

Military Resistance 8H12

**THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THE TROOPS
HOME:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



July 29, 2010: Upon landing after a helicopter rescue mission, an Air Force Pararescueman salutes as soldiers carry away the flag-draped remains of one of two soldiers evacuated from the battlefield after they were killed in an IED attack, at Kandahar Air Base, southern Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

**“The Plan Was
Betrayed”**

**Showcase Afghan Army
Mission Turns To Shit:**

**“Taliban Forces Were Waiting With
An Ambush Against The Main
Body Of Troops”**

Elite Battalion Wiped Out; Taliban Also Destroy “35 Ford Ranger Trucks, The Standard Afghan Army Transport Vehicle, Which Typically Carry Six Or More Soldiers Each”

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

August 12, 2010 By ROD NORDLAND, New York Times [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — An ambitious military operation that Afghan officials had expected to be a sign of their growing military capacity instead turned into an embarrassment, with Taliban fighters battering an Afghan battalion in a remote eastern area until NATO sent in French and American rescue teams.

The fighting has continued so intensely for the past week that the Red Cross has been unable to reach the battlefield to remove the dead and wounded.

The operation, east of Kabul, was extraordinary in that it was not coordinated in advance with NATO forces and did not at first include coalition forces or air support. The Afghans called for help after 10 of their soldiers were killed and perhaps twice as many captured at the opening of the operation nine days ago.

The operation began when the Afghan Army sent a battalion of about 300 men from the First Brigade, 201st Army Corps, into a village called Bad Pakh, in Laghman Province, which is adjacent to the troubled border province of Kunar. Their operation, which began on the night of Aug. 3, was to flush out Taliban in a rugged area where they had long held sway.

First, using the Afghan Army’s own helicopters, a detachment was inserted behind Taliban lines, while the main part of the battalion attacked from the front.

But, according to a high-ranking official of the Afghan Ministry of Defense, the plan was betrayed; Taliban forces were waiting with an ambush against the main body of troops.

Then the airborne detachment was cut off when bad weather grounded its helicopters, the official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the news media.

In the confusion, the 201st Army Corps commanders lost contact with the battalion. The battalion’s Third Company — 100 men — took particularly heavy casualties, the official said, although he did not have a number.

He said many of the company were killed, captured or missing, and as of Wednesday at least, the status of the rest of the battalion remained unclear.

An official of the Red Crescent in the area said that casualties were very heavy on the government side and that the Taliban had destroyed 35 Ford Ranger trucks, the standard Afghan Army transport vehicle, which typically carry six or more soldiers each.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, spoke of a far more devastating toll. He said the militants' ambush killed 27 Afghan soldiers, wounded 14 and led to the capture of 8, while 18 army vehicles and 6 tanks were seized. "The NATO-Afghan terrorists were forced to retreat in humiliation after taking on heavy casualties," Mr. Mujahid said.

A spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Kabul, Bijan Frederic Farnoudi, confirmed reports that the group had tried to recover bodies and the wounded but had been turned back because the fighting was too intense. "We're monitoring and ready to go," he said. "As soon as it's possible we're willing to go in."

A tribal elder, a former Taliban official who has switched to the government side, said the Taliban contacted him to arrange for the Red Crescent and the International Committee of the Red Cross to remove the dead.

"The Taliban commander said the bodies are decaying and it's a problem for us," he said, asking not to be named for his safety.

The International Security Assistance Force referred all questions about the operation to Afghan officials. "We can't confirm information past what the M.O.D. released since this started as a unilateral Afghan operation," said Col. Hans E. Bush, a spokesman for the NATO mission in Afghanistan. He added that a "personnel recovery" operation was under way, using the term for a rescue operation for wounded, dead or missing soldiers.

A local journalist for Pajhwok Afghan News, a news agency, who wrote about the attack was called in by the National Directorate of Security, the Afghan intelligence service, and questioned for several hours, according to the news agency's director, Danish Karokhel.

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

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Obama's Lying Bullshit Reeks On:

Despite Agreement With Iraq Government To Get Out Of “Urban Areas,” U.S. Combat Troops Occupying Urban Areas



U.S. soldiers secure an area in Kerbala, 80 km (50 miles) south of Baghdad August 11, 2010. [Karbala is the capital of Karbala Governorate, with an estimated population of 572,300 people - Wikipedia.]REUTERS/Mushtaq Muhammed

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Afghan IED Kills 2 Benning-Based Rangers

Aug 10, 2010 By Christine Rook - Lansing (Mich.) State Journal

GRAND LEDGE, Mich. — Two Army Rangers died Sunday in Kandahar, Afghanistan, when their unit encountered an improvised explosive device, Defense Department officials said Monday.

Pfc. Bradley D. Rappuhn, 24, of Grand Ledge and Sgt. Andrew C. Nicol, 23, of Kensington, N.H., were assigned to 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, out of Fort Benning, Ga., according to the Pentagon.

Nicol was a 2006 graduate of Exeter (N.H.) High School, his family said. Family members told television station WMUR-TV that he had served five tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Rappuhn, a 2004 graduate of Grand Ledge High School, was remembered by his high school bowling coach, Tom Braun, as a “team player.” Rappuhn’s family traveled to Dover Air Force Base, Del., earlier Monday. His body was scheduled to arrive at Dover about 11 p.m.

Rappuhn’s tour was extended, according to family members.

“He was supposed to come home in the end of July,” said his mother, Roxanne Rappuhn. “But they tacked 45 more days on.”

Rappuhn was injured earlier this year but had recovered, family members said.

Roxanne Rappuhn said she felt immense pride, knowing that her youngest son had served his country well.

