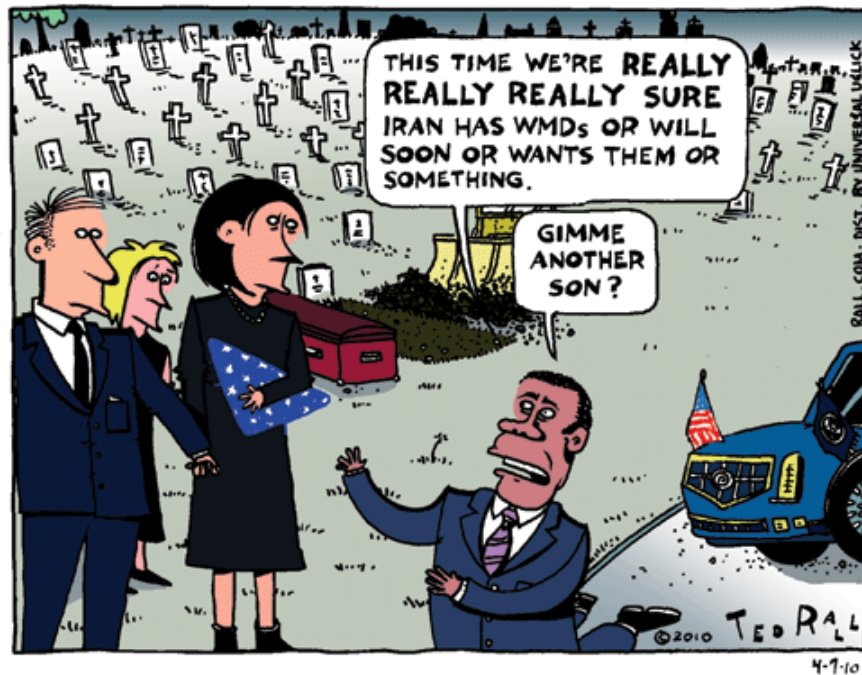


Military Resistance 8D8



Reading The Tea Leaves

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Thomas F Barton ; Mike Hastie
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 7:19 AM
Subject: Reading The Tea Leaves by Dennis

Written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2010

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

Reading The Tea Leaves

**Come on Tea Party, the original is gone
now you are nothing but the KKK
kill all the "niggers"
with all your militia guns**

and kill anybody who says they are gay
We have seen your kind before
filling filth into desperate people's blank minds
shoveling manure in desperate times
a Gold Digger mind tripper
bringing out the worst
encouraging the animal in people's actions
like a mob gone mad
with violence and hate
like militia dogs jumping up and down
at the lynching tree
screaming fire in a dark theatre then
laughing as the people stomp to death
their brothers and sisters
all in the name of God
packing guns like the rabid dogs
they are foaming and spitting from the mouth
you are nothing but slaves to your golden masters
who hide behind the walls of their
brick houses cause they fear
all the good people who would like
to kill them with motion detectors
they watch TV for a revolution
in their christian nazi brown
shirt uniforms.

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Slain Marine From Yorba Linda Remembered

March 27, 2010 By Mike Anton, Los Angeles Times

The death of Rick Centanni of Yorba Linda was announced Friday over the intercom at Esperanza High School in Anaheim.

Class of 2008. Member of the football team. Marine lance corporal killed earlier this week by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. Just 19.

A secretary put Centanni's yearbook, the one in which his photo shows off his broad shoulders and wide smile, out at the front desk. Students, she knew, were sure to ask to see it.

This isn't the first time this has happened at Esperanza. Or the second.

Centanni is the third Esperanza graduate killed in Iraq or Afghanistan since 2004.

"He came out for the team as a junior and I could see from the very first day that he had great enthusiasm for the game, for being part of a team. He loved every part of it," said Jim Pendleton, an English teacher and assistant football coach for the Esperanza Aztecs. "It didn't surprise me when he went into the military because it was the ultimate expression of teamwork and camaraderie."

Centanni, he said, helped persuade three teammates to enlist with him in the military. One entered the Army. Two others joined him in the Marine Corps.

One of them, Kyle Martin, was in a vehicle behind Centanni's and saw the explosion, which also killed Marine Reserve Sgt. Maj. Robert Cottle, 45, a SWAT officer for the Los Angeles Police Department, who, coincidentally, also hailed from Yorba Linda.

