

## Military Resistance 8G10



## A Mother's Regret

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: Military Resistance  
Sent: July 10, 2010  
Subject: A Mother's Regret

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

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### A Mother's Regret

"At least he doesn't have a wife and children,"  
Mother said as her younger son listened  
"I remember when he rushed home  
to tell us he joined the Army  
I patted him on the back and acted proud

but my inside was all blue and sad  
How many bullets will miss him  
before one takes my older son away ?  
that is what I was thinking on that day  
He was so young and knew so little about war,  
maybe I should have stressed more  
about how my uncle  
died for nothing in the Vietnam War  
but that war is a million miles away  
flip flopping now in the war culture  
War is good now, veterans walk around  
with big hats that say Vietnam Veteran  
but when asked, they say they were in the Navy  
or in the rear somewhere  
Yes, I was wrong, I should have fought  
my son's thoughts, the propaganda  
and say War is Not Freedom, War is  
a Jail with bars to keep the War positive  
in our daily living, War is false Pride.”

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Resistance Action**

6.9.2010 AP & 07/10/10 Reuters

A bomber drove an explosives-laden car into an Iraqi army check point in western Baghdad. Police and hospital officials said three Iraqi soldiers were killed in the early morning attack that occurred when the bomber detonated a car bomb in the neighborhood of Ghazaliyah.

Guerrillas shot and seriously wounded the Iraqi police colonel who heads the police department in the town of Qaiyara, 290 km (180 miles) north of Baghdad, as he was travelling to work in the morning, police said. The attack led to clashes between gunmen and security forces in which a policeman was killed and a lieutenant colonel was wounded, police said.

One policeman was killed and two wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near their patrol west of Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad, as they responded to an attack on the home of a university professor, police said.

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## **Biden - Who?? [The Baghdad View]**

# **“The American Occupation Plans Nothing ‘For The Best Interests’ Of The Iraqi People – Only For Its Own Interests”**

July 09, 2010 by Sahar IIS; Inside Iraq [Baghdad]

I really wanted to know what people thought about Biden’s visit to Baghdad. It turned out that Iraqis who regularly watch the news know the name – But a very large number just do not.

(Ms) Enas Rami, architect, mother of three, grandmother of two, “It is disgusting. All these people who call themselves (Iraqi) politicians – Do they really need a visit from Biden in order to reach an agreement? What is his role? Did he advise them?? Threaten them?? – Or did he need to whip them into order??

Let them (the Americans) deal, now, with the monster they have created”.

(Mr.) Hadi Hussein, teacher, father of five, .....” Oh, you mean the American vise president. The Americans are plotting to distance the Sadrists (devoted followers of anti-American cleric Muqtada al Sadr) from positions of power in the new government. Biden came all the way here to back Allawi - or an alliance between Allawi and Maliki – and I hate them both.

The American occupation plans nothing “for the best interests” of the Iraqi people – only for its own interests. We should not put our faith in their choices”.

(Ms) Sanaa Saeed, government employee, mother of (now) three, “Who?? Oh, yes. I don’t know why he came. And I don’t care.

They said that we will be able to choose rulers who will take care of us – and instead, the rulers are taking care only of themselves, as usual. So why should I care? What has changed in my life? I will tell you what has changed: I now live in an ugly city filled with fear. I have less electricity – less water – less brothers and cousins and one less son. This is what this man (Biden) and his country have brought me”.

(Mr.) Abdullah Hazim, government employee, father of one, “If he (Biden) is able to make Allawi and Maliki come to an agreement – then perhaps his visit is not wasted. For me Allawi and Maliki complement each other and each will stand firm that the other will not become a dictator. I hate it that America is interfering – but it was they who started it, and maybe it is just as well that their deadline for withdrawal is coming up, and this is pushing them into action to get some results”.

(Mr.) Usama Muhammed, accountant, father of three, “Ah, yes – Biden. He who wanted to divide Iraq into three states.

And where is Ahmedinejad (Iranian president) – or maybe his long arm, Qassim Suleimani (Iranian intelligence officer most “involved” in “Iraq affairs”)? Isn’t he coming here too? No – Suleimani doesn’t need to come himself – the Iraqi government is doing his work for him. What a shame - Iraq is no longer in Iraqi hands”.

