

Military Resistance 8C19



March 1, 2010: U.S. Marines carry the body of a comrade to a waiting U.S. Army Task Force Pegasus medevac helicopter, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

U.S. Troop Deaths Double In Afghanistan: The Number Of U.S. Troops Wounded Increased Over 300%: “Increase In Casualties Was Partly Driven By The Higher Number Of Troops In Afghanistan In 2010”

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

March 27, 2010 (AP)

The number of U.S. troops killed in Afghanistan has roughly doubled in the first three months of 2010 compared to the same period last year as Washington has added tens of thousands of additional soldiers to reverse the Taliban's momentum.

Those deaths have been accompanied by a dramatic spike in the number of wounded, with injuries more than tripling in the first two months of the year and trending in the same direction based on the latest available data for March.

In total, 57 U.S. troops were killed here during the first two months of 2010 compared with 28 in January and February of last year, an increase of more than 100 percent, according to Pentagon figures compiled by The Associated Press. At least 20 American service members have been killed so far in March, an average of about 0.8 per day, compared to 13, or 0.4 per day, a year ago.

The number of U.S. troops wounded in Afghanistan and three smaller theaters where there isn't much battlefield activity rose from 85 in the first two months of 2009 to 381 this year, an increase of almost 350 percent.

A total of 50 U.S. troops were wounded last March, an average of 1.6 per day. In comparison, 44 were injured during just the first six days of March this year, an average of 7.3 per day.

The increase in casualties was partly driven by the higher number of troops in Afghanistan in 2010.

American troops rose from 32,000 at the beginning of last year to 68,000 at the end of the year, an increase of more than 110 percent.

The troop numbers have continued to rise in 2010 in line with the recent surge. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Thursday that a third of the additional forces, or 10,000 troops, are already in Afghanistan. They plan to have all 30,000 troops in the country before the end of the year.

Foreign “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Tuesday: Nationality Not Announced

30 March AP

A foreign servicemember died today as a result of an IED strike in southern Afghanistan.

U.S. Marine Killed In Helmand

March 29, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 246-10

Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Ross, 19, of Gillette, Wyo., died March 24, while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

U.S. Soldier Killed By IED In Dashat

March 31, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 255-10

Pfc. James L. Miller, 21, of Yakima, Wash., died March 29 in Dashat, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his vehicle with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

UK Soldier From 3 RIFLES Killed Near Sangin

27 Mar 10 Ministry of Defence [UK]

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a soldier from 3rd Battalion The RIFLES, serving with 3 RIFLES Battle Group, during the afternoon of 27 March 2010.

The soldier died as a result of an explosion which occurred in an area 1km to the east of Sangin District Centre, in Helmand Province.

Family Mourns The Death Of A Soldier

Mar 19 2010 By JENNY MANNING, Whidbey News Times Reporter

Special Forces Army Ranger Joel David Clarkson, the grandson of longtime Oak Harbor resident Virginia Williams, died from a combat-related injury in Afghanistan this week.

"My world just ended. I have lost my baby," Joel's mother Karen Williams-Clarkson posted on her Facebook page about noon Wednesday. He was pronounced dead on March 17.

Clackson was wounded in Afghanistan Friday, March 12, when a bullet penetrated his skull. He underwent two surgeries in Afghanistan and was transported to Germany for further care. Doctors pronounced him brain dead Wednesday morning.

Seven of his organs went to save the lives of others.

Joel's uncle, David Williams of Oak Harbor, described his nephew as an athletic, outgoing young man whose life fell into place after he joined the service and started a family of his own.

"Everything just clicked," Williams said. "His drive was to be a soldier."

Joel leaves behind his wife, Cassandra, and 9-month-old son, Orion, of Puyallup; sister Jessica Clarkson of Fairbanks; mother Karen Clarkson-Williams of Fairbanks; uncle David Williams of Oak Harbor; and grandmother Virginia Williams of Oak Harbor.

Services are to be held Saturday, March 27 in Fort Lewis, Wash., and on April 5 in Arlington National Cemetery, where he will be laid to rest. There will also be a small service in Alaska at a later date.

Bomber Claims Local Residents' Son



PFC Jason Michael Kropat

Mar 17, 2010 Fredericksburg Standard

Two Fredericksburg parents are mourning the loss this week of their son who was killed March 9 by enemy fire in Afghanistan.

