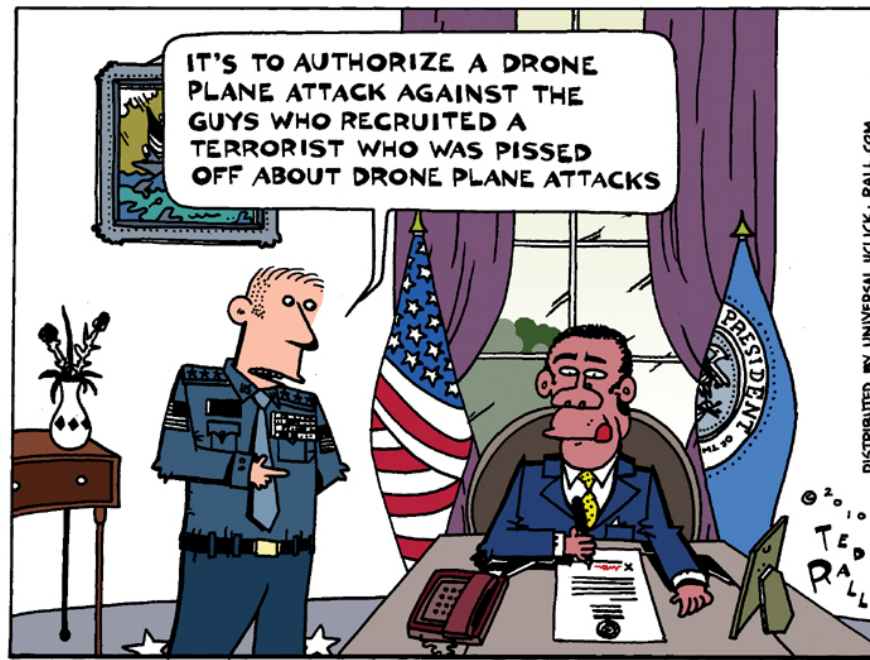


Military Resistance 8E9



How Bad Is It?
In 120 Districts The Pentagon
“Views As Critical To
Afghanistan’s Future Stability”
“The Government Has Full Control
In Fewer Than A Half Dozen”
U.S. Army “Has Given Up Ground To
The Insurgents In Some Areas”

U.S. Col. Says The Karzai Government Is “Rotten” And Civilians “Help The Insurgents Who Attack It

5.13.10 By ALISSA J. RUBIN, New York Times [Excerpts]

JALALABAD, Afghanistan — Nearly a year into a new war strategy for Afghanistan, the hardest fighting is still ahead, but already it is clear that the biggest challenge lies not on the battlefield but in the governing of Afghanistan itself.

In 120 districts that the Pentagon views as critical to Afghanistan's future stability, only a quarter of residents view the government positively.

And the government has full control in fewer than a half dozen of these districts.

Even as American troops clear areas of militants, they find either no government to fill the vacuum, as in Marja, or entrenched power brokers, like President Karzai's brother in Kandahar, who monopolize NATO contracts and other development projects and are resented by large portions of the population.

In still other places, government officials rarely show up at work and do little to help local people, and in most places the Afghan police are incapable of providing security. Corruption, big and small, remains an overwhelming complaint.

Col. Randy George of the Fourth Brigade Combat Team, Fourth Infantry Division, who has responsibility for the four easternmost provinces, tries to build relationships with tribal leaders in most of his territory, at gatherings called shuras, although he has given up ground to the insurgents in some areas.

The strategy inevitably means allowing the insurgents some havens, as long as those are in sparsely populated areas where the insurgents are unlikely to have much impact. Colonel George said he hoped that if he could embolden Afghan citizens to combat corruption in the more populated river valleys and provincial towns in their areas, they would at least create a government they could support, rather than help the insurgents who attack it.

“Part of that is making sure that we are continuing to connect the Afghan people to the Afghan government as a whole, and when you've got a rotten piece of that, the people don't want to connect to it,” he said.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

“We’ve Been Getting Mortared At Night”

**“‘When We Were Briefed It Was Almost Like A Peacekeeping Mission,’ Said Sgt. Mark L. Norfleet”
“But, He Said, ‘There’s No Peace In Iraq’”**



The New York Times

May 14, 2010 By TIM ARANGO, New York Times [Excerpts]

ASH SHURA, Iraq — Technically, American soldiers have stopped fighting in Iraq. **[Below, the writer notes what the actual rules of engagement are, contradicting this preposterous bullshit, which has nothing to do with either reality or the agreement between the occupation and the Maliki regime. T]**

But they can fire back when attacked, which happens frequently in this village of wheat and barley farmers, as well as an uncomfortable number of Baathist insurgents. **[This reporter must have been locked up in some cave for the past 6 years. Nobody has been writing for the Times about “Baathist insurgents’ since Rumsfeld got kicked to the curb.]**

So much so that, while United States troops in nearly all other parts of the nation are quietly preparing to withdraw, soldiers stationed here are fighting what looks, for now, like the last American combat in the seven-year war in Iraq. **[More too-cute phrase making, having nothing to do with reality. Later in this piece, he mentions two U.S. soldiers “from a different company” recently killed by an IED who were definitely not “stationed here.” Or maybe the reporter doesn’t consider that “combat.”]**

“They only attack Americans,” said Capt. Russell B. Thomas, the commander of Alpha Company of the First Battalion of the Third Infantry Division’s Second Brigade.

