

## **Military Resistance 7K25**

### **BARACK OBAMA'S PEACE SIGN**



**MR. FISH**

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

# **WTF?**

**Members Of The Armed Forces Of  
The United States Of America:  
The Following Information Shows  
Your Leadership In Action  
[Feel Better Now?]**

November 20, 2009 Army Times Early Bird Brief 7:35 AM

### **Gates Says Afghan Surge Could Happen Swiftly**

(Associated Press)

By Anne Gearan

Defense Secretary Robert Gates said any new U.S. forces President Barack Obama sends to Afghanistan could move into the country swiftly, despite logistical hassles that force almost all major deliveries of troops and supplies to go by air.

### **Afghanistan Deployments To Be Slower**

(TheHill.com)

By Roxana Tiron

Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen on Thursday said additional troop deployments to Afghanistan likely would happen at a slower pace than the surge in Iraq because of the lack of infrastructure in Afghanistan.

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

# **Terror Attack Launched Against U.S. Military Staff At Prison For Insurgents: Iraqis Torment Packer-Fan Guards About Favre**

Nov 20, 2009 The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Detainees at a camp in Baghdad have found a way to get under the skin of guard troops from Wisconsin.

And it has to do with football and a painful chapter for some Green Bay Packers fans, who consider Brett Favre a traitor for joining the rival Minnesota Vikings.

Favre spent 16 seasons with the Packers and was the team's starting quarterback for most of that time, leading Green Bay to a Super Bowl championship after the 1996 season. After playing for the New York Jets last year, Favre signed with the Packers' rivals in the offseason.

Minnesota (8-1) has the second-best record in the NFC and is far ahead of Green Bay (5-4) in the NFC North Division standings. Favre is the NFL's top rated quarterback and has helped lead the Vikings' 2009 revival.

First Lieutenant Tim Boehnen said the detainees are familiar with Favre and picked up on the troops' discussion about Favre's performance with the Vikings.

Lt. Col. Tim Donovan said detainees at Camp Cropper needle the guards about Favre's success with the Vikings.

Boehnen told WTMJ radio that since soccer is the main sport in Baghdad, it lacks a Vikings fan club.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Alvin Soldier's Death A Reminder Of Sacrifices**



Sgt. James Michael Nolen, 25, was serving his second deployment to Afghanistan.

Nov. 25, 2009 By PEGGY O'HARE, Houston Chronicle

While many military families are sitting down today to give thanks and celebrate their loved ones' safe return from tours of duty overseas, an Alvin family is returning from a sad trip to Dover Air Force Base, where they somberly welcomed home their soldier's remains.

This is a painful Thanksgiving Day for the family of Sgt. James Michael Nolen, 25, an Alvin native killed in action Sunday when his military vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan, where he had been deployed for the second time.

Nolen's body arrived Tuesday night at Dover Air Force Base, where his grieving family waited. His loved ones are now planning the funeral for the expectant father.

Nolen's death is a grim reminder of the 5,291 Americans who have been killed in the Afghan and Iraqi wars — as well as those still overseas this Thanksgiving, serving their country.

The dozens of American flags lining the front yard of Nolen's mother's home in Alvin, where he spent most of his childhood, are somber reminders as well.

"My hero is gone," his mother, Kim Roberts, 47, wrote on her fallen son's Face-book page early Monday, just hours after learning he had been killed.

One neighbor thought the American flags had been placed in Roberts' yard because the soldier was returning home from Afghanistan in time to celebrate the holidays with his family.

Nolen, who was about to celebrate his first wedding anniversary next week, died with a fellow soldier in the explosion as they conducted a convoy in the Kandahar province, said the 82nd Airborne Division. Pfc. Marcus Tynes, 19, of Moreno Valley, Calif., also was killed in the explosion.

Both men were assigned to Company C of the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, N.C.

Nolen left for Afghanistan in August, hoping his second tour of duty would last only a year.

"He loved his job," said his wife, Rachel Anne Nolen, 26, of Parkton, N.C., speaking through family members Wednesday. "Being an infantryman was his dream job. That's all he ever wanted to do."

James Nolen's family learned of his death late Sunday. Two military officers stopped by his mother's home in Alvin around 11 p.m. to give her the news.

He was "a dedicated soldier and was looking forward to being a proud new dad," said family friend Christian Martin, who lives with Roberts.

"According to his mom, the events of 9/11" led him to join the military, Martin said.

