

## **Military Resistance 8D5**

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



March 2, 2010: U.S. Army flight medic, second from right, leads U.S. Marines carrying a wounded comrade to a waiting medevac helicopter, during a firefight in Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

**Going Hungry In  
Afghanistan:  
“Many American Forward  
Operating Bases Are  
Experiencing Food And Water  
Shortages”**

# **“At Camp Mike Spann, In Particular, There Have Been Times When They Have Run Out Of Drinks And Other Food Items”**

## **“Some Soldiers Have Been Forced To Skip Up To Three Meals A Day”**

Conservatives think we should just suck it up because we are in a war zone, and Liberals want us all to die anyway. Nobody gives a Fuck.

Apr 5, 2010 By Samantha A. Torrence, Digital Journal [Excerpts]

The United States Military is in the midst of a troop surge in Afghanistan, but the surge has caused the ratio of resources to troops to widen.

Many American Forward Operating Bases are experiencing food and water shortages.

Sgt. Hill, whose name has been changed to protect his identity, has been in Afghanistan only a few months as part of the new troop surge into the country. The troops are mainly focused on training and promoting the Afghanistan army and police force.

With these larger issues at hand the need for proper amounts of food and water have fallen by the wayside.

Initially it was expected that resources for surging troops would be low, as many bases were unprepared for the push ordered by the Obama administration. The surge, it is argued, was far too swift and did not give the military time to lay the proper infrastructure and provide housing and other amenities for the troops.

The reality of the lack of preparation has been felt by Sgt. Hill and other troops currently in Afghanistan.

Over weeks of correspondence Sgt. Hill has informed Digital Journal of the conditions the logistics of just being able to eat.

General McChrystal announced that fast food places like Burger King and Pizza Hut were going to be shut down and moved to make more room for essentials the troops will need for war.

As reported on Digital Journal:

"Supplying non-essential luxuries to big bases like Bagram and Kandahar makes it harder to get essential items to combat outposts and forward operating bases, where troops fighting every day need to be resupplied with ammunition, food and water."

By closing up the outlets, the FRAGO's design is intended to free up storage space, provide secure areas for equipment, and reduce flight and convoy traffic across the country.

**This action may have made matters worse for soldiers who are on missions during designated chow hall times.**

**At Camp Mike Spann some soldiers have been forced to skip up to three meals a day, and are forbidden to eat Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's) unless they are on an evening mission to save on the lack of available rations.**

The Chow Hall at Camp Mike Spann is not open 24 hours and civilian and military workers are not happy if anyone attempts to even serve themselves prepackaged bowls of cereal when the cafeteria is not open.

The infrastructure has not been freed up a significant amount to allow for the proper shipping of food and beverages, Sgt. Hill says.

**At Camp Mike Spann, in particular, there have been times when they have run out of drinks and other food items. There is no potable water available so troops rely on bottled water for hydration.**

**The Camp chow hall is now closed for lunch and only serving breakfast and dinner to be able to stretch out the available food since another troop wave hit.**

Today Sgt. Hill casually mentioned the situation behind being able to get food. To be able to speak with me, he has to wait up to a half an hour in a line for 10 minutes on the computer.

**Sgt Hill:** The chow hall just now opened. While I'm here and the line is already (an hour and a half long).

Guess I am not eating again..

**Digital Journal:** Wow. Somebody should do something about that. Maybe call congress?

**Sgt. Hill:** Nah. Conservatives think we should just suck it up because we are in a war zone, and Liberals want us all to die anyway. Nobody gives a Fuck.

Camp Mike Spann is not the only place dealing with a shortage of food and water.

An article in Stars and Stripes brought to attention the hardships of one Marine Encampment.

At Marine Combat Outpost Contu , "there are no beds, no showers, no toilets and no electricity. Chickens and ducks roam the bare dirt yard amid scraps of trash and rotting animal dung. Fleas, flies and filth are the grunts' constant companions."

They doubt they will see permanent living crates or even cots.

They sleep with fleas and chiggers and have very little food available to them. They say living like pioneers in the 1800s has given them a new appreciation for things like a bath or a shower and clean clothes.

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Two U.S. Soldiers Killed In Combat Somewhere Or Other In Iraq; Five More Wounded**

04/08/10 AFP

Two US soldiers were killed and five other American troops wounded during combat operations in northern Iraq, the military said on Thursday.

