

Military Resistance: thomasfbarton@earthlink.net 11.19.09 **Print it out: color best. Pass it on.**

Military Resistance 7K15

BARACK OBAMA STEAMING HIS WAY THROUGH AFGHANISTAN TOWARDS OSLO TO PICK UP HIS NOBEL PEACE PRIZE.



MR.FISH

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

Regrets:

For the lateness and somewhat disorganized quality of this Military Resistance. Computer problems.

On the other hand, people can take heart from history, if living in it is avoided.

So maybe this front page is just fine, and right on time.

T

“Fuck You”

“Fifty Three Soldiers In Bravo Troop, Refused To Go Into Combat, Citing Inadequate Reasons For Their Mission”
“Starting In 1968, There Was A Rapid Increase In Incidents Of Combat Refusal, Resulting In At Least Ten Major Mutinies”
“These Highly Publicized And Well Documented Uprisings Are Only The Most Dramatic Expressions Of The GIs Refusal To Fight In Vietnam Or To Obey Military Authority”
“In The Later Years Of The War Combat Refusals Came To Include Increasingly Large Groups Of Soldiers”

11.6.09 By redvet, a long-time member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Anti-Imperialist.

Throughout the history of warfare defiant soldiers and seaman have resorted to mutiny to control the cruel or endangering behavior of brutal or overzealous officers.

In Vietnam an array of mutinous activities culminated in what was called the "combat refusal."

This was a form of mutiny that resembled a strike and occurred when GIs refused, disobeyed, or negotiated an order into combat.

As early as 1965 the expression of soldier discontent began to increase, with growing individual refusals to follow orders.

In June 1965 West Point graduate and special forces officer Lieutenant Richard R. Steinke refused a direct order into a combat zone because of his disapproval of U.S. policy in Vietnam.

In June 1966 Private Adam R. Weber, Jr., of the 25th Infantry Division, was sentenced to a year in prison for his refusal to bear arms in Vietnam. (R.W. Apple, Jr., "G.I. Who Refused to Bear Arms in Vietnam Gets Year," New York Times, June 12, 1966, p.1)

In a letter from October of the year, Captain William Wilders of the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division, described some of the rigors of combat and then the reaction of the troops.

"We don't have too many cases of battle fatigue, but we do have a goodly number of people who after a certain point just refuse to go out anymore and end up being court martialed. And to tell the truth it's hard to blame them" (William Wilders to James F. Wilders, Phuoc Binh, RVN, Oct. 6, 1966)

What a "goodly number" meant and how widespread such resistance was in 1966 is difficult to tell.

The captain's sympathy for combat refusals does hint at a surprising acceptance of such acts by officers.

These few cases are among the earliest documentation of combat refusal, which was later to become one of the most effective forms of GI resistance.

Starting in 1968, there was a rapid increase in incidents of combat refusal, resulting in at least ten major mutinies and perhaps hundreds of minor ones, many unreported. (Nancy Zaroulis and Gerald Sullivan, "Who Spoke Up? American Protests Against the War in Vietnam, 1963 1975"; Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1984, p. 366)

Serving in the 1st Infantry Division from August 1967 to August 1968, Guillermo Alvidrez remembers, "We had a barracks full of guys waiting for court martials for refusing to fight. They felt it wasn't worth it." (Charley Trujillo, "Soldados: Chicanos in Vietnam"; San Jose, Calif: Chusma House,1990,p.64)

There were sixty eight recorded combat refusals in 1968 alone. (Rinaldi, "Olive Drab Rebels," p. 29)

The "Vietnam Courier", a Hanoi based newspaper, cited fifteen major events of war resistance by American GI s during the first five months of 1969. ("As You Were 7" Aug.1969; New York University, Tamiment Library hereafter cited as TL)

In August 1969 Alpha Company, 3d battalion, 196th Light Infantry refused an order to attack.

In a response that can only underscore the political sensitivity of the refusal, the forty nine men were not reprimanded. (Myra Macpherson, "Long Time Passing: Vietnam and the Haunted Generation"; Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1984; p. 512; Richard Boyle, "The Flower of the Dragon: The Breakdown of the U.S. Army during the Vietnam Era"; San Francisco: Ramparts, 1972, pp. 87-88; and Horst Faas and Peter Arnett, "Told to Move Again on 6th Deathly Day, Company A Refuses," New York Times, Aug 26, 1969, p. 1, 3.)

In May 1970 sixteen soldiers from Fire Base Washington refused to go into Cambodia.

Private Harry Veon wrote the GI press, "We have no business here. We have enough trouble in Vietnam. Sixteen of us refused to go. We just sat down. Then they promised we wouldn't have to go to Cambodia." ("Up Against the Bulkhead" 1, No.2 ; May 15, 1970, TL)

A week later, a group of men in the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry refused to board helicopters.

In December 1970 Lieutenant Fred Pitts and twenty three men of C Company, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry refused a command to advance.

(Cortright, "Soldiers in Revolt," p.37)

Combat refusals were often led by squad leaders.

Squad leader Dennis Kroll was a veteran of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and led such an action in the spring of 1970.

His recollection re creates the dialogue between the reluctant soldiers and their officer.

"One day there were these ARVN working out close to us. They kept going up this hill and the NVA had a 51 caliber out there. They'd get halfway up - they'd come back down.

"Then the Phantoms would work out.

"They'd start back up - they'd didi mau off the hill. This went on all day.

"Our platoon leader says, 'All right saddle up...We'll show em!'