Drivers cruised slowly past the Alvin home, and bystanders stopped to look at the dozens of flags lining the yard, placed there Wednesday by the Military Moms and Wives of Brazoria County.

**Mary Moreno of Lake Jackson, who leads the group, counted James Nolen's death as the 14th Brazoria County-related fatality to occur as a result of the war.**

"We didn't want to wait for (the family) to come back for these flags to be hung," said Moreno, of Lake Jackson. "We do it so everyone can know the ultimate sacrifice this hero has made."

While in Afghanistan, James Nolen learned his wife was pregnant with their first child, due in May. "Dude, I'm pregnant," he told a fellow soldier after learning the news by phone overseas.

He looked forward to his wife's weekly e-mails updating him on the progress of her pregnancy and eagerly waited for the moment during their phone calls she would let him listen to the baby's heartbeat, his family said.

He enlisted in the Army in February 2005 as an infantryman, military officials said. He attended training and basic airborne school in Fort Benning, Ga., before reporting to Fort Bragg in September 2005.

He completed his first 15-month deployment to Afghanistan in 2007, during which he served as a rifleman, military officials said. He married his wife in North Carolina on Dec. 1, and they made their home there.

During his service, James Nolen was honored with a Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Basic Parachutist Badge.

"Sgt. Nolen was a true soldier," said his fellow paratroopers from Company C in a statement released Wednesday. "Nothing could take away from his warm personality. His caring smile and willingness to help others were his most identifiable features."

He was a dedicated family man as well.

"He was the most amazing husband and father ever, because no matter what we had happening, he was always happy and smiling," Rachel Nolen said through other family members.

She said she knew she would marry her husband the moment she met him and recalled how he would stand on a roof in Afghanistan to get a cell phone signal so he could call her.

"I miss your kisses," she had written on his Facebook page on the day of his death.

In addition to his wife and mother, James Nolen is survived by his 7-year-old stepson, William Flathmann; his father, Walter Nolen, 53, of Utah; and two brothers, Jeremy Nolen, 30, of Georgetown, and Jonathan Nolen, 22, of Alvin.

A memorial honoring both James Nolen and Tynes will be held in Afghanistan, military officials said.

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**NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1:  
PACK UP  
GO HOME  
THIS IS FOR SHIT**



U.S. soldier of the Special Troops Battalion on patrol near the town of Pul-i-alam, Logar province, Afghanistan, Nov. 18, 2009. (AP Photo/Dario Lopez-Mills)



U.S. Army soldiers of 3/509 infantry Task Force Geronimo at a checkpoint near Forward Operating Base (FOB) Tillman, November 25, 2009. REUTERS/Bruno Domingos



A U.S. Army soldier of Task Force Geronimo at a checkpoint near of Forward Operating Base (FOB) Tillman, November 25, 2009. REUTERS/Bruno Domingos

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

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

## **TROOP NEWS**

# **700 From Connecticut National Guard Off To Obama's Imperial Slaughterhouse**

Nov 16, 2009 By The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Two units of the Connecticut Army National Guard are sending 700 soldiers to the Middle East in the largest single deployment of Connecticut guard members since the Korean War.

A send-off ceremony was held at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford on Sunday. Gov. M. Jodi Rell was among the dignitaries, shaking hands with many of the soldiers.

Tearful family members posed for photographs with their loved ones and waved American flags.

Rell's office says the 102nd Infantry will help train Afghanistan's Army, police and border police forces. Its units are located in Norwalk, Manchester, New Britain, Branford and Southington.

The departing troops also include members of the 250th Engineer Company of New London. Their job will be to ensure safe routes for troops on the move in Iraq.

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## **THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



Spc. Joseph Lewis Nov. 28, 2009, in Terrell, Texas. Lewis was killed Nov. 17, 2009 in Afghanistan.(AP Photo/Mike Fuentes)

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**How Quaker House Helped The  
Troops End The Hell Horror Of  
Echo Platoon, Fort Bragg:  
[And Got Too Little Credit For It]  
“By Last January More Than Fifty AWOL  
Soldiers Had Been Picked Up And  
Crowded Into Echo’s Old, Dilapidated  
Barracks”**



Dustin Stevens

**Last month we celebrated forty years of saying YES to the troops and NO to the wars.**

**Every one of those forty years was made possible by supporters like you. Please join us in facing the increased challenges ahead.**

November 2009  
Quaker House  
223 Hillside Avenue  
Fayetteville NC 28301  
qpr@quaker.org  
www.quakerhouse.org

Dear Friend,

**The same day the horrible massacre at Fort Hood happened, Dustin Stevens left Fort Bragg, headed for home.**

**The Army won't thank him for it, but Dustin helped prevent a Fort Hood-type event here in Fayetteville.**

**At least for now.**

**He had to beat the Army to help it, and he did.**

**Took him ten months.**

**We were there with him: we hooked him up with a fine, low-cost lawyer, tried to buck him up when was down, kept in touch.**

**It's what we do, with your support.**

But Dustin also had two secret weapons.