Pendleton looked tired Friday. One of his sons recently finished his second tour in Iraq, safe and sound. But another of his former players was killed there in 2004 and the Aztecs wore a sticker on their helmets the following year: JB, for Army Pfc. Joel Brattain, 21, who left behind a newlywed, his high school sweetheart.

Centanni wore a helmet with that sticker.

"With the volunteer military, I don't think the war has the same effect on young people today -- until something like this happens," Pendleton said.

Over in the boys' locker room, a bunch of sophomores were getting ready for their physical education class.

"It was somber," Alex Hizon, 16, said of the mood in class when Centanni's death was announced. "People didn't even have to tell us to be quiet. It hit home. My brother's at the Naval Academy."

"My cousin's going into the Marines," added Sean Bennett, 16. "I think about that."

Nearby, another youth, bigger than the others, said he intended to join the Marines too.

"I don't have any other opportunities," he said.

Did Centanni's death make him rethink those plans?

"You can die driving home from school. You can die from a heart attack from all the McDonald's you eat," he said. "It's just as easy dying here as it is there."

"But it's still a tragedy. It's a loss of life," his friend, another 16-year-old, countered. "But I understand where you're coming from."

Over in the weight room, athletic equipment manager Ron Thompson said Centanni was an exemplary young man. "He was one of my favorites," said Thompson, who said Centanni's No. 30 jersey won't be worn next year. "Good kid. One of those kids who said 'Yes, sir' and 'No, sir.' Very courteous."

Not every kid is, he said. Just the other day, for instance, there was a group of track athletes warming up for a meet. They stopped running when the national anthem began at the baseball game at an adjoining field. But they started running again before it ended. "I lectured them for a good 10 minutes," Thompson said. "I told them, 'Do you know you have friends over there who are fighting so you can be on the track team? How about showing a little respect?'"

Outside on the school quad, there were posters for a lunchtime concert held earlier this week by a Temecula-based band named War Stories.

C.J. Abraham, a 17-year-old junior, sat where the band had played and talked about whether Centanni's death would play a role in his still-forming thoughts about trying to get into West Point or the Air Force Academy.

"I haven't decided. To go to school and work that hard and then to get killed after all that effort . . .," he said. "I'm in the school band and there's two girls in the color guard and both of their brothers joined (the military) because of this guy. It hit them pretty hard."

Behind him on the quad, high school seniors picked up pre-ordered boxes of graduation announcements -- printed proof that they are about to become adults.

Five Local Occupation Support Staff Missing In Baghlan

Apr 16 AFP

The United Nations mission in Afghanistan said Friday that five of its Afghan staff had gone missing. "Five UN Afghan staff are unaccounted for since yesterday," Dan McNorton, a UN spokesman in Kabul told AFP.

He declined to give further details, citing concerns for the security of the missing staff.

The staff are believed to have disappeared in a restive region of the northern province of Baghlan, where Taliban and other insurgents are active, but this could not be immediately confirmed.

Foreign Corporations HQ Area Blown Up In Kandahar: Six Dead



The scene of Thursday night's bombing in Kandahar city, April 16, 2010. A bomber targeting a compound shared by foreign companies set off a massive explosion and killing at least six people, according to an Afghan official. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)

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

**“Germany’s Dangerous
Afghanistan Strategy”**

**“Four Soldiers Killed in Taliban
Attack”**

**[And There Is At Least One Reporter
Capable Of Skillfully Combining A Battle
Report With Its Tactical, Strategic and
Political Context]**



Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg received the news of the attack “with shock” upon landing at Termez, Uzbekistan on Thursday. DPA Photo

Until now, many people thought that training Afghan forces was practically the ideal task for the Bundeswehr, given popular opposition to the German mission and the fact that the Bundestag mandate for Germany’s forces excludes them from conducting offensive operations.

The four new deaths dramatically show that the Bundeswehr’s new focus makes their mission more dangerous than ever.

04/16/2010 By Matthias Gebauer, SPIEGEL ONLINE

The Bundeswehr’s new strategy in Afghanistan involves training Afghan soldiers, something that many assumed would be low risk. But Thursday’s Taliban attack, which killed four Germans involved in a training operation, shows that the mission is still highly dangerous.

