

Military Resistance: thomasbarton@earthlink.net 7.9.10

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IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action

July 7 (Reuters) & Telegraph Media Group July 8 (Reuters)

Police shot at a car bomber who tried to pass a security checkpoint in the Ghazaliya district of western Baghdad and the car exploded, wounding three soldiers and a policeman, police said.

A bomb attached to a police officer's car exploded, wounding a passenger, in the Abu Ghraib district of western Baghdad, police said.

At least three people were killed and six others wounded when attackers blew up the homes of police officers in Abu Ghraib, police said.

A bomb attached to a car killed a police major in the Doura district of southern Baghdad, police said.

In northern Baghdad, a roadside bomb detonated, killing two policemen on patrol near by, police officials said.

Four policemen were killed and six wounded in western Ramadi, 100 km (60 miles) west of Baghdad, after bombs planted near the houses of local policemen went off, followed by a roadside bomb when security forces arrived at the blast scene, police said.

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

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

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Arkansas Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



U.S. Army Spc. Clayton McGarrah, of Harrison, Ark., was killed in southern Afghanistan July 4. (AP Photo/Courtesy McGarrah Family)

One American, One Unidentified Foreign Soldier Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan

July 8, 2010 AP

Two foreign troops have been killed in separate attacks.

An American was killed by an insurgent attack in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday. Another service member, whose nationality was not released, died after a roadside bomb attack in the south.

Cobb Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

July 8, 2010 By Mike Morris, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

An Army soldier from Cobb County died over the holiday weekend after being wounded in Afghanistan.

Army Pvt. Jacob Dennis, 22, died Sunday at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, where he had been airlifted after being wounded late last week.

Dennis was a graduate of North Cobb Christian School in Kennesaw, where he played soccer. His mother, Renee Dennis, is on the school's faculty.

Jacob Dennis was also a former member of Boy Scout Troop 204 at Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta.

Dennis' family told Fox 5 that while the Army has given them details on his death, they want to focus on how he lived.

"He was in the middle of everything. That's the best way to describe him," brother Sam Dennis told the television station, adding that when his brother joined the Army in 2006, he wanted to be on the front lines.

Jacob Dennis was stationed at Fort Lewis in Washington, where he met his future wife, Allysha Clark. The couple had been married just over a year.

Soldier With St. Pete Ties Killed In Afghanistan



David W. Thomas

06/30/2010 By STEPHEN THOMPSON, The Tampa Tribune

About a week ago, David W. Thomas called his wife from Afghanistan to tell her he had been in an ambush that left two comrades dead.

He sounded distraught as he spoke, and advised against watching television coverage of the incident, said his sister, Donna Butler.

It was unlike her brother to become nervous about anything, Butler said, and she grew concerned. In an e-mail sent via her brother's Facebook page, she told him to come

home, to forget about re-enlisting to reach the 20-year retirement mark, that it wasn't worth it anymore.

"I got nervous," Butler, 33, of Sarasota, said. "He's never shown a sign of weakness."

Thomas responded via e-mail, "I'm OK, sis. I'm OK," Butler recalled.

Less than a week later, Thomas, 40, was dead.

The Army specialist was killed when enemy forces attacked his unit with small-arms fire in the Konar province, the military said. Staff Sgt. Eric B. Shaw, 31, of Exeter, Maine, also was killed in the attack.

Thomas was standing watch at the time, and his family has been told the attack is under investigation, Butler said.

Thomas and Shaw were assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division and were based out of Fort Campbell, Ky.

Thomas is not from the Tampa Bay area. But his wife, pregnant with their third child at the time, moved in with her mother in St. Petersburg roughly three years ago while her husband was wrapping up his military career in Connecticut, according to his sister. At the time, Thomas was with the Marines.

Thomas was born in Manhattan and his family moved to Georgia and then to South Carolina. After graduating from high school in Estill, S.C., in 1988, he joined the Navy. When he got out in 1991, he was dissatisfied.

"He just loved the military life," Butler said. "He tried civilian life and it wasn't for him."

Then he signed up with the Marines in 1997. He was with the corps for eight years, his sister said, and served in Iraq three times. Toward the end of his tour, he worked as a recruiter, and often heard from families after their loved ones he had recruited died in battle in Iraq.

"He never said any of them were angry with him," Butler said. "They just called to let him know what happened. After a few of them, he couldn't handle it anymore."

When he left the Marines, he moved to St. Petersburg to be with his wife and their children, his sister said.

Again, he went from job to job, usually in security, and decided to sign up with another branch of the service – the Army. He arrived at Fort Campbell, Ky., in August, 2009, and his family moved there, too.