In most of the country, the Iraqi Army and the police are the visible face of security, with Americans largely out of public view. Not here.

In this village, the Iraqi security forces are more thinly staffed than elsewhere in the country, **[The bullshit continues in a ceaseless flow. “More thinly staffed” than the Anbar desert? Than the marshlands of the south? Silly man. What he is concealing with this lie is that the resistance is stronger in proportion to collaborator forces in this particular area.]** and a liberal interpretation **[!]** of the security agreement that binds Iraq and the United States has Americans playing a more active role on the streets and in the scrublands of this village, than in many places in Iraq.

“There is no battalion right now in Iraq that has this lethal fight,” said Lt. Col. Richard R. Coffman, commander of the First Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, of the Third Infantry Division’s Second Brigade.

Either way, the operations make clear that Americans are involved in combat operations here more than elsewhere in Iraq.

Under the security agreement, Americans can act unilaterally only to protect themselves. Otherwise they are required to work with Iraqi security forces and at their request.

Here, where the danger is still high, the lines of the agreement blur a bit. **[The lines between being an honorable journalist and being a slimy propagandist for the Pentagon can also “blur a bit.” Calling what’s going on below “blurring a bit” is not far from calling a rape an “overenthusiastic courtship.”]**

“I thought we wouldn’t be able to go anywhere without an Iraqi vehicle with us,” said Captain Thomas, 28, from Eagle Lake, Tex.

“In the spirit of the agreement I always have an I.S.F. personnel with us.” He was using the military abbreviation for Iraqi security forces.

Often, a group of American soldiers heading on patrol will stop and pick up an Iraqi soldier from an adjacent base to accompany them, or will link up with a police officer in the village.

In the darkness, marksmen crouch in tall reeds near a berm alongside the railroad tracks, watching spots where militants have been laying bombs.

In daylight, soldiers visit Iraqi police checkpoints, questioning and frisking drivers and searching trunks, hoping their presence disrupts militants who have been shooting mortars at their outpost.

“We’re the battalion that never sleeps,” Colonel Coffman said.

On one recent patrol they handed out small grants to local businesses — \$1,000 or so to a bakery or shop.

On another, they walked through the village, stopping at the home of someone suspected of being an insurgent. [How odd. The reporter doesn't report what, exactly, happened to the "suspect."]

During the same patrol, they visited metal workers about building soccer bleachers.

Their presence in the village, though, had a more urgent purpose.

"We've been getting mortared at night," Captain Thomas said. "I think they're going to switch to daytime. This will let them know that daytime isn't good to go."

[Leaving aside the fact that no explanation is offered of how, exactly, a visit to a village is supposed to stop insurgents from opening up daytime mortar attacks when the occupation troops are not in the village, the reporter evidently thinks it unimportant to discuss the significance of the fact that U.S. forces are helpless to stop the night mortar attacks and only focus on some effort to stop the beginning of day mortar attacks. Duh.]

Since arriving in November, the company here has faced attack — from mortars, roadside bombs or rifles — once every two or three days.

No soldiers have died.

One is being treated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington for wounds.

Two soldiers from the same battalion, but from a different company at a base east of here, were killed last month when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device.

Purple Hearts have been awarded, and many have qualified for Combat Action Badges.

For almost 40 percent of the company, it is the first time in Iraq. For one, it is the fifth.

"When we were briefed it was almost like a peacekeeping mission," said Sgt. Mark L. Norfleet, 30, from Uniontown, Ala., referring to the briefing before his current deployment.

But, he said, "There's no peace in Iraq."

[Finally, an honest man tells the truth. Respect to Sgt. Norfleet.]

MORE:

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

U.S. Occupation Commands' Stupid Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops In Ash Shura



A foreign occupation armed forces member from the USA looking for traces of explosives puts his hands on an Iraqi citizen without consent at a checkpoint in Ash Shura. Photo: Joao Silva for The New York Times

Iraqi citizens have no right to resist body searches by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

Foreign occupation soldiers from the USA make a daily practice of publicly humiliating Iraqi citizens.

This encourages self-respecting honorable Iraqi to kill them.

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 92,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can harass people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign."]

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country.]

[What a bunch of silly people.]

[How fortunate they are to live under a military occupation run by Barack Obama.]

[Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

Resistance Action

May 13 (Reuters) + May 14 (Reuters) + May 15 (Reuters)

Two Iraqi soldiers were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near their patrol 30 km (20 miles) south of Mosul, police said.

Armed men using silenced weapons killed a policeman and a civilian security guard in central Falluja, 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol wounded two soldiers in southwestern Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A car bomber targeted a joint U.S.-Iraqi patrol on the main road from Baghdad to Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of the capital, wounding a policeman, police said.

A sticky bomb attached to a police officer's car seriously wounded the officer, in southern Mosul, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol wounded five policemen, in central Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb killed two soldiers and wounded seven when they tried to defuse it in Mahmudiya, about 30 km (20 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Thursday; Nationality Not Announced

May 14 AP & ISAF

A foreign servicemember died following an IED strike in southern Afghanistan yesterday.

