

Military Resistance 8B18

Obama's War

[These remarkable combat photos begin when a U.S. army armored vehicle is hit by an IED Feb. 23, 2010. The photos were taken minutes after the attack by AP photographer Brennan Linsley in Marjah, Helmand Province, Afghanistan. T]



During a medevac mission in Marjah, a U.S. Army flight medic, bottom left, with Task Force Pegasus, sets up a backboard stretcher as he prepares to extricate a Marine from inside an armored vehicle disabled minutes earlier by a planted improvised explosive device.



A flight medic stands in a crater as he directs Marines extricating a wounded Marine, not visible, from their armored vehicle. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



A U.S. Army flight medic, second from left, with Task Force Pegasus, gives directions as he prepares to use a backboard to extricate a wounded Marine from inside the armored vehicle.



The flight medic Sgt. Bryan Eickelberg, center, directs Marines as they gently extricate their wounded comrade.



Flight medic Sgt. Bryan Eickelberg, bottom right, directs Marines as they help him strap a wounded Marine onto a backboard.



Marines gather around their wounded comrade after extraction.



Medical personnel attend to wounded in the attack to a waiting helicopter.



Marines preparing to move a wounded Marine to evacuation helicopter.



A flight medic, left, directs Marines as they carry two wounded to a waiting helicopter. Pegasus crews are providing daily the fast medical evacuation of those wounded in Marjah.



Marines carry wounded to a waiting helicopter.



Marines carry a wounded Marine to a waiting helicopter, following an attack on their armored vehicle by a planted improvised explosive device, in Marjah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Feb. 23, 2010.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Taleban Snipers Prove To Be A Formidable Threat:

**“A Team, Two People, Could
Conceivably Suppress Three
Companies”**

**“We’ve Never Experienced This Level Of
Threat, This Trained Foe”**

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

Tim Coderre, who used to be an army sniper in Iraq and now trains the Afghan police, explained the threat posed by effective snipers.

“A team, two people, could conceivably suppress three companies,” he said. “Someone sticks their head up and you get a round which just misses, or hits, it will paralyze a unit, there’s probably nothing more lethal other than unmanned aerial stuff.”

February 24, 2010 Ben Anderson, Marjah, and Tom Coghlan, Defence Correspondent, The Times [Excerpts]

The room was six feet wide and ten feet long. A narrow gap had been smashed out of one mud wall from floor to ceiling, letting in a shaft of light that glistened off a few empty bullet casings on the floor.

Captain Ryan Sparks surveyed the scene. “He’s not a real sniper, otherwise he would have never left those there,” he said. Nonetheless, three of Captain Sparks’s Marines have been shot, possibly from this room, by a Taliban sniper.

All three survived. Another man took a bullet above the eyes on day three of the operation. It just failed to penetrate the rim of the man’s Kevlar helmet.

Looking through the crack in the wall, there was a perfect line of sight to the rooftop position where the men were hit. It has been the main compound for Bravo Company, 1/6 Marines, since they landed here a week ago.

A Marine combat engineer who was killed on the first day with 1/6 Marines is also believed to have been shot by a well-concealed sniper.

Since the start of the Marjah operation, the expected threat from roadside bombs has proved less lethal than expected.

But it is the Taliban’s use of snipers — the first time Western forces have faced such skilled sharpshooters — that is causing greater concern. The discovery of NATO issue ammunition on the battlefield has also raised fears that the Taliban may have gained access to weaponry now being used against the alliance.

Tim Coderre, who used to be an army sniper in Iraq and now trains the Afghan police, explained the threat posed by effective snipers.

“A team, two people, could conceivably suppress three companies,” he said. “Someone sticks their head up and you get a round which just misses, or hits, it will paralyze a unit, there’s probably nothing more lethal other than unmanned aerial stuff.”

Mr Coderre estimates that there have been at least five Taliban snipers targeting the Marines, “coming from various positions”.

On the first day of the operation the Taliban sniper fired three shots and hit two Marines — a level of marksmanship that surprised the American.

