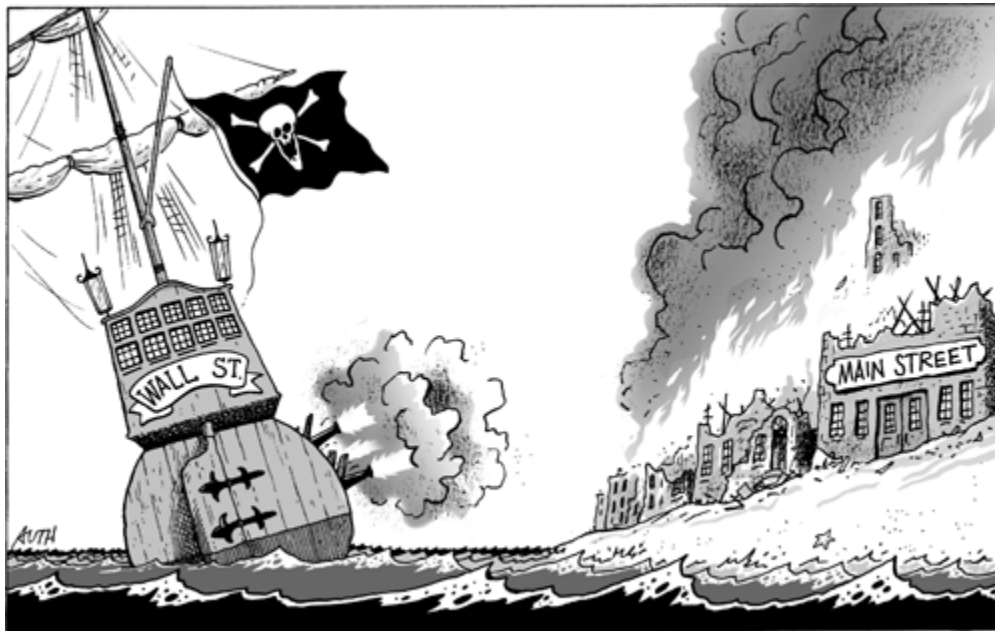


## **Military Resistance 8D15**

**DOMESTIC ENEMIES:  
BRING THE WAR HOME NOW**



4-24-10 IN PHANTOM INQUIRY: INVESTIGATIVE JOURNAL

**Fire This Time:  
Angry Afghans Burn Twelve  
Foreign Occupation Fuel Trucks:  
“People Are Fed Up With These Night  
Raids”**

**“The First Significant Attack On A  
Convoy In Logar Province, South Of  
Kabul, In The Past 18 Months”**

**“They are raiding houses during the night, killing innocent people,” he said. “Sometimes they kill opposition people as well, but usually they are harming ordinary and innocent people.”**

April 26, 2010 By ALISSA J. RUBIN, The New York Times [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan -- Twelve trucks, most of them carrying fuel to a foreign base in eastern Afghanistan, were burned by an angry crowd early Sunday less than 30 miles from Kabul, according to local officials and NATO reports.

The attack was thought to be in retribution for two raids by a joint Afghan-American force over the weekend, Afghan officials said.

It was the first significant attack on a convoy in Logar Province, south of Kabul, in the past 18 months, said the provincial governor’s spokesman, Din Mohammed Darwish.

**The attack and a similar one on Saturday on a single truck were notable because Logar is the southern gateway to Kabul, the Afghan capital, and has been used by the Taliban to get arms, fighters and support into the capital.**

[I]nsurgents are tapping into resentment among local people about continuing raids by American and Afghan troops, local officials said.

“People are fed up with these night raids and willful operations,” said Mohammed Sharif, a teacher in Pul-i-Alam, the provincial capital, which is near the villages raided by the joint forces.

“They are raiding houses during the night, killing innocent people,” he said. “Sometimes they kill opposition people as well, but usually they are harming ordinary and innocent people.”

One of those killed was the headmaster of the high school at Poorak, a neighboring village; he was also a cleric.

“We don’t have information about whether he was related to the Taliban,” General Mohseini said, referring to the headmaster, adding that the Taliban used the death to urge people to attack the convoy. “We know that the Taliban were urging the people to demonstrate, especially because one guy who was killed in last night’s operation was the headmaster of the school and the mullah of the mosque.”

An investigation by Logar’s governor into the attack on the fuel trucks found that at least two trucks had been hit by rocket-propelled grenades, which are often used by the Taliban, suggesting they were involved in the attack, Mr. Darwish said.