Rappuhn enlisted in the Army in January 2009. In addition to his mother, he is survived by his father, Cary, and a brother.

“Sgt. Nicol and Pfc. Rappuhn were involved in fighting one of the most heavily defended areas in Afghanistan. Their actions resulted in the destruction of a complex bunker system that included heavy machine guns, mortar systems and the death of seven Taliban,” said Col. Michael E. Kurilla, commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment. “They are heroes to the nation, the Army and their families.”

Ohio Marine Killed In Helmand



U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kevin M. Cornelius, 20, of Ashtabula, Ohio, with the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, was killed Aug. 7, 2010, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/United States Marine Corps)

U.S. “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan By Something Or Other

August 12, 2010 ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATO reported that a U.S. service member died yesterday after an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan.

Soldier From The Mercian Regiment Dies Of Wounds Sustained In Nahr-E Saraj

12 Aug 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce that a soldier from 1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment (Cheshire) died at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham yesterday evening of wounds sustained in Afghanistan.

The serviceman was wounded in an explosion while on patrol in the Nahr-e Saraj district of Helmand province on 13 July 2010. He was treated at the scene before being flown to the UK for further treatment.

Sadly, on Wednesday 11 August 2010, surrounded by his family, he succumbed to his injuries and lost his fight for life.

“Colombian Forces’ Tank” Hit In Ghazni; Casualties Not Announced

12 August 2010 TOLONews

At least 5 Taliban militants have been killed and 6 others wounded in a NATO and Afghan forces’ operations in the southern Ghazni province in the past 10 days.

A Colombian forces’ tank was hit in a mine blast during the operations, Sayed Ismael Jahangir, a spokesperson for the governor of Ghazni told TOLONews reporter. But he refused to provide further details on troops’ casualties.

**“Hey, We’re The U.S. Army”
“We Knock Over Your Walls, Drive
Into Your Ditches And Knock
Down Your Power Lines. Now
We’re Going To Protect You!”
The Police “Rarely Venture More
Than Two Miles From Their Posts,
Unless Accompanied By German Or
American Troops”
“‘We Are Not Afraid Of The Enemy; We
Are Afraid Of The Germans,’ The District
Police Chief, Gulam Maideen, Said”**

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War & Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

August 11, 2010 By JAMES DAO, The New York Times [Excerpts]

On paper, the plan for the foot patrol looked perfectly safe. A stroll through a couple of villages. Introductions to a few village elders. A two-mile drive back to the guarded walls of the Afghan police headquarters. Easy.

But the first missions of a deployment have a way of going terribly wrong. And so the company commander huddled with his platoon leader in the hours around dawn, checking potential ambush points, charting evacuation routes, worrying about every possible equipment failure.

“Everyone knows there is one way in and one way out,” one squad leader said. “I don’t like it.”

The Afghan National Police have long been considered the weakest rung of the Afghan security forces, often lacking proper training, equipment, commitment and ethics, American commanders say.

More important, American commanders worry that some police officers — whether willingly or under duress — conspire with insurgents.

The Afghan security forces have their own trust issues with troops from NATO. In April, German soldiers fired on a truck carrying Afghan soldiers rushing to the aid of a German unit caught in an ambush in the Chahar Darreh district.

Six soldiers died.

“We are not afraid of the enemy; we are afraid of the Germans,” the district police chief, Gulam Maideen, said.

The Chahar Darreh district occupies the southwest flank of Kunduz Province, where table-flat farmland fades into dusty plateau and empty desert.

It is only six miles from the relatively secure bustle of downtown Kunduz, Afghanistan’s fifth-largest city. But it is a time zone away in terms of security.

“There is really only one bridge you can get in and out of,” said Capt. David Bell, the Delta Company commander. “So it makes for a really great insurgent safe haven.”

The district is part of northern Afghanistan’s Pashtun belt, and many villages here share the language, tribal sentiments and even Taliban sympathies of their brethren in Kandahar and Helmand.

They are not technically a combat force, but the police are expected to maintain security on a day-to-day basis — and that means fighting insurgents. Yet by all accounts, they are underequipped and understaffed to do that.

In Chahar Darreh, there are only about 50 officers to protect 63,000 people spread across nearly 500 square miles, an area the size of Los Angeles. Chief Maideen said he would need twice as many officers to begin to cover the district effectively.

But for now, the police — riding in unarmored Ford Ranger pickups and armed with little more than Kalashnikov rifles — rarely venture more than two miles from their posts, unless accompanied by German or American troops.

As a result, most villages here rarely see a police officer.

By the fourth day of the mission, the adrenaline high of the firefight had faded into edginess about the final event of their trip: a foot patrol with the police into a village not far from where Taliban fighters killed three German soldiers just a month earlier.

The first person the Americans met was a young girl pumping water from the village well. She broke into tears at the sight of the heavily armed Americans, and all the soldiers could do was try to help her with the heavy pump. It did little to stop her crying.

As they prepared to depart, the platoon made a crucial decision: to use a different return route, recommended by the Afghan police.

The road was narrow and slick with mud.

One of the trucks bumped into a wall, cracking it.

Less than a mile later, another truck slipped off the road and nearly flipped over in a ditch.

The platoon tried to use a winch and a hook to pull the truck back onto the road, but it was too heavy. Captain Bell called for a salvage team.

A towering man with hands the size of catcher's mitts posed for photographs with Captain Bell.

"We are happy to have them here now," a villager said through a translator.

"But if they kill a single civilian, people will turn against them."

What the platoon expected to be an hourlong wait for a tow truck dragged into four, then five hours as the salvage team got lost.

With each hour, the atmosphere became progressively uneasy.