U.S. Army PFC Jason Kropat, 25, died while trying to protect his sergeant and friend, Sgt. Jonathan J. Richardson, 24, from an insurgent suicide bomber, according to his mother, Kathleen Kropat.

“Jay sacrificed his life to save his sergeant -- and the best friend he made in the Army -- from a suicide bomber. He died a hero,” she said yesterday, adding that, unfortunately, both perished in the attack in Afghanistan’s Khost province.

He lived by the Army motto of not accepting failure and he died doing something that he completely believed in, Ms. Kropat said by phone from New York where she and her ex-husband, Glenn, have joined their three daughters to make funeral arrangements. (See related story.)

Kropat was born April 10, 1984, in Uniondale, NY, and, aside from his military service, lived in Smallwood, NY, near his three sisters: Kristina Kropat and Courtney Kropat both of Cohecton and Kimberley Kropat of Monticello.

Although he went to Monticello High School in New York, he attended Fredericksburg Middle School for a half-year in 1999, his father said.

As an adult, he visited his parents here several times, most recently in December.

“He absolutely loved it there,” Kropat said, adding that his son was looking forward to coming back to Gillespie County for a longer visit.

Marine From Palm City Dies In Afghanistan



The remains of Marine Lance Corporal Justin J. Wilson of Palm City, Fla. upon his arrival at Dover Air Force Base, Del. March 24, 2010. Photo by Jose Luis Magana

March 24, 2010 By Will Greenlee, Tc palm.com

PALM CITY — Marine Lance Cpl. Justin Wilson of Palm City was scheduled to come home from Afghanistan in less than two months.

Instead, Wednesday morning his parents were on a plane to Delaware to meet his body. Wilson, 24, was killed Monday in Afghanistan by a roadside bomb.

Wilson always had to be first, cousin Donna Forte said.

“He was the first in the family to get married. The first to be a Marine. He had to be the best,” Forte said.

The last time Lance Wilson spoke to his son was March 17 — Justin’s 24th birthday. The phone connection was crackling as Justin spoke from somewhere in the Helmand province, Lance Wilson said, shortly before boarding a plane Wednesday morning.

“He was a little afraid. I could hear it in his voice,” the 53-year-old Wilson said. “He didn’t want to talk about what was going on there. He wanted to talk about his wife, the family. He wanted to know what was going at home.”

Wilson joined the Marine Corps in January 2009 and deployed to Afghanistan 10 months later. Promoted to lance corporal earlier this month, Wilson was a motor vehicle operator assigned to 3rd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 7, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan.

Justin’s assignment was driving a 7-ton armored truck with a machine gun on top.

But recently, Justin had been doing foot patrol. He was killed by an improvised explosive device, said his father.

“I was so proud of him. He had commitment, honor, respect,” Lance said.

Justin grew up with his parents, brother Christopher, 20, and sister Jamie, 16, in Commack, N.Y. The family moved to Palm City in 2004 when Lance had an opportunity in his business, the sign industry.

Standing across from the Wilson home Wednesday, Dale Davant, a 78-year-old Korean war veteran, said he encouraged Wilson to join the Marines while delivering equipment for an ice skating show to Tampa.

“By the time we got back from Tampa he made up his mind that’s what he was going to do, and I encouraged him to do that,” said Davant, who served in the Marines. “He was considering joining before that trip, but I think that trip kind of sealed it.”

Davant said Wilson changed significantly when he completed boot camp.

“He had a whole different attitude,” Davant said. “He was a good Marine.”

Davant said he talked to Wilson’s family on Tuesday and said they’re in shock.

“If we lose anybody it’s sad, but then I’m having trouble with I encouraged him to join, so I know I’m not supposed to feel that way, but I do,” Davant said.

Justin and Hannah McVeigh were married by a justice of the peace in North Carolina on Oct. 30. They planned a big family wedding in Palm City after he returned from Afghanistan. Justin was a talented artist, making graffiti-style artwork, Forte said.

“He met Hannah, the girl of his dreams. After he and Hannah married, he was deployed the next day,” Forte said. “He was a tough guy on the outside. But inside, he was a softy.”

Handing out candy to children in Afghanistan was one part of the deployment his son enjoyed, Lance said. The Marines had recently helped rebuild a school in Justin’s area. “Justin believed in what he was doing. He told me him and other Marines would use candy from their packages from home and give to the children,” the father said.

