

Military Resistance 8H9



**Oklahoma Citizens Organizing
March To The State Capitol This
Thursday For Native Son PFC.
Bradley Manning
[And That Piece Of Material Reality Is
More Important And Offers More
Hope For Our Common Future Than
50,000 Useless Letters To Congress
And/Or The Emperor Obama]**



[Thanks to David McReynolds for posting.]

From: Serena Blaiz

Date: Aug 9, 2010

Subject: (NLG Oklahoma) Announcement for OK solidarity march for Bradley Manning

Solidarity March in Support of Bradley Manning
Thursday, August 12, 8pm
From the Corner of NE 16th and Lincoln to Oklahoma State
Capitol, Oklahoma City**

[Excerpts]

Please join us for this important action in support of the Army intelligence officer accused of leaking classified documents showing war crimes committed in Afghanistan.

And please feel free to share this info with your groups and networks.

March to Support Alleged Whistleblower Bradley Manning*

Manning, an Oklahoma native, faces 52 years in prison for exposing war crimes

This Thursday, August 12, Oklahomans will show support for and solidarity with Pfc. Bradley Manning, accused of leaking documents about the Afghanistan War, with a march at dusk near the state capitol.

The Army intelligence analyst, originally from Crescent, Oklahoma, is being held in the brig at Quantico Marine Corps Base in Virginia.

The action is being organized locally by the Oklahoma Center for Conscience, with support from the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

James M. Branum, an attorney that works with OCC on military law cases, calls the Pentagon's treatment of Manning "extreme" and designed to set up the case "as an example of the punishment waiting for others who would consider exposing violations of military regs and international law."

"We are saying that exposing war crimes is not a crime," he said.

The whistleblower behind the Vietnam era's Pentagon Papers, Daniel Ellsberg, has called Mr. Manning a hero. "I admire the courage of Bradley Manning for sacrificing himself to make the public aware of the futility of the war in Afghanistan," says Ellsberg.

Comment: T

In the summer of 1959 hitchhiking through west central Oklahoma, I got a ride from a farmer in an old pickup truck.

He said he'd give me a ride in exchange for a song, not unreasonable since I was hauling around a pre-World War II Gibson Jumbo in its nearly armor plated case and sporting a John B Stetson hat, a blue/white striped seersucker suit and black Acme boots.

So I unpacked the Gibson and did Pretty Boy Floyd for him as we rode. That's a Woody Guthrie composition acclaiming Pretty Boy Floyd for robbing the rich and giving money to poor Oklahoma farmers.

When I got done he said that was the truth, that song was the truth.

Then he said that back in the 30s, when he was already a grown man, from time to time farmers got their weapons and went down together to some nearby town to seek economic justice.

"We got the ice houses, we got the electric companies, we got the grain elevators, we took them and used them for all of us. Then that son of a bitch Roosevelt got in and made us give them back.

"But somebody we'll get them back again."

If they're starting to march for Bradley Manning in Oklahoma, even if only 10 people show up, that is no small thing, and bet that farmer will be looking down with a big smile.

In his day, they started small just that way, and look how far they got before that son of a bitch Roosevelt made them give it back.

Won't make the same mistake this time.

Make friends with enough soldiers and we won't have to give anything back.

Pretty Boy Floyd

If you gather round me children
A story I will tell
Of Pretty Boy Floyd the outlaw
Oklahoma knew him well

It was in the town of Shawnee
On a Saturday afternoon
His wife beside him in the wagon
As in to town they rode

A deputy approached them
In a manner rather rude
Using vulgar words of language
And his wife she overheard them

Pretty Boy grabbed his log chain
The deputy grabbed his gun
And in the fight that followed
He laid that deputy down

He fled to the hills and woodlands
To live a life of shame
Every crime in Oklahoma
Was added to his name

Now there's many a starving farmer
The same old story told
How Pretty Boy paid the mortgage
And saved their family home

Others tell you of a stranger
That came to beg a meal
And underneath his napkin
Left a thousand dollar bill

It was in Oklahoma City
It was on a Christmas Day
There came a whole carload of groceries
And a letter that did say

You say that I'm an outlaw
You say that I'm a thief
Well here's the Christmas dinners
For the families on relief

It's thorough this world I've rambled
I've seen lots of funny men
Some will rob you with a six gun

And some with a fountain pen

But it's through this world you ramble
And it's through this world you roam
You won't never see a outlaw
Drive a family from their home

