

Military Resistance 8C2



Afghanistan: Four wounded US Army soldiers are carried into a C-130J. Michaelyon-online.com: 22 February 2010

MAKE THEM PAY

March 1, 2010 By Gregg Shotwell, United Auto Workers,
www.soldiersofsolidarity.com

MAKE THEM PAY

**if you're sick or
your child is sick or
your wife is sick
they punish you**

**if you are grieving
they punish you
if you are in pain
they punish you**

if you are late for work
through no fault of your own
they punish you

if you're frustrated
because they won't provide
the tools you need
they punish you

if you tell the truth
they punish you

and when they can't
make any more money
off of you
they get rid of you

and throughout all this
they expect you
to be loyal obedient
and grateful

make them pay

make them pay every day
for every hour of your life
they take away

make them pay

MAKE THEM PAY

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Attack Government Offices In Baqouba

March 3, 2010 Associated Press

Bombers struck in quick succession Wednesday in Baqouba, a former insurgent stronghold northeast of Baghdad,

The violence began about 9 a.m. with a car bomb that targeted a local government housing office near an Iraqi army facility, police spokesman Capt. Ghalib al-Karkhi said.

Within minutes, a second car bomb exploded 200 yards (meters) down the street near the provincial government headquarters near many police and army personnel.

It was the final bomber, however, who caused the most casualties, by donning a military uniform, pretending to be wounded and riding an ambulance back to the hospital where he blew himself up, al-Karkhi said.

Many of the wounded from the first two bombs were killed in the third attack.

Mahmoud Fadil, 50, said he was heading to the electric company's office when the force of the explosion tossed him in the air.

"I saw others covered with blood lying on the ground and some crying because of wounds caused by shrapnel and the huge blast," he said.

More Resistance Action

Feb 25 (Reuters) & Feb 26 (Reuters) & Feb 27 (Reuters) & Feb 28 (Reuters) & March 3, 2010 By BEN HUBBARD Associated Press Writer

In Babil province south of Baghdad, police arrested 33 people for distributing leaflets calling for a boycott of the election because it is "supervised by the Americans," a police official said.

A car bomb wounded three soldiers when it exploded, targeting an Iraqi army patrol, in southern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents threw a hand grenade at an Iraqi army checkpoint, wounding two soldiers on Wednesday in eastern Mosul, police said.

Insurgents threw an explosive at the home of an electoral candidate from Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's State of Law coalition in Qaim, near Iraq's western border with Syria. The candidate, Burkan Abdul Razaq, was unharmed.

A motorbike packed with explosives wounded four policemen and two members of a government backed militia, in Tarmiya, 25 km (15 miles) north of Baghdad, an interior ministry source said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

The “Oh Shit”-Bad-News Combat Report From Marjah Surfaces! “Every Marine Convoy Heading In And Out Of The Area Had Struck A Roadside Bomb, Knocking Out Armored Vehicles And Considerably Delaying Travel Plans” [Hidden In The Middle Of A Long Story About A Drug Workshop]

March 3, 2010 By ALFRED de MONTESQUIOU, The Associated Press [Excerpts]

MARJAH, Afghanistan -- Even by Afghan standards, it was a startling find: An opium packaging workshop, buried under donkey dung and old hay in a stable that U.S. Marines turned into a patrol base in southern Afghanistan.

Two U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration employees nosing around the base found more than two kilograms (4.4 pounds) of opium, five large bags of poppy seeds, some 50 sickles, jugs and a large scale for measuring opium.

The opium workshop, on a compound near the entrance to the former Taliban-controlled town of Marjah, was found mostly out of luck and idleness.

“I just decided to start poking around,” said Joe, who like his colleague, Jack, only went by his first name because they work for a DEA special intervention unit stationed in Afghanistan.

“I’ve had plenty of time on my hands.”

The two DEA agents, both bearded and wearing military fatigues, had been stuck on the compound in Helmand province for the past several days because every Marine convoy heading in and out of the area had struck a roadside bomb, knocking out armored vehicles and considerably delaying travel plans.

