

Military Resistance 7K19



**The Most Important News Item In
The United States Of America This
Month, So Far**

**“The Average Balance Of
Antiwar/Pro-War Gestures Was At
Least 5 To 1. Unusually High”
[The Government Of Fools In DC Have
No Idea What This Means, Or What’s
Coming Down The Road Towards Them,
Head On]**

From: Todd Boyle [Veterans For Peace]
Sent: November 19, 2009
Subject: VFPD Re: Act Now: No Escalation in Afghanistan

I stood vigil on the 100th street overpass on I-405 in Kirkland, as usual, with sign US OUT OF AFGHANISTAN which I have done every Wednesday since Jan 2003 hitting 10,000s of drivers/week.

The average balance of Antiwar/Pro-war gestures was at least 5 to 1. unusually high.

The average fervor or, percentage of drivers making a gesture, honk, etc. was also high, I would estimate, in the top 20th percentile compared with all the previous 350 weekly overpass vigils,

**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

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

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**Georgia Sgt. Killed By Small Arms Fire In
Numaniyah**

November 24, 2009 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 923-09

Sgt. Briand T. Williams, 25, of Sparks, Ga., died Nov. 22, in Numaniyah, Iraq, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit using small arms fire. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Ga.

Wright Soldier Dies In Iraq



The remains of Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Zorn at Dover Air Force Base, Del. (Steve Ruark/AP)

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "The Governor will insist the flags go half way, and we'll all go half way towards Business as Usual. There are 1600 people in his home town, they will ALL turn out for the service."]

November 19, 2009 By JEREMY PELZER - Star-Tribune capital bureau

CHEYENNE -- Whenever Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Zorn could lend a hand, he didn't hesitate.

"Anybody who needed any kind of help, he'd help them," said Laura Oliver, who knew Zorn since he was a student in her church youth group. "No matter what it was -- starting a car, or whatever the case may be. Ryan was a dependable person, I can tell you that."

Zorn, 35, was killed Monday near the city of Talifar in northwestern Iraq when his armored vehicle overturned. A resident of Wright who grew up in Upton, he was the 25th serviceman with ties to Wyoming to be killed in Iraq since 2003.

A communications expert with the 311th Military Intelligence Unit of the 101st Airborne Division, Zorn had been helping Iraqis develop their own communications and intelligence operations, said his mother, JoAnn Zorn. He was serving his third tour of duty in Iraq.

"He loved his country, and he loved serving his country, and that's what he lived for," she said.

That included acting as Santa Claus for others in his unit. In December 2005, during his second tour in Iraq, he called his parents after noticing some of the servicemen he worked with weren't receiving Christmas presents or mail from back home.

“He asked his dad (Myron) and I to take money out of his savings account and buy gifts,” JoAnn Zorn said. “He didn't want them to know it was coming from him -- he wanted us to put our names on it. And that way, they would have a gift to open on Christmas.”

When Ryan's parents mentioned his request to friends, six families volunteered to each “adopt” a serviceman in his unit, and shipped care packages with movies, candy, baby wipes, clothes, baked goods and Christmas hats.

“They kept sending all these boxes over to Iraq, and (Ryan's) commander finally said, 'You got to get to opening some of these, Ryan.' Because he didn't have any room to hardly crawl into his bed,” JoAnn Zorn said.

“And then that's when Ryan said, 'They're not for me. These kids have been adopted out, and it's all for the soldiers over there,’” she said.

Many who knew Zorn said that both his family and Christian faith were important to him.

When deployed, he would rarely go for long periods without calling his mother. And when he returned home, he would play with his two nieces, giving them presents and telling them stories about his experiences overseas.

Kay Johnson, a neighbor and friend of Zorn, said she never saw him lose his temper when home. He was always open and friendly, she said, with a broad smile and a great sense of humor.

“For me he was still a little boy,” she said. “He just was excited about stuff. He always showed me pictures of the new vehicles that the Army had.”

Born in North Dakota, Zorn graduated from Upton High School before joining the Army. He is survived by his parents and a brother, Todd, all of whom live in Wright.

Despite the hopes of his family and friends, Zorn never married, saying he didn't want to find a wife only to be redeployed to a war zone, Johnson said.

“We just wanted Ryan to meet a nice, wonderful young lady and have some babies,” she said. “But that's not a possibility now.”

