was Lancaster.

During his time in school, Styer played a number of sports. He competed as a wrestler and served on the school baseball team. According to his obituary, "he immensely loved both these sports."

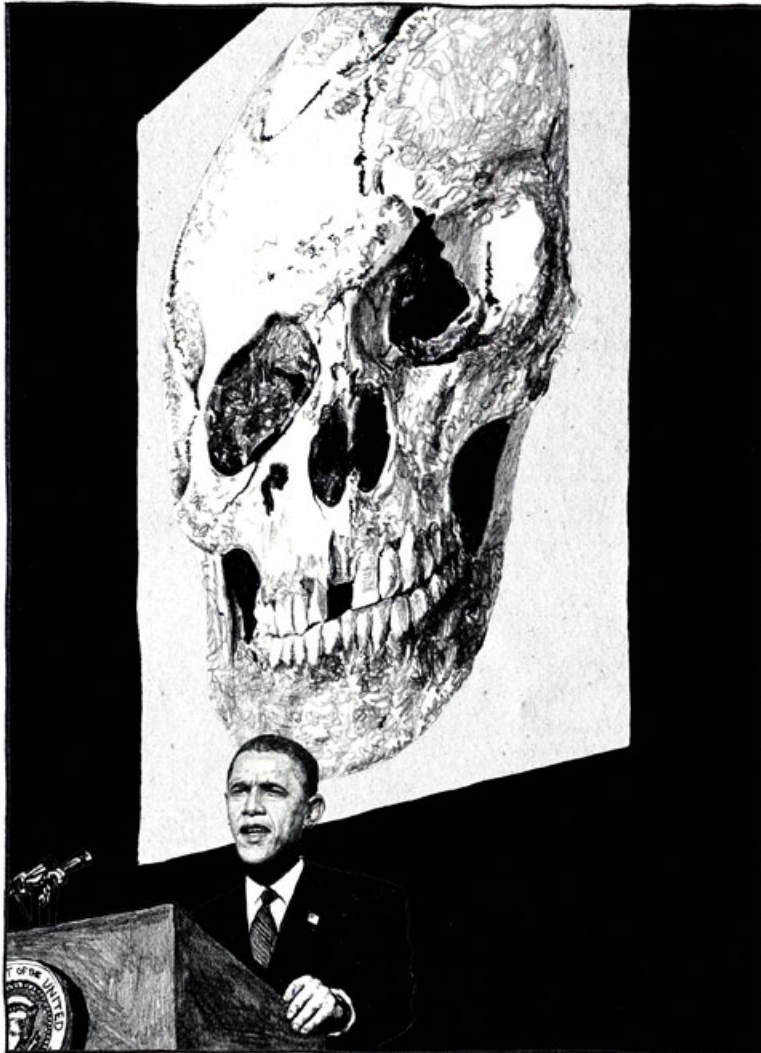
His obituary also described him as an avid animal lover.

His friends are paying their condolences through various discussion groups and online social sites, such as MySpace.

One post reads: "R.I.P. Brandon Styer. you will deff be missed brother it was an honor serving with you overseas. I LOVE YOU MAN. and i will miss u god bless. Mood:torn apart"

His sister, Alyssa posted a video clip in memory of her brother at http://www.onetruemedia.com/otm_site/view_shared?p=9b8f0d5a54c588e4047ca1. It features Tim McGraw singing "If You're Reading This."

Barack Obama explaining how he should not be criticized for wishing to deploy more and more troops into Afghanistan because he has never seen a single soldier return from the region who, after making the ultimate sacrifice, wasn't smiling.



Mr.Fish

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "This just about says it all."]

The United States Withdraws Troops From Its Four Key Bases In Nuristan: "The U.S. Has Pulled Out From Some Areas In The Past, But Never From All Four Main Bases"

Oct 29, 2009 By Syed Saleem Shahzad, Asia Times [Excerpts]

ISLAMABAD - The United States has withdrawn its troops from its four key bases in Nuristan, on the border with Pakistan, leaving the northeastern province as a safe haven for the Taliban-led insurgency to orchestrate its regional battles.