The bad news reached German Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg just after he landed at a German supply base in Termez, Uzbekistan on Thursday.

Four German soldiers had been killed and five others injured, two seriously. The attack on the German Bundeswehr soldiers had taken place almost simultaneously with Guttenberg’s departure from Afghanistan, where he had made a surprise visit to German troops.

Less than two weeks after three Germany soldiers were killed in an ambush on April 2, Germany is once again mourning its fallen.

Thursday’s attack was the most serious to date for the German armed forces in northern Afghanistan.

The Battle:

At around 2:30 p.m. local time, militants struck in the region of Baghlan, about 100 kilometers (62 miles) south of the German base in Kunduz.

The Germans were traveling together with Swedish and Belgian soldiers as part of an Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT).

Around 150 trainers and other soldiers were escorting about 1,000 Afghan soldiers from the Afghan National Army. They had been mentoring the local security forces in battle tactics during an ongoing operation against the Taliban code-named "Taohid II." The large-scale operation had been resumed Wednesday after a break of several days.

It is still not clear what exactly happened on Thursday afternoon.

The attack took place near the so-called "Dutch Bridge" in the district of Baghlani-jadid.

According to Bundeswehr sources, the aim of the operation was to drive the Taliban out of the area.

The sources said that smaller skirmishes with armed insurgents had just finished when a German Eagle IV armored vehicle was attacked as it was traveling along a road in the direction of the bridge.

After the fatal attack, the battle apparently continued for hours, according to Afghan and German military sources.

Sources on the Afghan side said that the Germans were attacked with a hidden roadside bomb. A Taliban spokesman who made a statement by telephone shortly after the incident gave a similar account of the attack. On Friday, sources in the Bundeswehr told the news agency DPA that they believed the vehicle had either been shot at or had hit an explosive device.

Among the victims was an army doctor, who was killed when the Yak vehicle he was travelling in came under fire.

Three Afghans were also reported to have been killed in the severe fighting that followed the attack on the Germans.

The dead and injured were flown shortly after the attack to Kunduz in US helicopters. Later, the two seriously injured soldiers and another injured soldier were flown to the larger camp at Mazar-e-Sharif.

According to Bundeswehr soldiers, the "Taohid II" operation had started in early April.

The Bundeswehr had recently decided to pause the operation due to strong resistance from the Taliban, including some heavy fighting.

The German army had several OMLT groups participating in the operation. The unit that was attacked Thursday had been specially transferred from a camp in Feyzabad to Baghlan.

The attack shows just how dangerous it can be to train the Afghan army, which the German government in recent months has declared to be the main aim of the German mission in Afghanistan.

"Anyone who thought that training the Afghans was a safe walk in the park ahead of pulling out of Afghanistan, has now seen the reality," commented one German army officer. "At the end of the day, training Afghan soldiers in Afghanistan means fighting side by side with the Afghans."

Thursday's attack is likely to spark discussion in the coming days about the Bundeswehr's new direction.

Defense Minister Guttenberg has until now always said that focusing on training does not necessarily mean increased risk. As part of this strategy, he intends to convert the existing German Quick Reaction Force (QRF) into training teams.

Even before the new incident, there had been resistance against the plan, with officials arguing that the QRF is important for protecting German forces.

The minister reacted with shock to the attack on his troops.

He immediately broke off his journey home to Germany and flew back with the Bundeswehr's inspector-general to Afghanistan.

On Thursday evening he arrived at the camp in Mazar-e-Sharif, where he spoke with the injured and senior officers.

Guttenberg, the army and the entire government in Berlin can expect a difficult few weeks.

Coming so soon after the deadly battle on Good Friday, the attack shows how determined and well-equipped the Bundeswehr's enemies in the north of Afghanistan are.

Now the government will have to handle uncomfortable political questions about their approach to the army's deployment in the country.

Until now, many people thought that training Afghan forces was practically the ideal task for the Bundeswehr, given popular opposition to the German mission and the fact that the Bundestag mandate for Germany's forces excludes them from conducting offensive operations.

The four new deaths dramatically show that the Bundeswehr's new focus makes their mission more dangerous than ever.