Resistance Action

Nov 19, 2009 DPA & Nov 22 (Reuters) & Nov 23 (Reuters)

A roadside went off near a U.S. military patrol in northern Baghdad's Hussainiya district, wounding two civilians, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting the convoy of former prime minister and current lawmaker and prime ministerial candidate Iyad Allawi wounded two of his office employees in central Baghdad, police said.

Three policemen were killed and five were injured by a roadside bomb as they patrolled western Mosul, police said.

A car bomber blew himself up at a police checkpoint, killing one policeman and wounding three policemen, in the town of Garma, 30 km (20 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

A police colonel died of wounds sustained when attackers opened fire on him while he drove in southern Baghdad's Saidiya district on Saturday, police said. His son was also wounded in the attack.

A roadside bomb wounded two Iraqi soldiers in western Mosul on Saturday, police said.

Two policemen were wounded when a roadside bomb went off near a police patrol in central Mosul on Sunday, police said.

A bomb attached to a car wounded a police officer in the Karrada district of central Baghdad on Sunday, police said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two U.S. Troops Killed By IED Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan

23 Nov. 2009 ISAF Public Affairs Office

Two service members from the United States died as the result of an IED attack.

U.S. Marine Killed In Helmand Sunday

November 23, 2009 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 922-09

Lance Cpl. Nicholas J. Hand, 20, of Kansas City, Mo., died Nov. 22 while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Another U.S. Service Member Killed Monday By IED Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan

23 Nov. 2009 ISAF Public Affairs Office

A U.S. service member was killed as a result of an IED detonation in eastern Afghanistan today.

Acadiana Solider Laid To Rest



Updated: Nov 19, 2009 By Chuck Huebner, KLFY [Excerpts]

The Acadiana soldier killed in Afghanistan last week was laid to final rest.

Funeral services for Sergeant Patrick Williamson were held Friday with hundreds of people lining the streets by Sacred heart Church, to pay their respects.

During the services Williamson's girlfriend, three priests, and his general all made speeches remembering him.

Williamson was killed last Tuesday in Afghanistan's Kandahar province.

He was 24 years old.

Even as a Child Patrick Williamson knew he wanted to grow up and be a soldier.

And so he did. But this week Patrick's family in Broussard got the news every service family fears.

"We were sitting down watching TV when two soldiers came to the door" said Max Williamson Patrick's younger brother.

Max Williamson says his family couldn't believe what the soldiers had to say, that Max's older brother 24 year old Sergeant Patrick Williamson was dead.

Williamson was serving with a Striker Brigade belonging to the Army's elite Second Infantry Division when he and several of his comrades were killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan's Kandahar Province.

Patrick's father Buddy says his son died doing what he always wanted do, but it obviously doesn't make his loss any easier to take.

Before he shipped out his family gave him a little camera he used to take pictures and email home images of his unit, his job, and the people of Afghanistan.

Lance Cpl. Cody Stanley, 1987-2009 Marine Loved The Outdoors

November 01, 2009 By Joshunda Sanders, AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Lance Cpl. Cody Stanley, a 21-year-old Marine who died last week in Afghanistan, grew up on a ranch in Rosanky, near Smithville.

A childhood friend, Ron Hammons, 22, remembers Stanley as a "genuinely nice kid" whose father worked at Double D Ranch. Hammons said he and Stanley often went fishing and hunting together when they became friends in fifth grade. As they got older, they grew closer and even talked about enlisting in the military together.

Hammons took another path, working for an air conditioning company. Stanley joined the Marine Corps just months after he graduated from Smithville High School in 2006.

Stanley died Wednesday in the Helmand province of Afghanistan after an improvised explosive device went off near him, Camp Pendleton officials said in a statement. He was a rifleman with the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, which is based at Twentynine Palms, Calif. According to the Marine Corps Times, Stanley's military awards included the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon and the National Defense Service medal.

"At first, his death really wasn't real to me," Hammons said. "Just a month ago, he stayed at the house before he went on his second tour. I remember him saying he didn't have a good feeling about this time, and none of us thought much about it. It didn't even cross our mind that he might get killed."

Stanley is survived by his parents and a younger brother, Cade. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Stanley came from a group of kids whom Tony Quitta, an English teacher who has been teaching at Smithville High for more than 20 years, called "our cowboys, our country boys." He said he remembered Stanley as an "extremely polite, hard-working" student who loved the outdoors.