The US has retained some forces in Nuristan's capital, Parun, to provide security for the governor and government facilities.

The American position concerning the withdrawal is that due to winter conditions, supply arteries are choked, making it difficult to keep forces in remote areas. The US has pulled out from some areas in the past, but never from all four main bases.

Nuristan is strategically located in the Hindu Kush mountains.

The province is now under the effective control of the network belonging to Qari Ziaur Rahman, a Taliban commander.

In a telephone conversation on Wednesday, a militant linked to Rahman said that now that they had control of Nuristan, the militants are "marching towards Mohmand and Bajaur to help their fellow Taliban fighting against Pakistani troops", referring to two tribal agencies across the border.

Mountainous Nuristan - and adjoining Kunar province and the Mohmand and Bajaur tribal areas - provide a natural labyrinth, ideal for insurgents to establish safe heavens.

The majority of Nuristan's people adhere to the strict Salafi school of thought. During the Soviet invasion, Nuristan was one of the few areas of the country that was never under occupation.

Since the US-led invasion of 2001, it, along with Kunar, has been a hot-bed of activity.

This region is also home to displaced militants from Pakistan's Swat Valley, who withdrew earlier this year after a military offensive in that area. They are believed to have regrouped and are preparing for new action in Swat once the winter snows block passes, making it difficult for the army's supply lines.

The latest developments in Nuristan mark a dramatic about-turn.

In late 2008, coalition forces, along with the Pakistani military, launched Operation Lion Heart. The idea was that militants would be squeezed between coalition forces in Kunar and Nuristan on the one side, and Pakistani troops in Mohmand and Bajaur on the other. Several months later, both armies announced - clearly prematurely - that they had succeeded in flushing out the insurgent sanctuaries in the region.

The US withdrawal from Nuristan, if it becomes permanent, will give an unprecedented boost to the Taliban in the whole region.

BAD IDEA:

**NO MISSION;
POINTLESS WAR:
ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division patrol above the Pech Valley in Afghanistan's Kunar province on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2009. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

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

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

“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

TROOP NEWS

NOT ANOTHER DAY

NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR NOT ANOTHER LIFE



Marine Lance Cpl. Cody R. Stanley of Rosanky, Texas, Dover Air Force Base, Del. Oct. 30, 2009. Lance Cpl. Stanley was killed when an improvised explosive device, or IED, went off while the Marines were patrolling in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

Macedonian Soldiers March Against The Government



Macedonian soldiers march against a law from the government that requires soldiers be discharged from active duty when they turn 38, in Skopje, Macedonia October 31, 2009. Macedonian soldiers are included in the missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. The law is due to enter into force on January 1, 2010. REUTERS/Ognen Teofilovski

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward Military Resistance 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 Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

War Profiteer Scum At KBR At It Again: KBR Inc. Has Increased Employee Levels While U.S. Troops Steadily Leave Iraq

Nov 1 By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press Writer [Excerpt]

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Pentagon auditors are warning the Army's primary support contractor in Iraq, responsible for everything from mail and laundry to housing and meals, to cut its work force there or face nearly \$200 million in penalties for keeping thousands too many on the payroll.

According to an internal Defense Department audit, Houston-based KBR Inc. has increased employee levels while U.S. troops steadily leave the country after more than six years of war.

As a result, the U.S. government is paying far more in labor costs in Iraq than it should as military resources are shifted to Afghanistan.

"Each day that passes without taking action results in continued overstaffing and inefficiency," the report from the Defense Contract Audit Agency says.

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**

The G-20 In Pittsburgh, Pa.



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: October 23, 2009
Subject: The G-20 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The G-20 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The police retreat back up
the street after being pelted
by rocks.