After graduating high school, Justin tried college. When that didn’t work, he decided to join the Marines, Lance said.

“He had to be the best. But I told him it was not a good time. I told him if he signed up, he was going to go over there and fight,” Lance said.

Childhood friend Jason Yunka, 23, said Justin was looking to find his place in the world and he thought the Marines would help him do so.

“He was a very kind-hearted, given soul,” Yunka said. “He always wanted to do good.”

Justin’s body will be returned to Palm City for a funeral. He will be cremated. Half the ashes will go to Hannah, the other half to his parents and brother and sister, Lance said.

At the Wilson’s home Wednesday, purple and yellow ribbons were affixed to two palm trees in the front yard. Another purple ribbon adorned the mail box. Purple ribbons also had been tied to trees and mailboxes of neighboring homes.

A Marine Corps hat sat in the back of a silver BMW parked in the home’s brick driveway.

Wilson’s awards include the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Purple Heart.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to Wounded Warriors Project, 7020 AC Skinner Parkway, Suite 100, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

MH Couple Lose Grandson In Attack On Afghan Outpost

March 13, 2010 FRANK WALLIS, Bulletin Staff Writer

A soldier killed Tuesday in a bomb and gunfire attack on the U.S.-Afghan base in Khost was the grandson of Ken and Edna Martin of Mountain Home — 24-year-old Sgt. Jonathan J. Richardson of Bald Knob.

The Martins were to travel to Springdale today to connect with relatives in preparation for funeral services probably next week.

Mrs. Martin said relatives telephoned with news of the death Tuesday soon after the attack. She said she was especially close to her grandson who lived with her for most of a year when he was a 3-year-old while the family was relocating to the U.S. from South Korea where his parents worked in civil service.

"We became very close and we remained close from then on," Mrs. Martin said.

Mr. Martin said except for the occasional "B" in subject matter that didn't interest him, his stepgrandson was an "A" student in high school. He also excelled at football.

"He was unsure of what he wanted to do when he graduated high school. He could have gone to college and done anything he wanted. But he talked to a recruiter and joined," Mrs. Martin said.

"He made sergeant in less than four years," Mr. Martin said.

Mrs. Martin said she and her grandson's wife, Rachel, have something in common in the sudden loss of a spouse. Her first husband, Jerry J. Cobb, was killed in an armed robbery of the couple's business in Springdale in 1974.

"I know what she's going through," Mrs. Martin said. "You know what's happened, but you just can't get your mind around it."

Mr. Martin called the sergeant's wife "Sweet Rachel."

"They loved each other so much. It was no puppy love. They were deeply, genuinely in love," he said.

The Martins visited the Richardsons last year just after they purchased their first home in Clarkville, Tenn. Sgt. Richardson was stationed at nearby Fort Campbell, Ky.

The Department of Defense said Richardson and another soldier killed in the attack — PFC. Jason M. Kropat, 25, of White Lake, N.Y. — were both assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

The Taliban has claimed responsibility for the bombing that killed the two and wounded a number of others, the Department of Defense said.

Richardson was a fire support specialist who joined the Army in June 2006 and was stationed in Fort Campbell in January 2007. He is survived by his wife, Rachel Richardson, of Clarksville, Tenn.; mother, Sharon Dunigan, of Bridgeport, W.V.; and father, Jeffery Richardson, of Germany.

Kropat was an infantryman who joined the Army in November 2008 and arrived at Fort Campbell in March 2009. Kropat is survived by his parents, Kathleen and Glenn Kropat of Fredericksburg, Texas.

Richardson's earned awards and decorations include Army Commendation Medal; Army Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Ribbon; and Weapons Qualification, M4, expert.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Sheldon High School Graduate Died In A Mortar Attack In Iraq



Erin McLyman

Mar 18, 2010 By Jennifer Winters, KVAL News

EUGENE, Ore. -- A memorial service is scheduled for next week to honor a 2001 Sheldon High School graduate who died Saturday in a mortar attack in Iraq

U.S. Army PFC. Erin McLyman, 26, was killed in a mortar attack on her base in Balad, Iraq.

McLyman's family said she died doing what she loved, but that doesn't make the pain any easier.

Erin's mother, Flora Neustrel, said she was proud of her daughter long before she joined the military to fight for her country - and long before she deployed to Iraq.

