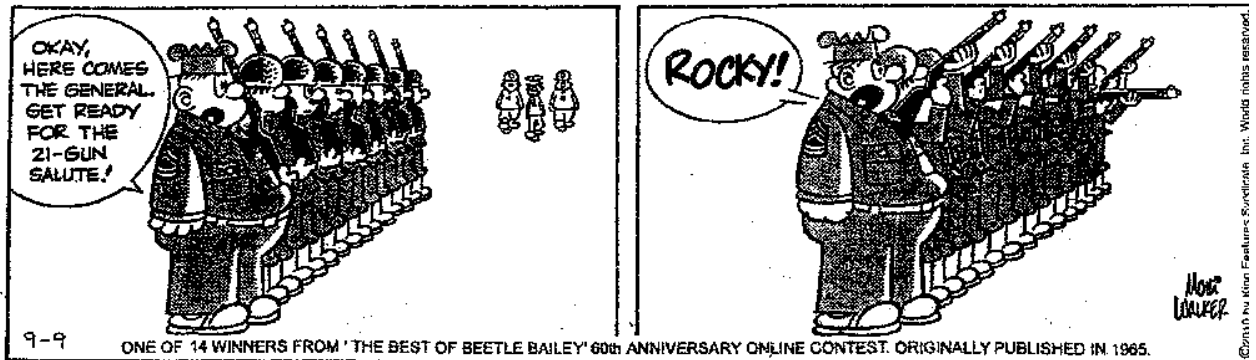


Military Resistance 813



“I Have Been Assigned As A Staff Officer To A Headquarters In Afghanistan For About Two Months”

“During That Time, I Have Not Done Anything Productive”

“Fortunately Little Of Substance Is Really Done Here, But That Is A Task We Do Well”

“Progress In The War Is Optional”

Aug. 24 By Col. Lawrence Sellin (U.S. Army Reserve); United Press International

(Lawrence Sellin, Ph.D., is a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and a veteran of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. He is currently serving his second deployment to Afghanistan. The views expressed are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Army or U.S. government.)



Courtesy of Col. Lawrence Sellin

KABUL, Afghanistan,

Throughout my career I have been known to walk that fine line between good taste and unemployment. I see no reason to change that now.

Consider the following therapeutic.

I have been assigned as a staff officer to a headquarters in Afghanistan for about two months.

During that time, I have not done anything productive.

Fortunately little of substance is really done here, but that is a task we do well.

We are part of the operational arm of the International Security Assistance Force commanded by U.S. Army Gen. David Petraeus. It is composed of military representatives from all the NATO countries, several of which I cannot pronounce.

Officially, IJC was founded in late 2009 to coordinate operations among all the regional commands in Afghanistan.

More likely it was founded to provide some general a three-star command.

Starting with a small group of dedicated and intelligent officers, IJC has successfully grown into a stove-piped and bloated organization, top-heavy in rank.

Around here you can't swing a dead cat without hitting a colonel.

For headquarters staff, war consists largely of the endless tinkering with PowerPoint slides to conform with the idiosyncrasies of cognitively challenged generals in order to spoon-feed them information.

Even one tiny flaw in a slide can halt a general's thought processes as abruptly as a computer system's blue screen of death.

The ability to brief well is, therefore, a critical skill.

It is important to note that skill in briefing resides in how you say it. It doesn't matter so much what you say or even if you are speaking Klingon.

Random motion, ad hoc processes and an in-depth knowledge of Army minutia and acronyms are also key characteristics of a successful staff officer.

Harried movement together with furrowed brows and appropriate expressions of concern a la Clint Eastwood will please the generals.

Progress in the war is optional.

Each day is guided by the "battle rhythm," which is a series of PowerPoint briefings and meetings with PowerPoint presentations. It doesn't matter how inane or useless the briefing or meeting might be. Once it is part of the battle rhythm, it has the persistence of carbon 14.

And you can't skip these events because they take roll -- just like gym class.

The start and culmination of each day is the commander's update assessment. Please ignore the fact that "update assessment" is redundant. Simply saying commander's update doesn't provide the possibility of creating a three-letter acronym. It also doesn't matter that the commander never attends the CUA.

The CUA consists of a series of PowerPoint slides describing the events of the previous 12 hours. Briefers explain each slide by reading from a written statement in a tone not unlike that of a congressman caught in a tryst with an escort.

The CUA slides only change when a new commander arrives or the war ends.

The commander's immediate subordinates, usually one- and two-star generals, listen to the CUA in a semi-comatose state. Each briefer has approximately 1 or 2 minutes to impart either information or misinformation. Usually they don't do either.

Fortunately, none of the information provided makes an indelible impact on any of the generals.

One important task of the IJC is to share information to the ISAF commander, his staff and to all the regional commands.

This information is delivered as PowerPoint slides in e-mail at the flow rate of a fire hose. Standard operating procedure is to send everything that you have. Volume is considered the equivalent of quality.

Next month IJC will attempt a giant leap for mankind. In a first-of-its-kind effort, IJC will embed a new stovepipe into an already existing stovepipe.

The rationale for this bold move resides in the fact that an officer, who is currently without one, needs a staff of 35 people to create a big splash before his promotion board.