An American truck accidentally knocked down a power line.

As dusk approached, the wrecker arrived. Relief mixed with dismay.

"Hey, we're the U.S. Army," one soldier quipped. "We knock over your walls, drive into your ditches and knock down your power lines. Now we're going to protect you!"

The Sgt. Ignores The Silly Bullshit About Progress: "We Ain't Winning No Hearts And We Ain't Winning No Minds"

8.8.10 By David Wood, Chief Military Correspondent; Politics Daily [Excerpts]

DEH-E-BAGH, Afghanistan -- In this small corner of violence-wracked Kandahar, the counterinsurgency campaign devised and now commanded in Afghanistan by Gen. David Petraeus has produced a small island of promise, with the beginnings of good security, competent local government and active citizen participation.

That's the good news.

But for the Obama White House, seeking to wind down a nine-year war whose public support is evaporating, there is bad news: it has taken five years to achieve these gains

here. Millions of dollars of development projects have been lavished on this modest district of 70,000 people.

And for the American troops here, the 1st Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, progress has cost five battle dead and 10 seriously wounded over the past 90 days.

A Canadian soldier who works closely with local villagers put it more succinctly. "We ain't winning no hearts and we ain't winning no minds," said Sgt. Leo MacDonald, a veteran civil affairs expert.

Farmer At U.S. Training Project Says U.S. Troops Should Get Out And Go Home: "If The U.S. Leaves, The Taliban Will Stop"

August 11, 2010 By RACHEL MARTIN, National Public Radio [Excerpts]

In Helmand province, US military officials like to point to projects.

And an experimental garden, where locals learn modern farming techniques.

MARTIN: Gunnery Sergeant Jason Snead helps manage this project.

Mr. JANAD KUHL (Farmer): (Foreign language spoken)

MARTIN: The Taliban are still here, he tells me. They still intimidate and attack people. But its the fault of the U.S. forces, he says. The Taliban makes trouble because Americans are fighting them. If the U.S. leaves, the Taliban will stop.

Another young farmer jumps into the conversation.

Unidentified Man: (Foreign language spoken)

MARTIN: He says if the U.S. forces stay or go it doesn't matter. Either way it doesn't affect the lives of the people.

Hundreds Of Villagers Shout "Death To The United States"

Afghans Enraged Over Civilian Deaths; Two Trucks Belonging To Mercenaries Burned



A relative mourns for Afghans killed by U.S. forces during a raid in Sayed Abad district of Wardak province west of Kabul, Afghanistan, Aug. 12, 2010. (AP Photo/Rahmatullah Naikzad)

Abed said he did not have more detailed information because he was unable to leave the police compound.

“If we go out, maybe fighting will start,” he said.

Aug. 12, 2010 (AP)

A crowd of about 300 villagers yelled “death to the United States” and blocked a main road in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday as they swore that U.S. forces had killed three innocent villagers, officials said.

Thursday’s raid happened before dawn in Wardak province’s Sayed Abad district - a Taliban-dominated area where Afghan police can only go with very tight security, according to district Police Chief Abdul Karim Abed.

Elders from Zarin Khil village said American troops stormed into a family’s house and shot three brothers - all young men - and then took their father into custody, Abed said. Police are investigating the allegations but could not yet confirm or deny the account, he said.

According to the elders, there was no fighting before the troops entered the house, Abed said.

Early Thursday morning, men from the village started to gather in the main market of Sayed Abad to protest the alleged civilian killings, Abed said.

The men blocked the main highway going through the area and burned two trucks belonging to Afghan private security contractors, Abed said.

Abed said he did not have more detailed information because he was unable to leave the police compound.

“If we go out, maybe fighting will start,” he said.



In Sayed Abad district of Wardak province, west of Kabul, Afghanistan, Aug. 12, 2010, villagers yell 'Death to the United States' and block a main road in eastern Afghanistan as they swore that U.S. forces had killed three innocent villagers. (AP Photo/Rahmatullah Naikzad)

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.

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW



A soldier with an injured ankle from the US Army's 101st Airborne Division is assisted past his burning M-ATV armored vehicle after it struck an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) on a road near Combat Outpost Nolen in the Arghandab Valley July 23, 2010. REUTERS/Bob Strong



U.S. soldiers provide cover for a medical evacuation Blackhawk helicopter taking off with a soldier wounded by a hidden bomb during a patrol by the 1-320th Alpha Battery, 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division near COP Nolen, Arghandab Valley, Kandahar, Afghanistan, July 23, 2010. (AP Photo/The volatile Rodrigo Abd)



US soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division come under attack by Taliban insurgents at COP Nolen, Arghandab Valley, Kandahar, Afghanistan, July 27, 2010. (AP Photo/The volatile Rodrigo Abd)



Soldiers with the 101st Airborne Division take up fighting positions after hearing gunshots at Combat Outpost Nolen in Arghandab Valley north of Kandahar July 27, 2010. REUTERS/Bob Strong



A soldier with the US Army's 101st Airborne Division shouts instructions after an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) exploded just outside Combat Outpost Nolen in the Arghandab Valley north of Kandahar July 30, 2010. One soldier lost his leg and another was hit by shrapnel after an IED blew up during a patrol near the base. REUTERS/Bob Strong

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Five Killed When Occupation Troops Open Fire On Refugee Camp

Aug 11, 2010 GAROWE ONLINE

At least five people have been killed and 18 others injured on Tuesday after AMISOM [translation: foreign U.S.-backed occupation troops] troops launched mortars at KM 13 area in the outskirts of Mogadishu, Radio Garowe reports.