U.S. “Servicemember” Killed Sunday Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan

May 16 AP

A U.S. service member was killed Sunday following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan, NATO said.

Alliance spokesman Col. Wayne Shanks confirmed an American died Sunday but declined to provide details, pending notification of the family of the service member.

Missouri Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

May 15, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 397-10

Spc. Denis D. Kisseloff, 45, of Saint Charles, Mo., died May 14 at Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit using rocket propelled grenade and small arms fires. He was assigned to the 1141st Engineer Company, Kansas City, Mo.

Canadian Soldier Killed Near Nakhonay

May 14, 2010 CBC News

A Canadian soldier who was killed just two days away from finishing his tour in Afghanistan is on his way home after an emotional ramp ceremony at the Kandahar Airfield Friday.

Pte. Kevin McKay, 24, was killed Thursday by an improvised explosive device while on foot patrol southwest of Kandahar city.

McKay was killed around 8 p.m. local time Thursday while on patrol near the village of Nakhonay in the Panjwai District, about 15 kilometres southwest of Kandahar city, military officials said.

Two Vt. Soldiers Wounded In Afghanistan

March 31, 2010 WPTZ

Fifteen hundred Vermont soldiers now on the ground in Afghanistan are finding the mission every bit the challenge their commanders expected.

Two soldiers have been wounded by enemy fire in the last week, the Guard said. Both are expected to recover fully.

3 Polish Soldiers Wounded In Ghazni

16/05/2010 The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland - Poland's Defence Ministry says three soldiers have been hospitalized with injuries after their patrol came under fire in central Afghanistan.

Ministry spokesman Janusz Sejmej said Sunday that the soldiers' injuries were not life threatening.

He said their armoured vehicles came under fire some 12 miles (20 kilometres) away from their base Saturday in central Ghazni province. The soldiers are hospitalized in the town of Ghazni.

Three Interpreters Working For U.S. Military Captured And Killed

May 16, 2010 By Rod Nordland, The New York Times

KABUL, Afghanistan — A Taliban spokesman boasted yesterday that the group had captured and killed four Afghan interpreters, one on his wedding day, apparently because they worked for the U.S. military and a Western contractor.

The spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, confirmed accounts by villagers in Khost province that the Taliban had captured six members of a wedding party when they went to the Afghan-Pakistani border to escort the bride to the ceremony. She had been living in Pakistan.

Mujahid, reached by cell phone, said the Taliban found the four interpreters guilty of working as informers for "foreign forces" and executed them Friday; the Taliban deemed the other two to be innocent and released them, he said.

Nawab, an Afghan army commander who like many Afghans uses only one name, said the Taliban had killed the four men after abducting them from the wedding procession Thursday night and taking them to Pakistan. Their bodies were found the next morning in the Spina Palla region, on the Afghan side of the border.

Villagers in the Alisher District of Khost province identified the bodies and said that one of the dead, Lal Badshah, who worked as an interpreter at the coalition's Forward Operating Base Salerno, was the groom.

Two others, including Badshah's brother, Yaqoot Shah, worked for the U.S. military, while the fourth victim worked for a construction company in Kabul.

Two Occupation Helicopters Down; “Several” Occupation Troops Injured: Under “Harassing Gunfire From Insurgents,” Attempt To Repair One Fails

May 15 By Rahim Faiez, The Associated Press & May 16, 2010 By Rod Nordland, The New York Times

In southern Afghanistan, two coalition helicopters that had been disabled were recovered Friday. **[Really? Then why, below, does the report say one “was destroyed on the site by force members” “apparently to prevent it from falling into insurgents’ hands”? “Recovered” and “destroyed” have rather different meanings.]**

One had a hard landing in Kandahar province Friday, causing injuries to several coalition and Afghan military personnel, according to a statement from NATO’s International Security Assistance Force.

It was destroyed on the site by force members, the military said, apparently to prevent it from falling into insurgents’ hands.

The second helicopter was damaged on landing, but no one was injured; members of the NATO force tried to repair it despite harassing gunfire from insurgents but were unable to do so, the military said.

Instead, it was lashed to the underside of another helicopter and lifted out of the area, the force said.

A Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousaf, said insurgents shot down a helicopter in Kandahar’s Arghandab district on Friday.

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

Great Moments In U.S. Military History: The Night Raid Massacre In Koshkaky:

“Villagers Described The Dead As Civilians, Including Five Members Of One Family And Four From Another”



Local residents and relatives gather around the bodies of civilians killed in an overnight raid by U.S. forces, at Surkh Rod, Afghanistan, May 14, 2010. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)

05/16/10 By JASON MOTLAGH, Time Magazine & May 14, 2010 By Laura King, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

KOSHKAKY:

Nazir Ahmad says he heard gunfire coming from a guardhouse in the early hours of Friday, outside the large adobe compound he shares with nine other families.

Thinking that thieves were trespassing, he and several men ran into the ink-black courtyard, where they were struck down by grenade explosions and gunfire.

“They were shooting lasers,” says Ahmad, 35, confusing the laser-sights on his assailants’ weapons with actual bullets.