“We’ve never experienced this level of threat, this trained foe,” said Corporal Thomas Gibbonsneff, 22, the leader of the Marine sniping team with Bravo Company.

Alarming the Americans is that some of the casings being found are from NATO issue 5.56mm bullets.

ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT; ALL HOME NOW



Feb 11: US Marines patrol on the outskirts of Marjah. (AFP/File/Patrick Baz)



U.S. soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 23th Infantry Regiment, 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, work to retrieve a Stryker armored vehicle after it slid into a ditch on a narrow road west of Lashkar Gah in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Feb. 11, 2010. (AP Photo/Pier Paolo Cito)



U.S. soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division West of Lashkar Gah in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Feb. 12, 2010. (AP Photo/Pier Paolo Cito)



U.S. soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, west of Lashkar Gah in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Feb. 12, 2010. (AP Photo/Pier Paolo Cito)



U.S. Marines sleep in firing positions at a forward camp outside Marjah in Afghanistan's Helmand province Feb. 12, 2010. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)



U.S. Marines from 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment move as Taliban fighters fire on them in the town of Marjah in Afghanistan's Helmand province on Feb. 15, 2010. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)



A U.S. Marine from Bravo Company of the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines during battle in Helmand province February 21, 2010. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic



US Marines help a comrade who fell into a poppy field irrigation canal during a patrol around Marjah on February 24. (AFP/Patrick Baz)

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

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

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of Marine Pfc. Kyle J. Coutu from St. Teresa of the Child Church in Pawtucket, R.I., following funeral services Feb. 26, 2010. Coutu was killed last week in Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Stew Milne)

Coffee Strong Update:

“GI Voice Exists To Provide Essential Services To Returning Soldiers And Veterans, Who Are Having Difficulty With An Array Of Mental And Physical Health Problems And GI Rights Violations”



From: info@givoice.org
To: Military Resistance
Sent: February 23, 2010
Subject: Feb 2010 CS update

Coffee Strong is gearing up in preparation for soldiers returning to Ft Lewis later this year. We are looking for volunteers and interns with specific skills and interests. Contact Andrew or Jen for more details, at 253-581-1565, and check out the details at www.GIVoice.org.

We're excited to announce a grant from RESIST, which means a new website is under development for Coffee Strong! The new website will provide better communication among our community of supporters. This month we look forward to:

Hosting guest speakers and films this Spring (see below)
Avoiding further burglaries

Yes, the third break-in took place January 23. Several locations near-by also sustained burglaries. Negative energy saps the indispensable enthusiasm our vets give their vital project, a safe haven for people who are really hurting.

GI Voice exists to provide essential services to returning soldiers and veterans, who are having difficulty with an array of mental and physical health problems and GI Rights violations. In 2009 we provided services for 83 soldiers. Andrew vanDenBergh, our coffeehouse manager, reminds us that many of the GI Rights cases go on for several months.

Coffee Strong vets are making an incredible difference; we often hear stories about how the support given to their peers literally saves lives. A veterans' advocacy group has been meeting at Coffee Strong, with students preparing to pass a very difficult test that prepares them to advocate for veterans' benefits, just as an attorney does. Many thanks to Dennis, Lena, Mark and Perry for your efforts to provide and film the training!

We are concerned about the well-being of the community and recognize many are locked out of health care, essential food, jobs and housing. And Coffee Strong is taking action to prevent further burglaries. We send a special thanks to Larry who donated a Mac computer for administrative work, and to Perry, who donated two printers to the coffeehouse.

This is a time to ask our Community of support to help with donations! If you have a laptop to donate that runs well, we will bolt it to the floor!

Innovative protective devices are under consideration, and we could use your financial help with this project..

We deeply appreciate your support, and donations can be made to Seattle Draft and Military Counseling Center, for a tax deduction, or to GI Voice. Please mail to G.I. Voice, P.O. Box 99404, Lakewood, WA 98496.

With many thanks,

The Coffeehouse Baristas

See www.GIVoice.org for a list of volunteer and internship opportunities. Positions are now open.