"We all did a bunch of hunting and fishing, so we'd get through the lessons as fast as we could on Monday mornings so we could exchange hunting and fishing stories," Quitta said.

Quitta said that Stanley had figured out late in his senior year that he wanted to be a Marine.

“He had no qualms about who he was and what he was doing, and he truly believed in what he did,” Quitta said. “I’ll miss him, but I’m thankful he was out there fighting for us. He was an honorable kid.”

Stockton Family Remembers Their Soldier

October 30, 2009 Nicole Murphy Reporter, WQAD-TV

STOCKTON, Illinois - Private First Class Devin Michel of Stockton was killed Saturday in a bomb attack in Afghanistan. 19-year-old Michel was a 2008 graduate of Stockton High School and due to come home in December.

His mom, Rebecca described him as a typical kid who loved life and lived to the fullest. “(He) lived his life like it’s the last moment. Grab the bull by it’s horns. Go have fun,” said Devin’s mom, Rebecca.

His wife of one year, Anika, got to talk to him at least once a week while he was deployed. She knows the service is something that Michel wanted to do but will miss him dearly. “It’s something they wanted to do. You can’t change that but it’s just not fair” said Anika.

Devin was stationed in Colorado and is survived by his wife, parents, Rebecca and Terry, and two sisters. Visitation will be at the Stockton High School on Friday, November 6 at 4 p.m. Funeral Services will also be at the high school on Saturday, November 7 at 11 a.m.

Soldier With Carlisle Ties Dies In Afghanistan Helicopter Crash

October 30, 2009 By LARA BRENCKLE, The Patriot-News

For the second time in two months, a soldier with ties to the Carlisle area has died fighting in Afghanistan.

The Department of Defense announced this week that Staff Sgt. Keith R. Bishop, 28, a Green Beret attached to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) was among seven soldiers killed when their helicopter crashed Monday in Darreh-ye Bum, Afghanistan.

Bishop's parents and two sisters live in Carlisle. Robert Bishop said his son had always wanted to join the military, but his desire was cemented following the 9/11 attacks.

Bishop said his son had a tour of duty in Iraq and was scheduled to deploy again when he learned he'd been accepted into the Green Beret program. It was a crowning achievement, he said.

"They only take a small group into training, and not everyone makes it, but he did," Robert Bishop said.

Keith Bishop is survived by his wife, Maggie, his parents and four siblings, including his twin sister, Kim Scheller, of Long Island, NY.

His death comes a month after Sgt. Andrew H. McConnell, whose parents lived in Carlisle for a time, was killed in a roadside attack in Afghanistan.

Resistance Action



Afghan firefighters try to extinguish a fire after three fuel tankers burn in the center of Kunduz, northern Afghanistan, late Nov. 21, 2009. The fire brigade of the German Army were called in. (AP Photo)

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance.]

Nov. 23 (Xinhua) & Press TV

Armed men abducted a government employee Noor Mohammad from Baraki Barak district of Logar province a day on Sunday.

The Afghan Defense Ministry said in a statement that three Afghan soldiers were killed in a series of roadside bomb attacks in the southern Helmand province.

Two other Afghan soldiers were injured in a roadside bomb blast in Musa Qala district of Helmand.

What It Is

November 23, 2009 By Laura King, LA Times [Excerpts]

Afghanistan has long had a program in place to accept Taliban fighters who lay down their arms, but it is widely regarded as ineffective to the point of being something of a sham.

“Lots of Taliban surrender,” a Western diplomat said wryly, when asked about the work of an Afghan reconciliation commission that claims to have “turned” more than 8,000 fighters.

“And lots of them then un-surrender.”

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW



Nov 21: US Marines of 2nd Battalion 2 Marines of 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade return from patrol in Lakari in Helmand Province. (AFP/Manpreet Romana)

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR:

[RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS]



A foreign occupation soldier from U.S. Army soldier takes photos of the eyes of an Afghan citizen forced to submit at gunpoint at a checkpoint near of the Forward Operating Base (FOB) Tillman, November 24, 2009. REUTERS/Bruno Domingos



A foreign occupation soldier from U.S. Army soldier takes photos of the eyes of an Afghan citizen forced to submit at gunpoint at a checkpoint near of the Forward Operating Base (FOB) Tillman, November 24, 2009. REUTERS/Bruno Domingos

Foreign occupation soldiers from the USA make a daily practice of publicly humiliating Afghan citizens.