***Good News For The Afghan
Resistance!!***

U.S. Occupation Commands' Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops



A foreign occupation servicemember from the U.S. searches the personal belongings of Afghan citizens without their consent during a home invasion in a residential compound around the area of Karez-e-Sayyidi, Helmand province, April 13, 2010.
REUTERS/Asmaa Waguih

Afghani citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

One of the squadron's great successes over the past year, says Lt. Col. Kolenda, has been weaning less-committed local boys away from the hard-liners through jobs, schooling and support for the elders.

He says the young men of Mirdish village, for instance, joined the insurgency because a couple of years ago American troops kicked down some doors and searched some homes.

-- Michael M. Phillips, War In Afghanistan; Wall St. Journal, 7.18.08

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]



[images.google.com]

English soldiers search an American settler's house (1770's)

Declared Bill Ehrhart, a marine in Vietnam:

In grade school we learned about the redcoats, the nasty British soldiers that tried to stifle our freedom. Subconsciously, but not very subconsciously, I began increasingly to have the feeling that I was a redcoat. I think it was one of the most staggering realizations of my life.

**WELCOME TO AFBAGHVIETISTAN:
HAVE A NICE DAY**



Marine patrols in Marjah, Afghanistan, March 17, 2010. (AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)

OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!

TROOP NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



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. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

Refused Treatment At V.A. Hospital Emergency Room, Iraq Veteran Kills Himself At The Hospital Door

[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,542nd time, there is no enemy in Iraq or Afghanistan. Their citizens and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started these wars of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn't tell the truth: U.S. Imperial wars are about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. T]

April 17, 2010 By Lucas Sullivan and Margo Rutledge Kissell, DAYTON DAILY NEWS

DAYTON -- Jesse Charles Huff walked up to the VA Medical Center yesterday wearing Army fatigues and battling pain from his Iraq war wounds and a recent bout with depression.

The 27-year-old Dayton man had entered the center's emergency room about 1 a.m. yesterday and requested some sort of treatment.

But Huff did not get that treatment, police said, and about 5:45 a.m., he reappeared at the center's entrance, put a military-style rifle to his head and twice pulled the trigger.

Police would not specify what treatment Huff sought and why he did not receive it. Medical center spokeswoman Donna Simmons declined to answer questions about Huff's treatment, citing privacy laws.

But police believe Huff killed himself to make a statement.

Scott Labensky, whose son lived with Huff, agreed. He said the veteran was injured by a ground blast while serving in Iraq and received ongoing treatment for a back injury and depression.

"He never got adequate care from the VA he was trying to get," Labensky said. "I believe he (killed himself) to bring attention to that fact."

Simmons said Huff had received care at the center since August 2008 and his care was being handled by a case manager.

Huff drove a van to the medical center. Police found nothing dangerous inside the van, which contained some Army clothing, a carton of cigarettes and a prescription bottle of oxycodone with Huff's name on it.

Oxycodone is often used to treat severe pain.

Criminal Charges Dropped Against Iraq Veteran Who Wrote Song About Stop-Loss: “Top Brass Decide To Discharge Hall Instead Of Taking Him To Trial In Part Because He Admitted His Guilt”

April 17, 2010 By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD (AP) -- The U.S. Army has dismissed a soldier who threatened fellow troops and sent the Pentagon a violent rap song he wrote to protest his Iraq redeployment orders, officials said Saturday.

The dismissal for misconduct means Spc. Marc A. Hall will avoid criminal charges but lose all military benefits earned over at least four years of service, including an earlier tour in Iraq.

Army spokesman Lt. Col. Eric Bloom said Saturday that top brass decided to discharge Hall instead of taking him to trial in part because he admitted his guilt.

“He understood the threats he made to his fellow soldiers,” Bloom said. “With the loss of his benefits, the time he’s already done in jail and his reduction in rank, that’s justice served.”

Hall has been jailed since Dec. 11, two days before his brigade with the Army’s 3rd Infantry Division out of Ft. Stewart, Georgia, was scheduled to leave for Iraq. He was charged with the military offense of communicating a threat after telling his battalion commander that he might shoot or otherwise attack a fellow U.S. soldier, according to Army lawyers. He previously served in Iraq in 2007-08.

