

## **Military Resistance 8K26**

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



The body of Army Cpl. Chad Young, 25, of Rochester, Ill., arrives at the 183<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing at Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport in Springfield, Ill., on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2010. Young, who was promoted to corporal posthumously, was killed when insurgents attacked his vehicle with an improvised explosive device in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on Nov. 3.

**Tennessee Soldier Killed By Army  
Command Decision:  
SSG Sent To Afghanistan After Two  
Suicide Attempts Dead At Kandahar  
On Third Try:**

# “Despite Bouts With Depression, His Son Was Still Deployed To Afghanistan Even Though He Didn’t Want To Go”

**[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn’t care less. To repeat for the 3,551st time, there is no enemy in Iraq or Afghanistan. Their citizens and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started these wars of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn’t tell the truth: U.S. Imperial wars are about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. T]**

Nov 26, 2010 By Jake Lowary - The (Clarksville, Tenn.) Leaf-Chronicle [Excerpts]

Staff Sgt. David Senft, 27, was found Nov. 15 in an SUV inside Kandahar Airfield with a single gunshot wound to the head.

The military said he died from a “non-combat related incident,” and the results of a pending investigation have not been released.

According to the Army’s Criminal Investigation Division, there is an “open and ongoing” investigation into Senft’s death, but there’s no time frame for the investigation’s completion.

“Although I cannot give you an exact time frame of when the investigation will be complete, I can tell you that each case is different, and our sworn federal agents pursue all leads and information to determine exactly what transpired,” Jeffrey Castro, public affairs officer for CID, wrote in an e-mail response to a request for details.

His father, also named David, has yet to get a clear explanation why his son and door gunner with the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade died, and if indeed it was a suicide like it appears to be at a distance.

“There is a possibility of (suicide), yes,” he said from his home in California.

Senft said the military has been very tight-lipped about what happened to his son, whom Senft raised single-handedly, along with two other children.

Senft said his son had struggled with depression and suicidal thoughts before. His son tried to commit suicide twice and had been treated at Western State Hospital in Hopkinsville, Ky., twice, he said.

Senft said that despite bouts with depression, his son was still deployed to Afghanistan even though he didn’t want to go and believed his military records would have indicated his mental instability.

“The military is not telling me,” Senft said. “I’m giving up, they’re not going to tell me anything.”

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Resistance Action**

Nov 25 (Reuters) & Nov 26 (Reuters) & Nov 27 (Reuters)

BAGHDAD - A sticky bomb attached to a civilian car exploded and killed a police major in north Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

KIRKUK - Armed men opened fire on a civilian car carrying two off duty policemen and their families in a town 45 km (30 miles) southwest of Kirkuk. Both policemen and a wife of one of the policemen were killed, a police source said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi police patrol exploded and wounded three in Ghazaliya District, western Baghdad, an Interior Affairs Ministry source, said.

BAGHDAD - Guerrillas shot dead an Iraqi police officer in northern Baghdad.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb went off near an Iraqi police patrol wounding two policemen in Baghdad's southern Doura district on Friday, police said,

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Foreign Occupation “Service Member” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced**

27 November 2010 VOA News

An improvised explosive blast killed one service member Saturday in eastern Afghanistan. Officials did not reveal the soldier's nationality or identity.

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# Clemmons (NC) Family Speak Of Son Killed In Afghanistan

November 17, 2010 WGHP

ARCHDALE, N.C.

The parents of fallen Army Spc. Jacob C. Carroll said the last few days have been a nightmare.

"I walked into this room and I looked out and I saw the (Army officials) standing there, and I couldn't let them near me," Cole Masear, Jake's mother, said.

Carroll, 20, died Saturday in a suicide bomb attack. Two other soldiers died in the blast, including his best friend, Jake Carver of Missouri.

Jake was the third generation military man, following in the footsteps of his father his grandfather.

"He told me, 'I think I'm going to do this. I think I need to do my part. It's the right thing to do,'" Jack Carroll, Jake's father, said.

