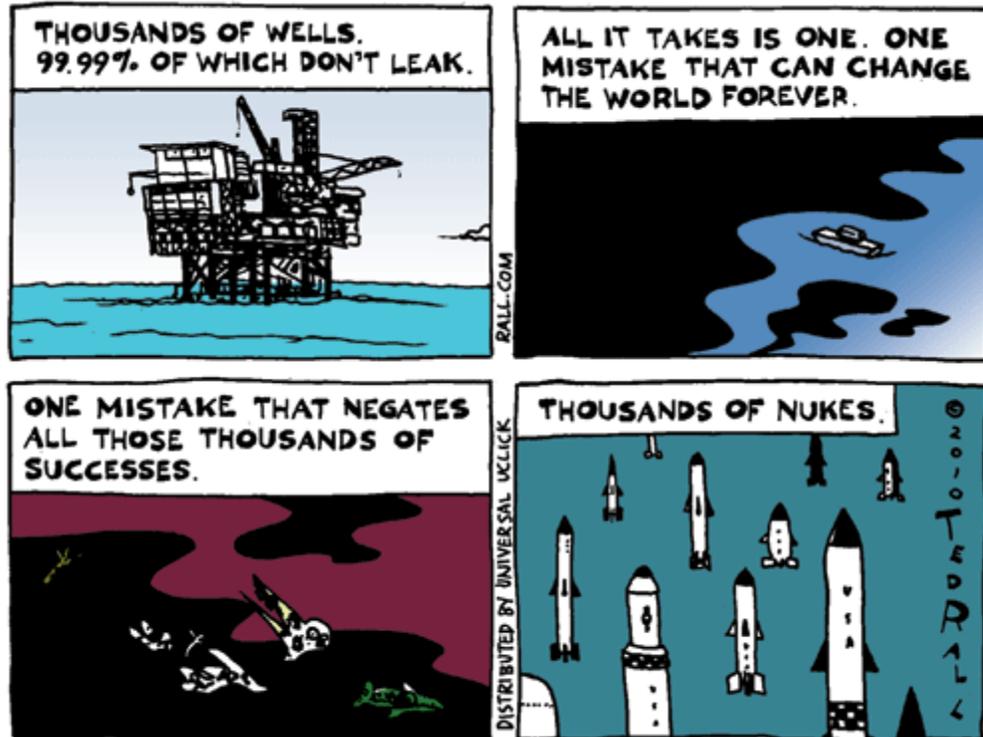


Military Resistance 8F11



**“Within The U.S. Military’s Rank
And File, There Are Growing
Doubts About Winning In
Afghanistan”**

**“Eight Years Now In Afghanistan
Has Worn Us Down”**

“Folks I Work With And Talk To Every Day Just Shake Their Heads In Weariness”

“A Three-Star Officer Expressed Little Optimism About A Good Ending Of The Conflict. His Remark Stunned Those In Attendance”

June 20, 2010 By Rowan Scarborough, The Washington Times [Excerpts]

Within the U.S. military's rank and file, there are growing doubts about winning in Afghanistan, a mood that contradicts upbeat war reports delivered to Congress last week by the top commander and officials.

A senior military intelligence official who has served in Afghanistan and participates in daily briefings on the war told The Washington Times there is a “weariness” among officers as the war nears the nine-year mark in October.

“We are a battle-hardened force, but eight years now in Afghanistan has worn us down,” said the officer, who asked not to be named because he holds a sensitive intelligence job. “Folks I work with and talk to every day just shake their heir heads in weariness.”

“We’re fighting a cultural battle we have yet to come to grips with,” the official said. “We don’t get the Pashtun mindset. We can’t figure out how to work through the system of corruption.”

The source recalled a briefing where a three-star officer expressed little optimism about a good ending of the conflict. His remark stunned those in attendance.

The pessimism comes amid a recent increase in U.S. casualties as summer fighting between Taliban and allied forces increases.

The backdrop: The U.S. death toll is increasing, some NATO allies plan to pull out next year, more members of Congress are speaking out against the war's cost of more than \$300 billion, and press reports from the field are generally negative.

MORE:

**“Four Months Into Their Tour,
They Still Haven’t Figured Out
Who Their Enemies Are”**

**“They’re Not Wearing Awesome T-
Shirts That Say, ‘I’m Taliban””**

**“When It Comes To Identifying The
Insurgents, Let Alone Fighting Them,
They Have Nothing To Show For
Their Efforts”**

**“The Same Young Men That Were 10-
11-Year-Old Kids When We Came To
Afghanistan — We’re Fighting Those
Kids”**

6.14.10 By Sean D. Naylor, Army Times [Excerpts]

QALAT, Zabul province, Afghanistan —

In a remote district of southern Afghanistan, members of a Special Forces A-team are claiming success in connecting the Afghan government to the locals, but admit that four months into their tour, they still haven’t figured out who their enemies are.

“I don’t know where to pinpoint them -- how to pinpoint them,” said the team’s intelligence sergeant.

“They’re not wearing awesome T-shirts that say, ‘I’m Taliban.””