Upcoming Events at Coffee Strong

Sergeant Travis Bishop received word that he was given a 3-month suspension, of the 12 month sentence he received last year for refusing to deploy to Afghanistan based on his Christian religious beliefs against war.

Sgt. Bishop's clemency application included a legal brief (alleging problems at trial, problems with the processing of Bishop's conscientious objector claim, and mistreatment at the Fort Lewis brig), a hand-written letter from Sgt. Bishop, and 433 letters (signed by a total of 538 people from 21 different countries) from members of Amnesty International and Coffee Strong, calling for Sgt. Bishop to be released.

Sgt. Bishop's civilian attorney, James M. Branum, estimates that Sgt. Bishop will be released no later than March 31 based on the amount of good behavior credit Sgt. Bishop has earned.. Check www.GIVoice.org for the announcement of the celebration planned on the day of his release, in collaboration with Amnesty International and Seattle Veterans for Peace. We anticipate the date toward the end of March.

Join Elizabeth Stinson and Tanya Brannan at CS: March 2, 6:30 to 8:30 pm (no charge) Two very powerful speakers will discuss dynamics they've identified over the last decade working with military sexual trauma (Stinson) and sexual assault among wives or partners of police officers (Brannan). Both women have extraordinary backgrounds, and both have received honors for their work in Sonoma County, CA.

Come meet Stinson, and appreciate the clarity of her communication, very respectful yet clear approach to resolving issues that threaten the power and rights of women and soldiers. Tanya Brannan argued the first successful lawsuit against a police department for their failure to provide protection for a woman against domestic violence.

Discussion re: Supreme Court decision, "Citizens United" Friday, March 5, 7 to 9:00 pm (no charge)

The Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United is just the latest--and most blatant--example that corporations have hijacked our government. The ruling leaves ordinary citizens little opportunity to participate in making the fundamental decisions that affect our lives. Corporations are using our legal system to elect our representatives.

Rikki Ott and David Cobb (Democracy Unlimited Humboldt County; Green Party presidential candidate) will facilitate a community dialogue on how our community can join the movement to abolish corporate personhood.

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, March 19th -- 7th Anniversary of the War -- Tacoma Event War Costs! Who Pays? And Who Profits?

Friday, March 19th is the 7th anniversary of beginning the Shocking and Awful bombing of Iraq in 2003.

Save the date to protest our current foreign policy in Iraq, and Afghanistan/Pakistan.

4:00 pm RALLY at the Federal Courthouse in Tacoma, followed by MARCH to I-5 overpass. Working at 4:00 PM? Then join our demonstration at 5:30 at the Pacific Ave/I-5 overpass (bridge).

Watch www.GIVoice.org for more details. The Tacoma chapter of IVAW will be announcing powerful street theater events locally. Co-sponsored by Iraq Veterans Against the War--Tacoma Chapter and United for Peace of Pierce County. For information call 253-573-1504.

**SAVE THIS DATE:
Ann Wright in Tacoma April 24, 2010!**

Ret. Colonel Ann Wright will join us in Tacoma at King's Books from 2 to 4 pm to discuss the wars in the Middle East. King's Books is located at 218 St Helens Ave., Tacoma, WA 98402.

Ann will outline the relationship between the Israeli Occupation of Gaza, and the role the US plays in each of the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan.

An open discussion will follow, specific to the resistance of ongoing war, and costs to communities and returning soldiers. Ann will have thoughts about what needs to happen, and we look forward to hearing from you. Please RSVP at mollygibbs3@gmail.com or at Coffee Strong's FB!

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

**“There Is An Astonishing Lack Of
Anger Among Liberals,
Progressives And Radicals Who
Have Abandoned Emotion To The
Right”**

**“When The Wealthy Fuck Up, The
Poor Get To Die”**

**“Where And When Did We Lefties Lose
This Vital Part Of Our Social Language?”**



Freedom of Speech: Norman Rockwell, 1943

Recently, I attended a meeting of my local school board where a mild, hardly-above-a-whisper grumble from a parent prompted his expulsion enforced by armed police.

