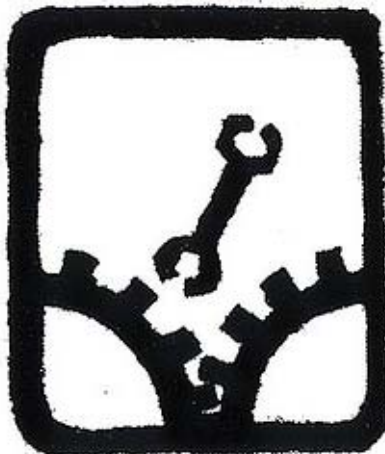


Military Resistance 8F6



A War Anthem

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance
Sent: June 11, 2010
Subject: A War Anthem

Written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2010; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

A War Anthem

**“We got to get out of Afghanistan
if it’s the last thing we ever do,
Soldier, there’s a better life
for me and you.”
Blood dripping off the Soldier’s boots
like a row of horse shoes on the land
they were pointing downward
as bad luck plodding mile after mile
The sun feels like getting hit
all in the face with a hot tin plate
Hot like fresh blood
on a boot heel making**

a frown on a Soldier's face
Guts hanging out of the side
of a Soldier with a Medic's pain shot
hustling through the chopper's door
with a drip bag hanging in the air
Damn the scars if he doesn't die
but who cares right, with this long war
it's a way out, a light from the sun
glittering all over as broken eye glasses
red rays of light reflecting
off the chopper's windshield
what a way to get out of this place
All the Soldiers should just stop
like humping up to a stop sign
there is no hope it's a dead end
because of the governments longest war
Shove it, the Soldiers stop
the fighting like hanging on to
the tree of life, the government
can keep their endless war
quit treating you like an animal a horse
whipping Soldiers on their sides
making them go where ever
they want you to, all you have
to say is No, first there's one
then there's many
"We got to get out of this place
if it's the last thing we ever do
Brother, there's a better life
for me and you"

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

US Soldier Killed By Zakhel IED; Three More Wounded

Jun 12, 2010 DPA

Kunduz, Afghanistan - A US military soldier was killed and three others were injured on Saturday in a roadside bomb blast in northern Afghanistan, a provincial governor said.

The US military forces were patrolling in the Zakhel area of Kunduz city, the capital for the province of the same name when one of their vehicles was hit by a roadside bomb, Mohammad Omar, the provincial governor said.

'One US soldier was killed and three others were injured in the attack,' he told German Press Agency dpa. One Afghan child close to the explosion site was also injured, he said.

A dpa reporter, who visited the site of the attack, said that a military vehicle was flipped over by the force of the blast, while two helicopters landed near the site of the attack to evacuate the injured.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid took responsibility for the attack by phone from an undisclosed location, claiming that six US soldiers were killed when their fighters hit a military tank with a remote-controlled roadside bomb.

Polish Soldier Dies From Ghazni IED; Eight More Wounded: Prime Minister Demands “Plan For A Rapid Exit”

06/12/10 IAR/TVP

A 25 year-old Polish corporal has been killed and eight soldiers injured in Afghanistan when their military vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device 12 kilometres southwest of the Polish base in Ghazni province.

The injured soldiers were taken to the military hospital at Bagram base, after the Polish convoy was attacked by insurgents at around 06.00 CET, Saturday morning.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk said that Poles have a right to know how long Polish soldiers will remain in Afghanistan. “Any death of a Polish soldier will be met with the question: how much longer will the Polish mission last?”

Tusk said that the country has a right to expect from its government and president a “plan for a rapid exit...”, adding that the issue will be raised at the next NATO conference in Lisbon.

Soldier From 1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment Killed In Nahr-E Saraj

12 Jun 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness the Ministry of Defence must announce that a soldier from the 1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment, serving as part of Combined Force Nahr-e Saraj (South), was killed in Afghanistan today Saturday 12 June 2010.

The soldier was killed in an explosion in Nahr-e Saraj district of Helmand province following a security patrol.

Harrisburg Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



Spec. Christopher Barton, 22, of Harrisburg, was killed Monday after a firefight with insurgents in Afghanistan. He was with the 101 Airborne in Fort Campbell, Ky.

May 27, 2010 By Ben McNeely, Media General

HARRISBURG - A soldier from Harrisburg was killed in combat in Afghanistan.

The U.S. Department of Defense reported Wednesday that 22-year-old Specialist Christopher R. Barton, of Harrisburg, died on Monday in Khowst province.

Barton was an infantryman in C Troop, 1st Squadron, 33rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

Insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire. Barton died from wounds sustained from the battle, the defense department reported.

He is the second serviceman from Cabarrus County to be killed in action in Iraq or Afghanistan. David Bryan Parson of Kannapolis, was killed in Baghdad, Iraq on July 6, 2003.

Barton graduated from Central Cabarrus High School in 2006 and was interested in public service, his father Roy Schmiedeshoff said.

“He volunteered thinking about public service,” Schmiedeshoff said. “He volunteered for airborne and got his wings. He wanted to do that.”