Two U.S. Soldiers Killed In Bala Murghab

March 02, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 162-10

The Department of Defense announced today the death of two soldiers who were supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. They died March 1 in Bala Murghab, Afghanistan, when insurgents attacked their unit using small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fires. The soldiers were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Killed were:

Spc. Josiah D. Crumpler, 27, of Hillsborough, N.C.

Spc. Matthew D. Huston, 24, of Athens, Ga.

Utah Marine Killed In Helmand

March 02, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 164-10

Lance Cpl. Carlos A. Aragon, 19, of Orem, Utah, died March 1 while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif.

California Soldier Killed In Helmand

March 02, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 163-10

Spc. Ian T.D. Gelig, 25, of Stevenson Ranch, Calif., died March 1 in Kandahar, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his vehicle with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 782nd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Soldier From 3 RIFLES Killed Near Sangin

2 Mar 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a soldier from 3rd Battalion The Rifles (3 RIFLES) in Afghanistan during the morning of Tuesday 2 March 2010.

The soldier died as a result of small arms fire near Sangin in Helmand province.

Soldier From 4 RIFLES Killed Near Sangin

1 Mar 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a soldier from A Company, 4th Battalion The Rifles (4 RIFLES), part of the 3 RIFLES Battle Group, during the morning of 1 March 2010.

The soldier died as a result of small arms fire near Sangin in Helmand province.

Lejeune Marine's Widow Shocked By Death

Feb. 22, 2010 WRAL

Camp Lejeune, N.C. — The widow of a Camp Lejeune-based Marine says that she is still trying believe the news of his death Thursday in Afghanistan.

The military has announced the deaths of 13 service members since a massive NATO offensive against the Taliban began Feb. 13 in the southern province of Helmand. At least seven of the military personnel killed were part of Camp Lejeune's II Marine Expeditionary Force.

Sgt. Jeremy R. McQueary, 27, of Columbus, Indiana, was among those killed. He left behind his wife, Rae McQueary, and their 5-month-old son, Hadley.

"It's still kind of hard to believe that it's him. I have not seen a body," Rae McQueary told WRTV, a CBS News affiliate in Columbus, Indiana. "In my heart, I just want to believe that it's not real."

WRTV reports that Jeremy McQueary was last home for Hadley's birth.

Rae McQueary had gotten a tattoo of the number "18" to surprise her husband at his scheduled homecoming in two months. It stands for the day of the month they got married.

Now it also stands for the day he died: Feb. 18, 2010.

The military has named the other Lejeune Marines killed Feb. 13-18: Cpl. Jacob H. Turbett, 21, of Canton, Mich.; Pfc. Jason H. Estopinal, 21, of Dallas, Ga.; Pfc. Eric Currier, 21, of New Hampshire; Lance Cpl. Larry Johnson, 19, of Pennsylvania; Pfc. Kyle Coutu, 20, of Rhode Island; and Lance Cpl. Kielin T. Dunn, 19, of Virginia.

As well, Lance Cpl. Noah M. Pier, 25, a Charlotte native assigned to a Hawaii-based Marine unit, died Thursday.

Parents Of Westville Marine Remember Son

Feb 25, 2010 By Nick McGurk, WNDU

24-year-old Joshua Birchfield, a Westville Marine who died by gunfire in Afghanistan on Feb. 19, is being mourned and honored by family and community.

Birchfield was on his first deployment to Afghanistan. He'd been a Marine for roughly two years.

Family say he loved sports, especially baseball. Joshua's parents say when he went after something he did so with passion.

Sometimes, they say, he showed his temper. Other times, he showed his love – especially for his sisters.

"Very over-protective of his sisters, he wasn't gonna let anybody bother his sisters at all," said Shelley Hacker, Joshua's mother.

Not only did he love his sisters, Joshua loved his grandfather, a former Marine.

"My father instilled a lot in Josh about the Marine Corps, and I am proud to have a son that's a United States Marine," said Josh's father Bruce Birchfield, holding back tears.

Last Friday, news about their son arrived.

"Josh always said, 'mom, you never need to worry, unless you see an SUV and a county cop in your driveway, that's the only time you ever need to worry about me,'" said Shelley Hacker. "And that's what I seen, and I knew. I just collapsed," she said.

One week ago, on Thursday, Shelley spoke to her son for the last time. The next day, he would be killed by gunfire in Afghanistan.