(Mr.) Abbas Nouri, shop owner, father of six and grandfather of sixteen, “Who? OH – The American vice president!

Well, it is a good thing that he came; at least they (the Americans) have not totally forgotten us after destroying us.

Maybe he carries with him, in his briefcase, the next Iraqi government”.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

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

### **U.S. Occupation Commands’ Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops**



A foreign occupation soldier from the USA threatens to kill an Afghan citizen walking on a public road unless he lies down in the dirt in front of him during a patrol near the village of Khersak in Arghandab District, north of Kandahar July 9, 2010.

REUTERS/Bob Strong

Afghani citizens have no right to resist orders 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 Afghan citizens.**

**This encourages self-respecting honorable Afghans to kill them.**

**Villagers complained of indignities imposed by the foreign forces, the arrest and killing of civilians, house searches that violate the ethnic Pashtuns' sense of honor and the sanctity of the home, and checkpoints where they are forced to lift up their shirts, which is deeply shaming for Afghans, to show that they are not carrying explosives. -- May 16, 2010, Carlotta Gall, The New York Times**

## **6 U.S. Troops Killed In Afghanistan**

10 July 2010 VOA News

Six American service members have been killed in separate attacks in Afghanistan, on a day marked by violence across the country.

Four of the Americans died in separate incidents in the east involving small arms fire and an insurgent attack. The other two died in separate roadside bombings in the south.

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## **Texas Soldier Killed In Afghanistan**



Army Spc. Jerod Osborne, Rockwall, Texas, killed July 8, 2010 in combat in Afghanistan. (AP Photo)

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## **Soldier From 5th Regiment Royal Artillery Killed In Sangin**

8 Jul 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce that a soldier from 5th Regiment Royal Artillery, serving in support of Combined Force Sangin, was killed this morning, Thursday 8 July 2010.

The soldier was killed in an explosion while on a foot patrol in the Sangin district of Helmand province.

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## **Australian Soldier Killed By Blast On Patrol In Uruzgan, Another Wounded**

Jul 9, 2010 By Robert Fenner, BLOOMBERG

An Australian soldier has been killed and another wounded while on patrol in Afghanistan, the Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported on its website citing Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston.

The 23-year-old from Brisbane on his third tour of duty was killed by an improvised explosive device in Uruzgan province, the ABC said.

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## **Royal Marine From 40 Commando Royal Marines Killed In Sangin**

8 Jul 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce that a Royal Marine from 40 Commando Royal Marines, serving as part of Combined Force Sangin, was killed in Afghanistan yesterday, Thursday 8 July 2010.

The Marine was killed in an explosion while on a foot patrol in the Sangin district of Helmand province.

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# Hundreds In Kendall Honor U.S. Navy Seaman Who Died In Afghanistan

06.26.10 CBS4.COM AND THE MIAMI HERALD

Hundreds of mourners attended funeral services Saturday in Kendall for a U.S. Navy seaman and 2005 South Dade High School graduate who was killed in Afghanistan.

Seaman William Ortega, 23, had been in the Navy for two years and was attached to a unit of Marines, as a corpsman, the Navy's version of a medic, when he was killed June 18 in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. The Pentagon said an improvised bomb exploded while he was in a patrol vehicle "conducting combat operations against enemy forces."

"He was an awesome brother and an awesome friend," his sister Aracely Ortega said.

Mourners included Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, who never met Ortega but attended the funeral to thank the Ortega family for his service, and honor his sacrifice.

"He wanted to deploy. He wanted to serve his country," said friend Ana Miller earlier this week, "and he did."

At the start of training in California, adjusting to West Coast life was hard for Ortega, Miller said. But Ortega adapted and made friends, including Miller, 21, and her husband, Jeremy, a fellow corpsman.

Still, the 23-year-old longed for home.

"He was telling me that when he came back from his deployment, if he was given the choice of where to go, he was going to choose Miami," said Miller.

Ortega was deployed to Afghanistan, attached to the Third Battalion, First Marine Regiment, First Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force. His battalion, nicknamed the Thundering Third, took full command of the province in May, when he was deployed overseas.

After the bombing, Ortega was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, NATO Non Article V Medal and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

"He had a lot of respect for this nation and he paid the ultimate sacrifice, unfortunately," said his sister.