This encourages self-respecting honorable Afghans to kill them.

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 50,000 Afghan troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Afghans are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people.

[How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by Barrack Obama. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

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

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

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Repeal Advance By Government Forces

23 Nov 23, 2009 GAROWE ONLINE

At least 11 people have been killed and 18 others injured in heavy fighting between Somali government forces and fighters loyal to insurgent Hizbul Islam group, Radio Garowe reports on Monday.

The clashes, which started on late Sunday and continued overnight, concentrated in the capital's Hodan, Howlwadag and parts of Maka Al Mukarama road, where the warring sides exchanged heavy weapons including mortar shells and machine guns.

Mohammed Osman Arus, Hizbul Islam's spokesman said that his forces carried out attacks on government and AU troops who were advancing on rebel territories, adding that they have killed several government soldiers.

"We carried out attacks on government and AMISOM troops especially Ugandans who advanced to Digfer Hospital. We forced them out of the hospital," he told reporters in Mogadishu.

The clashes erupt after AU forces made military movement in Hodan districts especially Digfer Hospital where they briefly occupied and then vacated later in the day.

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of Army Sgt. Nickolas A. Mueller of Little Chute, Wis. at Arlington National Cemetery Nov. 16, 2009. Mueller died on Oct. 26, 2009, of wounds suffered when the MH-47 helicopter he was aboard crashed in Darreh-ye Bum, Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Regiment (Airborne), Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

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

100th:
**“It Is A Way Of Marking Just How Costly
This War Has Been”**



The body of the 100th British soldier to die in Iraq since the start of the invasion in 2003.
(AFP/File/Adrian Dennis)

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

11.17.09 Teletext Ltd 2009 [UK]

The widow of a soldier killed in Afghanistan bravely clutched a teddy bear as she watched his coffin pass through Wootton Bassett, hosting its 100th repatriation ceremony.

Nicola Marilton-Thomas, 30, held the bear as she took her place.

Mayor of Wootton Steve Bucknell said of the milestone: “It is a way of marking just how costly this war has been.”

From A Union President:
**“We Must Stop The War Spending
Right Now And Put The Money**

**Into Supporting Municipal
Services, Creating Green Jobs,
And Helping Those Hit Hardest By
Job Losses And Foreclosures”
“If Not Corrected, These Government
Policies Are Sure To Lead To Major
Political, Economic, And Civil
Unrest”**

**If Our Political Leaders Refuse To Listen
“We Must Be Willing To Do More Than
March And Rally — Because The
Workers And The Middle Class Will Be
Destroyed”**

[Full disclosure department: I am a member of Local 768, Health Services Employees, District Council 37, AFSCME, New York City. Readers may be interested to know that at the first meeting after his election to the presidency of Local 768 on a platform calling for democratic union reform, Brother Reid placed on the agenda for that meeting a report about outreach to troops against the war and the importance of providing services to returning veterans. T]

11.20.09

Letters To The Editor

The Chief-Leader [New York City]]

To the Editor:

With the weight of a looming \$4.9-billion city budget gap and a \$3.2-billion state deficit, the cost of the war in Afghanistan takes center stage.

Recent news reports say that every additional soldier costs Americans \$1 million per year. For a thousand soldiers, that's a billion dollars each year. And President Obama is considering sending 40 times that number overseas.

Against those huge costs, the budget deficits in New York and California look paltry.

Yet municipal unions and their members are going to be agonizing about these deficits, for months and-years, with no good solutions as to how to end them.

With deals markedly inferior to those of the uniformed services and Teachers — with their superior pension plans and step-pay scales — District Council 37 members in particular are feeling the pain.

It's no secret that in most agencies, drastic staff reductions have been accomplished through attrition and our members are working harder and being more productive than ever. But we're not given any credit for it.

Some of our members are living in homeless shelters.

Givebacks are not an option.

Mayor Bloomberg says a stock transfer tax on speculators is a non-starter. So where else do we go for funding?

A video slot machine terminal in every bar and on every block?

For a war that two-thirds of the American people oppose, we are going to be buried in a sea of red ink, slashing services and laying off thousands.

Huge bailouts for Wall Street — and now equally huge outlays for a war most of us do not want — have created a perfect storm for the workers and the middle class.