"He said he was going to make his family and me proud, and that's exactly what he did," Cole said.

Jake deployed to Afghanistan in June and quickly gained the respect from both his peers and superiors.

"He demonstrated his leadership all the time. Even as a PFC, the guys looked up to him because he was loving, friendly and could do his job well. And he helped them do their job,"

And now the community is looking up to Jake, as yellow ribbons sprinkle Cole's neighborhood as a sign of solidarity and support.

"I really think Jake would be so proud to see how everyone was pulling together for him. He would be so humble that he wouldn't want it, but he would be proud that his family was proud of him," Cole said.

Jake's body will be flown to PTI within the next several days. Funeral arrangements are still being set.

A candlelight vigil will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Creekside Park in Archdale. The public is invited, and Jake's parents are expected to attend.

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## Resistance Action:

# **Paktika Police Headquarters Attacked**

11.27.2010 By RAHIM FAIEZ Associated Press Writer & VOA News

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two bombers wearing police uniforms blew themselves up at an Afghan police headquarters Saturday, killing at least 12 officers in a deadly border region that has long been a refuge for Islamist extremists from around the world.

In a statement e-mailed to the media, the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attacks in the eastern Paktika province.

The attackers made it through three security gates before reaching the main building on the police compound, said Nawab Waziry, the provincial council head. One attacker detonated his explosives inside the police headquarters building, while the other blew himself up near the entrance about 20 minutes later, Waziry said.

“The site was covered with blood,” Waziry told The Associated Press.

Gen. Daud Andarabi, the spokesman for the regional police commander in southeastern Afghanistan, said the blasts killed at least 12 officers and wounded 16. Meyawer Khan, chief of the criminal investigation department for Paktika province, confirmed 12 people were killed. The compound was also used as a police training center.

The Taliban has claimed responsibility for the assault.

**Reuters news service reports a Taliban spokesman says the attackers had undergone police training at the center.**

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

**“The People Say We Don't Need  
Any Help, Just Stop Injuring And  
Killing Our Civilians”**

**“The Foreign Troops Should Leave  
Sangin”**

**“They Are Bringing Disaster To The  
Area”**

Nov 26, 2010 By Sebastian Abbot - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

Locals in this southern Afghan valley have accused U.S. Marines of regularly killing civilians since they launched an aggressive campaign against the Taliban here over a month ago — claims the Marines say are untrue and fueled by insurgent propaganda.

But the Marines acknowledge that unless they can change people's minds, they stand little chance of winning the local support necessary to tame a key area of Afghanistan that has been the deadliest place for coalition troops this year.

The Marines have tried to sway public opinion by increasing the number of development projects in Sangin. But they have discovered that better roads and new flood walls may do little good if locals believe the Marines are killing civilians.

"The people say we don't need any help, just stop injuring and killing our civilians," Mira Jan Aka, a village elder from central Sangin, said during a recent meeting with the Marines.

Aka was one of several elders who spent most of the weekly session complaining about Marines killing civilians.

"It's clear the Marines can kill Taliban, so why are they making mistakes and killing civilians by dropping bombs on their compounds?" said Haji Gul Mohammad, an elder from northern Sangin.

**The Marines dismissed the cries of the elders, many of whom they believe are sent by the Taliban to deliver a message the insurgents hope will hinder military operations.**

**But locals who don't show up at the base have also complained about Marines killing civilians.**

Tuma Khan, a landowner from central Sangin, complained to Marines during a recent patrol that they shot and killed one of his farmers who was working in the field. The Marines said the man was planting a homemade bomb in the ground.

Mullah Abdul Wali, another landowner from Sangin who recently fled with his family to Helmand's provincial capital of Lashkar Gah, complained that aggressive attacks by the Marines have killed dozens of civilians.

"The foreign troops should leave Sangin," said Wali. "They are bringing disaster to the area."

The district governor may face the biggest challenge in dealing with accusations of civilian casualties. Even though he believes many of the allegations are manufactured by the Taliban, he risks looking like a U.S. puppet when he pushes back.