“I’ll never forget that last phone call, he’s like mom, is my uncle Bubba proud of me, and I said Josh, everybody’s proud of you,” said Shelley, her eyes wet with tears. “He said that’s all that matters -- I want people proud of me, and they were, people were very proud of Joshua.”

On Wednesday, Birchfield’s body was brought back to Westville. A huge crowd lined the streets for the Westville High School graduate. Family members say they’re grateful for the community support.

Birchfield’s visitation is Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. at Newhard Funeral Home in Westville.

The funeral will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday at Westville High School.

More Marjah: For The Karzai Government “Not Much Public Jubilation” “You Can Go Two Clicks To The West, And It’s Almost Like Taliban Country”

Mar 1 By Dion Nissenbaum, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

MARJAH, Afghanistan — One by one, the men of Marjah tentatively approached the high-ranking Afghan official with their complaints.

One man accused U.S. Marines of insulting Afghan men by conducting intrusive searches. Two worried that the government would tax their poppy harvests — just like the Taliban did. A fourth was told he’d receive financial compensation for relatives killed during the fighting.

With U.S.-led forces now in control of the one-time insurgent stronghold in southern Afghanistan, President Hamid Karzai’s deputy flew from Kabul on Monday to reassure Marjah residents that the Taliban were gone for good — and that things would slowly get better.

“We will be with you,” Second Vice President Karim Khalili told more than 400 men at the biggest community gathering since the Taliban were pushed out.

There was not much public jubilation when Khalili walked down Marjah’s main street with a group of Afghan security forces and NATO officials, passing shuttered shops and austere town buildings, which U.S. Marines are transforming into military compounds.

At the afternoon shura, residents greeted Khalili with tepid applause.

While direct battles with the Taliban have come to a halt for now, [Lt. Col. Cal] Worth said the Marines' presence is still felt around town.

"You can go two clicks to the west, and it's almost like Taliban country," Worth said.

U.S. Occupiers Newest Friends "Include Men Like Mir Alam, A Notorious Warlord" He Supported Former Afghan President Rabbani, "Whose Marauding Troops Crisscrossed The Country, Stealing, Kidnapping And Raping" "Many Kunduz Residents Remember This Period As The Worst Years Of Their Lives"

March 2, 2010 By Susanne Koelbl, ABC News [Excerpts]

The Western coalition's new friends are the same militia leaders from those days, minor commanders like Abdul Gafar from Kanam-i-Kalan, who celebrated his first victories during the Soviet invasion and loves fighting more than peace.

They also include men like Mir Alam, a notorious warlord.

Alam is sitting in his living room, patting his two-year-old daughter on the back and smiling.

The veteran fighter is one of the most feared men in Kunduz.

He was once one of the commanders serving under Ahmed Shah Massoud, the great strategist of the Northern Alliance which fought the Taliban. He also supported former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, whose marauding troops crisscrossed the country, stealing, kidnapping and raping.

Many Kunduz residents remember this period as the worst years of their lives.

And now they are expected to see the same men as their new protectors?

After the campaign conducted by the Americans and their allies, Mir Alam was deprived of power for a time.

US soldiers searched his house for drugs and weapons, and German Bundeswehr commanders avoided all official contact. Mir Alam surrendered 2,000 weapons but, according to residents, he kept 3,000 more hidden away.

Then, a few months ago, intelligence chief General Daud personally reactivated the veteran fighter. The two men are bound together by close family ties -- the general's sister is married to Mir Alam.

The old and new militia chief was General Daud's best choice for organizing the militias' defensive campaign in the region last year.

Mir Alam is also in close contact with the US armed forces, and he has even been mentioned as the future chief of police in Kunduz.

At the end of our meeting, Mir Alam poses in the courtyard with his fellow soldiers from days gone by, all of them smiling, as they did in the past.

The good old days, which were everything but good for the residents of Kunduz, have apparently returned.