It's time to face the issue squarely: we must stop the war spending right now and put the money into supporting municipal services, creating green jobs, and helping those hit hardest by job losses and foreclosures.

If our political leaders refuse to listen, continue war spending to benefit the military-industrial complex, and look only to taxes on Wall Street bonuses to address budget deficits, we must be willing to do more than march and rally — because the workers and the middle class will be destroyed.

If not corrected, these government policies are sure to lead to major political, economic, and civil unrest and, as experience shows, even international instability.

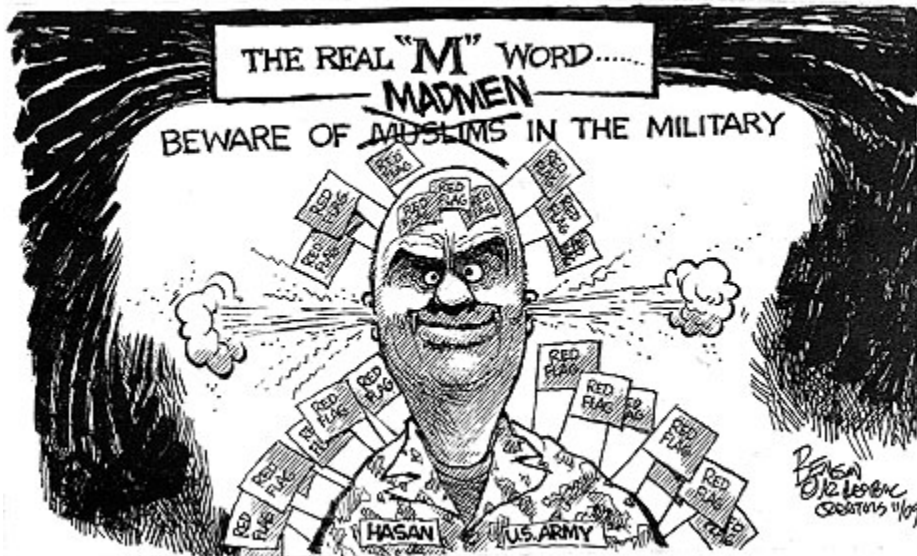
FITZ REID
President, Local 768
Local 768 DC 37 AFSCME

Got an opinion? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.

In Her Heart



Rose Gentle whose son Gordon, died during the Iraq War, holds up a pendant with his picture, outside the Iraq Inquiry in London November 24, 2009. An official inquiry into Britain's involvement in the Iraq War began on Tuesday, promising a thorough investigation which could prove embarrassing for the government ahead of next year's election. REUTERS/Luke MacGregor



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

“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

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**

America...You Are Killing Me



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: November 18, 2009
Subject: America...you are killing me

America...you are killing me

**Montagnard girl in her village in Vietnam in 1970.
We use to go into Montagnard villages and
treat them for minor health problems.
It was a PR stunt.
And while this was going on,
our heavy artillery was killing innocent
people in free-fire zones.
Nothing is free...
I keep hearing this girl say...
America...you are killing me.**

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
November 18, 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**

The Options

November 18, 2009 The Onion

Pressure is mounting on President Obama to make a decision on the future of Afghanistan.

Here are the options currently being considered:

Not only learn the lessons of Vietnam, but apply them as well

Visit; act fascinated by their rugs

Remove every American soldier; see if fighting continues

Legalize gambling, as that's worked well domestically

Thunderdome-style battle to the death between Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal and Afghanistan Taliban leader Mullah Omar

