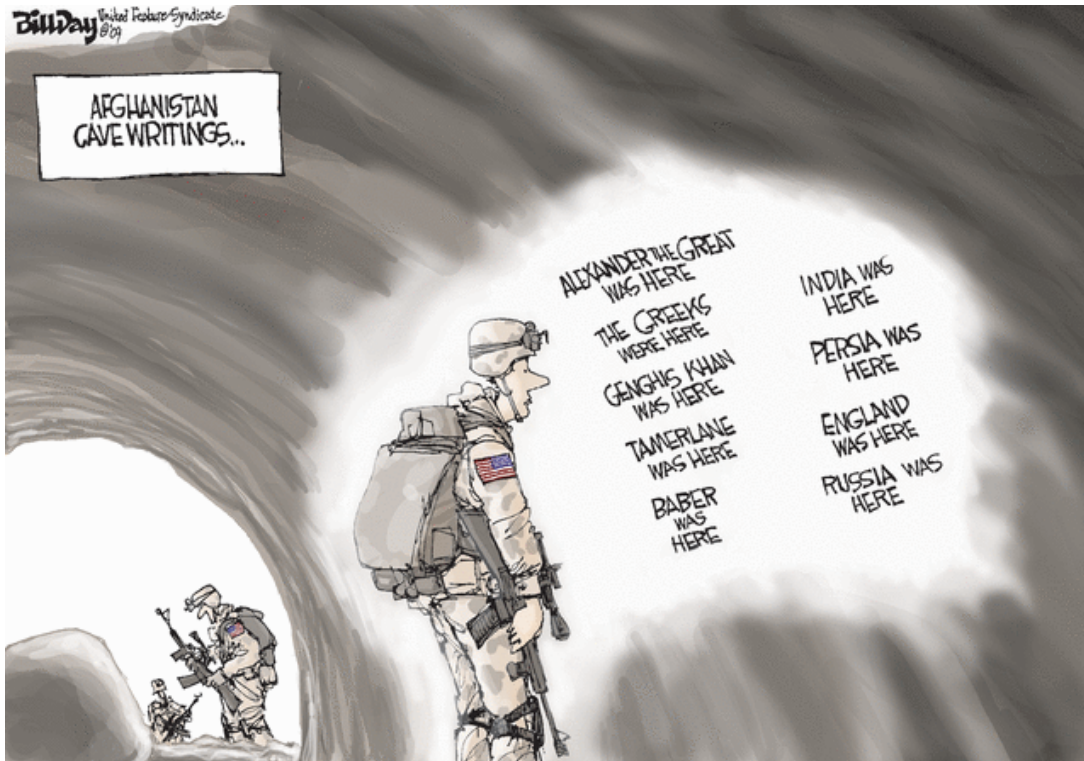


Military Resistance 7K23



“FTA!”

**“I’m Tired Of Friends Dieing For
No Reason And Tired Of The
Lies”**

**“Ever Since I’ve Come Back From
Balad Iraq I’ve Been Fighting
Back”**

From The Editors:

To protect the writer, his identity has been removed from this email as published here. Military Project, which produces Traveling Soldier, will follow up with the writer privately. We welcome other letters from members of the armed services.

I am an MP in the Army and your news letter is the most sensible thing I have read since I joined in 06.

I have deployed and been injured. I've been that brainless soldier who has no opinion.

But ever since I've come back from Balad Iraq I've been fighting back. Since then I have had my own opinions on things.

I realized I didn't like what the Army had made me and I was going to take myself back.

Having an opinion has gotten me in a little trouble because the higher ups don't like me having a personal opinion, let alone one that makes sense.

I'm tired of friends dieing for no reason and tired of the lies.

We shouldn't have to take this shit and I'm glad there are people who think like me and are willing to express it like human beings.

I was starting to feel alone in this.

And its not just the Army, its the government in general.

I was this patriotic "super soldier" who wouldn't even let people talk bad about our government but I've opened my eyes and now I don't know what type of government to believe in or what type of government would even work out in this day and age.

Regardless of whether I know what I want I know the way things are going now is wrong.

If there are any FTA soldiers on Ft Richardson or Ft Polk I would like to be contacted by them.

FTA!

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

Resistance In Basra Hunting Down Traitors Who Served The British Occupation Army: “Your Day Will Come Soon”

“Don’t believe it when you hear from the police that Basra is safe,” Mr Rady said. “Parts of the police are, and always were, part of the militia. They are infiltrated through and through.”

November 28, 2009 Oliver August in Basra, The Times [UK] [Excerpts]

When he stopped his car at a traffic light in Basra, Bassam Rady noticed the motorbike with two riders on it inch past him. Suddenly the bike swung round and Mr Rady, sensing danger, tried to drive off. Before he could, a man on the back of the bike pulled a gun from his jacket and fired.