"I have told Lieutenant Colonel Morris that he should talk to his Marines because sometimes they don't have good behavior with the people," Sharif told the elders who were complaining about civilian casualties.

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# **The Last Russian Troops Left Feb. 15, 1989, Driven Out After Nine Years:**

**“We All Together Defeated Them”  
“Every Man Grabbed A Weapon To  
Fight. They Shouldn’t Have Been In  
Our Country, Against Our Honor And  
Culture”**

**“Americans Haven’t Drawn Any Lessons  
From The Soviet Military Presence; They  
Keep Stepping On The Same Rakes”**

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

**“We had many toasts as we drank our vodka,” he said. “The third toast, without clinking glasses, is to those who never came back from that war, to our dead brothers-in-arms.**

**“Then I stood up to make the fourth toast. I said, ‘Let’s drink to my wish that men will never have to raise the third toast in the future.’ “**

November 27, 2010 By Laura King and Sergei L. Loiko, Los Angeles Times & November 7, 2010, By ELISABETH BUMILLER, New York Times [Excerpts]

Reporting from Kabul, Afghanistan, and Moscow

As wartime days go, Friday was a fairly quiet one in Afghanistan. Helicopters skittered across the sky; convoys rumbled along desert roads; soldiers in mountain outposts scanned the jagged peaks around them.

But one thing set the day apart: With its passing, the length of the U.S. military’s campaign in Afghanistan matched that of the Soviet Union’s long and demoralizing sojourn in the nation.

**A former C.I.A. official with longtime experience in Afghanistan said that the recent statements about American progress in Afghanistan reminded him of what was sometimes written about the Russians before they began withdrawing from Afghanistan in defeat in 1988, when they had been at war there for nearly 10 years.**

**“I don’t find many people I talk to who really believe any of this,” he said.**

The last Red Army troops left Feb. 15, 1989, driven out after nine years and 50 days by the U.S.-backed Afghan fighters known as mujahedin, or holy warriors. Ragtag yet ferocious, they were so spectrally elusive that the Soviet forces called them dukhi, or ghosts.

“I will never forget the day when my motorized infantry unit entered Afghanistan,” said Andrei Logunov, then a young sergeant, later the leader of a major Russian veterans organization.

“We crossed the border from Uzbekistan without a single shot,” he recalled. “We sat on our armor and looked at the peaceful countryside all around us. Nothing could have prepared us for the bloody war that would shatter us soon enough.”

Sultan Mohammed remembers too. Now a sixtyish barber in a district outside Kabul, he spent nearly a decade battling the Soviets north of the capital, in the fight from beginning to end.

“We all together defeated them,” he said. “Every man grabbed a weapon to fight. They shouldn’t have been in our country, against our honor and culture.”

The Soviet withdrawal is a favorite public relations theme of the Taliban movement, which itself was toppled by the U.S.-led invasion in a matter of weeks, only to regroup and reinvigorate itself in recent years.

“This was their graveyard,” said Zabiullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the group. “As it will be for the Americans.”

“Americans haven’t drawn any lessons from the Soviet military presence; they keep stepping on the same rakes,” said Sergei Arutyunov, a senior fellow at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology in Moscow.

Logunov, the onetime infantry sergeant, remembers watching a live television broadcast in 1989 as the last of his compatriots crossed the bridge out of Afghanistan.

Later that year, the Berlin Wall would fall, and the Soviet Union not long afterward.

**“We had many toasts as we drank our vodka,” he said. “The third toast, without clinking glasses, is to those who never came back from that war, to our dead brothers-in-arms.**

**“Then I stood up to make the fourth toast.**

**I said, ‘Let’s drink to my wish that men will never have to raise the third toast in the future.’ “**



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## UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW



U.S. Marines carry a wounded comrade as they run to a helicopter during a Medevac mission in southern Afghanistan's Helmand Province November 8, 2010. REUTERS/Peter Andrews



U.S. Marines carry a wounded comrade to a helicopter during a Medevac mission in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province November 12, 2010. REUTERS/Peter Andrews

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

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

A wounded U.S. soldier is evacuated by the "Dustoff" medevac team, part of Task Force Shadow from the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, in Kandahar province September 28, 2010. The soldier was wounded by an IED that struck his unit on patrol. REUTERS/Three photos by Erik de Castro





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## PFC Manning Case Update



25 November 2010, By Army Court-Martial Defense Specialist, The Law Office of David E. Coombs [Excerpts]

My office has received several media inquiries regarding the current status of PFC Manning's case. The entry below explains the current case status and the process forward.