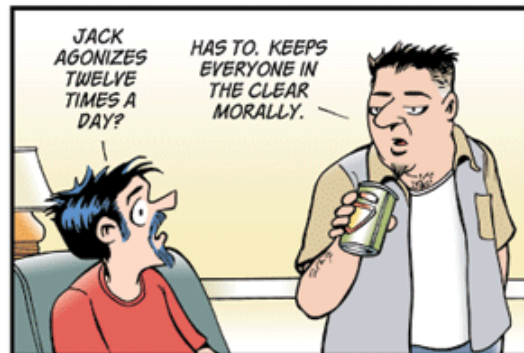
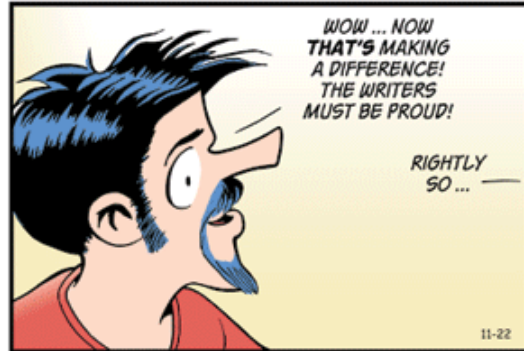
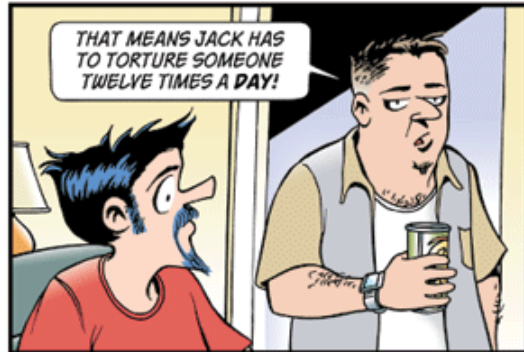
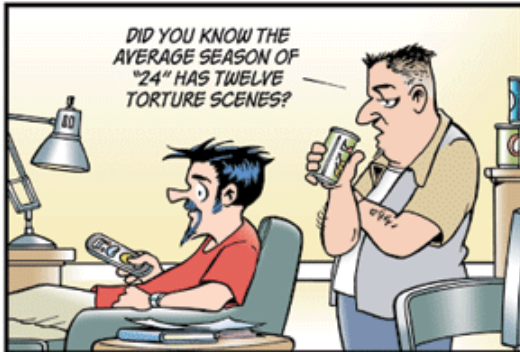
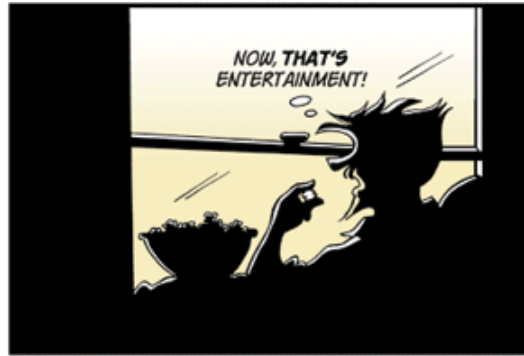
Call the Taliban pretending to be the Prophet Muhammad and tell them to stop ambushing American soldiers

Announce you're raising troop levels by 15,000, then pull everybody out, then come back with a half million soldiers, in the process convincing al-Qaeda that you're loco and not to be messed with

Arm and finance a group of religious fighters

Back the murderous drug-dealing warlord with the most government officials in his pocket

Military Resistance Available In PDF Format
If you prefer PDF to Word format, email contact@militaryproject.org



[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

[Liberals Writing Their Pathetic, Useless, Silly, Stupid Letters To Emperor Obama Have Learned Nothing And Forgotten Nothing] The Anti War Movement In 1965 “Was Based On What Now Seem Incredibly Naive Assumptions About The Causes And Purposes Of The War” “Most Of Us Opposed To The War In Those Relatively Early Days Naively Believed That The Government Had Somehow Blundered Into The War, Maybe Because Our Leaders Were Simply Ignorant About Vietnamese History”



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

[Excerpt from: Vietnam And Other American Fantasies; H. Bruce Franklin; University Of Massachusetts Press; Amherst, 2000]

Looking back to the 1945—1954 period, one may be jolted to hear words like “imperialism” and “colonialism” and “white man’s exploitation” in the mouths of merchant seamen and U.S. senators.

Such words would not be applied very frequently to our government in subsequent decades, at least by white Americans, except for a brief period in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Even then, they were hazardous to use.

In that period, whenever the word “imperialism” came out of my own mouth during antiwar speeches, I could actually see people tuning me out.

So I started asking: “What happened when I said ‘imperialism’? Did a little alarm go off inside your head, warning you against listening to anyone who used that word? How did that alarm get inside your head?”

Then I would note that during the impassioned national debate of the 1890s about whether the United States should become an imperialist power, both sides used the term — and the debate was won in 1898 by those who proudly called themselves imperialists.

As the antiwar movement was becoming a mass movement in 1965, it was fundamentally aimed at achieving peace through education, and it was based on what now seem incredibly naive assumptions about the causes and purposes of the war.