The bullet went through the windscreen and just missed him. As he sped away another shot was fired, but missed the car.

Mr Rady is a former interpreter for British forces in Iraq.

Although they have not become as active as before, the militants are targeting Iraqi citizens who co-operated with British forces. Most at risk are translators such as Mr Rady.

The 31-year-old father accompanied soldiers on dangerous missions but was refused resettlement in Britain at the end of his employment.

He worked with nine translators. Seven of them have been killed.

“I’m like a cancer patient — now that the militia are back my family is just waiting for me to die,” Mr Rady said.

“I see reports in the media that Basra is safe but it’s not true. I know these militia people. I went to school with some of them. I didn’t see them for a year but now they are around again. They have told me, ‘your day will come soon’.”

He takes security precautions and never follows a routine. This means that he cannot work because that would give the militants a better chance of success.

The Basra police and army units, who can now be seen at checkpoints throughout the city, deny that they have a problem with returning militants.

At the Basra mortuary, however, officials told The Times that they were seeing the bodies of victims from political killings every week. Naeem Hassan, a hearse driver, said:

“I just drove the bodies of two Iraqis back to their home in Baghdad. They were working here for a foreign company with a foreign engineer. He was kidnapped and the two Iraqis were killed.”

Few such killings are reported in the local media, which has complained about official intimidation in the past.

“Don’t believe it when you hear from the police that Basra is safe,” Mr Rady said. “Parts of the police are, and always were, part of the militia. They are infiltrated through and through.”

Signs of renewed militant activity can be seen.

Army units have stepped up patrols.

Awath al-Abdan, a local politician, said: “Some militia members have come back and once they are settled in they are ready to rise up when given the order.”

This makes survival for residents who worked with the British increasingly difficult.

Mr Rady was supposed to have been given residency in Britain after he finished his job.

He said that he worked for British forces for 14 months, putting him in the 12-month requirement for resettlement. His official work record is incomplete however and shows a period of employment six days short of a year. For that reason, he said, his application to emigrate was turned down.

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

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Hico Family Remembers Son Killed In Afghanistan



Lance Corporal Shawn Hefner KTVT / KTXA

Nov 16, 2009 HICO (CBS 11 / TXA 21)

It's the knock on the door that no military family wants to receive. When Hico resident Shawn Hefner went to Afghanistan in June his mother started a journal and scrapbook for him.

"He was across the international dateline, about 11 hours ahead of us. So he was calling from the future," Robin Hefner said of her son.

Robin was working on the scrapbook and expecting a delivery to add to it. Two marines showed up instead. "I saw the military people standing there and I ran to the bedroom," Robins aid shaking her head.

While 22-year-old Shawn was no mamma's boy, he certainly loved his mother. "He took care of me. He was always the one who would sit next to me no matter how big he got."

Shawn was most like his father - a marine before him. "He was chip off the old block," Patrick Hefner said of his son.

Shawn knew his mother worried. So, the day his armored vehicle struck an improvised explosive device (IED) he took pictures from his stretcher to let her know he was okay.

But November 13th was different. It was on that day that Shawn stepped on an IED while on foot patrol.

"Anyone that makes that sacrifice in my eyes is a hero," Patrick said.

Lance Corporal Shawn Hefner was due home for Thanksgiving. Now he'll be remembered as an American hero and more.

"Well, he was a marine and yes he's a hero but first he's my son," Robin said proudly.

Marines will escort Shawn's casket when it is flown into Waco Regional Airport at 11am Thursday and transported to a Hico funeral home. The funeral is set for 2pm Friday at

the First Baptist Church in Hico. Now, the Hefner family, of Hamilton County, is remembering their son who was killed in action on the battlefield.

Body Of Fallen Marine Returns Home To Anaheim



Nov. 24, 2009 By Julie Brayton, NBCLosAngeles.com

Lance Corporal Justin J. Swanson from Anaheim loved being a Marine.

“Oorah!!!” he wrote on his MySpace page. “I love what I do ... and I’m good at what I do. ... I’m pretty wild cause I’ll do about anything you challenge me to.”

Swanson enlisted in the Marines in 2006 and was based at Camp Pendleton with the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, The Orange County Register reported.

Swanson was serving in the Taliban stronghold of Helmand Province when he was killed by an improvised explosive device, the Department of Defense announced.

His death on Nov. 10 came on the official birthday of the Marine Corps and a day before Veterans’ Day, The Orange County Register reported.

Swanson was killed in what’s become the most lethal year for U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

There have been 922 American deaths in Afghanistan since the war began.

Swanson’s family gave permission for the public and the media to view the return of Swanson’s remains to The Joint Forces Training Base at Los Alamitos today, and on Thursday afternoon a contingency of both enlisted and veteran soldiers came to give the marine his final salute.