A NATO spokeswoman, Maj. Virginia McCabe, said, “Insurgent activity has remained low in the last few weeks in Logar Province.” “Historically, the level of activity is the same as the previous year,” Major McCabe said. “The most recent event is most likely an isolated incident.” **[Born too late. Could have done PR for General Custer.]**

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# IRAQ WAR REPORTS

## **Resistance Action**

25 April 2010 VOA News & DPA & Apr 26, 2010 The Associated Press

A bomber targeted a private security vehicle in southern Afghanistan. The bomber detonated his explosive-vest in the main market of Shah Joy district of southern province Zabul and killed two security guards.

The Taliban took responsibility for the attack in a statement posted at their website. It reported the blast was caused by a bomb planted by the side of the road that was detonated by insurgents when the vehicle was passing.

The vehicle, which was escorting logistic trucks for NATO troops, was destroyed and all the guards inside were killed, the statement said.

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Government forces on a mission to eradicate poppies in eastern Nangrahar province came under fire, said Ghafor Khan, a provincial police spokesman. During the gunbattle three Afghans — one from the Afghan National Army and two from the border police — were killed.

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# AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

## **Long Island Army Ranger Jason Santora Killed Near Kabul**



Santora enlisted in the Army in 2006. He deployed twice in Iraq and once to Afghanistan before shipping out again about two months ago.



At Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Del., soldiers carry the coffin of Sgt. Jason Santora off the plane from Afghanistan.

[Thanks to Alan S, Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

April 26th 2010 BY Stephanie Gaskell, DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

An Army Ranger from Long Island on his fourth deployment was killed in Afghanistan, bringing the U.S. death toll there to 1,050 troops.

Sgt. Jason Santora, 25, of Farmingville died Friday after a firefight with insurgents in Logar province, just south of Kabul.

“He was a wonderful boy,” said his grandmother Marie Santora. “He was a great kid, never got in trouble.”

Santora is survived by his parents, Gary and Theresa, and his older sister Gina.

“His sister is a mess. They were very, very close,” his grandmother said.

Santora enlisted in the Army in 2006. He deployed twice in Iraq and once to Afghanistan before shipping out again about two months ago.

Sgt. Ronald Kubik, a 21-year-old Army Ranger from Brielle, N.J., was also killed in the battle. Kubik was on his third deployment.

Both soldiers were assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, based at Fort Benning, Ga.

“Sgt. Kubik and Sgt. Santora were warriors, true patriots and absolute heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation,” said their commander, Col. Michael Kurilla. “Winston Churchill said it best: ‘Never was so much owed by so many to so few,’” Kurilla said.

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## “He Made A Difference” Brielle Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



An Army carry team carries t the remains of Army Sgt. Ronald Alan Kubik of Brielle, upon arrival at Dover Air Force Base, Del., Sunday. ASSOCIATED PRESS

April 25, 2010 By JIM McCONVILLE, STAFF WRITER, Asbury Park Press

**BRIELLE** — Army Sgt. Ronald Alan Kubik packed a large amount of life in his short 21 years.

“I’m a super-proud father. You couldn’t ask for a better son,” said his dad, Ronald A. Kubik. “He accomplished a lot in a short period of time. He did what he loved to do.”

Kubik was killed in action Friday during combat operations in Logar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom while assigned to Company D, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

“It’s a shock and a half,” Kubik said of his son’s death. “You know there’s a chance it can happen, but it really has not quite sunk in.”

Kubik, a Brielle resident, is survived by his father, Ronald, of Hazlet; his mother, Eileen M. Kubik, of Brielle; and his sisters Amy L. Kubik, 25, of Point Pleasant, and Mary Kubik, 28, of Farmingdale.

“He was adventurous and very creative,” Amy Kubik said. “In the short time God gave him to us, he made a difference and impacted so many lives.”

Kubik’s family was on hand at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware early Sunday to watch as his body was carried off a military plane by an honor guard made up of seven U.S. Army soldiers, in a transfer case draped with an American flag, officials said.

“His ranger battalion is so amazing,” Amy Kubik said. “They stayed with us all day, walking us through the procedure. They sat with us for hours. We are all just like a giant family right now.”

Kubik’s body was placed into a waiting vehicle and driven to the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs at Dover Air Force Base, where he will be prepared for burial.

Kubik, who enlisted in the Army in March 2007 after attending Brookdale Community College for a few months, served for more than two years as an assistant machine gunner and as a rifle team leader with Company D.

Kubik was on his third deployment in support of the war on terror with one previous deployment to Iraq and one to Afghanistan. He was treated by unit medical personnel and evacuated to the nearest treatment facility where he later succumbed to his wounds, Army officials said.

Kubik transferred from Manchester High School in Ocean County to Manasquan High School where he graduated in 2006.