We tend to forget that this phase of the antiwar movement began as an attempt to educate the government and the nation.

Most of us opposed to the war in those relatively early days naively believed — and this is embarrassing to confess — that the government had somehow blundered into the war, maybe because our leaders were simply ignorant about Vietnamese history.

Perhaps they didn’t remember the events of 1940 to 1954. Maybe they hadn’t read the Geneva Agreements.

So if we had teach-ins and wrote letters to editors and Congress and the president, the government would say, “Gosh! We didn’t realize that Vietnam was a single nation. Did the Geneva Agreements really say that? And we had told Ho Chi Minh we’d probably support his claims for Vietnamese independence? Golly gee, we had better put a stop to this foolish war.”

Experience was the great teacher for those who were trying to teach, a lesson lost in the miasma of so-called theory that helped to paralyze activism in the 1990s.

Teaching the Vietnam War during the 1960s and early 1970s meant giving speeches at teach-ins and rallies, getting on talk shows, writing pamphlets, articles, and books, painting banners, picket signs, and graffiti, circulating petitions and leaflets, coining slogans, marching, sitting-in, demonstrating at army bases, lobbying Congress, testifying

before war crimes hearings and congressional investigations, researching corporate and university complicity, harboring deserters, organizing strikes, heckling generals and politicians, blocking induction centers and napalm plants, and going to prison for defying the draft.

It is hard to convey the emotions that inspired these actions.

Probably the most widely shared was outrage, a feeling that many came to consider outdated in the cool 1990s.

While the repression of the late 1940s and 1950s helped create the embarrassing naïveté and innocence of the early 1960s, these very qualities fueled the movement's fervor.

People believed that the government would respond to them because they believed in American democracy and rectitude.

Then, when the government did respond — with disinformation and new waves of repression — the fervor turned to rage.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

And The Political Idiot Award For 2009, So Far, Goes To....



A sign featuring President Barack Obama for a used car lot in the northwest Denver suburb of Wheat Ridge, Colo., Nov. 20, 2009. The billboard shows a grinning cartoonish Obama wearing a turban. The billboard says, 'PRESIDENT or JIHAD?' Underneath the picture is a yellow square with the phrase, 'BIRTH CERTIFICATE PROVE IT.' (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

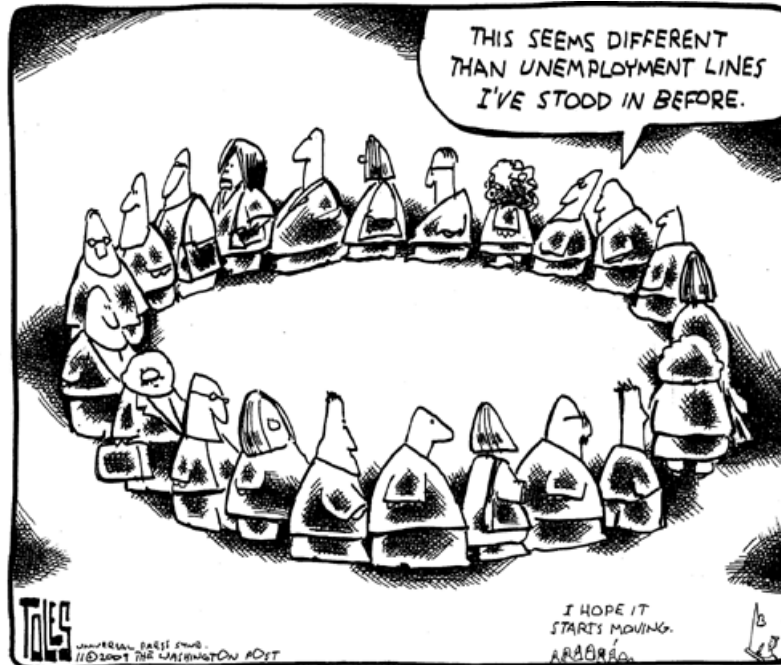
NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

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



**Citizens Occupy Mexican City Hall And Threaten To Incinerate Twelve Cops And Politicians If Police Attack Them:
Lack Of Consultation About Canadian Mine In San Jose Del Progreso Leads To Conflict:**

**“Protesters Had Already Brought Out
The Municipal Police And Their
Companions From The Jail, Tied
Them To The Pile Of Wood, Placed
The Plastic Bottle Of Gasoline
Nearby”
“The Situation Is That They Will Set Us
On Fire”**

November 21, 2009, By Nancy Davies, Narconews.com [Excerpts]

Inhabitants of San José del Progreso, in the district of Ocotlán, affiliated with the Assembly of People United for the Valley of Ocotlán in Defense of Nature and Popular Autonomy, and opposed to the operation of the Canadian owned mine “La Trinidad”, escalated their battle with the assistance of the Asamblea Popular de los Pueblos de Oaxaca, the APPO.