Send Your Letter Of Solidarity To Pfc. Bradley Manning

Letters must be addressed as follows in order to be delivered:

"Inmate Bradley Manning
3247 Elrod Avenue
Quantico VA 22134
USA"

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

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

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

"The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops." Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed By Extension In Zhari



Army Pfc. Bradley D. Rappuhn of Grand Ledge, Mich. from Fort Benning, Ga., was killed, Aug. 8, 2010, when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive in Zhari, Kandahar, Afghanistan. Rappuhn's family said he was to have finished his tour in July but had it extended 45 days. (AP Photo/Department of Defense).

Graduate Of Lincoln's Challenge Dies From Wounds Received Fighting In Afghanistan



Pall bearers from the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and the 103rd Engineer Company carry the casket of Sgt. Jesse Tilton of Mount Zion, of the 82nd Airborne Division in Decatur, Illinois July 27, 2010. Photo by: AP Photo/Decatur Herald & Review, Kelly J. Huff

07/28/2010 By Paul Wood, The News-Gazette, Inc.

RANTOUL [Illinois] – A Bronze Star-winning Lincoln's Challenge graduate has died after serving in Afghanistan.

Sgt. Jesse Richard Tilton, 23, of Mount Zion in Macon County, was serving with the 508th Regiment, 82nd Airborne, U.S. Army in Afghanistan.

He died July 16 in the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Frankfurt, Germany, from injuries he received while taking care of a soldier during a battle in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

According to an Army news release, insurgents attacked Sgt. Tilton's unit in Kandahar City, Afghanistan, with rifle, rocket-propelled grenade and other small-arms fire.

Peter Thomas, the director of Lincoln's Challenge, called Sgt. Tilton "a scholar and a gentleman."

"He was a young man with a vision, very focused," Thomas said. "His purpose was to get through here to join the military."

Thomas said the sergeant scored extraordinarily well on his GED while at Lincoln's Challenge, earning perfect 800s on three of the five blocks of the test.

"He was also a very nice guy, friendly," Thomas added.

Sgt. Tilton served on the LeVant Guard at Lincoln's Challenge, an elite group that guards dignitaries on visits.

An airborne veteran himself, Thomas answered many of Sgt. Tilton's questions about military service.

"He wanted to learn all he could about the military; he came from a family with a military background. He was very eager to serve. I think this was his third trip over there," Thomas said.

Sgt. Tilton came home Tuesday via the Illinois Air National Guard Facility at the Decatur Airport and was taken to Dawson & Wikoff Funeral Home in Mount Zion for services.

A visitation will be held from 3 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday at Dawson & Wikoff Funeral Home, Mount Zion. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Burial will be in Point Pleasant Cemetery, Long Creek, with full military honors.

Memorials may be made to Macon County Honor Guard or to Lincoln's Challenge Academy. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at <http://www.dawson-wikoff.com>.

Sgt. Tilton was born Dec. 14, 1986 in Decatur, the son of Julie A. Tilton. He had attended Mount. Zion High School before Lincoln's Challenge Academy. He also attended Richland Community College, his obituary said.

His honors include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal and the Combat Medic Badge.

He was a member of the Long Creek United Methodist Church.

Surviving Sgt. Tilton are his mother, Julie A. Tilton-Magana, and her husband, Javier, of Long Creek.

Yorba Linda Flags Lowered In Soldier's Honor

July 27, 2010 By AMANDA PORTILLO, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

YORBA LINDA — Flags flew at half-staff Tuesday in Yorba Linda, where the family of Army Sgt. Daniel Lim lives.

Lim, 23, was killed Saturday along with three other soldiers when their vehicle was attacked by insurgents with an improvised explosive device in Qalat, Afghanistan.

Lim, who was born in Cypress, graduated from Pacifica High School in Garden Grove in 2005. According to Yorba Linda officials, his family moved to the city about four years ago.

At least six other military from Yorba Linda have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2002.

His godfather, Han Oh, said that Lim was studious, close with his sister and a devout Catholic. "He had an abundance of love," Oh said. "He loved his country, his family, his sister and God."

When Lim was home on leave in June, Oh recalled a conversation they shared at lunch, the day before Lim had to return to Afghanistan. Lim told his godfather that he had to return to protect his soldiers.

"Protect, that was his very word," Oh said. "He was a great man."