“He came into school his junior year,” said Manasquan educator John Driscoll. “He fit in within a week; it was as if he had gone there his whole life.”

An avid electric guitarist who was a part of a metal band, Kubik joined his high school football and wrestling teams, wrote a column for the school newspaper, took an acting class, and liked whitewater rafting and skydiving.

Among his most noted high school accomplishments was getting the district’s Board of Education to change its policy and allow him to keep his Mohawk haircut.

“Distracting haircuts were against school policy,” said Harry Harvey, his drama and Advanced Placement English teacher. “He proved them wrong, that it wasn’t a distraction.”

But shortly after, Kubik cut his hair short, saying he had proved his point.

His eldest sibling, Mary, said she was not surprised when her brother joined the military.

“He was always the one who wouldn’t stop pushing you until he knew you were pushing to be your best,” she said. “He was that instigator, that motivator.”

His commendations include the Ranger Tab, Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Parachutist Badge. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Also killed in the same battle was Sgt. Jason Anthony Santora from Massapequa, N.Y.

“Sgts. Kubik and Santora were Ranger leaders of the highest caliber and brothers-in-arms who died fighting together,” said Col. Dan Walrath, commander of 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, in a prepared statement. “Their actions exemplify the fighting

spirit of the Army Rangers and we will be eternally grateful for the examples they gave us in life.”

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# **U.N. Evacuates Its Foreign Occupation Workers From Kandahar; Afghan Staff Left Behind, But Ordered Not To Go Outdoors: Silly U.N. Bureaucrat Says “The United Nations Is Able And Remains Committed To Serving The People Of Kandahar”**

Apr 26 by Sardar Ahmad, AFP [Excerpts]

The United Nations has ordered its staff in Kandahar to stay indoors, a UN official said Monday, due to the rapidly deteriorating security situation in the volatile city in southern Afghanistan.

Foreign UN staff working in Kandahar, which has been hit by a recent wave of targeted killings claimed by Taliban militants, have already been relocated to Kabul, said UN spokesman Dan McNortan.

“The United Nations is able and remains committed to serving the people of Kandahar,” McNortan said.

Parts of the city, and large swathes of the province, have long been under the control of the Taliban, whose members hail from Kandahar and regard it as their base.

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## **Remember All The Stupid Happy-Talk Last Month?**

**“We Are Still Waiting To See The Outcome In Marja”**

April 25, 2010 THOM SHANKER, HELENE COOPER and RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr.; NY Times [Excerpts]

Two months after the Marja offensive, Afghan officials acknowledge that the Taliban have in some ways retaken the momentum there, including killing or beating locals allied with the central government and its American backers.

“We are still waiting to see the outcome in Marja,” said Shaida Abdali, the deputy Afghan national security adviser.

“If you are planning for operations in Kandahar, you must show success in Marja. You have to be able to point to something. Now you don’t have a good example to point to there.”

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## **Survey Commissioned By U.S. Army Finds Kandahar Civilians Say Collaborator Forces More Dangerous Than The Taliban: “53 % Endorsed The Statement That The Taliban Are ‘Incorruptible’”**

April 19, 2010 by Gareth Porter, IPS North America

WASHINGTON - An opinion survey of Afghanistan’s Kandahar province funded by the U.S. Army has revealed that 94 percent of respondents support negotiating with the Taliban over military confrontation with the insurgent group and 85 percent regard the Taliban as “our Afghan brothers”.

An unclassified report on the opinion survey was published in March by Glevum Associates, a Washington-based “strategic communications” company under contract for the Human Terrain Systems programme in Afghanistan.

The report of the Glevum survey revealed that more people in Kandahar regard checkpoints maintained by the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP) and ANA and ANP vehicles as the biggest threat to their security while traveling than identified either Taliban roadside bombs or Taliban checkpoints as the main threat.

Fifty-eight percent of the respondents in the survey said the biggest threat to their security while traveling were the ANA and ANP checkpoints on the road, and 56 percent said ANA/ANP vehicles were the biggest threat.



Only 44 percent identified roadside bombs as the biggest threat – the same percentage of respondents who regard convoys of the International Security Assistance Force – the NATO command under Gen. McChrystal – as the primary threat to their security.

Only 37 percent of the respondents regarded Taliban checkpoints as the main threat to their security.

In Kandahar City, the main target of the coming U.S. military offensive in Kandahar, the gap between perceptions of threats to travel security from government forces and from the Taliban is even wider.

Sixty-five percent of the respondents in Kandahar City said they regard ANA/ANP checkpoints as the main threat to their security, whereas roadside bombs are the main problem for 42 percent of the respondents.