They were living at Fort Campbell at the time of his death. Thomas is survived by his wife, Latoya; their son, Jayden, 6; their daughter, Imani, 3; and his stepson, Basheer H. Cross, 13. Thomas also is survived by an older daughter, Jachardonae Thomas, of Kathleen; a son, David W. Thomas Jr., of Springfield, Ohio; and his mother, Mary Thomas of Allendale, S.C., according to the Department of Defense.

His awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Navy and Marine Achievement Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, Navy and Marine Unit Commendation, and Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal.

Thomas called once more after that ambush that killed two comrades, his sister said.

His unit was going back out, and he wasn't sure he would be back in time to wish his mother a happy birthday.

She turned 66 the day after he died.

Bomb Kills West View Marine



U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Joseph Caskey

June 29, 2010 By Dante Anthony Fuoco, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Joseph Caskey knew that his deployment to Afghanistan would be dangerous -- and, as he alerted his family, possibly deadly.

"My son talked to us about the likelihood about his not coming home. He was fully aware that he was going into a situation where he might not return," said his father, Gerald Caskey, a retired Army veteran of West View.

But Joseph was a natural leader and "do-er" who dreamed of becoming a Marine since he was a teenager, his father said. And when he became one, he "never flinched."

Sgt. Caskey, 24, of West View, was killed Saturday after his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device along a road in Helmand Province, a notoriously dangerous part of Afghanistan close to the Pakistan border.

He comes from a family with deep ties to the armed forces -- his father, mother and two brothers have served in the military, with one brother suffering a traumatic brain injury in 2007 from a suicide bombing in Iraq.

Sgt. Caskey is the fourth Western Pennsylvanian who has died in Afghanistan this month.

June has become the deadliest month for NATO forces -- with 99 deaths -- since the war began nine years ago. Fifty-six U.S. troops have died in Afghanistan this month, which nears the war's current high of 59 dead U.S. troops in October 2009.

Marine Sgt. Derek L. Shanfield, 22, of Hastings, Cambria County, also died in Helmand Province this month. Sgt. 1st Class Robert Fike of Conneautville, Crawford County, and Staff Sgt. Bryan Hoover of West Elizabeth were killed June 11 in a suicide bombing.

Sgt. Caskey's father described his son as "a man's man, a "Marine's Marine" who had a strong passion for his country.

With his ability to do one-armed push-ups and pull-ups, Sgt. Caskey was always athletic and strong, his brother Jeremy said. "He could put me on the ground in one second," he joked.

Sgt. Caskey balanced his patriotism and commitment, however, with a kindness and humility toward others -- he drew people in like a magnet, his father said.

"There was a part of him that was so loving, so fun-loving, so outgoing. People couldn't help but love him," he said.

"We could laugh and laugh and be goofy with each other but other times have serious, deep conversations that would last for hours," his girlfriend, Megan Clark, 23, of Shadyside, wrote in an e-mail.

His son was a "natural leader," Gerald Caskey said, from the time he helped with home improvements as a teenager to when he became commander of his convoy in Afghanistan.

Sgt. Caskey also served in Iraq in 2008. Graduating from North Hills High School in 2004, he immediately joined the Marines. His decision to join this branch of the armed forces, as opposed to another, was out of a desire for action, said his mother, Debra. "He just wanted something tough," she said.

Before his deployment to Afghanistan in April, he went through a year of intensive mountain and desert training with his 50-member convoy, which he commanded.

Though he was offered a potentially safer job as a prison guard in the main base of Afghanistan after his training, he insisted on staying with his convoy in Helmand Province, Mrs. Caskey said. "He said, 'No, I want to be with my men. I've been working with them and want to stay with them.' "

She added that she had asked, "Joe, why didn't you take that? Think of your mom." But his desire to stay with his convoy was a testament to his courageous character and fearlessness, she said.

All of his immediate family members served in the armed forces.

Gerald Caskey, 68, was in the Army for 22 years and served mostly as a chaplain's assistant.

Mrs. Caskey, 58, was an Army photographer for three years and met her husband at Fort Rucker, Ala. They've been married for 35 years.

Josh Caskey, 29, joined the Marines in 1999 and served two tours in Iraq. He suffered the traumatic injury to his brain on his second tour. After nearly dying from the bombing, Josh is part of the Wounded Warriors group at the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, the same camp where Joseph was stationed. He is hoping to get medical retirement, Mrs. Caskey said.

Jeremy Caskey, 32, joined the Air Force in 1996 after graduating from Hershey High School. With 13 years of active duty, he also went on to specialize as a combat videographer to document the war in Iraq.

Sgt. Caskey's body has been shipped to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, his family said. A funeral date has not been set but probably will be next week, Mrs. Caskey said. He will be buried at Unity Baptist Church Cemetery in Harlansburg, Lawrence County. Services will be at that church, where his father, a pastor there, and Josh will give the eulogy. Jeremy, who is in seminary studying to become a pastor, will deliver the sermon.