Like most military organizations, structure always trumps function.

The ultimate consequences of this reorganization won't be determined until after that officer rotates out of theater.

Nevertheless, the results will be presented by PowerPoint.

MORE:

**Col. Sellin Refuses To Cease Fire:
“Everyone Should Remember That
These Are Military Careerists”
“They All Want To March Down
Pennsylvania Avenue Like General
Norman Schwarzkopf”
“It Is The Common Soldiers, However,
Who Are Providing The Sweat And
Shedding The Blood”**

August 29, 2010 By Col. Lawrence Sellin (U.S. Army Reserve), Best Defense guest columnist. Posted By Thomas E. Ricks, Foreignpolicy.com

Lawrence Sellin, Ph.D., is a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and a veteran of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Until recently he was serving his second deployment to Afghanistan.

The views expressed are his own and definitely do not reflect those of the U.S. Army or U.S. government. He was not compensated for this article.

I was assigned to the ISAF Joint Command (IJC) in Kabul for the last two months. Since arriving in Afghanistan my job had changed twice and in both cases I had no clear duties. Twice I asked my superiors for a more substantive assignment. Once I provided a high-level overview of proven management methodologies that I offered to the

command as a means to address the quite apparent organizational issues at IJC. Nothing happened.

That frustrating situation was one of the triggers for writing my now infamous article "ISAF Joint Command -- Power Points 'R' Us."

The second trigger was more serious.

Last autumn the US government announced that after 8 years and \$27 billion, the Afghan Army training program was being declared a failure.

Despite the fact that symptoms of failure were already appearing in the press years earlier, apparently no one in the chain of command spoke up.

I wondered how much American, coalition and Afghan blood was shed while the program was heading toward failure.

I wonder how much blood will be shed before the Afghan Army is ready.

With that in mind and after two months of observing the IJC function and speaking with people from all the sections, I decided to write a tongue-in-cheek description, an obviously over-the-top and sarcastic article hopefully containing threads of constructive criticism woven into the text.

I largely succeeded in those aims with the very slight exception of how my superiors might react.

One of the main themes of the article involved the use of PowerPoint. I don't hate PowerPoint. In fact, I use it often. I do object to its use as a crutch or a replacement for serious thinking. Also, the overuse of PowerPoint can give the illusion of progress, when it is really only motion in the form of busy work. It can confuse the volume of information with the quality of information.

A second theme was the way in which organizations function and why they don't e.g. stovepipes, ad hoc or absent processes, run-away egos or adding bodies as a solution to every problem.

My favorite IJC "idea" was a senior officer's recommendation to install steel girders in the Joint Operations Center (JOC) so he could build a booth 10 feet off the floor where he could oversee operations on the JOC floor. Of course, the JOC floor is already supervised by the JOC director. So, there is nothing to oversee.

It sounded more like he was building a throne room.

In any case, after the article was published and after a helpful colleague slipped a yellow-highlighted copy under his door, my major general supervisor politely and professionally asked me to leave Afghanistan.

Another major general, who I had never met, but who had a previous unpleasant experience with an article-writer, ordered me behind closed doors so he could call me names. A case of projected anger, I suppose.

Seriously though, I think it is time for the American people to hold the senior military leaderships' (colonels and up) feet to the fire.

When they make their reports to Congress, one can be sure that it is the best possible scenario that they can justify without lying.

The phrase "progress is being made" should not be accepted as an answer. It is like saying "the check is in the mail."

Everyone should remember that these are military careerists.

War provides the opportunity for testing their skills, getting medals and promotions.

A compromise peace without their definition of "victory" might be considered a failure.

They all want to march down Pennsylvania Avenue like General Norman Schwarzkopf. Likewise, the contractors want to continue making their huge profits.

It is the common soldiers, however, who are providing the sweat and shedding the blood.

We must stop treating the Afghans like children. They are not. It is their country and for better or worse, they should start taking responsibility for it.

There is little reason not to begin turning over responsibility now. Regional Command West is possible because it is the most peaceful part of the country. That could be followed by Regional Command North. Between now and next July, the coalition can concentrate on Regional Commands East, South and Southwest.

After that no more blank checks. In my opinion, time's up.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Short And Sweet

September 04, 2010 Inside Iraq

In spite of its nice and bright nickname, the real name of the new faked democracy is the NEW OCCUPATION because nothing really changed after 2003.

We just moved from the faked democracy of the One Patriotic Party to the faked democracy of some Patriotic Parties.

In both cases, its OCCUPATION.

**“Combat In Iraq Is Not Over, And We Should Not Uncritically Repeat Suggestions That It Is, Even If They Come From Senior Officials”
“Our Stories About Iraq Should Make Clear That U.S. Troops Remain Involved In Combat Operations Alongside Iraqi Forces”
[Memo From The Associated Press’s Standards Editor]**

Published Sep 3, 2010 Via The Poynter Institute

From: Kent, Tom
Sent: Thursday, September 02, 2010 5:30 PM
Subject: Standards Center guidance: The situation in Iraq

Colleagues,

Many AP staffers are producing content that refers to the situation in Iraq. It might be a local story about Iraq veterans, an international diplomatic story that mentions the Iraqi conflict or coverage on the ground in Iraq itself.