The team deployed to Shinkay district in southern Zabul province in January, fully aware that theirs was an “economy of force” mission. To secure Shinkay’s population of 15,000 to 25,000, which is split among 25 towns and villages, there were about 300 Afghan National Army troops and an 82nd Airborne Division company, each headquartered beside the A-team at Firebase Sweeney.

“We fell in on a disarrayed district that had all the pieces, but it wasn’t connected,” said the team leader, a captain. (Army Times agreed not to identify the team or its members

as a condition of interviewing them.) In addition to the ANA force, the other representatives of the Afghan government included an Afghan National Police element and Abdul Qadeem, the district chief.

The tribal and village elders were just “hanging out in their villages” and had little contact with any of the officials, whose leadership skills were mixed, the team leader said.

Indeed, the SF soldiers admit that when it comes to identifying the insurgents, let alone fighting them, they have nothing to show for their efforts.

“I can’t find them,” said the intelligence sergeant. “This is our biggest failure.”

“As far as killing and capturing insurgents, we’ve done none,” he continued. “Absolutely none.”

However, the intel sergeant added, he knows enough to declare the insurgency in Zabul to be homegrown.

“The same young men that were 10-, 11-year-old kids when we came to Afghanistan — we’re fighting those kids,” he said.

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Fury Over Iraq Power Rationing Spreads In Harsh Heat: “Fellow Officers Detained A Police Captain After He Joined The Protesters”

6.21.10 AFP

Hundreds of angry protesters hurled stones at provincial council offices in southern Iraq on Monday, wounding 17 police amid growing rage over power rationing in the summer heat, a police official said.

The police, who included a lieutenant colonel, were all admitted to hospital after the frenzied protest outside the Dhi Qar provincial headquarters in the city of Nasiriyah, the official said.

As the protest turned angry and volley after volley of stones rained down on officers, police resorted to water cannons to disperse the crowd.

Fellow officers detained a police captain after he joined the protesters, an official said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Nine Foreign Soldiers Killed In Afghanistan Monday: Five From U.S. Forces

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

6.21.10 by Patrick Falby, AFP & By Robert H. Reid - The Associated Press

Nine foreign soldiers were killed in militant attacks and a helicopter crash in Afghanistan Monday, the second deadliest day this year.

Three Australian commandos and a US soldier were killed when their helicopter crashed in southern Kandahar province -- the single worst loss of life for the Australian military in the nearly nine-year Afghan war.

Australia's air force commander, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, said seven Australians were also injured in the crash, two of them seriously.

NATO and Australian officials said there was no evidence that hostile fire was responsible for the crash, although Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi claimed the insurgents shot down the helicopter with a rocket.

Afghan officials said the crash occurred in the Shah Wali Kot district of Kandahar, the scene of recent heavy fighting involving Australian and U.S. special operations troops and Taliban fighters. The area controls routes into Uruzgan province, where most of Australia's 1,500 soldiers are based.

Ten of the 15 people aboard the helicopter were Australians, according to Australian Defense Minister John Faulkner.

He said the helicopter went down about 3:40 a.m. in the northern part of Kandahar province, the southern Taliban stronghold that is the focus of a major NATO and Afghan security operation.

Another two foreign soldiers, an American and a Canadian, died in separate bomb explosions elsewhere in the south, the powerbase of the Taliban militia that is fighting an increasingly deadly insurgency against foreign troops.

Three more American soldiers were killed in other militant attacks.

One US soldier died following a small-arms attack in the south and the two others died after a roadside bomb attack in the east.

Michigan Soldier Killed In Combat In Afghanistan

Jun 21, 2010 The Associated Press

MUNDY TOWNSHIP, Mich. — A 24-year-old soldier from the Flint area has been killed in fighting in Afghanistan, a funeral home announced Sunday.

Army Spc. Joseph D. Johnson died last Wednesday in combat in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz, according to Sharp Funeral Home in Swartz Creek. An improvised explosive device hit his vehicle, family members told WNEM-TV.

“He was very passionate about serving his country and considered it a privilege and an honor,” cousin Cheryl Marshall told The Flint Journal.

The funeral will be held at Central Church of the Nazarene, the funeral home said. It said relatives were still making arrangements and awaiting the return of Johnson’s body, which arrived Friday at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Johnson was born in Flint and graduated from Carman-Ainsworth High School in 2004. He enlisted in the Army in 2006 and went to Afghanistan in December.

His parents, Dennis and Teri Johnson, live in Mundy Township.

“I’m just so extremely proud of him and the sacrifice he has made,” said his grandmother, Glenna Maxwell. “It’ll never replace him, and I can’t imagine my life without him in it, but somehow it’ll be OK and I’ll see him again some day.”

Maxwell said her grandson was known as a practical joker who loved to make people laugh.

“When he decided to enter the military, he went in with both feet,” Maxwell said. “He was just truly a soldier through and through.”

Johnson enjoyed snowmobiling, fishing and camping, said a childhood friend, Navy Airman Joel Metzger, 24, stationed at Naval Air Station North Island.

“The memories I have with him, I wouldn’t trade for the world,” Metzger said. “I wouldn’t ask for anything better.”