Local Family Reels In Wake Of Soldier's Death: Two More 101st Airborne Deaths Reported Wednesday, Bringing June Total To 13

June 24, 2010 BY JAKE LOWARY, THE LEAF-CHRONICLE

Though there has been no official word from the military a Clarksville family is reeling following the news of the death of a 101st Airborne Division soldier in Afghanistan on Monday.

Sgt. Brandon Silk, 25, a native of Maine with Clarksville ties, was killed in Afghanistan on Monday when the helicopter he was in crashed.

Marlon Browning, Silk's father-in-law, said Wednesday Silk's body had been returned to the U.S., but the military was still trying to figure out what caused the helicopter to crash.

Browning said the military has told the family the Taliban is taking credit for the downed helicopter, but military officials said the crash could have been caused by a malfunction. U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree told the Associated Press on Tuesday that Silk died from injuries during a hard landing.

Fort Campbell and the Defense Department still had not confirmed Silk's death Wednesday evening.

Browning said Silk was a one-of-a-kind man and soldier.

"A father-in-law could never have been more thankful to have him in my life," he said.

Browning said he is fortunate to still have many close relatives still living, but has experienced a close death before.

"I've never hurt in my life over a loss like this one," he said.

Silk had married his wife, Casey, about a year ago and taken in her 2-year-old son, Braden, with open arms.

"It takes a special kind of man to do that," he said. "And he took him in with his heart."

Two more deaths of 101st soldiers was reported by the Associated Press on Wednesday, bringing the June's total to 13.

The AP reported family members were told Tuesday that Pfc. David Taylor Miller, of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., was killed by a suicide bomber while manning a checkpoint in the northern part of the country.

His aunt told the AP Miller was a marksman with the 101st Airborne Division who arrived in Afghanistan less than two months ago.

Late Wednesday afternoon, it was also reported that 1st Sgt. Eddie Turner, 41, of Fort Belvoir, Va. died June 22 at Camp Clark, Afghanistan of injuries sustained from a non-combat related incident.

Turner is survived by his mother, Jeannie Karr of Clarksville, Tenn.

Browning said the news of more deaths is alarming, and only increases his respect for the military.

"I'm thankful they are there doing the job most people, including myself, don't fully understand," he said. He also remarked on how well Silk's family has been treated by the military since his son-in-law died.

Funeral arrangements for Silk have not been announced, but Browning said he would be buried in Maine, where he was raised.

Silk had such a specific plan for his life and goals, Browning said, that he had already decided how he wanted to be buried and that in place of a funeral his friends and loved ones should instead have a "celebration" of his life.

U.S. Forces Stall Out In Marjah:

**“Things Have Been Slightly Quieter
In His Area Over The Past Week Or
So, But Only Because The Americans
Have Limited Their Patrols And Are
Staying In Defensive Positions”**

**“The Americans Are Staying Closer To
Their Bases Because Whenever They Go
Out, They Face Attack By The Taliban”**

July 6, 2010 by Corey Flintoff, NPR [Excerpts]

NATO troops — primarily U.S. Marines — and Afghan security forces reclaimed Marjah from Taliban control in a short and violent offensive in February. The operation raised hopes that the area could quickly be restored to Afghan government control, and serve as a model for operations in Kandahar and other parts of the country.

Instead, Marjah has seen a resurgence of violence, and the effort to provide meaningful government services is taking longer than expected.

No one really disputes that Marjah is a violent place right now — U.S. Marines acknowledge that they’re facing almost daily ambushes from Taliban fighters, and that roadside bombs are a constant threat.

At least some local people say the military operation there is failing. NPR’s Afghan reporters in Kabul interviewed people in Marjah by cell phone because local people may face intimidation from the Taliban if they’re seen talking directly with outsiders.

Haqyar, a 33-year-old merchant, says the security situation has deteriorated over the past few weeks. He says the Americans are staying closer to their bases because whenever they go out, they face attack by the Taliban.

Hameed, a 21-year-old farmer, says things have been slightly quieter in his area over the past week or so, but only because the Americans have limited their patrols and are staying in defensive positions.

When the Americans do come out, he says, they often get attacked, and innocent people are caught in the crossfire.

**U.S. AP3 Local Forces Training
Farce Rolls On:
“There Is A Certain Amount Of
Coordination And Collaboration
Between The AP3 And The Taliban
That The Americans Do Not Seem To
Understand Very Well”
“The Village Stability Platforms, As
They’re Now Known, Seem To Set In
Motion Forces That We Do Not
Understand Very Well And Do Not Seem
Very Well Able To Regulate”**

July 6, 2010 PBS [Excerpts]

MARGARET WARNER: For years, the international community has been trying to beef up the Afghan national army and police, with mixed, often disappointing, results. Other U.S.-backed Afghan security programs have received less attention.