The survey supports the U.S. military's suspicion that the transgressions of local officials of the Afghan government, who are linked mainly to President Karzai's brother, Ahmed Wali Karzai, the head of the Kandahar province council and the main warlord in the province, have pushed the population into the arms of the Taliban.

An overwhelming 84 percent of the respondents agreed that corruption is the main cause of the conflict, and two-thirds agreed that government corruption "makes us look elsewhere".

That language used in the questionnaire was obviously intended to allow respondents to hint that they were supporting the Taliban insurgents in response to the corruption, without saying so explicitly.

More than half the respondents (53 percent) endorsed the statement that the Taliban are "incorruptible". "Corruption" is a term that is often understood to include not only demands for payments for services and passage through checkpoints but violence by police against innocent civilians.

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## **Resistance Action**

25 April 2010 VOA News & DPA & Apr 26, 2010 The Associated Press

A bomber targeted a private security vehicle in southern Afghanistan. The bomber detonated his explosive-vest in the main market of Shah Joy district of southern province Zabul and killed two security guards.

The Taliban took responsibility for the attack in a statement posted at their website. It reported the blast was caused by a bomb planted by the side of the road that was detonated by insurgents when the vehicle was passing. The vehicle, which was escorting logistic trucks for NATO troops, was destroyed and all the guards inside were killed, the statement said.

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Government forces on a mission to eradicate poppies in eastern Nangrahar province came under fire, said Ghafor Khan, a provincial police spokesman. During the gunbattle three Afghans — one from the Afghan National Army and two from the border police — were killed.

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## **THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH; ALL HOME, NOW**



U.S. Marines from 6th Marine Regiment under fire from Taliban at their patrol base in the area of Karez-e-Sayyidi, in Helmand province, April 5, 2010. REUTERS/Asmaa Waguih



U.S. soldiers at the scene of a car bomb exploded outside a hotel in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, April 15, 2010. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)

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## Anti-Occupation Graffiti Mysteriously Appearing In Downtown Kabul



Graffiti of U.S. armor and helicopter attacking Afghan children in Kabul. Black, spray-painted silhouettes of soldiers and dollar signs, poppies, helicopters and tanks, and children running for their lives began appearing in downtown Kabul a few months ago. (AFP/Mauricio Lima)

### “THE CO\$T Of War”



Details of graffiti above: Co\$T OF WAR spray-painted on a wall in Kabul. The people behind the anti-war graffiti call themselves Combat Communications, and claim to be “a small anonymous group of international artists founded last year with the sole aim of advocating/promoting free expression”. (AFP/Mauricio Lima)

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

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

## **TROOP NEWS**

**HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?**



The remains of Army Sgt. Jason Anthony Santora, of Farmingville, N.Y., Dover AirForce Base, Del., April 25, 2010. Sgt. J Santora was killed in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

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

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

**Military Resistance Available In PDF Format**

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org)

## 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**

**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**

**"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**

## **More About The Video:**



<http://maxkeiser.com/2010/04/05/collateral-murder-wikileaks/>

**#1**

**“This Exhibits Not The Sorts Of Off  
The Cuff Remarks, Jokes, People  
Make In Times Of Extreme Stress, As  
A Coping Strategy”  
“It Is Impossible To Believe This Was Not  
The Enjoyment Of A Violent Video Game  
- But, Wow, For Real”**

From: Felicity Arbuthnot  
To: Military Resistance  
Sent: April 12, 2010  
Subject: Wikileaks

Your correspondent, Anthony, in his analysis of the Wikileaks video of the turkey shoot in New Baghdad (Military Resistance 8D6) ends: “Promoting truth with gross errors is just as shameful as an unnecessary engagement.”

This is either, arguably, misleading or disingenuous. An editing error does not lead to a bloodbath. An unnecessary engagement does, and did.

Ironically, I know that street well and have wandered down it many times, a short cut to various places.

Those walking down it in the video, were walking as always, casually, fairly slowly, in the sweltering Baghdad summer. Their arms were by their sides, they were in the center of the road, not trying to evade detection by moving close to the wall, or darting behind buildings.

Further, remember the boasts of the extraordinary surveillance gizmos the US has: “If Saddam sneezes we can see him reach for his handkerchief ... we can see a coca cola can in a trash bin ..”? Can they or can't they?

However, even that aside, what is essential to realise how casually people were blown apart on a sunny afternoon, is to read the transcript (<http://www.collateralmurder.com/file/transcript-en.txt>)

This exhibits not the sorts of off the cuff remarks, jokes, people make in times of extreme stress, as a coping strategy.

