

Military Resistance 7K22



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

**Taliban Open Northern
Front In Afghanistan:
“The Taliban Have Steadily
Staged A Resurgence In
Kunduz”
“They Now Threaten A Vital NATO
Supply Line”**

“This Year We Have Seen Much Better Fighters, Capable Of Complex Attacks”

“It Deteriorated Suddenly”

November 27, 2009 By CARLOTTA GALL, The New York Times [Excerpts]

KUNDUZ, Afghanistan — Far from the heartland of the Taliban insurgency in the south, this once peaceful northern province was one place American and Afghan officials thought they did not have to worry about.

Afghan officials cut the police force here by a third two years ago and again earlier this year. Security was left to a few thousand German peacekeepers. Only one Afghan logistics battalion was stationed here.

But over the last two years the Taliban have steadily staged a resurgence in Kunduz, where they now threaten a vital NATO supply line and employ more sophisticated tactics. In November, residents listened to air raids by NATO forces for five consecutive nights, the first heavy fighting since the Taliban were overthrown eight years ago.

The turnabout vividly demonstrates how security has broken down even in unexpected parts of Afghanistan.

Even under the most generous deployments now under consideration, relatively few additional troops are expected in the north; most will be directed to the heartland of the Taliban resistance in the south and east.

The Taliban were a scattered and defeated force in northern Afghanistan, long home to the strongest anti-Taliban resistance, the Northern Alliance.

But the government, and American military trainers, failed to remain vigilant to signs of Taliban encroachment, and reduced deployments in the northern provinces in order to bolster other, more volatile regions.

The decisions created vulnerabilities as Kunduz became a target with the opening of a new logistics route here for NATO supplies from Russia and Central Asia, over an American-financed bridge that opened in 2007.

The route is supposed to serve as a strategic alternative to the treacherous passage through Pakistan, which is regularly attacked by Taliban militants.

A district like Khanabad, with a population of 350,000, has just 80 police officers now, the governor of Kunduz, Muhammad Omar, said in an interview. In the district of Chahardara, where hundreds of insurgents are at large, there are only 56 police officers, enough only to guard the district center and the main road.

“It deteriorated suddenly,” the governor said. “The first reason is that we have very few police in Kunduz considering the strategic position of our region, and our police are not able to cover the whole region.”

The Taliban, who are mostly Pashtun, draw natural support through tribal ties with Pashtuns, who make up nearly half of Kunduz’s population.

Whether it is the influence of foreign fighters, or the growing capability of the Taliban and another regional militant group, Hezb-e-Islami, Western officials say the insurgency in Kunduz has grown more sophisticated, mounting coordinated suicide car bombings and ambushes.

“Clearly this year we have seen much better fighters, capable of complex attacks,” said one Western official.

By the spring of 2008, militants started appearing in groups of as many as 100, with some foreign fighters among them, local residents and officials said.

A group of them came last spring without guns to introduce themselves to one prominent Pashtun family in Chahardara, and asked for support. They were worried about their own safety then, one family member said, asking not to be named.

“They were behaving very well with the people,” he said. “They stopped thieves, and brought law and order to the area.”

This year the Taliban arrived with “lots of cash, new dollars and guns,” and began collecting ushr, an Islamic tax, from farmers.

“It is dangerous for us if a guerrilla force has an income,” said General Daoud, who as deputy interior minister has responsibility for counternarcotics efforts.

Shoaib, 25, a villager from the Archi District who moved to the city of Kunduz to find work, said: “We are forced to be happy with the Taliban. They force the people in each street to prepare 10 guns and men. They say come and do jihad.”

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

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

War in Afghanistan Touches Home: The Death Of Michael Montgomery



November 11th, 2009 Timmatsui.com

It was just another article in the New York Times, one focused on President Obama making a special late-night trip to Dover Air Force Base. “October has been the deadliest month for United States troops in Afghanistan since the war began eight years ago...” the article stated, going on to describe how press were able to photograph, for the first time since we went to war, a president saluting the flag-draped containers of Americans killed in action. President Bush strictly forbid this kind of photo.

Returning from Afghanistan were seven soldiers and three Drug Enforcement Administration agents killed in a helicopter crash. Accompanying them were several others, including eight soldiers killed when their Stryker vehicle was gutted by a roadside bomb—an IED, the signature weapon of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

It wasn't until the weekend when my mom emailed me a link; one of the helicopter pilots was my childhood friend, Michael Montgomery. I don't know his politics, and right now I'm not interested in talking about why we are in Afghanistan. We simply are, and Mike was one of those soldiers.