Barton shipped out to Afghanistan on Jan. 26.

He joined the Army in December 2008 and arrived at Fort Campbell, Ky., in June 2009. His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal; Army Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; NATO Medal; Army Service Ribbon and Weapons Qualification, M4, expert.

In addition to his father, Barton is survived by his wife, Heather N. Barton; mother, Elaine Schmiedeshoff; brothers, Bryan Schmiedeshoff and Corey Barton

Pfc. Jason D. Fingar Loved Making People Laugh



Pfc. Jason David Fingar

May 27, 2010 BY Margaret Niemiec, Columbia Missourian

COLUMBIA — Pfc. Jason D. Fingar lived a short life but touched the hearts of those who knew him.

Mr. Fingar died Saturday, May 22, 2010, at the age of 24. He was serving in Durai, Afghanistan, when a roadside bomb hit his military vehicle.

Mr. Fingar was born on Nov. 7, 1985. He lived with his family in Columbia before enlisting in the United States Army on Sept. 17, 2008, and receiving his initial training at Fort Knox, Ky. In early 2009, Mr. Fingar reported to Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington and was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

He was deployed to Afghanistan in July 2009. He was set to return home June 30.

“He was really excited that this deployment was almost over and that he’d get to come home,” said Spc. Corey Phan, a member of Mr. Fingar’s platoon.

Mr. Fingar would have received a specialist rank on the first of June, Phan said. He had already received multiple awards and decorations for his service in the Army including the National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, NATO Medal and Driver and Mechanic Badge.

Spc. Aaron Estabrook shared a barrack at Fort Knox with Mr. Fingar. “I will always remember Jason Fingar as a young man of remarkable integrity and endless courage,” Estabrook said. “Even in his brief life he made the world a better place, and those that encountered his smile will never forget him.”

Jason Poff, a Salvation Army pastor in Joplin and friend of ten years said Mr. Fingar had a way of finding joy in any situation and making people laugh.

“He genuinely cared about people and he genuinely put other people first,” Poff said. “He just loved life. And he loved everything that he did.”

Friends reflected on Mr. Fingar’s love of music. He played the guitar and piano, and wanted to learn to play others, too. Phan said Mr. Fingar and the other members of the platoon were always talking about guitars.

“He and his dad both played guitar over at the Salvation Army,” neighbor Danette Knedler said. “His dad had a guitar waiting for him for when he came home.”

Shannon Forney said she is glad Mr. Fingar knew God. She said people never think a death like this will happen to someone they know.

“I’m sure, at the funeral, the amount of people whose life he touched is going to be overwhelming,” Forney said.

Mr. Fingar’s body is expected to arrive at the Columbia Regional Airport at 3 p.m. Knedler is asking people to line the procession route from the airport to Memorial Garden by standing along Highway 63 and in Cosmo Park.

Mr. Fingar is survived by his parents, David and Rhonda Fingar of Columbia; sister, Chrissey Dodd of Naplate, Ill.; brothers Jeremy Fingar of Chicago, and U.S. Army Sgt. Donald Fingar of Ft. Riley, Kan.; his grandmother, Peggy Dietz of Calhoun; and two nieces and one nephew.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, May 31, 2010, at the Salvation Army Columbia Corps and Worship Center, 1108 W. Ash St. Graveside services will follow at Memorial Park Cemetery, 1217 Business Loop 70 W. Visitation will be Sunday from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Salvation Army Columbia Corps and Worship Center.

Memorials may be sent in lieu of flowers in memory of Jason Fingar to the Salvation Army Music Scholarship Fund, 1108 West Ash, Columbia, MO 65203.

“The Fiery And Unprecedented Developments On Wednesday Morning On The Outskirts Of Islamabad Ought To Be Ringing Alarm Bells”

“NATO’s Main Supply Line Is Once Again Under Threat”

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

Jun 11, 2010 By Syed Saleem Shahzad, Asia Times [Excerpts]

The United States Defense Department has dismissed Wednesday’s militant attack on a US convoy in Pakistan that destroyed about 60 trucks as “not going to have an effect” on overall operations in Afghanistan.

However, with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) troops poised for a major offensive in the southern Afghan province of Kandahar, the fiery and unprecedented developments on Wednesday morning on the outskirts of the capital Islamabad ought to be ringing alarm bells that NATO’s main supply line is once again under threat after nearly a year of stability.

Up to about a year ago, the convoys took an obligatory 24-hour stop towards the end of their arduous 1,800-kilometer journey at a truck terminal in Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa - formerly North-West Frontier Province - about 155 kilometers from Islamabad.

This stop became the target of such frequent attacks by militants - either by rocket or by trucks being set on fire - that NATO was forced to open the longer alternative Central Asia route, as well as move the stopover to Tarnol on the Grand Trunk Road about 10 kilometers outside the capital.

The change paid off, and goods flowed relatively unhindered into Afghanistan.