But that’s what Kabul-based correspondent Jean MacKenzie focused on in recent reports on the international Web site GlobalPost. Her reporting took her to several provinces beyond the capital.

You looked at a couple of these sorts of programs set up in particular since the Obama surge began. These exist outside the formal Afghan police and army structure. What was the thinking behind it? Why do this?

JEAN MACKENZIE, GlobalPost: Well, the thinking behind it was to increase the numbers of security forces as quickly as possible, and to try to get some handle on a situation that is deteriorating quite rapidly.

They wanted to use the disaffection that many communities feel towards the Taliban, focus that, and direct it in a form that has a chance of counteracting the insurgency.

MARGARET WARNER: Now, let’s look at the first one you looked at, which was one in Wardak Province, fairly close to Kabul. The road between the two just last year, early last year, was a -- pretty much a no-go zone.

Marines went in there and also set up a local militia. How did it operate and what were the results?

JEAN MACKENZIE: It operated by bringing about 1,200 men into something called the Afghan Public Protection Program, or AP3 for short.

These men, many of whom had returned from working abroad, some of whom had come in from joining the Taliban, were given a salary of approximately \$180 a month. They were given three weeks of training, a uniform, empowered to carry a gun, and told to -- to protect their communities.

They were not formal police. They were not auxiliary police. They were more of a community watch-type program -- only, they were armed.

MARGARET WARNER: Now, you reported that, actually, the province did become more secure. Yet, this model has not been replicated elsewhere. Why is that?

JEAN MACKENZIE: Well, the province did become more secure in part. And many people, including the governor, attribute this to the Afghan Public Protection Program.

However, it's equally possible that the increase in security is owed to the fact that U.S. Marines established a base at about the same time.

What they have found is that the program has had very limited success. It has in many ways become a magnet for the Taliban. There is a certain amount of coordination and collaboration between the AP3 and the Taliban that people do not understand, that the Americans do not seem to understand very well.

MARGARET WARNER: Well, let's look at another way that you looked at. It's in Kandahar and a number of other provinces. How does that one work? And what's different about it from the Wardak version?

JEAN MACKENZIE: The local defense initiative, or what's now being called village stability platforms, doesn't rely on bringing men in and giving them a salary or a uniform or a gun.

Rather, it is empowering tribes -- these programs are mostly in the Pashtun regions -- empowering tribes who feel that they want to fight the Taliban, giving them some training, empowering them to carry guns, and hoping that they will, in fact, keep the Taliban out of their communities.

MARGARET WARNER: But you found it actually did cause some violence that was unanticipated, or some intra-tribal violence?

JEAN MACKENZIE: That has happened in several of the places where this was tried.

The problem is that, in the first place, the first major program was in Nangarhar Province. And a certain tribe, the Shinwari, were promised up to a million dollars in reconstruction aid. Now, this caused problems with other tribes in the area and also within the Shinwari tribe itself.

One branch was promised the money. The other branch was not.

So, rather than coming together, rather than providing cohesion for this tribe, the promises and the money caused factionalism that resulted in violence.

The village stability platforms, as they're now known, seem to set in motion forces that we do not understand very well and do not seem very well able to regulate.

The Silly, Stupid Occupation Shura Farce Also Rolls On

Among the nearly 50 elders who turned out for the recent shura, most seemed uninterested in the government's justification for the recent Canadian-Afghan Army operation and more concerned with friends and family who had been detained as a result.

July 7, 2010 By Tom A. Peter, Correspondent; The Christian Science Monitor [Excerpts]

Panjwayi, Afghanistan:

As reports circulate that insurgents may have attacked a nearby unit with rocket-propelled grenades, a Canadian Army sergeant major lets out several profanities. He's just realized that his soldiers forgot to bring paper plates for the snacks they were going to serve the Afghans.

Rather than helping with the fighting, his unit here in southern Kandahar Province has been tasked with organizing a shura, a meeting of village elders, to explain why a recent multi-day Canadian-Afghan Army operation here was necessary and to address their concerns.

It's difficult to measure how helpful the meetings have been. They may not answer locals' questions satisfactorily or even produce concrete results. Turnout varies from week to week, and Canadian Army officials say they're uncertain if the gatherings would continue if they weren't here to organize them.

Among the nearly 50 elders who turned out for the recent shura, most seemed uninterested in the government's justification for the recent Canadian-Afghan Army operation and more concerned with friends and family who had been detained as a result.

Haji Baran, the district governor, said he couldn't speak about the arrests because detainees were still being processed and questioned.

As Mr. Baran dodged questions, tempers flared and villagers shot questions at him.

Baran invited people to visit him at the district center later in the week when he had more information.