Whatever the subject, we should be correct and consistent in our description of what the situation in Iraq is.

This guidance summarizes the situation and suggests wording to use and avoid.

To begin with, combat in Iraq is not over, and we should not uncritically repeat suggestions that it is, even if they come from senior officials.

The situation on the ground in Iraq is no different today than it has been for some months.

Iraqi security forces are still fighting Sunni and al-Qaida insurgents. Many Iraqis remain very concerned for their country's future despite a dramatic improvement in security, the economy and living conditions in many areas.

As for U.S. involvement, it also goes too far to say that the U.S. part in the conflict in Iraq is over. President Obama said Monday night that "the American combat mission in Iraq has ended. Operation Iraqi Freedom is over, and the Iraqi people now have lead responsibility for the security of their country."

However, 50,000 American troops remain in country.

Our own reporting on the ground confirms that some of these troops, especially some 4,500 special operations forces, continue to be directly engaged in military operations.

These troops are accompanying Iraqi soldiers into battle with militant groups and may well fire and be fired on.

In addition, although administration spokesmen say we are now at the tail end of American involvement and all troops will be gone by the end of 2011, there is no guarantee that this will be the case.

Our stories about Iraq should make clear that U.S. troops remain involved in combat operations alongside Iraqi forces, although U.S. officials say the American combat mission has formally ended.

We can also say the United States has ended its major combat role in Iraq, or that it has transferred military authority to Iraqi forces. We can add that beyond U.S. boots on the ground, Iraq is expected to need U.S. air power and other military support for years to control its own air space and to deter possible attack from abroad.

Unless there is balancing language, our content should not refer to the end of combat in Iraq, or the end of U.S. military involvement.

Nor should it say flat-out (since we can't predict the future) that the United States is at the end of its military role.

Tom

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

2 Carson Soldiers Killed By Afghan IED

Sep 2, 2010 The Associated Press

The Defense Department on Thursday identified two soldiers who were killed in a bomb blast in Afghanistan on Monday.

Second Lt. Mark Noziska, 24, of Papillion, Neb., and Staff Sgt. Casey Grochowiak, 34, of Lompoc, Calif., died in Malajat, Afghanistan, after an improvised explosive device went off, officials said.

Noziska's father, Phil Noziska, said his son had planned to make a career out of the Army and had been in Afghanistan less than a month.

His mother, Dee Noziska, said she is proud Mark Noziska wanted to serve his country, but he will be missed.

Noziska and Grochowiak were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, out of Fort Carson, Colo.

Family: Okla. Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

Sep 2, 2010 The Associated Press

DUNCAN, Okla. — A family member and a friend say an Oklahoma native has been killed in Afghanistan.

The Duncan Banner reported Thursday that Army Staff Sgt. Vinson Adkinson III was killed Tuesday when an improvised explosive device blew up near his unit. Adkinson, who grew up in Empire City, served with the Bamberg, Germany-based 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, according to his family.

Adkinson's brother, Jacob, told the newspaper that his older brother was "every bit of a soldier" and was proud of his military experience. Jacob Adkinson could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Vinson Adkinson's friend, Chase Hutto, said Adkinson left Oklahoma when he was a junior in high school and graduated in 2003 after moving to Kansas. Adkinson then joined the military.

Hutto says Jacob Adkinson has gone to retrieve his brother's body.

Young Man Dies Serving His Country

08/22/2010 By: Jeremy Jojola, Eyewitness News 4

The father of an Albuquerque native killed in Afghanistan last week tells Eyewitness News 4 his son died "doing what he wanted to do."

The Department of Defense says Pvt. Charles High was killed last week when a roadside bomb exploded next to his vehicle causing it to roll.

It was High's second tour of duty while serving in the Army. He served all of 2008 in Iraq.

Back in Albuquerque he was known as Charlie. His father, Charles High, says his son was an all-around military man.

"We always knew that he probably was going to from the time he was 14 when he started Eldorado High School. He joined the JROTC and caught the bug there," Charles High told Eyewitness News 4.

High played the viola in the high school orchestra and taught himself how to play the guitar his father said. He is survived by a little brother.

"I would say he's a true American hero. He fought and died for his country. He died doing what he wanted to do. I'd just hate to see him go so young of course, but he was quite a young man all the way around. When he was home we could see how much he had grown. And he'd grown into a nice young man and it was horrible for it to end this way," Charles High said.

The High family says a visitation is open to friends and family Thursday and Friday at French's Mortuary from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. A service will be held at Asbury United Methodist Church on Saturday the 28th at 10 a.m. High will then be buried at the Santa Fe National Cemetery on Monday at 1 p.m.

Marine From Falls Church Killed By Bomb In Afghanistan



The remains of Sgt. Ronald A. Rodriguez at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware on Tuesday. Rodriguez, of Falls Church, was killed Monday in Helmand province, Afghanistan. (Steve Ruark/Associated Press)

August 25, 2010 By Martin Weil, Washington Post Staff Writer

Marine Corps Sgt. Ronald A. Rodriguez, 26, who grew up in Northern Virginia, was overseas for the third time when he was killed Monday in Afghanistan.