This changed dramatically on Wednesday morning when about 15 militants on motorcycles stormed the depot and opened fire with automatic weapons and grenades, in the process killing seven people and torching trucks and trailers contracted to carry containers for NATO.

These included food, fuel and equipment, as well as Humvee vehicles. Guns, bombs and ammunition were not believed to be in any of the containers destroyed.

“There were 60 trailers gutted by fire. In addition, 80 NATO vehicles were partially damaged,” Shah Nawaz, police station chief in Tarnol, was quoted in the media as saying.

Kaleem Imam, Islamabad’s police chief, said the gunmen “kept on firing in the air to prevent emergency services and the police from reaching the spot”.

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



May 18, 2010: United States soldiers from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment of the 5th Stryker Brigade patrol rural villages in the Shah Wali Kot district of Kandahar province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)

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

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

TROOP NEWS

**U.S. Soldier Arrested In
WikiLeaks Case:
“He Wanted To Do The Right
Thing”**

**“WikiLeaks Said That ‘If’ Manning Is
The ‘Whistleblower Then, Without
Doubt, He’s A National Hero”
Soldier Said Military Networks Contained
“Incredible Things, Awful Things ... That
Belonged In The Public Domain, And Not
On Some Server Stored In A Dark Room
In Washington DC”**



[Thanks to Max Watts, Australia, who sent this in.]

June 6, 2010 By Kevin Poulsen and Kim Zetter, Wired.com & 6.7.10 AFP [Excerpts]

Federal officials have arrested an Army intelligence analyst who boasted of giving classified U.S. combat video and hundreds of thousands of classified State Department records to whistleblower site WikiLeaks, Wired.com has learned.

SPC Bradley Manning, 22, of Potomac, Maryland, was stationed at Forward Operating Base Hammer, 40 miles east of Baghdad, where he was arrested nearly two weeks ago by the Army's Criminal Investigation Division. A family member says he's being held in custody in Kuwait, and has not been formally charged.

WikiLeaks said that "if" Manning is the "whistleblower then, without doubt, he's a national hero."

Manning was turned in late last month by a former computer hacker with whom he spoke online.

In the course of their chats, Manning took credit for leaking a headline-making video of a helicopter attack that WikiLeaks posted online in April. The video showed a deadly 2007 U.S. helicopter air strike in Baghdad that claimed the lives of several innocent civilians.

He said he also leaked three other items to WikiLeaks: a separate video showing the notorious 2009 Garani air strike in Afghanistan that WikiLeaks has previously acknowledged is in its possession; a classified Army document evaluating WikiLeaks as a security threat, which the site posted in March; and a previously unreported breach consisting of 260,000 classified U.S. diplomatic cables that Manning described as exposing "almost criminal political back dealings."

"Hillary Clinton, and several thousand diplomats around the world are going to have a heart attack when they wake up one morning, and find an entire repository of classified foreign policy is available, in searchable format, to the public," Manning wrote.

Manning's arrest comes as WikiLeaks has ratcheted up pressure against various governments over the years with embarrassing documents acquired through a global whistleblower network that is seemingly impervious to threats from adversaries.

Its operations are hosted on servers in several countries, and it uses high-level encryption for its document-submission process, providing secure anonymity for its sources and a safe haven from legal repercussions for itself. Since its launch in 2006, it has never outed a source through its own actions, either voluntarily or involuntarily.

Manning came to the attention of the FBI and Army investigators after he contacted former hacker Adrian Lamo late last month over instant messenger and e-mail. Lamo had just been the subject of a Wired.com article. Very quickly in his exchange with the ex-hacker, Manning claimed to be the WikiLeaks video leaker.

"If you had unprecedented access to classified networks 14 hours a day 7 days a week for 8+ months, what would you do?" Manning asked.

From the chat logs provided by Lamo, and examined by Wired.com, it appears Manning sensed a kindred spirit in the ex-hacker.

He discussed personal issues that got him into trouble with his superiors and left him socially isolated, and said he had been demoted and was headed for an early discharge from the Army.

When Manning told Lamo that he leaked a quarter-million classified embassy cables, Lamo contacted the Army, and then met with Army CID investigators and the FBI at a Starbucks near his house in Carmichael, California, where he passed the agents a copy of the chat logs. At their second meeting with Lamo on May 27, FBI agents from the Oakland Field Office told the hacker that Manning had been arrested the day before in Iraq by Army CID investigators.

Manning told Lamo that he enlisted in the Army in 2007 and held a Top Secret/SCI clearance, details confirmed by his friends and family members.

He claimed to have been rummaging through classified military and government networks for more than a year and said that the networks contained “incredible things, awful things ... that belonged in the public domain, and not on some server stored in a dark room in Washington DC.”

Manning had already been sifting through the classified networks for months when he discovered the Iraq video in late 2009, he said.

The video, later released by WikiLeaks under the title “Collateral Murder,” shows a 2007 Army helicopter attack on a group of men, some of whom were armed, that the soldiers believed were insurgents. The attack killed two Reuters employees and an unarmed Baghdad man who stumbled on the scene afterward and tried to rescue one of the wounded by pulling him into his van. The man’s two children were in the van and suffered serious injuries in the hail of gunfire.

