

## **Military Resistance 8H10**

### **HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?**



An Iowa soldier before a sendoff for the 1st Battalion 194th Field Artillery Unit, July 30, 2010, in Eagle Grove, Iowa. The unit will train in Mississippi and California before heading to Afghanistan in October. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

**Indiana Soldiers  
Organizing Open  
Resistance To Afghan  
Deployment;  
They Are “Publicly Charging  
Their Company Is Not Properly  
Trained Or Mentally Fit For  
Battle”**

**Private A Says “There’s No Reason We’re Even There. I’m Going Overseas To Fight People Where I Have No Idea That They Did Anything Wrong”  
“I Just Want Future Soldiers To Realize You Have To Take This Stuff Into Your Own Hands”  
“They Know They’re Not There To Help The Afghan People” Says Sgt. Villatoro”**

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

August 10, 2010 By CLARE BAYARD, CounterPunch [Excerpts]

Army Reserve members facing imminent deployment to Afghanistan are publicly charging that their company is not properly trained or mentally fit for battle.

Several members of the Indiana-based 656th Transportation Company, which is due to activate August 22nd, are requesting a Congressional inquiry into the unit’s lack of readiness.

Alejandro Villatoro, a sergeant in the company, is amongst those coming forward. Sergeant Villatoro says, “The main reason I am doing this is that I want people to know the lack of training and education our soldiers been receiving, and the focus on the mission is just not adequate to win the hearts and minds of the Afghan people. All I am asking is more time to reevaluate the training and mental health of these soldiers before sending them into war.”

At risk to themselves, these soldiers are going public with firsthand experiences of failures in military training, mental healthcare, and leadership, which many veterans charge are problems endemic to the military.

Three members of this company, Sgt. Villatoro and two reservists who wish to remain anonymous (referred to here as Private First Class A and Specialist B), have come forward to expose a crisis.

The 656th has been assigned to convoy security operations in Afghanistan. Yet, only 10% of its soldiers qualified on the .50 caliber guns that will be their primary weapon.

Most have not learned to operate the heavy Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAPs) vehicles they will be driving in Afghanistan, and Villatoro fears a repeat of his experience invading Iraq in 2003, with gun truck drivers who had never learned to drive a stick shift.

The company's mandatory trainings have been cut from the required 40 hours down to two-hour PowerPoint presentations.

Officers told the soldiers that funding cuts were the reason that their recent two-week training at Indiana's Camp Atterbury, scheduled to be run by a privately contracted company, was reduced to some hastily improvised sessions with almost none of the equipment necessary for training.

"We're part-time soldiers, we only train once a month, and when we do actually have trainings that are supposed to last any significant amount of time, we don't do anything that seems useful." says Private A, a 21 year-old reservist.

Training inadequacies go beyond the issue of equipment. "Most of the things we're being taught are being applied specifically from Iraq and from Iraq vets. Afghanistan is a whole different ballgame. The only thing that's the same is IEDs. The language, the landscape, the situation... everything is different" says Private A.

While U.S. and European diplomats have recently admitted they are floundering in the immensely complex social and political landscape of Afghanistan, Private A describes the level of preparation his company was offered: a single cultural awareness class focused, again, on Iraq rather than Afghanistan.

"Everything they mentioned pertained to Iraq, so people were asking, 'Well, in Afghanistan, what's this like?' And they'd say, well, we can't really tell you. Or just make up facts. It's not making me feel any more comfortable about my first time deploying."

The company has experienced numerous changes in leadership, including the transfer of their first sergeant after the disastrous Camp Atterbury training, where morale plummeted to a new low and one servicemember attempted suicide.

Specialist B, a 20 year-old from Indiana, says "I would like to believe that I'm fully prepared to go to war, but that is just not the case. I don't know what my mission will be, I feel as if I have to defend my very close battle buddies and not my chain of command.

"I fear that my chain of command will fail me in the ultimate end and as a result my life will be on the line, or one of my buddies' lives will pay the price for the lack of leadership."

Two weeks out from their activation date, Sgt Villatoro explains "It's just not possible to be sufficiently trained in this time frame, let alone broadly enough for not knowing what our mission will be."

"It just doesn't make sense. And it's dangerous. I just don't understand why they'd put us in that much danger, to the point where it doesn't make sense cause we're unprepared for anything." says Private A.

In every branch of the military, servicemembers continue to question the legitimacy of the mission, and whether they can in good conscience participate in these projects.

Sgt. Villatoro says, "That's the part I struggle with, that we don't have to do this. It's kind of hard to convince a soldier that they do have a choice. That the mission we were given, we believe it's not effective.

"Sit down and look at the effectiveness of trying to win the hearts and minds of the Afghan people. Sending 30,000 more soldiers with weapons doesn't make sense to me. We don't know anything about the culture, diplomacy; they train us on how to conduct traffic checkpoints."

These servicemembers also express concern about the effects on the Afghan people of deploying unprepared soldiers, untrained on their weaponry and equipment, and many in need of mental health support.

"What I'm afraid is that the rules of engagement might go out the window. That's what happened when I went (to Iraq), they told us that as soon as you feel threatened you're able to shoot. I'm afraid soldiers are going to forget the rules of engagement, go by their emotions, their anger and frustration, and take matters into their own hands." says Sgt. Villatoro.