Rodriguez, a graduate of J.E.B. Stuart High School in the Falls Church area, was sent to Iraq in 2003. He returned there in 2004.

The Marine Corps said he was killed by a roadside bomb while in combat in Helmand province. He had been sent to Afghanistan this summer.

A cannoneer in the field artillery, Rodriguez "was a brave soldier," his father, Francisco Rodriguez, said Tuesday night. "He died on duty."

As a teenager, he was an athlete, "very active in all the sports," including soccer and basketball, his father said.

While at Quantico Marine Base, he lived in Stafford County, where a former neighbor recalled him as being quiet. "The most important thing for him was family," Hugh Beckford said.

His father said Rodriguez had a son and a stepson, and Beckford recalled them playing soccer.

Survivors include his mother, Maria, and three brothers.

Rodriguez decided to enlist before he was 18, and, according to his father, said that withholding parental permission would only delay his entry into the service.

Va. Marine Killed By Enemy Gunfire In Afghanistan



Marines carry the remains of Lance Cpl. Cody S. Childers, 19, of Chesapeake, Va.
(Pablo Martinez Monsivais/associated Press)

August 22, 2010 By Martin Weil, Washington Post Staff Writer

Cody S. Childers, a Marine from Virginia, was wounded by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan about a month ago and spent four days in a hospital, his grandmother said.

After returning to combat with renewed determination, the 19-year-old lance corporal from Chesapeake was hit by enemy gunfire, she said. This time, his wounds were fatal. He died Friday in Helmand province, the Pentagon said.

"Our hearts are broken," said Peggy Ewell, the Marine's grandmother. "He'll be so missed."

Ewell shared the thoughts of her daughter, Wendy Childers, the Marine's mother: "She wanted him to be honored as a young man that loved the Marines, that loved his country . . . and was doing what he loved," she said. The Marine also told his mother that they "were making a difference in Afghanistan," Ewell said.

Childers, a 2009 graduate of Grassfields High School in Chesapeake, wanted to be a Marine from boyhood, Ewell said. He reported for training last August and deployed a little more than two months ago from Camp Lejeune.

The Pentagon said he was assigned to the 2nd Marine Division in the II Marine Expeditionary Force.

Ewell said her grandson was a "very outgoing, happy guy" and an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting and fishing. He and his father, Randy, "were hunting buddies."

In addition to his parents, his family included a brother, Ryan; a sister, Cassidy; a half brother, Chris; and a half sister, Stephanie Medina, Ewell said.

A couple of days before her grandson left for Afghanistan, Ewell and her husband drove to see him and took him to a restaurant in Morehead City, N.C. They would have bought him anything he asked for, she said.

He wanted oysters, and oysters were what he had.

Wounded Soldier Dies After June Injury



Sgt. 1st Class Edgar Roberts: CBS

Aug 24, 2010 BETHESDA, Md. (CBS)

His family grieved at the news of his death, then breathed a sigh of relief he was still alive, then turned angry they were not allowed into a military hospital to see him.

Now they're mourning again.

Sgt. 1st Class Edgar N. Roberts, a 1988 graduate of Thornton High School, died Aug. 17 of injuries he suffered in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense has confirmed.

Roberts, whose relatives live in Park Forest, was attacked by insurgents using an explosive device on June 26 in Afghanistan in Sayed Abad, Wardak province, according to the department.

The 39-year-old was being treated at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., when he died, according to the department.

The Gulf War vet was assigned to 810th Engineer Company, Georgia National guard, in Swainsboro, Ga. and lived in nearby Hinesville.

Roberts, who cleared the kind of bombs that took his life, was thrown from the vehicle in the June attack, his sisters said.

With a cracked skull and numerous broken bones, he made it back to the United States for treatment, his sisters said.

"Here we are grieving again," sister Rose Roberts-Alexander said. "What really hurts is we were all the way down there."

Roberts-Alexander and three other sisters drove to Bethesda more than a week ago to try to see their brother after they got false word of his death. They drove through a weekend through Ohio, into Pennsylvania, then on to the Baltimore-Washington area.

They said they were turned away at the gate at the request of his wife, Jannett Roberts.

Jannett Roberts wants nothing to do with his Chicago relatives, despite the fact that he repeatedly emailed them while in Afghanistan and sent gifts when a half-sister had a baby.

Jannett Roberts has not returned any messages left for her by SouthtownStar reporters preparing the latest story on the soldier.

The sisters said they learned of their brother's death from his father, who, they said, was told by Jannett Roberts earlier this month.

Safety Harbor Marine Killed In Afghanistan



Lance Cpl. Nathaniel J. A. Schultz

8.22.10 Melvin Beal, 10 News

Safety Harbor, Florida -- Even though more soldiers are returning home to families, for some it's not the homecoming they had hoped for.

"He died doing what he wanted to be doing. He was doing something that gave him purpose," said Scott Halbach, Program Director for Florida Sheriff's Youth ranch in Safety Harbor.

19-year-old Nathaniel Schultz's purpose was to serve his country as a U.S. Marine, and just over a month after being deployed in Afghanistan, he was killed Saturday during combat missions.