The funeral was held at the Bernardo Garcia Funeral Home in Kendall. Burial will be held at Arlington National Cemetery July 9.

Besides his sister, he is also survived by his parents, William and Marianela Ortega; sisters Karla Ortega, Edna Ortega, Maria Ortega, and Evelyn Lopez; brother-in-law Juan

Martinez of the U.S. Navy; grandmother Gladys Francisca Gutierrez and grandfather Jose Centeno.

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## **Sweetwater Soldier Remembered: 'He Made A Difference In My Life'**

June 26, 2010 By Nash Armstrong, Knoxville News Sentinel Co.

KNOXVILLE — Robert Repkie's mannerisms made it easy for people to decipher his personality.

His Facebook profile picture, showing his U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Delta Troop patch he so proudly wore, showed his dedication. His shy nature showed his quiet reserve.

His smile showed his heart.

Pfc. Robert "Kelsey" Repkie, a Sweetwater, Tenn., native, died in action Thursday in Afghanistan.

Repkie, who is survived by his parents Russell and Susan Repkie, will be laid to rest with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

Sweetwater High School Principal David Watts said today that Repkie redefined his role as a school administrator. "It's our job to make a difference in a child's life," Watts said, "but he made a difference in my life. "I'll never forget Robert Repkie."

Repkie only spent two years at Sweetwater High School, but he built lasting relationships.

"He knew what time (Assistant Principal) Rex (Rhodes) came in, and he would call us before school started just to talk to us," Watts said. "He would even call us from Afghanistan."

His communication was not limited to telephone calls. His former science teacher, Kari Connaster, whom Repkie fondly called "Mrs. C," spoke with him via Facebook last Wednesday. Connaster said it was not unusual to speak with him through the social networking site.

"He would always talk to me on Facebook when he could," Connaster said. "He said it was hot, and that was working as a cook. He told me how he planned to try some online classes for college when he got back."

Watts said the counseling he and other Sweetwater High staff members gave Repkie brought them all closer together. From their talks, Watts knew Repkie wanted to be a military man, regardless of the circumstances.



“We talked about his career, and he said. ‘I want to go into the military. I want to serve my country,’” Watts said. “We told him he would end up in a war zone, but he knew the danger, and he didn’t seem to mind.”

The military, Connaster said, gave Repkie an atmosphere he craved.

“He was very proud of what he was doing, and very proud of the men he served with,” she said. “He called them ‘brothers.’”

Watts said knowing what Repkie will miss is the hardest part of accepting his death.

“He was only 20 and he won’t have the opportunity to raise a family,” Watts said. “I’ll never have the opportunity to hear his voice again.”

But Watts knows exactly what Repkie would say.

“Robert would come in school and ask us how everything was, and I would say, ‘It’s all good, Robert.’ If he were here today, he would have one thing to say: ‘It’s all good.’ “

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## **German Soldiers Wounded By Two Attacks In Eastern Khost And Northern Kunduz: Number Not Announced**



The scene of an explosion attacking foreign troops in Khost, Afghanistan, July 10, 2010. An explosion tore through a foreign military convoy traveling in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, officials said, the latest attack targeting foreign forces. German soldiers were wounded. (AP Photo/Nishanuddin Khan)

July 10, 2010 Reuters

Bombers hit two separate NATO convoys in eastern Khost and northern Kunduz on Saturday, injuring German soldiers and showing the growing insurgency can strike well beyond the Taliban-dominated south.

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## **U.S. Armoured Vehicle Burns**



A U.S. armoured vehicle burns after an attack in Nangahar province July 9, 2010. The bomber targeted a U.S. military convoy in the eastern city of Jalalabad on Friday. REUTERS/Parwiz

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**“Taliban Attacks There Are Raising  
The Cost Of Supplying U.S. Troops In  
Afghanistan”**

**“We Have Lost Anywhere Between 5,000  
And 6,000 Trucks And Oil Tankers”**

July 07, 2010 By Anwar Shakir and James Rupert, Bloomberg [Excerpts]

Hundreds of trucks and buses leave the main highway in northwest Pakistan each evening at sunset to wait out the overnight closure of a strategic tunnel. Taliban attacks there are raising the cost of supplying U.S. troops in Afghanistan and hurting the local economy.