**"Everybody was just...'What's your problem?' 'It's their hill, their objective.'
Officer: 'Well they're refusing to go back up. Let's go show them what we can do.'**

"Kroll: 'Fuck you - it's their territory. If they don't want, I don't want it.'

"That caused enough mumbling within the platoon that he lost face and said, 'fuck it.'...He call me in the tent. He was going to be lenient and give me an article 15 for refusing an order. I just said 'I refuse the article 15, I want a court martial.' (Dennis Kroll, interviewed by Richard Moser, Madison, Wis., Mar. 25, 1990)

Scenes like this were repeated scores of time in Vietnam.

In the 1st Cavalry Division alone, there were thirty five cases of combat refusal during 1970.

At times, entire units refused combat orders. (Shelby L. Standton, "The Rise and fall of an American Army: U.S. Ground forces in Vietnam, 1965-1973"; Novato, Calif.: Presidio Press, 1985, p. 349)

In March 1971, fifty three soldiers in Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, refused to go into combat, citing inadequate reasons for their mission. ("Vietnam Mutiny," Fatigue Press; May, 1971. Private collection of David Cline hereafter cited as DCPC).

In one of the most highly publicized of these events, fifteen men from Firebase Pace refused to go out on what they considered to be a suicide patrol. Sixty six men from that base sent a letter of protest to Senator Edward Kennedy claiming that they were continuing to play an offensive role despite the officially declared defensive posture of Vietnamization. (Boyle, "Flower of the Dragon," p. 228; and "Company Removed from Base After Soldiers Balk at Patrol", Chicago Tribune, Oct. 12, 1971)

In the C Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry, seven African Americans refused combat duty, claiming that racist commanders were exposing them to undue risk. (Cortright, "Soldiers in Revolt," p. 41)

According to Representative Paul McCloskey of California, an entire platoon of the 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division refused combat. ("Congressional Record," 92d Cong. 1st sess., Oct. 28, 1971, p 38082)

In the later years of the war combat refusals came to include increasingly large groups of soldiers.

In April 1972, for example, one hundred men of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Brigade, refused an order to advance. (Cortright, "Soldiers in Revolt," p. 38. For other evidence of combat refusals, see Thomas Stallworth, interview by Sam Cameron and Sam Fustukjian, Fisk University Library, Black Oral History Program, Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 7 1972 hereafter cited as FUBOP; and Freddie Smith, interview By Sam Cameron and Sam Fustukjian, Oct. 30, 1972, FUBOB.)

In 1967-68 Colonel Tom Ware experienced two combat refusals of men under his command. By 1972 Ware observed the increasing dimensions of combat refusal when the "Phu Bai 13", thirteen African American soldiers from the 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, refused orders, occupied a barracks, and issued a list of demands. (Colonel Tom Ware, "The U.S. Soldier in Vietnam at the Beginning, the Middle and Ending"; Paper cited in BDM Corporation, "A Study of Strategic Lessons Learned in Vietnam," Vol.4; Defense Logistics Agency, Alexandria, Virginia, 1979 pp.4-22; Microfilm published by Scholarly Resources Inc. and Navy Historical Library, Washington, D.C.)

The air force also suffered combat refusals.

As a protest, combat pilots Captain Dwight Evans and Captain Michael Heck refused to fly missions. Heck a veteran of 175 missions and holder of the Distinguished Flying

Cross, realized that his targets were hospitals and civilian sectors; he cited Nuremberg principles and refused to fly. ("B 52 Commander Applies for CO," Camp News 4, no2; Jan.15,1973; Indiana University, Underground Newspaper Collection, Bloomington, Microfilm AN 123, reel 95 hereafter cited as UNCIUB; and Cortright, "Soldiers in Revolt," p. 135)

He explained his position by stating, "I came to the decision that any war creates an evil far greater than anything it is trying to prevent....The goals do not justify the mass destruction and killing." ("Camp News 4" no. 1; Jan. 15, 1973, UNCIUB)

Four other airmen who refused to fly B 52 missions joined Representative Elizabeth Holtzman of New York in a suit challenging the legality of the Cambodian bombings. These bombings, which exacted a heavy toll among civilians, led to a crisis of morale among B 52 bomber crews

Mutiny in the Navy also took on significant proportions.

The USS Kitty Hawk had suffered mounting racial tensions during its long 1972 combat tour. Heading back to the United States, the Kitty Hawk put in at Subic Bay, Philippines, but was unexpectedly ordered to return to Vietnam.

According to a House Armed Services Committee report, the rescheduling seems to have been the result of sabotage on board the USS Ranger and the USS Forrestal, the Kitty Hawk's sister ships and replacements. (Report cited in Cortright, "Soldiers in Revolt," p.125)

Expecting relief from the tensions of war, the sailors found themselves back in the Gulf of Tonkin. A hundred African American sailors assembled for a protest meeting over racial discrimination. A foolhardy attempt to suppress the demonstration with a detachment of marines backfired, and fighting broke out. Roving bands of black and white sailors clashed for hours.

On November 3, 1972, one of the most serious mass mutinies in U.S. naval history occurred aboard the USS Constellation, paralyzing the ship.

Following attempts to suppress a dissident organization of African American seamen, a sit in over racism was staged by eighty African American sailors. Over 130 sailors, including some whites, were put ashore at San Diego, where they held another protest.