Shrapnel flew into his cheek and hit his 18-month-old daughter in the back. A neighboring family fared even worse: within seconds, a father and four sons lay dead.

Local witnesses interviewed by TIME say the nighttime raid by U.S. forces killed eight residents of this sun-baked farming village in eastern Afghanistan.

Villagers described the dead as civilians, including five members of one family and four from another.

The killings triggered a stone-throwing demonstration by villagers who tried to march toward the provincial capital, Jalalabad.

The protesters paraded the bodies of some of the dead, burned an American flag and shouted anti-Western [translation: anti-foreign military occupation] slogans.

Mohammad Siddiq Bismil says its normal for isolated farmers to keep weapons on their property, and when they heard gunfire, he says, several men gathered their rifles and two Kalashnikovs - for which they had permits - and fired several shots in the air as a warning.

Seconds later, some of these men were gunned down by soldiers who had scaled 15-foot walls on several sides and blasted through a rusty gate.

“Instead of announcing themselves, they shot first,” Bismil claims.

When the dust settled, villagers said they were held inside the compound and interrogated until after dawn by American and Afghan soldiers.

They maintained that they had no idea who Qari Shamsudin was, the alleged Taliban sub-commander.

Their rifles and cell phones were confiscated, they alleged, and two injured men, said to be truck drivers, were taken away.

Though reporters were not allowed inside the family compound to explore the scene of the shootings because women were mourning in the courtyard, dried streaks of blood and broken glass still peppered the ground outside. Bullet holes were visible in car windshields.

A short drive down the road back to Jalalabad, a gaggle of young men gathered at a cemetery around one of five fresh graves, palms opened in prayer. Assadullah, a 19-year-old student, listed the names of his former neighbors, the father and his sons from the village: Sayid Rahim, Shafiullah, Shams, Zikruddin, Rasul Khan.

“These are our brothers, not Taliban,” he says, “The U.S. is telling lies. We will fight the Taliban, and (the Americans) too, if we must.”

MORE:

**Civilian Killed For Joining Thousands
Protesting Killing Of Civilians:
“We Will Burn The Whole District, We
Don’t Want Americans, We Don’t Want
The Government”**



Villagers burn a U.S. flag during a protest against US raid which killed 11 civilians overnight, at Surkhrod district, in Nangarhar province May 14, 2010. REUTERS/Parwiz

May 14, 2010 Reuters

A civilian was shot dead in eastern Afghanistan on Friday after police fired at thousands of villagers protesting against NATO raids which they said killed 11 civilians overnight, a local official said.

A Reuters reporter in Surkhrod district in Nangarhar province, where villagers said the raids took place, said Afghan police fired at the crowd after some of them started throwing stones at local government buildings.

Haji Jamal, head of the local provincial council, told Reuters one of the protesters had been shot dead.

Earlier, the crowd dragged out the bodies of dead civilians they said had been killed in the raids, demanding an explanation from NATO over the deaths.

Ali Khan, who lives next door to the homes which were raided said he heard helicopters landed at about 1am (8:30am NZT).

“And then the gunshots started. We were terrified and we couldn’t come outside,” he told Reuters.

“Dozens of Afghan and foreign troops raided three homes and we found out in the morning that nine people were killed and two others are missing,” Khan said.

“We will burn the whole district, we don’t want Americans, we don’t want the government” Hafiz Gul, one of the demonstrators, said.

Resistance Action

May 15 By Rahim Faiez, The Associated Press & May 16, 2010 Xinhua via COMTEX & The New York Times

Taliban militants attacked a local official in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province Sunday, leaving the official injured and his driver dead, police said.

Local Taliban group claimed of responsibility for the operation. A man identified himself as Qari Yusuf Ahmadi talked with media, through telephone from undisclosed location, and declared that they punished the official for him serving government.

"Unidentified armed men riding a motorbike opened fire on the car of Abdul Ghafar in 4th precinct of Kandahar city this morning as a result Ghafar was injured and his driver was killed," provincial police chief Sardar Mohammad Zazai told Xinhua.

The attackers made their good escape, he added.

A local official on the condition of anonymity said that Ghafar served as official with National Security Directorate.

Five Afghan security guards escorting a fuel-truck convoy for foreign occupation forces on the main highway in eastern Ghazni province Friday were killed in an ambush by insurgents, who also set three trucks ablaze, according to a statement from the Interior Ministry.

In southern Zabul province, a bridge was blown up on a highway linking it with neighbouring Kandahar province, according to Mohammad Jan Rasoolyar, spokesman for provincial governor of Zabul. Traffic was being diverted around the explosion site in Shahrāsafa district. No one was injured.

A bomber detonated his cache of explosives late Sunday near the gate of an Afghan Border Police residence in Kandahar. Zelmani Ayubi, spokesman for the provincial governor of Kandahar, said at least four border policemen were wounded in the attack.

**The Corrupt, Thieving, Friend Of Drug Lords Who Runs Kandahar Tells The Absolute Truth:
"He Describes Himself As The 'Nancy Pelosi Of Kandahar'"**

May 11 By Dion Nissenbaum, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — While President Barack Obama works this week to repair his battered relationship with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, anger over his administration's decision to embrace the Afghan leader's half-brother threatens to undermine the U.S. campaign to purge the Taliban from southern Afghanistan's largest city.