The conflicts came after Al-Shabaab attacked AMISOM based in Madina district, the dead and wounded people were civilians.

KM 13 is an area for the people who fled from the conflicts in the capital.

"The mortars started midnight while we were sleeping, the people shocked. Majority who were displaced was women and children "said Ahmed Caga-weyne one of the IDPs at KM13 camps.

Maryan Ali, an IDP mother of six, which her house was burnt after mortars hit told Garowe Online “the mortar erupted near my neighbor’s houses, some of them dead and injured critically,”

She adds they slept outside of the camps.

Dr. Abdirizak Ali Elmi (Washington), one of the Al-Hayat hospital doctors at KM 15, said they receive at midnight eight civilians who were critically injured by the mortars.

Early on Tuesday the displaced people at KM13 camps fled from their homes after AMISOM troops shelled mortars at the camps.

Somali government and AMISOM officers refused to comment about that incident

MILITARY NEWS

**Mikey Weinstein Battles
Powerful Traitors Nesting Inside
The Armed Forces:
“A Small, Determined, And
Fanatical Clique Wants To Abuse
Its Power And Proselytize To
Service Members Below Them In
The Chain Of Command”
“There’s A Pervasive Christian
Supremacist Milieu Inside The U.S.
Military That’s A Danger Not Only To
Constitutional Order, But To The**

American Wars In Afghanistan And Iraq”

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation “Receives Multitudes Of Thank You’s From Veterans And Service Members Serving Across The Globe”



Mikey Weinstein (Photo: Steve Most)

“I am just an American soldier who happens to be Muslim,” he says.

Not everyone at Fort Hood sees it that way, and his faith has not endeared him to some soldiers. In February, someone on base wanted him to know it – badly, at 2:00 a.m. on a Monday morning. That night, someone repeatedly kicked the door to his barracks room, making him leap from bed.

When he opened the door, he found an empty hallway and a note, folded twice and wedged into the doorframe. It read: “FUCK YOU RAGHEAD BURN IN HELL.”

And just a few weeks ago, Mikey received complaints about a new commander at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Georgia. During the change of command ceremony, the new head of the 94th Airlift Wing, USAF Col. Timothy E. Tarchick, declared, “My personal priorities are first, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, second, my family, and third, everything else.

“Imagine Tarchick said this, argues Mikey: “My personal priorities are first, Allah and Savior Mohammed, second, my family, and third, everything else.”

11 July 2010 by: Matthew Harwood, Truthout Report [Excerpts]

In his fight against British imperialism, Mahatma Gandhi described the life cycle of successful civil disobedience: “First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.”

Mikey Weinstein, the 55-year-old founder of the Albuquerque, New Mexico-based Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF), likes to quote it, knowing full well he’s crossed the line into a bloody-knuckle brawl.

Over the past year, Weinstein and his organization have recorded a tremendous string of victories in the fight against Christian supremacists inside the armed forces.

In January, the MRFF broke the story on the Pentagon’s Jesus Rifles, where rifle scopes used in Afghanistan and Iraq were embossed with New Testament verses. In April, he got the military to rescind its invitation to the Reverend Franklin Graham to speak at May’s National Prayer Day because of Islamophobic remarks. Most shockingly, MRFF received its second nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize in late October.

These high-profile victories have earned him the enmity of the hardcore Christian Right and the mentally unstable.

And the crazies are getting crazier. Weinstein and his family are bombarded with hate mail, from the grammatically incorrect and easy to dismiss – “I hope all your kids turn out gay as hell, take it in the ass, and get aids and die!!!!” – to the kind of threats that immediately make you leap out of your chair and double-check that the doors and windows are locked.

Unlike Gandhi, Mikey’s no pacifist.

Weinstein boxed during his Air Force days, his face marked by a strong jawline sitting below a bald head on top of a stocky body – a cross between Rocky Marciano and Butter Bean. Simply put: Mikey Weinstein can be a brute and a zealot. He knows this and admits it freely. But he believes it’s the only position a reasonable person can take when confronted with a faction dedicated to mutating the U.S. military into “a weaponized Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

But for all of his rhetorical excesses and bravado, Weinstein’s fight is simple and correct. The United States military cannot favor one religious sect over another, staying true to the Constitution’s establishment clause that service members pledge to defend.

More pragmatically, the military cannot favor one religious sect over another because it’s destructive of good order and discipline, creating divisions between service members when they must rely on the guy next to them to survive in a firefight.

Yet inside the U.S. military a small, determined, and fanatical clique wants to abuse its power and proselytize to service members below them in the chain of command. Through this captive market, they can inject their peculiar ideology into the most powerful institution on earth.

As Weinstein likes to say, this isn't just a civil rights issue, it's a national security threat of the gravest magnitude.

The description sounds hyperbolic, but according to Weinstein there's a pervasive Christian supremacist milieu inside the U.S. military that's a danger not only to constitutional order, but to the American wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

What's ironic about Mikey's fight is that he never thought about becoming "a civil rights activist."

He discovered his calling by rising up like a grizzly bear for his son.

The Academy From Hell

The Weinstein family is an Air Force family.

After graduating from the Naval Academy in 1953, Mikey's father switched to the Air Force to pursue new opportunities in a new service. Mikey followed in his footsteps, as did his two sons, Casey and Curtis. Casey, the oldest, even met his wife Amanda at the Air Force Academy while they were cadets there. Mikey's daughter Amber dates an Academy graduate – 2nd Lt. Mack Delgado, a Christian with a cross tattooed on his chest, a detail Mikey points out every time his name's brought up.

As recounted in his 2006 book, *With God on Our Side*, Weinstein's confrontation with Christian supremacism began during his youngest son Curtis's freshman year at the Academy in Colorado Springs.