"When I was in college I had to do a paper on my hero," she said, "and I did it on Erin."

Neustrel was inspired by her daughter's fight against addiction as a teenager. Erin told her story to KVAL News in 2001.

Then 17, she shared how her life spun out of control. "I drank and smoked a lot of weed and used crank and cocaine," Erin said.

Erin's parents thought their daughter had already faced her biggest challenge.

"Erin was the type who could get herself out of everything," Neustrel said.

Resistance Action

March 27 (Reuters) & DPA & March 29 (Reuters)

Tikrit, Iraq - A sniper on Saturday fatally shot an off-duty Iraqi soldier near his home in the city of Tikrit,

A sniper shot and wounded a commander in a government-backed local militia in the Baghdad's northern district of Adhamiya, police said.

Insurgents in a speeding car opened fire and wounded two off-duty soldiers in southern Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A bomb attached to a car killed a Finance Ministry employee in the Doura district of southern Baghdad, police said.

One police officer was wounded when insurgents clashed with police late on Sunday in Kirkuk, police said.

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

Sadrists Party Vows Liberation Of Iraq From Foreigners

March 28, 2010 By Juan Cole, juancole.com [Excerpt]

Al-Hayat reports in Arabic on the emergence of the Sadr Movement as the largest Shiite party within the Shiite fundamentalist coalition, the Iraqi National Alliance.

The Free Independent (al-Ahrar) party that represented the Sadrists won 38 seats out of the 70 that the INA garnered, making the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, the Islamic Virtue Party and other Shiite religious components of the list much smaller and less weighty in the coalition's deliberations.

No sooner, the article says, than the election tallies began coming in did the government of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki begin gradually releasing Sadrist prisoners who had been in Iraqi penitentiaries for years.

Al-Hayat's sources say that in Babil Province, orders were received from the government to release members of the Sadr Movement, in an attempt to mollify that group.

Sadrist leader Liqa' Al-Yasin said that the Sadrists have now become the spinal column of the Iraqi National Alliance. He said that the movement had demonstrated that it had a large public base, and asserted that that base is cultured, aware, and abiding by the principles both of Islamic Law and the Nation.

Al-Yasin said that the Sadrists would work for the liberation of Iraq and the realization of national sovereignty. (Translation: they want US troops out of their country tout de suite.)

He adds that other goals are to gain the release of prisoners and to take some of the burdens off the shoulders of ordinary citizens.

Sadrist leaders said that "the next phase will concentrate on political action to end the Occupation altogether."

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

14 Foreign Occupation Soldiers And Local Collaborators Wounded By Copter Takedown In Atghar

March 29, 2010 ASSOCIATED PRESS

A helicopter with the international military force crashed Monday in southern Afghanistan, injuring 14 people, NATO said.

NATO said no one is reported to have been killed in the crash and that all personnel on board were evacuated to nearby medical facilities.

Jilani Farah, deputy police chief in Zabul province where the crash occurred, said 14 people were injured, including international service members, three Afghan soldiers and one Afghan policeman.

The Taliban have posted a message on their Web site claiming responsibility for the crash in Atghar district.

“The Taliban, Meanwhile, Quickly Moved To Mock Obama For Visiting At Night”

March 30, 2010 By Laura King, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

President Obama's lightning visit to the Afghan capital, his first trip here since taking office 14 months ago, came after months of tension between his administration and that of President Hamid Karzai.

In Kabul, opinion was divided as to whether Obama's six-hour nighttime fly-in late Sunday and early Monday marked a possible turnaround in relations or the continuation of a stubborn impasse in a crucial alliance.

The Taliban, meanwhile, quickly moved to mock Obama for visiting at night.

The timing -- arrival after dusk, departure before dawn -- was for security reasons, together with the strict secrecy surrounding the trip.

"It is proof of his cowardice," said Zabiullah Mujabid, a Taliban spokesman contacted by telephone.

"He came stealthily in the dark and left in the dark."