Persistent allegations that Ahmed Wali Karzai has built a regional empire by working with major drug dealers, overseeing a feared militia, seizing land to build lucrative developments and intimidating political opponents have shaken but not eliminated international support for him.

“If they send one million soldiers to Kandahar and Ahmed Wali is still here, it will not improve the security situation,” said a retired teacher in Kandahar who, like most Afghans interviewed about the president's half-brother, agreed to talk only if their identities were kept secret so Karzai couldn't try to punish his critics.

Ahmed Wali Karzai has gone out of his way in recent weeks to deliver a cooperative message to the international community.

He describes himself as the “Nancy Pelosi of Kandahar,” a crucial dealmaker capable of working with allies and rivals to stabilize Afghanistan.

To drive home the importance of gaining Ahmed Wali Karzai's cooperation, the head of the U.S. Central Command, Army Gen. David Petraeus, met with the Kandahar leader during a visit to Afghanistan two weeks ago.

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

**U.S. Occupation Commands'
Stupid Tactic Of Groping Afghan
Teen Boys Will Recruit Even More
Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops:**

[Good News For The Afghan Resistance!!]



A foreign occupation armed forces member from the USA puts his hands on the body of an Afghan teen boy without consent during a patrol in Afghanistan's Kandahar province, May 9, 2010. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)

Afghani teen boys have no right to resist occupation soldiers from the USA who feel up their bodies. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

Foreign occupation soldiers from the USA make a daily practice of publicly humiliating Afghan citizens and their children.

This encourages self-respecting honorable Afghans to kill them.

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 80,000 Afghan troops over here to the USA.

[They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, bomb and butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in a military prison endlessly without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.

[Those Afghans are sure a bunch of backward primitives.

[They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship killing them wholesale, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country.

[What a bunch of silly people.

[How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by Barrack Obama.

[Why, how could anybody not love that?

[You'd want that in your home town, right?]

BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: PACK UP GO HOME



Soldiers from the U.S. Army's 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team at an Afghan National Police (ANP) compound in Helmand April 26, 2010. REUTERS/Tim Wimborne



U.S. Marines from 6th Marines during a patrol in the area of Karez-e-Sayyidi, on the outskirts of Marjah district, Helmand province, May 2, 2010. REUTERS/Asmaa Waguih



An U.S. Army soldier with 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, part of the 82nd Airborne Division, during a patrol in Arghandab valley near Kandahar, in southern Afghanistan May 5, 2010. REUTERS/Yannis Behrakis

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Attack Parliament Building: Their Reinforcements Flood Mogadishu

May 15, 2010 & May 16, 2010 Mareeg

The Islamist rebels fighting against the Somali government attacked mortars to the house of the Somali parliament on Sunday, witnesses say.

The African Union troops protecting the Somali government responded heavier artillery shelling which killed several civilians in Bakaro market in Mogadishu.

The legislators are having session in the former parliament house in Mogadishu which was repaired recently.

The businesses in the main Mogadishu market of Bakaro have been closed and fire has caught some business places in the market after mortars hit in the area.

Hundreds of al Shabaab newly, trained fighters have reached the Somali capital Mogadishu on Saturday, witnesses say.

Officials from al Shabaab group said seven hundred fighters who were recently trained in towns in southern Somalia reached the capital to reinforce their fighters fighting in Mogadishu.

Residents who reside along the road that connects Mogadishu and Afgoye, a town 30 km south of Mogadishu, said they saw hundreds of al Shabaab militias armed to the teeth pouring towards the capital.

Vehicles mounted with anti aircraft machine guns known as technicals or battle wagons were escorting the militias.

The group is fighting for to topple the fragile government led by President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and also to force the African Union troops to withdraw from the capital Mogadishu.

TROOP NEWS

The Butchers Inspect Their Work



5.13.10: Gates, Karzai and McChrystal inspect their work product at Arlington National Military Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia. 28(AFPTV)

Number Of Soldiers Seeking Opiate Abuse Treatment Skyrockets

**“It Leaped 50% Last Year When The
U.S. Began Surging Troops Into
Afghanistan”**

**“It’s Inevitable. ... It’s Available. It’s Right
There”**



A US Marine picks up rounds of ammunition and opium found in a market in Mian Poshteh, Afghanistan, 07/04/09. (photo: AFP)

May 6th, 2010 By Judson Berger, FOX News

The number of American soldiers seeking treatment for opiate abuse has skyrocketed over the past five years, at a time when the U.S. military has been surging forces into the heart of the world’s leading opium producer.

Pentagon statistics obtained by FoxNews.com show that the number of Army soldiers enrolled in Substance Abuse Program counseling for opiates has soared nearly 500 percent -- from 89 in 2004 to 529 last year.

The number showed a steady increase almost every year in that time frame -- but it leaped 50 percent last year when the U.S. began surging troops into Afghanistan. Army troop levels in Afghanistan went from 14,000 as of the end of 2004 to 46,400 as of the end of 2009.