Swanson had been on his second deployment after returning from Iraq last year, officials based at Camp Pendleton said.

Swanson grew up in Anaheim and went to Buena Park High School, where - according to his MySpace page - he majored in football.

Swanson had talked since high school about joining the Marines, in part to set an example for his two younger brothers and two younger sisters, The Orange County Register reported.

Lance Corporal Justin J. Swanson was 21 years old.

Notes From A Lost War:

“The Terrain Here Just Swallows The Infantry” In Six Months “Nearly 2,100 Wounded Troops”



The Terrain Swallows The Infantry

Nov 24, 2009 BY JAY PRICE - Staff Writer, The News & Observer [Excerpts]

The 67,000 U.S. and 40,000 NATO troops in Afghanistan are spread across vast distances.

The terrain is some of the harshest on the planet.

On the few roads, insurgents are planting increasingly powerful bombs, some capable of stopping even the massive MRAP, or Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle.

More than Iraq or any other recent conflict, this is a helicopter war, according to ground troops, whose reinforcements, ambulance service, air cover and in some cases even food and water, arrive by chopper.

In six months, the 82nd CAB has flown nearly 2,100 wounded troops to a medical facility within an hour, missing its goal only a half dozen times out of 1,400 missions, mainly because of mechanical problems, said Lt. Col. Ed Brouse, 40, of Pennsylvania, the deputy commander.

“If you ask any ground maneuver commander, they’ll tell you we can never have enough helicopters in this environment,” Bricker said.

“Helicopters are an absolutely critical asset here,” said Lt. Col. David Oclander, 42, of Chicago, the commander of an 82nd Airborne Division infantry battalion that’s spread across several small bases in southern Afghanistan.

He was standing on the dusty landing pad of a tiny Afghan Army post, Forward Operating Base Nawbahar, in Zabul province’s high desert moonscape, where he has a small unit mentoring Afghan soldiers and police officers. The base was hours by ground from large U.S. outposts, but minutes by air.

“Pretty much everything is brought here by helicopter,” he said.

The U.S. and Afghan troops at the base get supplies via Chinooks and Black Hawks, and close air support from Apache and Kiowa attack helicopters. If they’re wounded, they can expect to be airlifted by chopper to a medical facility within an hour. When it’s time for R&R, they take choppers out.

“This area is much more expansive, much more remote, and the conditions are austere to say the least in many areas, particularly where we work,” he said.

“The terrain here just swallows the infantry, and the aircraft enable us to cross all that ground rapidly, and with great agility and flexibility.”

It’s not unusual for Black Hawks and Chinooks to fly half a million pounds of supplies and almost 2,000 people in a week as operations in Afghanistan accelerate.

Some of the brigade’s units are flying five times more than they do back at Fort Bragg.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Lucas Whittington, 29, of Lillington, N.C., a Kiowa pilot, said his troop was flying 1,200 to 1,300 hours a month versus 800 to 900 hours a year back home scouting for people planting bombs, escorting convoys and providing close air support for the infantry.

The Kiowas and Apaches have had hundreds of engagements with the insurgents, while flying close air support for ground troops and hunting bomb teams, Bricker said.

Maintenance, meanwhile, is going 24 hours a day, with maintenance crews working 12-hour shifts, seven days a week.



The Terrain Swallows The Infantry: The Mountains Of Eastern Afghanistan.
[Photo by Moises Saman, New York Times]

“European Countries Are Not Going To Send Many Real Reinforcements”

24 Nov 2009 AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

At a meeting of European allies on December 7, NATO commanders were expected to focus on European contributions to the Afghan mission, including possible forces for training the Afghan army and police, a diplomat said in Brussels.

However, a NATO military commander warned that “European countries are not going to send many real reinforcements.”

The officer added: “They could keep troops - several thousand at most - that were sent on a temporary basis to provide security around the Afghan presidential election” held in August.

Cowards Torture Teen Boys In Obama’s Secret Bagram Prison:

**Child-Molesting U.S. Army Sex
Freaks “Touched Me All Over My
Body. They Took Pictures, And
They Were Laughing And
Laughing. They Were Doing
Everything”**

**“His Interrogator Forced Him To Look
At Pornographic Movies And
Magazines While Also Showing Him
A Photograph Of His Mother”**

**“I Was Just Crying And Crying. I Was
Too Young,” Rashid Said. “It Was Better
To Just Kill Me. But They Would Not Kill
Me”**

The site has continued to operate under the terms of an executive order that Obama signed soon after taking office, which forced the closure of secret prisons run by the CIA but not those run by Special Operations forces.

November 28, 2009 By Joshua Partlow and Julie Tate, Washington Post [Excerpts]

Two Afghan teenagers held in U.S. detention north of Kabul this year said they were beaten by American guards, photographed naked, deprived of sleep and held in solitary confinement in concrete cells for at least two weeks while undergoing daily interrogation about their alleged links to the Taliban.