"I think he knew that he was going into the Marines and this was a strong possibility. It takes a lot of courage and lot of bravery for a young person to do what Nate has done," Halbach said.

Just before leaving for Afghanistan, Schultz stopped by the Florida Sheriff's Youth ranch in Safety Harbor. He wanted to thank the staff for all that they did for him.

"They were able to look at him and say 'Wow, here's someone that got through this program and got through successfully.' And I think that's an encouragement for others," Halbach said.

Schultz, an honor roll student at Countryside High School, had been in the youth program for two years and received one of the program's highest honors.

"He received the leadership award. He was always a true leader, great character and he wanted to go into the Marines to give back to his country," Halbach said.

He was promoted to Lance Corporal on August 1st, and received the National Defense Service medal and other awards while in the Marines.

Schultz was a second gunner in the Marines and was part of the Marine Expeditionary Forward Force out of Camp Lejeune North Carolina.

Elkhart Soldier's Parents Trying To Cope

August 27, 2010 By CLIFTON FRENCH, WSBT-TV Reporter

ELKHART — After learning Tuesday their son, Elkhart native Pfc. Justin Shoecraft, 28, had been killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan, his parents have been trying to make sense of the tragedy.

"I'm very proud that he joined the Army, and I'm proud that he wanted to serve his country. I'm just not proud that they took him," Donna Shoecraft, Justin's mother, said Wednesday as she held back tears. "I never thought I'd have to go through this. You never want to bury your child first."

It was about 5 p.m. Tuesday when the Shoecrafts saw two men in uniform approach their house.

"I saw them pull in the driveway, and I knew right off the bat, that wasn't good," said Blue Shoecraft, Justin's father.

Justin joined the Army about two years ago and had been stationed in Germany with the 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment. He was in Afghanistan for only five weeks.

His father remembers him not only as a soldier but also as his hardworking son.

"If you said, 'Hey, I need help with something,' he was there to help you," Blue Shoecraft said.

Together, they worked on the two things they both loved — old cars and old bicycles.

As the Shoecrafts look back on the good memories of their hero, veteran and son, they're reminded of the pain they're feeling right now.

"I never wanted to go through this, and I hope another parent never has to go through this," Donna Shoecraft said.

Justin Shoecraft is survived by his wife, Jessica. The family was told they will get his body back within 10 to 14 days. The body will be sent to Dover Air Force base in Delaware.

The Army has provided a grievance officer to help them through this difficult time.

Gates Tells U.S. Soldiers In Afghanistan That More Of Them Will Be Dead Soon

September 3, 2010, By Greg Jaffe, Washington Post Staff Writer

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates visited two U.S. Army units on Friday that had been hit with tough losses in recent days as they cleared insurgents from areas in and around Kandahar, the spiritual home of the Taliban and the site of some of the heaviest fighting for U.S. and Afghan forces.

"It has been a tough week for you," Gates told soldiers from an Army battalion that had lost seven soldiers earlier in the week.

"Unfortunately, there are going to be more tough weeks ahead."

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

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

**President Karzai's Brother Wants
\$700 Million From The U.S.
Treasury To Bail Out Kabul Bank
He And Other Shareholders
Looted:
[Time For U.S. Troops To Help The
Taliban Exterminate The Karzai
Government Parasites?]
[It Couldn't Make Things Worse]**

September 4, 2010 By Andrew Higgins, David Nakamura and Ernesto Londoño,
Washington Post Staff Writers

**DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - As depositors thronged branches of
Afghanistan's biggest bank, President Hamid Karzai told Afghans on Thursday
not to panic shortly after his brother, a major shareholder in the beleaguered
Kabul Bank, called for intervention by the United States to head off a financial
meltdown.**

Earlier in the day, Mahmoud Karzai voiced concern over Kabul Bank's ability to withstand an onslaught of depositors demanding their money back.

"America should do something," he said in a telephone interview.

He suggested that the Treasury Department guarantee the funds of Kabul Bank's clients, who number about 1 million and have more than \$1 billion on deposit with the bank.

Depositors withdrew \$85 million Wednesday and \$109 million Thursday, leaving Kabul Bank with about \$300 million in liquid cash, said the bank's ousted chairman, Sher Khan Farnood.

Speaking in his first interview since his ouster Monday, Farnood, who remains a substantial shareholder, said he hoped the bank could weather the storm without U.S. help. "If we survive Saturday and Sunday, we will be okay," said Farnood, who spoke at his luxury waterfront villa in Dubai shortly after his return to the Persian Gulf emirate from Kabul. Friday is a holiday, and all Afghan banks are closed.

"If Kabul Bank collapses," he added, "it will be a disaster."

But Mahmoud Karzai, who owns 7 percent of Kabul Bank, warned that while the bank "is stable and has money," it might take U.S. intervention to beat back panic.

"If the Treasury Department will guarantee that everyone will get their money, maybe that will work," said the president's brother, who rushed to Kabul on Wednesday from Dubai, where he spends most of his time in a Palm Jumeirah villa purchased with Kabul Bank money.

Kabul Bank has scores of branches across Afghanistan and holds the accounts of key Afghan government agencies.