As kids we had spent many an hour looking at national guard brochures, talking to recruiters at the county fair, and sitting at the controls of parked UH-1 “Huey” helicopters, the Vietnam era troop carriers, trying to catch snatches of conversations the veterans were having. It was our boyhood dream to be pilots.

Mine stopped short when I asked a recruiter about my poor vision; “you'll never fly,” was his terse reply, crushing me.

Mike had no such issue.

When he died, he was flying a MH-47—those banana shaped, twin-rotored helicopters—for the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. They fly support for special operations soldiers, doing a variable, high-intensity job, one of Mike's fellow pilots, 'Zeus,' said. There are few pilots with their training and so they are rotated every two months to avoid burn out.

I asked if he and all the other men he stood with had come from Georgia for the memorial.

Yes, he had, Zeus said, then paused. "I was there with him," he added. "I was his roommate. I flew back with him."

"Were you at Dover?" I asked. "Did Obama salute Mike?"

"Yes, there were 21 that day," Zeus replied. Our president greeted 21 dead soldiers when their bodies were returned home. One of them was Mike.

In the early '80s, when my parents moved us to a wooded lot in unincorporated King County, Mike was one of my first friends. We would play in make-believe space ships on the elementary school playground, naming the jungle-gym-turned-spacecraft with titles inspired by our cats.

At home we would draw pictures of the ships; it would help us visualize our creations at recess. Mine was a ridiculously christened the "Kitty Fritter," and underscored how socially inept our group of friends was; none of us played the ever-popular handball very, nor did we relate to girls or organized sports. We were dreamers, lost in our own world on the playground.



During high school Stan moved to Boise, Idaho. He had some troubles during that time, but now has a family and, to my knowledge, continues to cut hair.

Ewan joined the British army right out of high school. Incredibly polite for his punked-out image, he was prone to passionate monologues on Pink Floyd's "The Wall." After he joined the army he told me he started having acid flashbacks at the firing range. He said he saw people running between the targets.

Later, he took his assault rifle to the barracks bathroom and shot himself in the head.

I remember my mom told me while I was studying for a chemistry exam; at 16 I don't think I knew what to do with it. I went back to studying.

Rusty was another one of our group that played in the woods and had sleep overs. His dad was a scoutmaster with a loud voice, especially when he yelled out his son's name "Russell!" They had some troubles.

Later, in Seattle, I ran into Rusty from time to time. He was usually dressed in black and talked about martial arts. Last I saw, he was working at the local Office Max.

After high school Mike disappeared into the National Guard; we talked a little and he told me how much he enjoyed being a helicopter crew chief. When his grandmother died, he came back to town to help his mom sell the house and move. I remember that place; the smell of her cigarettes, his grandmother shouting "Michael!"

His love for Buddy Holly and Ritchie Valens. When "La Bamba" came out, a film chronicling the story of Valens' rise to stardom and tragic death, we not only saw it several times but his mom took us to the Los Lobos concert at the Paramount Theater in Seattle—because they played "La Bamba."

It was my first rock concert ever.

Throughout junior high we would run around the woods hunting each other in big games of capture-the-flag. We'd spend our allowance (or, in my case, earnings from cleaning horse stalls) on military fatigues—preferably Vietnam era olive drab—and military camping equipment. Then we'd take off overnight into the 80 acre cow pasture, or we'd traverse the hills between our houses, hiking quietly through the woods while avoiding all the homes.

Dinty Moore stew and a can of Sterno were our overnight rations. I became adept at lighting fires and building small shelters, things I learned in a Tom Brown field survival guide.

I remember Mike as a constant, a predictable person of stable character. Not boring, but easy to get along with, fun, up for an adventure but not irrational. Granted, this is me as an adult reflecting on a relationship I had as a youth.

At his memorial service his army buddies spoke of his ability to laugh, to break the tension of the moment in order to keep the focused on the mission. They spoke of bonding moments and throwing back drinks. I never had that opportunity; I never knew him as an adult.

But in the photographs I saw the kid I knew, the smile, the posture, the way he held his hands.

Even today, I can tell you how to fly a helicopter; what the pedals do, how to roll power in as you lift the collective, but I've only touched the stick of a tied-down vintage aircraft. I've flown in helicopters, but I've never flown one. Mike made his dream come true in the military and, while he signed on in a time of peace, he really wanted to fly.

At the memorial I introduced myself to his wife, Anita.