The accounts could not be independently substantiated.

But in successive, on-the-record interviews, the teenagers presented a detailed, consistent portrait suggesting that the abusive treatment of suspected insurgents has in some cases continued under the Obama administration, despite steps that President Obama has said would put an end to the harsh interrogation practices authorized by the Bush administration after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The two teenagers -- Issa Mohammad, 17, and Abdul Rashid, who said he is younger than 16 -- said in interviews this week that they were punched and slapped in the face by their captors during their time at Bagram air base, where they were held in individual cells.

Rashid said his interrogator forced him to look at pornography alongside a photograph of his mother.

The holding center described by the teenagers appeared to have been a facility run by U.S. Special Operations forces that is separate from the Bagram Theater Internment Facility, the main American-run prison, which holds about 700 detainees.

The teenagers' descriptions of a holding area on a different part of the Bagram base are consistent with the accounts of two other former detainees, who say they endured similar mistreatment, but not beatings, while being held last year at what Afghans call Bagram's "black" prison.

There have been reports about the existence of an interrogation facility at Bagram that is run by Special Operations forces, but little has been disclosed about living conditions or interrogation methods there.

Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross have not been permitted access to the detainees at this facility.

The site has continued to operate under the terms of an executive order that Obama signed soon after taking office, which forced the closure of secret prisons run by the CIA but not those run by Special Operations forces.

Mistreatment such as beating, lengthy sleep deprivation and sexual humiliation is prohibited during interrogations under the Army Field Manual, and it is illegal under the Detainee Treatment Act of 2005.

The two teenagers were interviewed Wednesday at the Afghan-run Juvenile Rehabilitation Center in Kabul, where they were transferred after their detention at Bagram and a brief stay in an Afghan adult prison known as Pul-i-Charkhi.

They sat together on a bench outside the building and told their stories in succession, as did a third teenager, Sayid Sardar Ahmad, 17, who also spent time at Bagram.

"That was the hardest time I have ever had in my life," Rashid said of his interrogation. "It was better to just kill me. But they would not kill me."

Rashid, a woodcutter from the Sabari district of Khost province, said he was arrested in the spring with his cousin and father during a U.S. military raid.

After being kept at a base in Khost, he said, he was flown to Bagram.

At the beginning of his detention, he was forced to strip naked and undergo a medical checkup in front of about a half-dozen American soldiers. He said that his Muslim upbringing made such a display humiliating and that the soldiers made it worse.

“They touched me all over my body. They took pictures, and they were laughing and laughing,” he said. “They were doing everything.”

He said he lived in a small concrete cell that was slightly longer than the length of his body. Food was tossed in a plastic bag through a slot in the metal door. Both teenagers said that when they tried to sleep, on the floor, their captors shouted at them and hammered on their cells.

When summoned for daily interrogations, Rashid said, he was made to wear a hood, handcuffs and ear coverings and was marched into the meeting room.

He said he was punched by his interrogators while being prodded to admit ties to the Taliban; he denied such ties.

During some sessions, he said, his interrogator forced him to look at pornographic movies and magazines while also showing him a photograph of his mother.

“I was just crying and crying. I was too young,” Rashid said. “I didn’t know what a prison looks like or what a prison is.”

Mohammad, a vegetable farmer from the Arghandab district of Kandahar province, said he was arrested around March, also during an American military raid.

He said he spent 14 days in a solitary cell before being moved to group quarters at the main Bagram prison, which he described as a separate area.

During those initial two weeks, he recalled, interrogation sessions lasted hours, with one man “yelling at me and also punching and slapping my face.”

“He kept asking me, ‘Tell us the truth.’ I told them the truth more than 10 times. That I’m a farmer, my father was a farmer, my brother was a farmer,” Mohammad said. “But they said, ‘No, help us with this case. Tell us the truth.’ That’s why he was slapping me.”

Similar living conditions, particularly the lengthy sleep deprivation and intense cold, were also described by two other former detainees, Malik Mohammad Hassan, a tribal elder from the Jalalabad area, and Mohammad Mukhtar, a former teacher.

They said they were arrested last year and held for some time in the “black” prison. They said they were not beaten but still described their treatment as “torture.”

“This is something nobody can bear. It’s extraordinary,” Hassan said. “They treated us like wild animals.”

Conditions inside the main Bagram prison have been kept hidden from the American public for most of the eight-year-old war in Afghanistan.

Detainees are held there without charge, sometimes for several years, and are denied access to lawyers.

In the early years, the prison was notorious as a place where aggressive interrogations and severe sleep deprivation were regularly used. Two detainees died there in 2002 after being beaten by U.S. soldiers.

The Special Operations facility at the Bagram base has been even more carefully shielded, with the identities of detainees kept secret even from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

But in the summer, the military agreed to notify the Red Cross within 14 days of the identities of detainees brought there.