California Soldier Dies In Germany Of Afghanistan Wounds

June 21, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 511-10

Spc. Nathan W. Cox, 27, of Fremont, Calif., died June 16 at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Landstuhl, Germany, of injuries sustained June 14 when insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire at Near Forward Operating Base, Khogyani, Afghanistan. He was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

Royal Marine Dies From Wounds Sustained In Afghanistan

21 Jun 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that a Royal Marine from 40 Commando Royal Marines died from wounds sustained in Afghanistan in a hospital in Birmingham yesterday, Sunday 20 June 2010.

The Marine, part of Combined Force Sangin, died as a result of injuries sustained from an explosion in the Sangin district of Helmand province on the afternoon of Saturday 12 June 2010.

Afghan Blast Kills Naperville GI

June 21, 2010 BY ERIKA WURST, Naperville Sun

A Naperville man was killed last Wednesday when his vehicle was struck by an explosive device in Afghanistan.

Army Pfc. Gunnar Hotchkin, 31, had been deployed less than six months when two soldiers showed up at the Naperville home Wednesday where his wife, Erin Hotchkin, was staying while visiting family.

"My heart just sank," she said, recalling the moment the soldiers pulled up.

Hotchkin, 28, said Sunday, "We knew at some point he could face deployment. We just didn't think that it would be so soon into his career. ... You just look at the statistics, and you think it could never happen to you.

"He has the most loving personality. He is so selfless, and everything he does is for others."

The couple were raising three young children.

Tuesday, the last time she spoke to her husband, Hotchkin made sure to tell each kid how much he loved them. "He said if anything ever happens that he wants us to be happy," she said. "That's the conversation that sticks in my head now.

"Right now I'm just in survival mode and taking things one day at a time. But I'm keeping my husband's words in the back of my head. ...

"We never thought to prepare them for dealing with (tragedy) if something like this happened," she said. "My oldest two are having good and bad moments, which is expected, but my little one doesn't understand.

"He keeps asking when daddy is coming home, and that is like a knife to the heart."

French Soldier Killed By Kapisa Attack

19 Juin 2010 opex360

A sergeant belonging to the 1st Parachute Hussar Regiment died of his wounds, June 18, in the province of Kapisa, Afghanistan.

The French soldier, 27 years old, originally from Guadeloupe but whose identity has not yet been revealed, was initially severely affected by insurgent gunfire indirect, while he was in the position of advanced combat (COP) recently named for Corporal Hutnik, a legionnaire of the 2nd REP killed in combat in April. An Afghan interpreter was also hit.

The two injured were quickly evacuated by helicopter to the military hospital in Kabul. But the French soldier, who was part of the armored squadron of the Task Force Altor, succumbed to his injuries.

Enterprise Mourns A Fallen Hero

June 10, 2010 By Michelle Mann, The Enterprise Ledger

“The Department of Defense announced today the death of a soldier who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom,” read the news release from the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The soldier was Spc. Brendan P. Neenan, 21, of Enterprise, who died June 7 at Jelawar, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit using an improvised explosive device.

The third-generation Army paratrooper was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division in Afghanistan. The soldiers were on a 3 a.m. foot patrol of the area when the IED exploded, Brandon’s father Hugh Neenan said Wednesday.

Funeral arrangements will be handled through Searcy Funeral Home and Crematory and a memorial service will be held at St. John Catholic Church in Enterprise. Final arrangements are pending the Army’s final processing.

Neenan and his wife, Lesa, opened their Enterprise home Wednesday to a flood of family and friends wanting to offer condolences as word of their son’s death spread. Their son had been back in Afghanistan for exactly two weeks after a 15-day visit home to Enterprise. He was one week from coming off the combat front line, his father said.

“He had such a short life, but it was so full,” said Mrs. Neenan, who has raised the three Neenan children since their mother died from breast cancer in 1997. “She is his other-mother,” said Hugh Neenan. “She’s raised these kids.”

Katie, 17, and Tim, 24, are Neenan’s surviving siblings. A step-brother, Jeremy Jackson and his fiance were killed four years ago by a drunk driver. As the family reflected on their memories of their son and brother Wednesday morning they fondly shared their descriptions of the 21-year-old as selfless, funny, fantastic dancer, awesome, tender, protective of his little sister.

“He was the middle child, my baby boy, the joy of my life,” his father said. “He was pretty much me.” Added his other-mother, “He always wanted to be just like his dad.”

Mike Hartwick and Mikey Doran said they are tied for the title of Neenan’s best friend. “I first met the guy in high school,” Doran said. “One of the very first things we talked about, we had an argument over Batman,” he said. “Honestly, our friendship kind of blossomed from there.” The duo worked together at Lowes. “We both had a blast working together,” Doran said. “He actually made working pretty fun.”

“We both shared a very close interest in movies,” Doran said, adding that Neenan’s humor was his trademark. “The last week and a half Neenan was home, we hung out with all of them every night,” Doran said. “It wasn’t just me, he cared for everyone so much.”