It is impossible to believe this was not the enjoyment of a violent video game - but, wow, for real.

Examples:

(Talking of) "eight individuals":

"light 'em all up",

"Keep shoot, keep shoot, keep shoot",

.....

"Alright, hahaha, I got 'em ..."

.....

"Look at those dead bastards",

....

"nice",

"nice",

....

"good shoot."

.....

"... one, uh, individual appears to be wounded, trying to crawl away."

.....

" .... I put two rounds (30mm cannon shells) near him ... we'll see."

When a van comes round the corner with, seemingly a family in, they did what human beings do, worldwide, they stopped to help - in spite of what must have been a sight most would wish to look away from. They too were fired an on killed. When the troops on the ground find the wounded child, for which Anthony commends their compassion for seeking medical help, a comment is: "Well it's their fault for bringing their kids in to a war zone."

Further: "I think they just drove over a body",

"Hey, hey .."

...

"Well, they're dead, so."

So much for US "humanitarian intervention."

Oh and the US military removed the cameras from the dead. Did they return these last items untouched to the journalist's colleagues and his colleague's family? Hope I'm wrong, but no breath holding.

The unsung heroes are the military personnel (allegedly) who leaked the video to Wikileaks - and Wikileaks themselves, who seemingly feared for their safety in having it, and still do. Both deserve huge gratitude, for: "To the dead, we owe only the truth."

"Crazyhorse" brought Iraq it's own small "Wounded Knee" that day. There have been countless more. Were there any hearts left to bury?

**MORE**

**#2**



**“No Matter How Hard You Drill  
Soldiers About The Virtues Of  
Restraint, Some Will Inevitably  
Commit Atrocities”**

**“As For Deploying Soldiers To  
Combat Zones Under The Mistaken  
Impression That They Can Serve As  
Goodwill Ambassadors And  
Collectors Of Hearts And Minds:  
“Those Roles Are Not In Their Job  
Descriptions”**

April 06, 2010 by Eric Martin, [Obsidianwings.blogs.com/](http://Obsidianwings.blogs.com/) [Excerpts]

One of the over-arching problems with the much-hyped implementation of counterinsurgency doctrine (COIN) in recent U.S. war fighting is the disconnect between theory and practice.

COIN sounds great on paper: a highly disciplined force, well-versed in local customs and culture, focused more on securing the population than kinetic operations against militants, with rules of engagement and tactics that subject U.S. soldiers to greater risk in pursuit of avoiding civilian casualties.

However, in the heat of combat (and under the stress of multiple and prolonged deployments), soldiers are rarely able to live up to COIN's high standards, which are often unrealistic from the outset (it would take a cadre of PhDs to navigate the intricacies of the Af/Pak cultural mosaic).

**In practice, soldiers - whether manning checkpoints or calling in airstrikes - will depart from overly restrictive rules of engagement when their lives are on the line.**

**It's hard to blame them for this most instinctive of reactions.**

Beyond those common and understandable deviations, every large fighting force will also attract a certain amount of sadists, loose cannons and trigger-happy cowboys (and others not initially displaying those traits will be so formed by the experience of combat itself).

**No matter how hard you drill soldiers about the virtues of restraint, some will inevitably commit atrocities.**

**Such is war, and there is nothing we can do to change that. At least nothing yet proposed.**

Also in the news (though from an event that predated the COIN evolution in Iraq), is a video from an Apache helicopter attack, obtained and released by Wikileaks, that shows U.S. forces gunning down civilians, including Reuters journalists - and taking some measure of satisfaction in the success of their kills.

A few items of note from Martinez: [Military Resistance 8D6: The Video] some of the men in the video were armed, and there had been insurgent activity in the area, so the engagement - while ultimately tragic and horrific and probably unjustified - was also the type of incident that is inevitable in a theater of war.

As for the thrill of the kill heard in the celebrations of the soldiers, it is important to remember that soldiers are trained to kill.

**The indoctrination process that helps a soldier to broach the moral prohibition on killing not only necessitates a certain amount of dehumanization of enemies, but also often results in a certain macabre joy at a job well done.**

You can't have it both ways with enough uniformity.