24 February 2010 By Clancy Sigal, Guardian News and Media

“Never before in all our history have these forces been so united against one candidate as they stand today. They are unanimous in their hate for me and I welcome their hatred.” -- President Roosevelt, Madison Square Garden, 31 October 1936

There is an astonishing lack of anger among liberals, progressives and radicals who have abandoned emotion to the right.

Our role model continues to be not FDR, still less Malcolm X, but our “bipartisan” and apparently tone-deaf President Obama.

In this second or third year of a devastating depression, not just recession, that has inflicted an epidemic of suffering on the lower half of the American nation, Obama is very busy being fluent and civil while being essentially untouched by the rage felt by so many of us.

Our world, as we have known it, is being annihilated, and nobody in power shows signs of giving a damn.

The real anger is all on the right, kidnapped – or authentically voiced – by the all-white Tea Partiers, Palinites, Oath Keepers and “armed and dangerous” patriot groups, some but not all of whom are native-fascistic but also include pissed-off libertarians and the disappointed and dispossessed at the bottom of the pile.

Look at the mess.

Evictions – I’m a child of Great Depression furniture-thrown-on-the-street – are skyrocketing.

Mortgage holders are in a feeding frenzy on their hapless fellow citizens.

Michelle Obama lectures us on obesity while one in eight Americans (and one in four children) are on federal food stamps.

The human toll of long term, more-or-less permanent unemployment is yet to be counted as millions of Americans are pushed out of the middle class and become the “new poor” queuing up at food banks for the first time in their lives.

Those who do vent and get angry are put down as crackpots, which they sometimes are.

But the so-called left seems to have joined the mainstream (and even the radical) media in under- or mis- or never-reporting what’s actually happening in the lives of so many of us.

Like Obama, Pelosi and the rest of the Democratic party establishment we've forfeited real gut language in favour of policy abstractions, the "issues" syndrome, that so easily hide an open wound.

Joe Stack, who rammed his Piper Cherokee into the IRS building in Austin, Texas, murdering an IRS worker and injuring many, was one maladjusted injustice collector.

But his online 3000-word suicide note, a long-repressed scream of protest, has the virtue of unminced words we are never likely to hear from anyone in Washington or a state capitol.

"When the wealthy fuck up, the poor get to die."

Where and when did we lefties lose this vital part of our social language?

Was it in pre-school where we're urged as toddlers to use sweet reasonableness to resolve disputes?

Or have we grown so stiffly respectable that we're afraid of being loud and vulgar?

Or that – horrors! – we'll get too closely identified with the Great Unwashed like Joe Stack, Amy Bishop (the professor who shot her Alabama colleagues), crazy bikers, teenage gangs and "poor white trash" who tend to express their anger mainly against each other?

Whatever the reason, the suppression of sane, liberal anger has been around at least half a century, certainly since the sociologist C Wright Mills in his influential book *The Power Elite* deplored the loss of capacity by the public to experience outrage as contrasted with earlier periods in American history.

The last time I remember collective anger as legitimate was in the now-much-derided 1960s with its protest marches and brazen hippie-style slogans.

Ever since there's been a gradual slide – I would argue descent – into sterile politeness.

Recently, I attended a meeting of my local school board where a mild, hardly-above-a-whisper grumble from a parent prompted his expulsion enforced by armed police.

Who knows what might have happened if any of us in the audience had stood up and actually spoken out as in that famous Norman Rockwell painting of a town hall meeting?

Why should full-throated emotion be the monopoly of the so-called "populists" who seem to be the only people around unafraid to shout, yell, stomp and scream?

I grew up in a boisterous, immigrant, loud neighborhood where everyone had an opinion and voiced it full throttle. Somewhere along the line, maybe when I shifted from working class to middle class, I lost my rough, grating, empowered, assertive voice – and maybe the anger that had fuelled it. If so, that's a pity.

We need liberal anger now more than ever.