At Bragg, he was put in Echo Platoon.

**Echo was where they put people who had been arrested after being AWOL, for months or longer.**

Until late 2008, the Army usually dealt with long-term AWOLs quickly an unfavorable "chapter" discharge, and good riddance. It made sense: cut the losses. There's a war on after all. Two.

Not anymore.

Ft. Bragg's 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne had been depleted by years of war and repeated long combat tours, with more coming.

**Echo Platoon was some Bragg commander's bright idea for filling a bunch of those empty slots.**

No more Mr. Nice General: the 82<sup>nd</sup> would hunt down hundreds of AWOL GIs. Give them a choice: go "downrange" (i.e., deploy to combat) and get their records fixed. Or else face court martials and prison.

So new arrest warrants flew in all directions.

**By last January more than fifty AWOL soldiers had been picked up and crowded into Echo's old, dilapidated barracks.**

A handful took the deployment deal. Others went to the brig.

A lucky few still managed to eke out a "chapter" discharge, unfavorable but without jail time.

But the new plan soon ran into the old bureaucratic molasses.

**So for too many in Echo, their "sentence" included sitting in limbo, month after month after month, waiting for an apparently paralyzed or indifferent command to decide their fate.**

Dustin's story, at first, was like most others, with a couple twists.

After joining up in 2002, he soon decided war and killing were not for him. He became a committed pacifist, though he didn't learn the word til later. After he said, "I quit!" to his instructors enough times, a sergeant told him to go home and await instructions.

He did; instructions never came.

So Dustin went to work, got on with life; he didn't hide.

Then last January, seven years later, he was arrested as a deserter.

Once at Fort Bragg, in Echo, Dustin firmly turned down the deployment deal. They told him he'd be court-martialed; so be it, he said. Just get it over with.

Instead the Army dithered.

**They kept him there, with scores of others, through the spring and summer. Not behind bars, exactly; yet not remotely free either.**

**Meanwhile, Echo's barracks was a dump, and the scene inside was increasingly like a madhouse, especially at night.**

Much of what happened in Echo was predictable: many of the AWOL GIs there had serious "issues," mental health, drug use, PTSD, self-destructive behavior, mostly untreated, that were involved in their walking away in the first place.

Packing them in together only made things worse.

**So did the behavior of many unit staff: one sergeant was investigated for dealing drugs, others repeatedly sneered that everybody in Echo should just be taken out and shot.**

One weekend a particularly disturbed soldier climbed out on the third floor roof and jumped. Somehow he was not seriously hurt.

Most GIs in Echo kept their heads down, grumbling or self-medicating, hoping to minimize their punishment.

**But the pressure kept building, and Dustin chose to resist.**

**He talked to reporters about the conditions; so did we.**

**Few were interested, and the command laughed at these efforts.**

**They weren't worried. Who would care about a bunch of AWOL "dirtbags"?**

**We did, for one.**

**Sure, they'd broken regulations, and there would be consequences.**

**But months of unofficial confinement at Echo was neither legal nor just.**

Nor was it smart, in a year when the Army was breaking records for suicides — with worse to come.

What a mess.

**By comparison, the military jail I visit frequently is quieter, cleaner, safer, and much more professionally run. Echo Platoon was a filthy powderkeg with a sputtering fuse, and a pointless one at that.**

**Still, summer turned to fall, with more dithering.**

**Word came that Dustin's court martial wouldn't happen til spring.**

**What? Six months more of punitive waiting? That was too much: he became determined to bust things open.**

Not with violence, tho. Instead, he turned to the secret weapons.