“At first glance it was just a bunch of guys getting shot up by a helicopter,” Manning wrote of the video. “No big deal ... about two dozen more where that came from, right? But something struck me as odd with the van thing, and also the fact it was being stored in a JAG officer’s directory. So I looked into it.”

In January, while on leave in the United States, Manning visited a close friend in Boston and confessed he’d gotten his hands on unspecified sensitive information, and was weighing leaking it, according to the friend.

“He wanted to do the right thing,” says 20-year-old Tyler Watkins. “That was something I think he was struggling with.”

Manning passed the video to WikiLeaks in February, he told Lamo. After April 5 when the video was released and made headlines Manning contacted Watkins from Iraq asking him about the reaction in the United States.

“He would message me, Are people talking about it?... Are the media saying anything?” Watkins said.

“That was one of his major concerns, that once he had done this, was it really going to make a difference?... He didn’t want to do this just to cause a stir.... He wanted people held accountable and wanted to see this didn’t happen again.”

The second video he claimed to have leaked shows a May 2009 air strike near Garani village in Afghanistan that the local government says killed nearly 100 civilians, most of them children.

The Pentagon released a report about the incident last year, but backed down from a plan to show video of the attack to reporters.

As described by Manning in his chats with Lamo, his purported leaking was made possible by lax security online and off.

Manning had access to two classified networks from two separate secured laptops: SIPRNET, the Secret-level network used by the Department of Defense and the State Department, and the Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications System which serves both agencies at the Top Secret/SCI level.

The networks, he said, were both “air gapped” from unclassified networks, but the environment at the base made it easy to smuggle data out.

“I would come in with music on a CD-RW labeled with something like ‘Lady Gaga,’ erase the music then write a compressed split file,” he wrote. “No one suspected a thing and, odds are, they never will.”

“(I) listened and lip-synced to Lady Gaga’s ‘Telephone’ while exfiltrating possibly the largest data spillage in American history,” he added later. “Weak servers, weak logging, weak physical security, weak counter-intelligence, inattentive signal analysis ... a perfect storm.”

Manning told Lamo that the Garani video was left accessible in a directory on a U.S. Central Command server, centcom.smil.mil, by officers who investigated the incident. The video, he said, was an encrypted AES-256 ZIP file.

Manning’s aunt, with whom he lived in the United States, had heard nothing about his arrest when first contacted by Wired.com last week; Debra Van Alstyne said she last saw Manning during his leave in January and they had discussed his plans to enroll in college when his four-year stint in the Army was set to end in October 2011.

She described him as smart and seemingly untroubled, with a natural talent for computers and a keen interest in global politics.

She said she became worried about her nephew recently after he disappeared from contact.

Then Manning finally called Van Alstyne collect on Saturday. He told her that he was okay, but that he couldn’t discuss what was going on, Van Alstyne said. He then gave her his Facebook password and asked her to post a message on his behalf.

The message reads: “Some of you may have heard that I have been arrested for disclosure of classified information to unauthorized persons. See CollateralMurder.com.”

An Army defense attorney then phoned Van Alstyne on Sunday and said Manning is being held in protective custody in Kuwait. "He hasn't seen the case file, but he does understand that it does have to do with that Collateral Murder video," Van Alstyne said.

Manning's father said Sunday that he's shocked by his son's arrest.

Lamo says he felt he had no choice but to turn in Manning, but that he's now concerned about the soldier's status and well-being. The FBI hasn't told Lamo what charges Manning may face, if any.

The agents did tell Lamo that he may be asked to testify against Manning. The Bureau was particularly interested in information that Manning gave Lamo about an apparently-sensitive military cybersecurity matter, Lamo said.

That seemed to be the least interesting information to Manning, however.

What seemed to excite him most in his chats was his supposed leaking of the embassy cables.

He anticipated returning to the states after his early discharge, and watching from the sidelines as his action bared the secret history of U.S. diplomacy around the world.

"Everywhere there's a U.S. post, there's a diplomatic scandal that will be revealed," Manning wrote.

"It's open diplomacy. World-wide anarchy in CSV format. It's Climategate with a global scope, and breathtaking depth. It's beautiful, and horrifying."

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The casket of Marine Cpl. Jacob Leicht at the Impact Christian Fellowship church, June 5, 2010, in Kerrville, Texas. Four Marines who were Leicht's friends spoke at the service. Leicht, the 1,000th American serviceman killed in Afghanistan was born on the Fourth of July. (AP Photo/San Antonio Express-News, Tom Reel)

British Officers Blame Military Command And Politicians “For Blundering Into Helmand With ‘Eyes Shut And Fingers Crossed’” Idiots In Command Butchered Their Soldiers: “The Minister Is Jolly Keen To Get Into Helmand — Don’t Bring Me Bad News, Bring Me Good News”

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

Another source, in government at the time, said that the military was pushing hard for the mission despite warnings that preparations were inadequate. “The advice to ministers grossly underestimated the risks,” he said. “The few people who were doubters were either too cowardly or too cautious to say what they really thought.”