The dissident sailors then refused to board the ship when ordered. (Everett R. Holles, "130 Refuse to Join Ship; Most Reassigned by Navy," New York Times, Nov.10, 1972; p. 1. & Henry P. Leifermann, "The Constellation Incident," New York Times Magazine, Feb. 18, 1973, p. 17 et passim; and Cortright, "Soldiers in Revolt," pp. 121 22

For the most complete description of Vietnam era naval mutinies, see Leonard F. Guttridge, "Mutiny: A History of Naval Insurrection"; Annapolis, Md.: U.S. Naval Institute, 1992)

These highly publicized and well documented uprisings are only the most dramatic expressions of the GI s refusal to fight in Vietnam or to obey military authority.

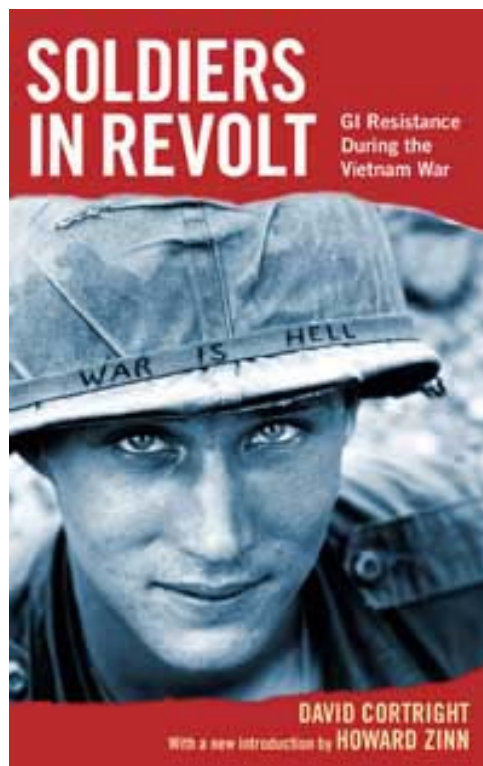
Army documentation suggests that a thousand small incidents of combat refusal occurred.

After all, as Col Heinl wrote in "The Armed Forces Journal," "The morale, discipline and battle worthiness of the U.S. Armed Forces are, with a few salient exceptions, lower and worse than at any time in the century and possibly in the history of the United States.

"By every conceivable indicator, our army that now remains in Vietnam is in a state approaching collapse, with individual units avoiding or having refused combat, murdering their officers and non commissioned officers, drug ridden, and dispirited where not near mutinous. Elsewhere than Vietnam, the situation is nearly as serious. (1971, p.30)"

MORE:

Marines Ranks Elect Councils "To Defend Themselves Against Command Reprisals And Continued Racial Abuse"



From: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975. Now available in paperback from Haymarket Books.

Perhaps the most tragic uprising of recent years took place on July 20, 1969, at Camp Lejeune.

Occurring a few days prior to a scheduled embarkation of the 2nd Marine Division to the Mediterranean, the fighting left fourteen injured and resulted in the death of one white Marine, Corporal Ed Bankston of Picayune, Mississippi.

Arising out of a dispute over discrimination at a base enlisted men's club, the brawl soon turned into a black-versus-white melee near the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, barracks area. Black and Puerto Rican GIs involved, most of them Vietnam veterans, later laid the blame for the incident not on anyone particular act but on the accumulated frustrations of months of command harassment.

Their interpretation was corroborated by the division's "Ad Hoc Committee on Equal Treatment and Opportunity," which had issued its findings months before the July 20 outburst. Obtained by the New York Times several weeks after the riot, the report contained the warning, apparently unheeded, that "an explosive situation of major proportions" existed on post.

Although the committee was composed of seven officers and had been appointed by the base commanding officer, it found that "many white officers and NCOs retain prejudices and deliberately practice them"; the report verified that many off-base facilities were segregated and that black recruits were subjected to excessive harassment from MPs.

The differing responses to the Camp Lejeune riot, by the Marine Corps on the one hand and the black enlisted men on the other, is instructive of the gap separating the two groups in a supposedly homogeneous military organization, and helps explain why black GIs and white commanders remained at odds -- despite official claims of improved relations.

In a frantic law-and-order crackdown, the Camp Lejeune command installed huge bright lights and armed sentries along troop paths between barracks; three reaction forces were also created -- equipped with tear gas, walkie-talkies, and loaded guns.

Twenty-six Marines involved in the July 20 incident were flown back to the States from the Atlantic cruise for criminal action -- twenty-four black and two Spanish-speaking men, but no whites.

The blacks, meanwhile, apparently assuming that little if any satisfaction would come from official quarters, set up their own organization, the "Council of Concerned Marines," to defend themselves against command reprisals and continued racial abuse.

Among the Council's activities were a petition campaign to free those arrested for the riot and an effort to form a network of elected representatives from the black minority within each company.

At the same time, Marines aboard the U.S.S. LaSalle on cruise off the coast of Spain also organized to defend themselves. An organization was formed to work

as an independent shore patrol for blacks (as protection from abuse by white MPs) and to press for more black representation in shipboard affairs.

In the 2nd Marine Division, as in so many military units, a virtual state of war raged between minority servicemen and their white superiors. ‘

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Wave Of Resistance Attacks Hits Hard In Anbar

November 16, 2009 By MARC SANTORA, The New York Times & By RYAN LUCAS, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

Early Monday morning, men dressed in Iraqi Army uniforms killed at least 13 people, including a local cleric.

The insurgents swarmed into Seadan village, about 20km from Baghdad before dawn and ordered six residents out of their houses, lined them up in a field and shot them dead, said Mohamed al-Zubaie, a resident.