**Lack of training on guns and vehicles makes soldiers a danger to themselves as well as others. The 656th will be operating top-heavy MRAP vehicles on Afghanistan's difficult terrain, without having practiced driving these rollover-prone trucks even on Indiana's flat roads.**

"Whether we run off the road and kill somebody, or it's somebody who snaps... If you don't get mental help, that's what is probably going to happen. And when you don't have prepared soldiers, you're going to have accidents." says Private. A.

"It's not enough for Obama to say that it's not weak to ask for help, " says Maggie Martin, an organizer with Iraq Veterans Against the War who works on issues of stopping deployment of soldiers with trauma and mental health needs. "We have to create a community where people know that. What the 656th is doing, in trying to delay the deployment and call attention to these issues-- that is really important in helping soldiers know that they have to stand up for themselves and let people know what's happening,"

Alejandro Villatoro enlisted as a high school senior in 2000 for economic reasons. Six months ago, he told his command he was applying for conscientious objector status. He avoided thinking about his participation in the invasion of Iraq in 2003 until entering non-commissioned officer training three years later.

"As a leader, I wanted to take initiative and learn more about the war...It took me about two years to learn and decide what we were doing was ineffective and immoral."

**When Sgt. Villatoro learned that his unit was slated to deploy to Afghanistan this fall, he decided to drop the conscientious objector application to go through deployment with his soldiers. “I wanted to be with them to educate them about the wars, what’s worth fighting for, what it really is to be a soldier.”**

“They know my situation, that I wanted to get out and am only doing this for them” says Sgt. Villatoro.

In conversations with soldiers in his unit, Villatoro found that many soldiers shared these concerns, and some felt ready to risk speaking out. Even more have indicated their agreement through informal surveys made by Villatoro, but stay quiet for fear of retribution.

Specialist B says “I have too many concerns with the 656th deploying to Afghanistan,” echoing the basic sentiment of many others in the company. Private A says “If we can’t even get little stuff like trainings scheduled, how are we supposed to nail down a complex mission in Afghanistan?”

Others appear comfortable or even enthusiastic about deployment. Villatoro says, “There’s a lack of knowledge; the motivation is money or medals, coming back with ribbons and hoping to have war stories. It’s not about the Afghan people, or thinking this will end the war. They don’t think that’s going to happen.”

“You have a bunch of people who want to go just for the experience and for the money. I think that a lot of it is the money. That’s the only thing that’s keeping me from saying OK, thanks and goodbye; there’s not a lot of jobs out there.” says Private A, who is from a small farming town and enlisted at 17.

“The only thing that’s making me go is that I need the money. When I get back, I want to start school again and didn’t have money to do that before. That’s essentially the only thing that’s keeping me there.”

Sgt. Villatoro says he feels a sense of responsibility to help younger soldiers to recognize where they may need more experience to understand of their own lack of preparation.

“You can ask some of these soldiers if they’re satisfied with the training so far, and they’ll say yes. But you ask, Is it sufficient for you to conduct a mission in Afghanistan? That’s where the confusion sets in.”

After his own experiences in the 2003 invasion of Iraq, Sgt. Villatoro names a key fear of sending out young, unprepared soldiers, many on their first deployment, without clarity about what they are expected to do and how they’re going to survive.

“As a young soldier, there’s a lot of insecurity,” he says. “You’re scared, you’re not going to remember the rules of engagement or what you’re supposed to do. You just want to get through the firefight.”

Private A sums it up: “It just doesn’t make sense to send an unprepared soldier into battle. It’s like brushing your teeth without toothpaste.”

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After his command denied him an audience (and declined to comment for this article), Sgt. Villatoro and an increasing number of servicemembers from the 656th are looking to elected officials for assistance. Villatoro visited the office of Chicago's Representative Luis Gutierrez to underline the need for soldiers to be properly trained and mentally fit before deploying; Gutierrez has acknowledged the severity of these concerns and is taking the matter under advisement.

He was accompanied by allies including veterans of the Navy, Marines, Army and Illinois National Guard, representing service in Vietnam, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. Sgt Villatoro and several soldiers from his unit met last week to discuss the matter with Senator Dick Durbin (D-Illinois), an advocate for mental healthcare for soldiers and veterans. Durbin's office offered to forward a letter from Sgt Villatoro to the military liaison in Congress.

Yesterday, Sgt. Villatoro filed an official request with his office to open a Congressional inquiry into the 656th's unfitness for deployment.

**With only a couple weeks left before their activation date, these soldiers are taking multiple courses of action to address this situation.**

**On why he decided to speak out, Private A says, "I just want future soldiers to realize you have to take this stuff into your own hands."**

More and more soldiers are stepping up to join Sgt. Villatoro in speaking up about the concealed chaos of the 656th.

Their perspectives, politics and hopes span a wide range; they unify behind lack of faith in their company's preparation and leadership, and a common belief that the Afghanistan war is only getting worse.

"I ask soldiers: what do you hope, do you really think this last push will end this war? A lot of them say no, because they know they're not there to help the Afghan people." says Sgt. Villatoro.

Private A says "No, absolutely not. There's no reason we're even there. I'm going overseas to fight people where I have no idea that they did anything wrong. We're not even fighting al-Qaeda, we're just over there picking a fight, driving around and seeing who shoots at us, then shooting them. I don't even understand the reason we're over there."