Sitting at the base of Pike's Peak, Colorado Springs has been called the Christian Mecca. More than any city in America, evangelical Christianity saturates its streets. That extreme conservative religiosity has long permeated the Academy.

Unsurprisingly, it doesn't like or respect diversity of any kind, as two generations of Weinstein's would discover.

Entering the Cadet Area at the Academy as a "doolie" in 2003, Curtis was asked from both naive and intolerant Christian cadets why the Jews killed their savior. During an intramural game, an upperclassman asked him, "How it felt to kill Jesus." The religious discrimination got so unrelenting that Curtis complained to his father in June 2004. "The next person that calls me a fucking Jew or accuses me of killing Jesus, I'm going to beat the fucking shit out of them," Mikey recounted to CNN in 2005.

His older son, who graduated in 2004, confirmed the evangelical sea all Academy cadets swam in during their tenure there. "Dad, this is just the way it is," Casey said. "Senior cadets would sit down and say, 'How do you feel about the fact that your family is going to burn in hell?'"

A former Judge Advocate General (JAG), a Reagan White House lawyer during the Iran-Contra scandal, and a former general counsel to billionaire and former presidential

candidate Ross Perot, Mikey couldn't be dismissed as a Che Guevara T-shirt-wearing armchair revolutionary. And as a lawyer, he made it hard to ignore him.

In October 2005, he sued the Air Force Academy, seeking a ban on religious proselytizing or evangelizing by superior officers after finding evidence of systematic evangelical coercion festering inside the Academy's walls.

While the lawsuit was later dismissed in October 2006, the precedent was set. The initial lawsuit that Mikey leveled at the Air Force Academy morphed into MRFF as the winter of 2005 slid into 2006. Mikey left his lucrative job as an executive of business development at Perot Systems to continue agitating religious reform inside the military.

"Who will guard the guards," he asks. "We will, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation will."

In the process, he has systematically exposed himself and his family to terroristic threats, virulent anti-Semitism, and financial ruin.

Quickly, Mikey realized that the infection wasn't isolated; the virulence was military-wide. He likens it to nuclear contamination. "If you had a geiger counter, there wouldn't be a place you couldn't find it," he says.

For decades, he discovered, evangelical para-church organizations had cropped up with the sole purpose of evangelizing service members. One group, Campus Crusade for Christ's Military Ministry, described the service members that come under its sway as "government-paid missionaries for Christ."

At Fort Jackson in South Carolina, Military Ministry snapped pictures of soldiers posing with their rifles and their Bibles, an image eerily similar to jihadist propaganda videos.

Other examples MRFF uncovered were no less disturbing.

Inside the Military Police building at Fort Riley, a printout slapped on an office door carried conservative columnist Ann Coulter's sunken face and this quote: "We should invade their countries, kill their leaders and convert them to Christianity."

A more subtle evangelical hubris also appeared inside the Pentagon. In 2007, MRFF's discovery of nine Pentagon officials appearing in a promotional video for Campus Crusade's Christian Embassy caused the Department of Defense's inspector general to rebuke seven military officers.

For one officer, United States Air Force Maj. Gen Peter J. Sutton, that appearance proved embarrassing when he was assigned to Turkey as chief of defense cooperation.

According to Sutton's own testimony to the inspector general, his Turkish driver approached him with an article from the Turkish newspaper Sabah, which carried a picture of his appearance in the video and described him as a member of "a radical fundamentalist sect."

But the Christian supremacist rot inside the military wasn't confined to home or overseas posts. It had spread to the worst possible battlefields: Afghanistan and Iraq. Tipped off by service members, MRFF has discovered chaplains handing out Bibles in Arabic, Dari, and Pashtun in theatre.

In another instance, a lieutenant colonel and 15 to 20 armed troops cordoned off a city block in Iraq and told a missionary he knew from home that he would protect him and his missionaries while they evangelized Iraqis.

These are all serious violations of military regulations. United States Central Command's General Order 1A, issued in December 2000, couldn't have been clearer for service members fighting overseas: "Proselytizing of any religion, faith or practice" was prohibited.

Examples like these continue to accumulate with untold damage to U.S. military operations, Mikey says, despite the emphasis on winning hearts and minds in Afghanistan and Iraq, the focus of Gen. David Petraeus' counterinsurgency manual. In these environments, fanatical Christian soldiers become self-tripped IEDs.

When news broke out in May 2008 that a soldier shot up a Koran at a Baghdad shooting range, a violent riot broke out among 1,000 Afghans in which three people died.

Mikey talks about Christian supremacists like they're vampires, demons determined to drain secularism and pluralism out of the military.

"Wherever I see unconstitutional religious predators in the U.S. military, of any stripe, I don't care if I live or die. Someone's gonna get a beating and we're going to do it," he says. "The two ways to administer the beating is to go into the media or into court," he explains, a strategy distilled from his fight at the Academy. Lance Benzel, a journalist for Colorado Spring's The Gazette, recently summarized Mikey's civil rights agitation aptly:

"Condemn in the strongest language possible. Publicly embarrass. Sue if necessary. Each new step raises the pressure on his publicity-averse targets."

Some Christians, out of ignorance or sincere apocalyptic belief, believe Mikey is the anti-Christ. (He's actually a reluctant agnostic.) Google "Mikey Weinstein" and you'll see descriptions like "Jesus-basher," "AntiChrist," and "anti-Christian Jewish supremacist." One "Concerned American" on the website "Powered by Christ" argued Weinstein's "doing all he can to create an anti-Jewish backlash and help bring about the predicted endtime Holocaust of Jews that'll be worse than Hitler's."