The deaths occurred during a patrol on Wednesday, a US army statement said, adding that the five injured soldiers are being treated in hospital.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Three Troops And A Mercenary Killed As Worthless Piece Of Shit Osprey Down Near Qalat: “Numerous” Other Troops Wounded: “Critics Say The Aircraft Is Particularly Vulnerable To Small-Arms Fire”**



A worthless, dangerous V-22 Osprey limps off the ground in Marjah, Helmand province Afghanistan, March 2010. (AFP/File/Mauricio Lima)

April 9, 2010 ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer & By Laura King, The Los Angeles Times & DPA

KABUL – A U.S. Air Force Osprey went down in southeastern Afghanistan, the U.S. military said Friday, killing three service members and one civilian contractor.

The Taliban said it had shot down the aircraft.

**Critics say the aircraft is particularly vulnerable to small-arms fire while its engines are shifting from vertical to horizontal flight.**

A NATO statement said "numerous other service members" were injured when the aircraft, which takes off and lands like a helicopter, crashed late Thursday seven miles (11 kilometers) from Qalat, capital of Zabol province about 200 miles (300 kilometers) southwest of Kabul.

A Pentagon spokesman, Marine Maj. Shawn Turner, said it was the first time that an Osprey, which cost nearly \$70 million apiece, has crashed during operations in a war zone.

The Air Force version is believed to be used in Afghanistan primarily for resupply missions and for transporting special operations troops hunting Taliban.

With room for up to 24 passengers, it comes equipped with sophisticated guidance and missile defense systems.

However, the original development program, a \$40 billion joint venture of Boeing Co. and Textron Inc.'s Bell Helicopter unit, was beset by delays and plagued by design flaws and other problems.

**The Osprey was nearly canceled several times due to cost overruns and a series of fatal crashes and mechanical failures.**

**Unlike fixed-wing aircraft, the Osprey cannot glide down to an emergency landing in case of a loss of power. Unlike helicopters, its propellers lack the capability to keep rotating on their own even after the engines fail.**

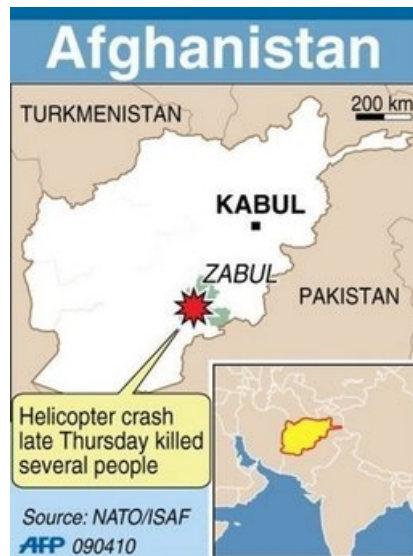
Officials did not identify the branch of service of those who were killed and injured, or disclose anything about their mission.

Zabol borders Kandahar province, which is expected to be the venue for a major Western military offensive over the summer. It also shares a border with Pakistan, with numerous Taliban infiltration routes along the porous frontier. Insurgents are active throughout Zabol, military officials have said.

**NATO did not immediately say whether its forces had been able to secure the scene of the crash and remove the downed Osprey, which is fitted with an array of sophisticated communications gear and weapons systems.**

The Western military said the injured were taken to a nearby military base for treatment. The crash occurred about seven miles west of Zabol's capital, Qalat.

NATO forces rely heavily on both helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft because Afghanistan's roads are so bad and its distances so great.



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## **8 Tankers Supplying Fuel To Afghan Occupation Forces Torched April 5**

Apr 5, AFP

Taliban armed with petrol bombs and rockets attacked a terminal in northwest Pakistan on Monday, torching eight tankers used to supply fuel to NATO forces in Afghanistan, officials said.

Dozens of fighters launched the attack at Zakha Khel in the tribal district of Khyber before dawn, local administration chief Shafeerullah Wazir told AFP.

The tankers had recently returned from supplying NATO troops in Afghanistan, where around 126,000 foreign troops are trying to help the Western-backed government put down a nearly nine-year Taliban insurgency.

"They hurled petrol bombs, then lobbed rockets and destroyed eight oil tankers," Wazir said.

The tankers were on their return journey to Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi after delivering the fuel, he said.

There were no casualties in the attack because there were no drivers or passengers in the tankers at the time, another official, Rehan Gul Khattak, said.

"There were eight oil tankers parked at the terminal and all were gutted," Khattak said. The attack was launched by Taliban militants, he added.

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## Groundhog Day



**April 7, 2010:** A burning oil tanker near Torkham, located in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province along Afghan border,. Militants blew up another oil tanker carrying fuel to U.S. forces in Afghanistan in the Khyber Pass region, officials said.  
REUTERS/Shahid Afridi

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# Chugiak Graduate Killed By Roadside Bomb In Afghanistan



James L. Miller

April 1st, 2010 Anchorage Daily News

A soldier who grew up in Alaska was killed this week in Afghanistan, according to the Department of Defense and his family.