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

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



A U.S. Army soldier of 3/509PIR infantry 4BDE25ID Task Force Geronimo patrols near Tillman camp in Patikra Province November 8, 2009. REUTERS/Bruno Domingos



Soldiers belonging to the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team arrive at the FOB Shank, Logar province, Afghanistan Nov. 21, 2009. (AP Photo/Dario Lopez-Mills)



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)

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR;

RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



A foreign occupation soldier from the U.S. forces an Afghan man to kneel before him in the dirt 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?]

Military Resistance Available In PDF Format

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

TROOP NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



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

£4.3m Spent On Ceremonial Army Uniforms For Tourists As British Troops In Afghanistan “Complained About Shortages Of Vital Life-Saving Equipment” “There’s No Excuse For Our Troops In Afghanistan To Be Without The Right Body Armour”

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

22 November 2009 By Nigel Nelson, People.co.uk [Excerpts]

Spending on ceremonial Army uniforms has soared - as soldiers fighting and dying in Afghanistan wait for essential kit.

The Ministry of Defence has splashed out £4.3million in the past five years on new bearskins, red tunics and white gloves for the elite Guardsmen who protect the Queen.

In the last financial year alone the figure doubled to £1.6million from £787,000 in 2007-08.

The cash went on keeping the Brigade of Guards - the Grenadier, Coldstream, Scots, Irish and Welsh regiments - looking immaculate for ceremonial duties outside Buckingham Palace and other tourist hotspots.

Meanwhile troops on the front line have repeatedly complained about shortages of vital life-saving equipment.

Last week it was revealed how tragic Rifleman Andrew Fentiman, 23, wrote home about the lack of new kit before he was shot dead in Helmand.

The TA reservist, serving with 7th Battalion The Rifles, posted on his blog: "We are still waiting on new body armour and helmets which were promised. They said they would be ready for us. We hope they will arrive soon."

The MoD announced in September that it was sending out 5,000 sets of state-of-the art new Osprey Assault body armour and Mark 7 helmets to troops serving in the combat area.

The £4.3million which has been spent on ceremonial uniforms would have been enough to supply 2,700 troops with the new equipment.

The single biggest outlay on spit and polish was for the Irish Guards, who had £872,000 spent on them last year for hats, boots, belts, jackets, trousers and gloves.

Shadow Home Secretary Chris Grayling added: "There's no excuse for our troops in Afghanistan to be without the right body armour. It's not acceptable."

Rifleman Fentiman was wearing the older standard Osprey armour and Mark 6 helmet when he was gunned down by Taliban insurgents on patrol near Sangin.

The sales manager from Oakington, Cambs, had volunteered for the front line because he thought it would help achieve his dream of becoming an Army officer.

An MoD spokesman said: "Official engagements such as parades and funerals are an essential part of military life and it's vital our personnel look their best."

Swedish Army Women Demand The Provision Of Military Underwear Designed For Females:

“Until The Situation Was Resolved, Women Would Continue To Run The Risk Of Suffering Skin Burns If Their Underwear Caught Fire In A Combat Situation”



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

“So in your thinking if I had a rifle in my hands, I would not be able to put a bullet between your eyes.

“If I had a rifle in my hands, do you actually believe because I am a woman, that I would miss you?”

19 Nov 09 Paul O’Mahony, The Local Europe AB

Women in the Swedish army are demanding the provision of military underwear designed for female forms after 30 years of having to slip into something less comfortable.

Asked whether women were in a rush to get access to specially tailored underwear, Katja Adolphson of the Swedish Conscription Council (Värnpliktsrådet) replied: “We’ve been in a rush for the last thirty years.”

Despite the fact that they’ve been part of the Swedish Armed Forces for decades, female soldiers still have no choice but to don men’s underwear or risk the perils of combat in flammable civilian bras and panties.

Female soldiers were previously told that their underwear wait would be over by the spring of 2009, but so far the goods have been unforthcoming.

“Each battalion has been given money to buy underwear for women, but since there are still no flame resistant alternatives available they have had to make do with civilian bras and panties,” said Adolphson, who is responsible for air force-related matters within the Council.

She explained that, until the situation was resolved, women would continue to run the risk of suffering skin burns if their underwear caught fire in a combat situation.

“How are women in the army supposed to feel fully welcome? It’s a form of indirect discrimination,” she told The Local.

Adolphson also underlined that underwear was just one of many battles women faced on the equipment front.

“Nothing has been designed with women in mind. All the sizes are too big: from boots, protective vests and shirts to the shoulder straps on our AK5 assault rifles.”

Adolphson said women currently made up around five percent of uniformed staff in the Swedish Armed Forces.

“But I would expect this figure to rise once they get better at giving us what we need,” she said.