I. The Military Process: The basic structure of the military process is similar to any criminal trial in a civilian court. Once allegations are made, the government begins to investigate the alleged crime. The government's investigators are usually either Military Police Investigators (MPI) or Criminal Investigation Division (CID) officers. These individuals interview the key witnesses, secure all available evidence, and create a report that details the nature of their investigation.

Based upon the investigation by MPI or CID, the government prosecutor (Trial Counsel) then discusses the case with the soldier's chain of command. The trial counsel will typically recommend to the command the possible charges that could be preferred against the individual soldier and discuss the likelihood of success at trial.

II. Charges have been Preferred: Once charges are preferred against a soldier, each level in the chain of command will make a recommendation as to what level of court-martial should hear the soldier's case. The command can recommend a Summary Court-Martial, a Bad Conduct Discharge Court-Martial, or a General Court-Martial. Each level of court-martial has different maximum punishments that it is authorized to impose.

If the charges against a soldier are serious, such as in this case, then they will be most likely be heard by a General Court-Martial. In any case where the command has recommended trial by General Court-Martial, the Brigade Commander will direct that the case be first investigated by an Article 32 Investigating Officer.

III. Article 32 Hearing: Unless a soldier waives this right, no charge may be referred to a general court-martial until a thorough and impartial investigation into the basis for the charge(s) has been made by an investigating officer. This pretrial proceeding is known as an Article 32 investigation and essentially serves the equivalent function of a grand jury indictment in a civilian jurisdiction.

At the Article 32 investigation, a soldier is able to call witnesses on his behalf and to cross examine the government's witnesses. The Article 32 hearing is a means to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of a case as well as to determine the appropriate disposition of any specific offense. At the conclusion of the Article 32 hearing, the investigating officer will make a recommendation to the convening authority. This recommendation is not binding on the convening authority. The recommendation is simply for the purpose of giving advice to the convening authority.

**PFC Manning's case is currently awaiting an Article 32 hearing.**

**Based upon several defense motions in this case, the government has put the Article 32 hearing on hold until it can determine the classification level of the case. A preliminary classification review is currently being conducted to determine the highest classification level of any relevant information involved in the case.**

The preliminary classification review is expected to last an additional three to six weeks.

Once this review is complete, the government will need to take the necessary steps to ensure everyone associated with the case has the requisite security clearance. This process, depending upon the classification level, can be a lengthy one.

Once every member of the government and defense has the requisite security clearance, the government will likely begin the Article 32 hearing.

## **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

## **Stupid Greedy Rat Award For Fall 2010 Goes To:**

**Director Of Homeless Veterans Shelter Who Grabs One-Third Of Agency Grants To Pay Herself And Also Despises Veterans:  
“We Deal With A Lot Of Sick People, And They’re Just Nasty”**



The Greedy Rat Nancy Cook

October 31, 2010 By Renee Dudley, The Post and Courier - Charleston, SC [Excerpts]

NORTH CHARLESTON - At the height of the economic recession, the executive director of a publicly-funded North Charleston homeless shelter for veterans managed to double

her salary to about \$130,000, about one-third of the shelter's total revenue in 2009, IRS filings show.

Good Neighbor Center Executive Director Nancy Cook declined comment on the raises, which she captured even as her counterparts at other area shelters took pay cuts. The board of directors, which has shrunk from 10 to six over the past four years, is required to approve employee raises.

On Friday, the board president defended the increases, saying Cook has taken on additional responsibilities over the past several years.