"The mission as a whole in Afghanistan has lost its purpose," says Specialist B. "The government can say whatever and do whatever and get away with it, with very little justice to the American people."

There is precedent for a unit to successfully delay its deployment, as another National Guard unit and family members managed to do in 2007. Servicemembers, families, allies, and groups like Iraq Veterans Against the War organize resistance both publicly and under the radar.

Despite his principled objection to the Afghanistan War, Sgt. Villatoro is prepared to deploy with the soldiers in his charge if they are unable to delay the 656th's activation. "I ask myself why I feel so responsible. I put a lot of blame on myself because of mistakes I made as a young naïve soldier, and I don't want to do it again or see other young soldiers make those mistakes."

Sgt. Villatoro says, "This war has never ended for me. I feel bad a lot about the soldiers, how they keep re-enlisting. My war, my fight will never end until every soldier is home."

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?**

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

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Insurgent Attack In Iskandariya Kills U.S. Soldier**

August 09, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 707-10

Spc. Faith R. Hinkley, 23, of Colorado Springs, Colo., died Aug. 7 in Baghdad, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked her unit in Iskandariya, Iraq. She was assigned to the 502nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

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### **Mortar Rounds Land In Baghdad's Green Zone; No Word Of Casualties**

August 9, 2010 CNN

Two mortar rounds on Monday night landed inside Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, which houses Iraqi government offices and U.S. and British embassies, Iraqi and U.S. security officials told CNN.

There was no immediate confirmation of casualties.

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## Wave Of Attacks Hit Baghdad Police

August 11, 2010 By Raheem Salman and Liz Sly, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

Reporting from Baghdad —

Baghdad's traffic police have a hard enough job as it is, what with blistering summer temperatures and the generally unruly behavior of motorists in Iraq's often-gridlocked capital.

Their job has just become a lot harder.

In the last week, 11 of their number have been killed and more than two dozen injured in a sudden surge of attacks in different parts of the city, making it clear that traffic police are being deliberately targeted.

Some have been mown down in drive-by shootings. Others have been blown up as they drive to and from work by "sticky bombs" attached to the underside of their vehicles. Improvised bombs have destroyed the little work cabins in which they take shelter.

Hand grenades have been tossed at their mobile patrols. And bombs have exploded at two traffic directorates.

In the latest attack Monday, a traffic policeman was badly injured when a sticky bomb blew up his car as he arrived for work.

Now we have a new worry, because we don't know which car will open fire at us," said Ali Mohammed Abdul Rahman, 41, a 19-year veteran.

The government has announced plans to distribute bulletproof vests and AK-47 assault rifles to traffic police to help them defend themselves. Some traffic police were carrying the weapons Monday, using them to wave at motorists as they directed traffic flow.

The attacks are inevitably taking a toll.

Though most traffic police appear to have remained on the job, one major traffic circle in western Baghdad was jammed with cars. None of the police normally on duty were in sight.

Traffic policeman Qaiser Abdul Hussein has been showing up for work on the eastern side of town, but he said he has been deeply affected by the loss of his cabin, blown up in an attack last week, leaving him with nowhere to take rests, eat snacks or keep his clothes.



"I felt so sad and sorry for it. I felt my house was destroyed. Now, without it, we feel as if we are in a desert," he said.

"I started to be afraid indeed, and I don't have that enthusiasm to work like before."

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## **More Resistance Action**

Aug 9, 2010 (Reuters) & Aug 10 (Reuters) & CNN

A roadside bomb explosion in western Baghdad killed a traffic police officer in the Ghazaliya neighborhood.

Two police officers were wounded when a roadside bomb went off near their patrol in western Tal Afar, police said.

Two roadside bombs exploded near a police patrol in Baghdad's southwestern Bayaa district, wounding three police officers, police said.

Insurgents stormed the house of Malik al-Janabi, a leader of the government-backed Sahwa militia, killing him and three of his guards in Jurf al-Sakhar, in northern Babel province, 60 km (40 miles) south of Baghdad, a security source said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb planted near the traffic police department in the Ghazaliya district of western Baghdad exploded, killing a traffic policeman, and wounding seven traffic policemen, police said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb targeting a traffic police patrol in central Baghdad went off late on Sunday and wounded a traffic policeman, police said.

BAGHDAD - Insurgents in a car fired shots at the southern Baghdad home of Iraq's central bank governor, Sinan al-Shibibi, wounding a bodyguard late on Sunday, police said.

KIRKUK - Insurgents shot dead a town official and wounded two of his bodyguards in al-Multaqa, southwest of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, on Sunday, police said.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Soldier From New Hampshire Killed In Afghanistan**

August 10, 2010 Associated Press

KENSINGTON, N.H. - An Army Ranger from New Hampshire has been killed in Afghanistan.

New Hampshire National Guard Capt. Rob Burnham identifies the soldier as 23-year-old Sgt. Andrew Nicol, who was killed Sunday morning in Kandahar by an improvised explosive device.

Nicol's family tells WMUR-TV he served five tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and was awarded a Medal of Valor in 2008. He grew up in Kensington, N.H., and graduated from Exeter High School in 2006.

Burnham was serving with the 3rd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment out of Fort Benning, Ga.

The same attack killed 24-year-old Army Pfc. Bradley D. Rappuhn of Grand Ledge, Mich.