With the sad smile of loss she said "It's something he really wanted to do," as if she'd prefer he didn't fly, but knew he wouldn't be Mike if he didn't. She made me feel good when she told me how Mike spoke of me, that I was an important part of his youth. He refused to have a Facebook account, but one evening the two of them looked me up through her account; he hesitated to friend me. I wish he hadn't.

Or, maybe, I should have taken the time to find and friend him. I would have liked to know the adult Mike, to tell him I was proud of him for following his dream. I would have liked to meet Anita and their son, Riley, under better circumstances.

Instead, there was a brief memorial service in a church near the high school, complete with soldiers in full dress and a motorcycle escort for the motorcade. Driving by the football field reminded me how we'd talked of going "stag" to our senior prom—I had to ask what that meant. When we reached the cemetery, the torrential rain let up as the soldiers set Mike atop his grave. Some words were said, flowers dropped, a flag was folded and presented to Anita.

With her permission I photographed; I watched through my lens, wishing I had a longer one, for I felt I needed both the distance and to be closer. I wanted to walk away and to be present—to deny this was happening but also to feel the importance of the loss. As I looked at his son I remembered our youth, I remembered playing with Mike. Riley is nearly six years-old. Not much younger than when Mike and I met, and about the same age as Luciana's son.

As he dropped a white rose on his father's metal casket my vision blurred again. Riley wouldn't get to play with Mike like I did.

Danish Soldier Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan

26.11.09 The Copenhagen Post

Another Danish soldier has been killed in action in Afghanistan by an explosion while on foot patrol.

A 23-year-old soldier has become the 28th Danish casualty as he was killed by an explosive device while on foot patrol in Afghanistan.

Three Ukrainians Mercenaries Dead In Afghan Military Supply Helicopter Crash

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

11.27.09 AP

KABUL — Three Ukrainians were killed when a helicopter operated by an international military contractor crashed in eastern Afghanistan.

The owner and operator of the aircraft said Friday that the three crew members were the only passengers aboard the MI-8 chopper that disappeared Nov. 23.

“Efforts are currently under way to recover the aircraft and the remains of the crew,” Air Freight Gulf said in a statement. “Investigations into the cause of the crash are also under way, however early reports indicate the crew encountered poor weather conditions on route.”

The wreckage was discovered Friday during a joint search mission between NATO and the company. NATO said Friday that the crash site of the MI-8 chopper was located in eastern Afghanistan.

The helicopter had been chartered by Supreme Global Service Solutions for a cargo mission in support of NATO troops.

“Insurgents Already Control Most Of The 17 Districts In Kandahar Province”

“The Government Is More Of A Headache For Us Than The Taliban”

Nov. 25, 2009 The Associated Press

The fight for Kandahar, Afghanistan’s second largest city, shows some of the biggest hurdles faced by the U.S. as it tries to implement a strategy of winning over the ordinary people of Afghanistan.

Kandahar, a city of an estimated 800,000 people in the south, is an important piece in the battle for Afghanistan, and losing control of it would be a huge blow to the coalition.

By some accounts, including that of military officials, insurgents already control most of the 17 districts in Kandahar province. Kandahar was the headquarters of Taliban leader Mullah Omar, and the presence of Taliban there is growing.

But the strength of the insurgents is only part of the problem. The other part is the local people's mistrust of the U.S. and the Afghan government with which it is partnered.

But in Kandahar, the U.S. is fighting an overwhelming belief that the war is aimed at ethnic Pashtuns, who are the backbone of the Taliban and who dominate in the south and the east of the country where the insurgency and military action are fiercest.

“Why is it that all the killing is being done of Pashtuns? Not all Pashtuns are Taliban but that is what they (coalition) think.

“I am not government and I am not Taliban but I am suffering,” says Naqib, whose cousin was shot and killed at the end of October when a NATO patrol fired at the car he was driving. Also killed in the incident were two women, and a 2-year-old child.

“What do I tell my daughter? That life is better because the international troops are here?” asked Hajji Mohammed, her father.

Naqib's cousin Habib Rahman was to have been married the next day. The two men -- cousins, best friends and business partners -- had decided to marry the same day. Naqib postponed his wedding and Habib's fiance “hasn't eaten since Habib's death. It is like she is dead too,” he said earlier this month.

Government corruption, not the Taliban, is keeping businesses from flourishing in Afghanistan, said Ahmed Shah Lmar, regional manager for one of the country's leading cellular telephone companies. Lmar said businesses lose hundreds of millions of dollars to corruption, development plans sit in government offices gathering dust, and incompetent government officials delay projects until they become financially untenable.