**One board member contacted last week was unaware of the pay hikes; another was unaware he was listed as a board member.**

Cook, the former Charleston County School Board chairwoman who unsuccessfully ran for County Council in 2008, has drawn fire for her involvement with the center in the past.

**In 2006 and 2007, she received nearly \$20,000 for the center from a trust fund administered by the school district. At that time, other school board members called the funding a "conflict of interest" that "doesn't pass the smell test."**

Cook also drew criticism in 2008 when she suggested on a local radio show that unfit parents be sterilized.

The Good Neighbor Center is a 34-bed converted motel near Spruill Avenue in North Charleston that provides transitional housing to veterans. It has been operating for about 20 years.

With Veterans Day on the horizon and as the city's two-day "Stand Down Against Homelessness" event concluded Friday, Cook provided no justification of the raises that landed her a salary on par with the North Charleston mayor and significantly more than the state governor.

**Cook earned \$128,111 in the budget year than ended in June 2009, according to filings the non-profit group, officially called the North Charleston Community Interfaith Shelter, is required to provide to the IRS.**

**The amount was about one-third of the \$398,900 the group generated that year through grants.**

Board President Bobby Knight said Friday that most of the shelter's funding comes from a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The tax forms do not elaborate on other funding sources.

In comparison with Cook's salary, the executive director of Crisis Ministries, a Charleston homeless shelter whose budget is nine times bigger than Cook's group, made \$82,000 that same year. Director Stacey Denaux had taken a \$4,500 pay cut from the year before.



Instead of pay cuts, Cook saw two consecutive pay raises, even as her non-profit saw sharp declines in grant funding.

In 2008, at the zenith of the recession, income from grants dropped by more than 30 percent and the non-profit posted a deficit, spending about \$53,000 more than it generated. Cook took a \$17,000 raise that year, netting her \$82,000.

On Tuesday, the Post and Courier raised concerns about the Good Neighbor Center, which Cook attributed to “one guy running his mouth.”

“We deal with a lot of sick people, and they’re just nasty,” said Cook, who said she has run Good Neighbor Center for 18 years. “It’s par for the course. There is no story here.”

Before hanging up, Cook agreed to answer questions from the newspaper via e-mail.

She did not respond to the questions. Attempts to reach her by phone and in person at the Spruill Avenue shelter and at her West Ashley home Thursday and Friday were unsuccessful.

Instead, she e-mailed a letter signed by Knight, the board president. In a note, she wrote, “Do not forget that I am an employee that works at the pleasure and leisure of the board. Good luck with this fine board.”

**Board member Leon Maxwell, who has been listed as a board member since at least 2006, said he was unaware of the raises.**

**“I haven’t been to any meetings where salary was discussed,” he said.**

Maxwell declined comment on the raises, but suggested comparing Cook’s salary to those at other area shelters.

Told that the executive director of Crisis Ministries makes about \$50,000 less, he said: “I guess you would have to go by that.”

Knight had a different reaction: “Maybe they should get theirs in line with ours,” he said.

**Don Gibson, a North Charleston attorney, also was listed as a one-time board member.**

**Contacted about the raises Friday, when a reporter noted that tax filings identified him as a board member, Gibson responded: “I am?”**

Gibson requested documentation, but declined further comment.

**Knight said he did not know why board members were misrepresented on the tax filings.**

**“Sometimes people type stuff funny,” he said. “We’re not sunshine law people.”**

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# OCCUPATION PALESTINE



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

## Zionist Occupation Police Break Bones Of 7-Year-Old Kid

November 25, 2010 Palestinian Information Center via Uruknet

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, PALESTINE-- Israeli policemen severely battered a Jerusalemite child in Silwan, occupied Jerusalem, on Wednesday night breaking both his arm and leg, his father said.

Mansour Al-Resheq told the Quds media center in the Shaari Tzedek hospital that policemen chased his 7-year-old child Adam and savagely beat him then dragged him on the ground before leaving him in the street bleeding.