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## **Family, Friends Remember Mt. Juliet Fallen Soldier**

Aug 02, 2010 NewsChannel 5

MOUNT JULIET, Tenn. – The family of the latest casualty of the war in Afghanistan out of Fort Campbell is speaking out.

Army Specialist Michael Stansbery died Friday when an improvised explosive device went off near Kandahar province. Stansbery grew up in Mt. Juliet and his family and friends gave us a glimpse of his passion and patriotism.

His family received a letter recently dated three weeks ago. One of his friend's read parts of it to NewsChannel 5.

"Don't worry yourself so much over me because I am well. I wish I knew how I could bring peace to your mind," said John Jankovich, a longtime friend of Stansbery's as he read the letter from Michael.

He also read parts of a letter Michael had written in first grade.

"I will go to battle and have a bunch of men with me to help. I will go to the ocean and save someone from trouble," read Jankovich.

His strong conviction at that early age doesn't surprise his family. The Wilson County native comes from a long line of military service.

"Michael's father served in Desert Storm as a Marine. He had family serve in WW2. Military runs in Michael's family," said Jankovich.

Michael's younger sister, Michelle, talked about her brother's pride as well as the pain her family is feeling right now.

"He loved every second of the military. He loved every bit of it," said Michelle. "He was the kind of brother who was always there for you whenever you needed him. He always just, he always wanted to support you."

The Stansbery family will support Michael's memory and his unwavering commitment to his country.

"It's hard but you're so proud at the same time because it's your brother. He's a hero now in everyone's eyes. So I know how he's gonna go down now, a hero," said Michelle.

Michael Stansbery's family plan to bury him at Arlington National Cemetery.

Another Fort Campbell soldier was also killed during that same incident. Sergeant Kyle B. Stout was killed. He was originally from Texarkana, Texas.

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## **Taliban Attacks Mercenary Corporation Office In Kabul**

August 10, 2010 By RAHIM FAIEZ, The Associated Press & By ROD NORDLAND and SHARIFULLAH SAHAK & Reuters

Two insurgents with explosives strapped to them tried to storm the guesthouse of an international security company in the capital.

The attackers apparently failed to break through the fortified gate and instead detonated their vests in the street after shooting and killing the two Afghan guards, witnesses said.

Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taleban spokesman, said four bombers equipped with hand grenades, rockets and assault rifles had launched the attack. "They have attacked a guest-house and a security company and fighting is going on," he told Reuters by telephone from an undisclosed location.

The attack on Hart Security in Kabul started with a gunbattle as the assailants tried to shoot their way in to the compound in the largely residential Taimani neighborhood about 3:30 p.m. (1100 GMT, 7 a.m. EDT), said Abdul Ghafar Sayedzada, chief of criminal investigations for the Kabul police.

The Taliban told The Associated Press that they orchestrated the attack.

After the assault, a group of men could be seen carrying a body out of the building toward a waiting police truck. One of the men carrying the body was weeping, according to an AP reporter at the scene.

The attack appeared timed to coincide with the end of the company's workday, Sayedzada said.

Area residents said they heard shooting about the same time as the blast.

"I was about to park my car when I heard gunfire. I turned and saw shooting between the security guards and two other people. They were trying to get in the building," said Mohammad Sharif, who lives nearby. "In the middle of that fighting suddenly there was a big explosion."

One of the security guards was also wounded, Sayedzada said.

The attack took place a short distance away from Flower Street, an area with restaurants and guesthouses popular with foreigners in a neighborhood called Taimani.

A shopkeeper, Mustafa, 30, said he saw the attackers head up the street with backpacks and suicide vests, opening fire on guards stationed outside.

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## More Resistance Action:



A car bomber struck a police vehicle outside Herat, west of Kabul, Afghanistan, Aug. 8, 2010. Two police officers died in the blast. (AP Photo/Reza Shirmohammadi)

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## Insurgent Attack Kills Seven Afghan Government Troops, Wounds 14; 20 Taken Prisoner

August 10, 2010 By RAHIM FAIEZ, The Associated Press

In Laghman province in the east, seven Afghan soldiers have died and 14 have been wounded in ongoing fighting with insurgents on the outskirts of the provincial capital of Mehtar, said Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi, a spokesman for the Defense Ministry.

He confirmed reports that up to 20 Afghan soldiers have gone missing in the province and are in the hands of the Taliban.

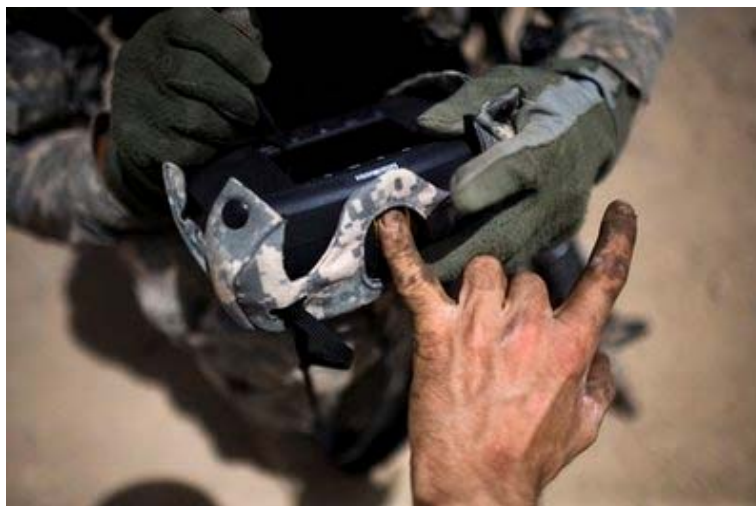
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## **FUTILE EXERCISE: ALL HOME NOW!**