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

Laotian Whore



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)

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: February 19, 2010
Subject: Laotian Whore

Laotian Whore

This is a picture of a Medevac helicopter in my military unit in An Khe, Vietnam 1970. In many ways the name painted on the front of the helicopter is a metaphor for the entire Vietnam War.

Laotian Whore.

The American War.

The United States Government brought horror to three countries in Southeast Asia:

Vietnam

Cambodia

Laos

Fast forward 40 years and it is now:

Afghanistan

Pakistan

Iraq

No such thing as the Afghanistan War.

It's the American War.

No such thing as the Iraq War.

It's the American War.

Around and around the globe America goes.

Where she stops nobody knows.

Killing hundreds of thousands of people as you know.

For that is how Empires grow.

Around and around America goes.

Where she stops nobody knows.

But in the end it will all show.

Reaping

Reaping

What she sows.

America

America

You have lost your soul.

Mike Hastie

U.S. Army Medic

Vietnam 1970-71

February 19, 2010

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

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

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

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Israeli Troops Attack A Sunday Mass: “They Immediately Started Throwing Concussion Grenades And Tear Gas At The Elderly, Women, Children, The Priest Doing The Prayer”

From: Mazin Qumsiyeh
Sent: February 22, 2010
Subject: Israeli troops attack a Sunday mass

Some 100 people gathered at Ush Ghrab in Beit Sahour to pray for peace and protest the planned military presence there.

As we were gathering in peaceful contemplation and prayer, Israeli army jeeps quickly rolled in between us and one officer barked orders in Hebrew.

We explained to them in Arabic and English that we do not understand Hebrew (later we realized they also knew Arabic and English) but they immediately started throwing concussion grenades and tear gas at the elderly, women, children, the priest doing the prayer, other town people and internationals (Christians and Muslims).

A translator who reviewed our video footage later in the day said that their orders meant we have one minute to disperse!

The priest's words, delivered as the army was attacking, was to plead to God to teach us to live in dignity based on morality and speak out for what is right (then we gave the Lord's prayer together). But considering the unusual circumstances, we persisted and succeeded in holding our ground.

One image captured on video that sticks out in my mind is Issa, which is Arabic for Jesus, holding his child in his arms while kicking the teargas canister.

His other child had started crying with the noise of a concussion grenade. The tape done by IMEMC.org professional photographer Ghassan shows the rest of it:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4he1vayLrfo>

My thought to the 40,000 people receiving this: If after watching this, you are not outraged, then you have no humanity.

If you are outraged and is able to do something about it, but don't, then you have abrogated your moral responsibility. Doing something about it means joining us next week if you are in the Bethlehem district or, if you are not, pressuring your government and the 101 other ways you know about that can make a difference.

The popular committee will continue and asks all of you to join us at 11 AM at Ush Ghrab next week where will have better organization and ensuring that young children and elderly who join us will be away from any potential area of conflict (we just did not expect the speed and viciousness of the Israeli attack this time).

Despite the forces arrayed against us (including both Israeli and unfortunately some supine Palestinians), we believe in the power of popular resistance to move conscience and achieve results.

The examples from our town of Beit Sahour during the first uprising of the late 1980s and places like Bilin in the past few years should be ample proof. The fact that Bilin retrieved over 1500 dunums of its land thanks to its popular resistance in ALL its forms. They are still going on strong five years later and they grew from a handful to thousands.

The attack on peaceful demonstrations fit a pattern of pathology (psychosis) indicative of the bankruptcy of the apartheid state.

Israeli forces shot at a private vehicle in Husan near Bethlehem yesterday injuring three civilians including one critically.