**Occupation Command Lied
About Massacre Of Five
Innocent Civilians:
“A Night Raid Carried Out By US
And Afghan Gunmen Led To The
Deaths Of Two Pregnant Women,
A Teenage Girl And Two Local
Officials”
“NATO Claimed That The Force Had
Found The Women’s Bodies ‘Tied Up,
Gagged And Killed” In A Room”
“NATO’s Claims Are Either Willfully
False Or, At Best, Misleading”**



Haji Sharabuddin holds up a photo of his sons, one a police commander, the other an attorney, who were among five people killed during a joint US-Afghan night raid in Paktia province

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

March 13, 2010 By Jerome Starkey, Khataba; The Times [London]

A night raid carried out by US and Afghan gunmen led to the deaths of two pregnant women, a teenage girl and two local officials in an atrocity which Nato then tried to cover up, survivors have told The Times.

The operation on Friday, February 12, was a botched pre-dawn assault on a policeman's home a few miles outside Gardez, the capital of Paktia province, eastern Afghanistan.

In a statement after the raid titled "Joint force operating in Gardez makes gruesome discovery", Nato claimed that the force had found the women's bodies "tied up, gagged and killed" in a room.

A Times investigation suggests that Nato's claims are either willfully false or, at best, misleading.

More than a dozen survivors, officials, police chiefs and a religious leader interviewed at and around the scene of the attack maintain that the perpetrators were US and Afghan gunmen.

The identity and status of the soldiers is unknown.

The raid came more than a fortnight after the commander of US and Nato forces in Afghanistan issued new guidelines designed to limit the use of night raids. Special forces and Western intelligence agencies that run covert operations in Afghanistan have been criticised for night raids based on dubious or false intelligence leading to civilian casualties.

The first person to die in the assault was Commander Dawood, 43, a long-serving, popular and highly-trained policeman who had recently been promoted to head of intelligence in one of Paktia's most volatile districts.

His brother, Saranwal Zahir, was a prosecutor in Ahmadabad district. He was killed while he stood in a doorway trying to protest their innocence.

Three women crouching in a hallway behind him were hit by the same volley of fire. Bibi Shirin, 22, had four children under the age of 5. Bibi Saleha, 37, had 11 children.

Both of them, according to their relatives, were pregnant. They were killed instantly.

The men's mother, Bibi Sabsparie, said that Shirin was four months pregnant and Saleha was five months. The other victim, Gulalai, 18, was engaged. She was wounded and later died. "We had already bought everything for the wedding," her soon-to-be father-in-law, Sayed Mohammed Mal, the Vice-Chancellor of Gardez University, said.

On the night of the attack about 25 male friends and relatives had gathered at Commander Dawood's compound in Khataba, a small village, to celebrate the naming of a newborn boy.

Sitting together along the walls of a guest room, the men had taken turns dancing while musicians played. Mohammed Sediq Mahmoudi, 24, the singer, said that at some time after 3am one of the musicians, Dur Mohammed, went outside to go to the toilet.

"Someone shone a light on his face and he ran back inside and said the Taleban were outside," Mr Sediq said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Zamarud Zazai, the Gardez head of police intelligence, said: "Both sides thought the other group was Taleban." Commander Dawood ran towards the family quarters with his son Sediqullah, 15. Halfway across the courtyard they were shot by a gunman on the roof. Commander Dawood was killed. Sediqullah, his uncles said, was hit twice but survived.

The shooting stopped and the soldiers shouted in Pashto for everyone to come outside. Waheedullah, an ambulance driver, said that their accents sounded Kandahari.

NATO said that the troops were part of a joint "Afghan-international" force but, despite new rules requiring them to leave leaflets identifying their unit, the family said they left nothing. Local US forces denied any involvement.

In the hallway on the other side of the compound, women poured in to tend to the casualties.

Commander Dawood's mother said: "Zahir shouted, 'don't fire, we work for the Government'. But while he was talking they fired again. I saw him fall down. I turned around and saw my daughter-in-law and the other women were dead."

Mohammed Sabir, 26, the youngest brother of Commander Dawood and Zahir, was one of eight men arrested and flown to a base in neighbouring Paktika province.

They were held for four days and interrogated by an American in civilian clothes who showed them pictures of their suspect. "I said, 'Yes, it's Shamsuddin. He was at the party. Why didn't you arrest him?'" Sabir said.

After they were released without charge Shamsuddin — who had spent five months fixing generators at the local American base — turned himself in for questioning. He, too, was released without charge.

Nato's original statement said: "Several insurgents engaged the joint force in a firefight and were killed." The family maintain that no one threw so much as a stone.