There's one problem with this assumption.

Ninety-six percent of MRFF's 18,300 military clients are Christians – many Roman Catholics and mainline Protestant – that have been treated by their more spirit-filled comrades and commanders as not Christian enough.

"This is not a Christian-Jewish issue," Mikey argues, "it's a constitutional right and wrong issue, and Christian fundamentalism does not recognize the supremacy of the Constitution over its sectarian theocratic dictates."

Elizabeth Sholes, the public policy director of the California Council of Churches/IMPACT, which represents 1.5 million progressive Protestant members, denied Weinstein and MRFF are anti-Christian.

She says he simply fights for religious freedom.

While Sholes supports an evangelical's right to witness to whomever they please, she, like Mikey, believes they cannot do so when they are representatives of the government. "Our Constitution was established to give everyone the right to conscience, the right to free expression of religion" she says, "but not to commandeer the institutions of government to make that happen."

Yet Sholes says aggressive evangelicals within the military get it upside down, believing the government violates their religious freedom when government regulations forbid its public servants to proselytize the saving grace of their savior.

"We hate a small subset of Christianity that goes by this term, dominionist fundamentalist Christianity," Mikey says.

Hate On The Homefront

Case in point: On May 25, the 5th floor of the Dallas County Courthouse was cleared so Mikey's lawyer, Randy Mathis, could take the deposition of Rev. Jim Ammerman while six deputy sheriffs stood guard, rotating in and out of the jury room.

In his 30 years of practicing law, Mathis never saw this type of security for a deposition unless the person being deposed was already a prisoner of the state. Spokeswoman Kim Leach for the Dallas County Sheriff's Department confirmed extra security was provided, but could not provide details except to say the judge had requested it because of a "security issue."

To be clear, Ammerman, who will turn 85 in late July, is not the threat. It's those who listen to his conspiratorial screeds, according to Mikey and Bonnie.

A former Navy pilot, Green Beret, and Army chaplain who rose to the rank of full colonel, Ammerman is an early purveyor of the One World Government ideology that believes foreign troops are knowingly stationed in U.S. national parks, and that former President Bill Clinton and current Secretary of State Hillary Clinton are members of the Illuminati – a secret society determined to install a one-world government.

What's striking about all this is that Ammerman's organization is currently one of the U.S. military's largest ecclesiastical endorsing agencies for chaplains.

As President and Director of the Chaplaincy of the Full Gospel Churches, he currently endorses 270 Pentecostal chaplains across all branches of the military.

Ammerman's tinfoil-hat beliefs, however, have brought scrutiny before – from the Pentagon, itself.

In September 1997, Lt. Gen. Normand G. Lezy of the USAF ordered an investigation of Ammerman and his endorsing organization for using military chaplains “as agents to collect and convey military intelligence information for Mr. Ammerman’s political purposes.”

The two other reasons Lezy gave for opening an investigation were no less inflammatory: Rev. Ammerman’s encouragement of groups with “supremacist viewpoints” and his repeated suggestions that a military coup of the United States was imminent.

Mikey and his wife Bonnie are currently suing Rev. Ammerman because of the actions of Gordon Kingenschmitt, a former Navy chaplain and self-styled “traveling evangelist” he endorses. Kingenschmitt became a hero of the Christian Right in 2006 when he was court-martialed by the Navy for insubordination after he attended a Religious Right protest outside the White House in uniform. When the evangelical Episcopal Church pulled his chaplain endorsement after his reprimand, Ammerman’s Chaplaincy of the Full Gospel Churches picked him up.

An avowed enemy of MRFF, which applauded the Navy’s decision, Kingenschmitt began channeling the Old Testament’s King David in his fight against godless secularism. Last year, Kingenschmitt issued multiple imprecatory prayers, basically a curse, calling for Weinstein and his family’s destruction.

“Almighty God, today we pray imprecatory prayers from Psalm 109 against the enemies of religious liberty, including Barry Lynn and Mikey Weinstein, who issued press releases this week attacking me personally. God, do not remain silent, for wicked men surround us and tell lies about us. We bless them, but they curse us. Therefore find them guilty, not me. Let their days be few, and replace them with Godly people. Plunder their fields, and seize their assets. Cut off their descendants, and remember their sins, in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

In a revealing exchange during the deposition, Kingenschmitt told Mathis that he and Mikey were both anti-Christians for suing him. Then, without prompting, Kingenschmitt added, “And it’s a little bit anti-Semitic because King David was Jewish, and King David prayed that Psalm to God as a member of the Jewish faith.”

His absurd Biblical exegesis aside, Randy Mathis says Kingenschmitt’s prayers are coded directives to other Christian supremacists to harm Mikey, Bonnie, and their children, done on behalf of Ammerman.

“They’re trolling for assassins,” he says. If a conspiracy exists and that was indeed its intent, there’s evidence it worked.

Kingenschmitt’s curses have ratcheted up the hate directed at Mikey and MRFF to extreme levels. “Since these fatwahas were issued, the threats and hate mail have increased exponentially,” the lawsuit filed last September states. “Plaintiffs justifiably live in fear of imminent violence against their person and their family.”

Things have deteriorated more rapidly since the New Year.

In January, MRFF discovered that the Pentagon had a \$660 million multi-year contract with Michigan-based Trijicon, which supplies rifle scopes to the U.S. military that had New Testament citations inscribed on them. One scope read "2COR4:6," a reference to Second Corinthians 4:6 which states: "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

The Pentagon, along with countries like Canada, Great Britain, Israel, New Zealand, and Australia, have all since either raised concerns about the scopes or demanded Trijicon wipe the scopes of their New Testament citations purchased by their respective militaries.