As darkness falls, the drivers smoke, chat or doze on the dusty earth of a roadside camp 70 kilometers (43 miles) from the border. Since 2002, militants in Pakistan have killed about 120 local drivers hauling war supplies from the country's main seaport, Karachi, to bases in Afghanistan.

"I have seen my colleagues' trucks burned," said Bakhta Gul Jan as he drove his flatbed truck from the Kohat Tunnel toward the main border crossing at northwestern Pakistan's Khyber Pass. "Six months ago I received a flyer printed by militants warning us to stop driving supplies for NATO because they are the enemy of Islam."

Jan declined to name his hometown for fear of being identified by the Taliban, who have attacked the tunnel and blown up bridges on the 1,250-kilometer Indus Highway, the main artery linking southern and northwestern Pakistan.

The militants' war on supply convoys for U.S.-led NATO forces has raised the military's shipping costs, partly by forcing the use of alternate routes through Central Asia at what the U.S. military's Transportation Command says is 2½ times the cost of shipping through Pakistan.

Drivers say rising violence and fuel costs since 2006 have forced them to double the rates they charge for the run to Afghanistan.

**That increase, plus the new Central Asian supply lines and other logistical challenges, bring the war's cost to almost \$1.2 million annually per soldier, 73 percent more than the \$685,000 cost of a soldier in Iraq, according to a June 29 analysis by the Washington-based Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.**

Truckers have raised their rates to \$2,470 from \$1,100 four years ago for the 1,750-kilometer drive to Bagram air base north of Kabul from Pakistan's port of Karachi, said Himayat Shah, general secretary of the All-Pakistan Combined Trucks and Trailers Welfare Association.

Since the Pakistan supply route opened in 2002, militants have killed between 120 and 150 truckers for hauling U.S. military supplies, Shah said in an interview at his office in Karachi, the Arabian Sea port to which the Defense Department ships goods to be trucked to its Afghan bases.

"We have lost anywhere between 5,000 and 6,000 trucks and oil tankers," he said.

To avoid attacks, many drivers now detour hundreds of kilometers around the Taliban-dominated Pashtun lands, driving northeast through Punjab province instead. Last month, the militants hit that route, too, killing eight people and destroying at least 50 trucks with U.S. military shipping containers that were stopped for the night at a depot outside Islamabad, the capital.

Despite such dangers, Jan, the truck driver, says northwest Pakistan's unemployment keeps him hauling U.S. supplies.

"I have seven children, and this is the only good business I can get to make the money to take care of them," he said.

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## Hundreds Of Afghans Took To The Streets Of Mazar-I-Sharif On Saturday To Condemn U.S. For Killing More Civilians



Afghans hold a banner which reads 'We want to form our Islamic government to stop the willful operations of the foreign forces in Afghanistan' during a demonstration in Mazar-i-Sharif, Balkh province, north of Kabul, Afghanistan, July 10, 2010. Demonstrators condemned a U.S. operation in the city on Wednesday, in which two people were killed and three were arrested. (AP Photo/Mustafa Najafizada)

July 10, 2010 Reuters

Hundreds of Afghans took to the streets of Mazar-i-Sharif on Saturday to protest more civilians killed by foreign armed forces,

Protesters chanted slogans against the U.S. and Afghan President Hamid Karzai after U.S. troops killed two civilians in a pre-dawn raid on Wednesday in the northern city's outskirts.

NATO also admitted killing six people with stray artillery on Thursday in Paktia Province. **[“Stray”? What, the shells are like your pet dog, that just wanders away somewhere and becomes a “stray”? Taking aim at a target, requesting permission to fire, and opening fire can’t be whitewashed by using a cute little word. T]**

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**“Do Not Fuck With Us. You Will Not  
Win”  
[Get The Message?]**



Local elders demanding the release of several men detained for suspected anti-occupation activity at a meeting with Afghan police and army officials in the village of Kuhak in Arghandab District, north of Kandahar July 10, 2010. REUTERS/Bob Strong

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**UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH;  
ALL HOME NOW**





U.S. Soldiers with the 2-508 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, advance under fire from Taliban militants near the village of Jilga in Arghandab District north of Kandahar July 8, 2010. REUTERS/Bob Strong

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

## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

### **“Mujahideen Fighters Attacked The Base Of The Burundian Troops”**

9 July 2010 AllAfrica Global Media

Mogadishu — The Islamist fighters of Harakat Al-shabab Mujahideen and AMISOM troops mainly the Burundian forces in Kuliya Jalle Siyad, a base for the Burundian troops have bitterly fought there causing casualties of deaths and injuries, witnesses said on Friday.