A U.S. soldier guides an earthmover operator at Combat Outpost Terra Nova in Kandahar, Afghanistan, July 20, 2010. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

## **ONLY TWENTY MILLION MORE TO GO**



A U.S. soldier from the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division takes fingerprints from an Afghan villager near COP Nolen, Arghandab Valley, Kandahar, Afghanistan, July 26, 2010. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

## ONLY TWENTY MILLION MORE TO GO



A U.S. soldier from the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division takes an eye scan of an Afghan villager near COP Nolen, Arghandab Valley, Kandahar, Afghanistan, July 26, 2010. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)



Jul 27: US soldiers fill a barrier as they build a watch tower at a forward operating base in Dand district of Kandahar Province in Afghanistan. (AFP/Manpreet Romana)



## ONLY 100,000 MORE TO SEARCH



A US soldier inspects a bus at the road from Kabul to Bagram in Afghanistan, July 28, 2010. (AP Photo/Hossein Fatemi)



US soldiers inspect a car on the road from Kabul to Bagram Afghanistan, July 28, 2010. (AP Photo/Hossein Fatemi)

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

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



The remains of Army Pfc. Kristopher Chapleau, of LaGrange, KY, July 2, 2010, at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Chapleau was killed in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

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## **Veterans And Military Families Organizations Say Pentagon Statements On Wikileaks Cloud Real Issues: “We Must Bring Our Troops Home Now”**

August 3, 2010 CommonDreams

WASHINGTON - August 3 - Three organizations representing veterans and military families have released a joint statement on the Pentagon's response to the Afghanistan WikiLeaks documents.

They said today: "Obama administration officials are trying to spin events in their favor. On the one hand, in an effort to downplay the significance of the release, we are told the



documents contain no new information. On the other hand, some high-ranking members of the U.S. military are trying to: 1) intimidate anyone else from doing the same thing, and 2) turn public opinion against whoever leaked the current documents.

"A more damning statement could hardly be imagined than this one from Admiral Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 'The truth is they might already have on their hands the blood of some young soldier or that of an Afghan family.'

"As veterans and families with members in the military, we consider statements like Admiral Mullen's to be nothing more than calculated attempts to turn public attention away from the real problem -- the ongoing occupation of Afghanistan that has already caused the deaths and injuries of many thousands of innocent people ... while millions of Americans are jobless and face foreclosure or eviction.

"This suffering in Afghanistan and this bleeding at home will continue as long as our troops remain in that country. Congress must stop funding this war. We must bring our troops home now, take care of them properly when they return and pay to rebuild the damage we have caused to Afghanistan."

Interviews are available with representatives of the groups that issued the statement:

MIKE FERNER  
President of Veterans for Peace.

DEBORAH FORTER  
National Director of Military Families Speak Out.

JOSE VASQUEZ  
Executive Director of Iraq Veterans Against the War. .

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**“I Am Writing Today About PFC  
Bradley Manning, And Why He Is  
My New M.I. Hero”**

**“My Biggest Regret About My Time In  
Iraq Is That I Didn’t Leak The  
Information I Had Access To”**

**“Shame On You, U.S. Army, For Forcing  
A Kid To Be The One To Finally Expose**

# The Truth About Your Costly And Deadly Wars”

July 30, 2010 by Evan Knappenberger, CommonDreams [Excerpts]

Evan Knappenberger is an Operation Iraqi Freedom (05-07) veteran living in Bellingham, Washington, and a recent graduate of Whatcom Community College.

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At the US Army’s Intelligence Training Center at Fort Huachuca, Arizona in 2003 and 2004, our first term paper was assigned to be on the military intelligence hero of our choice.

The museum there had several dozen to choose from, though I forget now who I wrote about. Aside from the occasional joke (Isn’t M.I. an oxymoron?) I don’t think I got much out of it. So here I am: seven years, one degree, and a hell of a lot of heartache later, re-writing the paper, which I intend to submit in its entirety to the commander of that school.

I am writing today about PFC Bradley Manning, and why he is my new M.I. hero.

Mr. Manning has the distinction of being the prominent “wiki-leaker” suspected of the 92,000 document upload featured in the news this last week. I look up to Mr. Manning specifically because he had the guts to do what I didn’t: expose the lie that is war.

Mr. Manning, at twenty-two, is something of a hero to me now.

We went through the US Army’s Intelligence Analyst School at Fort Huachuca Arizona at different times, but I feel like we are on the same page. My biggest regret about my time in Iraq is that I didn’t leak the information I had access to.

One can only hope that these soldiers, in better position to see the situation than anyone else, continue to leak the military’s secrets to the world.

**I have to admit, I am not surprised at the reaction of the media to this latest leak.**

**For a bunch of idiots hiding in the green zone, I don’t think there is much to their supposed analysis of the situation beyond what they get spoon-fed by the military’s press liaisons.**

**That anyone could expect the press coverage of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to be anything other than utter drivel is pretty ironic.**

**Not as ironic, though, as General Mattis telling a roomful of reporters that Wikileaks “already has blood on their hands.”**

If I couldn’t tell the generals a single thing as an intelligence analyst when I was in the Army, maybe I could have told the world.