With no other questions, the shura dispersed, with many of the locals seemingly just as frustrated as they were before the meeting.

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT THE PACK OF TRAITORS THAT RUN THE GOVERNMENT IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE TO DEFEND THEIR IMPERIAL DREAMS:
That is not a good enough reason.**



U.S. soldiers under fire from Taliban militants near the village of Jilga in Arghandab District north of Kandahar July 8, 2010. REUTERS/Bob Strong

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

TROOP NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The casket of Marine Sgt. John Rankel in Indianapolis, June 19, 2010. The Marine died June 7 during combat in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Darron Cummings)

**Australian Veterans Organization
Charges “Soldiers Are Sacrificing
Their Lives So That Others Can
Earn A Profit From It”**

**“The Fact That Politicians Use
These Deaths To Sell Their
Unpopular And Unjustifiable War In
Afghanistan Is Disgusting”**

**“6 Out Of 10 Australians Oppose The
War, Bring The Troops Home Now”**

“We think Faulkner is looking after the interests of big business and dressing it up to look like the people of Afghanistan have the capability and desire to invade Sydney,” Mr Chitts said. The veteran’s comments came after John Faulkner was quoted as saying; “While our mission in Afghanistan is difficult, it is vital for international stability and for the security of Australia.”

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

June 22, 2010 Stand Fast; Press release.

The Australian-based veterans group Stand Fast today rejected recent statements made by Defence Minister John Faulkner regarding the recent tragic deaths in Afghanistan of Australian soldiers.

Stand Fast spokesperson Hamish Chitts said the group, comprised of veterans and former military personnel who oppose the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, regards the rhetorical remarks of Faulkner and others as a vile attempt to turn public opinion to support the war in Afghanistan.

“This war is primarily about having easier access to the oilfields in Turkmenistan to the North of Afghanistan, including a possible pipeline from these oilfields through Western Afghanistan to lucrative markets in Pakistan and India. It is about strategic real estate for the US military in a resource rich part of the world. Soldiers are sacrificing their lives so that others can earn a profit from it,” he said.

“To bury this war under the cloak of democracy and a war on terror is ridiculous. As veterans and ex-service personnel, we reject this attempt to say that anyone in Afghanistan has died for Australia’s security or international stability.

“We think Faulkner is looking after the interests of big business and dressing it up to look like the people of Afghanistan have the capability and desire to invade Sydney,” Mr Chitts said.

The veteran’s comments came after John Faulkner was quoted as saying; “While our mission in Afghanistan is difficult, it is vital for international stability and for the security of Australia.”

“Stand Fast would like to ask Mr Faulkner and Mr Rudd how is international stability and security achieved supporting US funded Afghan Government departments whose sole job is to offer bribes and government positions to the worst terrorist leaders of the Taliban and Hezb-i-Islami?”

“In this Faulkner and Rudd security, the very terrorist we were supposed to be afraid of is now offered rewards while between 8,768 to 28,360 innocent peasant farmers and their families have been slaughtered,” Mr Chitts said.

Stand Fast does not support the politics and religious fundamentalism of the Taliban. Initially the Taliban was easily defeated because they didn’t have the support of most Afghans.

Now their ranks are swelling, not by people who have suddenly been won over to the Taliban's view of the world but by people who oppose rigged elections and the puppet regime of thugs and opium barons whose rule our troops help enforce.

“These Members of Parliament, both Labor and Coalition vie with each other to be seen as ‘the diggers friend’. Most have never served in the Defence Force nor left the comforts of their parliamentary offices. “

“The fact that politicians use these deaths to sell their unpopular and unjustifiable war in Afghanistan is disgusting.

“As veterans our thoughts are with the families of the dead and all those still in harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan.

No more blood should be shed for the profiteers, 6 out of 10 Australians oppose the war, bring the troops home now,” Mr Chitts said.

For further information

contact Hamish on 0401 586 923
or email standfast.au@gmail.com
or www.stand-fast.webs.com

**V.A. Fucking Over Severely
Disabled War Vets Again As
Usual;
Only Approves Requests For Eight
Service Dogs In Eight Years!
“It Is Unacceptable Not To Exercise The
Authority Given To Them To Improve
The Quality Of Veterans’ Lives”**

Jul 7, 2010 By Rick Maze - Staff writer; Army Times [Excerpts]

A new report by the Veterans Affairs Department Inspector General says VA should be doing more for veterans whose lives could be improved with help from service dogs.

Eight years after receiving approval to help pay for dogs to assist veterans with mobility problems, seizure disorders or other disabilities, a report released Wednesday says VA has approved only eight requests.

“It is unacceptable not to exercise the authority given to them to improve the quality of veterans’ lives,” said Christina Roof of AmVets, a group that has been pushing the issue for years.