June 9, 2010 Deborah Haynes, Anthony Loyd, Sam Kiley, Tom Coghlan; The Times [Excerpts]

Military chiefs and civil servants ignored warnings that Britain was ill prepared to send troops to Helmand and signed off a deeply flawed plan, a succession of senior figures have told The Times.

Even those in charge of the deployment admit that the decision to go to southern Afghanistan in 2006, which has cost the lives of nearly 300 servicemen and women, was a gamble and that mistakes were made because of poor intelligence.

But a two-month investigation by The Times, which includes interviews with 32 senior military, political and Civil Service figures, reveals that there was deep disquiet over the handling of the mission from the start.

Top ranks within the Ministry of Defence and other Whitehall departments are accused of:

- * grossly underestimating the threat from the Taliban;**
- * ignoring warnings that planned troop numbers were inadequate;**

*** offering only the military advice they thought ministers wanted to hear;**

*** signing off on a confused command- and-control structure.**

One senior serving officer who asked not to be named said of the planning stage: “There was institutional ignorance and denial. We who had bothered to put a bit of work in and had done the estimate realised that we needed much more than we were being given.”

Another source, in government at the time, said that the military was pushing hard for the mission despite warnings that preparations were inadequate. “The advice to ministers grossly underestimated the risks,” he said. “The few people who were doubters were either too cowardly or too cautious to say what they really thought.”

Major-General Andrew Mackay, a former commander of British troops in the province who has left the Army, accused the military of being too acquiescent in rolling over to political bidding. “The genesis of this approach is born of complacency, the thought that ‘we can deal with it as and when it happens’.

“It resulted, I believe, in the upper echelons of government going into Helmand with their eyes shut and their fingers crossed. For those who fought and died or suffered injuries in that period, this proved a very costly means of conducting counterinsurgency.”

In January 2006, John Reid, then the Defence Secretary announced that Britain was sending 3,300 troops to Helmand on a stabilisation mission that would last three years and cost £1 billion.

Within weeks the troops were fighting for their lives, reinforcements were rushed in and costs skyrocketed.

The Special Air Service was one of the first to raise the alarm.

Its report after a foray into Helmand in the summer of 2005 said that replacing the small, well-funded US mission in Lashkar Gah with a larger, under-funded British one was likely to create trouble.

“They noted that there wasn’t much of an insurgency in Helmand, but that if you wanted one then send the British there,” said an officer who has seen the report.

Mark Etherington, a development expert who helped write the cross-government plan for Helmand, said: “It was clear from the outset in my view that there had been a radical underestimation of the challenge.”

Reporting back to the Cabinet Office, his team recommended further intelligence gathering and reconnaissance.

“But there was a real sense of the clock ticking, that ‘the Minister is jolly keen to get into Helmand — don’t bring me bad news, bring me good news.’.”

PTSD And “Bad Discharges” “Often The VA Personnel Tell These Vets That They Must Get Their Discharges Upgraded Before The VA Can Help Them” “THIS IS A LIE!!”

By Ray Parrish, Vietnam Veterans Against The War; Spring 2010 The Veteran.

Ray Parrish (Sgt., USAF, 72-75) is VVAW's military counselor. If you need help, call him at 773-561-8829 or email him at camiblue@vvaw.org.

Many veterans suffering from PTSD are denied VA benefits because of their less than honorable military discharges. This is based on the presumption that there was dishonorable service which bars benefits.

Often the VA personnel tell these vets that they must get their discharges upgraded before the VA can help them. THIS IS A LIE!!

Let me repeat this: Vets with service connected PTSD can get all VA benefits (except educational benefits) and VA personnel who say otherwise are misinformed, ill-trained or lying.

There are VA regulations that enable the VA to provide these veterans with health care and monthly disability checks.

The VA has two branches; the VA Health Care Administration and the VA Benefits Administration. They each have their own rules allowing them to serve vets with an old UD (Undesirable Discharge), an OTH (General discharge under conditions Other Than Honorable) and BCD (Bad Conduct Discharges) given at a Special court martial (not a General CM).

According to the VA Health care “Fact Sheet 16-8, October 2008,” when a vet with an OTH/BCD comes in for PTSD treatment, they are supposed to register the vet, place the vet in “pending verification status” and make an application to the VA Regional Office for an “administrative decision” regarding the “character of service” for VA health care purposes.

VA employees are directed to VA Manual M21-1, Part IV, Chapter 11 “Special Determinations and Administrative Decisions.” A separate character of service determination by the VARO is needed to pay disability benefits. The veteran is entitled to health care until the VARO denies service connection. This window of opportunity

may allow the veteran the time needed to get a psych evaluation which can be used to overcome the “dishonorable service” bar.

One of the most immediate and severe symptoms of PTSD is just the kind of behavior that can result in UCMJ charges and a discharge for misconduct.