Spc. Javintroy Lewis, 21, of Texas, remembered Lim as a good soldier who looked forward to starting his own family. The two had been friends for about two years, riding motorcycles together. The last time they rode, Lim was on a Kawasaki 600. Lewis said that Lim enlisted because he wanted to make it on his own.

"He was very energetic and lively. He always wanted to have fun," said Lewis, who served in the same unit with Lim. "He wanted you to have fun with him. He never left anyone behind."

Lim's remains were flown to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware where his family is going and to decide funeral arrangements, according to Oh.

Lim, a member of Korean Martyrs Catholic Center in Westminster, enlisted April 13, 2006.

After serving 31 months in Korea, he reported to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., in May 2009, and was assigned to the 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 17th Fires Brigade.

The battalion deployed to Afghanistan in October 2009. This was his first combat deployment.

The job of the combat engineers unit was to clear roadways of explosives, Lewis said.

The other three soldiers killed with Lim were Staff Sgt. Conrad A. Mora, 24, of San Diego; Spc. Joseph A. Bauer, 27, of Cincinnati; and Pfc. Andrew L. Hand, 25, of Enterprise, Ala.

As U.S. flags flew Tuesday from several homes in the Lim family's Yorba Linda neighborhood, tributes also appeared on the web for the four soldiers. "Everyday that passes is another day closer to seeing our departed brothers again," wrote fellow soldier Christian Baeumler of Anaheim on Lim's Facebook page. "R.I.P you will never be forgotten.

Lim is among at least 56 members of the military from Orange County who have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2002, according to Orange County Register records

Clermont Soldier Joseph Bauer Dies In Afghanistan

July 24, 2010 By Laura Baverman and Theresa Herron, Cincinnati.com

OWENSVILLE – An Owensville native was killed late Saturday while on a combat mission in Afghanistan.

Army Spc. Joseph Bauer, 27, was killed while on duty as a mine sweeper, according to family members who learned of his death Saturday morning. It is not known where in Afghanistan he was killed.

Bauer married Misty Howard, 25, formerly of Goshen, in March 2008. The couple had no children.

This marks the second casualty from the parish of St. Louis Church in Owensville in recent years since the war began in 2001.

Bauer enlisted in the Army in October 2007, family members said, and was stationed at a base in Washington state. He left for Afghanistan in October 2009 and was scheduled to return home in October.

He recently enlisted for another six-year term, choosing to make the Army his career, said an uncle, Fred Bauer of Owensville.

Joseph Bauer was the son of Roger Bauer of Owensville and Lynn Bauer of Goshen Township. Other survivors include five brothers and two sisters; four half-sisters; a half-brother; a stepsister and a stepbrother.

One brother, Jason Bauer, 34, is serving with the Navy in Japan.

Bauer was home-schooled for much of his childhood but attended Clermont Northeastern High School for a brief period. He took classes at the University of Cincinnati but did not complete a degree.

Before his enlistment, he ran a press at U.S. Playing Card in Norwood.

Family members called Bauer reserved and quiet, focused and determined, but with a big heart.

“He’d go out on a limb for any of his family members,” said his brother Eric Bauer, 36, of Owensville. “And he’d make you laugh in a heartbeat.”

The Army will fly Bauer’s parents and wife to Dover Air Force base in Delaware early this week to retrieve his body.

Another former member of St. Louis Church, Marine Lance Cpl. Nick Erdy, was killed in Iraq in 2005 at age 21. Erdy, son of William and Jane Erdy of Lynchburg, Ohio, was a 2002 graduate of McNicholas High School. “It’s a good and honorable thing to be a soldier and serve your country,” said the Rev. Jerry Hiland, pastor at St. Louis.

“We’ve had a lot of people deployed from our parishes in Clermont County and we pray for them every day.”

The news of Bauer’s death came one day after it was announced that a 2008 Xavier University graduate was killed July 21 in an attack in Muqdadiyah, Iraq.

Michael Runyan, 24, of Newark, Ohio, was a first lieutenant in the 52nd Infantry, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

He died after insurgents attacked his convoy vehicle with an improvised explosive device.

Taliban Return To Northern Afghanistan:

“Zukrullah Has Some Backup At The Moment, In The Form Of A Few Dozen U.S. Infantrymen”

“But All That Wasn’t Even Supposed To Be Needed In The North”

August 9, 2010 by Quil Lawrence, National Public Radio [Excerpts]

Violence in southern Afghanistan, heartland of the Taliban, is expected. But some of the new U.S. troops surging into the country this year are being sent north, to areas previously thought to be free of Taliban influence.