WELCOME TO AFBAGHVIETISTAN: HAVE A NICE DAY



U.S. Marines from Bravo Company of the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines during an operation in Marjah, Helmand province, February 19, 2010. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic



Feb 20: A US Marine walks in a water filled irrigation canal while trying to take cover from a Taliban sniper in Trikh Nawar, on the northeastern outskirts of Marjah. (AFP/Patrick Baz)



A U.S. Marine from 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment takes cover in a canal in Marjah in Afghanistan's Helmand province on Saturday Feb. 20, 2010. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of Army Spc. Christopher J. Coffland at Arlington National Cemetery Dec. 1, 2009. Spc. Coffland, 43, of Baltimore, Md., died Nov. 13 in the Wardak province of Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 323rd Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort Meade, Md. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

Army Sees Sharp Rise In Undeployable Medically Unfit Soldiers: “Repeated Deployments And Health Problems Have Driven Much Of The Increase”

Nearly 70 percent of the Army's current roster of 460,000 enlisted soldiers have been to war — half of them once, nearly a third of them twice, 13 percent with three combat tours and 4 percent deployed four times.

Mar 3, 2010 By Gregg Zoroya - USA Today [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — The percentage of soldiers who are unavailable for combat has risen sharply during the past two years from 11 percent of each brigade in 2007 to 16 percent last year, Army records show.

Repeated deployments and health problems have driven much of the increase in soldiers listed as nondeployable, said Gen. Peter Chiarelli, the Army vice chief of staff.

A brigade has about 3,500 soldiers.

“These are folks who had a knee problem after the first rotation,” he said, “and then, finally, after the third one of humping a rucksack in Afghanistan at 10,000 feet, the doc says, ‘I don’t care if you’re going to deploy again, the fact of the matter is you’re going to (stay back until you) get your knee fixed.’ “

Nearly 70 percent of the Army’s current roster of 460,000 enlisted soldiers have been to war — half of them once, nearly a third of them twice, 13 percent with three combat tours and 4 percent deployed four times.

Although the Army tries to make up for the missing soldiers by adding those from other units, Army records from 2008 show the shortages hurt overall readiness.

When Army brigades deploy, scores of soldiers remain back for many reasons, Army data show.

The largest group are soldiers with health problems, Army data show.

They are either temporarily sidelined for issues such as rehabilitation or surgery, or are awaiting medical review to determine fitness for remaining in the Army.

Precise numbers for the Army are not available, but between 2006 and 2008, bad backs, strained knees and other ailments increased from 1.4 million cases in the overall military to 1.9 million, according to Defense Department records.

Mental health disorders increased by 67 percent during that time from 657,144 cases to 1.1 million, those numbers show.

“Officers Back At The Tactical Operations Center Refused To Send Help And Failed To Notify

Higher Commands That They Had Troops In Trouble”

“It Appears No One Involved In The Botched Planning Or Execution Of The Mission Will Get More Than A Letter Of Reprimand For Contributing To The Deaths Of Five Fellow Service Members”

“Why Are They Still In Command? Where The Hell Are These Officers, And Why Did They Get Just A Slap On The Wrist?”

“They should be as far away from combat troops as humanly possible,” he said of the officers cited in the report.

“Whatever happens isn’t going to bring my son back. But I would sure like to make sure that those guys aren’t in a position to get anyone else killed, and that the procedures that led to this are changed.”

Mar 3, 2010 By Dan Lamothe - Staff writer, Army Times [Excerpts]

Pinned down at dawn in a kill zone and running low on ammunition, the company-sized patrol made an urgent plea from a remote spot in eastern Afghanistan: Send help.

Then they made it again.

And again.

And again.

Nearly two hours after the initial call for help, helicopter air support arrived — but not before the unit took heavy casualties.

The delay occurred because Army officers back at the tactical operations center refused to send help and failed to notify higher commands that they had troops in trouble.

In the end, three Marines, a Navy corpsman and a soldier were dead, along with eight Afghan troops and an interpreter.

Those are the findings of a new investigation into the Sept. 8 ambush involving a team of U.S. military trainers embedded with Afghan troops in Kunar province.

But even though the deaths of the team members were the result of “negligent” leadership — “contributing directly to the loss of life” — it appears no one involved in the botched planning or execution of the mission will get more than a letter of reprimand for contributing to the deaths of five fellow service members.

Three Army officers were cited as a result of the incident, but their names, ranks and units were not disclosed.