Following the directions in their M21-1 Manual Part III, Subpart v, 1, B.11.a, the VARO can decide that there is no “dishonorable service” to bar benefits. The “insanity” definition in 38 CFR 3.354 allows the VA to see that there was no “dishonorable service” for eligibility purposes.

A psych evaluation explaining that the service connected PTSD caused the misconduct is needed. It can also be argued that the military is responsible for the misconduct because they failed to provide treatment for the PTSD. So the psych evaluation needs to say that the vet served honorably until the service connected PTSD (or any other mental disorder) affected the vet’s “ability to serve honorably,” so there was no “dishonorable” service.

(It is also possible to get ANY diagnosis, like depression, anxiety or bi-polar disorder, a “direct” service connection if the symptoms were present during service or within one year of military discharge.)

The VARO will likely deny the claim at the beginning and force the vet to request a “character of service determination” even if the psych evaluation has already been submitted. When the eligibility issue is won, the VARO will then make a decision on service connection and degree of disability.

They could do all at once, but expect delays, under-ratings and appeals.

After winning VA compensation, the vets will have the free treatment and monthly checks which will allow a long battle to get an accurate discharge. The BCMR can change a discharge to a medical retirement discharge.

This means the monthly checks come from the DOD budget not the VA, which means less money for bullets and more money for helping vets.

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

OCCUPATION PALESTINE



Group Of Israeli Naval Reserve Officers Condemn The Deadly Attack On Gaza Relief Ship: “A Military Failure” “A Military And Political Disaster” “We Were Dumbfounded At The Dismal Outcome Of Civilians’ Deaths And Injuries”

06.06.10 By Amnon Meranda, Ynetnews.com [Israel] [Excerpts]

A group of 10 Navy reserve officers who served as patrol boat commanders sent a harsh letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Ehud Barak on

Sunday in which they urge the establishment of an independent inquiry commission into the flotilla raid events.

“We believe the operation ended in a military and political disaster,” the letter noted.

The officers said they disagreed with claims of an intelligence or a PR failure as they believe the whole operation was doomed from the beginning.

“Most of all, we protest the fact that the responsibility for the disaster was immediately placed on the sail’s organizers,” the letter noted, suggesting that the commanding ranks and decision makers were the ones primarily responsible for the debacle.

“We regard this as contempt for professionalism, battle morals and human life.”

“We were dumbfounded at the dismal outcome of civilians’ deaths and injuries. There is no shred of doubt in our minds that had a less trained and disciplined force been sent, the number of casualties would have been much greater, and therefore wish to express our appreciation of the combat forces.

“Nevertheless, we feel serious tactical mistakes in judgment and the use of force were made, primarily the inability to aptly characterize the mission while bearing in mind a civil vessel was being targeted.”

The officers stated that based on their experience as vessel commanders other ways could have been employed to stop the flotilla.

“The MO which was exercised included a high level of friction which we feel was unnecessary, regardless of the type of resistance discovered upon the raid.”

One of the officers, Major Nir Barak told Ynet, “We have a lot of experience in this field. The letter was thought up out of a feelings of discomfort, mainly at the subsequent events and the defense minister and Navy command’s failure to take responsibility.

“We believe mistakes were made by the security establishment’s higher echelons which need to be addressed. We are not endorsing disobedience or draft-dodging but think one can show support for the forces and demand an examination at the same time.”

Major Barak stressed that the criticism is not directed at the soldiers but at the higher echelons which initiated and led the operation.

“We think that the Navy command could have better prepared itself for this operation. The event was a military failure and there are questions which need to be answered.”

[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.”]

“I Don’t Write Poems But, In Any Case, Poems Are Not Poems”

From: Carlo C
To: Military Resistance
Subject: an item for your newsletter
Date: Jun 12, 2010

G'day Thomas,

You're doing a great job with your resistance newsletter. I thought you might like the item below for your 'Occupation Palestine' section...

This gutsy poem is, I think, reflective of more than just the situation of the Palestinians.

There are 'Palestinians' everywhere...

*warmest regards,
carlo*

“I Don’t Write Poems But, In Any Case, Poems Are Not Poems”

June 3, 2010 By Ghassan Hage; published by Australians for Palestine

**Long ago, I was made to understand that Palestine was not Palestine;
I was also informed that Palestinians were not Palestinians;
They also explained to me that ethnic cleansing was not ethnic cleansing.**

**And when naive old me saw freedom fighters
they patiently showed me that they were not freedom fighters,
and that resistance was not resistance.**

**And when, stupidly, I noticed arrogance, oppression and humiliation
they benevolently enlightened me so I can see that arrogance was not arrogance,
oppression was not oppression and humiliation was not humiliation.**

**I saw misery, racism, inhumanity and a concentration camp.
But they told me that they were experts in misery, racism, inhumanity
and concentrations camps
and I have to take their word for it: this was not misery, racism, inhumanity
and a concentrations camp.**

**Over the years they've taught me so many things:
invasion was not invasion, occupation was not occupation,
colonialism was not colonialism and apartheid was not apartheid...**

They opened my simple mind to even more complex truths that my poor brain could not on its own compute like: 'having nuclear weapons' was not 'having nuclear weapons', 'not having weapons of mass destruction' was 'having weapons of mass destruction'.