The province of Kunduz, in northeast Afghanistan bordering Tajikistan, isn't supposed to be Taliban territory. But at a police checkpoint in the Ali Abad district in southern Kunduz, only a winding river separates insurgents from government forces.

Zukrullah, a junior officer in the Afghan national police, says he's sure the Taliban are watching his men.

"Actually, the enemy is back that side of the river. They are 50, and we are like five people," Zukrullah says, speaking in his native Dari.

Those aren't very good odds, but Zukrullah has some backup at the moment, in the form of a few dozen U.S. infantrymen visiting his lonesome outpost near the village of Puli Kheshti.

But all that wasn't even supposed to be needed in the north, especially because ethnic Pashtuns, the traditional supporters of the Taliban, are in the minority in this part of the country.

"As the Taliban have been getting stronger, they've managed to infiltrate both Pashtun communities and non-Pashtun communities in the north," says Kate Clark, a researcher with the Afghan Analysts Network in Kabul.

Afghan government corruption and abuse has made the north fertile ground for the insurgents, Clark says.

"Afghan national police were sent in; they robbed people. There were accusations that they'd been dealing dishonorably with local women — exactly the sort of things that will drive the insurgency," Clark says.

Occupation Command Liars Deny Killing 52 Afghans In Rigi: So A Reporter Takes A Roadtrip To Rigi And Sees Reality: “Why The Hell Could They Not See A House Full Of Women And Children? No One Survived The Strike”

August 9, 2010 Aziz Ahmad Shafe reported from Rigi. Jean MacKenzie reported from Boston, GlobalPost [Excerpts]

RIGI, Helmand — The issue of civilian casualties has once again assumed center stage in Afghanistan.

One such incident, say Afghans, was in Rigi, a village in the Sangin district of Helmand province.

On July 23, residents there reported that a cruise missile hit a large family compound, killing as many as 52 civilians.

NATO officials deny the strike.

A press release issued on July 26 by the press office of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), emphasized that there had been no military operations in Rigi on the specified date.

There had, in fact, been a joint ISAF-Afghan operation about 10 kilometers away, continued the press release; precision-guided missiles were used against insurgents. But ISAF insists that all missile strikes were accounted for and reached their intended targets.

Given the conflicting reports from Sangin, it was almost impossible to establish what actually occurred without first-hand information.

Aziz Ahmad Shafe, an Afghan cameraman for the BBC, traveled to the area to interview victims.

Here is his own account of the trip:

I kept getting phone calls from local people in Sangin, asking me to cover this tragedy.

First I tried to get information from the provincial authorities in Helmand, but they told me that nothing had happened.

First I searched the hospitals, but could find no evidence that any dead or wounded had been brought in from Sangin.

Finally Dr. Qayum Pukhla, the head of the Mirwais Hospital in Kandahar, told me on the telephone that, at 1 a.m. on July 24, they had received seven injured children from Sangin.

I decided to go there myself, regardless of the danger. Sangin is almost completely under Taliban control.

The Taliban commander in Sangin told me by phone that the situation was too unstable for me to come. But I persisted. I told him that I needed to cover the story and would take responsibility for my own security.

An hour later, Taliban spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadi called me.

“The Taliban in Sangin will let you through, no problem,” he said. “Go ahead, do your work.”

I found a driver who was willing to take me, and we set off from Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital.

Up until Dorahi, where the road splits off for Kandahar, the road was paved and there was no problem. But as soon we entered Sangin district, I could feel that we had entered Taliban territory.

Suddenly bullets hit our car from all sides. I saw gunmen by the side of the road, but it was not clear whether they were Taliban, government forces or simply thieves.

When they saw we were unarmed, they came no closer.

“Go back!” one of them shouted.

We prepared to do just that when some dust-covered vehicles arrived from the direction of Hyderabad. They told the gunmen that the operation in Sangin was finished.

“It is okay, you can pass,” said one of them.

I understood that these men belonged to a local militia that was fighting the Taliban.

We had survived our first confrontation, but there were many more. We were stopped frequently by the Taliban. I was expecting to be killed at any moment, but they just looked at our car and let us go.