Mike Hastie
September 24, 2009

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**

**November 1, 1954:
Algerians Open Their War For
Liberation:**

**“The Battle Of Algiers, Like The
Battles Raging In Baghdad Today,
Was Characterized By Attacks On
Civilian Targets”**

**“Give Us Planes And Tanks And We
Will Abandon Terror,” Ben Bella Said**



French troops attack Algerian civilians

In outraged reaction, French forces responded by taking a far larger number of Muslim lives.

These events served to polarize the two communities in such a way that a narrowly based insurrection became a nationwide revolution; thousands of men joined guerrilla units, while France rapidly built its own forces into the hundreds of thousands.

A war of independence to end French colonial rule over the north African nation of Algeria began when 60 bombs were set off in Algiers, the capital.

MORE:

Answers.com & JOHN CHERIAN, Frontlineonnet.com [Excerpts]

The Algerian war of independence began in the early hours of 1 November 1954 and ended officially on 3 July 1962, when France's President Charles de Gaulle formally renounced his nation's sovereignty over Algeria and proclaimed its independence.

The French occupation of Algeria, begun in 1830, led to a colonial situation in which a minority of European settlers and their descendants dominated the Algerian economy.

They maintained that domination through monopolies of political power and the means of coercion.

During the first half of the twentieth century, a series of initiatives by various indigenous leaderships sought first to secure meaningful political participation for the Muslim majority within the colonial system and later to negotiate autonomy, confederation, or independence.

When these efforts proved fruitless, a group of radical young nationalists founded the Comité Révolutionnaire d'Unité et d'Action (CRUA; Revolutionary Committee of Unity and Action), which began, in the spring or summer of 1952, to plan an insurrection.

Estimates of the number of militants taking part in the initial insurrection range from nine hundred to about three thousand.

It began with attacks on French installations in several parts of the country, but the most effective actions took place in the Aurès region of the southeast.

Fifty years ago, on November 1, a series of 60 explosions rocked Algiers, killing 10 persons. The well-planned operation targeted police stations, bridges, municipal buildings and electrical facilities.

The French colonial administration had no inkling of the events that were to unfold.

Algeria was the jewel in the French crown. Many Frenchmen had taken it for granted that Algeria would be a French possession forever.

More than a million Frenchmen had settled in Algeria, since the 19th century, occupying the best agricultural land, and lording it over the local populace. The French government had started viewing Algeria as a province of France, rather than as a colony

The events of November 1, 1954, marked the birth of the National Liberation Front (FLN).

On that day the FLN issued its first official communique in French, announcing the start of the liberation struggle. It emphasised that the task of achieving the goal of independence was in the hands of the FLN.

The statement, which emanated from Cairo, claimed responsibility for the explosions and called for “the restoration of the Algerian state”.

The first communique of the FLN was aired over Egypt’s “Voice of the Arabs” radio. Not only the French authorities, but the Algerian public and the Arab world in general were taken by surprise when the announcement about the formation of the “Revolutionary Committee for Unity and Action” was made. Three of the nine original leaders of the Algerian revolution were based in Egypt. The other six operated underground in Algeria.

During the ensuing winter, the French managed to contain the insurrection, limiting its manifestations to distant and inaccessible regions.

In August 1955, the leadership, concerned that neither the bulk of Algerians nor the European community were taking the insurrection seriously, decided to begin targeting European civilians in some twenty-six localities in the eastern part of the country.

As many as 123 people were killed in what were called the Philippeville massacres.

In outraged reaction, French forces responded by taking a far larger number of Muslim lives.

These events served to polarize the two communities in such a way that a narrowly based insurrection became a nationwide revolution; thousands of men joined guerrilla units, while France rapidly built its own forces into the hundreds of thousands.

In order to accommodate the dramatically broadened movement, the revolutionaries organized a clandestine congress in the Soumamm valley of the Kabylia during August and September 1956. It created a broad Conseil National de la Révolution Algérienne (CNRA) to serve as a protoparliament and a Comité de Coordination et d’Exécution (CCE; Committee of Coordination and Implementation) to bear the executive functions.