For his part, Fakhri Abu Diab, the head of the committee in defense of Silwan land, said that the child was suffering from several fractures and that the doctors were still checking his condition, noting that Adam was still screaming of pain, which pointed to more fractures other than those in the arm and leg.

He denounced the "savage act" on the part of the occupation forces, adding that he could not assimilate the idea of heavily armed soldiers chasing then beating a helpless child and dragging him on the ground.



**MORE:**

## **60 Israeli Professionals Condemn Zionist Police For Violent Treatment Of Palestinian Kids**

November 25, 2010 (AFP)

Israeli police were accused of “flagrant violations” of the law Thursday over their harsh and at times violent treatment of Palestinian children suspected of stone-throwing in east Jerusalem.

The allegations were detailed in a letter sent to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by a group of 60 Israeli professionals, among them experts in medicine, psychology, education, social work and law -- all of whom work with children.

The letter expresses concern about the growing number of testimonies submitted by Palestinian minors who have been arrested by police in occupied and annexed east Jerusalem, notably in the flashpoint neighbourhood of Silwan.

“We are writing ... to express our deep concerns about the physical and emotional welfare and proper development of children and young people in east Jerusalem in the light of police behaviour during the investigation and arrest of minors in this area,” it said.

“Over the last few months, there has been a growing number of testimonies of minors and their families which point to flagrant violations of the rights of detained minors, and of the use of violence during the investigation of children and young people who are suspected of throwing stones in Silwan.”

Youngsters have testified how they were dragged out of bed in the dead of the night, cuffed and taken for investigation without being accompanied by their parents -- and sometimes without their family even being informed, it said.

During the investigation, “they suffered threats and humiliation at the hand of the investigators .. which sometimes involved substantial physical violence,” it said, noting with concern that even children under the age of 12 were being detained.

The crumbling neighbourhood of Silwan, which lies just south of Jerusalem’s Old City, is the focal point of regular clashes between locals and hardline Jewish settlers, with police frequently arresting youngsters on charges of stone-throwing.

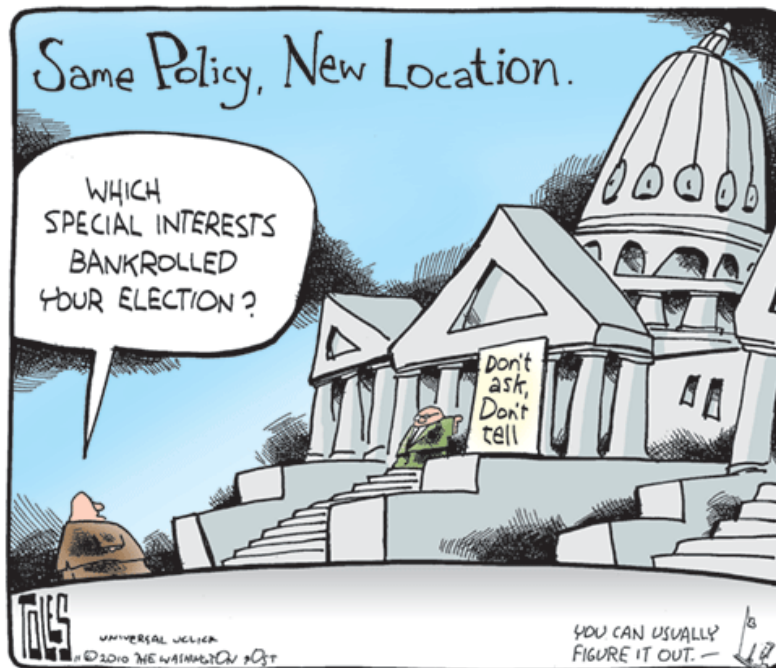
The Palestinians see east Jerusalem as the capital of their promised state and oppose any attempts to extend Israel’s control over the part of the city that was captured in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Israel considers all of Jerusalem to be its “eternal and indivisible” capital, a status not recognised by the international community.