Pfc. James L. Miller, 21, of Yakima, Wash., died in Dashat, Afghanistan, on Monday of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his vehicle with a roadside bomb, according to the department. He was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington.

Miller's father, Nick Miller, said James was born in Washington, D.C., but moved to Alaska as an infant. He graduated from Chugiak High School in 2007. He leaves behind a wife and 18-month-old daughter, his father said. Nick Miller said he is very proud of his son and his service.

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## Soldier From Royal Welsh Killed Near Showal

7 Apr 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce that a soldier from 1st Battalion The Royal Welsh was killed in Afghanistan today, 7 April 2010.

The soldier was killed as a result of a gunshot wound sustained during an exchange of fire with insurgents that happened near Showal in the Nad 'Ali district of Helmand province this afternoon.

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## Legionnaire Killed In Kapisa



Le 1re classe Hutnik Robert mort au combat (Crédits: SIRPA Terre)

04/09/10 defense.gouv.fr

Thursday, April 8, 2010, early afternoon, the units of the task force Surobi were taken to task by insurgents while they were engaged in South Kapisa, in support of Afghan security forces, to allow construction of a new battle station.

The 1st Class Robert Hutnik, legionnaire of the 2nd Foreign Parachute Regiment (2e REP) Calvi was seriously injured during the clash. Supported by the medical teams of the Task Force in La Fayette, he was evacuated by helicopter to the French military hospital in Kabul where he died from his injuries.

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## As Stupid Takes Command Of Torture By Music: Nine Homemade Bombs One Recent 24- Hour Period Wound Two Soldiers

Apr 6 by Karim Talbi, AFP [Excerpts]

US special forces have a novel weapon in the fight to expel Taliban from a desolate and war-weary farming community in southern Afghanistan -- heavy metal music.

When insurgents open fire in Marjah, an armoured vehicle wired up to powerful speakers blasts out country, heavy metal and rock music so loudly it can be heard up to two kilometres (one mile) away. The playlist has been hand-selected to annoy the Taliban, according to one US special forces officer.

"Some locals complain but it's a way to push them to choose. It's motivating Marines as well," he added after one deafening round of several hours including tracks from The Offspring, Metallica and Thin Lizzy.

The officer said they also broadcast messages from the Afghan government, as well as threats to the Taliban -- there are no obscenities, "but we tell them they're gonna die", he smiled.

How effective the method is in sending the Taliban running for cover is difficult to tell, but local children certainly don't like it -- many of them cover their ears from the onslaught of loud bass guitars and drums.

Meanwhile the insurgency rages on. Nine homemade bombs -- the rebels' weapon of choice -- exploded in just one recent 24-hour period near where US troops have set up base, slightly wounding two soldiers. **[Music critics have different methods over there.]**

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## No Bulgarians Injured Today

April 5, 2010 Novinite.com

The NATO base near Kandahar in Afghanistan has been attacked by two rockets at 7.35 local time, Bulgaria's defense ministry announced.

There have been no reports of Bulgarian casualties or material damages.

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## Guess Who Doesn't Need A \$5 Billion U.S. Military Training Program



Taliban insurgents stand in front of a burning German military vehicle in Isaa Khail village of Char Dara district of the northern Kunduz Province April 3, 2010. Three German soldiers were killed and five others seriously injured in fighting in Kunduz. REUTERS/Wahdat

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## **ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT; ALL HOME NOW**



Airborne in a Black Hawk helicopter, U.S. Army a flight medic attends to a Marine wounded in a rocket-propelled grenade attack, over Marjah, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Feb. 13, 2010. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



Thomas Newton, a U.S. Army Private 1st class with the 293D Military Police Company, 97th Military Police Battalion, sets a razor wire on a wall around a local police station on the outskirts of the town of Kandahar, southern Afghanistan March 20, 2010. REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov



U.S. Army soldiers with the 293D Military Police Company, 97th Military Police Battalion, set up a blast protecting wall around a local police station in the town of Kandahar, southern Afghanistan March 23, 2010. REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov



Soldiers with 508th Special Troops Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, descend from a mountain range outside the town of Kandahar, southern Afghanistan March 27, 2010. REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov

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## SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

### **Al-Shabab Militants Capture UN Base In Somalia**

8 April & 9 April 2010 BBC

A hardline Islamist Somali militant group has taken over a United Nations compound in the south of the country.

The fighters from the al-Shabab group disarmed guards at the base in Wajid near Baidoa, a BBC reporter says.