“The one thing I’ll remember about him more than anything was how we would be hanging out with some of our friends and we would just play jokes right off each other, we could’ve been ‘Whose Line is it Anyway’s’ stand-ins together,” Doran said.

“He was truly a one-of-a-kind person, by far the greatest person I knew.” “He died for his country, and I can guarantee you the guy had no regrets,” Doran said. “He tried doing what was right every chance he got.”

Hartwick said he knew from the start that he and Neenan were going to be life-long friends. “He was like a brother,” he said. “Neenan and I became inseparable. We were the dynamic duo, we did everything together: Eating, playing airsoft, playing pranks on people, romping through the woods, going to pawn shops and guns hops, playing video games and working on cars.”

“I felt proud to be around him, I was in a unique position because I got to watch him grow up, and I was a part of it,” Hartwick said. “And I felt responsible. It was like I was appointed his mentor, in my mind of course.”

“Man, there are just so many memories,” Hartwick said. “I always admired how sincere he was in everything he did. He had a really unique sense of humor, courtesy of yours truly.”

“He was so caring,” Hartwick said. “And that’s what I’m going to miss the most: His friendship. He was the truest, most sincere, loving, caring kid anyone could ask for,” he said. “And I regret that I’ll never get to tell him how much he meant to me.”

“If I could tell him anything, I’d say: ‘Words will never express how much I love you,’ I can still hear your voice and see your face even now, and though you’re not here, I know our friendship will be the same as it has always been,” Hartwick said. “Brendan, I will never forget you and the wonderful friendship we shared. Rest easy, I love you.”

Neenan’s Internet Facebook page was flooded with messages as friends learned of his untimely death. “I wish you an easy journey to the other side,” wrote one. “We all give up a little something to be in the Army,” wrote another. “Some of us more than others.”

Indiana Marine Killed In Afghanistan



Sgt. Rankel is a 2005 graduate of Speedway High School.

Jun 08, 2010 Rich Van Wyk/Eyewitness News

Indianapolis - A U.S. Marine from Indiana was killed in action in Afghanistan.

Marine Sgt. John Rankel, 23, was killed in a firefight Monday, one of the deadliest days for American servicemen this year in Afghanistan. He was a 2005 graduate of

Speedway High School. He also attended middle school and grade school in Center Grove.

Tuesday, the American and Marine Corps flags flew at half staff at his home. Other flags and yellow ribbons in his Speedway neighborhood are testaments to the feelings of loyalty and loss.

"It takes the wind right out of your sails. It tears at your gut," said neighbor Dave Crumley.

Friends describe Sgt. Rankel as an all-American kid, playing football baseball and basketball at Speedway High School. His former coach remembers a young man intent on serving others.

"I remember when he made the decision to go into the Marines his senior year. That was a commitment he wanted to make to serve others. There was no other way for him," said Chuck Bennett.

Friends say Rankel re-enlisted. Several are expressing their grief on Facebook.

"A little part of me died with a fallen brother," wrote Paul Brownsberger.

"You were an amazing friend and such a good uncle to Harley," wrote Nicole Marie Solowynski.

"Thanks to Johnny Rankel and all who bravely serve our country," added Annie English.

It is believed the Marine is Speedway's first war casualty since the Vietnam War. His death brings home the reality of an ongoing war half a world away.

"I think a lot of people forgot that everything is still going on in Afghanistan. There is definitely a reality check. There is a lot going on in Afghanistan," said neighbor Patrick Avenatti.

The City of Speedway says it is preparing a memorial service for Sgt. Rankel. His family is in Dover, Delaware to meet their son when he returns. Sgt. Rankel's family says funeral services will likely take place in 10-12 days.

Statement from Sgt. Rankel's family:

"The parents and other family members of Marine Sgt. John Rankel truly appreciate the prayers, care, concern and love their friends and others in the community have shown them since learning of John's death.

"The Marine Corps has been at the family's side since yesterday morning when they were informed. They have many issues and details to work through, including the process of making arrangements to Honor and Celebrate their Heroic Son.

"John Rankel enlisted in the Marine Corp in 2005 after graduating from Speedway High School. He had two previous tours in Iraq. Yesterday morning June 7, 2010, John was

struck in the chest by enemy fire. Within minutes, he was immediately taken to a Medical Center, but as we all know now, John did not survive the wounds.

“John was a great young man. As a boy, he played many sports, coached and mentored youth, and much more. Since joining the Marine Corps, John continued in his outreach to youth. Since high school, he visited and spoke in history classrooms in Speedway Schools.

“Again, John’s parents and brothers Trisha (mother), Don (stepfather) and Nathan (brother) Stockhoff, and Kevin (father), Kim (stepmother) and Tyler (brother) truly appreciate your prayers, care and concern for them and their Marine.”

Community Mourns Death Of Local Marine

06/13/2010 By: Lara Greenberg, TWEAN News Channel of Syracuse

ELKLAND, P.A. -- “He was more than a brother to me. He was my best friend too.”

A brother and best friend who fought hard for his country and will leave a legacy in the Twin Tiers. Lance Corporal Michael Plank, 25, died in Afghanistan Wednesday while supporting combat operations.