One of the first decisions of the new executive was to initiate, at the end of September 1956, the urban warfare strategy that became known as the Battle of Algiers. The French colonial power had constructed a “wall” in the 1950s to keep out Algerian “terrorists” coming in from neighbouring countries such as Morocco and Tunisia.

The Battle of Algiers, very much like the battles raging in Baghdad and other cities today, was characterised by attacks on civilian targets, like restaurants and buses.

The Algerian resistance had come in for criticism from the Western media for its choice of tactics.

“Give us planes and tanks and we will abandon terror”, Ben Bella said at that time.

[T]he recourse to urban warfare brought the war home in a physical way to the majority of Colons, who were urban residents, and attracted the attention of metropolitan Frenchmen and the wider world for the first time to the Algerian situation.

After several abortive attempts at negotiations, the provisional government and France finally signed the Evian Agreement on 18 March 1962, which led to unequivocal independence in July.

The Algerian war of independence is one of the bloodiest wars fought on the African continent. More than 1.5 million Algerians died in the struggle. The French lost over 27,000 soldiers, and over 4,000 civilians.

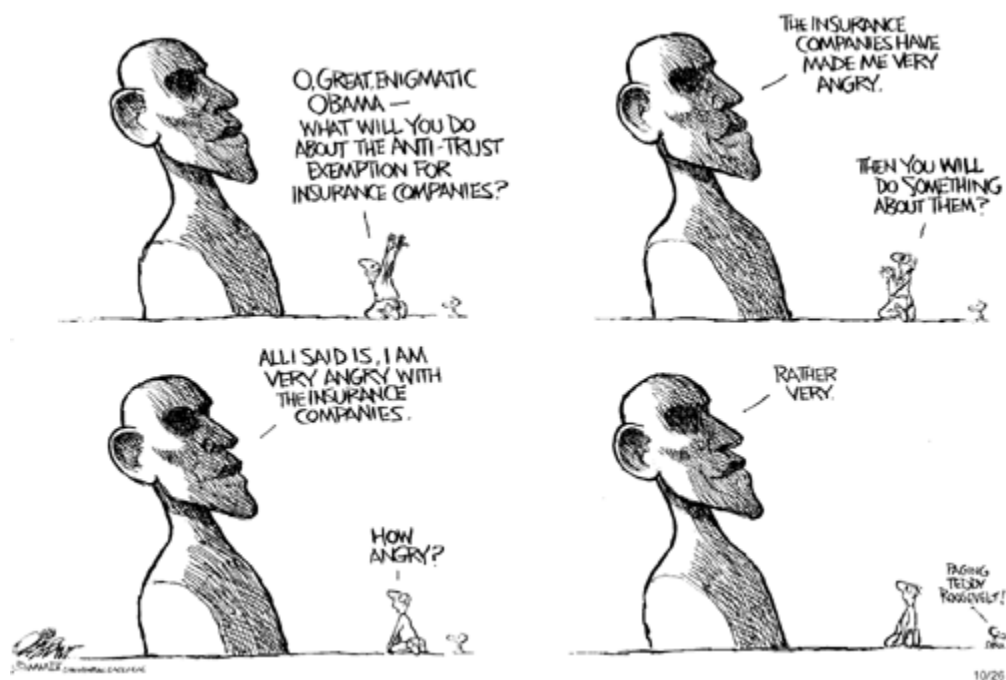
THE Algerian revolution is a landmark in the struggle against colonial rule. Its success 50 years ago in the face of overwhelming odds continues to inspire people fighting against oppression.