**The first was his cell phone.**

**Which was also a camera.**

**He took dozens of pictures of the moldy, decrepit barracks, and some of the troubled inmates.**

**The other was Facebook.**

**Creating a page for Echo Platoon, with an upside- down U.S. flag (denoting an emergency) for its logo, he uploaded the pictures.**

**Then his supporters, including us, got busy, spreading the word.**

**And this time, finally, people began to notice. People in the Pentagon and above, reportedly at the highest levels, saw the pictures. And paid attention.**

**All at once, in late October, things began to happen.**

**VIPs made unannounced visits to the Echo barracks. Calls came from Army headquarters. Fort Bragg commanders who had brusquely ignored complaints about Echo were suddenly all ears.**

**And then — bam — Echo Platoon was shut down: the barracks was cleared out, the inmates sent to regular units.**

Word is that a bunch of the GIs had their cases abruptly dealt with, after all the interminable delays.

*Cut the losses; there's a war on. Two.*

Dustin was among them.

Out of nowhere — or maybe cyberspace — on October 28, the threat of court martial and jail was dropped, and a chapter release approved.

Just like that. In the end, he'd won.

Confronted by a “rogue” cell phone and Facebook page -- plus determined friends — the 82d Airborne brass had met their match.

But the army didn't really lose.

Like we said, as Dustin headed home his elation was shadowed by unfolding carnage at Fort Hood.

Even 1300 miles away from Fayetteville, it felt close. For us too.

**Still, his “secret weapons” and perseverance had done more than solve his personal problem.**

**It also freed Fort Bragg from Echo Platoon, which was one more disaster waiting to happen.**

There will be others. The combat forces and their families are still being put through hell, and from all reports, more is coming. As with Dustin, we'll keep doing what we can to blunt the impact, and if possible, shorten the wars.

**It's a long haul; but in it, we have a secret weapon too. It's you.**

**Thanks again for your support, which keeps our witness alive.**

Peace,  
Chuck Fager

**PS. Last month we celebrated forty years of saying YES to the troops and NO to the wars.**

**Every one of those forty years was made possible by supporters like you.**

**Please join us in facing the increased challenges ahead.**

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# **Emails Reveal KBR War Profiteers Knew They Were Sending Truck Drivers To Their Deaths:**

# **“We Will Get People Injured Or Killed Tomorrow”**

## **Six Civilian Drivers Were Killed: “Sacrificed For The Profit Of KBR”**

Nov. 18, 2009 By MARY FLOOD, Houston Chronicle [Excerpts]

**KBR security personnel expected casualties the night before six civilian drivers were killed and others injured in an Iraqi ambush, but sent the convoy into a combat zone anyway, according to e-mails presented in a Houston federal court Wednesday.**

“There is tons of intel stating tomorrow will be another bad day,” wrote George Seagle, director of security for KBR government operations, the night before the April 9, 2004, attacks. In the e-mail presented in court, he suggested KBR halt convoys for the next day, the first anniversary of the day Baghdad fell in the U.S.-led invasion.

In a flurry of e-mails, many held under seal in the court case for the last year, various KBR employees discussed their concern about possible loss of life.

Seagle responded that he understood the pressures of big politics and contract issues might cause the fuel-delivering convoys to be sent out anyway but “we will get people injured or killed tomorrow.”

And before the ambush but on the same day, Keith Richard, chief of the trucking operation in Iraq, e-mailed KBR's Houston headquarters saying, “we need to expedite the hiring of drivers. We need drivers in theater soon.”

KBR argues that as a contractor it was acting on the basis of military decisions that are not subject to review by civilian courts.

But a group of injured plaintiffs and family members of the dead allege that KBR and its former parent, Halliburton, put profit above life.

**They say that drivers were promised safety, but their supervisor, who had been in the military, put them in harm's way to show the civilian company was tough enough to do jobs the military did in former conflicts.**

“They were sacrificed for the profit of KBR,” said Tommy Fibich, whose client is still in a coma.

**Fibich said most of the drivers were promised that their safety would come first and they took the job to pay off debts or help put a first generation through college.**

The cases center on the April 2004 insurgent attack on a KBR convoy of military supply trucks, which killed six civilian truck drivers and wounded 14.

The drivers caught in the ambush were delivering fuel under a multibillion-dollar contract for KBR to transport supplies, build bases, serve meals and provide other logistical support services for American troops in the Middle East.

Plaintiffs in the Houston suits are two injured workers and the family of one who was killed in the attack.