And, democracy (in the Gaza strip) was not democracy. Having second class citizens (in Israel) was democracy.

So you'll excuse me if I am not surprised to learn today that there were more things that I thought were evident that are not: peace activists are not peace activists, piracy is not piracy, the massacre of unarmed people is not the massacre of unarmed people.

I have such a limited brain and my ignorance is unlimited.

And they're so fucking intelligent. Really.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Welcome To The Occupied USA:

A Raid On A Wedding Reception: “I Asked Them How They Would Feel If I Showed Up At Their Wedding And Asked For Papers”

June 11, 2010 By Nancy Welch, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

“THEY JUST came in like it was a war zone.”

Those were the words of 28-year-old Thierno Diallo, as he and his wife Danielle described in a press conference on June 9 how immigration agents raided their wedding reception four days before in St. Albans, Vt., north of Burlington.

“I told them they had no place here,” said Diallo, a native of Guinea and coach for the semi-professional soccer team Vermont Voltage.

“I asked them how they would feel if I showed up at their wedding and asked for papers.”

The Diallos were celebrating their marriage with 70 guests at a reception in the soccer team’s clubhouse when half a dozen U.S. Border Patrol and Immigrant and Customs Enforcement (ICE) vehicles arrived at about 9 p.m.

“They wanted to know where everyone was coming from,” Diallo said. “They wanted to see everyone’s papers.”

The Diallos’ guests included friends and family from Vermont, plus many people who’d traveled from Canadian and U.S. cities to celebrate the marriage, which included a traditional West African drumming ceremony.

“The agents said someone had called them and said there were people here from all over,” Danielle told reporters at the press conference, which longtime anti-racist advocate and University of Vermont professor Patrick Brown helped them organize.

“But there was no call to the St. Albans police. There had been no complaints about noise.”

Although the Diallos urged all their guests inside the reception hall, and told ICE and Border Patrol they were not welcome, the agents lingered outside for 45 more minutes. Too shaken to stay, most of the guests soon left.

“Because of them, my ceremony went sour,” Thierno said. “The reception, all the food, all wasted.” Danielle added, “All of our guests left with a very sour view of how people are treated in Vermont.”

The Diallos said they wanted to tell their story because racist and anti-immigrant harassment are daily realities for the state’s immigrants and racial minorities. The

climate has worsened during the economic downturn and with the passage of measures like Arizona's notorious SB 1070 that legalizes racial profiling.

On a recent night out with the soccer team, Thierno said, an off-duty ICE agent harassed him in a popular Burlington bar, flashing his badge, asking if he was "legal," and threatening him with arrest.

"When we first started dating five years ago, I told him, 'You must be overreacting,'" Danielle said. "But he gets pulled over, like, 10 times a year, for no reason. It's always, 'You were a little over the speed limit' or 'You didn't signal properly before that turn.'"

The Diallos said they also wanted to make this harassment known because they believe most Vermonters would be appalled. "If someone in St. Albans did call immigration just because they saw a lot of people who don't look like them," Danielle said, "I don't think the majority of people would find that acceptable."

Although all of the guests on Saturday night were authorized to be in the U.S.--ICE and the Border Patrol left empty-handed--to the Diallos, it shouldn't even have been a question.

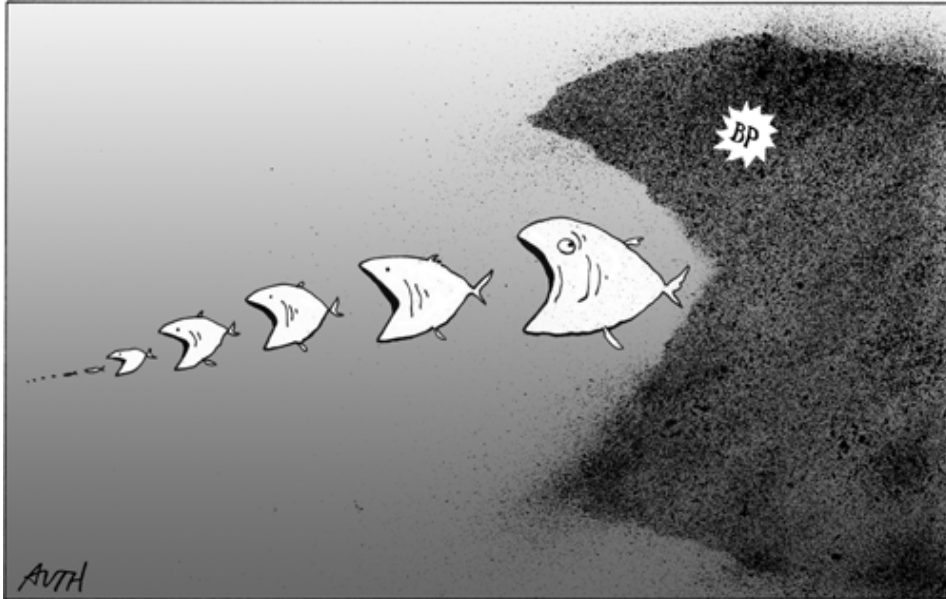
"This country was built by immigrants," Thierno said. "It isn't right to be asking people if they have papers."