November 1, 1970: Honorable Anniversary

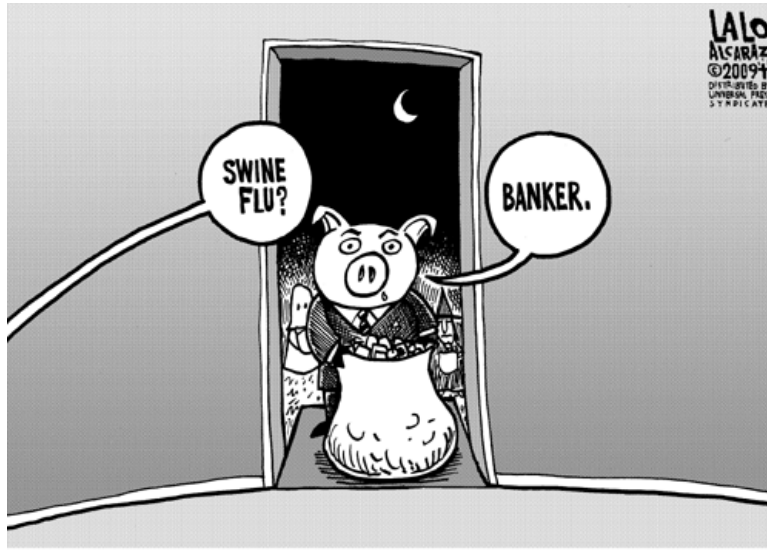
Carl Bunin Peace History Oct 29-Nov 4

Detroit's Common Council voted for immediate withdrawal of U.S. armed forces from Vietnam.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



Desperate Tenants Living Without Heat In Bronx Put Out Banners Begging For Help



2285 Sedgwick Ave in the Bronx, a building without heat, no gas and numerous building violations. Viorel for News

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

October 29th 2009 BY Mark Lebetkin and Carrie Melago, DAILY NEWS WRITERS
[Excerpts]

Bronx tenants who haven't had heat or hot water for three months took the dramatic step of hanging giant banners out of their windows this week, begging for relief.

The residents of 2285 Sedgwick Ave. are forced to use crock pots to heat bathing water, shiver beside space heaters and face sky-high electric bills since a July fire knocked out their gas service.

"I don't know if I can keep taking it," said Jonathan Rodriguez, 26, who is wheelchair-bound and needs hours to get ready in the morning because of the lack of heat.

Tenants of the 54-unit building have repeatedly called the city's 311 hotline to report the problem, but gas service cannot be restored until the gas line to the building's boiler and hot water heater is repaired.

Following a tenants' press conference on Tuesday, the city Department of Housing and Preservation Development now has a contractor working to run a new gas line to the boiler. A spokesman said the Department of Buildings and Con Edison will need to inspect the repair before turning the gas back on.

"HPD will work to help expedite that process," a spokesman said in a statement.

Residents said the building's owner has had friends try to make the repairs, but their attempts haven't been successful.

Phone numbers for Juan Romero, president of 2285 Sedgwick Realty Corp., which owns the building, had been disconnected.

State Sen. Pedro Espada (D-West Bronx) came to the building to support the tenants, who made sure their banners - including ones that read, "No Heat For Our Children. No Thanksgiving This Year" - can be seen by motorists speeding past on the nearby Major Deegan Expressway.

"I want to have a Thanksgiving dinner with all of you and all your families," Espada told them.

Socorro Ramos, 63, a recent widow who has lived in 2285 Sedgwick for 30 years, is one of the many residents hoping for a resolution - and quickly.

"You complain, you complain, you complain," she said, exasperated.

Miriam Agostini, 54, has lived in the building for 35 years and cares for her husband, who is diabetic and in remission for cancer. Without her stove, she struggles to cook healthy meals for him.

"It's pretty hard right now," she said. "I'm stressed."

Agostini keeps two crock pots going all the time to boil water for baths and dishwashing. She also frequently uses her George Foreman grill and hot plate, pushing her monthly electric bill to \$700, she said.

"Sometimes I just go out and buy Chinese," she acknowledged.

Other problems in 2285 Sedgwick, including a broken elevator, predate the fire. According to HPD, 320 complaints have been made about the building in the past year.



Leslie Rojas next to the broken window in her bedroom. Viorel for News

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

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

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

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)



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Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2008/index.html>; news@uruknet.info;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/

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