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: [www.rafahtoday.org](http://www.rafahtoday.org) The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



### **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

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

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

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

## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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### Capitalists At Work:

**“The Richest 1% Of Americans Now Take Home Almost 24% Of Income, Up From Almost 9% In 1976”**

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

November 6, 2010 By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF, The New York Times [Excerpts]

In my reporting, I regularly travel to banana republics notorious for their inequality. In some of these plutocracies, the richest 1 percent of the population gobbles up 20 percent of the national pie.

But guess what? You no longer need to travel to distant and dangerous countries to observe such rapacious inequality.

We now have it right here at home — and in the aftermath of Tuesday’s election, it may get worse.

The richest 1 percent of Americans now take home almost 24 percent of income, up from almost 9 percent in 1976. As Timothy Noah of Slate noted in an excellent series on inequality, the United States now arguably has a more unequal distribution of wealth than traditional banana republics like Nicaragua, Venezuela and Guyana.

C.E.O.'s of the largest American companies earned an average of 42 times as much as the average worker in 1980, but 531 times as much in 2001.

**Perhaps the most astounding statistic is this: From 1980 to 2005, more than four-fifths of the total increase in American incomes went to the richest 1 percent.**

#### **Troops Invited:**

**Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.**

## **Welcome To The Occupied USA: Arriving [!] Airline Passenger Threatened With Arrest By TSA Domestic Enemies: “I Want To Go Home Without Going Through The Backscatter And Without Having My Genitals Touched”**

I eventually ask what would happen if I got up and left, and just walked through security. They shrugged. “We wouldn’t do anything on our own. We are only acting on behalf of the TSA. They are in charge of this area.”

“So if he told you to arrest me, you would? And if he didn’t, you wouldn’t?”  
“That’s right,” Young Cop says.

Nov 23, 2010 By Matt Kernan, Noblasters.com [Excerpts]

On November 21, 2010, I was allowed to enter the U.S. through an airport security checkpoint without being x-rayed or touched by a TSA officer. This post explains how.

This past Sunday, I was returning from a trip to Europe.

I flew from Paris to Cincinnati, landing in Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport.

As I got off my flight, I did all of the things that are normally requested from U.S. citizens returning from abroad. I filled out the customs declarations, confirmed that I hadn't set foot on any farmland, and answered questions about the chocolates that I had purchased in Switzerland. My passport was stamped, and I moved through customs a happy citizen returning home.

But wait – here was a second line to wait in.

**This new line led to a TSA security checkpoint.**

**You see, it is official TSA policy that people (both citizens and non-citizens alike) from international flights are screened as they enter the airport, despite the fact that they have already flown.**

**Even before the new controversial security measures were put in place, I found this practice annoying.**

**But now, as I looked past the 25 people waiting to get into their own country, I saw it: the dreaded Backscatter imaging machine.**

Now, I've read a fair amount about the controversy surrounding the new TSA policies. I certainly don't enjoy being treated like a terrorist in my own country, but I'm also not a die-hard constitutional rights advocate. However, for some reason, I was irked.

Maybe it was the video of the 3-year old getting molested, maybe it was the sexual assault victim having to cry her way through getting groped, maybe it was the father watching teenage TSA officers joke about his attractive daughter. Whatever it was, this issue didn't sit right with me.

**We shouldn't be required to do this simply to get into our own country.**

So, since I had nobody waiting for me at home and no connecting flight to catch, I had some free time.

**I decided to test my rights.**

After putting all my stuff through the x-ray, I was asked to go through the Backscatter. I politely said that I didn't want to. The technician quipped to his colleague, "We've got an opt-out." They laughed. He turned back and started to explain.

**After he finished, I said, "I understand what the pat-down entails, but I wanted to let you know that I do not give you permission to touch my genitals or the surrounding area. If you do, I will consider it assault."**

He called his manager over, who again informed me of the policy. Throughout this event, this happened quite a few times. After raising my concerns regarding the policy to an

officer, they often simply quoted back the policy. For the sake of brevity, I will simply say "Policy restatement."