Rear Admiral Greg Smith, Nato's director of communications in Kabul, denied that there had been any attempt at a cover-up.

He said that both the men who were killed were armed and showing "hostile intent" but admitted "they were not the targets of this particular raid".

"I don't know if they fired any rounds," he said. "If you have got an individual stepping out of a compound, and if your assault force is there, that is often the trigger to neutralise the individual. You don't have to be fired upon to fire back."

He admitted that the original statement had been "poorly worded" but said "to people who see a lot of dead bodies" the women had appeared at the time to have been dead for several hours.

The family were offered, through local elders, American compensation — \$2,000 (£1,300) for each of the victims.

"There's no value on human life," Bibi Sabsparie said. "They killed our family, then they came and brought us money. Money won't bring our family back."

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

**NO MISSION;
POINTLESS WAR:**

ALL HOME NOW



A soldier with Army National Guard 162 Engineer Company attached with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion of U.S. Marine Corps after returning from a route clearance mission at Camp Leatherneck in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, March 10, 2010. REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov



U.S. Marine with the First Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment, Alpha company during a patrol in Marjah, Afghanistan, March 19, 2010. (AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)

TROOP NEWS

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



The body of U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Garrett W. Gamble arrives at Houston National Cemetery Mar. 20, 2010. The 20-year-old Marine from Sugar Land died in Afghanistan from injuries inflicted by an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/Bob Levey)

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**

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**

**Firearms are second only to the Constitution in importance; they are the peoples' liberty's teeth.
-- George Washington**

**A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.
-- Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution**

“The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy”
-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt

It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it.
-- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers

Poster Girl At Peace Rally



Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Thomas F Barton
Sent: March 21, 2010
Subject: Poster Girl at Peace Rally

Poster Girl at Peace Rally

Over 500 people marched in the
Peace rally in Portland, Oregon
on March 20, 2010.

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)

Obamaville's

[From GI SPECIAL 7D2: 4.4.09]

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: March 29, 2009
Subject: Obamaville's

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade,
purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War,
United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

Obamaville's

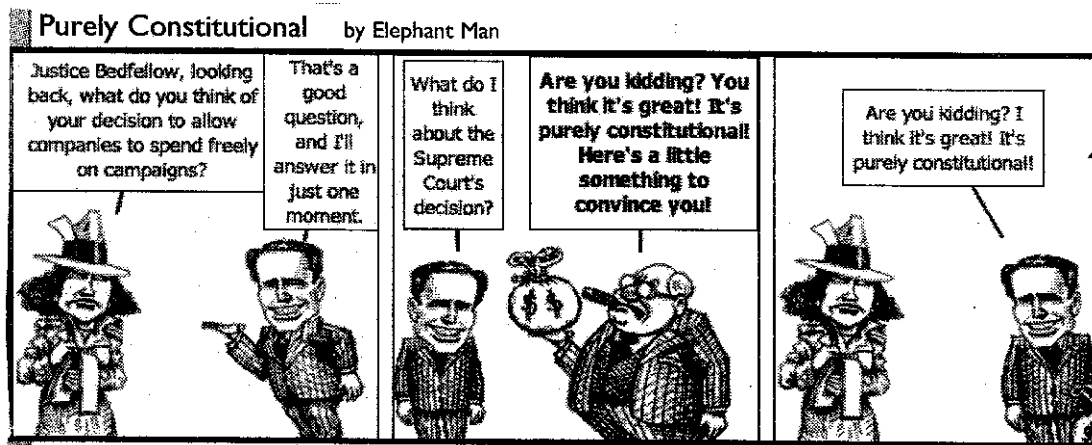
**Soldiers are fighting for the Obamaville's
in Phoenix, Seattle, Portland, Nashville,
Fresno, St. Petersburg and other towns
on the outskirts in tents after their homes
were foreclosed, no running water,
electricity, plumbing, like you humping
the desert, back home where the shacks are built
of old wood, scrap metal, cardboard
like the Iraqis live when their home
is blown up to bricks and dust
into an Obamaville while we have empty houses
that people can Not live in and you,
our brave Soldiers will be coming home
to homelessness and Billionaires, Millionaires
who have robbed Americans but they
already have money but they want power
like Hitler's, Mussolini's, Pinochet's, Franco's
Stalin's so high in the sky that they
think they are gods and as long as they have
Blackwaters and American Soldiers to prop
them up, this will be how it will be
cities bombed by AIG's, furniture
and personal belongings kicked out**