Reports say that the fighting broke out as Harakat Al-shabab Mujahideen fighters attacked the base of the Burundian troops there and exchanged heavy gunfire with heavy shelling that affected civilians in the areas.

Witnesses said that a civilian died while three others wounded as mortars exchanging both sides landed at Bakara market in the capital.

All the movement of the traffic, people and business had returned normal on Friday morning and the latest reports from the area say that the situation of the warring zones returned normal. The fighting is part of the clashes between the two sides in Mogadishu.

**Military Resistance Available In PDF Format**  
If you prefer PDF to Word format, email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org)

## **TROOP NEWS**

**THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THE TROOPS  
HOME:**

**BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



The remains of Army Specialist Clayton D. McGarrah of Harrison, Ark. at Dover Air Force Base, Del. July 6, 2010. McGarrah was killed by an improvised bomb as they patrolled at Arghandab, Afghanistan (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

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

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

**Dying In Their Sleep;  
The Invisible Plague Attacking U.S.  
Soldiers:**

**“There Are Many Possible Reasons Why  
An Avalanche Of Prescriptions Are  
Befalling Our Soldiers With No  
Accountability Even As Those Drugs  
Kill”**



Corporal Andrew White USMC

June 23, 2010 By Cilla McCain, HuffingtonPost.com, Inc.

While doing research for the book *Murder In Baker Company*, I came to know many military family members from the support group "Home of the Brave." The group's goal is to help one another gain information and justice in the noncombat related deaths of their loved ones. According to the Department of Defense nearly 1 out of 4 fatalities in the military are noncombat related.

Stan and Shirley White of West Virginia represent one of the "Home of the Brave" families. Three of their four children have served in the armed forces. Two have died because of their time in war. On September 26, 2005, their son Robert, an Army Staff Sergeant, was killed in a rocket attack in Afghanistan.

**On February 12, 2008, their youngest son, 23 year-old Marine Corporal Andrew White died in his sleep after being treated for PTSD with lethal prescription drugs.**

Struggling with PTSD compounded by grief over the death of his brother, Andrew sought help from VA doctors.

Their first line of defense was to prescribe him 20 mg. of Paxil, 4 mg of Klonopin and 50 mg of Seroquel. These medications helped at first, but later proved ineffective.

**Instead of changing the course of treatment, the doctors responded by continually increasing his dosage until the Seroquel alone reached a whopping 1600 mg per day.**

**Within weeks of Andrew's death, three more young West Virginia veterans died while being treated for PTSD with the same drugs, prompting Stan and Shirley White to begin a mission to find out what the deaths have in common.**

"When we first learned of the other West Virginia soldiers who died in their sleep," Stan says. "We thought it must be a reaction to biological warfare, we thought they must have been exposed to something in Iraq and now it is killing them."

**Indeed, if you conduct an internet search with the phrase "soldier found dead" the results are staggering.**



**Narrow it down even further by including the phrase “unexplained” and you will begin to get a glimpse of what some would call an epidemic.**

When the White's received Andrew's autopsy report, the official cause was listed as “accidental intoxication of Seroquel, Paxil, and pain medication.”

**Andrew had not committed suicide, nor did he take his medication in a manner it was not prescribed.**

**Death, as it turned out, is a potential side effect of Seroquel.**

**The doctors and the pharmaceutical company knew that, however nobody told Andrew, despite the fact that he was experiencing many of Seroquel's most serious side effects.**

In the 11-months Andrew was taking Seroquel, he gained 40 lbs., suffered from tremors, severe constipation and swelling of the mammary glands.

**Before his death, a VA doctor referred Andrew to an endocrinologist for tests to determine the cause of his symptoms, even though it is clearly stated in Seroquel's literature that all of this can be caused by using the drug.**

**Andrew passed away before the appointment.**

Dr. Fred Baughman, a neurologist and outspoken critic on the use of anti-psychotic drugs has studied the West Virginia soldier deaths and has determined that “sudden cardiac death” is the cause.