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**Guantanamo Goatfuck:  
“The Usual Chaos And Confusion  
That Has Plagued The Military  
Commissions Since Their  
Inception”  
“The Commissions Were Created By  
The Bush Administration To  
Circumvent Legal Protections”  
“Under Obama, The Underlying Purpose  
Remains The Same”**

**Air Force Judge Thomas Cumbie, who voiced his frustration with the ongoing delays in the release of documents, described the mantra of the government as "It's in the mail, and it will be there soon."**

**Adding: "And then it doesn't happen."**

November 18, 2009 Stephen Paul Smith, Hhuffingtonpost.com

Prosecutors, defense counsel, a military judge, several journalists and a handful of non-governmental organization observers like myself convened at Guantanamo Bay this week for what was to be the first hearing for a Guantanamo defendant under the Obama administration's "new and improved" military commissions.

The hearing came about a month after Congress passed legislation to improve the widely discredited military commissions, and just a few days after US Attorney General

Eric Holder announced that five detainees, including the self-proclaimed mastermind of 9/11, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, would be sent to US federal court for trial.

**But if the administration was hoping this hearing might make the case that the new and improved military commissions are a legitimate forum to try detainees, they could not have been pleased with today's proceedings.**

**The detainee whose hearing took place today in the hilltop courthouse overlooking Guantanamo Bay was Mohammad Kamin, an Afghan who has been held at Guantanamo Bay since 2004.**

**Although he was one of 10 detainees facing charges before the military commissions when President Obama was sworn into office, his name was not among those mentioned by Attorney General Holder last week.**

**It seems the Justice Department, in making its announcement, failed to decide the fate of the Kamin case.**

**And the result was the usual chaos and confusion that has plagued the military commissions since their inception.**

**Given no guidance, the lawyers and commission officials had little choice but to continue with Kamin's hearing, debating the merits of the case in a legal Neverland.**

Kamin himself didn't show up for the hearing. As he had done throughout the proceedings against him, he boycotted. The one time he appeared, for his arraignment in May 2008, he was forcefully extracted from his cell.

When he was informed this morning of today's hearing, he reportedly placed earplugs in his ears, pulled a blanket over his head, and waved away the officials.

And then there are the charges.

**Kamin is charged with "material support for terrorism."**

**Yet Jeh Johnson, General Counsel for the Department of Defense, stated during a Senate hearing in July that "material support for terrorism" is not an offense under the laws of war, and therefore should not be prosecuted by military commission.**

The Military Commissions Act of 2009, which was signed into law as part of the National Defense Authorization Act on October 28, retained the offense despite Johnson's conclusion.

**Kamin's appointed defense counsel, Lt. Cmdr. Richard Federico, also challenged the current jurisdiction of the military commissions to try Kamin.**

**"If there is a conviction, it would likely be overturned on appeal," he said.**



**Under the previous 2006 military commissions statute, Kamin was deemed an "unlawful enemy combatant."**

**But the new language only authorizes the prosecution of "alien unprivileged belligerents."**

**Since the government has not alleged that Kamin fits the new category, it is not clear the government has the authority to bring the case to trial.**

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Participants in the hearing operated without the benefit of a new rules manual, no doubt adding to the fog which envelopes the commissions' procedural guidelines.

Reportedly, the Department of Defense has begun work on such a manual, but the date for publication is still unknown.

In spite of the murky legal terrain, defense counsel attacked the slow pace at which the government has released internal memos, contact information for witnesses, and unaccounted for interrogation logs.

"We are advocates," said Lt. Cmdr. Federico. "We just want the opportunity to engage with these issues."

Air Force Judge Thomas Cumbie, who voiced his frustration with the ongoing delays in the release of documents, described the mantra of the government as "It's in the mail, and it will be there soon."

Adding: "And then it doesn't happen."

To date, government prosecutors in the military commissions have successfully litigated only three cases.

All three defendants - David Hicks, Salim Hamdan, and Ali Hamza al Bahlul - were convicted of material support for terrorism. In the first two cases it was the only offense for which they were convicted, and both Hamdan's and al Bahlul's convictions are on appeal to the ad hoc Court of Military Commissions Review.

It is easy to understand why the government would be hesitant to throw out the charge.

The recent changes to the military commissions are improvements over the previous incarnation, which itself was enacted after the Supreme Court ruled that President Bush's military commissions violated US law. They limit coerced or hearsay evidence and provide greater equity in resources to the defense counsel.

However, as illustrated by today's hearing, the 2009 Military Commissions Act still falls short of the due process guarantees of the federal courts or courts martial.