When we got to the district center of Sangin, I saw Afghan Army bases, which reassured me a bit, but just a kilometer outside the center we were once again in Taliban country.

The place is called Ghargarai — on one side you can see the black, red and green of the Afghan national flag, while just 300 meters away the white Taliban banner waves.

About three kilometers outside of Sangin district center I began to see NATO bases. There were heavy vehicles and tanks, driving across planted fields as if they were on a road.

We passed them, and entered Sarwan Kala, which is controlled by the Taliban.

The area is full of mines, and we did not know which way to go. The Taliban told us how to avoid the explosives. But soon we were lost and the driver wanted to turn back.

I saw a village and asked local people the way to Rigi.

“Why would you want to go there?” they asked. They told us there had been a NATO strike and civilians had been killed. They also said Taliban would kill us if we went.

But I told them that I was a journalist and wanted to give the victims a voice.

“I am going with you!” said one of the villagers. His name was Abdul Karim, a strong, healthy man with a white turban who looked about 40. He used to be with the Taliban, he said, but now he was just sitting at home.

“You cannot go by road, it’s too dangerous,” he said. “Not even a cat could make it. But I know a back way, and I will show you.”

Abdul Karim took the wheel and seemed very competent. There were Taliban checkpoints every 100 meters or so, but he managed to talk us through them easily.

Finally we got to Rigi.

The first thing we saw was a cemetery, called Faqir Baba. Residents told me they had buried 24 bodies from the strike there. I counted the graves.

From the cemetery there was a small, thickly wooded road to the village itself. Suddenly, about a dozen armed Taliban jumped out of the trees and demanded to know where we were going.

When we explained why we wanted to get to Rigi, they said, “Okay. But if you are killed, it is your own responsibility.”

We found the compound that was hit. There was a gathering in front of it.

The compound was almost completely destroyed. All the household goods were mixed together, kitchen things with children’s toys, and wood for the stoves, all lying in heaps.

Mohammad Khan, a 15-year-old boy, told me the story.

“It was Friday when all this happened,” he said. “Down from this village, there is another one called Joshali, where I live.

“The Taliban attacked the American and Afghan forces and a short fight broke out between them. The people of Joshali decided to evacuate the village, so we came here to Rigi — women, children, old and young, all of us.

“When we got here, the people of Rigi helped us and gave us shelter,” he continued.

“They put the women and children in one big compound and the men stayed outside. It was around three in the afternoon that we saw helicopters in the air. The men fired on the helicopters from the ground with AK-47s. I ran towards the compound and told the children to go inside. Some obeyed me and some just stayed outside to see what was happening.

“Suddenly I heard a big boom and I was knocked down. There was dust everywhere. I could not hear anything. When the dust settled, I ran towards the compound. I saw human bodies scattered everywhere. I started looking for my mother, and finally found her, covered with blood and dust. I pulled her out of the ruins. I found three of my little brothers too, near my mother. They were all dead.”

Khan began to cry. “I want my mother back,” he said, and left me.

Haji Hussain, another man from Joshali village who had taken refuge in Rigi, was visibly angry as he told of his ordeal.

“We don’t know why they’re killing us,” he said, his voice rising. “The foreigners say they try to protect civilians, but they are killing us. They are supposed to have very advanced technology that can detect a nail on the ground from the air, so why the hell could they not see a house full of women and children? No one survived the strike.

“They talk of humanity and civilization, where does their humanity and civilization go when they decide to kill women and children? It’s all lies. They’re just our enemies ... ”

Hussein was unsure of the exact number of casualties; he thought it was about 45.

Haji Shah Wali, another refugee from Joshali, agreed.

“In total we took 39 bodies out of the ruins and buried 24 of them in Faqir Baba cemetery,” he said. “Some others are in Ghargarai. At least six other bodies are still under the rubble; we have not managed to get them.”

Suddenly a frightened villager came running up.

“Go go, the Americans are coming!” he shouted.

Everybody started to run. The driver and I left Rigi and went back to Lashkar Gah. We arrived at about 8 p.m.

I went straight to the governor’s office and talked to his spokesman, Dawood Ahmadi. I wanted to explain what had happened in Sangin.

He would not listen.

“Nothing happened there,” he said. “Why are you so upset?”

ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT; ALL HOME NOW



U.S. soldiers of the 320th Alpha Battery, 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division, after morning exercise at Combat Outpost Nolen, Arghandab Valley, Kandahar, Afghanistan, July 22, 2010. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)



U.S. soldiers with the 1-320 Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, lift armored plates onto the roof at Combat Outpost Nolen in the Arghandab Valley north of Kandahar July 23, 2010. REUTERS/Bob Strong



U.S. soldiers of the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division after a firefight with insurgents at COP Nolen, Arghandab Valley, Kandahar, Afghanistan, July 24, 2010. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)



Aug 5: US soldiers sleep at an under-construction base in Kandahar, Afghanistan. (AFP/Yuri Cortez)

MILITARY NEWS

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



The coffin of Navy Seaman William F. Ortega at Arlington National Cemetery July 9, 2010. Ortega, 23, of Miami, died June 18 in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device blast. Ortega was assigned as a hospital corpsman to Third Battalion, First Marine Regiment, First Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

Idiots In Command: Pentagon to Troops: Taliban Can Read WikiLeaks, You Can't

August 6, 2010 By Noah Shachtman, Wired.com [Excerpts]

Any citizen, any foreign spy, any member of the Taliban, and any terrorist can go to the WikiLeaks website, and download detailed information about how the U.S. military waged war in Afghanistan from 2004 to 2009.

Members of that same military, however, are now banned from looking at those internal military documents. "Doing so would introduce potentially classified information on unclassified networks," according to one directive issued by the armed forces.

That cry you hear? It's common sense, writhing in pain.

There was a time, just a few months ago, when the Pentagon appeared to be growing comfortable with the emerging digital media landscape. Troops were free to blog and tweet, as long as they used their heads and didn't disclose secrets. Thumb drives and DVDs could be employed, as long as they didn't carry viruses or classified information. But the WikiLeaks disclosures — tens of thousands of classified documents — seem to have reversed that trajectory.

Now, the Marine Corps is telling troops and civilian employees in a memo:

“(W)illingly accessing the WIKILEAKS website for the purpose of viewing the posted classified material (constitutes) the unauthorized processing, disclosure, viewing, and downloading of classified information onto an UNAUTHORIZED computer system not approved to store classified information. Meaning they have WILLINGLY committed a SECURITY VIOLATION.”

The other branches of the armed services have put out similar notices.

Every officer in the military — and many of the enlisted men, too — have a basic, “secret,” clearance.

That's hundreds of thousands of potential sources to WikiLeaks.

Seems to me that the only plausible explanation for the Pentagon's arm-waving is to remind troops not to spill secrets.

The question is: Does clinging to military regulations at the expense of basic logic encourage people to respect classification policy — or only make the secrecy regime seem more absurd?

Update: “Take ‘wikileaks’ out of your headlines,” one Army contractor e-mails Danger Room. The web filter “has been updated to block anything with wikileaks in the URL.”

“So, yeah, common sense out the window,” the contractor adds.

Supporters Rally To ‘Free Bradley Manning’ Inside USMC Quantico, VA: “Despite Being Declared Off Limits To All Service Members Stationed At Quantico, A Number Of Marines Stopped By To Talk”



Photo by Jeff Paterson, Courage to Resist, Aug 8th, 2010 [<http://bradleymanning.org>]

Aug 8th by Jeff Paterson, Courage to Resist

120 supporters rallied to "Free Bradley Manning!" in Quantico, VA, a small town within a US Marine Corps base. Pfc. Manning was transfer after two months in solitary confinement in Kuwait to Quantico only seven days ago. Organized by CodePink and Courage to Resist in only five days, the rally was covered by CNN, ABC, international and local media.

Despite being declared off limits to all service members stationed at Quantico, a number of Marines stopped by to talk about the issues.

Private First Class Bradley Manning, a 22-year-old intelligence analyst stationed in Iraq, stands accused of disclosing classified video depicting American troops in Iraq shooting civilians from an Apache helicopter in 2007. Eleven people were killed, including two Reuters employees, and two children were critically injured. No charges have been filed against the soldiers who did the killing. News sources have also speculated about Manning's involvement in the leak of over 90,000 secret documents (collectively known as the Afghanistan "war logs") made public by WikiLeaks on July 25.

"Blowing the whistle on war crimes is not a crime," says former Marine Corporal Jeff Paterson of Courage to Resist, a group working with the Bradley Manning Support Network to raise funds for Pfc. Manning's defense.