“I was in bed at about 11 o’clock at night Wednesday. Someone was knocking on my door and I didn’t know who it was and I looked out the door and saw two Marines out there, and they came and told me the bad news, said the Marine’s brother, Jerry Plank.

Growing up in Cameron Mills, New York and Elkland, Pennsylvania, Plank became a Marine in February of 2009, but only served in Afghanistan since this March. It’s unclear how he died and his death is still being investigated.

“I believe he’s in America now and we just don’t really know. I only know as much as I’m told so far. It’s been stressful,” said Plank.

Plank graduated from Elkland High School but he also briefly attended Addison High School. The faculty there remembers him well and say they’re not surprised he joined the marines.

“He carried himself like a lot of the kids do that go into the Marines. I’m glad to see that he went that direction,” said Addison Central School guidance secretary Tina Dickerson.

“I had him in my class. Always did what he was asked to do, worked his hardest, and never caused a problem. Always did exactly as he was asked,” said Addison Central School science teacher Judy Huth. A sign this young man was meant to serve our country.

Funeral arrangements have not yet been made, but Jerry Plank is planning to organize a memorial service to honor his brother at Elkland High School.

Fallen Marine Recalled As Athlete, Honor Student

June 10, 2010 By Arlene Johns, The Tribune Democrat

JOHNSTOWN — David and Pamela Shanfield of Hastings had already sacrificed for their country. All three of the couple's sons had joined the armed forces.

But on Tuesday, the couple received word that their son, Sgt. Derek Shanfield had been killed while serving in Afghanistan.

He had been there less than a month.

According to the military, the 22-year-old was in support of combat operations in the Helmand Province when he was killed in a hostile incident.

Shanfield was a squad leader assigned to Camp Lejeune's 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines, which deployed to Afghanistan in May.

The young Marine was a 2006 graduate of Cambria Heights High School in Patton and was one of five siblings.

His twin brother, Devin, also is a member of the Marine Corps, as is his older brother, Sydney, who has done three tours in Iraq.

Tim Laurito, who has been principal at the high school for 16 years, remembered Shanfield as a student who was both a good athlete and an excellent scholar.

"Derek was 15 out of 126 in his class," Laurito said. "He was a very strong student and was in the National Honor Society."

The principal said the Shanfield twins were active in track, cross country, swimming and soccer. "You name it, they did it. They were leaders."

Laurito said many of the school's alumni are serving in the armed forces.

"We found out last night before graduation and our superintendent offered a moment of silence for all our kids in the military. "We're very proud that they are serving their country."

But the school leader could not get over the loss of one so young and so talented.

"We've lost one of our better kids," he said.

Sam Grillo, Hastings mayor and a neighbor of the Shanfields, agreed.

"I watched him grow up," Grillo said. "He was a great kid. Real nice and polite."

“It’s a shame. It’s hard to believe.”

Joe Rogal, also a Hastings resident and member of Patrick D. Riodan VFW Post 1586, did not know the young soldier personally but said he was saddened by the news.

“I hate to even think about it,” he said. “It’s heart-wrenching really.”

Rogal said the last time the community lost a member of the military was during the Vietnam War.

Gary Easley, owner of Easley Funeral Home in the borough, will take care of arrangements but did not have final details Thursday afternoon.

But he said he believes a public service will be held next week in the Memorial Building in the center of town.

Family Trying To Cope With Marine’s Death

June 10, 2010 By MORRIS NEWS SERVICE

Two days after Marine Sgt. Zachary J. Walters died in Afghanistan, his fiancée and grandmother are just beginning to come to terms with the tragic event.

The 24-year-old Flagler County native had only been in country 20 days before falling victim to an improvised explosive device Tuesday. Walters and 22-year-old Sgt. Derek L. Shanfield of Pennsylvania were leading a patrol of marines and Afghan forces through the Helmand province when the bomb detonated.

Walter’s fiancée, Victoria Falcon, a daughter of an active Marine, said he was one of the bravest Marines she’d ever known.

“I’m a military brat, and have lost people I’ve cared about before, but it’s harder to lose someone when you love them so much,” she said.

His grandmother, Bobbie Walters, said her grandson was more like a son to her.

“He was truly a great kid growing up and was my only grandson,” she said.

After serving in the Marines for five years, he decided to commit another four years, she told First Coast News.

“He said ‘Nana I love it’. He had just re-upped four more years. He wasn’t gone two weeks and could’ve been out, but he chose to stay,” said Walters.

Walters was home in May and had only been deployed for two weeks when he stepped on the IED.

Falcon said it's been particularly hard to handle because they just recently had become engaged and had seen each other less than a month ago. He also had just turned 24.

Walters, who graduated high school in Palm Coast, joined the Marines the day after graduation, his grandmother said.

He was the squad leader assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 7, I Marine Expeditionary Force Forward, stationed out of Camp Lejeune, N.C.

His awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, a Marine spokesman said.

His body will be sent to his family in Texas to be buried at the Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery, his grandmother said.

His death brings the total dead in Afghanistan to 1,029.