They then entered the home of Attala Ouda al-Shuker, a leader in the Sahwa (Awakening) movement of Sunni tribesmen who joined US forces in 2006, and shot dead three of his sons and four other relatives, Zubaie said.

The victims were roused from their homes in a village west of Baghdad. A doctor at Abu Ghraib Hospital, where the bodies were brought, said they all had gunshot wounds in the head.

"The negligence of the security forces has enabled the insurgents to pass checkpoints and enter the village and carry out this terrorist operation and then get out without being confronted," Mohammed Iqbal said.

On Monday night, a series of bombs in Falluja struck the house of a police officer and an Iraqi Army patrol, wounding at least seven people.

In recent weeks the targets of bombers in Anbar have included a restaurant popular among the police in Falluja, where 16 people were killed; a police officer's funeral in Haditha, where 6 were killed; a water tanker in Ramadi that exploded, killing 7 police officers escorting the vehicle; and a national reconciliation meeting in Ramadi, where 26 were killed.

There have also been dozens of attacks on checkpoints and, in the last two months, assassinations of influential tribal leaders and the destruction of vital infrastructure.

Anbar, the desert region west of Baghdad, has played a critical role since the American invasion.

The fact that Monday's attackers wore army uniforms raised a number of troubling questions, including the prospect of infiltration of the security forces or extrajudicial killings carried out by soldiers. Even if the attackers were merely posing as Iraqi soldiers, since uniforms can be easily bought in stores, the episode could further undermine the trust of the population.

"We no longer trust the army after this incident," said Abdul Rahman, who saw the abductions and knew some of the men later found dead. "If the army came to capture someone now, he would not go with them, fearing he would face the same destiny."

At the peak of the surge in troops to Iraq in 2007, about 20,000 Marines were in Anbar, working out of 10 large bases.

There are now 3,500 troops spread across five bases, newly trained Americans whose role is to "advise and assist" Iraqi security forces.

But the Iraqis now rarely ask for assistance.

The most dangerous areas in Anbar are those just outside Baghdad, including the area where Monday's attack took place.

One witness, who identified himself as Abu Ali, said he watched as some of the victims were taken from their homes.

"I saw men dressed in army uniforms going into houses and arresting people," he said.

There were conflicting reports as to whether some of those killed were former insurgents who had joined the effort to fight Al Qaeda or were still active members of a militant group known as the 1920 Revolutionary Brigades.

On Monday, the village was locked down, with dozens of Iraqi Army vehicles cordoning off the area.

Witnesses saw American military vehicles in the area as well.

There were also attacks on Iraqi security forces in other parts of the country on Monday, including two bombings in Baghdad that killed five Iraqi Army soldiers and wounded a dozen more soldiers and civilians.

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

2 U.S. Soldiers Killed In Zabul Province

[This is the first time in living memory that command has released battlefield casualty information promptly and fully. T]

Nov. 19, 2009 CBS/ AP

NATO says two U.S. service members have been killed in an explosion in southern Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Todd Vician says the two were killed by a bomb explosion in Zabul province late Thursday morning. He did not have any further details.

Jilani Farahe, deputy chief of police for the province, said a suicide car bomber detonated his explosives near the gate of a NATO base. He said no civilians had been hurt in the blast.

Marine From Kentucky Wounded In Afghanistan

November 18, 2009 The Associated Press

CORBIN, Ky. -- The family of a Marine from southeastern Kentucky says he has suffered serious injuries while serving in Afghanistan.

Holly Greer Dietlin, the wife of 21-year-old Marine Cpl. Daniel Jacob Dietlin, told The Times-Tribune of Corbin that her husband underwent emergency surgery for severe head injuries after a vehicle accident Nov. 12 during night patrols. Holly Dietlin says the worst injuries include a fractured skull and multiple brain contusions.

She said the 2006 graduate of Whitley County High School arrived in Afghanistan on Oct. 1 after previously serving in Iraq in 2008.

Counter-IED Soldier From 33 Royal Engineers, Killed In Gereshk By IED

16 Nov 09 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that a soldier from 33 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, died as a result of an explosion near Gereshk, in Helmand province, during the afternoon of 15 November 2009.

The serviceman was part of the Counter-IED Task Force.

Resistance Action

Nov 13 (AFP) & AP & Nov . 16, 2009 AP & November 17 Reuters

In southern Afghanistan, militants attacked a police checkpoint in the violent province of Kandahar overnight, killing at least three policemen and wounding another six, police criminal director of Kandahar Pashton Moamand said.

However, a local police official from the Argandab district where the attack occurred had a higher death toll. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said eight policemen were killed and three seriously wounded.

He said a group of militants attacked the checkpoint from three sides with gunfire and grenades at about 2 a.m. Monday, and then fled.

An Afghan policeman on the Turkmenistan border was killed late Thursday by a roadside bomb planted by the Taliban, said Rahmatullah Sadiqi, chief of staff of the western border police region.

A land mine exploded near a police station in Logar province, south of Kabul, killing a member of the Afghan National Police and wounding an Afghan National Army officer Friday, provincial police chief Mustafa Mosseini said.

Taliban insurgents killed four guards in an attack on an Afghan security firm in Kunduz's Chardara district overnight, district chief Abdul Wahed Omarkhil said.

**THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR
HEALTH;
ALL HOME, NOW**



Nov. 3, 2009: U.S. soldiers take cover and return fire from an irrigation canal as Taliban fighters ambush U.S. soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division during a patrol outside of the village of Qatar Kala in the Pech Valley of Afghanistan's Kunar province. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)



Nov. 3, 2009: U.S. soldiers rush for cover in an irrigation canal as Taliban fighters open fire on U.S. soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division during a patrol outside of the village of Qatar Kala in the Pech Valley of Afghanistan's Kunar province. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)



Nov. 3, 2009: U.S. soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division pull back from a farm field where they took cover from a Taliban attack in the Pech Valley of Afghanistan's Kunar province. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Attack Occupation Troops In Mogadishu

November 15 2009 By ABDULKADIR KHALIF, NATION Correspondent

MOGADISHU, Sunday

Parts of Mogadishu that experienced warfare late yesterday remain quiet despite the heavy hostility between peacekeepers serving the African Union Mission in Somalia, Amisom [translation: U.S. government-backed occupation troops], and Islamist fighters opposing the Transitional Federal Government.

According to residents in Hodon and Daynile districts of Mogadishu, gunfire erupted in the evening when Islamist militants staged an attack on former Jaalle Siyad Military Academy in South Mogadishu that houses a unit of Amisom peacekeepers [occupation troops] from Burundi. Fire was heavily exchanged when the Burundians responded.

Public transport has been restored this morning and that traffic from southwest of Mogadishu is cautiously moving along the Jidka Warshadaha Avenue where the former academy is located. However, many residents in the area are said to be relocating to safer places as they fear escalation of the clashes.

The fire exchange on Saturday included mortar shells and other heavy guns and affected a number of settlements in Hodon and Dynile and as far as Garasbaley, south of Mogadishu where many city residents fled for safety following the incessant confrontation between pro-government forces and the rebels since 2007.

Tuesday:

17 Nov 17, 2009 GAROWE ONLINE

At least 5 civilians have been killed and 11 others injured in fighting between Somali government forces and insurgents in restive capital Mogadishu.

The fighting which continued for an hour erupted in Shibis district with both sides exchanging heavy gun fire.

"The fighting started in the later hours of yesterday (Monday) in Shibis where some residents have recently returned. The fight was heavy and I have seen 5 dead people and injuries of others," said an eyewitness.

Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the attacks and claimed to have seized positions, declining to give casualty figures on their side.

Wednesday:

Nov 18, 2009 GAROWE ONLINE

At least 4 people are reportedly killed and 5 others including a journalist are injured in heavy clashes between insurgents and Somali government forces backed by African Union troops in the Somali capital Mogadishu, witnesses said.

The clashes erupted after heavily armed fighters carried out surprise attacks on government and AU troops' positions in the capital's Hodon and KM4 areas.

"The fighting was tense and it happened around the KM4 and Tarabunka intersection where government forces and Al-Shabaab fighters faced off," said an eyewitness in Hodon, adding that the four dead people all the combatants from both sides.

Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility of the attack, which erupts on the third day consecutively in the restive capital.

TROOP NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The casket of Army Staff Sgt. Joshua M. Mills at Arlington National Cemetery Nov. 3, 2009. Mills, 24, of El Paso, Texas, died Sept. 16 in Helmand province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his vehicle Sept. 15 with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, N.C. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

Why Are They Locking Up Traumatized Veterans For Their

Addictions Instead Of Offering Them Treatment? “It Was Really Alarming How Many Combat Soldiers Were Given Prescription Drugs With Little Or No Supervision” “I Know Crack Dealers Who Are More Discriminating With Issuing Drugs Than Some Of The Clinics That I Saw In Iraq”

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

Dr. Bob Newman, MD, Director, Rothschild Chemical Dependency Institute at the Beth Israel Medical Center in New York, wants to know how TRICARE, the Defense Department’s health insurance plan for active duty soldiers, can justify its refusal not to pay for methadone and other medication therapies for addicted veterans.

November 11, 2009 By Penny Coleman, AlterNet

Penny Coleman is the widow of a Vietnam veteran who took his own life after coming home. Her latest book, *Flashback: Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Suicide and the Lessons of War*, was released on Memorial Day, 2006. Her Web site is [Flashback](#).

A new report by the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) exposes practices and policies that for decades have unjustly resulted in large numbers of psychically injured and addicted veterans landing in the nation’s prisons and jails.

The report reflects a year’s worth of outreach to veterans and veterans’ advocates across the country, and a distillation of their most creative, innovative and optimistic responses to the problem.

Gen. Steven Xenakis, MD, Special Advisor to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Warrior and Family Support, brought a message of official support to a teleconference announcing the release of the report:

“250,000 soldiers is a large number of Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen who have been affected,” he said. “It is so important that people are made aware of the issues, and

that we follow up with the best action plans we can find ... We in this country have a responsibility to assist and support them.”

Specifically, the report recommends changes in state and federal statutes that now prioritize punishment over treatment for veterans who commit nonviolent drug-related offenses as a result of their addiction and other mental health issues.

“Courts, as a way of dealing with large numbers of people with substance abuse problems, are a very slow and expensive way to go,” explained Dan Abrahamson, the Drug Policy Alliance’s Director of Legal Affairs. “You need a courtroom and a judge, and all the players from prosecutors to defense attorneys. Providing treatment straight up requires far fewer resources and far less investment for far greater returns.”

The report also calls for the adoption of overdose prevention programs, and the expansion of veterans’ access to medication-assisted therapies to treat opioid dependence.