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CLASS WAR REPORTS



**Rotten Apple:
Computer Firm Uses Chinese
Factory From Hell To Boost U.S.
Profits:
Foxconn Workers in China Say
“Meaningless” Life Sparks Suicides:
12 Hour Work Days, Abusive Managers &
Hideous Working Conditions Earn \$132
A Month, But Apple’s Steve Job Says It’s
“Not A Sweatshop”**



June 3 (Bloomberg) [Excerpts]

Ah Wei has an explanation for Foxconn Technology Group Chairman Terry Gou as to why some of his workers are committing suicide at the company's factory near the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen.

"Life is meaningless," said Ah Wei, his fingernails stained black with the dust from the hundreds of mobile phones he has burnished over the course of a 12-hour overnight shift.

"Everyday, I repeat the same thing I did yesterday. We get yelled at all the time. It's very tough around here."

Conversation on the production line is forbidden, bathroom breaks are kept to 10 minutes every two hours and constant noise from the factory washes past his ear plugs, damaging his hearing, Ah Wei said.

The company has rejected three requests for a transfer and his monthly salary of 900 yuan (\$132) is too meager to send home to his family, said the 21-year-old, who asked that his real name not be used because he is afraid of his managers.

At least 10 employees at Taipei-based Foxconn have taken their lives this year, half of them in May, according to the company, also known as Hon Hai Group.

The deaths have forced billionaire founder Gou to open his factories to outside scrutiny and apologize for not being able to stop the suicides.

Steve Jobs, Apple's billionaire chief executive officer, who depends on Foxconn to make the iPhone and iPad, said the suicides are "very troubling."

His company does one of the best jobs inspecting suppliers, he said, adding the company is "not a sweatshop."

The workers, 86 percent of whom are under 25 years old, live in white dormitories with eight to 10 people sleeping in a room.

The living quarters have stairs running up the outside walls and the company has begun covering them with nets to prevent people from jumping.

Inside the compound, at a factory devoted to computer motherboards, rows of young men and women stand at assembly lines, their feet shod in blue slippers and white caps on their heads.

The smell of solvent hangs in the air. About 80 percent of the front-line production employees work standing up, some for 12 hours a day for six days a week, according to Liu Bin, a 24-year-old employee.

"It's hard to make friends because you aren't allowed to chat with your colleagues during work," Liu said at Shenzhen Kang Ning Hospital where he was seeking help for insomnia.

"Most of us have little education and have no skills so we have no choice but to do this kind of job. I feel no sense of achievement and I've become a machine."

Tian, 18, left her parents and a life of growing sweet corn and rice in Hubei province, central China, to find a job in Shenzhen after graduating from high school, her father, Tian Jiandang, said. She was isolated and without friends at work, the elder Tian said. She worked at Foxconn for about a year.

On March 17, she jumped from the fourth story of her dormitory in the Longhua complex. She survived and was in a coma for almost two months. Her father still doesn't know why she jumped and is afraid to ask because he thinks it will upset her, he said in an interview by her hospital bed. Foxconn is paying for her medical care.

"Are we going to have this happen again?" said Gou, speaking on May 27 when he opened the factory to the largest media gathering in company history. "From a logical, scientific standpoint, I don't have a grasp on that. No matter how you force me, I don't know."

Less than a day after Gou made the remarks, a 23-year-old Foxconn worker jumped to his death, according to the Shenzhen police. Another worker slit his wrist and was hospitalized.

Born October 8, 1950, in Taipei to parents who emigrated from China's Shanxi Province, Gou formed his company in 1974 with \$7,500. Over 36 years, he transformed the supplier of plastic television knobs to the maker of iPhones and Sony Corp. PlayStations. Hon Hai Precision Industry generates more revenue each year than Microsoft Corp., Apple or Dell Inc.

His net worth reached \$5.9 billion this year, according to Forbes Magazine.

He owns 10.8 percent of the company as its largest shareholder, according to Bloomberg data.

“The fundamental problem for Foxconn and other Chinese factories is that their business model relies on a low-cost workforce sourced from rural areas of China,” said Pun Ngai, a professor of applied social sciences at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

“Due to its size, Foxconn has to be that much tougher than other factories, and has to become more emotionally detached from its employees than others.”

Foxconn raised pay for workers by 30 percent to 1,200 yuan from 900 yuan a month, spokesman Edmund Ding said yesterday.

The additional money may not be enough to stem the suicides, according to Xiao Qi, a college graduate who works at Foxconn in product development.

He earns 2,000 yuan a month, yet gets no joy from his job, he said.

“I do the same thing every day; I feel empty inside,” said Xiao, who said he has considered suicide. “I have no future.”

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

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/)

Troops Invited:

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