Officials with Combined Joint Task Force 82 in Afghanistan, which oversaw the unit, have declined to say whether any of them may face more serious discipline, and whether any of them have been relieved of command.

“I’m still pro-military, but it’s a tragedy if these officers get off so lightly with just a reprimand,” said Susan Price, the mother of Gunnery Sgt. Aaron Kenefick, who was killed in the ambush.

“Why are they still in command? Where the hell are these officers, and why did they get just a slap on the wrist?”

The incident occurred as 13 U.S. military trainers, 60 Afghan soldiers and 20 border police officers traveled early in the morning to the remote village of Ganjal to meet with village elders, according to a report by a McClatchy News journalist traveling with the unit when it was ambushed.

“The absence of senior leaders in the operations center with troops in contact in the ... battlespace, and their consequent lack of situational awareness and decisive action, was the key failure in the events of 8 September 2009,” the report says.

“The actions of ... senior leaders were clearly negligent.”

Killed were Kenefick, Gunnery Sgt. Edwin Johnson Jr., 1st Lt. Michael Johnson and Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class James Layton. The soldier, Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Westbrook, died Oct. 7 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington from wounds he sustained in the attack.

Completion of the investigation answers some questions but raises others.

For one, Defense Department officials said that Scaparrotti “took appropriate action regarding all personnel involved,” but those actions were not disclosed — neither in the report nor to the victims’ families, who say they have been told only that the punishment doled out is potentially a “career killer,” said Layton’s father, Brent.

A general officer letter of reprimand stays in a soldier's personnel file and is considered a major hurdle to overcome at promotion time for captains and above, and the senior enlisted community.

Although it was not disclosed in the public summary of the incident, family members said they were told that Scaparrotti ordered two investigations, one led by an Army major and the second led in tandem by colonels from the Army and Marine Corps. The colonels focused a large part of their investigation on failures within the operations center, said Brian Johnson, the lieutenant's father.

The elder Johnson said the longer version of the report he received was "a tough read" and angered him frequently as he went through the hundreds of pages of redacted documents that were included.

"They should be as far away from combat troops as humanly possible," he said of the officers cited in the report.

"Whatever happens isn't going to bring my son back. But I would sure like to make sure that those guys aren't in a position to get anyone else killed, and that the procedures that led to this are changed."

Layton and Johnson also wonder why Pentagon officials called into question an initial report about the ambush by Jonathan Landay, the McClatchy reporter who was pinned down with the training team.

Geoff Morrell, a Defense Department spokesman, said in September that "things may appear different than they were" in Landay's initial report, which said artillery and air support were repeatedly denied.

"I am hearing from colleagues downrange that the time that is alleged to have lapsed [for air support] is not as it was reported," Morrell said.

But the investigation concurred with complaints shared by Marine and Army leaders in the training team, saying artillery and aviation support was inadequate.

"Timely aviation and indirect fire support was not provided," it said. "Repeated requests to employ an on-call [quick reaction force] were not supported."

The summary does not address whether the cited officers denied fire support because of concerns about tighter restrictions on airstrikes and artillery put in place by Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal last July to prevent civilian casualties.

The family members said they have been told the lack of support was mostly a result of failure of leadership, but their version of the reports also says that service members who survived the attack saw women and children carrying ammunition to insurgents during the battle.

Brent Layton said he is thankful the investigation cites the courage of the embedded training team itself, and credits its members with braving enemy fire three times to recover the bodies of the wounded and killed. Several service members have been recommended for awards for valor, CJTF-82 officials said.

Obama Regime Hands Soldier-Killing War Profiteers Of KBR \$2.8 Billion: 18 Troops Dead By Electrocutation Plus Audit Finding They Also Cheated Taxpayers In Iraq No Problem, Right?

Mar 2, 2010 By Kimberly Hefling and Richard Lardner - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — Defense giant KBR Inc. was awarded a contract potentially worth \$2.8 billion for support work in Iraq as U.S. forces continue to leave the country, military authorities said Tuesday.

KBR was notified of the award Friday, a day after the company told shareholders it lost about \$25 million in award fees because of flawed electrical work in Iraq.

The company was charged with maintaining the barracks where Staff Sgt. Ryan Maseth, a 24-year-old Green Beret, was electrocuted in 2008 while showering.