“The government is more of a headache for us than the Taliban,” said Lmar, interviewed in an office at the end of a long hall protected by armed men and closed circuit televisions.

After eight years and little sign of progress, the yawning chasm between Kandaharis and the international coalition has widened, with the Taliban outdistancing the coalition in the propaganda war for the hearts of the people.

Canadian Governor Of Kandahar Escapes Assassination

November 27, 2009 CBC News

The Afghan-Canadian governor of Kandahar province in the volatile south of Afghanistan survived an assassination attempt Friday, a local official said.

Gov. Tooryalai Wesa was on his way to a mosque in Kandahar city for prayers to mark the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha.

A remote-control roadside bomb detonated as the governor's three-car convoy passed by in the centre of the city, said Zelmani Ayubi, a spokesman for Wesa.

Ayubi said the governor was unhurt, but his vehicle was damaged and one policeman was wounded.

Wesa grew up near Kandahar city.

He served as Kandahar University's first president until he left the country in 1991 with his wife. He then served as an agricultural expert at the University of British Columbia.

The couple have three children and lived in Coquitlam, B.C., for 13 years.

In December 2008, Wesa accepted Afghan President Hamid Karzai's offer to become governor of Kandahar.

“Washington’s Plans To Throw Away More Than \$10 Billion In Development Aid”

“The Taliban Are Manipulating The Foreign-Aid Contracting Process By Demanding A Share Of The Development Money For Each New Project”

“Yes, I am powerful because I am the president’s brother. This is a country ruled by kings. The king’s brothers, cousins and sons are all powerful.”

November 25th, 2009 By JOEL BRINKLEY, McClatchy-Tribune News Service [Excerpts]

Everyone concerned with Afghanistan is focused on President Obama's troop deployment decision. So it's easy to overlook a related charade already under way: Washington's plans to throw away more than \$10 billion in development aid.

All of that money is intended to build roads, schools, health clinics and other new infrastructure to win favor among Afghans. But that's not the way it is working out.

The U.S. government has \$6 billion available to spend on development projects, and an additional \$4 billion has already been approved for the coming year. Karl Eikenberry, the U.S. ambassador in Afghanistan, is asking for more.

Late this month, Transparency International published its 2009 corruption perception index, and Afghanistan had fallen to the very bottom of the list - the 179th most corrupt nation of 180 investigated. Only Somalia, a wholly dysfunctional state, saved Afghanistan from crashing to the floor.

Corruption in development aid is largely invisible until a school building falls down, a road crumbles. Only then do development officers learn that Afghan contractors “flipped” the construction contract, sold it to another builder after taking a 10 percent cut of the funds.

The buyer then flipped it again, and perhaps again, leaving so little money for the actual builder that the final product is so shoddy that it soon collapses.

That is how Andrew Wilder, an expert on Afghanistan at Tufts University, described the process during a recent U.S. Institute of Peace seminar.

Jean MacKenzie, a GlobalPost reporter, meticulously documented how the Taliban are manipulating the foreign-aid contracting process by demanding a share of the development money for each new project. Refusal is fatal.

So, in effect, the United States Agency for International Development and other aid agencies are funding the Taliban, indirectly providing the group with tens of millions of dollars.

Conversely, the Taliban appreciate the new road projects.

The highways make it a lot easier to reach provincial centers, plant bombs and kill government officials.

Complaining to government officials in Kabul is seldom useful because most of them have bought their positions and now sit astride the stream of bribery and kickback cash.

As an example, Mohammed Ibrahim Adel, the minister of mines, stands accused of accepting a \$30 million bribe from a Chinese company in exchange for rights to a copper mine in Logar province. Unconvincingly, the minister denied the charge.

And not surprisingly, Hamid Karzai, the Afghan president, sworn in for a new term last week, had nothing to say about his aide's alleged errant behavior.

But then, he is also a stout defender of his brother, Wali Karzai, who Western officials say is an important player in Afghanistan's outlaw opium-poppo industry.

Wali Karzai does not shy from the charges.

As he put it recently: “Yes, I am powerful because I am the president’s brother. This is a country ruled by kings. The king’s brothers, cousins and sons are all powerful.”

“This is Afghanistan. It will change, but it will not change overnight.”

**Obama’s Military Dictatorship
Opening New Prison For Afghans
Convicted Of Nothing And
Charged With Nothing:
“The Act Of Building Such A Prison
On Afghan Soil Without Being
Subject To Afghan Laws A
Revocation Of Afghanistan’s
Independence”
“Those Held At Bagram Have Not Been
Found Guilty Of Any Crime And No
Afghan Court Has Seen Evidence
Against Them”**

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

Nov 27 By Feraidoon Khwazoon (IPS) [Excerpts]

The U.S. military has announced the opening of a new prison on Bagram Air Base. The prison, costing 60 million dollars, will hold up to 1,100 prisoners at any one time.