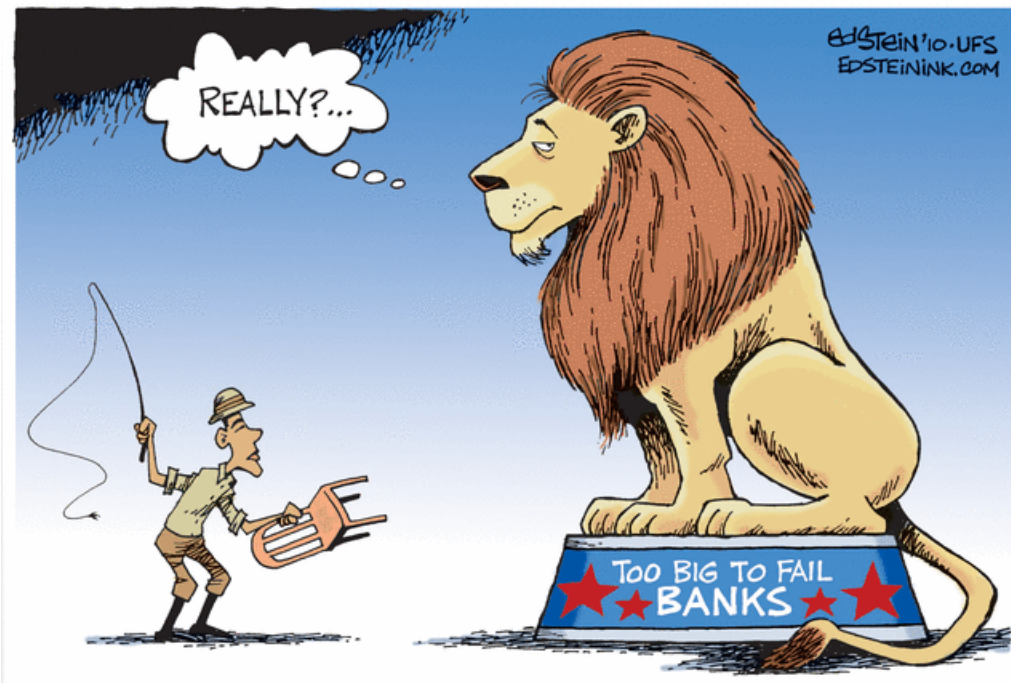
Their insults to foreign countries, demeaning the Turkish ambassador, use of foreign passports in sending hit squads are all telling: mafia like actions.

Acting irrationally and lashing out helps show the rest of the world the true nature of this sick regime.

I am so proud of the people who came and joined together with us and for those of you who did not join us, you missed something rather amazing. The best of humanity is on the march with love. Those of us who were here are energized and wish you would come and join us in "joyful participation in the sorrows of this world". You can't be neutral on a moving train. You are either on the side of justice or you are contributing to the injustice. Silence is complicity.

[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



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

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



**Auto Workers' Rage At Contract
Concessions On The Rise:
"The Membership Is Screaming 'Hell
No!' On This Deal"
"We Will Not Stand For Further
Concessions Negotiated By Our
Representatives"**



Justin Sullivan: Getty

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, United Auto Workers Union (ret'd) who sent this in.]

“We will no longer allow them to hold the old ‘Do it, or we will close your plant’ b.s. over us any longer.

“Our feeling is basically, Go ahead. They have already taken too much for us to care anymore.”

Feb. 23, 2010 By Joseph R. Szczesny, Detroit; Time

A year after the bailout of Chrysler and General Motors by the U.S. Treasury, anger over contract concessions is simmering within the ranks of the United Auto Workers (UAW).

At General Motors, where labor strife has lurked below the surface during much of the company’s recent history, workers at five different plants who transferred back to GM from its former subsidiary are frustrated by the company’s demands for more concessions.

Protests by union members are blocking the contract changes deemed necessary by the company.

Much of the opposition is coming from workers from GM plants in Saginaw and Grand Rapids, Mich., and Lockport and Rochester, N.Y., where UAW members say they are being pushed to renegotiate a contract that included concessions they signed only last year, when the plants still belonged to the bankrupt Delphi Corp.

“We haven’t seen anything in writing yet, but we know they’re coming for us again,” says a GM worker from Grand Rapids. “We also know they want a ‘no strike’ clause.”

“The membership is screaming ‘Hell no!’ on this deal,” says a GM worker from Rochester.