I have to wonder about a country that would send me to war as a twenty-year-old virgin but is shocked and unwilling to hear of the horrible things that happen there on a regular basis.

**If these 92,000 or so “documents” are what the military is using to assess its own situation, it makes one wonder what doesn’t make it into their database.**

The questions that the media has failed to ask extend far beyond those posed by the comparatively mundane Wikileaks documents exposed this week.

Perhaps now that the administration has some of the public looking over its shoulder, it will be compelled to tell the truth about Afghanistan. So far, the only challenge to the war propaganda has been the rising number of coalition casualties. Now, it seems, the monumental task of making up reasons for these numbers is going to have to fit in with the half-truth of the Afghanistan database documents.

**As far as the courageous PFC Manning goes, he is my new military intelligence hero.**

Thanks, Brad.

**And shame on you, media, for being out-reported by a twenty-two year-old kid with a laptop.**

**But most of all, shame on you, US Army, for forcing a kid to be the one to finally expose the truth about your costly and deadly wars.**

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## **British Soldier Released From Prison:**

**“I’ve Learnt That The Real Enemy Is Not  
The Man In Front Of You You’re Pointing  
Your Rifle At, But The Men Directly  
Behind You And Above You Telling You  
To Pull The Trigger“**

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

July 28th, 2010 Connection e.V., DFG-VK Hesse and IVAW Europe, Press Release  
[Excerpts]

British soldier Joe Glenton, who was released from prison some days ago, spoke at a packed anti-war meeting in London yesterday.

It was his first public appearance after his imprisonment. He demanded to bring back the troops from Afghanistan and added: "I consider it a badge of honor to have resisted and to continue to resist. I've learnt that the real enemy is not the man in front of you you're pointing your rifle at, but the men directly behind you and above you telling you to pull the trigger."

Joe Glenton was released on July 12th after serving a prison term for refusing to return to Afghanistan. On March 5, 2010, he had been sentenced to nine months in jail for having gone AWOL after refusing to return to Afghanistan because he opposed the war.

Joe Glenton was supported internationally with action days organized by the British organization Payday and a campaign to send him postcards launched by Connection e.V., Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) Europe and the German Peace Society & United War Resisters (DFG-VK) Hesse.

"At one point", Joe Glenton said, "I was getting 200 letters a day from all over the world so I never felt alone at any point. I'm going to university in September and that's going to be fantastic. I've got a lot to look forward to."

The organizations along with Joe Glenton would like to thank for all protest letters to the British government as well as all the support shown for Joe Glenton.

In 2007, Joe Glenton had left his unit, traumatized by his seven months' deployment in Afghanistan. He handed himself in two years later after speaking at an anti-war demonstration in London.

Based on his own experience in Afghanistan, Joe Glenton wrote a letter to the British Defence Minister: "The war in Afghanistan is not reducing the terrorist risk. Far from improving Afghan lives it is bringing death and devastation to their country. Britain has no business there." He was among the first Afghanistan refuseniks to go public.

According to figures published by the British ministry of war, more than 17,000 British soldiers have gone AWOL since 2003.

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## **Australian Veteran Running For Parliament Has One Point Plan For Afghanistan: Troops Out Now!**

# He Says Pro-Capitalist Parties “Feign Concern For Democracy In Other Countries The Ignore It In Their Own; 61% Of People In This Country Want The Troops Brought Home”

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

August 03, 2010 Election statement by Hamish Chitts, Revolutionary Socialist Party Candidate for Griffith [Australia]

**(Hamish Chitts is a former infantry soldier and veteran of East Timor and one of the founders of Stand Fast — a group of veterans and military service people against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.)**

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Revolutionary Socialist Party's one point plan for Afghanistan:

1. Troops out now!

The Netherlands began pulling its 2,000 troops out of Afghanistan on Sunday August 1 after overwhelming public opposition to the war forced a change in the Dutch government in June.

While the majority of people in this country want Australian troops out of Afghanistan, the only thing that Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott [leaders of the two ruling class pro-war parties in Australia, like the Republicrats and the Demopublicans in the USA] can say (in unison) is, “We’ll keep troops in Afghanistan as long as they are needed.” It seems their plan is to leave the decision up to the US Government - a plan which reveals how little value they really place on soldiers’ lives.

Every time the subject of Afghanistan comes up Gillard and Abbott repeat two main lies; one, that Australia's involvement in this occupation somehow makes things safer in Australia and two, that this war and occupation is being waged for democracy.

The lie that the war is about making the world safer is completely shattered in light of the fact that the Afghan and U.S. Governments are spending a lot of money in bribes and offers of government positions to the very groups Gillard and Abbott claim to making us safe from.

On March 26 the Newsweek website reported on official efforts to court Al Qaeda allies Hezb-i-Islami. A June 21 U.S. Congressional report titled Warlord Inc., Extortion and Corruption Along the U.S. Supply Chain revealed the U.S. military was paying tens of millions of dollars to warlords, corrupt officials and the Taliban to allow safe passage of its supply convoys.

This is not about democracy.

Last year's fraudulent elections in Afghanistan once again demonstrated that. If the people of Afghanistan were able to freely express their views, the majority would be in favour of the foreign troops leaving.