WELCOME TO THE LONELY SIDE OF HELL: ALL HOME NOW!



A U.S. soldier with 1-71 CAV secures an area during a patrol outside the village of Gorgan in Dand district, south of Kandahar, June 20, 2010. REUTERS/Denis Sinyakov

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

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

“Armed Soldiers Stormed Somalia’s Presidential Palace In A Protest Against Non-Payment”

“Somali Troops Have Not Received Their Salaries For Several Months, Prompting Some Desert And Join Al-Shabaab, A Militant Islamist Group”

20 Jun 20, 2010 GAROWE ONLINE

Armed soldiers stormed Somalia’s presidential palace in a protest against non-payment, a lawmaker said.

Saleban Mohammed, who was among more than 20 other parliamentarians barred from getting out of the palace, said the incident happened Saturday evening after the soldiers barricaded the palace, holding all inside, including President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh hostage.

“They were so furious, they barricaded the front gate of the palace and also the offices. None of them spoke, they even refused us to get out,” he said.

Reports said that the angry soldiers were at some point involved in an exchange of gunfire with African Union troops who guard the palace. Two soldiers were injured in the incident.

It took the intervention of the President, who was advised by the lawmakers, to calm the soldiers, promising them to be paid their salaries.

Thousands of Somali troops, who were trained out of the country, have not received their salaries for several months, prompting some desert and join Al-Shabaab, a militant Islamist group, which is waging deadly insurgency in the country.

Meanwhile, heavy fighting between African Union [U.S.-government supported occupation troops] and Al-Shabaab has killed at least three people and injured 10 others, mainly civilians.

Witnesses said Al-Shabaab fighters attacked AU troops’ base at Jalle Siyad Academy, which houses Burundian contingent.

“A mortar shell that landed near former milk factory killed at least two civilians, and injured five others,” an eyewitness called Ahmed told Garowe Online.

He added that one person was also killed and five others injured in Daynile, the stronghold of Al-Shabaab, where also fighters launched their attacks from.

TROOP NEWS

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



The funeral service of U.S. Army Spc. Matthew Catlett at the Houston National Cemetery, June 19, 2010, in Houston. Catlett died of wounds suffered June 7 from an improvised explosive device in Kunar, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Houston Chronicle, Mayra Beltran)

**“UK’s Special Envoy To Afghanistan
And Pakistan, Sir Sherard Cowper-
Coles, Has Gone On ‘Extended
Leave’ After Expressing Scepticism
Over Western Military Strategy”**

Another Grim Milestone For Armed Forces As British Death Toll In Afghanistan Hits 300

[Thanks to Clancy Sigal, who sent this in.]

22 June 2010 By Kim Sengupta, Defence Correspondent; Independent.co.uk [Excerpts]

The sombre milestone of the 300th fatality among British forces in Afghanistan has been reached with the death of a Royal Marine from injuries received in Helmand. He had been injured in a blast in the Sangin district on 12 June.

The announcement of the death was accompanied by reports that the UK's special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, has gone on "extended leave" after expressing scepticism over Western military strategy and calling for speeding up talks with the Taliban.

Sir Sherard's tenure has become increasingly difficult after he clashed with US and NATO officials, and the Afghan President, Hamid Karzai, was said to have been furious after hearing that the ambassador had allegedly called for his removal.

The departure of the veteran diplomat will strengthen opposition to the war, which has grown as the human and financial cost has increased.

Yesterday demonstrators outside Downing Street demanded the immediate withdrawal of British forces.

Civilian Dressed In Combat Uniform Able To Travel On An Army Post "At Least 10 Times" "Persuaded Officials There To Give Him High-Tech Military Devices"

Jun 21, 2010 By GREG BLUESTEIN - Associated Press [Excerpts]

AUGUSTA, Ga. --

The fireplace mantel in Anthony Todd Saxon's rural Georgia home was decorated with ordnance and ammunition. He would put on a combat uniform most mornings sprinkled with honors and insignia and say he was headed to nearby Fort Gordon. And his family came to town last week to say goodbye before he left for what Saxon said was a secretive mission to Iraq or Afghanistan.

The problem, prosecutors say, is that Saxon is not the U.S. Army master sergeant that he pretended to be. He hasn't served in the Armed Forces since he was discharged from the Florida National Guard in 1994.

But authorities say he visited Fort Gordon in eastern Georgia at least 10 times in the last few months and twice persuaded officials there to give him high-tech military devices.

The case doesn't end there.

During a court hearing Monday, prosecutors said they confiscated a camouflage bag from Saxon last week stuffed with a live M-14 anti-personnel mine, flash-bang grenades and night-vision devices.

They found more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition and a Kevlar helmet, among other equipment, in his car. Authorities have not said how they believe he acquired the items.

Saxon was arrested wearing a combat uniform, including rank and insignia, at Fort Gordon last week and charged with impersonating an officer and obtaining a laser targeting sight by telling an officer he was a master sergeant.

He also faces charges of stealing a silencer and possessing an explosive and firearms even though he's a convicted felon.