Then the news broke that MRFF successfully had Rev. Franklin Graham's speaking invitation at the Pentagon's National Day of Prayer event revoked. The son of legendary presidential sycophant Rev. Billy Graham, the younger cleric didn't have his father's discretion in public and had assailed Islam repeatedly, once calling it "A very evil and wicked religion" after 9-11.

"We moved to another level," Bonnie says of getting Graham booted from the event.

Since Mikey's very public fight began half a decade ago, the family has had to take increasingly extreme security precautions, as people left dead animals on their lawn, shot projectiles into their home, and drew crucifixes and swastikas on the side of their house. The family has two attack-trained German Shepherds, referred to as "the girls," that patrol their property with a third one on the way. The house is equipped with floodlights, surveillance cameras, and when things get really bad, Curtis tells me, a team of security professionals camp out and watches over the property.

Bonnie, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, now carries a gun in her purse. She and Mikey now regularly go shooting to keep their skills sharp. "I have to have my gun as my friend," Bonnie said. "It reminds me on a daily basis, if not hourly basis, that there are really crazy people out there and at any moment they can shoot."

Extended Family

Zachari Klawonn is an unfortunate young soldier. Not only is he a Moroccan-born U.S. Army Specialist and a Muslim-American, the twenty-year-old is stationed at Fort Hood, where Maj. Malik Nadal Hassan went jihadi postal on his comrades, butchering 12 soldiers and a civilian in November.

"I am just an American soldier who happens to be Muslim," he says.

Not everyone at Fort Hood sees it that way, and his faith has not endeared him to some soldiers. In February, someone on base wanted him to know it – badly, at 2:00 a.m. on a Monday morning. That night, someone repeatedly kicked the door to his barracks room, making him leap from bed.

When he opened the door, he found an empty hallway and a note, folded twice and wedged into the doorframe. It read: "FUCK YOU RAGHEAD BURN IN HELL."

It was an incident reminiscent to what happened to Mikey during his Academy days. The nighttime visit, shoveled on top of a pervasive base culture that associated Islam with terrorism and repeatedly used the ethnic slur haji, made Klawonn decide to stand up for himself.

It also didn't hurt that Klawonn's own comrades would hurl the most offensive slur imaginable after the Fort Hood Massacre; they called him "Zachari Hasan."

"Enough was enough," Klawonn says, and he filed a complaint with his unit's equal opportunity officer to force the Army "to take a good hard look at that moral compass and start using it."

But that arrow didn't move.

Instead, Klawonn was forced off-base because Fort Hood could not assure his security. Too compound his problems, Fort Hood also did not pay out his housing stipend, and Klawonn had to survive on loans and pawning belongings.

"I was running out of hope quite frankly," he said. "I lost hope in the system."

With nowhere to turn, Klawonn did research online and found Mikey and MRFF. Within 24 hours, MRFF reached out to Klawonn's chain of command.

"I felt the urgency in the matter just completely take a 180," he said. He was told immediately that his living expenses would be reimbursed. In another act of kindness, MRFF extended him a loan to carry him until Fort Hood reimbursed him. Within the next pay cycle, Klawonn was collecting his Army paycheck again. "It's clear and it's evident, MRFF definitely has some big push," Klawonn.

"He's the Jackie Robinson of the U.S. military," Weinstein says.

Klawonn's story isn't an aberration.

MRFF receives multitudes of thank you's from veterans and service members serving across the globe.

One thank you came from a U.S. Navy veteran, a self described "religious Jew," who described extreme religious coercion during hospital stays at the Iowa City Veterans Affairs Medical Center in 2007.

"During two hospitalizations, despite my written and verbal instructions to the contrary, the hospital staff was not content to just refuse to contact my rabbi," wrote Akiva David Miller, now the director veterans affairs for MRFF, "they sent a proselytizing Protestant chaplain in to see me – while I was bedridden and wired to a heart monitor – to tell me that Jesus was the Messiah of the Jews too, and that my only hope was salvation through Jesus Christ."

Miller and his rabbi protested and the medical center retaliated by discontinuing Miller's care. When they cut off his pain medication, Miller asked his doctor why.

**His response: “You’re a religious Jew. Why don’t you try prayer or meditation?”
Miller contacted MRFF.**

Mikey flew out to Des Moines and held a press conference that launched a full investigation that confirmed Miller’s discrimination. And with the help of his old boss Ross Perot, Mikey got Miller care at the Dallas V.A. Medical Center.

While Mikey considers his approximately 18,300 clients new members of his family, his fight has naturally eviscerated other family relationships. Bonnie Weinstein tells of many friends and family who have left their sides when Mikey began trying to reconstruct the wall between church and state in the military, but she didn’t provide details.

She didn’t have to.

On June 25, Colorado Spring’s Gazette printed letters to the editor on Benzel’s piece on Mikey. The comments took an even more absurd turn than usual, considering the type of e-mails and comments Weinstein and MRFF generate. Paul Baranek, the father of Mikey’s daughter-in-law Amanda, wrote a letter to the editor calling Mikey an anti-Christian bigot and chastised the paper for giving him more press. “This man’s motives are anything but noble, and the more publicity you give him, the more you encourage his crusade against Christianity,” Baranek wrote. Mikey responded in typical Mikey fashion:

“I want to fucking strangle him,” he told me.

But a more constructive and devastating response came from Baranek’s own daughter, Mikey’s daughter-in-law Amanda, published in the Gazette:

“I was raised with the idea instilled in me that only a person with unstable and unsound beliefs tries to silence those with beliefs different from his or her own. Ironically, it is Paul R. Baranek who instilled this belief in me, the same man now wishing to silence Mikey Weinstein.