The company has denied wrongdoing, and investigators said in August there was “insufficient evidence to prove or disprove” that anyone was criminally culpable in Maseth’s death.

The uproar over his death triggered a review of 17 other electrocution deaths in Iraq and widespread inspections and repairs of electrical work in Iraq, much of it performed by KBR.

Charles Tiefer, a professor of government contracting at the University of Baltimore Law School and a vocal critic of KBR, called the award an “outrage” because of the company’s record in Iraq.

“Giving KBR this contract while denying them award fees for their enormous problem of accidentally electrocuting soldiers amounts to rapping them on the knuckles on one hand while handing them a multibillion dollar deal in the other,” said Tiefer, who is also a member of the independent Commission on Wartime Contracting.

Last October, the Defense Contract Audit Agency criticized KBR for having more employees in Iraq than were necessary.

The excess, the agency said, was unnecessarily costing U.S. taxpayers.

KBR said it had reduced the size of its work force in Iraq consistent with guidance from U.S. military commanders.

The company also fired back at the audit agency for its “heavy-handed intrusion” into the military’s complex logistics process.

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**

The Ghost Of Genocide Past



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: February 28, 2010
Subject: The Ghost of Genocide Past

The Ghost of Genocide Past

A Vietnam veteran marches in a Veterans Day Parade in the town of Albany, Oregon in protest of the Iraq War in 2003. Written on the name tag is: The Ghost of Genocide Past. Here it is 7 years later, and the U.S. is still inventing reality about bringing Democracy to Iraq. Here it is 9 years later, and the U.S. is still inventing reality

about bringing Democracy to Afghanistan.
It is all a dog and pony show of smoke and mirrors.
The mirror is the Vietnam War,
and the smoke is the same smoke of death
that is killing massive numbers of people in the Middle East.
It is all about protecting American Corporate Interests,
with its policy of National Offense.
The U.S. National Offense is a swarming locust
of lies and deceits that have become a parade of
death and destruction.
America--you will get away with nothing.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
February 28, 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)

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

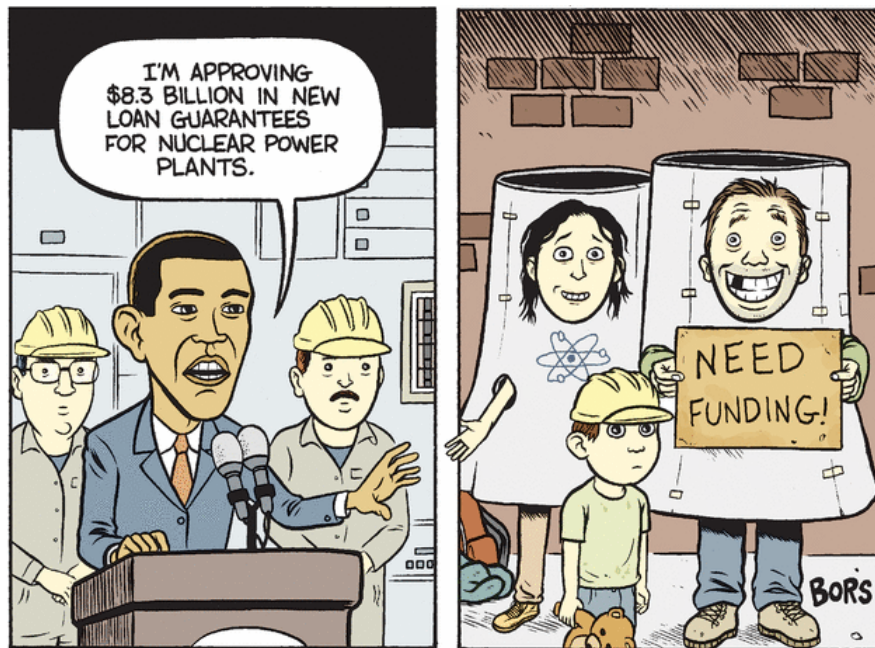
Troops Invited:

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

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

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



The Most Potent Tool In The Crib

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veteran, Autoworker (ret'd), and Military Resistance poet laureate.]