Saxon's attorney Danny Durham said his client's obsession with the military warped his mind, but he asserted there is no evidence that Saxon meant "ill will."

Saxon's father Hugh said Monday his son was so "passionate" about the military he went to great lengths to convince relatives he was serving.

"He was the only child we had who knew from the day he was born what he wanted to do - he wanted to be in the military," Hugh Saxon said.

Prosecutors are not treating the spindly 34-year-old with a military crew cut as a terrorist threat.

But the case raises questions about how the military repeatedly allowed a suspected impersonator onto the base.

And prosecutors said there is still more to find out from Saxon. "It raises too many red flags," said Stephen Inman, a federal prosecutor. "He's been carrying on this huge facade for months, pretending to be someone he's not."

Saxon joined the Florida National Guard after graduating from high school in 1993 and served until he was discharged with a congenital heart problem the next year, his father said.

He was convicted of felony grand theft in Florida in May 1996, and worked several jobs in Florida before moving his family to Keysville, a rural east Georgia town, to live with his brother in November.

Neighbors say Saxon wore military fatigues so often they thought he was in the Army, and prosecutors say he convinced his wife Rhonda and the rest of the family that he worked on the base. Saxon told her he was leaving for Afghanistan or Iraq as a civilian contractor on June 17.

His parents and sister came in from Florida to see him off, but two days before his phony departure he was arrested by Fort Gordon authorities who spotted him on the base wearing a uniform dotted with so many honors that it made him seem like a decorated veteran.

Prosecutors say he was able to convince a U.S. Army captain to hand over a laser-sighting scope that he was to use to help train a soldier. And Gustin said he had earlier convinced other military officials to give him night-vision goggles.

After he was arrested, military officials detonated the anti-personnel mine before federal authorities were able to inspect it.

But investigators scouring his brother's house found ammunition scattered across the fireplace, two military-style rifles, a handgun, a silencer and five devices containing low-explosive powder. Other weapons were found in the woods behind the house.

"It's scary everything we know about this defendant. What's even scarier is what we don't know about him," said Inman. "What was he going to do on June 17 when he was to be deployed?"

“Recruiter Accused Of Sexually Battering A Recruit Under The Guise Of Measuring Her Body Fat”

Jun 20, 2010 The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — A central Florida-based Army recruiter is accused of sexually battering a recruit under the guise of measuring her body fat.

Staff Sgt. Damien E. Maldonado, 36, was arrested this week. He has since posted bond to be released from jail.

A 20-year-old soldier says Maldonado told her to take off all her clothes to measure her body fat, then coerced her into performing oral sex. Orlando police say two other recruits lodged similar complaints against Maldonado.

Separately, he has been charged with fondling a child.

Maldonado's status in the service is not known, and it is not known if he has an attorney.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE



[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."]

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

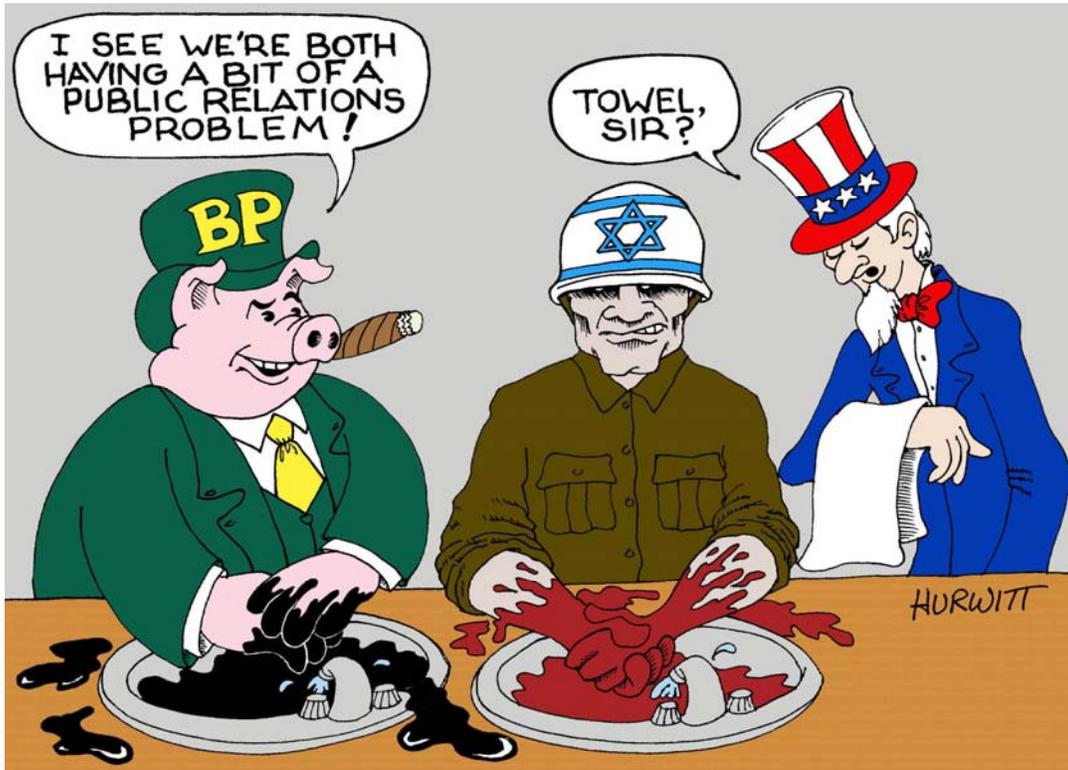
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If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