In a May 2010 press release, Dr. Baughman states:

“All were diagnosed with PTSD. All seemed “normal” when they went to bed. And, all were on Seroquel (an antipsychotic) Paxil (an antidepressant) and Klonopin (a benzodiazepine). They were not comatose and unarousable -- with pulse and respirations or pulse intact, responsive to CPR, surviving transport to a hospital, frequently surviving. These were sudden cardiac deaths.”

Between the VA medical doctors and psychiatrists Andrew was going to for help, none tried to assess the effectiveness of these drugs on his PTSD symptoms.

They just kept increasing the dosage as if he were a guinea pig in some twisted lab experiment. Whether sudden cardiac death, polypharmacy, or suicide, a prescription tracking system could be a major step toward preventing tragedy.

**To that end, in March 2010, Senator Jim Webb of Virginia called on the Surgeons General from the Department of Defense to provide data regarding prescription drugs in the military.**

**This vital information was never received despite repeated requests, so on June 9, 2010, Senator Webb released a public statement calling on the DOD to finally adhere to the request:**

**“Three months ago in an Armed Services hearing, Army Surgeon General Schoomaker downplayed media reports of skyrocketing prescription drug use of those serving in the Army. I am still waiting to see existing data across services and a judgment of these findings.”**

There are many possible reasons why an avalanche of prescriptions are befalling our soldiers with no accountability even as those drugs kill. Financial gain by medical personnel of the DOD is one of the most serious allegations being examined and I will continue to follow this matter.

Let us hope the powers that be do not continue to stall and downplay the seriousness of this issue. I shudder to think of how many more young, vibrant soldiers will die in their sleep in the meantime.

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## **New York City Bus Drivers Fighting In Iraq And Afghanistan Will Get Rude Welcome Home: “You’re Fired” “I Was Guaranteed My Job Would Be There When I Got Back”**



Gertrude Taylor holds photos of her brother Alvin Taylor, who is currently on tour of duty in Afghanistan and is facing losing his job as an MTA bus driver. Savulich/News



Anddy Moreno, 37 who is serving in Iraq, and is also on the layoffs list. Lombard for News

June 22nd 2010 By Pete Donohue and Barry Paddock, DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

Two city bus drivers who were sent to war in Iraq and Afghanistan are getting pink slips instead of yellow ribbons.

Sgts. Alvin Taylor and Anddy (Angel) Moreno, bus drivers called up to serve overseas, are set to lose their civilian jobs this weekend as part of massive transit budget cuts.

“The way Transit is laying off these two individuals who are fighting for their country is totally unpatriotic and unethical,” charged Frank Austin, a division chairman with Local 100 of the Transport Workers Union.

Taylor, 55, of Midwood, Brooklyn, is serving with the Army Reserve in Kandahar, Afghanistan, where he provides security for military convoys.

“Every time you leave the bases, your life is on the line,” Taylor told the Daily News by phone from Kandahar. “You could be hit by an IED, attacked by insurgents, come under small arms fire. It’s very tense over here.”

Taylor, hired in October, drove Brooklyn’s B46 line. He was sent to Afghanistan in February - his second tour of duty in recent years, having served in Iraq earlier.

**He said he told bus managers when he was being trained that he was going to be deployed overseas.**

**“I was guaranteed my job would be there when I got back,” he said.**

The military has long been a part of his life.

A native of Trinidad and Tobago, he joined the Army Reserves in 1989 as “payback to Uncle Sam for allowing me to stay in the country legally,” he said. “I got my green card, citizenship, everything.”

Federal law guarantees most non-fulltime members of the military are entitled to return to their civilian jobs after deployment. The law is meant to protect workers from being punished for military absences.

But the law doesn't offer protection to workers whose jobs are eliminated when a company downsizes, according to Matthew Tully, an Albany-based lawyer and expert on the law.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is laying off hundreds of bus drivers and slashing service, part of the authority's plan to close a large budget gap. Under terms of the contract with the TWU, employees with the least amount of time on the job are at the top of the layoff list.

The transit agency could open a legal can of worms if it tries to skip over the citizen soldiers and lay off other drivers with more seniority, Tully said.

Moreno, 37, a father of five from the Bronx, is serving in Iraq with the National Guard after becoming a Bx55 bus driver last year.