“We will no longer allow them to hold the old ‘Do it, or we will close your plant’ b.s. over us any longer.

“Our feeling is basically, Go ahead. They have already taken too much for us to care anymore.”

The workers say they have given up cost-of-living allowances, overtime after eight hours in place of wage increases, a holiday, some break time, the jobs bank and education benefits.

Entry-level wages have been cut in half, which has translated to even lower production-labor costs.

“We will not stand for further concessions negotiated by our representatives,” proclaimed a resolution that was turned in for consideration at the UAW convention in June by workers from the Ford assembly plant in Chicago.

“I’ve never seen people so frustrated,” says a veteran UAW official in Detroit. “These are hard jobs. You might not lift as much as in the old days, but the intensity has gone way up.”

The fight has spilled over into the labor relations at Ford.

That company, the healthiest of the domestic carmakers, has traditionally had the best relations with the UAW. But last fall workers at Ford voted down contract changes aimed at erasing the gap in labor rates that had opened up with key competitors, who got additional concessions as they went through bankruptcy.

GM’s labor costs after bankruptcy have fallen from \$72 per hour to about \$50 per hour under pressure from the Treasury. Ford’s hover around \$55 per hour after recent adjustments, and the gap is a top issue for Ford’s management.

In addition, Ford workers balked at changes that were pushed in the name of greater efficiency at an assembly plant in Kansas City, Mo.

The problems were resolved, according to a Ford spokeswoman. But union members say the tension remains.

Ford workers also protested plans to give merit-pay increases (which go against the collective-bargaining ethos). Instead, Ford agreed that workers would receive a share of the company’s 2009 profits. The payments average \$250 per employee for each of Ford’s 41,000 workers.

A year ago, the union might have been willing to discuss dropping the profit-sharing to protect jobs, but this time it stuck to the letter of the contract.

MORE:

SUPPORT OUR PICKET LINE!

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, United Auto Workers Union (ret’d) who sent this in.]

**WE ARE THE DRIVERS OF RYDER INTEGRATED LOGISTICS
U.A.W. LOCAL #174**

**OUR EMPLOYER HAS TOLD US THOSE DREADED WORDS
“YOU NO LONGER HAVE A JOB”**

**WE HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY A NON-UNION COMPANY
OWNED BY THE MOST NOTORIOUS ANTI-UNION, PREDATOR
CAPITALIST IN DETROIT, MANNY MOROUN,**

**SOON YOU WILL SEE US AT YOUR GATES PROTESTING THE
LOSS OF OUR JOBS**

**WE HAVE BEEN GM’S PRIMARY CARRIER AND LOGISTICS
OPERATOR AT DETROIT/HAMTRAMCK AND LAKE ORION FOR
THE LAST 15 YEARS PLUS A NEW OPERATION AT LANSING
ASSEMBLY WITH MINIMAL LINE SHUTDOWNS**

AND THIS IS OUR REWARD

THROWN OUT WITHOUT JOBS, SEVERANCE, NOTHING!!!

GM IS BUSTING OUR UNION

WHO IS NEXT?

ONE UNION BUSTING THREATENS ALL UNIONS

RESPECT OUR PICKET LINE

**WE ARE FIGHTING FOR THE INTEGRITY OF ALL UNION
MEMBERS**

[Labor Donated]

RECEIVED

“When People Thank Me For My Military Service I Ask If They Are The CEO Of A Huge Corporation” [Plus A Question]

From: SANFORD KELSON [Veteran]
To: Military Resistance
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 8:28 AM
Subject: 8B15

[Military Resistance] 8B15 has an excellent essay by Brett McFann, Iraq Veterans Against The War.

When people thank me for my military service I ask if they are the CEO of a huge corporation.

The answer is always, so far anyway, No.

I then say, Well then don't thank me because I didn't do a thing for average Americans.

I did whatever I did for benefit big business like especially the defense and oil companies and companies that rape the world for cheap resources, cheap labor and markets.

Brett McFann says he did KP duty.

I thought that no longer exists in the US military?

Does it?



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