Comment On The Article: The Local Europe AB:

19:23 November 19, 2009 by spy

There are useful jobs women can do in the Army but combat is not one of them.

Reply:

21:21 November 19, 2009 by Nemesis

@spy,

You are sadly mistaken.

So in your thinking if I had a rifle in my hands, I would not be able to put a bullet between your eyes.

If I had a rifle in my hands, do you actually believe because I am a women, that I would miss you?

Then you would find out what a woman could do in the military.

Your sexism is noted. Women can do every job in the army, including combat.

The more I read the comments on the local, the more I realise how many men who post on this forum, want a man only world, without women around.

Why are you so afraid of people with vagina's?

You came out of one.

Cada Vez Más Suicidios, Adicciones Y Depresión En Las Tropas De EEUU: El Ejército Norteamericano Está Luchando En Dos Guerras Y Al Límite De Su Capacidad. Por Eso, Los Soldados Van Cada Vez Más Seguido Y Se Quedan Más Tiempo En El Teatro De Operaciones. La Consecuencia, Crecientes Problemas De Salud Mental

[Thanks to Sam Farber, who sent this in.]

11-15-09 Por Ana Baron, Clarín [Buenos Aires]

El Sargento Justin "Jon" Garza, 27 años, llegó a Fort Hood –la base militar norteamericana donde tuvo lugar la trágica masacre que puso fin a la vida de 13 soldados–, en junio del año pasado.

Especializado en comunicaciones, ya había servido en el exterior seis veces, incluyendo una en Oriente Medio y dos en Irak, adonde tenía que volver en septiembre. Sin dudas, había visto demasiado.

Garza tenía problemas graves de alcoholismo. Con esta adicción y tras romper con su novia, decidió que no podía seguir en las fuerzas armadas.

Primero pensó en desertar. Y luego intentó suicidarse con un fusil. Se salvó de milagro.

Lo internaron en el Hospital de Fort Hood. ¿El diagnóstico? "Depresión y dificultades para adaptarse", dijeron los psiquiatras. Decidieron que se fuera a vivir a la casa de su mejor amigo, un soldado como él. Lo pusieron bajo vigilancia antisuicida de lunes a

viernes. Pero Garza logró finalmente lo que quería. Sólo once días después de salir del hospital se suicidó. Era un sábado.

“He estado destruido y con un gran dolor desde hace ya mucho tiempo. No podía seguir así. Nunca he sido bueno para abrirme y para decir lo que siento, por lo tanto las cosas se fueron acumulando y cada vez fue peor”, dice la nota que Garza le dejó a su madre, Teri Smith, de 52 años, para despedirse y explicarle su drástica decisión. Clarín intentó comunicarse con Smith, sin éxito.

Después de que la historia de su hijo fue publicada por primera vez en Los Angeles Times, la familia desconectó el teléfono.

La masacre perpetrada por el mayor psiquiatra Nidal Hasan, el 5 de noviembre pasado, ha colocado bajo la lupa la salud mental de los soldados estadounidenses.

Y el caso de Justin “Jon” Garza es uno de los mejores ejemplos de lo que llaman PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) y de las fallas que existen en el sistema norteamericano para prevenirlo y curarlo.

De acuerdo al Instituto Nacional de Salud Mental, el PTSD es un “problema de ansiedad que puede desarrollarse después de haber estado expuesto a acontecimientos terribles en los que ha habido daños físicos importantes”

Los síntomas son pesadillas, dificultad para dormir, depresión, entumecimiento emocional y sensación de estar al borde del abismo.

Las estadísticas oficiales indican que el número de suicidios en las fuerzas armadas estadounidenses viene aumentando rápidamente desde hace cuatro años.

En el 2008, se suicidaron 128 soldados, con lo que se superó el número récord en la guerra de Vietnam. En lo que va de 2009, ya hubo 177 suicidios, diez de ellos en Fort Hood, Texas, incluyendo el de Garza.

Eso no es todo: 3 de cada 10 soldados que han servido en Irak o en Afganistán durante por lo menos dos períodos de 15 meses tienen problemas mentales graves.

Por estar luchando en dos guerras a la vez, el ejército estadounidense está al límite de su capacidad. Los soldados sirven en la guerra por períodos cada vez más largos. El tiempo en el teatro de operaciones es mucho más prolongado de lo aconsejable: se quedan hasta 15 meses y además son enviados a la guerra hasta cuatro o cinco veces.

Esto tiene un efecto acumulativo, la separación de las familias es más larga y están más expuestos al horror de la guerra. El tema es particularmente urticante en este momento ya que el presidente Barack Obama debe decidir si envía más soldados a Afganistán y, si lo hace, cuántos deberían partir. Uno de los obstáculos que enfrentan los psiquiatras militares es la propia cultura militar, que hace que los soldados “deban esconder sus debilidades” y “demostrar que son fuertes”.