They occupied the town hall (Palacio Municipal) on the afternoon of November 18 with the goal of evicting from office the municipal president Oscar Venancio Martínez Rivera.

They also demand cancellation of the mining operations because Martínez Rivera authorized the mine’s operations without consent of the town’s inhabitants.

Twelve municipal police and councilors were taken hostage.

Last August Martínez Rivera accused a municipal agent of the village of Maguey Largo and APPO-teacher activists of destabilizing the community for personal gain, after a battle in which a dozen personal injuries resulted.

Subsequently federal police arrived to guard the mine entrance. No extractive work has occurred yet. After the confrontation, the government supposedly was going to aid negotiation and discussion, but in fact has not done so.

On November 20 the Las Noticias headline read, “Tell the government to come and dialogue, they won’t let us speak, but tell them to come because the gasoline is already here!”

At nine in the morning of November 19, men and women armed with sticks, ropes, and machetes refused entry to the town hall occupied the night before by townspeople irate at the lack of government response.

They took prisoner five councilors and seven municipal police, captured a municipal police vehicle, and demanded that Martinez Rivera resign his position.

“The people see that their authorities do not defend their interests, so they decided to take over the town hall. In the legislature (Camera de Deputados) everyone comes out in favor of the municipal president to cover up for him.

“We hold the government responsible for everything that happens, because they had the solution at hand in the form of a resignation of the municipal president, but they did nothing. The government has not approached us and we’re waiting for them to do so, for the good of the community”, declared a spokesperson.

The angry protesters faced off with the commander of the Special Operations Unit of the Federal Preventive Police that has been guarding the mine since protests began.

Ten units and more than half a hundred cops are stationed on the tiny town’s access road near the mine.

From among the hostages, police officer Martin Perez and the Health town councilor Felix Misael Hernandez were hustled out into street where a pile of firewood was heaped.

Protesters tied the two men to one another at the wrists, and bound their feet with plastic cord. Misael Hernandez remained silent and stalwart, while Perez began to beg for rescue when the plastic bottle of gasoline appeared.

Inside the municipal jail, the councilor Pedro Francisco Gonzalez Gopar lamented that no state authority had offered to negotiate with the protesters to free the hostages.

Hanging onto the bars, he demanded that the state government look for a solution to the problem, which has gone on for months. He stated that if the town asks for a disappearance of powers he would resign his office.

Moments later he was escorted to the telephone in the Municipal Police office to speak with Joaquin Rodriguez Palacios, sub-secretary of government. Rodriguez Palacios had spoken on the radio in an interview in which he claimed a woman had been taken hostage too, but that fabrication only served to further enrage the population.

The phone conversation was reported as: “They are telling me that the police forces are coming here, so I want you to take into account sir that we are under detention and we are dancing on a loose cord. I want you to stop this.

“The situation is that they will set us on fire. So we need you to stop this. There are twelve of us here and the only thing I ask is that you stop this because we are here and the situation is very tense.”

Fifteen minutes later when the protesters reorganized in front of the town hall, the first federal police approached the main street. The other cops, in nine pickup trucks and a van, halted about 100 meters away.

The protesters had already brought out the municipal police and their companions from the jail, tied them to the pile of wood, placed the plastic bottle of gasoline nearby.

They threatened to burn the hostages to prevent any repression on the part of the PFP.

The church bells clanged and rockets flared.

The people's battle stations received citizen reinforcements.

PFP Commander Marte, standing in front of the police force, managed to assure the protesters that the cops did not come to rescue the hostages, but on the contrary would make a phone call to ask government officials to commit to negotiation.

After five hours of tension and mutual recriminations, government officials and town representatives agreed to free the twelve hostages and install a negotiation session.

The issue of disappearance of powers for San José del Progreso will go to the state legislature, which in these cases is known to do nothing.



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