But it was a CD recording of a rap song that Hall wrote and sent to the Army’s personnel office in July 2009 that gained notoriety for the case.

At that point, Army lawyers said, Hall knew his unit was scheduled to deploy -- just two months before he was to finish his four-year enlistment contract. An unpopular Army policy known as “stop loss” requires that soldiers who are assigned to a unit at the time it deploys will be kept in the ranks for as long as the duration of the yearlong tour.

On the recording, Hall denounced the Army for the policy and rapped about opening fire with his military-issue M-4 rifle.

“I got a (expletive) magazine with 30 rounds, on a three-round burst, ready to fire down,” Hall rapped. “Still against the wall, I grab my M-4, spray and watch all the bodies hit the floor. ... I bet you never stop-loss nobody no more, in your next lifetime of course. No remorse.”

Critics have called the case a free speech issue, saying Hall should not be punished for venting his anger about being sent back to Iraq right before he was supposed to get out of the Army. His lawyer also has denied that Hall is violent, calling the rap a “fantasy” instead of a threat.

Bloom said that Maj. Gen. Terry Wolff signed off Friday on a plea deal for Hall to admit guilt and be discharged from the Army instead of face trial in Baghdad, as military lawyers requested.

Had he lost at trial, Hall could have faced up to 15 years in jail.

“Former U.S. Marine Sgt. Joe Callan, Now An Organizer For The Group Iraq Veterans Against The War”



(AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

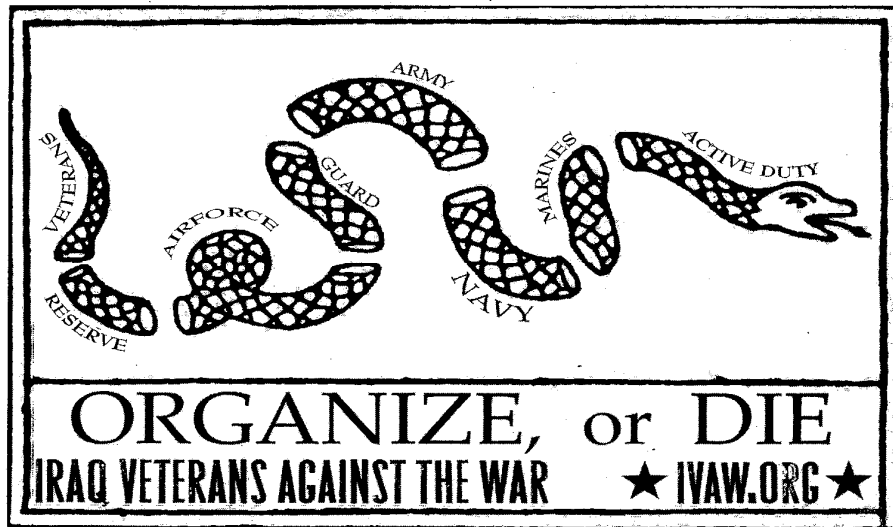
March 11, 2010: AP: Former U.S. Marine Sgt. Joe Callan, now an organizer for the group Iraq Veterans Against The War, listens on a phone conversation in Albuquerque, N.M.

It wasn't his first tour in Iraq, but his second and third when Callan began wondering how long his luck would last, how many more months he could swerve around bombs buried in the dirt and duck mortars raining from the skies.

Three tours in four years and Callan wanted out. Out of Iraq, out of the Marines. Nearly 300,000 troops have served three, four or more times. And, records show, more than half of those currently at war are at least on their second tour.

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

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



Stupid PTSD Hysteria Haunting Returning Veterans: “Some Are Wary Of Hiring Iraq And Afghanistan Veterans Because Of Worries About Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder And Other Mental Health Issues”

Apr 7, 2010 By Gregg Zoroya, USA TODAY & Apr 10, 2010 By Rick Maze - Staff writer,
Army Times [Excerpts]

A House subcommittee is looking into why veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, especially younger ones, are having increasing difficulty finding post-service jobs.

What makes the unemployment problems especially vexing is that veterans traditionally have had a lower unemployment rate than nonveterans, a distinction that is vanishing as the national unemployment rate hovers around 10 percent, said Justin Brown, an employment specialist with Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Some employers are wary of hiring National Guard and reserve members for fear they might soon be mobilized, and some are wary of hiring Iraq and Afghanistan veterans because of worries about post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health issues, Rosser said.