**That is just one more argument against deploying hundreds of thousands of soldiers to combat zones under the mistaken impression that they can serve as goodwill ambassadors and collectors of hearts and minds.**

**Those roles are not in their job descriptions.**

**Ishikawa and Kuroshima would understand: insert troops into a hell on earth and there's no way to prevent atrocities. Yet the real fiends in their capital suites are never spattered with a single drop of blood. Solidarity, Z**

**MORE**

**#3**

**“Placing The Blame On GIs Simply Does Not Explain The Cause Of These Atrocities And Should Not**

# **Be The Understanding Of The Antiwar Movement”**

**“This ‘Blame The Soldiers’ Mentality  
By A Section Of The Movement Is Not  
Only Rooted In Moralism, But Also In  
The Idea That Soldiers Are Not  
Agents Of Change”**

**“The Prospects For Organizing GIs To  
Oppose The Occupations Are Very Ripe”**

By Phil Aliff, Iraq Veterans Against The War  
Letters To The Editor  
Socialist Worker  
April 12, 2010

**Phil Aliff, a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, looks at the recent revelations about U.S. war crimes in Iraq--and the role soldiers can play in ending the war.**

\*\*\*\*\*

I WANT to thank SocialistWorker.org for running the article “A massacre caught on video.”

This article was tremendous in that it added clarity to a discussion within the antiwar movement about how to understand this video.

As an Iraq combat veteran, I have found that people in the antiwar movement have drawn a spectrum of conclusions about the nature of the occupation of Iraq and the role that rank-and-file soldiers play when involved in these occupations overseas.

While the moral outrage spurred by this video is completely understandable and justified, it has led to an argument among some in the movement about what strategies and tactics to take up, based on not only on this outrage, but also the impatience that some feel right now in not seeing growing numbers of people flooding the movement.

**Unfortunately, this combination has led some to draw the conclusions that soldiers overseas are simply “animals and racist murderers,” while not addressing why this horrific atrocity happened.**

**When this stance is taken, it plays into the hands of the U.S. military when people say that atrocities in these occupations are carried out by a “few bad apples,” rather than blaming the highest levels of government for sending troops into these countries in the first place, and indoctrinating us to dehumanize the people of Iraq and Afghanistan in order to carry out combat operations.**

**Placing the blame on GIs simply does not explain the cause of these atrocities and should not be the understanding of the antiwar movement.**

**This “blame the soldiers” mentality by a section of the movement is not only rooted in moralism, but also in the idea that soldiers are not agents of change.**

Frankly, this position is ahistorical if you consider how the Vietnam War was ended.

Not only was it ended by a vibrant antiwar movement at home and the Vietnamese people fighting for liberation, but also by a revolt inside the military that drew conclusions about questions of U.S. imperialism.

The movements at home inspired these soldiers to take up questions of race, class and solidarity with the people they were being told to repress. This is because wars of imperialism pit workers against other workers in the interest of the ruling class at home.

**WHEN WE look at the military in this political period, the prospects for organizing GIs to oppose the occupations are very ripe.**

With the election of Barack Obama, working-class people in this country, including GIs and veterans, have drawn conclusions about our society and its needs.

This radicalization is in its infancy, but the left has a key role in shaping consciousness during this time.

**According to polls, the majority of this country opposes the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan, and GIs are not separate from this.**

Take, for instance, my experience as a combat veteran. I deployed to one of the most dangerous areas of Iraq from 2005-2006 with the U.S. Army’s 10th Mountain Division, one of the best-trained and elite light infantry units.

**While overseas, I made racist comments towards Iraqis in order to cope with the things that we were doing in their country. Our chain of command not only condoned this, but also gave us a sense of pride in our unit in order to ideologically justify our actions.**

**When I returned from Iraq, I began to think through all of the things I had done overseas, but it wasn’t until I encountered a political argument about the wars that I was convinced to become a part of the antiwar movement.**

After developing a political foundation for why my involvement was necessary, I started the first active-duty chapter of Iraq Veterans Against the War on my base at Fort Drum, N.Y.

My experience is an example of how people's ideas can change if the left cuts through the confusion about the occupations and takes up political arguments with the people around us.

Instead of developing a strategy of moral outrage, we need to develop a strategy of building a grassroots movement that is independent of the Democratic Party.

This does not mean that we are opposed to joining in struggle with people who support President Obama, but that we meet people where they are in this period of radicalization and patiently explain that unless we organize from below to influence U.S. foreign policy, the Obama administration will continue these occupations.

In this period, it isn't necessary to "help people get it," but instead to give people a vehicle for constructively expressing their opposition.

This means building a movement of veterans and civilians who show solidarity with the Iraqi and Afghan people by placing the blame where it belongs and lighting a fire from below to ensure that working people's needs around the world are met before the billionaires.