**The legal standards, procedural rules, and participants remain makeshift and unstable.**

**Prosecutors, defense counsel, and even the judges themselves stumble to make sense of a system without precedent.**

The commissions were created by the Bush administration to circumvent legal protections.

**Under Obama, the underlying purpose remains the same.**

**The new commissions offer little hope for swift and decisive justice in the Kamin case or any other.**

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## **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**

**“What Obama And The Bankers  
And The Generals, And The IMF  
And The CIA And CNN Fear Is  
Ordinary People Coming Together  
And Acting Together”**

**“What Matters, Above Race And  
Gender, Is The Class One Serves”**

**“Here Is The Forty-Fourth President Of  
The United States, Having Stacked His  
Government With Warmongers And  
Corporate Fraudsters And Polluters  
From The Bush And Clinton Eras,  
Teasing Us While Promising More Of The  
Same”**



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

**In the last eight months millions of angry emails, sent by ordinary Americans, have flooded Washington.**

**This has not happened before. People are outraged as their lives are attacked; they bear no resemblance to the passive mass presented by the media.**

Excerpt from "Power, Illusion And America's Last Taboo," by John Pilger, International Socialist Review, November-December 2009

**Since Obama was elected, leading liberals have talked about America returning to its true status as a "nation of moral ideals" — the words of Paul Krugman in the New York Times. In the San Francisco Chronicle columnist Mark Morford wrote that "spiritually advanced people regard the new president as 'a Lightworker' ... who can help usher in a new way of being on the planet."**

**Tell that to an Afghan child whose family has been blown away by Obama's bombs, or a Pakistani child whose family are among the 700 civilians killed by Obama's drones.**

**Or tell it to a child in the carnage of Gaza caused by American smart weapons which, disclosed Seymour Hersh, were resupplied to Israel for use in the slaughter "only after the Obama team let it be known it would not object."**

**Obama's is the myth that is America's last taboo.**

**His most consistent theme was never change; it was power.**

The United States, he said, "leads the world in battling immediate evils and promoting the ultimate good.... We must lead by building a 21st century military to ensure the security of our people and advance the security of all people."

And there is this remarkable statement: "At moments of great peril in the past century our leaders ensured that America, by deed and by example, led and lifted the world, that we stood and fought for the freedom sought by billions of people beyond their borders."

**At the National Archives on May 21, he said: "From Europe to the Pacific, we've been the nation that has shut down torture chambers and replaced tyranny with the rule of law."**

**Since 1945, "by deed and by example," the United States has overthrown fifty governments, including democracies, and crushed some thirty liberation movements, and supported tyrannies and set up torture chambers from Egypt to Guatemala.**

Countless men, women, and children have been bombed to death.

And yet, here is the forty-fourth president of the United States, having stacked his government with warmongers and corporate fraudsters and polluters from the Bush and Clinton eras, teasing us while promising more of the same.

Here is the House of Representatives, controlled by Obama's Democrats, voting to approve \$16 billion for three wars and a coming presidential military budget which, in 2009, will exceed any year since the end of World War Two, including the spending peaks of the Korean and Vietnam wars.

And here is a peace movement, nor all of it but much of it, prepared to look the other way and believe or hope that Obama will restore, as Paul Krugman wrote in the New York Times, the "nation of moral ideals"

The clever young man who recently made it to the White House is a very fine hypnotist, partly because it is so extraordinary to see an African-American at the pinnacle of power in the land of slavery.

However, this is the twenty-first century, and race -- together with gender and even class -- can be very seductive tools of propaganda.

**For what matters, above race and gender, is the class one serves.**

**George Bush's inner circle — from the State Department to the Supreme Court — was perhaps the most multiracial in presidential history. It was PC par excellence. Think Condoleezza Rice and Colin Powell.**

**It was also the most reactionary.**

To many, Obama's very presence in the White House reaffirms the moral nation.

He is a marketing dream.

Like Calvin Klein or Benetton, he is a brand that promises something special — something exciting, almost risqué, as if he might be a radical, as if he might enact change.

He makes people feel good.

He's a postmodern man with no political baggage.

During his brief period in the Senate, Obama voted to continue the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He voted for the Patriot Act.

He refused to support a bill for single-payer health care.

He supported the death penalty.

As a presidential candidate, he received more corporate backing than John McCain.

He promised to close Guantanamo as a priority and has not. Instead, he has excused the perpetrators of torture, reinstated the infamous military commissions, kept the Bush gulag intact, and opposed habeas corpus.