They don't get this chance so many are voting with their feet and joining the resistance.

**The corporate media and capitalist politicians vilify this resistance – but never put it in context. The fact is that right throughout history people all around the world have always taken up arms to fight against foreign occupation.**

**While the ALP and Coalition feign concern for democracy in other countries they ignore it in their own; 61% of people in this country want the troops brought home.**

**There is no way that Gillard or Abbott could not know these facts – which is why the only way the capitalist parties are able to justify Australia's involvement in Afghanistan is by lies.**

The only freedom being fought for in Afghanistan is the freedom for multi-national corporations to exploit Afghanistan's previously nationalised oil, gas and minerals for the private profit of a handful of people. Afghanistan is also important military real estate for the US to threaten other countries in the region like Iran who won't allow free market access to their resources.

No more troops should be exposed to death, injury or mental scarring for this.

That is why the Revolutionary Socialist Party calls for the immediate withdrawal of all troops from Afghanistan.

(For more info contact Hamish 0401 586 923 or [brisbane@rsp.org.au](mailto:brisbane@rsp.org.au))

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## **Why Are US Troops Killing Themselves? Army Prescription Of Suicide-Linked Antidepressants, Antipsychotics And Antiseizure Drugs Exactly Parallels The Increase In US Troop Suicides Since 2005**

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

August 3, 2010 By MARTHA ROSENBERG, CounterPunch [Excerpts]

Why are troops killing themselves?

The long awaited Army report, "Health Promotion, Risk Reduction, Suicide Prevention" considers the economy, the stress of nine years of war, family dislocations, repeated moves, repeated deployments, troops' risk-taking personalities, waived entrance standards and many aspects of Army culture.

**What it barely considers are the suicide-linked antidepressants, antipsychotics and antiseizure drugs whose use exactly parallels the increase in US troop suicides since 2005.**

In the report Chief of Staff General Peter W. Chiarelli acknowledges antidepressant risks, saying there's "fair quality evidence that second generation antidepressants (mostly SSRI) increase suicidal behavior in adults aged 18 to 29 years" while adding that "other research evidence shows the benefit of antidepressant use."

**But nowhere does he acknowledge the suicide potential of antiseizure drugs so widely used for pain and as "mood stabilizers" by troops even though the FDA mandated suicide warnings on Lyrica, Topamaz, Depakote, Lamictal, Tegretol, Depakene, Klonopin and 16 others in 2008.**

(Lamictal also has the distinction of wasting more taxpayer money than any other drug according to a July American Enterprise Institute report.

Medicaid spent an unnecessary \$51 million on Lamictal instead of buying a generic last year, thanks to GSK salesmen. You go guy, guys.)

When asked by NPR's Robert Siegel if the high number of medicated troops contributed to suicide, Gen. Chiarelli said, "The good thing about those numbers is...the prescriptions were all made by a doctor."

Asked why troops who had not even deployed were among the suicides, Chiarelli said there were other stressors involved.

**In June Marine Times reported 32 deaths on prescription drugs in Warrior Transition Units (WTUs) since 2007 and said an internal review "found the biggest risk factor may be putting a soldier on numerous drugs simultaneously, a practice known as polypharmacy."**

**But instead of citing dangerous drugs and drug cocktails for turning troops suicidal (and accident prone and at risk of death from unsafe combinations) the Army report cites troops' illicit use of them along with street drugs.**

(The word "illicit" appears 150 times in the Army report and "psychiatrist" appears twice.)

No, it's not the 8,000 urine samples in 2009 which showed prescription drug traces according to the Army report -- it's the fact that 21 percent of the drugs were "illicit."

No wonder the revised suicide report form suggested by the Army report doesn't even have a box to enter "adverse reactions to drug or drug combinations."

Instead, it has a box that asks how long before a suicide a patient was "compliant" with the prescription. Was the medication "taken as prescribed? Skipped?" Taken "In excess of prescription? In different manner (e.g., crushed instead of in capsule)?"

**Nowhere is there the possibility that the medication was taken as prescribed and compliance not noncompliance was the problem.**

**On the same day the Army report was released, another suicide report which ignores the elephant in the room called Big Pharma was released.**

In response to a request from the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice for help after the recent suicides of two youths in two of its eight WTU-like facilities, the Illinois Models for Change initiative compiled a "Report on the Behavioral Health Program for Youth Committed to Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice."

Like the Army report, the Juvenile Justice report notes lack of staff training and resources, lack of assessment tools, lack of aftercare, family problems and repeated moves and dislocations to explain suicides without mentioning suicide-causing psychoactive drugs themselves.

The team of mental health and corrections professionals mentions youths who fail to "follow the medication orders" and revert to street drugs but nowhere in the 146-page report are the health and mental health effects of psychoactive drugs mentioned. Even though 98 percent of youth at one facility are on them, according to the report! Denial is not just the name of a river in Egypt.

Worse youth are screened for suicide when they enter facilities not after they're put on psychoactive drugs.

The report explores poor food and dorms with no electric sockets so youth "cannot have TVs in their rooms and only walkmans" and visitor policies, but doesn't pursue the one reference to psychoactive drugs: the youth who says he is pretty much "knocked out" on the antidepressant Trazadone they give him.