The eight service dog requests were approved, all in the last two years, only after VA conducted three research projects.

Another project is just getting under way to determine if a veteran with post-traumatic stress or some other mental disorder might benefit from having a canine assistant.

The inspector general report says it is not known how many veterans might have been helped if VA had moved faster, but it is clear that the agency’s policy has — at least until recently — been one of denying requests for benefits unless all other options are first considered.

Roof said VA seems to assume that few veterans are interested in the benefit, but the IG report shows at least 72 veterans received service dogs on their own, without VA’s help.

Service dogs are different from trained guide dogs.

Service dogs are taught to help a disabled owner carry out specific tasks, like pulling a wheelchair, picking up objects or alerting him when a seizure is about to happen.

The IG report notes inconsistencies, saying it found that a veteran with epilepsy received benefits in January for a seizure alert dog when officials and the Indianapolis VA Medical Center determined this was a “reasonable treatment option.”

But another veteran in Washington, D.C., with the same condition was denied an alert dog during the same month because his request was deemed to “not meet criteria for VA support,” the report says.

**Iraq Veteran Accused Of Threatening
The President And Governor:
“The People I Killed In War Weren’t The
Ones Who Did Anything To Me. It’s The
People Here That Did”**

Jul 8, 2010 The Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — A former soldier accused of threatening the president and governor denied threatening them but said he's angry that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs won't pay for his counseling and prescriptions.

"I was looking to get attention," Abram Kane Williams, 26, of Greenwell Springs, told U.S. Magistrate Judge Christine Noland at a hearing Wednesday. "I wanted to talk to somebody."

"I don't think I can let you go at this point," Noland told Williams, represented by Brent Stockstill.

An FBI agent's sworn statement, filed July 2 with the request for an arrest warrant, said Williams had faxed a copy of a letter denying him disability benefits and "a statement entitled 'How I Feel'" to the Louisiana Office of Veterans Affairs on June 30.

The latter, according to Agent Sean H. Connor's statement, included "I've got ice in my veins, blood in my eyes; I have hate in my heart" and "your days are numbered like pages I'm about to burn."

He threatened President Barack Obama, Gov. Bobby Jindal and U.S. Rep. Bill Cassidy, R-Baton Rouge, in calls to the state veterans office, according to Connor's statement.

He said an employee of that office quoted Williams as saying, "The people I killed in war weren't the ones who did anything to me. It's the people here that did. I've tried to call the Governor, Congressman Cassidy, President Obama. No one will listen, there's too much red tape. I'm a big man. I can break through that red tape and they'll know who I am when I get them. I'm surprised I haven't had the secret service come get me yet with all the death threats I've made."

Williams, a former member of the Louisiana Army National Guard, testified that the VA concluded his problems are not service-related. But he said they began after his return from Iraq.

Later Wednesday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Frederick A. Menner Jr. asked for a sanity evaluation of Williams, citing his testimony that he has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder. Menner also wrote that when Williams was arrested, he had to be taken to a hospital because of an anxiety attack, and told doctors that he had been diagnosed with those two conditions.

Corrupt Major Pleads Guilty

Jul 7, 2010 The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn.— An Army officer who approved supplies contracts in Iraq has pleaded guilty to making a false statement about a package he sent to the United States containing more than \$100,000.

Maj. Charles E. Sublett told a judge in Memphis on Wednesday he sent the package containing almost \$108,000 in sequentially numbered \$100 bills and more than 17 million Iraqi dinar, then worth about \$11,600, from Balad, Iraq to Killeen, Texas.

In return for his guilty plea, a bulk cash smuggling charge is being dismissed.

Sublett faces up to five years in prison when sentenced in October. Federal guidelines call for a sentence between 18 months and two years, but U.S. District Judge Samuel H. Mays Jr. can decide on a sentence outside of that range.

How To Make Brownies, Pentagon-Style: “The Pentagon’s Brownie Recipe Is 26 Pages Long”



[Thanks to Felicity Arbuthnot, who sent this in.]

May 17, 2010 Katherine Mangu-Ward, Reason Magazine

The Pentagon’s brownie recipe is 26 pages long.

Just grab a copy of document MIL-C-44072C and gather your ingredients: water that conforms to the “National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (Copies are available from the Office of Drinking Water, Environmental Protection Agency, WH550D, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20460),” and some eggs in compliance with “Regulations Governing the Inspection of Eggs and Egg Products (7 CFR Part 59),” and you’re ready to go!

3.3.2 Brownie preparation. (NOTE: The contractor is not required to follow the exact procedure shown below provided that the brownies conform to all finished product requirements in 3.4.)

a. Whip eggs in large bowl on high speed until light and fluffy.