His sister, a veteran bus driver, urged him to take the job. Moreno's unit left for Kuwait two weeks ago and he was unreachable. But his sister is worried about his future at home.

**“Now he has a lot to worry about, knowing he's not going to have a job to support his family when he gets back,” said Kissis Moreno, 40.**

**TWU Local 100 President John Samuelson said it's “despicable” for the MTA to layoff the two drivers. “They should honor their military service and not lay them off,” he said.**

A NYC Transit spokesperson confirmed Moreno and Taylor are on the list of workers set to be laid off this weekend, but said the agency is “reviewing the current situation.”

#### **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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550**

# FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.**

**-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

**I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.**

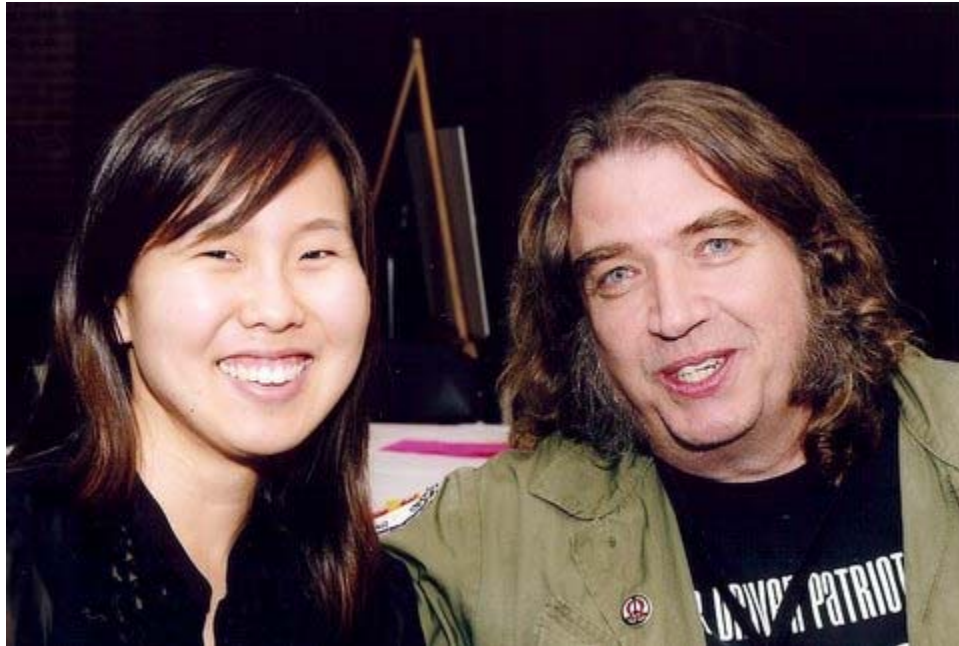
**-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace**

**“The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy”**

**-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt**

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

## **Mule Train**



From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance  
Sent: July 09, 2010  
Subject: Mule Train

### **Mule Train**

**Mom,**  
I got a job in Shanghai working for  
a software company.  
I saved \$3,000 for the ticket over here,  
and the first two months of expenses.  
I arrived last week, and I'm already  
making friends.  
Sorry I didn't tell you I was going,  
because I didn't want you to worry.  
I'll send you most of my first pay check,  
so you and dad can get caught up on bills.  
I'm so excited about moving to China.  
This could be a new start for all of us.  
Love Billy



Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: ([hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004