At the start of the week, Kabul Bank had deposits of \$1.31 billion.

By the close of business Thursday, those had slipped to \$1.11 billion.

But most of this money is not immediately available to pay depositors, as it has been given out in loans.

Several of the bank's biggest borrowers are its own shareholders, most notably the brother of Afghanistan's vice president, Mohammed Fahim, who is hospitalized in Germany for heart surgery.

At a nearby branch where many government workers cash their paychecks, tellers were giving out no more than \$1,000 per customer.

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



Aug. 18, 2010: U.S. soldiers from the 502nd Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division, at Strongpoint Ghundy Gar, in Zhari district, Kandahar province, southern Afghanistan, Aug. 18, 2010. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



A soldier wounded in the leg is taken onboard a medevac UH-60A Black Hawk helicopter from the 101st Airborne division, Task Force Destiny, in a military base in Kandahar province, August 29, 2010. REUTERS/Oleg Popov

MILITARY NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The funeral service for Army Spc. Pedro A. Millet Meletiche, 20, Aug. 31, 2010, at the Christ Fellowship Church, in Elizabeth, N.J. Meletiche died Aug. 22, 2010, during a combat operation in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Mel Evans)

THE UXO COLLECTIVE & IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR PRESENT

THE SHOW



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SUPPORT GI RESISTANCE!
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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

Bradley Manning Gets A Lawyer



September 3, 2010 By Courage to Resist [Excerpts]

We are relieved that accused Wikileaks whistle-blower Army PFC Bradley Manning is finally represented by an experienced and qualified civilian defense attorney.

After receiving a wide range of opinions, Bradley selected attorney David Coombs of Providence, Rhode Island, to lead his legal defense.

Mr. Coombs has over a decade of experience as a military trial lawyer and is a former law professor at the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, Virginia.

A personal friend of Bradley's verified the selection of legal counsel during a recent visit with him at the Marine Corps brig at Quantico, Virginia. Bradley was said to have appeared to be in good health and good spirits, considering the situation.

"Obviously, being in solitary confinement is very difficult," Mr. Coombs told CNN. "But the individuals at the confinement facility are very professional. They're doing a very good job. And he's aware of all the people who are rallying to his support. So his spirits are relatively good."

According to CNN, Mr. Coombs explained that the leaked "Afghanistan War Diaries" didn't really reveal anything damaging to the U.S. occupation.

Mr. Coombs also noted that statements from Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Michael Mullen and Defense Secretary Robert Gates about Bradley Manning were hurting his chances for a fair trial.

"The AP ran a story stating that I questioned the sanity of my client, PFC Bradley Manning. This statement is inaccurate," explained David Coombs on his blog Wednesday. In fact, Mr. Coombs was simply explaining the process and basis for an

upcoming mental health evaluation hearing that Bradley will undergo before the Army proceeds to an expected Article 32 pre-trial hearing.

“From our first communications with Bradley, back when he was still jailed in Kuwait, we pledged to support and fund his choice of civilian legal representation,” said Jeff Paterson, “We’re happy to begin fulfilling that promise by transferring funds raised to Mr. Coombs for his retainer and initial legal fees.” So far, about 850 generous individuals have already donated \$51,000 towards Bradley Manning’s defense--of which about \$38,000 will go towards legal fees.

In addition to our tax-deductible defense fund, supporters now have the option of making a non-deductible contribution directly to Bradley’s IOLTA legal trust account which is managed by Mr. Coombs under regulation of the American Bar Association. Our tax-deductible defense fund currently allocates about 20% of funds for public education and related administrative expenses. However, 100% of IOLTA legal trust account contributions offset Bradley’s legal expenses--estimated to eventually total \$100,000.

Before donating \$5,000 yesterday to Bradley’s legal trust account, filmmaker Michael Moore noted to The Hill, "He did a courageous thing and he did a patriotic thing".

To make a non-deductible contribution to the new legal trust account, donate online <https://co.clickandpledge.com/sp/d1/default.aspx?wid=37428>, or make checks payable to “IOLTA / Manning” and mail to: Courage to Resist, 484 Lake Park Ave #41, Oakland CA 94610.

For an overview of all donation options regarding Bradley Manning’s defense, visit: couragetoresist.org/bradley

The announcement of a civilian military attorney comes less than a week after our Network announced the International Days of Action in Support of Bradley Manning, September 16-19.

Events and rallies have already been confirmed for New York City NY, Oakland CA, San Diego CA, Minneapolis MN, San Francisco CA, Houston TX, London UK, Fort Lewis WA (Seattle area), Columbus OH, and Quantico VA--near the Marine brig where Bradley is being held in pre-trial confinement. It’s not too late to organize something in your community! Email support (at) bradleymanning.org to discuss your ideas and plans.

The Bradley Manning Support Network is also pleased to announce the formation of an Advisory Board comprised of prominent individuals who are widely respected for their efforts in resisting war, progressive activism and in support of government transparency.