- b. Combine sugars, cocoa, salt, and leavening; add to beaten eggs, and whip on high speed until thick.
- c. Add shortening slowly while mixing on low speed.
- d. Scrape bowl and whip on high speed until thick.
- e. Mix flour, nuts, and flavors together and fold into batter; mix until uniform.
- f. Pour batter into pan at a rate that will yield uncoated brownies which, when cut such as to meet the dimension requirements specified in 3.4f, will weigh approximately 35 grams each. (Experimentally, a panning rate of 14 to 16 grams per square inch was used.)
- g. Bake at 350F until done (30 to 45 minutes).

3.3.3 Brownie cutting. The brownies shall be cut to the appropriate size when cool (see 3.4f).

Wondering about adding walnuts?

Simply consult section 3.2.5.3 from the “30 April 1990 SUPERSEDING MIL-C-44072B 9 December 1987 W/CHANGE 12 February 2003 MILITARY SPECIFICATION COOKIES, OATMEAL; AND BROWNIES; COCOLATE (sic) COVERED.”

3.2.5.3 Nuts, walnuts, shelled. Shelled walnut pieces shall be of the small piece size classification, shall be of a light color, and shall be U.S. No. 1 of the U.S. Standards for Shelled English Walnuts. A minimum of 90 percent, by weight, of the pieces shall pass through a 4/16-inch diameter round hole screen and not more than 1 percent, by weight, shall pass through a 2/16-inch diameter round hole screen. the shelled walnuts shall be coated with an approved food grade antioxidant and shall be of the latest season’s crop.

These rules are for brownies destined for MREs, so it makes sense that Department of Defense wants to make sure they’re getting uniform brownies with staying power. And many of the pages of regulations have to do with durability of packaging.

But any sympathy I might have had for the whole brownie specs enterprise dissolved when I got to section 4.5.1.1, “Ingredient and component examination,” which included this gem:

“If necessary, each ingredient shall be examined organoleptically.”

Sound like some kind of fancy scientific process, right? As in: “Put those walnuts in the Organoleptatron3000 to test for radioactivity.”

But in fact, testing “organoleptically” means that tasting, smelling, or looking at something.

It’s not clear whether you’re allowed to decide if a batch of walnuts are OK by nibbling on a few before or after passing you pass them through a “2/16-inch diameter round hole screen” and coat them with “approved food grade antioxidant.”

All that and yet they can’t spell chocolate or reduce fractions?

To answer the obvious question: No, there are no standards for the production of “special brownies.”

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**

“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”

-- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787

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**

The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”

-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done

A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.

-- Leon Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution

“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

BP Says Oil In Gulf Must Be Changed Every Six Months

July 7, 2010 The Borowitz Report

GULF OF MEXICO – At a time when many thought that news out of the Gulf of Mexico couldn't get any worse, BP announced today that the oil in the Gulf needs to be changed every six months.

"The oil will need to be changed every six months or every 15,000 lies," said the BP spokesman. "Whatever comes sooner."

The announcement about the oil change came on the heels of BP's decision earlier in the week to separate the Gulf into two sections, full-serve and self-serve.

Sensing that the company was staring down a deepening public relations disaster, BP CEO Tony Hayward attempted to sound a compassionate note: "If this sort of damage were being inflicted on my yacht, I would be devastated."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

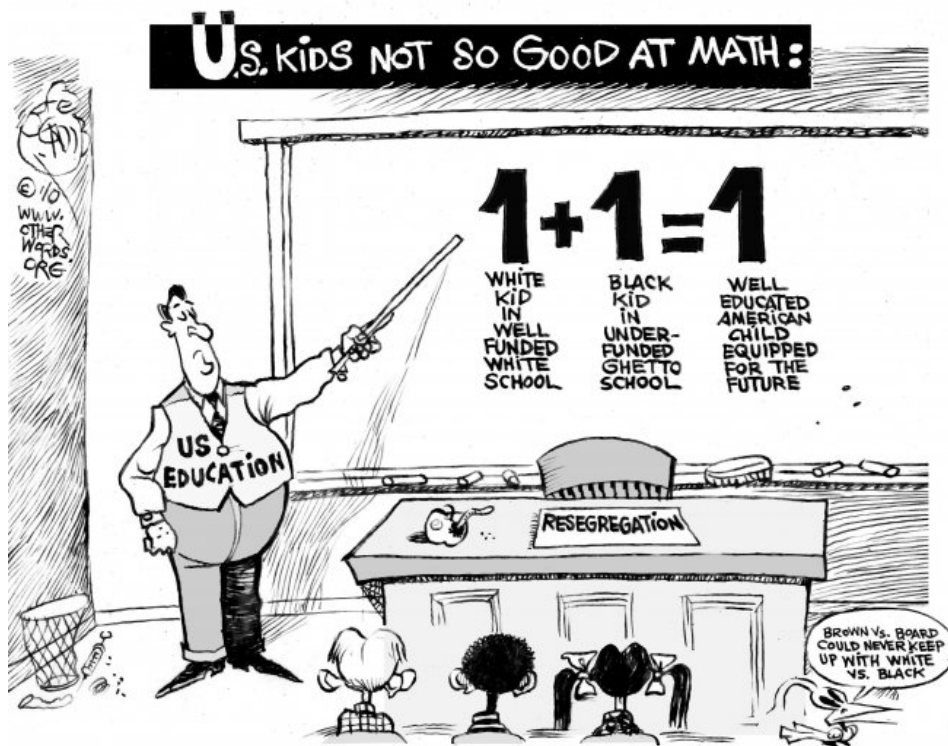
Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