Overdose is an on-going problem among veterans, as are other self-destructive behaviors that inflate the official and unofficial tally of suicides among active duty troops and veterans. (Veterans, often compromised by alcohol or drugs, are an astonishing 148 percent more likely to die in a motorcycle crash than civilians of comparable age, race, and sex.)

Guy Gambill, a long-time veterans advocate who was instrumental in shaping the report, reminded the teleconference participants that “one of the hallmark symptoms of PTSD is the tendency to self-medicate.”

“In the aftermath of Vietnam, self-medication and its collateral behaviors landed tens of thousands of veterans in prison. This time,” Gambill suggests, “let’s be smarter than the problem.”

Gambill is a veteran of Nuclear Duty forces in Europe and of Reagan’s South American military ventures. He makes no secret of the fact that he has done time in jail and under bridges, kicked a serious drug habit, and managed to live with the mental health issues that are a result of his service.

For the last decade, his first-hand experiences have fed his efforts to promote the diversion of veterans from incarceration into treatment, and he is convinced that finding ways to deal with addictions is a key part of that effort.

“We are not going to let murderers off the hook, or sex offenders. We’re not going to let people who have 16 aggravated DUIs and killed somebody off the hook. Those guys aren’t getting out of jail any time soon.

“So who do we have room to help? People with drug offense charges. In cases where a veteran has combat-related psychological trauma and non-violent drug offenses, there is a lot of political will to give these guys a break.”

A great litmus test for that political will would be the immediate repeal of the 2002 VA directive barring treatment for incarcerated veterans. This almost incomprehensibly myopic policy is, as the report states, “a missed opportunity for the VA to provide critical

services and support for veterans to recover from the psychological wounds that caused their criminal activity in the first place.”

Currently, the most successful mechanism for diverting veterans from incarceration and into treatment was conceived by Judge Robert Russell. His veterans’ court in Buffalo, NY, is a hybrid version of the drug and mental health courts that since the 80s have had a dramatic impact on the conversation about who and under what circumstances should be sent to prison.

Russell’s court was the first in the country to cater specifically to the needs of veterans with addiction disorders and/or mental illness who are charged with nonviolent criminal offenses. After almost two years, Russell’s court boasts an astonishing recidivism rate of zero, compared to the 60 to 70 percent nation average.

Such courts are now springing up across the country, but they are seriously limited by their ability to attract and process large numbers of cases. Last year, Judge Russell’s court processed under a hundred cases.

“And they’re not getting any current conflict vets,” Gambill told me in a phone interview. “It’s a lot of Vietnam vets, and it’s great that they are getting help, but the intent of all this is not to have another generation go through the same bullshit. It doesn’t mean anything if we don’t get some significant numbers of veterans to participate in the program.”

One serious problem, he explains, is that the specialty courts, drug, mental health and veterans’, are voluntary. “Consider a 23 year-old who gets arrested for drunk and disorderly conduct on a Friday night. The cops throw him in jail, but before he is arraigned on Monday morning, the public defender offers him the choice of a \$600 fine, \$500 suspended, pay \$100 down. 90 days, 87 days suspended--time served 3 days, and you walk out today.

Or of matriculating into the veterans’ court for a year or so of court-supervised treatment, at the end of which time the charges against him will be thrown out.

“Which one do you think a 23 year-old guy on a roll is going to choose?”

“That’s what is happening all over the country,” Gambill explains, “That’s why the numbers are so low and why the specialty courts cannot be expected to solve the whole problem.”

Furthermore, “the whole problem,” as Tom Tarantino, a legislative associate with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), pointed out, is of an entirely unknown magnitude.

“We don’t really know how many veterans are in jail right now. The numbers cited in the DPA report are from a survey done in 2004. In 2004, there were over a million fewer veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan than there are today.”

Tarantino offered a simple solution to the absence of that information: “The Department of Defense has lists of people who have been in the military and the Department of Justice quarterly collects lists of people who have been arrested. We just need them to compare lists.”

But even armed with that data, there are, all told, only about a dozen veterans' courts in operation or in the planning stages in the entire country. Even if more soldiers and veterans can be persuaded to make use of them, there are hardly enough courts to handle the daunting wave of new veterans who are expected to run afoul of the law.

The DPA report is, however, more interested in interventions that can occur before veterans become entangled in the criminal justice system. Presently, most prison diversion programs, including many, if not all, of the emerging veterans' treatment courts, require veterans to plead guilty to criminal charges before being directed to treatment.

The consequences of an arrest and conviction can be devastating, the report explains, including denial of employment, housing or public benefits. And an estimated 585,000 veterans are denied the right to vote because of their felony convictions.

And even when all charges are finally dismissed, electronic information that has been released, cannot always be recovered. Data harvesting has become a big business, and any arrest, regardless of outcome, can resurface to compromise a veteran's future.

So the report emphasizes "front-end diversion practices," or ways keep veterans out of prison in the first place. Gambill describes some encouraging experimental programs in Chicago and Los Angeles that make use of veterans who are specifically trained to ride along with police when they get disturbance calls.

These "peer intervention specialists" can recognize another vet by his bearing and behavior. Speaking a common language and referencing a common culture, these intervention specialists are far more likely to convince a freaked-out vet to back down, and then talk him into accepting a treatment option.

Some of the suggestions made in this report will require the coordinated efforts and funds of multiple agencies. But some are so simple and obvious, even cheap, that it is sort of mind boggling that they even warrant discussion.

For, example, Dr. Bob Newman, MD, Director, Rothschild Chemical Dependency Institute at the Beth Israel Medical Center in New York, wants to know how TRICARE, the Defense Department's health insurance plan for active duty soldiers, can justify its refusal not to pay for methadone and other medication therapies for addicted veterans.