Medea Benjamin, co-founder of Code Pink: Women for Peace
Dr. Marsha Coleman-Adebayo, board member for the National Whistleblower Center
Daniel Ellsberg, Pentagon Papers whistle blower
Kathleen Gilberd, co-chair of the Military Law Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild
Ray McGovern, former CIA analyst and activist
Michael Moore, documentary filmmaker
Jose Vasquez, executive director of Iraq Veterans against the War
US Army Colonel Ann Wright (ret.), former US State Department official

Kevin Zeese, co-founder and executive director, Voters for Peace

Letters to Bradley:

Hundreds, if not thousands, of individuals have sent mail to Bradley at Quantico, and to Kuwait before that. Due to a strict interpretation of confinement facility regulations, Bradley has not received a single letter, and most letters have been returned to sender. This effort has not been in vain as Bradley has been heartened by the mountain of support--even if he is not been allowed to open the letters.

To send a message to Bradley, please send letters and postcards to Bradley Manning, c/o Courage to Resist, 484 Lake Park Ave #41, Oakland CA 94610.

Letters will be opened, "contraband" discarded and the letters then mailed in a weekly package to Bradley via an individual currently on his approved brig correspondence list.

Blowing the whistle on war crimes is not a crime! Free Bradley Manning!

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

September 5, 1917: ***The Palmer Raids Begin*** **16,000 ARRESTED IN CAMPAIGN** **AGAINST RADICALS AND LEFT-** **WING ORGANIZATIONS**



Arrested for “obstructing World War I: “Big Bill” Haywood

Carl Bunin Peace History September 3-9

In 48 coordinated raids across the country, later known as the Palmer Raids, federal agents seized records, destroyed equipment and books, and arrested hundreds of activists involved with the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), known fondly as the Wobblies.

Among the arrested was William D. “Big Bill” Haywood, a leader of the IWW, for the “crimes of labor” and “obstructing World War I.”

Spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk

In 1919 Woodrow Wilson appointed A. Mitchell Palmer as his attorney general.

Worried by the revolution that had taken place in Russia, Palmer became convinced that Communist agents were planning to overthrow the American government. His view was reinforced by the discovery of thirty-eight bombs sent to leading politicians and the Italian anarchist who blew himself up outside Palmer's Washington home.

Palmer recruited John Edgar Hoover as his special assistant and together they used the Espionage Act (1917) and the Sedition Act (1918) to launch a campaign against radicals and left-wing organizations.

A. Mitchell Palmer claimed that Communist agents from Russia were planning to overthrow the American government.

On 7th November, 1919, the second anniversary of the Russian Revolution, over 10,000 suspected communists and anarchists were arrested. Palmer and Hoover found no evidence of a proposed revolution but large number of these suspects were held without trial for a long time.

The vast majority were eventually released but Emma Goldman and 247 other people, were deported to Russia.

On 2nd January, 1920, another 6,000 were arrested and held without trial.

These raids took place in several cities and became known as the Palmer Raids.

A. Mitchell Palmer and John Edgar Hoover found no evidence of a proposed revolution but large number of these suspects, many of them members of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), continued to be held without trial.

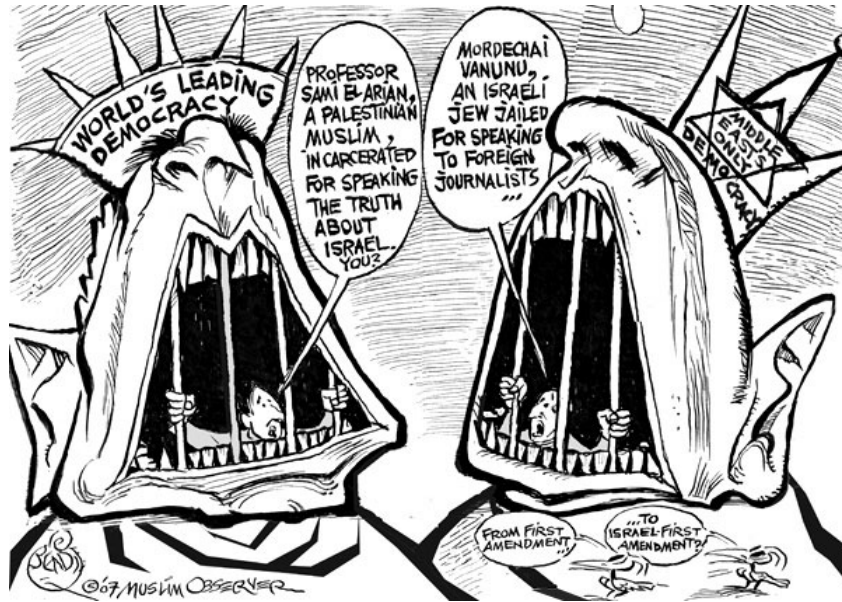
When Palmer announced that the communist revolution was likely to take place on 1st May, mass panic took place. In New York, five elected Socialists were expelled from the legislature.

When the May revolution failed to materialize, attitudes towards Palmer began to change and he was criticised for disregarding people's basic civil liberties. Some of his opponents claimed that Palmer had devised this Red Scare to help him become the Democratic presidential candidate in 1920.