Lt. Col. Christopher Garver, a U.S. Army spokesman, said the military has been monitoring the uptick and is “concerned about it.” He said the numbers reflect use not only of heroin, but of prescription drugs, that the abuse may not be “directly correlated to

previous deployments,” and that the increase could reflect an increase in reporting abuse -- not just drug use itself.

But the abundance and accessibility of heroin in Afghanistan surely account for part of the jump, said Lt. Col. Tony Shaffer, an Army Reserve officer who served in Afghanistan from 2003 to 2004.

Shaffer said heroin abuse had “started to get out of hand” when he was in the country. He said a “black market” existed where troops on U.S. bases would trade goods to local Afghans in exchange for heroin.

“It sounds like it kind of went way beyond that,” he said after learning about the statistics. “It’s inevitable. ... It’s available. It’s right there.”

Shaffer, who now works with the Center for Advanced Defense Studies, said the availability of the product combined with high stress levels from multiple tours of duty amounts to a dangerous mix that can lead to hard drug abuse.

The opiate-use statistics were first obtained by the watchdog group Judicial Watch, which requested them through a Freedom of Information Act inquiry and provided them to FoxNews.com. The Army confirmed the authenticity of the report.

Chris Farrell, director of investigation with Judicial Watch and a former Army intelligence officer, said he sought the data to see what kind of impact Afghanistan’s locally produced drug supply may be having on U.S. troops.

“This whole situation detracts, obviously, from mission readiness,” he said, noting that actual hard drug use is probably far higher than the numbers show.

CHECK OUT THE NEW ISSUE OF TRAVELING SOLDIER JUST POSTED

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS29.pdf>

THIS ISSUE FEATURING:

THE UNFAIR TREATMENT OF SINGLE SOLDIERS:

“The Army Treats All Single Soldiers As If They Were Children”

By: SGT. I.T.A.

ARMY LIFE: STUPID IN COMMAND

By Soldier R, Traveling Soldier Correspondent

Reporting from Germany

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/>

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization

The Traitor Gates Wants Cuts In Veterans Health Care Benefits: Worthless Piece Of Shit Says “They Must Foot A Bigger Share Of The Bill”



[rosettasisister.files.wordpress.com]

[Does he propose cutting his own platinum health care benefits? Does he propose cutting health care benefits for his own DoD senior executives? T]

May 8 By Andrea Stone, AOL News Correspondent

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates on Saturday called for cutting weapons programs, reining in vets' health care costs and reducing the number of generals in the ranks.

Besides canceling costly procurement programs, Gates advocated:

Cuts in military health care spending:

“Leaving aside the sacred obligation we have to America’s wounded warriors, health care costs are eating the Defense Department alive,” Gates said.

At a time when civilians are seeing their premiums and co-pays go up by double digits, all proposals for “modest increases” by the Pentagon have “been met with a furious response from the Congress and veterans groups” and have gone on to “routinely die an ignominious death on Capitol Hill,” he said.

He suggested that despite the “admirable sentiment” in protecting veterans from higher health care costs, they must foot a bigger share of the bill.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

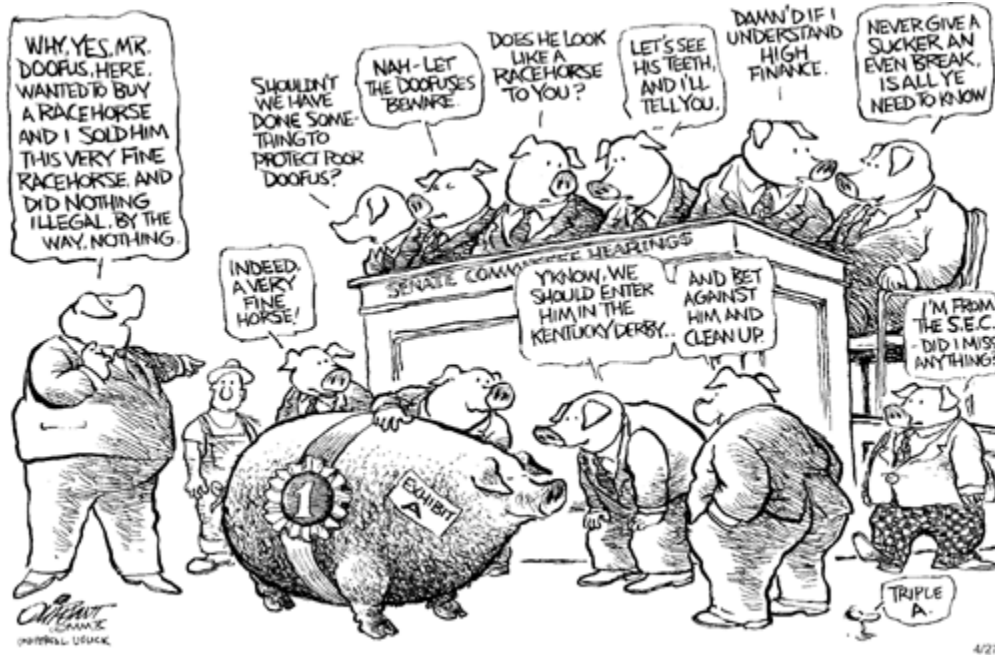
Unconquered Unconquerable



A Palestinian boy uses a sling-shot against Zionist soldiers during a demonstration against the expansion of Zionist settlements in the West Bank village of Iraq Burin, near Nablus, occupied Palestine, May 15, 2010. REUTERS/Abed Omar Qusini