“I actually had one person say at a seminar that they wouldn’t hire someone just out of the military because they didn’t want to hire someone with PTSD,” she said.

Veterans are having a difficult time translating military skills — initiative, leadership and coolness under pressure — into job-application language that civilian employers can grasp, said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash. She has been meeting with unemployed veterans while on recess from Congress.

“(Veterans) are telling me that they know they should get this job. But it’s like the person hiring them is worried that they’ll have post-traumatic stress syndrome and blow up on the job,” she said.

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

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

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

Dear President Obama



Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: April 07, 2010
Subject: Dear President Obama

Dear President Obama,
Would you please consider expanding universal health care in the United States to the innocent civilians living in Iraq and Afghanistan. I had a meeting with several of my Vietnam vet buddies last night, and we decided the best way to do that would be to stop murdering these helpless people. Several of my vet friends saw innocent Vietnamese civilians killed by American weaponry, and have suffered immensely from these experiences. Most of my friends have also known other Vietnam veterans who committed suicide over the years because of their guilt and shame for following orders from their commanding officers. We realize you were probably riding a bicycle when we were in Vietnam, so it is quite understanding that you may still be learning about the things that happened when we were fighting for corporate freedom. I trust your Nobel Peace Prize will guide you in this difficult time of decision making.

**Sincerely,
Mike Hastie
Vietnam veteran
April 7, 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**

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Unconquered Unconquerable



A Palestinian boy uses a slingshot to defend Palestinian land against Zionist troops during clashes in the occupied Palestinian West Bank village of Iraq Burin, near Nablus, April 10, 2010. (AP Photo/Nasser Ishtayeh)

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**Obama Regime Traitors Move
To Imprison Whistleblower Who
Exposed NSA Financial
Corruption And Refusal To Use
Program That Protected
Liberties Of American Citizens:
“The Obama Administration May
Be No Less Aggressive Than The
Bush Administration In Pursuing
Whistleblowers”**

**“N.S.A. Articles Exposed ‘A
Multibillion-Dollar Boondoggle’”
“The Agency Had Rejected A Program
That Had The Promise Of Collecting
Communications While Protecting
Americans’ Privacy”**

April 15, 2010 By SCOTT SHANE, New York Times [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — In a rare legal action against a government employee accused of leaking secrets, a grand jury has indicted a former senior National Security Agency official on charges of providing classified information to a newspaper reporter in hundreds of e-mail messages in 2006 and 2007.

The official, Thomas A. Drake, 52, was also accused of obstructing justice by shredding documents, deleting computer records and lying to investigators who were looking into the reporter’s sources.

The indictment, approved Wednesday by a grand jury in Baltimore and made public on Thursday, does not name either the reporter or the newspaper that received the information.

But the description applies to articles written by Siobhan Gorman, then a reporter for The Baltimore Sun, that examined in detail the failings of several major N.S.A. programs, costing billions of dollars, using computers to collect and sort electronic intelligence.

The efforts were plagued with technical flaws and cost overruns.

Only a small number of prosecutions have been brought against government officials in recent decades for improperly disclosing information.

Such cases often provoke a public debate over the tradeoff between protecting government secrets and covering up government wrongdoing or incompetence.

The indictment suggests the Obama administration may be no less aggressive than the Bush administration in pursuing whistleblowers and reporters' sources who disclose government secrets. In a little-noticed case last December, a former contract linguist for the F.B.I., Shamai Kedem Leibowitz, pleaded guilty to leaking five classified documents to a blogger.

Lucy Dalglish, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, a press advocacy group, called the indictment of Mr. Drake unfortunate. "The whole point of the prosecution is to have a chilling effect on reporters and sources, and it will," Ms. Dalglish said.

Mr. Drake, who began working as an N.S.A. contractor in 1991 and was a high-ranking agency employee from 2001 to 2008, is charged with 10 counts, including retention of classified information, obstruction of justice and making false statements. The retention counts each carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The indictment asserts that Mr. Drake, a computer software expert, contacted the reporter at the urging of a friend and set up a secure e-mail account, through a company called Hushmail, that allowed him to send anonymous e-mail to the reporter. He later met the reporter and turned over classified documents with the classification markings removed, the court document said.