**Like the Army report, the Juvenile Justice report ignores the pharmaceutical elephant in the room and the tax dollars and human costs of feeding it.**

**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.**



# **“Vets Are Punished And Kicked Out Of The Service For Exhibiting Signs Of A Disease That Their Service Gave Them”**

## **“Cases In Which Service Members Are Discharged For Behavior That Is Directly Related To Battle-Induced Mental Illness Are Prevalent”**

[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,547th time, there is no enemy in Iraq or Afghanistan. Their citizens and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started these wars of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn't tell the truth: U.S. Imperial wars are about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. T]

July 12, 2010 By Corinne Reilly, The Virginian-Pilot [Excerpts]

Cases in which service members are discharged for behavior that is directly related to battle-induced mental illness are prevalent, according to some veterans advocates.

The military doesn't track how many combat veterans with documented symptoms of PTSD it has removed for disciplinary reasons, but Army figures show that misconduct and drug-related dismissals have risen markedly since the start of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, by nearly 46 percent between 2001 and 2009.

Local congressional representatives say they've received no complaints besides Ozawa's, but Bart Stichman, co-executive director of the National Veterans Legal Services Program, believes the problem is far-reaching.

"We see this pretty regularly. We don't keep numbers, but I can tell you it's not uncommon."

Indeed, veterans groups see the problem often enough to have a name for it. They call it the military's misconduct Catch-22: Vets are punished and kicked out of the service for exhibiting signs of a disease that their service gave them.

Moreover, misconduct discharges often disqualify soldiers from medical and veterans benefits, leaving them with few options for treatment once they're out.

"They should be getting medical discharges and full VA care," Stichman says.

For years, clinicians and commanders across the service branches have been asking, in some cases publicly, whether the military should be doing more to make sure combat veterans aren't being punished for behavior caused by war-related mental illness. The Defense Department has agreed that symptoms of PTSD and traumatic brain injury - sleeplessness, aggression, emotional problems, decreased concentration - make it harder to conform to military conduct codes. So do some drugs used to treat PTSD.

"By kicking them out, we're essentially transplanting a military problem into our civilian communities, and then we watch it play out in suicides, murders and domestic violence."

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

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

## **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**

## **August 11, 1894: Dishonorable Day: Federal Troops Forced Some 1,200 Jobless Workers Across The Potomac River And Out Of Washington, D.C.**

**[If they try that shit again today, time to turn the weapons around on the real enemies, and it’s not the unemployed. T]**

**Carl Bunin Peace History August 9-15**

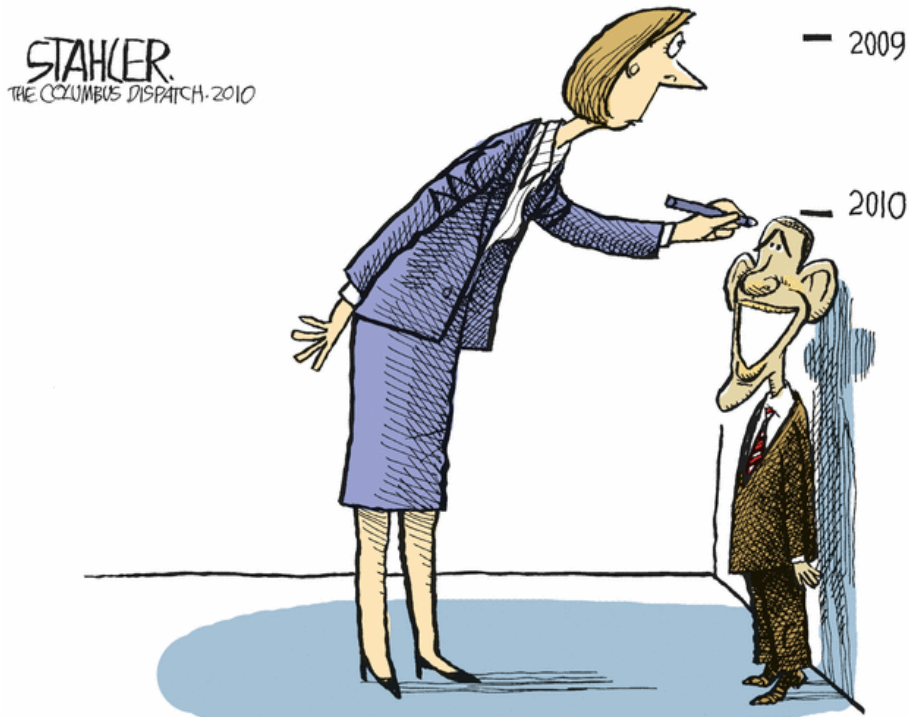
**Federal troops forced some 1,200 jobless workers across the Potomac River and out of Washington, D.C.**

**Led by an unemployed activist, “General” Charles "Hobo" Kelly, the jobless group’s "soldiers" included young journalist Jack London, known for writing about social issues, and miner/cowboy William "Big Bill" Haywood who later organized western miners and the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).**

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

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

# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



## **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/](http://www.ivaw.org/))

# Military Resistance [www.militaryproject.org](http://www.militaryproject.org)

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



*Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members  
[www.militaryproject.org](http://www.militaryproject.org)*

## **Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out**

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williambowles.info/wordpress/category/military-resistance/> ;

[news@uruknet.info](mailto:news@uruknet.info); [http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/)

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