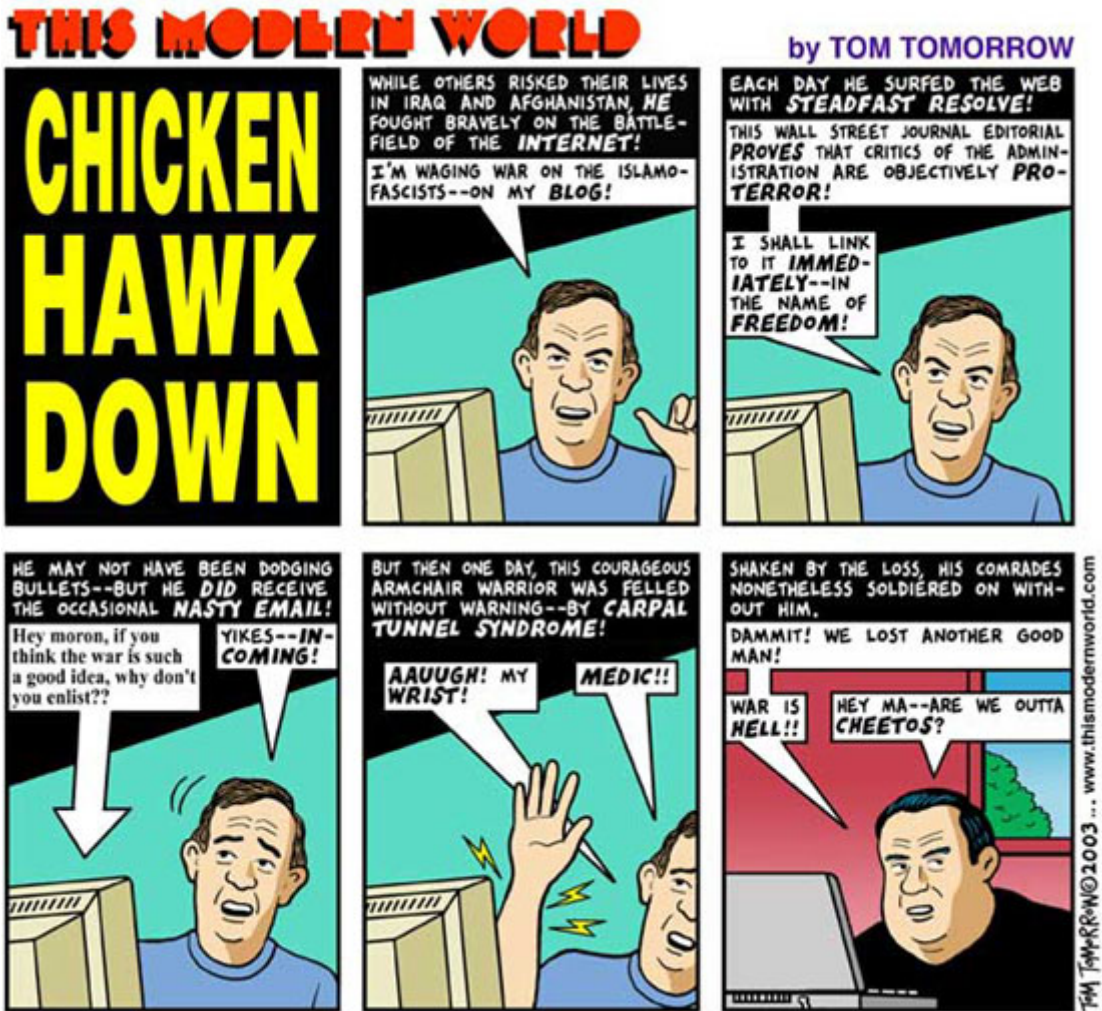
“Los soldados que perdieron en Irak sus piernas o les amputaron un brazo reciben condecoraciones. Pero yo que perdí la cabeza no recibo ni siquiera un gracias por mi servicio. A mí nunca me escuchan. No me escuchan”, se quejó Sophia Taylor, una de

los tantos soldados que hacen terapia de grupo en el Walter Reed, el hospital militar donde hizo su residencia el autor de la masacre de Fort Hood, Nidal Hasan.

De hecho, nadie lo escuchó cuando al terminar su residencia hizo una presentación en la que, frente a sus profesores, explicó que los militares estadounidenses podían verse amenazados por soldados que profesaban la religión del islam y estaban conflictuados por tener que luchar en países musulmanes como Irak y Afganistán.

“Cada vez es más difícil para los musulmanes justificar moralmente el pertenecer a un ejército que está en guerra continuamente contra los musulmanes”, dijo Hasan.