**Ishikawa and Kuroshima would understand: insert troops into a hell on earth and there's no way to prevent atrocities. Yet the real fiends in their capital suites are never spattered with a single drop of blood. Solidarity, Z**

**MORE**

## **#4**

**“The Dialogue Is Turned Back Or Has Almost Been Turned Into, For Some People That, You Know, Look At How Horrible These Soldiers Are And They're Cold, Heartless Murderers”**  
**“We Should Redirect Our Judgment And Look At This System That Is Saying, This Is What You Need To Do And This Is How We Want To Accomplish Our Goals”**



April 09, 2010 Interview with Josh Stieber [Iraq Veterans Against The War] By Glenn Greenwald, UT Documents [Excerpts]

**GG: My guest today on Salon Radio is Josh Stieber, who is a former soldier in the United States Army, who was deployed in Iraq during the war, in the same company as the one depicted in the Wikileaks video that was released this week, showing an Apache helicopter attack on a variety of Iraqis including a Reuters cameraman, and we're here to discuss that video and related issues.**

Josh thanks very much for...for joining me.

\*\*\*\*\*

Josh Stieber:

And it pretty much became a quest for survival, you know, people pretty quickly lost the idealism that brought us there, and we were fighting to make it home alive.

And so, yeah, I mean, there was a lot of controversy within the ranks of you know, how much is too much, but it was definitely a prevalent position to say, that even going above and beyond just responding to somebody with a weapon, but of responding to people who were potential threats even without weapons -- some people would claim that was justifiable for, again, this whole of making it home alive.

And I think we should be slow to judge somebody in that situation.

Obviously, I ended up feeling like I couldn't participate in that, just because... but I feel like that is the nature of things and you put people in that situation where they are so fearful and where they are just wanting to make it out alive, and that is going to naturally lead to things like what was um, seen with the van.

**And then I guess, too, again speaking as a veteran, that, thinking about the nature of how the dialogue is turned back or has almost been turned into, for some people that, you know, look at how horrible these soldiers are and they're cold, heartless murderers.**

**And, only pinning it all on the soldiers, but realizing that probably most people put in that situation would act similarly, and I guess we should redirect our judgment**

and our anger towards those soldiers and look at this system that is saying, this is what you need to do and this is how we want to accomplish our goals.

**Ishikawa and Kuroshima would understand: insert troops into a hell on earth and there's no way to prevent atrocities. Yet the real fiends in their capital suites are never spattered with a single drop of blood. Solidarity, Z**

**MORE**

## **#5**

### **Ethan McCord, Seen In The Video Rescuing A Wounded Girl From The Van, Says “Place Blame With Those Who Led The Country To War, Not Those Who Had To Carry The War Out”**

April 13, 2010 Out Of Iraq [Excerpt]

Ethan McCord, of Kansas, is seen in the infamous video rescuing a wounded girl from the van that U.S. forces had destroyed.

He has come forward to ask people to place blame with those who led the country to war, not those who had to carry the war out, and to express his remorse for those innocents killed.

Ethan told us that he lives with the memory of those children everyday.

Ethan's command called him a "pussy" and yelled at for rescuing them, and he was threatened by his command when he requested mental support after the incident.

**MORE**

## **#6**

### **“Focusing On The Use Of Language Trivializes A Continuing Horror” Comment: T**

There have been a number of condemnations by assorted contributors focused on the language that soldiers used as presented by the WikiLeaks Video:.

The mistake is that focusing on the use of language trivializes a continuing horror:

Focusing on the use of language contains:

1. Implication that were less shocking language used, or none, killing Iraqis would be less horrifying.

Sometimes the formulation is used in denouncing the U.S. soldiers participating in Imperial occupation generally, or as shown in this video, that too many “innocent Iraqis” have been killed.

Bullshit. Every death of every Iraqi, whether “innocently” unarmed or participating in armed resistance, is an atrocious, direct product of the military invasion and occupation of Iraq organized by a batch of traitors running the government of the USA for the benefit of those who make money from Imperialism.

2. Implication that the horror was killing unarmed Iraqis, and in particular an Iraq engaged in journalism, as if journalists are something special, and he of more importance than the other Iraqis killed in the action. Bullshit. The job description, and whether or not the Iraqis were unarmed or engaged in armed resistance to the occupation, is irrelevant. See #1 above.

In order to stop the two wars, Iraq and Afghanistan, it will be necessary for the U.S. troops to decide they have had enough of dying in vain for the politicians and decide to end the wars by rebellion against the Imperial command, the same way the troops rebelled against and stopped the war in Vietnam.

That requires bridging the gap between civilians opposed to the Imperial government and troops opposed to Imperial government, and helping those troops convince more troops of the importance and rightness of the cause.

Doing so requires understanding the consciousness of the troops.

Above are a number of useful examples, to be studied, thought-through and understood, so that understanding can be incorporated in conducting contact work with troops.