"I want to stress," Newman said on the teleconference, "that we are not talking about some hypothetical, new Idea as to how to approach the problem of opiate addiction. It is endorsed by the World Health Organization, the National Institute of Drug Abuse, the World Health Organization, and the Institute of Medicine.

"And our Department of Defense has an insurance plan that simply excludes maintenance treatment. No explanation. It just says, we don't pay for it. And I understand that could be changed with the stroke of a pen."

So simple, and yet like many of the recommendations in this report, so stubbornly resistant to change. One must wonder why?

Untreated combat-related mental health injuries are predictive of substance abuse, and untreated substance abuse is predictive of encounters with the criminal justice system. And the door predictably revolves.

Tarantino wants it made very clear that, for many soldiers, the vicious cycle begins while they are still under military jurisdiction.

“It was really alarming how many combat soldiers were given prescription drugs with little or no supervision,” he reported.

“To be really blunt, I know crack dealers who are more discriminating with issuing drugs than some of the clinics that I saw in Iraq.”

Many of those drugs have serious known side effects, including suicide. And many of them, drugs to help soldiers sleep and drugs to help them stay awake, are seriously addictive.

“The ease of obtaining prescription drugs in the combat zone,” Tarantino explains, “is not mirrored back in garrison. When soldiers come home, their reliance on those same drugs can create severe problems.”

This report highlights the gross injustice of holding soldiers and veterans entirely responsible for drug reliance that is facilitated, if not encouraged, when it serves military purposes.

That injustice is aggravated when it is used as an excuse to kick soldiers out of the military thereby denying them benefits.

It is further aggravated when treatment is withheld, both for their injuries and for their addictions, and aggravated further still when it is punished with incarceration.

One must wonder whose interests then are being served?

Military Resistance Available In PDF Format

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email contact@militaryproject.org

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

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

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

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

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

"The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!"
-- Camille Desmoulins

Sickle Cells in Washington, D.C.



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: November 16, 2009
Subject: Cycle Cells in Washington, D.C.

Sickle Cells in Washington, D.C.

**It's right in front of us,
the most dangerous government
in the world.**

**The place where I was born.
After I came back from Vietnam,
being there is like being behind**

enemy lines.

I visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
every so often when I go to D.C. to demonstrate,
yet against another Vietnam War.

The current soldiers are suffering from
Multiple Deployments,
while Vietnam veterans are suffering from
Multiple Wars.

The lies are always the same,
they are right out of the same playbook.

Over and over again,
the American people get duped by the
same Sickle Cells.

Only these wars in the Middle East,
are rapidly making the American people
very sick.

The cancer is so wide spread.

The Elite are so infested with greed,
their lies are infecting the new born
in America.

With the Fort Hood massacre,
there will be a resurgence of hate
in America.

It will put Moslems in America on alert.
It will add to the already hypervigilance
of an entire country.

How did all of this ever happen?

Who threw the first punch?

Who fired the first pistol?

Who dropped the first bombs enveloped in
lies that someone had weapons of mass destruction?

Who lied about Gulf of Tonkin?

Who lied about the secret bombings of Laos before
Gulf of Tonkin in 1964?

Who lied about the invasion of Panama in 1989?

Who lied about the overthrow of Iran in 1953?

Who lied about the overthrow of Chile?

Who lied about East Timor?

Who lied about Angola?

Who lied about Honduras?

Who lied about Nicaragua?

Who lied about so many lies that has put American
troops in so many countries I can't even keep up with?

The Sickle cells are everywhere,
and the most powerful nation in the world is constantly
in search of enemies.

There has got to be a poor farmer in a poor country,
who has an AK-47 who is a threat to the most powerful
military force the world has ever seen,
somewhere.

If you want to know the truth,

do a simple test.
Go to Google and type in:
U.S. Military Intervention into...
and name the country.
Stay up all night until you cry yourself to sleep
when the sun comes up.
Sleep for 12 hours,
and when you wake up,
look at yourself in the mirror.
Now,
join a movement to help stop the madness.
Do this because your soul was born free.
Do this because there is nothing else left to do.
Do this because the Sickle Cells need to be
put out of business.
Do this even if it takes your last breath.
Do this for the children you love.
Do this because this country belongs to you.
Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
November 16, 2009

"First they ignore you, then they laugh at you,
then they fight you, then you win."
Mahatma Gandhi

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 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

November 18, 1989:

Honorable Anniversary



Carl Bunin, Peace History November 12-18

November 18, 1989:

More than 50,000 people have taken to the streets of Sofia in Bulgaria demanding political reform.

In the biggest demonstration in the country's post-war history, protesters held up banners and chanted: "We want democracy now."

Other demands included free elections, a new constitution and the dismissal of the remaining hard-line members of the Politburo.

The gathering, in the city's Aleksandr Nevsky Square, comes just eight days after the country's Communist leader, Todor Zhivkov, 78, was ousted from power following a 35-year regime.

He was replaced by the more moderate former foreign minister Petar Mladenov, 53, who has promised reform.

Most of Zhivkov's loyal supporters have already been dismissed and the newly-formed Parliament moved quickly to repeal a repressive law against freedom of speech which had previously led to the imprisonment of thousands.

Today's protest, organised by dissident political groups, included many of the country's academics and literary personalities who had been banished under the Zhivkov regime.

Radoi Ralin, a once-imprisoned poet, said: "We want democracy and pluralism.