Al-Shabab controls much of southern Somalia, while the US-backed government is only in charge of a small part of the capital, Mogadishu.

**Al Shabaab controls huge swathes of central and southern Somalia and has left the government, backed by the West, in control of little more than a few streets in Mogadishu.**

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## IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

**“If You Unite, We Can Beat The Occupation”**

**“Expel The Occupiers From Our Sacred Land Defeated”**

**“Allow No Occupation Or Terrorism Or Unjust Law Legislated By An Occupier Stop You”**

**“No Place For Those Who Filled The Prisons With Freedom Fighters”**



Tens of thousands of supporters of Iraqi nationalist Moqtada al-Sadr carry banners against U.S. occupation of Iraq as they march during a demonstration in Najaf April 9, 2010. Moqtada al-Sadr, a key player in forming a new Iraq government, urged Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims on Friday to unite to oust American troops. REUTERS/Thaier Al-Sudani

**"Let Shiite hands build cities and mosques for the Sunnis and churches for the Christians and Sabians; and let Sunni hands build homes and shrines for the Shiites and houses of worship for other sects; and let the minorities be a source of love and harmony for all, so that they will all rebuild their wounded Iraq."**

**[Muqtada al Sadr, the nationalist cleric addressed his followers March 9 via a speech read by an aid in Najaf, as reported by “Sahar IIS” at [washingtonbureau.typepad.com/iraq/](http://washingtonbureau.typepad.com/iraq/)]**

"Let this blessed assembly be informed that one of the most important pillars upon which to build victory is unity.

"If you unite, we can beat the occupation and expel the occupiers from our sacred land defeated." "And if you are divided, God forbid, then the occupiers will revel in our land with no deterrent."

"My hope in you is great, that you will unite your stance and discard all aspects of sectarianism and division, which the occupiers tried to plant in our hearts and minds."  
"Let Shiite hands build cities and mosques for the Sunnis and churches for the Christians and Sabians; and let Sunni hands build homes and shrines for the Shiites and houses of worship for other sects; and let the minorities be a source of love and harmony for all, so that they will all rebuild their wounded Iraq."

"And allow no occupation or terrorism or unjust law legislated by an occupier stop you."

"We are about to enter a new phase in which there is no place for occupiers, tyrants, Baathists, terrorists, separatists, saboteurs or sectarianism.

"No place for those who filled the prisons with freedom fighters.

"No place for those who filled Iraq with unemployment." "But the place for those who believe in this motto: 'We demand, we demand withdrawal.'"

"We seek, we seek brotherhood." "We work towards rebuilding and we aim for prosperity."



Iraqi supporters of nationalist politician Moqtada al-Sadr burn a U.S. flag during demonstration against the U.S. occupation in Najaf April 9, 2010. Moqtada al-Sadr, a key player in forming a new Iraq government, urged Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims on Friday to unite to oust American troops. Photo: REUTERS/Thaier Al-Sudani