U.S. Brig. Gen. Mark Martins, a U.S. Army lawyer who undertook an examination this year of Afghan and American prisons, said that the prison would be handed over to the Afghan government, though it is unclear when that handover will take place.

By the end of this year about 700 prisoners from the old Bagram prison will be transferred to the new facility.

Abdul Qadir Adalat, a deputy at the Ministry of Justice, says that the construction of this facility is a positive step.

Though he just learned about the new prison “last Thursday”, he said the fact that Afghan and international security forces will be conducting joint operations to apprehend anti-government fighters is a good thing.

But some legal analysts say that a foreign power building a prison on Afghan soil to hold Afghans without charge is in fact illegal.

Nasrullah Stanikzai, professor of law at Kabul University, says that according to Afghan and international law, the right to hold citizens against their will belongs solely to a nation’s government.

He described the act of building such a prison on Afghan soil without being subject to Afghan laws as a revocation of Afghanistan’s independence.

“Article Two of Afghan prison law says that building prisons and incarcerating citizens can only be done with the approval of the attorney general and the high court,” said Stanikzai.

“Additionally, only the Ministry of Justice is authorised to arrest and detain individuals. This prison,” he adds, “is illegal.”

Meer Ahmad Juyehdah, a member of parliament, echoes this sentiment. “It is the government’s duty to deal with enemies of the state and criminals.”

He says that the fact such prisons exist lead Afghans to question just who is in charge in this country. **[Silly man. Here’s a guess: Resistance 80%, U.S. Occupation 18%, fake Afghan government 2%. Duh.]**

Fareed Hamidi, commissioner of Afghanistan’s Independent Human Rights Commission (HRC), says that the rooms where the detainees will live as well as other on-site spaces were built in accordance with international standards of detention.

He adds that detainees will have access to non-attorney advocates, but the fact that the length of their detention is indefinite raises serious concerns.

Hamidi asserts that those held at Bagram have not been found guilty of any crime and no Afghan court has seen evidence against them.

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

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

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW



U.S. Army soldiers of 3/509 infantry 4BDE25ID Task Force Geronimo patrol at Paktika province, Afghanistan, November 12, 2009. REUTERS/Bruno Domingos



U.S. Army soldiers belonging to the Able Troop 3-71 Cavalry Squadron patrol towards the town of Zaqumkhel, Baraki Barak district, Logar province, Afghanistan Nov. 26, 2009. (AP Photo/Dario Lopez-Mills)



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

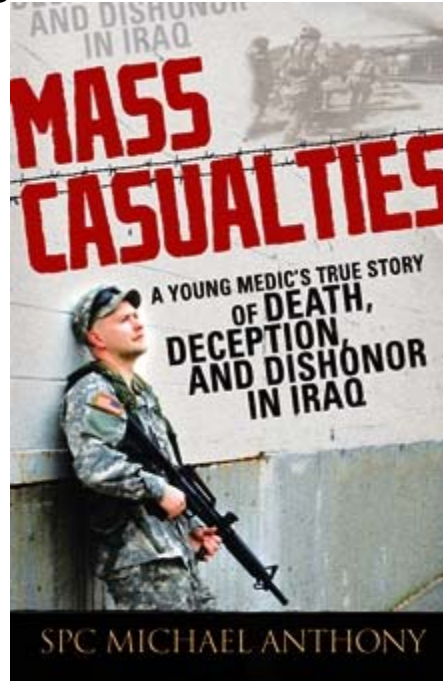
TROOP NEWS

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



U.S. Air Force medical staff load a wounded Marine onto a C-135 aircraft for transport to Landstuhl Regional Medical Facility in Germany for further medical treatment, at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan, Oct. 13, 2009. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Mass Casualties: A Young Medic's True Story of Death, Deception and Dishonor in Iraq: By Michael Anthony



By Michael Anthony; Adams, \$22.95 (256p) ISBN 9781440501838

TWO SAMPLE REVIEWS:

Howard Zinn:

Civil Rights Leader, Historian; Author of: A People's History of the United States

“Michael Anthony’s memoir is not about the politics of Iraq. Instead it takes us deep inside the war, inside and outside the operating room, the barracks, the talk of the soldiers, the feeling of the situation. It joins the body of war literature in a unique and powerful way.”