“Si grupos de musulmanes logran convencer a gente que profesa la religión islámica que ellos están luchando para Dios contra las injusticias de los infieles, es decir, los enemigos del islam, entonces esa gente puede convertirse en un adversario potencial, es decir en terroristas suicidas”.



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.**

Piranha



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: November 22, 2009
Subject: Piranha

Piranha

The United States has a dinosaur economy, and we are in the Middle East and elsewhere to steal anything and everything that will keep this dinosaur alive.

If America continues to swallow at this self-centered pace, this monster will consume itself in the form of obesity, as systems begin to collapse that support life.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
November 22, 2009**

“A nation that year after year spends more money on national defense than it does on programs of social uplift is facing spiritual death.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

April 4, 1967

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)

“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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

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

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

Welcome To The Occupied USA:

**“When I Tell People, Even
Lawyers, There’s A Law That Says
You Can Be Held In Custody For
Months And Months Without
Having Committed A Crime, They
Can’t Believe It”**

**3 Afghan Witnesses Released After
15 Months In Custody In USA:**

**“Held Under A Controversial
Antiterrorism Statute That Allows The
Government To Detain Material
Witnesses Who Are Not Facing Charges”**

November 25, 2009 By Kari Lydersen, Washington Post Staff Writer

CHICAGO -- Three Afghan men held in the Chicago area as witnesses for 15 months were released Tuesday, a month after testifying in a case involving Afghan contractors and U.S. service members charged with bribery.

The three men, employees of contracting firms, had been brought to Chicago in August 2008 on the pretense of attending a dinner honoring Afghan businesses.

Instead, they were held in hotels, waiting to testify as material witnesses about charges that U.S. service members accepted kickbacks from Afghan contractors at Bagram air base. Three Americans have pleaded guilty.

During an Oct. 21 hearing, the witnesses' testimony appeared to offer little specific insight into the charges. Lawyers question why the men were held for so long at significant expense.

“Two of the three were immaterial and didn’t have any relevant and admissible evidence,” said Kirby Behre of the Washington firm Paul Hastings, the attorney for Afghan defendant John Ramin.

“It didn’t seem like they knew too much,” said Michael Falconer, attorney for witness Ziaulhaq, 40, who like many Afghans uses just one name.

Bashir Ahmad, 30, will return to a child born three months before he came to Chicago. His family has struggled in his absence. “I lost everything; it will be very hard to find a job,” he said. Nonetheless, he said, he is thrilled to return home.

“I’m frustrated,” said Kiomars Mohammad Rafi, 27, who has a 3-year-old son in Kabul. “My family has been waiting for so long, they are mentally and psychologically devastated.”

Ziaulhaq, a former veterinary student, has six children, and his wife has been seriously ill.

The men could talk with their families by phone but were largely confined to hotel rooms in the Chicago suburbs.

They were held under a controversial antiterrorism statute that allows the government to detain material witnesses who are not facing charges.

“When I tell people, even lawyers, there’s a law that says you can be held in custody for months and months without having committed a crime, they can’t believe it,” Falconer said.

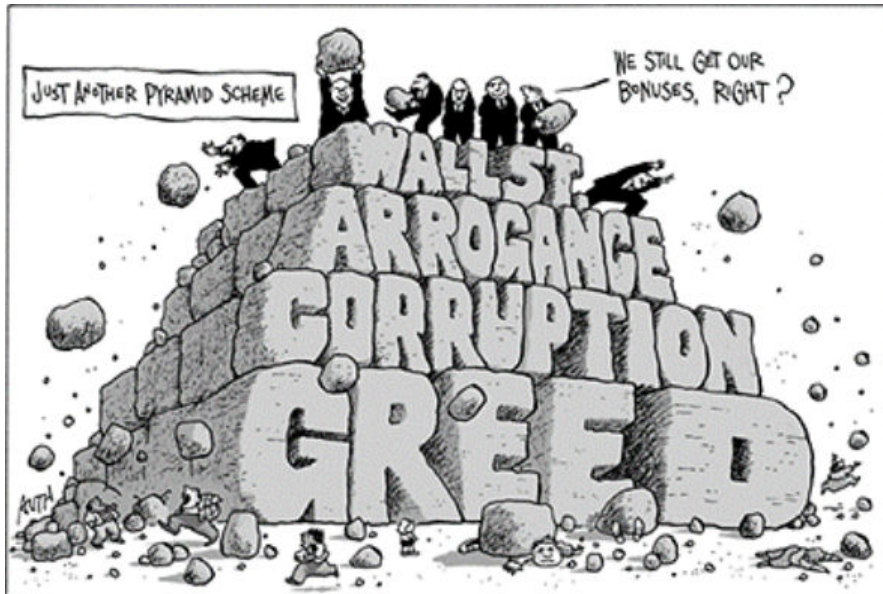
NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

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.]

Military Resistance www.militaryproject.org

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



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www.militaryproject.org*

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