Mar 03, 2010 By Gregg Shotwell, SoldiersOfSolidarity, Live Bait & Ammo # 143: The Most Potent Tool in the Crib

When GM refused to pay the raise that GM parts workers were due on January 4, 2010, GM broke the contract.

Now the only rule is revenge.

If the International UAW was a real union, there would have been a work stoppage by now. Since the International UAW is a company union, workers will have to exert their right to "protected concerted activity" as guaranteed under the National Labor Relations Act to enforce the contract.

Given the lack of legitimate union representation, SOS recommends passive resistance as in strict adherence to

**process control instructions,
safety regulations,
work rules, and
the most potent tool in the crib — withholding knowledge.**

GM restored raises for salary workers so let them demonstrate their knowledge and prove their worth.

From now on, the boss makes all the decisions.

Just do what you're told. No more, no less.

General Motors understands only one thing: numbers. When workers exert control at the point of production GM will honor the contract.

If GM is intent on closing a plant, it is in the workers' best interest to extract as much overtime and to extend the wind down as long as possible before collecting maximum SUB pay and severance.

GM doesn't deserve loyalty or respect, only your coworkers do.

Always remember —

8 Rules for Union Members

- 1) Know your job. Know the contract. When in doubt, do the right thing— talk to your coworkers.**
- 2) Don't get hurt. Ask your coworkers for help.**
- 3) Don't get fired. Obey direct orders. Smile and file, and ask your coworkers for help.**
- 4) Don't trust anyone except your coworkers.**
- 5) If a coworker appears to be in trouble, help your coworker.**
- 6) If the boss threatens, interrogates, or harasses a coworker help your coworker.**
- 7) Always act as witness and advocate for your coworkers.**

If a union rep says, "Management has the right to manage", don't trust the rep, trust your coworkers.

Local Governments Killing Drivers By Shortening Yellow Traffic Lights For Quick Profits: “Red-Light Cameras Can Cause More Accidents, Not Less” “If Yellow Lights Are Too Short, Motorists Can’t Stop In Time”

February 23, 2010 By Scott Thill, AlterNet [Excerpts]

Reeling through a 21st century addicted to technology and surveillance, citizens may be too overwhelmed to complain of increasing cameras popping up atop red lights at intersections across the nation, most of which are designed to catch them breaking traffic laws.

That is, until they’re caught in those intersections as the yellow lights unexpectedly change, and cars in front and back of them hit the brakes or punch the gas to avoid tickets.

And when they find out those cameras and lights are being gamed, sometimes lethally, in the pursuit of quick profit?

Then they get mad, and maybe even, for being used as motorized money pits.

“With all of the stories we hear on a daily basis, there is little doubt that the desire for ticket revenue trumps safety concerns,” Gary Biller, executive director of the National Motorists Association told AlterNet.

“A quick current example is California’s governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who a few weeks ago proposed state budget including a proposal to add speed sensors to 500 existing red-light cameras.

The reason? Safety wasn’t mentioned, but an expected additional annual revenue of \$338 million was.”

Roughly multiply that revenue by 50 states, and you quickly get an idea why red-light cameras designed by companies like Arizona’s Redflex Group and American Traffic Solutions (ATS) are an increasingly attractive crutch for America’s cash-strapped cities.

But they’re unsafe short-cuts, because they haven’t necessarily proven very effective at anything other than generating ticket revenue -- and accidents, lots of accidents.

In fact, studies have repeatedly shown that red-light cameras can cause more accidents, not less.

They're not particularly good at generating legitimate tickets either: Illegal camera set-ups at intersections in Seattle are issuing invalid citations, around 80 percent of red-light violations in Los Angeles are comparatively safe rolling right turns, and so on.

Meanwhile, 15 states have elected to prohibit red-light cameras, and more are surely to come as motorists learn that some American cities have been shortening yellow lights for deadly profit, as countries like Italy quickly follow suit.

"While several cities have been caught shortening yellow lights to increase revenue from red-light tickets," said Biller, "I think the larger issue today is that the duration of so many yellow lights has never been adequately set for optimal safety results.

"An increase of approximately one second can reduce the frequency of red-light- running by at least 50 percent."