Charles Jones:

Journalist in the Iraq war, Author of: Red, White or Yellow? The Media & The Military at War in Iraq

“A scathing, satirical and often shocking trip through “the other war” in Iraq — the war within the U.S. Army, and within a soldier’s soul. Michael Anthony’s memoir is the perfect antidote for anyone who would glorify war or its impact on warriors.

“He has penned his generation’s MASH, with echoes of Catch 22 and Hunter Thompson’s Fear and Loathing sagas.”

From Michael Anthony To Traveling Soldier:

From: Michael Anthony
To: Traveling Soldier
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2009 9:14 PM
Subject: Traveling Soldier...

Dear Traveling Soldier,

My name is Michael Anthony and I am a huge fan of everything you’ve all been doing at Traveling Soldier. And being a fan, I knew I’d have to email you once the time was right.

Last October I returned home from a tour of duty from Iraq as an Operating Room Medic with the Army reserves. Upon returning home I began writing a memoir of my time in Iraq. A few months ago I signed a deal and my memoir is now in bookstores.

The book is titled: “Mass Casualties: A Young Medic’s True Story of Death, Deception, and Dishonor in Iraq”. It is about how a young boy (myself) comes to terms with being in a war he knows nothing about as he goes through a journey from boy, to man, to veteran.

Meanwhile woven throughout are the true stories of what went on in Iraq -think along the lines of, Abu Ghraib and Walter Reed.

I am now the youngest Iraq War Veteran Writer, and Mass Casualties has now become one of the most endorsed Iraq war books (from all sides).

**[Note from Traveling Soldier:
[For more reviews: <http://www.masscasualties.com/anthony-praise.htm>]**

In this world of politics and activism, Traveling Soldier has a unique and colloquial voice in respect to the war and how to deal with its happenings.

I believe and know that we both have the same goals for our country and soldiers, and I would love to combine our efforts to spread the word.

I am now starting a blog, radio, tv, and print tour, to promote the book; perhaps we could do something together.

**Best,
Michael Anthony**

[From the Editors: It will be an honor to help get the word around. Please keep us up to date on the blog and print tour!]

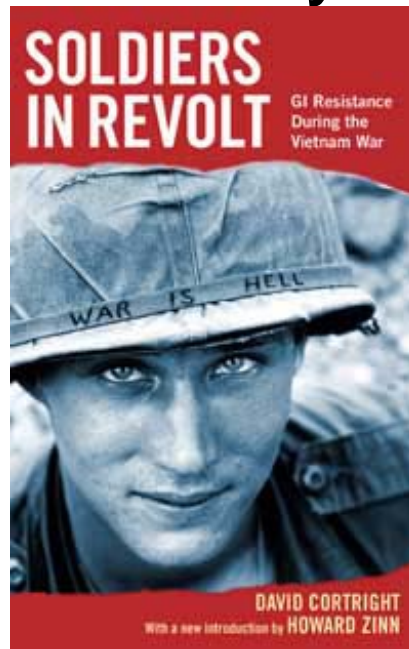
NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

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/)

Australia: CHAT AND DRINKS WITH David Cortright [And An “Ain’t The Army Funny?” Story]



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

From: Max Watts
To: Military Resistance
Sent: November 25, 2009
Subject: DRINKS WITH David Cortright and an "ain't the army funny?" story

MY OLD AND V GOOD FRIEND DAVID CORTRIGHT, A LEADING ACTIVIST IN THE US AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE MOVEMENT, ALSO A VERY SUCCESSFUL RITA (resister inside the US ARMY!!) DURING THE VIETNAM WAR WILL BE IN:

**SYDNEY
FROM 13 TO 19 DECEMBER
WE WILL MEET AND (I HOPE) CHAT ON:
MONDAY, 14 DECEMBER, ARVO-EVE
AFTER 6 PM (18:00 HRS)
IN THE GARDEN OF THE DUCK AND SWAN PUB
94 ROSE ST,
CORNER CLEVELAND, CHIPPENDALE**

**CONTACT THRU Max Watts
9564 1147
0419 606 332**

A COUPLE OF BIO NOTES FOLLOW

DAVID CORTRIGHT, STILL ON THE BOARD OF FOURTH FREEDOM FOUNDATION (FFF) IN INDIANA, HAS RECENTLY "RETIRED" FROM FFF PRESIDENCY, AND IS NOW PRINCIPALLY PROFESSING AT NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY.