In addition to describing the technical programs, the Sun articles disclosed a crisis in meeting N.S.A.'s demands for electrical power and described how the agency had rejected a program that had the promise of collecting communications while protecting Americans' privacy.

The articles, though, did not focus on the most highly protected N.S.A. secrets — whose communications it collects, exactly how it collects them and what countries' codes it has broken.

That may make a prosecution more feasible, from the point of view of protecting secrets during a trial. But because the articles in question documented government failures and weaknesses, the decision to prosecute could raise questions about whether the government is merely moving to protect itself from legitimate public scrutiny.

Ms. Dalglish, the press advocate, said Ms. Gorman's N.S.A. articles exposed "a multibillion-dollar boondoggle that was of great interest to Congress." She called the articles "important public-interest reporting."

MORE:

**“They Protect The Most Profound
Bush Crimes Based On The
Presidential Decree Of ‘Look
Forward, Not Backward’”**

**“They Chose This Whistle-Blower To
Prosecute”**

**“The Full Weight Of The ‘Justice System’
Comes Crashing Down With Threats Of
Many Years In Prison”**

Apr 16, 2010 By Glenn Greenwald, Salon.com [Excerpts]

During the Bush years, in the wake of the NSA scandal, I used to write post after post about how warped and dangerous it was that the Bush DOJ was protecting the people who criminally spied on Americans (Bush, Cheney Michael Hayden) while simultaneously threatening to prosecute the whistle-blowers who exposed misconduct.

But the Bush DOJ never actually followed through on those menacing threats; no NSA whistle-blowers were indicted during Bush's term (though several were threatened).

It took the election of Barack Obama for that to happen, as his handpicked Assistant Attorney General publicly boasted yesterday of the indictment against Drake.

Most discussions yesterday suggested that Drake's leaks to The Baltimore Sun's Sibohan Gorman were about waste and mismanagement in the "Trailblazer" project rather than controversial NSA spying activities, but that's not entirely accurate.

[A] May 18, 2006, article by Gorman, describe[es] how and why the NSA opted for the "Trailblazer" proposal over the privacy-protecting "Thin Thread" program, in the process discarding key privacy protections designed to ensure that the NSA would not eavesdrop on the domestic calls of U.S. citizens.

In that article -- which really should be read to get a sense for the whistle-blowing that is being punished by the DOJ -- Gorman described at length how then-NSA head Michael Hayden rejected technologies that could "rapidly separate and encrypt U.S.-related communications to ensure privacy" and "that monitored potential abuse of the records."

As she put it: "Once President Bush gave the go-ahead for the NSA to secretly gather and analyze domestic phone records -- an authorization that carried no stipulations about identity protection -- agency officials regarded the encryption as an unnecessary step and rejected it."

It's not hyperbole to say that Bush's decision to use the NSA to spy domestically on American citizens was one of the most significant stories of this generation.

It was long recognized that turning the NSA inward was one of the greatest dangers to freedom, as Sen. Frank Church warned back in 1975, after he investigated America's secret surveillance apparatus: "That capability at any time could be turned around on the American people and no American would have any privacy left, such is the capability to monitor everything: telephone conversations, telegrams, it doesn't matter. There would be no place to hide."

And then there's the massive fraud and waste which Gorman also exposed as a result of Drake's whistle-blowing.

The primary focus of her stories was that the Trailblazer project turned into a massive, billion-dollar "boondoggle" which vastly exceeded its original estimates, sucked up enormous amounts of the post-9/11 intelligence budget explosion, and produced very little of value.

But look at the coalition of corporations which was contracted to develop this Trailblazer project, the familiar cast of Surveillance State interests who were the recipients of the "boondoggle" which Gorman and Drake exposed:

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) today announced a contract award from the National Security Agency to be the provider of the technology demonstration platform phase of the TRAILBLAZER program.

The TDP phase of the TRAILBLAZER program is currently estimated at \$280 million and will be performed over a period of 26 months.

The NSA selected the SAIC-led Digital Network Intelligence Enterprise team that includes Northrop Grumman, Booz Allen Hamilton, The Boeing Company, Computer Sciences Corporation and SAIC wholly-owned subsidiary Telcordia Technologies to contribute to the modernization of the NSA's signals intelligence capabilities.