13 Prisoners “Cleared By The Courts Of Any Involvement In Wrongdoing” Remain Imprisoned At Guantanamo By The Obama Regime Traitors: “Their Continued Detention Is A National Disgrace”

June 21, 2010
Letters To The Editor
The Washington Post Company

The writer was counsel of record to Guantanamo detainees in two Supreme Court cases.

The June 16 [Washington Post] editorial “The Gitmo myth” correctly pointed out that the case of Mohamed Mohamed Hassan Odaini, a young man who U.S. District Judge Henry H. Kennedy Jr. recently found has been wrongly detained at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for more than eight years, puts the lie to the assertion that those still at Guantanamo are the “worst of the worst.”

But Mr. Odaini is not the only example of injustice at Guantanamo.

In the two years since the Supreme Court ruled that the Guantanamo detainees have the constitutional right to habeas corpus (that is, the right to have a court review whether there is a reasonable basis for their detention), 50 cases have been decided by the district courts.

In 36 of those cases -- more than 70 percent of the time -- the courts found no such basis and ordered the detainees released.

Yet 13 of those men, cleared by the courts of any involvement in wrongdoing, remain imprisoned.

The Obama administration and Congress should stop being paralyzed by fear of political criticism and resettle in the United States and elsewhere these innocent men who have been wrongly detained for so many years.

Their continued detention is a national disgrace that damages our standing around the world.

Thomas Wilner, Washington

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

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

**Welcome To The Occupied USA:
Pentagon Spies Build New Database
To Gather Information On American
Citizens:**

“Stored Data Could Include Information On Domestic Activists Or Protestors Who Might Not Be Violent At Present, But Could Be Deemed To Pose A Potential Threat Of Violence In Future”

“Among the data to be stored: ‘information such as name, Social Security Number (SSN), address, citizenship documentation, biometric data, passport number, vehicle identification number and vehicle/vessel license data’”

June 18, 2010 by Mark Hosenball, Newsweek [Excerpts]

The Pentagon’s main spy outfit, the Defense Intelligence Agency, is building a new database which will consolidate in one system “human intelligence” information on groups and individuals — potentially including Americans — collected by DIA operatives in United States and abroad.

A notice published earlier this week in the government’s regulatory bulletin, the Federal Register, says the manager of the system will be a little-known DIA unit called the Defense Counterintelligence and Human Intelligence Center (DCHC).

Among the data to be stored: “information such as name, Social Security Number (SSN), address, citizenship documentation, biometric data, passport number, vehicle identification number and vehicle/vessel license data.”

“That’s potentially a lot of information,” Donald Black, chief spokesman for DIA, acknowledged in an interview with Declassified.

Black said that the new database would not include the highly controversial aspects of TALON, a database assembled by a spooky Pentagon spy outfit called Counterintelligence Field Activity (CIFA), set up during the George W. Bush administration.

The Pentagon shut down TALON in 2007 after revelations that CIFA, whose mission included collating intelligence collected by local law-enforcement agencies and military-intelligence units on potential threats to U.S. defense installations, had assembled files on peace marchers and other nonviolent antiwar protesters.

The Pentagon later said that CIFA would be broken up.

Two U.S. officials, who asked for anonymity when discussing sensitive information, said that while CIFA had been disbanded on paper, many of its personnel and some of its functions were transferred to DCHC.

One of the officials said that DCHC is now in the same office space that CIFA once occupied, in a complex near suburban Washington's Reagan National Airport.

A defense official, who also did not want to be named, insisted that the new unit, unlike CIFA, had no law-enforcement powers.

But the official said that theoretically, stored data could include information on domestic activists or protestors who might not be violent at present, but could be deemed to pose a potential threat of violence in future.

The official said that unlike TALON, the new DCHC database would not include field reports generated by military counterintelligence agencies with domestic field offices, such as the Army's Criminal Investigation Division, the Navy Criminal Investigative Service, or the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

However, if those agencies were to ask DIA or DCHC to become involved in one of their cases, then information about the case could well be entered in the new DCHC database.

The official had no estimate of how many records on individual subjects—including Americans—would be stored.

Some civil-liberties experts are already expressing dismay about the new DIA database. Mike German, a former FBI investigator who now works for the American Civil Liberties Union, told The Washington Post's Spy Talk blog that while the functions of the new database were still murky, "We do know that DIA took over 'offensive counterintelligence' for the DoD once CIFA was abandoned..."

"It therefore makes sense that this new DIA data base would be collecting the same types of information that CIFA collected improperly, so Americans should be just as concerned."

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

"The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops." Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

CLASS WAR REPORTS



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And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

Military Resistance www.militaryproject.org

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



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

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