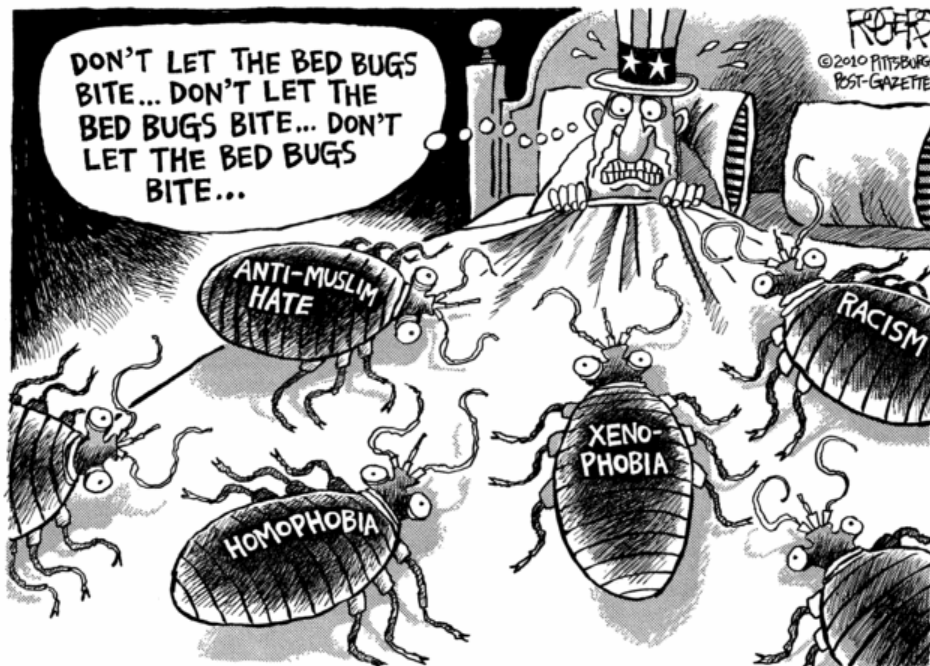
Troops Invited:

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.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE



DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS

Students In Argentina's Capital City Of Buenos Aires Have Seized 23 Public High Schools: Acting Against "The Dilapidated Building Conditions, Including Collapse Of Rubble & The Closing Of Bathrooms"

September 1, 2010, Nadine Brennan, from the Internet; Socialist Worker

HIGH SCHOOL students in Argentina's capital city of Buenos Aires have seized 23 public high schools.

This is the first time Argentine students have participated in this kind of protest in over 40 years.

They are taking their classes on the streets and are protesting against the dilapidated building conditions, including "collapse of rubble, the closing of bathrooms, and/or a lack of gas," according to the Buenos Aires Herald.

Not all of the 23 schools are lacking in repairs; some of the schools that were seized were done so in solidarity.

The right-wing Propuesta Republicana-led government of Buenos Aires under Mayor Mauricio Macri had only spent 7 percent of the planned budget for fixing the high school buildings.

It is unknown as of yet why only 7 percent was spent and where the rest of the money went, and the students are demanding to know the reason.

Buenos Aires' media is mostly controlled by conservatives and is therefore more sympathetic with Macri than with the students.

Macri had made a resolution to identify and file a police report on the students responsible for seizing the schools, which prompted members of the teacher's union to hold a strike.

Judge Elena Liberatori ultimately deemed the resolution unconstitutional.

The government is now promising a plan of action with reforms beginning in December and met with the students on August 27 to discuss their plans, but the students are demanding that repairs to begin immediately and are continuing with the strike.

More information can be found at the Buenos Aires Herald and Página 12 newspaper (in Spanish).

Uprising Against Government Ordered Increase In Food Prices Shakes Mozambique

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

3 September 2010 BBC

Police have fired bullets and tear gas at protesters in parts of the Mozambique capital on the third day of riots over rising food prices.

Ten people have been killed and 443 injured since the riots began, Health Minister Ivo Garrido said on Friday.

There have also been clashes in the central city of Chimoio.

Six people were shot by police there after protesters tried to stop markets opening, Lusa news agency says.

The latest violence in Maputo was in the suburbs of Benfica and Hulene on the city's outskirts.

The protests began after the price of bread rose by at least 20% in one of the world's poorest countries.

Trade and Industry Minister Antonio Fernando told the BBC's Focus on Africa programme that the government was striving to make the country less dependent on imported food.

On Thursday, government spokesman Alberto Nkutumula condemned the violence on the streets of the capital and appealed for people to remain calm, but said the government would not reconsider increasing the price of bread.

"The price hikes are irreversible," he told reporters.

Troops were deployed on the streets of the capital on Thursday to clear barricades, debris and burning tyres left by protesters. Sporadic gunfire was heard during the day.

Many witnesses say police have used live bullets to break up the crowds.

Home Affairs Minister Jose Pacheco said the government was trying to trace the source of text messages circulating among the city's residents, urging them to continue protests on Friday.

"I received an SMS saying the strike must continue for three more days," Abel Salvador Bild, a street vendor in the capital, told AFP news agency.

The violence has been the worst in Mozambique since 2008, when clashes between police and rioters over rising prices left at least four people dead.



NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

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

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

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

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

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

news@uruknet.info; http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/

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