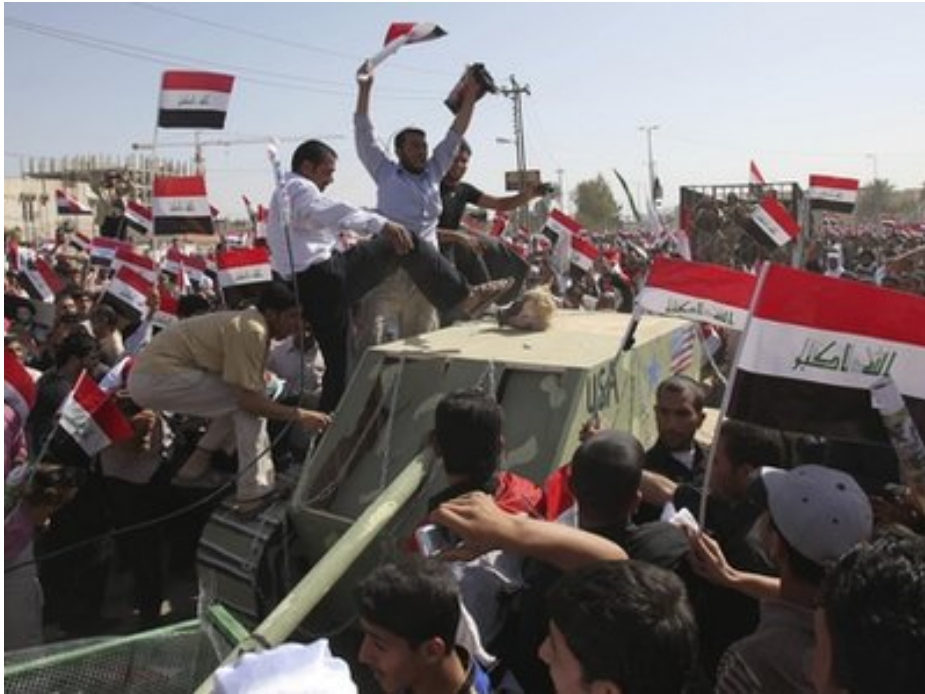


Iraqi Nationalists march carrying images of U.S. and Israeli flags, reading “No The Terrorism,” with shoes hung on them, during a demonstration in Najaf April 9, 2010. Photo: REUTERS/Kareem Raheem



April 9, 2010: The heads of Obama, Gates, U.S. Secretary of Defence and Biden, US Vice President on a symbolic model of a U.S. Army tank before they are destroyed during a rally in city of Najaf, marking the seventh anniversary of the occupation Baghdad by American troops. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)





Iraqi Nationalists wave Iraqi flags as they destroy the heads of Obama, Gates and Biden and a symbolic model of a U.S. Army tank April 9, 2010 during a rally in city of Najaf, marking the seventh anniversary of the occupation of Baghdad by American troops. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)



Iraqi nationalist burn effigies representing Obama, Gates, and Biden, after they are executed by hanging in city of Najaf, Iraq, April 9, 2010 during a rally against U.S. occupation of Iraq. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)



Supporters of nationalist politician Moqtada al-Sadr carry Iraqi flags as they gather at an unfinished building during a demonstration against the U.S. occupation in Najaf April 9, 2010. Photo: REUTERS/Ali Abu Shish

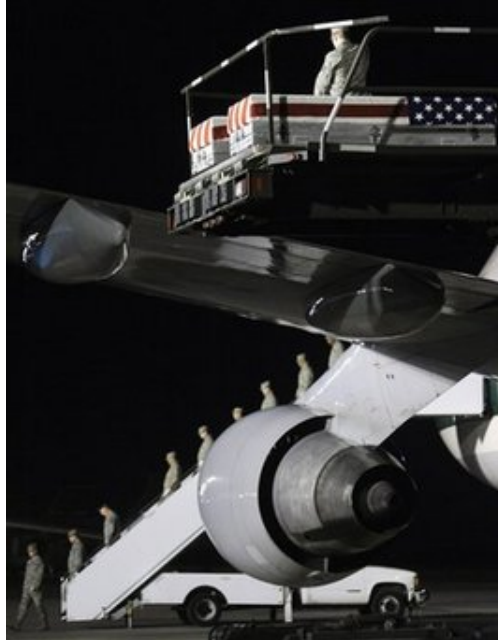


Iraqi citizens carry a banner saying "No, No, Occupation" in a mass demonstration against the U.S. government during a rally marking the seventh anniversary of the fall of Baghdad to American troops. Najaf, Iraq, April 9, 2010. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

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## **TROOP NEWS**

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



The remains of Air Force Tech. Sgt. Adam K. Ginett, left, Jan. 20, 2010 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Ginett, 29, of Knightdale, N.C., died Jan. 19 near Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan of wounds from an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/ Steve Ruark)

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**FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



**“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.**

**“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.**

**“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”**

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**Hope for change doesn't cut it when you're still losing buddies.  
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

**“These Young Men And Women  
Are Among The Best We Have”  
“The GIs Are Doing The Best They Can,  
And Then Some, Sometimes  
Staggeringly Beyond The Normal Call Of  
Duty, In A ‘Job’ The Politicians  
Command Them Out Of Imperial Hubris  
And Historical Ignorance”**

**Soldiers humping their 100-pounds-plus packs up and down Afghanistan's rugged mountain ranges have the additional burden of carrying on their backs the fanaticism and careerism of their politicized generals who may never get around to reading the home-town obituaries of the men and women they put in harm's way.**

5 April 2010 By Clancy Sigal, Guardian News and Media Limited

*"I am a soldier, convinced that I am acting on behalf of soldiers. I believe that this war, upon which I entered as a war of defence and liberation, has now become a war of aggression and conquest." Lt Siegfried Sassoon, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 1917*

In a move calculated to change the subject from his new hot-to-touch healthcare law, President Obama recently made a six-hour visit to American troops in Kabul.

On TV he smiled a lot, and looked light on his feet, perhaps because he wore nothing heavier on his back than a fetching Air Force bomber jacket vaguely resembling George

Bush's macho flight gear in his notorious "mission accomplished" speech on an aircraft carrier a few years ago.