[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



CLASS WAR REPORTS



Puerto Rico: The Fire Spreads: “The UPR Students’ Strike Has Set An Example That Struck A Chord With Much Larger Numbers Of Puerto Ricans”

“The Growing Support For The Strike, Not Only Among Students, But Among Unions And Across The Working Population, Shows That The Occupation Is A Force To Contend With”

May 11, 2010 By Héctor Tarrido-Picart, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

WHAT STARTED as a 48-hour student takeover of the University of Puerto Rico’s (UPR) Río Piedras campus last month has turned into an ongoing occupation and strike--one that has captured the attention and imagination of not only unions and politicians, but the country as a whole.

The striking students are fighting a series of initiatives by which the university administration intends to balance a budget gap of \$100 million on the backs of the majority working-class students at UPR.

Many of the administrators’ measures are contained in Certification 98--under which tuition waivers would be eliminated or limited, and guarantees against tuition increases and privatization of services would be overturned.

The students are also fighting for UPR’s Brotherhood of Non-Teaching and Exempt Personnel (HEENDA, by its Spanish initials) and the Puerto Rican Association of University Professors (APPU, by its Spanish initials), which face the threat of layoffs, cuts in health care coverage and pensions, and a freeze and possible cuts in wages.

In return, the unions have expressed solidarity with students by showing up to the university gates and picket lines to show support and providing food as the occupation progresses.

On April 23, the action at the university, originally planned for two days, escalated after UPR President José Ramón de la Torre, Río Piedras’ campus rector Ana Guadalupe

Quiñones and the UPR Board of Trustees refused to meet with the strike negotiation committee that was democratically elected by the student body in Río Piedras.

The indefinite strike that began on the 23rd was an escalation of tactics by the students.

The university administration claims there is no other way to resolve the massive budget gap except with cuts.

The students, along with the APPU and HEEND, on the other hand, refuse to accept that the austerity measures proposed by the administration are the only solutions to the problem.

For one thing, students point out tens of millions of dollars have been set aside in the budget to fund expensive dinner parties, special galas and other non-academic events--showing not only the level of opulence that administrators are used to, but also their detachment from the reality for the majority of working-class students.

The students are also demanding that the board of trustees open the account books so that a transparent assessment of the budget can be made. This reflects students' mistrust of the administration and the government--and for good reason: last year, a significant number of public-sector workers were wrongfully laid off due to "accounting errors."

The students have put forward a proposal to address how the budget crisis could be solved, but the Board of Trustees, after sitting down for an initial meeting, made no comments on the proposals.

Giovanni Roberto Caez, a spokesperson for the students' negotiating committee, said that Puerto Rico's Gov. Luis Fortuño "and the government should tax the pharmaceutical companies and the rich to provide the funds to cover the budget cut."

The pressure on government officials has been growing, which led Fortuño to denounce the striking students in a televised address to the Puerto Rican Congress.

Calling the students a minority that was asking for too much, the governor then embarked on a discussion of finances which, according to students, revealed that the government has cut funding for UPR to a level below what is stipulated by the colonial commonwealth constitution.

Students rightly identify the cut as connected to Law 7, the so-called Fiscal Emergency Law, which prompted massive layoffs of public-sector workers and proposes to privatize a sizable section of the publicly owned state industries.

Fortuño's intention with his speech was to intimidate the students into backing off from their demands. But the students responded with a strong statement, confirming their militancy and their determination.

Victor Rodriguez, spokesperson for the Union of Socialist Youth in the UPR, said: "Fortuño is wrong if he thinks that he is successfully intimidating and threatening us. They are not going to remove us."

THE STUDENTS have framed the conflict as an attack on a public institution and the right to affordable education.

This has tilted public sentiment in their favor and explains why the strike has been received with a high degree of solidarity on other UPR campuses and beyond.

As sociology student Fernando Nieves said to Primera Hora: "This struggle is not only ours, it's also for each and every worker that has been laid-off by the government."

Thus, the call put forward by the Río Piedras students for other campuses to join the strike has spread like wildfire to the other 11 branches of UPR.

As of this article's writing, the UPRs in Ponce, Humacao, Carolina, Cayey, Bayamón, Mayagüez, Utuado and Arecibo joined the Río Piedras students on an indefinite strike, and the other three of the 11 campuses held a two-day solidarity strike.

There are also reports that students at private universities, including Ana G. Mendez University, are also taking action in solidarity. Some are joining the UPR students in the occupation, in a recognition that their universities may end up with high levels of debt.

The strike has also been welcomed internationally. In the U.S., a statement by CUNY students in New York City pointed out that they were facing the same austerity measures, while Wall Street and the big banks get a bailout. Students from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and the University of Bern in Switzerland have sent letters of solidarity--the students in Bern staged a two-day solidarity strike in support of UPR students.