“Technically speaking, Paul Baranek is my father, but it is more accurate to describe Mikey Weinstein as my father. It is not by blood but by heart and choice that makes Mikey my father. He is the one who believes in me. He is the one who protects me. He is the one who defends me. He is the one who stands and speaks for me when no one will listen. He is the one who knows me. And he, Mikey Weinstein, is the one that I call father, that I call Dad.”

But she wasn’t finished, echoing a sentiment seen in countless e-mails to MRFF: “But Mikey is much more than just MY father. Every military member seeking help from MRFF, whether they are Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Atheist, or Christian (and most of them, like me, are Christian) is treated the same way he treats his own children,” she wrote.

“Mikey is the only person willing to protect our military members and stand up for them when no one else will listen, ensuring they have the same constitutional right of religious freedom guaranteed by our country’s forefathers, the same rights that he himself fought to protect during his service in the Air Force.”

“The care with which he handles each and every person who has decided to appeal to him for help...is what matters to us,” says Sholes. “His personal style is just not the issue.”

“My family is my life,” he declares repeatedly to me over multiple conversations.

No Dominion

The fight has changed Mikey. He has a darker view of American history now, acknowledging the genocidal underbelly of the American Christian conception of “manifest destiny.”

He also feels like he’s beset by enemies from every conceivable angle – fearful an imbalanced Christian fanatic could step out of the darkness and end it all, as well as resentful he can’t rely on even liberal Democrats for support.

In May, the Pacific Palisades Club awarded Mikey its Anne Froehlich Political Courage Award but then quickly yanked it back, the club’s president justifying it by saying they weren’t aware Mikey defended the Reagan administration during Iran-Contra. (The Air Force assigned him the task.)

In disgust, former Ambassador Joe Wilson and his wife Valerie Plame, the CIA agent outed by the Bush administration during the run-up to the Iraqi War, gave back the same award they won years before. The club flip-flopped again and returned the award with apologies. Mikey will receive it in Los Angeles this fall.

Sholes compares the last five years of Mikey’s life to the famous Vietnam battle of Khe Sanh: “He’s been under fire relentlessly and he’s just exhausted emotionally.” Bonnie says their struggle, and she believes it’s their struggle, has taken a lot from them, especially their wealth.

“Our security is completely gone,” she said. At times there’s an air of fatigue in her voice, that the stress of all this has ground her and her husband down. Yet she says service members would have no one to turn to if MRFF closed shop.

And the e-mails seeking counsel and help just keep coming.

And just a few weeks ago, Mikey received complaints about a new commander at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Georgia. During the change of command ceremony, the new head of the 94th Airlift Wing, USAF Col. Timothy E. Tarchick, declared, “My personal priorities are first, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, second, my family, and third, everything else.

“Imagine Tarchick said this, argues Mikey: “My personal priorities are first, Allah and Savior Mohammed, second, my family, and third, everything else.”

According to Mikey, these recent incidents mean the fight will continue on. Sometimes he says he feels like he’s “screaming into the abyss each morning.” In essence, he’s a

civil rights Sisyphus. He shoulders the boulder up the hill, only to watch it come crashing down again.

“I worry about him,” Amber says, knowing full well her father won’t stop “unless someone shot him dead.”

Looking back on the 20th century, one of the morbid realizations of any civil rights activist is that their wick doesn’t last long. There’s no reason to think the 21st century will be any different. That doesn’t deter Weinstein. Neither does poverty. He says he’ll sell everything to continue his fight. He is a man on fire, but he’s hoping his wick will burn out naturally.

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

U.S. Commander Says More Dead Australian Soldiers A Sure Thing

August 11, 2010 By Jeremy Kelly, The Australian [Excerpts]

AUSTRALIAN forces in Oruzgan can expect more casualties as Taliban insurgents move there from more violent areas of Afghanistan.

That’s the assessment of the US commander in charge of the province.

In his first interview since taking over from the Dutch, Colonel Jim Creighton said he was preparing for the Taliban to move fighters north from bordering provinces Helmand and Kandahar, with the latter gearing up for a push by NATO-led forces.

Asked if he expected the Australian death toll in Afghanistan to rise, Colonel Creighton said: “Yes, I think it’s likely but I don’t know how big that rise will be.”

Iran Digs Mass Graves For U.S. Troops

Aug 11, 2010 By Ali Akbar Dareini - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran has dug mass graves in which to bury U.S. troops in case of any American attack on the country, a former commander of the elite Revolutionary Guard said.

Gen. Hossein Kan'ani Moghadam, who was the Guard's deputy commander during the 1980s, said graves have been dug in Iran's southwestern Khuzestan province, where Iran buried Iraqi soldiers killed during the ruinous 1980-88 war between the Islamic republic and Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's regime.

"The mass graves that used to be for burying Saddam's soldiers have now been prepared again for U.S. soldiers, and this is the reason for digging this big number of graves," Moghadam told the Associated Press Television News late Monday. He did not say how many were prepared.

Footage obtained by APTN showed a large number of empty, freshly dug graves in a desert region of Khuzestan. The digging of the graves was first reported earlier this week by Iran's semiofficial news agency Fars.

Moghadam repeated warnings that Iran will retaliate against U.S. bases in the Gulf if there is an attack on Iran. The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet headquarters is based just across the Gulf from Iran in Bahrain.

If U.S. forces attack, "Iran will have no choice but to strike the American bases in the region," he said. "The heavy costs of such a war will not be just on the Islamic Republic of Iran. America and other countries should accept that this would be the start of an extensive war in the region."

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