of their homes
by the Bank Of America because
the bailed out Banks, Insurance and Mortgage
Companies have taken over the Treasury
and the Federal Reserve but Congress
can Not stop them as they gang rape
the American Dream
like a giant dark Enron whose Shareholders
are the Taxpayers brought on
by decades of De-regulations that
allowed these Bail-looter to cook the books
with weasel language to make money
out of air because the Democrats
tired of running for office with just
Union money and Special interests
deleted the rest of FDR's regulations
and took the Bailouters big money
to compete on election day
and they won but with strings
so Obama says hey, how many Billions do
you need because a Revolution just
took place as the Bail-looters just say hey,
do you want a world money meltdown,
pension money gone, more Workers
with lost jobs, GM and Companies
going down as Congress and Obama
fight over Mexican Workers, Bailout bonuses
but say No, because their deal
with the Bail-Looter's Mafia
comes with a gun pointed at their heads
as the government folds it's hand
and says you Win as another Obamaville
family pitches their tent
while the Rich Bankers Bail Out Rich Bankers
using the Taxpayer Credit Card
forming Megamonsters with Trillions
of paper money by secret weasel language
that Americans can Not understand
created that way on purpose
to keep the people Slaves
that aids the Bailouters
as Obama blows up houses
in Afghanistan and Pakistan
producing more Obamavilles
and enemies
along the way.

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

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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RECEIVED:

Why Obama's War?

From: Frank G
To: Military Resistance

Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 1:52 PM

I guess my question to you is why you call this Obama's War ?????? It was the previous administration (I'm guessing you're a Republican) if you remember that far back, who got us into two wars. Afganistan was the right war to fight, but Bush had to show up his "daddy" and get us into Iraq with repeated deployments for our troops. Maybe you never served in the military in a combat zone (I did in Vietnam) and you cannot send troops into these conditions year after year without profound consequences. It affects the troops and their families.

Regards,
Frank Greenleaf
B/1/12 Ca

Reply: T

The article below is in response to your question.

No Republicans here. Or Democrats either. Had enough of both in the '60s.

The comment: "you cannot send troops into these conditions year after year without profound consequences. It affects the troops and their families," is true, especially if the purpose is success in an upcoming election campaign.

The article:

“The President Knows Perfectly Well That Afghanistan is Vietnam All Over Again”

December 10, 2009 By Thomas H. Johnson, M. Chris Mason, Foreign Policy [Excerpts]

About the authors:

Thomas H. Johnson is research professor of the Department in National Security Affairs and director of the Program for Culture and Conflict Studies at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

M. Chris Mason, a retired Foreign Service officer who served in 2005 as political officer for the provincial reconstruction team in Paktika, is senior fellow at the Program for Culture and Conflict Studies and at the Center for Advanced Defense Studies in Washington.

As German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer once said, truth is ridiculed, then denied, and then “accepted as having been obvious to everyone from the beginning.”

So let's start with the obvious: There isn't the slightest possibility that the course laid out by Barack Obama in his Dec. 1 speech will halt or even slow the downward spiral toward defeat in Afghanistan. None.

The U.S. president and his advisors labored for three months and brought forth old wine in bigger bottles. The speech contained not one single new idea or approach, nor offered any hint of new thinking about a conflict that everyone now agrees the United States is losing.

Instead, the administration deliberated for 94 days to deliver essentially "more men, more money, try harder."

It sounded ominously similar to Mikhail Gorbachev's "bloody wound" speech that led to a similar-sized, temporary Soviet troop surge in Afghanistan in 1986.

But the Soviet experience in Afghanistan isn't what everyone is comparing Obama's current predicament to; it's Vietnam. The president knows it, and part of his speech was a rebuttal of those comparisons. It was a valiant effort, but to no avail.

Afghanistan is Vietnam all over again.

First, Obama noted that Afghanistan is being conducted by a "coalition" of 43 countries -- as if war by committee would magically change the outcome (a throwback to former President George W. Bush's "Iraq coalition" mathematics).

The truth is, outside of a handful of countries, it's basically a coalition of pacifists.

In fact, more foreign troops fought alongside the United States in Vietnam than are now actually fighting with Americans today.