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/)

CLASS WAR REPORTS



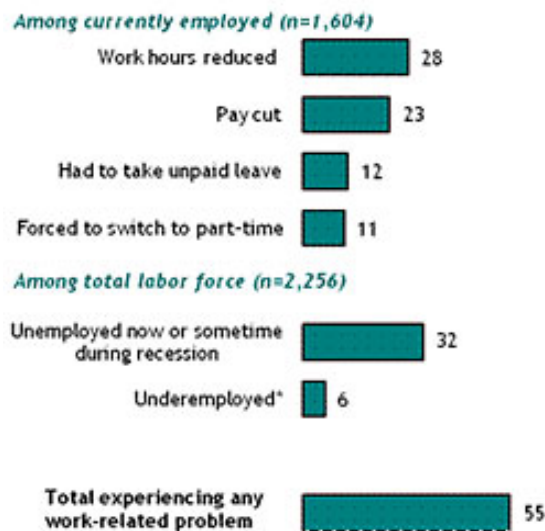
[Thanks to Linda O, who sent this in.]

Capitalism At Work:

Recession Has Hurt More Than Half Of U.S. Adult Workers

The Recession at Work

% of each group who experienced each of the following since the recession began



*The under-employed are part-time workers who say they want a full-time job but do not have one because they cannot find full-time employment or because of other economic reasons.

Jul 2, 2010 by James Parks, AFL-CIO.org [Excerpts]

Since the recession began 30 months ago, more than half of all adults in the workforce—55 percent—say that they have either been unemployed, taken a pay cut, had their work hours reduced or have become involuntary part-time workers, according to a new survey by the Pew Research Center's Social and Demographic Trends Project.

The survey shows the impact of the recession goes far beyond the 9.5 percent of the workforce that is unemployed and the 16.5 percent underemployed.

About a third of respondents—32 percent—said they have been unemployed for some period of time during the recession.

The prolonged recession—the longest in recent history—has left a big mark on the country, Paul Taylor, the Pew project director, told ABC News:

What this report demonstrates is the breadth and depth of the impact of this recession on the American public.

It's hit almost everybody in one way or another, and two and a half years after it began, people are still feeling the effects. This is still very much with us.

**Corporations Sitting On \$1.84
Trillion Cash While Their
Government Cuts Education,
Cuts Health Care, Cuts Off
Unemployment Insurance:
“Save America - Eat The Rich”
“Lead The Financial Sycophants And
Their Listless Do-Nothing Way Of Life
To The Slaughter”
“Because It Is Clear It Is Either Going To
Be You Or Them”**

July 5, 2010 Connecticut Man1, ePluribus Media [Excerpts]

U.S. companies are holding more cash in the bank than at any point on record, underscoring persistent worries about financial markets and about the sustainability of the economic recovery.

The Federal Reserve reported Thursday that nonfinancial companies had socked away \$1.84 trillion in cash and other liquid assets as of the end of March, up 26% from a year earlier and the largest-ever increase in records going back to 1952.

The problem is reduced demand.

Continuing unemployment means that the economy is not producing demand, so businesses are not willing to risk investing in meeting demand, which means they are not hiring, which means unemployment continues.

The people we are fighting against have the big money guns and they control the strings of every corporate puppet at every level of government, at every turn of the traditional media's corrupted phrases...

The slogan for today's real populism ought to be a well deserved:

Save America - Eat the rich.

Lead the financial sycophants and their listless do-nothing way of life to the slaughter.

Because it is clear it is either going to be you or them...

Vietnam GI: Reprints Available



Vietnam: They Stopped An Imperial War

Not available from anybody else, anywhere

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command. The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

Military Resistance has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.

Free on request to active duty members of the armed forces.

Cost for others: \$15 if picked up in New York City. For mailing inside USA add \$5 for bubble bag and postage. For outside USA, include extra for mailing 2.5 pounds to wherever you are.

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All proceeds are used for projects giving aid and comfort to members of the armed forces opposed to today's Imperial wars.



“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

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