HE IS V ACTIVE IN SEVERAL US AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE ACTION PROJECTS (ANTI-NUKE)

A BIT OF "PERSONAL HISTORY" FOLLOWS:

We, then working with Resister Soldiers and Airpeople in Germany, France and England, first heard of David Cortright in 1970 through an "ain't the army funny?" story, run (more or less accurately) in dozens of GI Papers then published in the USA, Europe, and Asia:

Captain X - commanding a US Army band - calls a till then little known Spec/4 David Cortright (then blowing trumpet in the Fort Hamilton, NY, Army Band) into his office and points to a glossy Photograph, taken by Military Intelligence.

Shows several women in non-military, hippyish, attire. They are following the marching band, waving banners: “GI Wives for Peace”; “Stop the (Vietnam) War”....

Captain: “Do you know that woman?”

Spec/4 Cortright (perhaps a bit scared, captains can bite): Er, ahem, Sir, that is my wife.”

Captain (Sternly): Tell your Wife to stop doing that”

Cortright: (then maybe intimidated? - ask him Monday?): “Sorry, Sir, I cannot control my wife”

Cortright is transferred to Fort Bliss, Texas.

Written reason for transfer: “Failure to control his wife.”

Cortright and others sue the army - An illegal, reason for transfer. Not Military necessity.

The case went almost to the US Supreme Court.

Some judges did rule that Cortright’s failure to control his wife was not a valid reason for a punitive transfer. Others disagreed.

Cortright stayed in Fort Bliss, with a much larger, v active, GI Resistance group.

He also became famous thruout the GI Movement as the Spec/4 who could not control his wife.

We corresponded and some years later met, became very good friends, did things together.

CORTIGHT’S FIRST BOOK (OF MANY): SOLDIERS IN REVOLT is one of the best summaries of the GI RESISTANCE DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

It was first published by ANCHOR/DOUBLEDAY IN 1975.

The second, enlarged, soft-cover edition with an extensive postscript and updates is very much in print and much used by today’s GI Resisters to the Iraq/Afghanistan wars.

**HAYMARKET BOOKS, POB 180165 CHICAGO, IL. 60618, USA
US \$ 16. ISBN 1-931859-27-2 AND: 773-583-7884 X,
COPIES IN FISHER (U SYD) AND LEICHHARDT LIBRARY.**

And later:

LEFT FACE - SOLDIER UNIONS AND RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS IN MODERN ARMIES, WITH MAX WATTS: GREENWOOD PRESS NEW YORK, WESTPORT CT.,

LONDON. 1991 ISBN 0-3137626-9 discussing our Threshold Theory of GI resistance is harder to find, but there is a copy in FISHER LIBRARY (UNIV OF SYDNEY)

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

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 Last Door Is Betrayal



Moving Wall (Vietnam Veterans Memorial) in Salem, Oregon 1989. Mother and daughter, with the child wearing her father’s jacket.

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: November 21, 2009
Subject: The Last Door Is Betrayal

The Last Door Is Betrayal

The most dangerous and most powerful

door to open involving treatment for PTSD,
is the door that has Betrayal written on it.
It is the motherload of understanding the
pathology of deceit.
Once that door is opened,
everything changes in the psyche of a
veteran or active duty soldier,
as he or she realizes their service in the
military were chips on a poker table for
corporate profits.
That is when emotional intelligence skyrockets,
and the real enemy is revealed.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
November 21, 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 27, 1969: Fast Against The War “Spread To Units All Over Vietnam”

Carl Bunin Peace History Dec 26 - Dec 3

Over one hundred members of the U.S. 71st Evacuation Hospital and the 44th Medical Detachment at Pleiku, Vietnam, organized a protest fast called the “John Turkey movement.”

In Home Before Morning: The Story of an Army Nurse in Vietnam, nurse Lynda Van Devanter recalled her change in attitude.

“Earlier in my tour, when I had heard about the war protesters, I had felt angry at them for not supporting us. Now I wished I could march with them. . .

“Most others in Pleiku felt the same way.

“We even held our own Thanksgiving Day fast—the John Turkey movement — as a show of support for those who were trying to end the war through protests and moratoriums.

We heard that the fast had spread to units all over Vietnam.”

The fast received considerable media coverage when Denise Murray, a nurse at Pleiku and daughter of a distinguished admiral, made antiwar statements to the press.

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



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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

“The City Of Pittsburgh Has Agreed To Pay \$50,000 To A Man Who Sued After Being Issued A Disorderly Conduct Citation”

Mr. Hackbart Gestured With His Middle Finger

November 25, 2009 By SEAN D. HAMILL, New York Times

PITTSBURGH — The City of Pittsburgh has agreed to pay \$50,000 to a man who sued after being issued a disorderly conduct citation for gesturing offensively at a police officer.