"We want freedom of people's opinion, freedom of people's speech, freedom of people's will.

But he also signalled a note of caution warning that the new leader may not be as good as his word: “For years we have been promised radical changes in our society, but it always turned out to be a carnival in which masks were changed but policy remained the same.

“That is why we should not be too enthusiastic about the latest changes. We have to see what the new leaders have to offer us soon.” Numerous similar demonstrations have taken place across Eastern Europe since the collapse of Communism in the Soviet Union.

Bulgaria has been one of the countries most resistant to change. Just two weeks ago Mr Zhivkov issued a statement stressing that the Bulgarian Communist Party was still in total control.

But as the ideals of “perestroika” and glasnost” swept through countries including Poland, Eastern Germany and Hungary, Mr Zhivkov’s grip on power became increasingly weakened.

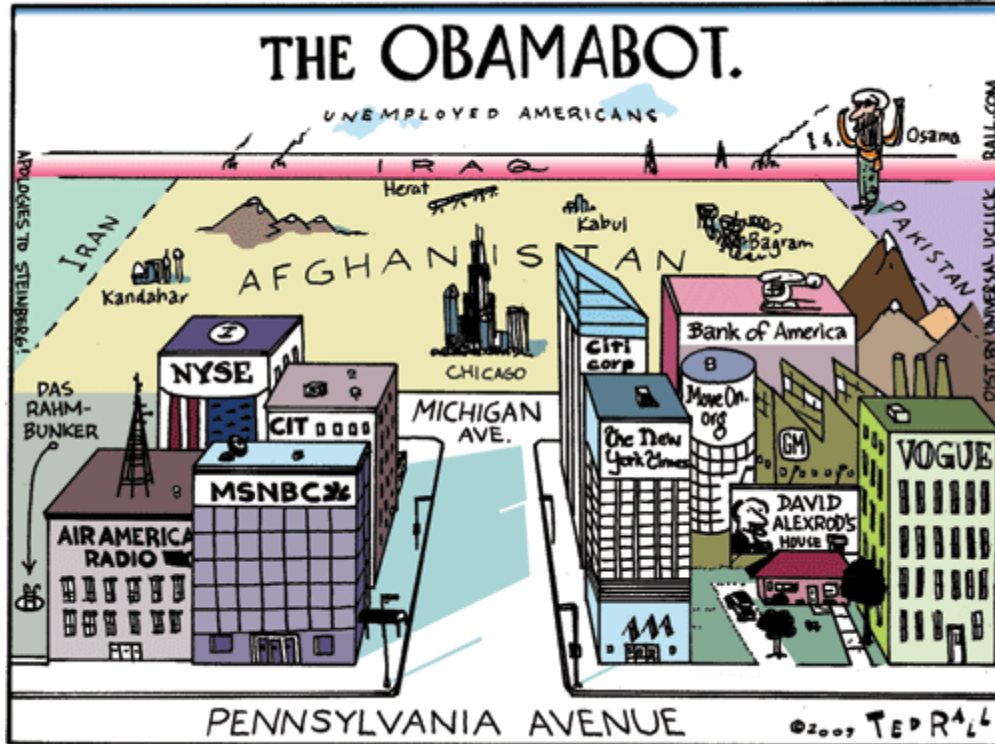
OCCUPATION PALESTINE



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

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

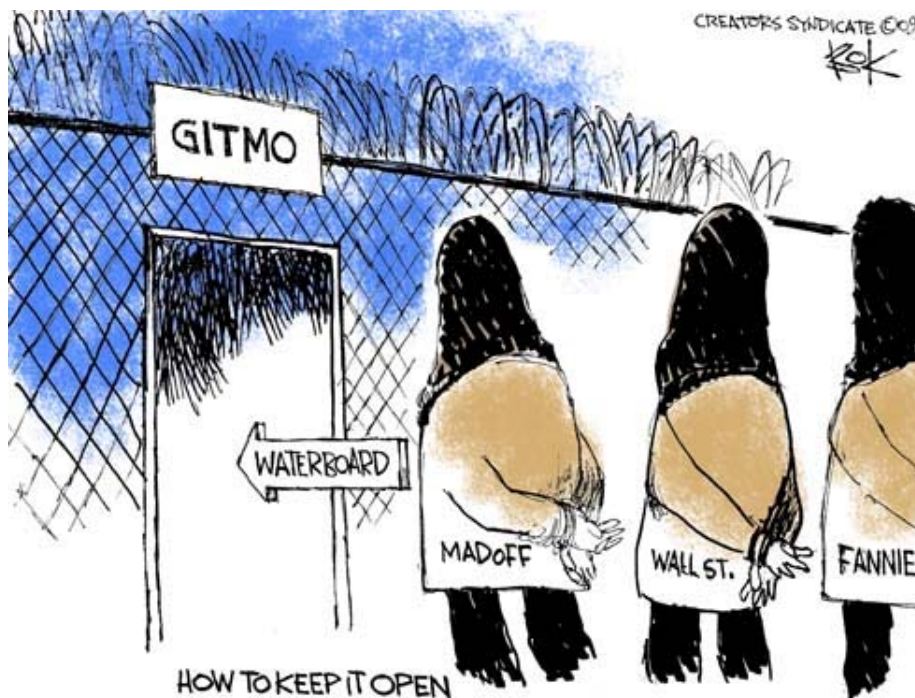
**NEED SOME TRUTH?
CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

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/)

CLASS WAR REPORTS



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550

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