It may be useful to remember that the same Russian soldiers who cursed and slaughtered rebellious Russians before 1917 joined hands with those same Russians overthrow an Imperial war government in October 1917.

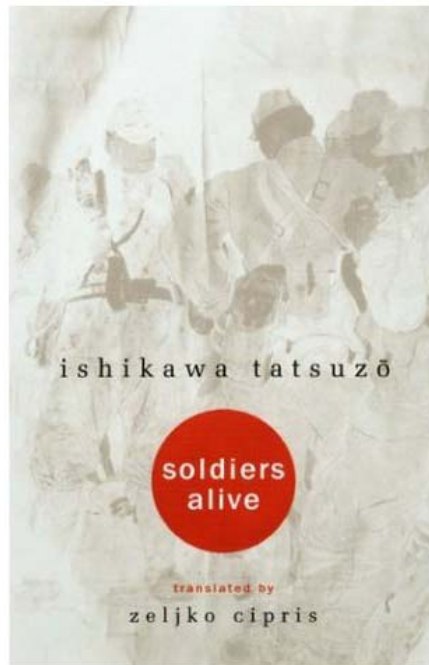
Some of the leaders of the rebellion within the U.S. Army that made it impossible to continue the war on Vietnam were soldiers who had personally committed atrocities earlier in the war.

In both cases. the activity of those who heaped moralistic condemnation on soldiers' heads and denounced them as maniacal bloodthirsty murderers were worse than useless.



Irrelevant moralistic outrage further alienates troops and thereby serves the Empire, facilitating the ability of the Empire to kill more Iraqis and Afghans.

**Ishikawa and Kuroshima would understand: insert troops into a hell on earth and there's no way to prevent atrocities. Yet the real fiends in their capital suites are never spattered with a single drop of blood. Solidarity, Z**



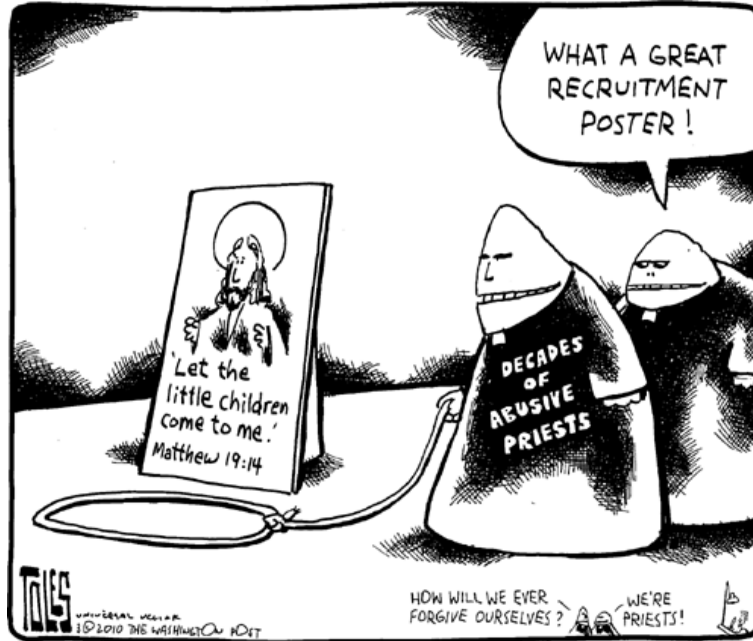
## **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> **And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))**

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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# **Somali Pirates Say They Are Subsidiary Of Goldman Sachs: Could Make Prosecution Difficult, Experts Say**

April 26, 2010 NORFOLK, VIRGINIA (The Borowitz Report)

Eleven indicted Somali pirates dropped a bombshell in a U.S. court today, revealing that their entire piracy operation is a subsidiary of banking giant Goldman Sachs.

There was an audible gasp in the courtroom when the leader of the pirates announced, "We are doing God's work. We work for Lloyd Blankfein."

The pirate, who said he earned a bonus of \$48 million in dubloons last year, elaborated on the nature of the Somalis' work for Goldman, explaining that the pirates forcibly attacked ships that Goldman had already shorted.

"We were functioning as investment bankers, only every day was casual Friday," the pirate said.

The pirate acknowledged that they merged their operations with Goldman in late 2008 to take advantage of the more relaxed regulations governing bankers as opposed to pirates, "plus to get our share of the bailout money."

In the aftermath of the shocking revelations, government prosecutors were scrambling to see if they still had a case against the Somali pirates, who would now be treated as bankers in the eyes of the law.

"There are lots of laws that could bring these guys down if they were, in fact, pirates," one government source said.

"But if they're bankers, our hands are tied."

## **Troops Invited:**

**Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550**

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