He walked tall and erect.

In my infantry pack in basic training I had to carry only about 40 to 60 pounds on my back including weapon, ammo, water, webbing, K-rations etc. Add another 15 pounds for a mortar base plate.

By contrast, today's deployed soldier on patrol in Afghanistan often carries twice that, up to 150 pounds that includes all the above plus body armour and radio and anything else he might need when miles from resupply. Forget the danger from sniper fire and cheap-to-make killer roadside bombs (IEDs), just think of the muscular-skeletal strain schlepping all that stuff at 8-11,000 oxygen-thin feet in freezing cold or down on the Helmand plains in stifling heat.

These young men and women are among the best we have.

Obsessively I follow the trajectory of one of my old units where I was once sent as a stateside replacement, the Fourth ("Ivy") Division, from its capturing Saddam Hussein in Tikrit to its recent combat presence in the Perch valley in Afghanistan. Although for years I carried its cloth four-leaf clover shoulder patch in my wallet as a good luck charm, I'm not sentimental about its thuggish side under inhuman stress. (Shooting prisoners, filling Abu Ghraib prison by indiscriminate arrests, and so on.)

The GIs are doing the best they can, and then some, sometimes staggeringly beyond the normal call of duty, in a "job" the politicians command them out of imperial hubris and historical ignorance.

Graveyard of empires indeed.

An example: despite a \$17bn counter-measures programme, General Michael Oates, in charge of defeating the treacherous roadside bombs admits, "I don't think you can defeat the IED as a weapon system. It is too easy to use."

In the past year the Taliban has doubled its use of these hard-to-detect explosives, and our casualties have doubled.

Almost every night, through a GI newsletter, I read the daily casualty lists often in the form of obituaries from home town newspapers.

Overwhelmingly these boys, men and increasingly, women, are from small towns and rural areas like Bald Knob, Arkansas and Hungry Horse, Montana, or former factory cities.

There's a certain pattern. "He wanted to be in the military since he was nine ... he loved playing soldier ... a true patriot ... he did what was right for his country ... he signed up on September 12 ... a three letter high school athlete ... dropped out of school when a recruiter came around ... "

Our so-called mercenary all-volunteer army is full of young men and women who enlisted for mixed motives.

A common thread runs through their stories.

Patriotism aside (no small matter), they simply couldn't find jobs or needed money for college or wanted to "fast track" for citizenship papers.

It's the economy, plus a need to serve their country.

Despite the fact, by now almost universally acknowledged (by all except Bush-Cheney and Blair-Brown), that we were suckered into a Middle Eastern war, and despite our leaders having not even a foggy notion of what "winning" in Afghanistan means, the military keeps grabbing them and making adults out of children (as it did for me) and, in so many cases, tossing them aside if they get badly injured.

Until a few senators protested, the military, with Veterans Administration collusion, refused disability benefits to shell-shocked GIs on the fake diagnoses of "pre-existing personality disorder".

There is an American tradition of officers breaking ranks to speak truth to power at the risk of their careers, but this hasn't happened recently in Afghanistan.

We don't have any parallels to a previous era's Marine general Smedley Butler ("War is a racket") or army general "Vinegar Joe" Stillwell. There was a "retired generals' revolt" a few years ago – led by Marine general Anthony Zinni – blasting Bush and Rumsfeld for lies over Iraq.

But Afghanistan has not yet produced its Smedley Butler or Anthony Zinni.

Instead, overlording Afghanistan, we have the politically ambitious David Petraeus, already testing 2012 presidential waters, and Stanley McChrystal who is said to have covered up the truth about football star Pat Tillman's friendly-fire death.

Soldiers humping their 100-pounds-plus packs up and down Afghanistan's rugged mountain ranges have the additional burden of carrying on their backs the fanaticism and careerism of their politicized generals who may never get around to reading the home-town obituaries of the men and women they put in harm's way.

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## The Gravedigger

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

From *Peace Speaks From The Mirror*

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It's cold in the morning  
and he shivers,  
he kicks up the furnace  
he turns down at night  
these heating bills are killer  
he puts some coffee on  
trying to remember  
who he buries today  
these Michigan winters  
freeze the ground on down  
he needs some gas  
in the truck  
and the digger too  
it's a hell of a way  
to make a living  
but it's steady pay  
After a cup and a half  
of coffee and three cigarettes  
it dawns on him who's grave  
he has to dig today  
it's Mary and John's son  
from across the tracks  
the paper had his picture  
he was just a boy  
played football  
at the old high school  
a stand out star  
joined the Army after that  
cause all the jobs are gone.