Other speakers included: Medea Benjamin, co-founder of CodePink; Phyllis Bennis, writer and peace activist; Josh Stieber, Iraq veteran of the ground unit that appears in the leaked "Collateral Murder" video; Matt Southworth, Iraq Veterans Against the War; Ray McGovern, retired CIA officer and officer, founder of Veteran Intelligence

Professionals for Sanity; Ellen Barfield, Veterans for Peace; Andrew Castro, ANSWER Coalition; Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Hip Hop Caucus

Organizations that mobilized groups of individuals included: CodePink, ANSWER Coalition, Truth 911, Iraq Veterans Against the War, Veterans for Peace, World Can't Wait, Food Not Bombs, and regional Washington DC activists.

The Sgt. Is Right: “You Hear So Much About How Suicide And Alcohol Abuse Are Two Of The Primary Issues Facing Soldiers” “Help Our Troops Out And Shorten Deployments To Eight Months”

Army Times
Letters To The Editor
8.9.2010

It's mind-boggling that the U.S. Army, which has the largest number of personnel out of the armed services, also has the longest deployments.

You would almost think branches with fewer troops deployed would need to stay down-range longer in order to complete their missions, but that proves to not be the case.

Being away from home for an entire year to return for possibly a year of dwell time is simply not enough time to be with family.

You hear so much about how suicide and alcohol abuse are two of the primary issues facing soldiers, along with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Look what they have to deal with for an entire year: Suicide bombers, improvised explosive devices, knowing what local national is plotting to kill you or your soldiers, or dealing with the actual death of soldiers.

It's situations like these that make a soldier a ticking time bomb.

Sailors, airmen and Marines all seem to accomplish their mission fine with a smaller number of personnel and within seven- to eight-month deployments.

Why can't the Army do the same?

Help our troops out and shorten deployments to eight months.

Sgt. David J. Wilson
Honolulu

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

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

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”
-- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787**

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

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

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

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

Another Blinding Flash Of The Obvious

[What Reich hints at but obscures is that the world economy has enough productive capacity to produce everything that everybody in the world needs, but billions of people will remain unemployed, hungry, and living in desperate poverty because they lack the money to buy what capitalism will only produce for a profit.

[So, production does not take place and the world’s productive capacity sits idle and useless. A dying system based on greed, misery and exploitation of labor no longer serves a useful purpose. T]

09 August 2010 By Robert Reich, Robert Reich’s Blog [Excerpt]

As Friday’s jobs report shows, the gap between total private spending (consumers plus business plus net exports), on the one side, and the nation’s capacity to produce goods and services at or near full employment, on the other, is still a chasm.

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



SATAN:

"The marines that I have had wounded over the past five months have been attacked by a faceless enemy. But the enemy has got a face. He's called Satan."
US Marine Colonel Gareth Bran



Aug. 9, 2010 (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Capitalists At Work:

**Privatized Probation Corporation
In Georgia Brings Bank Debtors
Prisons While Making A Fortune
Off Fees They Charge The Poor
For Collecting Fees:**

**“Privatized Probation Services Can
Result In Probationers Paying More
Than Twice The Original Fee When A
For-Profit Company Is Involved”**

**“It Is No Wonder Most Of Them Cannot
Pay And End Up Back In Jail”**

<p>Judge Richard Shelby terminated Conner’s probation after it was shown the cost of her fine had doubled. While Conner had paid \$185.99 on the original \$140 fine, only \$56.99 had gone towards the fine.</p>

By David M. Reutter, June 2010 Prison Legal News

As the prison industrial complex has continued to grow, critics of privatization have adamantly warned that it would lead to financial incentives for for-profit companies to keep people ensnared in the criminal justice system.

The privatized probation system in Georgia is the fulfillment of that warning.

When Georgia discontinued providing probation services for State Courts in 2001, many counties hired private companies to operate such programs. Richmond County currently contracts with Sentinel Offender Services.

Sentinel earns \$35 a month in court-ordered payments for each probationer it supervises, \$30 a month for probationers who owe money and are in a court-ordered program such as anger management, and a start-up fee and additional fees of \$6 to \$12 for those on a monitoring system. The company serves over 90 courts in Georgia and supervises more than 40,000 probationers each month statewide.

According to Crystal Page, Sentinel's Augusta area manager, at any given time there are around 5,000 probationers in Richmond County.

Approximately 3,000 are compliant with their payments, which would bring in more than \$1 million annually based on the minimum supervision fee.