The standard definition of a safe yellow light is arguably hard to nail down, depending on the intersection. The Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices specifies a wide-ranging duration of three to six seconds. But the application is more important than the theory, which is why it should be left to the scientists to decide which goes where, according to Justin McNaull, director of state relations for the American Automobile Association.

"Yellow light intervals should be determined by engineers," he told AlterNet.

"If yellow lights are too short, motorists can't stop in time. If they're too long, motorists will continue to accelerate when they shouldn't. To borrow from 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears,' yellow lights need to be just right."

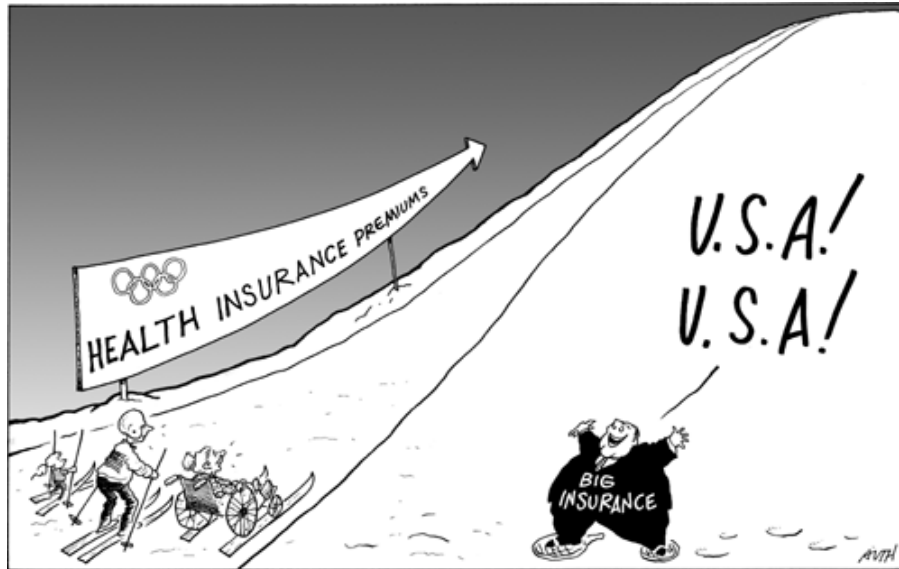
NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

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



RECEIVED

Razor Wire And Abolish War



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)

From: Lesley Docksey [<http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/>]

To: Military Resistance

Sent: March 02, 2010

Subject: military resistance 28 february

Just thought you like to know - I'm a great admirer of Military Resistance.

I edit a newsletter (Abolish War) [<http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/>] , and one of the reasons I campaign against war is because of the damage we do to our own.

It is much harder to get facts about the UK Forces, so I am always having to illustrate my articles with US figures. Military Resistance newsletter is a source of valuable information.

We don't have anything as informative as this for British Forces.

But I have a question.

In your 28 February posting you have a photo of "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)" **[Photo above. T]**

Have any of your other readers wondered what the rolls of razor wire attached to the vehicle on the right side of the photo have to do with 'hearts and minds'. Or is this what the troops have to use to protect themselves when they camp out at night?

And I love the cartoons - humour is one of the best campaigning tools.

Very best wishes and quite a lot of gratitude!

Lesley Docksey

REPLY:

Yes, cartoons and information both can be powerful weapons for our side. Steve Bell does some brilliant ones.

The razor wire may be a delivery from supplies to wherever the vehicle was ordered to deliver it. The fresh, clean paper or cardboard wrap top and bottom and the shiny, mostly dust free razor wire itself show it was attached to the Stryker a few heartbeats ago.

If so, who ordered it sent or asked for it, and why, unknown.

Solidarity in the cause,

T

Military Resistance www.militaryproject.org

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



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

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

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

Got an opinion? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.

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;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/

Vietnam GI: Reprints Available



Vietnam: They Stopped An Imperial War

Not available from anybody else, anywhere

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command. The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

The Military Project has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.

Free on request to active duty members of the armed forces.

Cost for others: \$15 if picked up in New York City. For mailing inside USA add \$5 for bubble bag and postage. For outside USA, include extra for mailing 2.5 pounds to wherever you are.

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All proceeds are used for projects giving aid and comfort to members of the armed forces opposed to today's Imperial wars.

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