The settlement, in which the city also agreed to retrain its officers in the limits of disorderly conduct law, was reached with Dave Hackbart, 35, after research undertaken by his lawyers found that police citations for swearing or offensive gestures were common here.

From March 2005 to July 2009, the research found, Pittsburgh officers cited 198 people for disorderly conduct on the basis of that sort of behavior, even though the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has consistently found such citations unlawful on free speech grounds.

“Hopefully we’ll send a message to other police officers across the state, where this is a consistent problem, that this is not legal,” said Sara J. Rose, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, which helped represent Mr. Hackbart in a federal civil rights lawsuit against the city.

Pittsburgh’s deputy police chief, Paul J. Donaldson, said the city had retrained officers in the law twice since 2006 but would do so again, to emphasize that “the disorderly conduct statute can’t be used to protect the police from all verbal indignities.”

Mr. Hackbart was charged on April 10, 2006, while trying to parallel-park. According to his lawsuit, another car pulled up and blocked him from parking, frustrating Mr. Hackbart, who gestured with his middle finger at the other driver.

When a third driver objected to the gesture, Mr. Hackbart delivered it to him as well. That driver turned out to be an officer, Sgt. Brian Elledge, who wrote the citation.

Mr. Hackbart was found guilty by a magistrate and fined court costs. “I felt really let down by the system,” Mr. Hackbart said. “I challenged it as a matter of principle.”

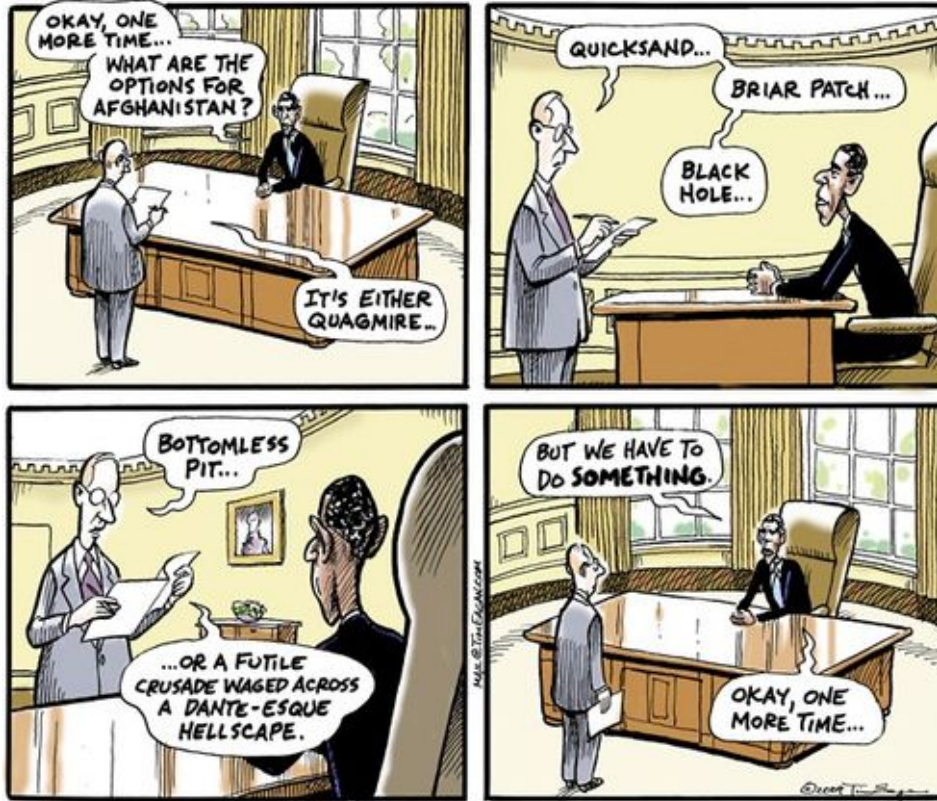
Of the \$50,000 settlement, he will get \$10,000; the rest goes to his lawyers.

Mr. Hackbart said that the case had raised his interest in law and that he had he quit a job as a waiter and gone back to school to become a paralegal. He is considering going on to law school.

“A lot of good things have come out of this,” he said. “Hopefully it’s a big deterrent and it helps other people down the road who are in my shoes.”

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



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

Military Resistance www.militaryproject.org

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



Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org

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.

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