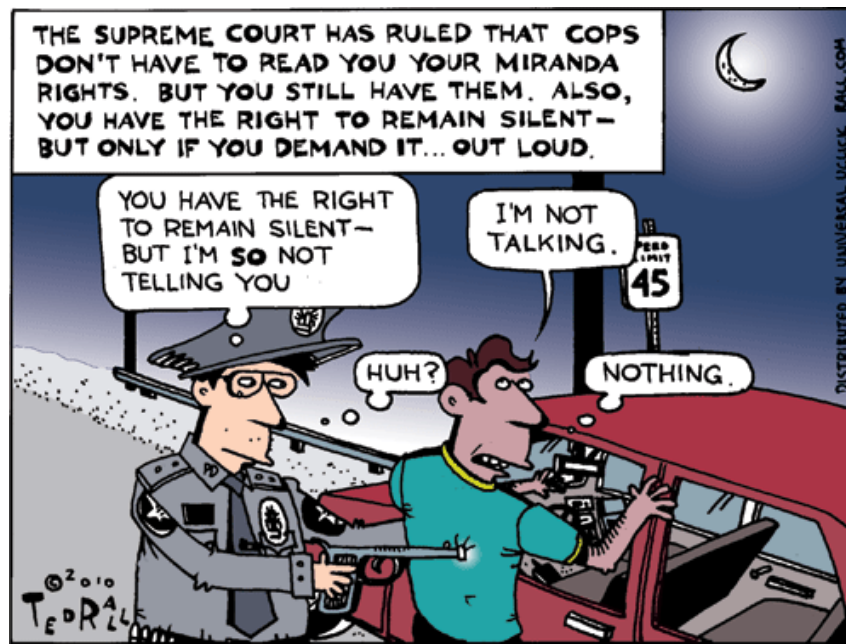
## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**Suspects Must Directly Invoke  
Right To Remain Silent:  
“Justice Sonia Sotomayor Called The  
Court’s Ruling A ‘Major Retreat’ From**

# Protections Against Self-Incrimination”

## “Criminal Suspects Must Now Unambiguously Invoke Their Right To Remain Silent -- Which Counterintuitively Requires Them To Speak”



June 1, 2010 By Bill Mears, CNN Supreme Court Producer

Washington (CNN) -- If criminal suspects fail to invoke their right to remain silent, they have waived that right, a divided Supreme Court ruled Tuesday.

The high court upheld the murder conviction of a man who did not verbally assert his right to remain silent during his police interrogation. In a 5-4 ruling, the court said a suspect must explicitly tell officers he or she is asserting that right, known as Miranda rights.

The famous constitutional “right to remain silent” and the “right to talk to a lawyer before answering any questions” are among the well-known warnings all criminal suspects must be given upon arrest.

The conservative court has generally been supportive in recent years, when police challenges to Miranda rights have been raised.



“A suspect who has received and understood the Miranda warnings, and has not invoked his Miranda rights, waives the right to remain silent by making an uncoerced statement to police,” said Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the court.

Van Chester Thompkins was convicted of a January 10, 2000, murder outside a shopping mall in Southfield, Michigan. He fled the scene, but was arrested about a year later in Ohio.

Local police began what turned out to be a three-hour interrogation, with Thompkins at first forced to read aloud part of a copy of “constitutional rights” derived from the original Miranda case that went before the Supreme Court in 1966. The five rights included the warning “anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law,” and “the right to decide at any time before or during questioning to use your right to remain silent.”

Thompkins refused to sign the form and there was strong disagreement over whether he verbally confirmed he understood them. He remained mostly silent during questioning, but later implicated himself in the shooting. He was later convicted of first-degree murder and other offenses.

The court majority sided with the police’s version of the events.

“Thompkins did not say that he wanted to remain silent or that he did not want to talk to police,” Kennedy concluded. “Had he made either of these simple, unambiguous statements, he would have invoked his ‘right to cut off questioning.’ Here he did neither, so he did not invoke his right to remain silent.”

Kennedy’s views were supported by Chief Justice John Roberts, along with Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito.

A federal appeals court in Cincinnati agreed with Thompkins his confession should be thrown out, but the high court reversed that decision.

**In a sharp dissent, Justice Sonia Sotomayor called the court’s ruling a “major retreat” from protections against self-incrimination guaranteed by the original Miranda ruling.**

**“Criminal suspects must now unambiguously invoke their right to remain silent -- which counterintuitively requires them to speak,” she said.**

**“At the same time, suspects will be legally presumed to have waived their rights even if they have given no clear expression of their intent to do so. Those results, in my view, find no basis in Miranda or our subsequent cases and are inconsistent with the fair-trial principles on which those precedents are grounded.”**

Sotomayor said the Thompkins ruling “turns Miranda upside down.” Justices John Paul Stevens, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer backed her conclusions.

Thompkins had implicated himself after police asked if he believed in God. After replying yes, officers then asked, “Do you pray to God to forgive you for shooting that boy down?”

asking about victim Samuel Morris. The court transcript said Thompkins replied "Yes," and turned away, but later refused to make a written confession.

The case is *Berghuis v. Thompkins* (08-1470).

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