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?**

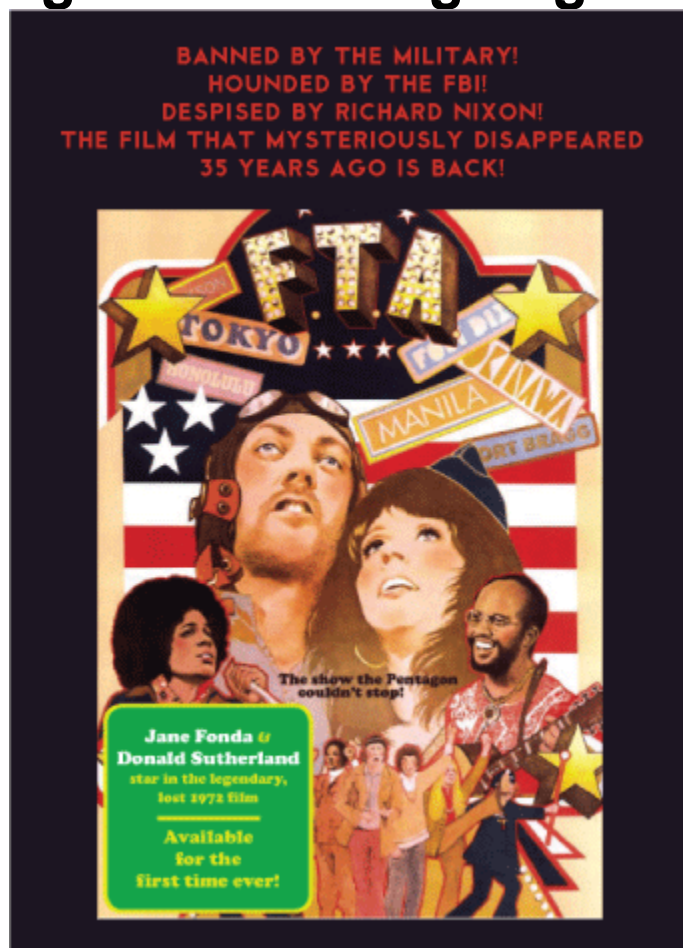
Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services 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

**Military Resistance Available In PDF Format**

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

# FTA!

**The Film Provides A Rare Glimpse Into The Revolt From Below That Ultimately Forced The Pentagon To Withdraw In Defeat From Vietnam: “Behind-The-Scenes Footage Of Soldiers Talking Candidly To The Troupe Members About Their Frustration And Anger At The Ongoing War”**



FTA Trailer



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HlkgPCgU7g&eurl=http://imgineaworldof.blogspot.com/&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HlkgPCgU7g&eurl=http://imgineaworldof.blogspot.com/&feature=player_embedded)

**FINALLY, AFTER 35-YEARS IN EXILE  
FTA IS BACK! AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 24  
EXCLUSIVELY ON DVD  
FROM DISPLACED FILMS AND  
NEW VIDEO/ DOCURAMA**

**FTA:**

**Ultra-Rare! F.T.A. (aka FREE THE ARMY aka FUN, TRAVEL, ADVENTURE), 1972, Displaced Films, 97 min. Dir. Francine Parker.**

**F.T.A. was originally released by American-International but pulled from distribution after only one week, with rumors of pressure from the Pentagon.**

**– Phil Hall, Film Threat**

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## **About The Film:**

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War & Military Project, who sent this in.]

February 22, 2009 By Dennis Lim, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

A time capsule of the anti-Vietnam War movement, "FTA" is also a vivid flashback to a world-famous movie star's stint as a political radical. At the peak of her celebrity, which coincided with the dawning of her political consciousness, Jane Fonda abdicated her Hollywood throne and remade herself as the face of the anti-establishment.

With government agents and the news media watching her every move, she led a vaudeville troupe on a tour of U.S. military bases in 1971 -- a trip chronicled in this fascinating documentary, largely unseen since its brief, abortive release and finally available on DVD this week.

In the disc's only extra, a 20-minute interview, Fonda recounts how the project came about. She and Donald Sutherland, her costar in 1971's "Klute" (which won her an Oscar), were approached by Howard Levy, a doctor who had become an antiwar cause célèbre for refusing to train Green Beret medics.

He proposed that they put on a corrective to Bob Hope's gung-ho USO shows, giving voice not just to the growing peace movement but to antiwar sentiment within the ranks of the military.

The FTA troupe staged its first shows in the U.S., with Fonda and Sutherland (who had just played the irreverent Hawkeye in Robert Altman's "MASH") headlining a company that included Peter Boyle and Howard Hesseman. (The all-purpose acronym is short for "Free the Army" and a more profane variation.)