Think about to whose interests the Obama DOJ is devoted given that -- while they protect the most profound Bush crimes based on the Presidential decree of "Look Forward, Not Backward" -- they chose this whistle-blower to prosecute (and Drake, incidentally, is apparently impoverished, as he's been assigned a Public Defender to represent him).

In the process, of course, the Obama DOJ also intimidates and deters future whistle-blowers from exposing what they know, thus further suffocating one of the very few remaining mechanisms Americans have to learn about what takes place behind the virtually impenetrable Wall of Secrecy surrounding the Surveillance State -- a Wall of Secrecy which the Obama administration, through its promiscuous use of "state secrets" and immunity claims, has relentlessly fortified and expanded.

Anyone who doubts that whistle-blower prosecutions like this are intended to prevent any further disclosures of wrongdoing should simply review the 2008 Pentagon report which identified WikiLeaks as a major threat to the U.S. and proposed that exposure and prosecution of their sources would crush their ability to obtain further leaks.

Instead, here you have the Obama DOJ in all its glory: no prosecutions (but rather full-scale immunity extended) for war crimes, torture, and illegal spying.

For those crimes, we must Look Forward, Not Backward.

But for those poor individuals who courageously blow the whistle on oozing corruption, waste and illegal surveillance by the omnipotent public-private Surveillance State: the full weight of the "justice system" comes crashing down upon them with threats of many years in prison.

**LOYAL TOOL OF THE RICH AND POWERFUL:
UNFIT FOR COMMAND;
UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE:
DOMESTIC ENEMY OF THE LIBERTIES OF
AMERICAN CITIZENS**



Obama March 10, 2010. REUTERS/Jim Young

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS



RECEIVED:

#1: Phenomenal IVAW On YouTube

From: Pham Binh, Editorial Board, Traveling Soldier

Sent: Apr 14, 2010

To: Military Resistance

Subject: IVAW on YouTube [Iraq Veterans Against the War (www.ivaw.org/)]

Can you put the following links from the IVAW Winter Soldier testimonials (plus combat scenes, some of which are very graphic) in the next Military Resistance? The vids are really phenomenal.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UAKNYSxb7_8

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35qD4ytZsIE>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSiXD8qNPI8>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ROBOpaqUv8>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6-68-AqKqY>

#2: “I Really Hope, That Obama Will Blast Another Tower In Your Fucking Country, While You Are Sitting In It, Buddy”

From: CN: cn@online.de [Germany]
Sent: Apr 4, 2010 7:16 PM
To: Military Resistance
Subject: Are u American with islamic roots?

I don't know exactly, who is responsible for your site.

And I am really able to understand people, who don't like any kind of war and violence generally.

But at least I really hope, that Obama will blast another tower in your fucking country, while you are sitting in it, buddy.

CN

From: Military Resistance
To: CN
Sent: April 05, 2010
Subject: Re: Are u American with islamic roots?

Thanks for sending your letter of 4.4.2010

In order to reply, please indicate which article in which publication is referenced in your letter.

[No reply. No doubt too busy foaming at the mouth.

[To answer the reader's question: Sorry, no Islamic roots available here. but the graphic following may be helpful in your search. T]



Islamic roots: Archivo Iconografico, S.A./Corbis

#3: GI's Low Opinion Of The Afghan Army: "It Was As Yogi Said, Deja Vu Again"

From: Sharlet, Robert
To: Military Resistance
Sent: March 29, 2010

I wasn't surprised today that O made a secret trip to Afghan.

When a prez sends men to die, he certainly has an obligation to pay them a visit before they come to harm.

As I read your latest about GI's low opinion of the Afghan army, it was as Yogi said, deja vu again -- Korea and the ROK army, and of course VN and the corrupt and hapless ARVN.

REPLY: T

There is some family history in this comment from Robert Sharlet.

His brother, Jeff Sharlet, produced Vietnam GI newspaper: see the following:

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.

Checks, money orders payable to: The Military Project

**Orders to:
Military Resistance
Box 126
2576 Broadway
New York, N.Y.
10025-5657**

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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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/)



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