This strike has had the highest level of participation and support in many years--not even the 2005 strike at UPR against tuition hikes can match it. The students have even organized two new low-frequency AM radio stations to communicate and entertain the students and supporters, with Río Piedras leading with their own Radio Huelga.

Solidarity beyond the university has snowballed with each day of the occupation. On April 23, the Federación de Maestros de Puerto Rico (Teachers' Federation of Puerto Rico) staged a sit-in to protest the loss of their pensions and then marched to the UPR Río Piedras campus to show their solidarity with the striking students.

In Ponce, a picket line to protest Fortuño's layoffs included participation from two unions, the Central Puertorriqueña de Trabajadores and the Sindicato Puertorriqueño de Trabajadores.

Workers went to the UPR campus in Ponce and provided students with food and water to get started with their indefinite strike.

In Río Piedras, the community, which is facing attack from a gentrification project pushed by the mayor of San Juan and also puts up with a heavy police presence and harassment, mobilized in solidarity with students.

Future students have shown their support--contingents of elementary school children have marched to the UPR gates.

The largest show of support so far came on April 28, with students organizing a concert under the title "¡Qué vivan los estudiantes!"--named after a verse from Violeta Parra's famous song "Me gustan los estudiantes."

The event was inspired by support for students from people like reggaeton artist Tego Calderon, Latin rock star Robi "Draco" Rosas and former political prisoner Rafael Cancel Miranda. Jose García, a spokesperson for the Committee Against Discrimination and Homophobia and the Student Negotiating Committee, also invited singer Ricky Martin to join in.

The event, which served as a fundraiser and a show of public support for the strike, featured a number of artists. The highlight of the night was a video created by Réne Pérez, of the reggaeton phenomenon Calle 13, which featured Alejandro Sanz, Rubén Blades and Ricky Martin expressing their solidarity with the students' fight for education as a right.

THE CONCERT also marked a victory in the strike. UPR Rector Ana Guadalupe had requested an injunction to allow security to move in on the occupying students and take control of the campus. But Judge José Negrón Fernández ruled in favor of a student counter-suit and ordered the police mobilized to the UPR gates to be removed by May 3.

Students celebrated this victory and insisted--against claims from the media and a minority of students and professors who oppose the strike--that students and faculty have been allowed onto campus by the occupiers.

In fact, it is the police and the riot squad that is blocking access to campus.

But Negrón is under pressure to overturn his decision and grant the UPR administration's request for an injunction requiring the students to call off the strike and demobilize students occupying the entrances. In particular, Río Piedras' Student Council President Gabriel Laborde is targeted by the injunction--but he has stated on multiple occasions that he alone doesn't have the power to call off the strike, since a student assembly empowered a Student Negotiating Committee to make that decision.

Throughout these legal maneuvers, administrators have kept a strong presence of law enforcement on hand.

At the start of the strike, the administration relied on a private security company to try to prevent students from taking over key buildings and the university gates. When it became clear that the private company couldn't deal with the large numbers of students, Guadalupe declared an academic recess and requested that police take control of the gates.

This prompted clashes leading to the police mobilizing its riot squad, which is known historically for its brutality.

After Judge Negrón issued the ruling calling for the university to be opened on May 3, Guadalupe and Río Piedras administrators tried further acts of intimidation--Guadalupe even drove her SUV to break the picket lines, with the support of a heavy police presence.

The police escalation of violence and harassment is a reaction to the growing solidarity of students at Río Piedras and other UPR campuses. But students aren't backing down.

The growing support for the strike, not only among students, but among unions and across the working population, shows that the occupation is a force to contend with.

THE IMPORTANCE of the UPR strike and occupation comes at a critical moment in Puerto Rico.

Last October, a one-day general strike supported by the unions closed most schools and government offices, and drew more than 200,000 people to a march in San Juan. But the spirit and energy of the strike was followed by months of confusion. The major unions and organizations that led the one-day walkout made multiple calls for a national general strike, but didn't mobilize for one.

But the UPR students' strike has set an example that struck a chord with much larger numbers of Puerto Ricans.

Though they have not yet won their demands, there is a sense that what the students are doing can lead to something bigger.

The students are well aware that their struggle is one of many against an international onslaught on public education. Their sense of momentum and growing confidence comes from a year's worth of activity that preceded the strike.

Over last summer, students in UPR organized forums to discuss the nature of the neoliberal university and how other students fought against privatization internationally. They organized two committees in the wake of the October 2009 general strike--the Committee Against Homophobia and Discrimination and the Committee in Defense of Public Education (CEDEP).

During the general strike, UPR students were the most militant demonstrators, staging a sit-in on a street that goes through the heart of San Juan.

All this organizing laid the groundwork for the current strike. In fact, one of the earliest fights this year, prior to the strike, was a CEDEP surprise meeting with the new UPR president, de la Torre, in which students forced him to sign a document that rejected any initiatives to privatize the public university.

Now students are asking for unions, other organizations in Puerto Rico and the international community to support them and join them in a fight for higher education as a fundamental right.

What you can do:

Students at UPR are asking for solidarity at an international level. The Student Organizing Committee has set up a PayPal account where donations can be made to help the occupiers. E-mail c.ortega.1989@gmail.com for more details.

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POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS

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