Only nine countries in today's 43-country coalition have more than 1,000 personnel there; nine others have 10 (yes, not even a dozen people) -- or fewer. And although Australia and New Zealand have sent a handful of excellent special operations troops to Afghanistan, only Britain, Canada, and France are providing significant forces willing to conduct conventional offensive military operations. That brings the coalition's combat-troop contribution to approximately 17,000.

Most of the other 38 "partners" have strict rules prohibiting them from ever doing anything actually dangerous. Turkish troops, for example, never leave their firebase in Wardak province, according to U.S. personnel who monitor it.

The president's final argument, that Afghanistan is different because Vietnam never attacked American soil, is a red herring.

History is overflowing with examples of just causes that have gone down in defeat. To suggest that the two conflicts will have different outcomes because the U.S. cause in Afghanistan is just (whereas, presumably from the speech, the war in Vietnam was not) is simply specious.

The courses and outcomes of wars are determined by strategy, not the justness of causes or the courage of troops.

The reality on the ground is that Afghanistan is Vietnam redux.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai's regime is an utterly illegitimate, incompetent kleptocracy.

The Afghan National Army (ANA) -- slotted to take over the conflict when the coalition pulls out -- will not even be able to feed itself in five years, much less turn back the mounting Taliban tide.

The U.S. Center for Army Lessons Learned determined by statistical analysis that the ANA will never grow larger than 100,000 men because nearly 30 percent either desert or fail to re-enlist each year.

The ANA is disproportionately Tajik, drug use is a major problem, all recruits are illiterate, and last month the ANA reached only half its modest recruiting goal despite 40 percent unemployment nationwide.

The American media, in its own regression to 1963, simply regurgitates Pentagon press releases that vastly inflate the actual size of the Afghan military, which is actually less than 60,000 men, just 32,000 of whom are combat troops.

The strategy's other component for dealing with the Taliban, "negotiating with moderates," is also ludicrous to anyone who is familiar with the insurgents. There is no one to negotiate with, and from their perspective, nothing to discuss.

And the Taliban know they are winning.

Meanwhile, commanding Gen. Stanley McChrystal's plan to secure the urban areas (rather than the rural countryside where the insurgency is actually metastasizing) is plagiarized from the famous never-written textbook, How to Lose a War in Afghanistan, authored jointly by Alexander the Great, the British Empire, and the Soviet Union.

And that is why the United States is now headed for certain defeat in Afghanistan.

Obama's new "strategy" is no strategy at all.

It is a cynical and politically motivated rehash of Iraq policy: Toss in a few more troops, throw together something resembling local security forces, buy off the enemies, and get the hell out before it all blows up.

Even the dimmest bulb listening to the president's speech could not have missed the obvious link between the withdrawal date for combat troops from Iraq (2010), the date for beginning troop reductions in Afghanistan (2011), and the domestic U.S. election cycle.

So we are faced with a conundrum.

Obama is one of the most intelligent men ever to hold the U.S. presidency.

But no intelligent person could really believe that adding 30,000 troops to Afghanistan, a country four times larger than Vietnam, for a year or two, following the same game plan that has resulted in dismal failure there for the past eight years, could possibly have any impact on the outcome of the conflict.

Arthur Conan Doyle's character Sherlock Holmes used to say that "when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."

The only conclusion one can reach from the president's speech, after eliminating the impossible, is that the administration has made a difficult but pragmatic decision: The war in Afghanistan is unwinnable, and the president's second term and progressive domestic agenda cannot be sacrificed to a lost cause the way that President Lyndon B. Johnson's was for Vietnam.

The result of that calculation was what we heard on Dec. 1: platitudes about commitment and a just cause; historical amnesia; and a continuation of the exact same failed policies that got the United States into this mess back in 2001, concocted by the same ship of fools, many of whom are still providing remarkably bad advice to this administration.

We believe the president knows perfectly well that Afghanistan is Vietnam all over again, both domestically and, as we wrote in *Military Review* this month, in Kabul and out in the Afghan hills, where good men are bleeding and dying.

And he's seeking the same cynical exit strategy that Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger did in 1968: negotiating the best possible second-place position and a "decent interval" between withdrawal and collapse.

In office less than a year, the Obama administration has already been seduced by the old beltway calculus that sometimes a little wrong must be done to get re-elected and achieve a greater good.

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

"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

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