The case of Mariette Conner demonstrates that privatized probation services can result in probationers paying more than twice the original fee when a for-profit company is involved.

Conner, 63, received a traffic ticket for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk in 2007. Because she was unable to immediately pay the \$140 fine she was placed on probation, which required her to pay a monthly fee and make payments to a victims' fund totaling \$39 a month.

Conner's sole income was Social Security, so she was only able to make small payments after riding two buses to Sentinel's office to submit her monthly report.

As a result, she continued to get; further behind in her payments and other bills.

Her receipt for a \$20 payment in September 2007 demonstrates the problems with the for-profit probation system. Of that payment, \$10 went to Sentinel, \$9 went to the victims' fund and \$1 went toward the fine.

The Southern Center for Human Rights intervened on Conner's behalf when she was threatened with jail time after being falsely accused of missing a monthly report.

Judge Richard Shelby terminated Conner's probation after it was shown the cost of her fine had doubled. While Conner had paid \$185.99 on the original \$140 fine, only \$56.99 had gone towards the fine.

The rest went to Sentinel and the victims' fund.

The dilemma that Conner faced is the same dilemma faced by other probationers in Georgia who are unable to pay traffic fines upon their imposition. As with other misdemeanors, traffic offenses are considered crimes in Georgia, which can result in up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

"I think that the problem with out-sourcing probation services is that it involves the wrong incentives. Private businesses want to make a profit, and that is the way businesses operate.

Courts are supposed to dispense justice, not be looked upon as cash registers for the government," wrote attorney John "Jack" Long in an e-mail to the Augusta Chronicle.

In its second-quarter 2009 report to the State Court, Sentinel reported supervising probationers in a total of 25,198 cases, collecting \$552,629 for the court. While Page said the company had converted \$800,000 owed by probationers to community service work in the last two years, one unidentified former Sentinel employee accused the company of using hardball tactics to get probationers to pay.

Those who fail to make payments land in jail without bond until they pay what is owed or can assure a judge they can make future payments.

Testifying in Richmond County Superior Court, the former Sentinel employee said he was fired for failing to meet the company's quota for filing a minimum number of warrants each week against probationers who missed payments.

Many probationers are mortified at the costs associated with their privatized supervision and are unable to pay. "The shock on their faces when they come in to set up (a payment plan) ... is something to see," said former Sentinel probation officer Kathleen Gibson.

"Tack on the time it takes for community service, DUT school, anger management or whatever else is added to the sentence — because they have to pay for the classes also — and the months just drag on by with the fees piling up. ...

It is no wonder most of them cannot pay and end up back in jail."

The cost to taxpayers for jailing people is about \$50 per prisoner per day. Georgia has more than 10,000 outstanding warrants for probationers; many are unable to pay their monthly fees, which extends their probationary period.

"It is sort of like a revolving charge card in that there was no end to it," said former city commissioner Bobby Hankerson, adding it is like getting a \$35 late fee every month on a \$15 payment.

"It never ends."

Such arrangements are, however very profitable for for-profit companies like Sentinel, if not for the impoverished people they supervise or the taxpayers who foot the bill when probationers are jailed because they can't afford inflated supervision fees.

The power of private probation companies is not absolute, though.

On April 16, 2010, the Richmond County Superior Court entered a restraining order against Sentinel, preventing the company from trying to collect fees from Hills McGee, a mentally ill veteran who lives on \$243 a month in disability payments.

McGee was jailed for almost two weeks after his probation was violated for failing to pay \$186 in fees that Sentinel claimed he owed; however, the violation was later voided and his underlying convictions for obstruction of a law officer and public drunkenness were overturned.

Regardless, Sentinel continued to attempt to collect the fees.

McGee's suit, which was removed to federal court, seeks class-action status and challenges the constitutionality of private probation services.

On April 29, the parties agreed to a permanent injunction prohibiting Sentinel from taking any action to collect fees from McGee. See: Mc Gee v. Sentinel Offender Services, U.S.D.C. (S.D. Georgia), Case No. 1:10- cv-00054-JRH-WLB.

Besides Sentinel, at least, two other companies, Professional Probation Services and Southeast Corrections, provide for-profit probation supervision in Georgia.

Sources Augusta Chronicle, Atlanta Journal Constitution, [www. sentrak. com](http://www.sentrak.com)

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