When it came time to embark on the two-week Pacific Rim tour, Fonda assembled a more politically correct lineup that stressed racial and gender parity -- equal numbers of black and white, and male and female, performers, including singer Holly Near and comedian Paul Mooney.

Fonda, Sutherland and company stopped off in Hawaii, the Philippines, Okinawa and Japan (where they were initially refused entry). Denied permission to perform on U.S. bases, they set up shop in nearby coffeehouses and other venues, although military officials apparently tried to minimize attendance by publicizing incorrect show times.

All told, the troupe played 21 shows, which were attended by some 64,000 servicemen and women. Many of the male GIs, as Fonda ruefully concedes in the interview, must have been anticipating the Space Age sex kitten from "Barbarella" and not the righteous radical who took the stage in jeans, no makeup and a raised fist.

The show mixes protest songs with broad and bawdy skits, taking potshots at military chauvinism and top-brass privilege. But what it lacks in finesse, it makes up for with a raucous energy.

Directed by Francine Parker (who died in 2007), the documentary alternates between the song-and-dance routines and behind-the-scenes footage of soldiers talking candidly to the troupe members about their frustration and anger at the ongoing war and the American presence in the region.

As fate would have it, "FTA" opened the same week in July 1972 that news broke of Fonda's trip to Hanoi, where she made radio broadcasts for the North Vietnamese regime and was photographed sitting on an anti-aircraft gun. Within a week, the distributor (youth-flick specialist American-International Pictures) had pulled the movie from theaters.

Fonda's career went into partial eclipse, and she remains to this day a favorite target of the right, but she recovered to win a second Oscar for the 1978 war-veteran drama "Coming Home." For years she quietly has distanced herself from her radical past, which might explain why "FTA," which she co-produced, has been out of circulation for more than three decades.

Its recent reemergence points to a change of heart and owes much to the efforts of filmmaker David Zeiger, who used footage from "FTA" in "Sir! No Sir!," a 2005 documentary about antiwar resistance within the military.

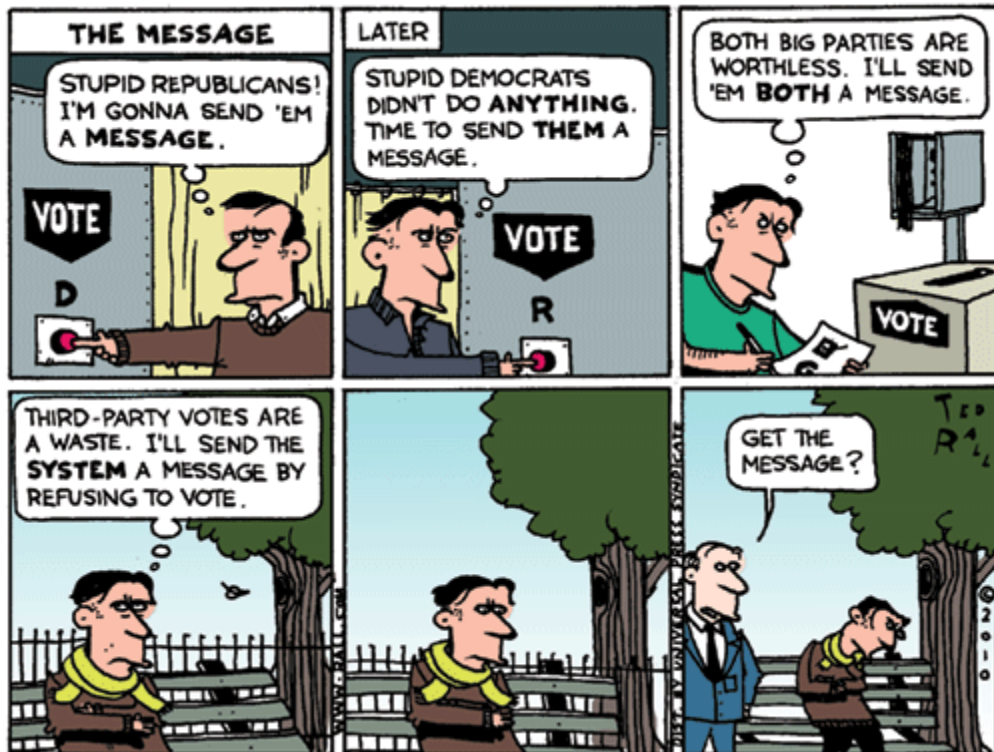
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From Vietnam Days

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**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/))



**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED  
ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED  
THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO  
STOP THE WARS**

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