Daniel Ellsberg was right when he said that, under Bush, a military coup had taken place in the United States, giving the Pentagon unprecedented powers. These powers have been reinforced by the presence of Robert Gates, a Bush family crony and George W. Bush's secretary of defense, and by all the Bush Pentagon officials and generals who have kept their jobs under Obama.

The tragedy is that Brand Obama appears to have crippled or absorbed the antiwar movement, the peace movement.

In Washington, the Out of Iraq Caucus is out of action. Its members can't even come up with a form of words of why they are silent.

And where is the mighty MoveOn.org these days? Where is its campaign against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan? And what exactly was said when, in February, MoveOn's executive director, Jason Ruben, met President Obama?

Yes, a lot of good people mobilized for Obama. But what did they demand of him — apart from the amorphous "change"?

That isn't activism.

Activism doesn't give up.

Activism is not about identity politics.

Activism doesn't wait to be told.

Activism doesn't rely on the opiate of hope. Woody Allen once said, "I felt a lot better when I gave up hope."

Real activism has little time for identity politics, a distraction that confuses and suckers good people everywhere.

**In the 1950s, we never expected the great wind of the 1960s to blow.**

**Feel the breeze today.**

**In the last eight months millions of angry emails, sent by ordinary Americans, have flooded Washington.**

**This has not happened before.**

People are outraged as their lives are attacked; they bear no resemblance to the passive mass presented by the media.

Look at the polls that are seldom reported.

<p><b>More than two-thirds of Americans say the government should care for those who cannot care for, themselves; 64 percent would pay higher taxes to guarantee</b></p>
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**health care for everyone; 59 percent are favorable towards unions; 70 percent want nuclear disarmament; 72 percent want the U.S. completely out of Iraq; and so on.**

A certain populism is once again growing in America and which has a proud, if forgotten past.

In the nineteenth century, an authentic grassroots Americanism was expressed in populism's achievements: women's suffrage, the campaign for an eight-hour day, graduated income tax and public ownership of railways and communications, and breaking the power of corporate lobbyists.

The American populists were far from perfect; at times they would keep bad company, but they spoke from the up, not from the top down.

They were betrayed by leaders who urged them to compromise and merge with the Democratic Party.

Does that sound familiar?

**What Obama and the bankers and the generals, and the IMF and the CIA and CNN fear is ordinary people coming together and acting together.**

**It is a fear as old as democracy: a fear that suddenly people convert their anger to action and are guided by the truth.**

**"At a time of universal deceit," wrote George Orwell, "telling the truth is a revolutionary act.**

**Quit Whining And Pissing On  
Everybody In Sight With Your  
Condescending Bullshit About How  
Stupid & Apathetic Americans Are:  
If You Don't Spend Time In The Real World  
Reaching Out To Real Troops, You Have Nothing  
Whatsoever To Sneer At Others About.**

**"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**

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

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

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



### **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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550



## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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

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## APPEAL



University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) student Kendall Brown and other UCLA students and supporters protest as the UC Board of Regents votes to approve a 32 percent tuition hike next year on November 19 in Los Angeles, California. (AFP/Getty Images/File/David Mcnew)

## ANSWER



Non-violent sit-in student Rustin O'Neil, center, is singled out to be attacked with a taser gun by a cowardly, worthless, ignorant piece of shit in a police uniform as Vianney Vargas, left, looks on.

Note how the cowardly, worthless, ignorant piece of shit carefully applies the taser to the area close to the student's heart. The electrical charge of a taser can interfere with the electrical impulses that regulate the human heart.

O'Neil and others were on a road on the UCLA campus where University of California regents were scheduled to vote on a 32 percent student fee increase, Nov. 19, 2009. The UC Board of Regents is considering boosting undergraduate fees, the equivalent of tuition, by \$2,500 by summer 2010. (AP Photo/Danny Moloshok)

**[How about sending the cowardly, worthless, ignorant piece of shit cop to Afghanistan? Where the opposition isn't non-violent? Or better yet, bring all our troops home so they can defend our liberties from scum like this? T]**

### **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**

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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.

## 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/](http://www.ivaw.org/))

**Military Resistance** [www.militaryproject.org](http://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](http://www.militaryproject.org)*

**Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out**  
Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website  
<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

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

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/index-2009.html>; [news@uruknet.info](mailto:news@uruknet.info);  
[http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/)

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