**I said, "I am aware that it is policy, but I disagree with the policy, and I think that it is unconstitutional."**

**"As a U.S. citizen, I have the right to move freely within my country as long as I can demonstrate proof of citizenship and have demonstrated no reasonable cause to be detained."**

Policy restatement. "You have two options – the Backscatter or the pat down. It is your choice, but those are the only ways you can go through security."

I asked if I could speak to his manager.

"I'm the supervisor here."

"Do you have a manager?"

"Yes, but he's very far away at the moment. And he'll say the same thing I am." Policy restatement.

**At this point, I took out my iPhone, activated the voice recorder, and asked The Supervisor, "Per my constitutional rights, I am not allowed to be detained without reasonable cause for arrest. Now, am I free to go?"**

**He answered, "If you leave, we will call the APD."**

**I asked, "Who is the APD?"**

**"The Airport Police Department."**

**I said, "Actually, that's probably a good idea. Let's call them and your manager."**

The Supervisor turned and walked away without saying anything. I stood and waited, chatting to The Technician about how they aren't allowed to wear radiation badges, even though they work with radiation equipment. He said, "I think I'm a couple steps ahead of you regarding looking out for my own health."

I stood and waited for 20 minutes. Two cops showed up. Big ones. I admit, I did not want to be handcuffed by these guys.

One cop was older than the other, but they were still clearly partners. Neither of them took the lead on answering my questions, and neither of them told the other what to do. They came over to me and asked me to explain the issue. I first showed them the iPhone. After I explained my position, they restated the policy to me.

**I said, "Yes sir. I understand the policy, but I still disagree and I still don't think that I can be made to do these searches in order to go home. Now am I free to go?"**

**They didn't answer.**

I repeated the question. "Since you are actual police officers and not simply TSA, I am sure you have had much more training on my rights as a U.S. citizen, so you understand what is at stake here. So, am I free to go? Or am I being detained?"

**Young Cop answers, "You aren't being detained, but you can't go through there."**

**"Isn't that what detaining is? Preventing me from leaving?"**

**"You can leave if you want, but it has to be that direction." He points back towards customs.**

Young Cop asks, "Why are you doing this?"

I explain that I'm worried that the Backscatter has unproven health risks. And that for all he knows, I might be a sexual assault victim and don't feel like being touched. I say that the policy is needlessly invasive and it doesn't provide any added security.

He asks, "But didn't you go through this when you left on your flight?"

"Yes," I say, grinning, "But I didn't want to miss my flight then."

The cops leave, and I stand around and wait some more. It should be noted that throughout this time, no fewer than 10 TSA officers and technicians are standing around, watching me. I was literally the only one still waiting to go through security.

The cops, The TSA Supervisor, and another guy were standing behind the checkpoint deliberating about something. I explained this to my iPhone and The Supervisor shouted, "Does that thing have video?"

"No sir. Just audio." I was telling the truth – I'm still on an iPhone 3G.

After a while, Young Cop comes and asks me for my papers. My passport, my boarding pass, my driver's license, and even a business card. I give him everything except the business card. He told me that he was just gathering information for the police report, which is standard procedure. I complied – I knew that this was indeed standard.

He left, and a Delta Airlines manager comes over and starts talking to me. He is clearly acting as a mediator. He asks what I would consent to, if given my options. I explain that I want the least intrusive possible solution that is required. I say, "I will not do anything that is not explicitly stated on recording as mandatory." He leaves.

Let me pause and clarify the actors' moods here, because they will soon start to change:

The Supervisor: Very standoffish. Sticking to policy, no exceptions.

The TSA Officials: Mainly amused. Not very concerned otherwise.

The Cops: Impartial observers and consultants. Possibly a bit frustrated that I'm creating the troubles, but being very professional and respectful regardless.

The Delta Supervisor: Trying to help me see the light. He doesn't mind the work – he's here all day anyway, so he'd rather spend it ensuring that his customer is happy.

**After another wait, Old Cop returns, and asks me what I want. I tell him, “I want to go home without going through the Backscatter and without having my genitals touched. Those are my only two conditions. I will strip naked here if that is what it takes, but I don’t want to be touched.”**

He offers as an alternative, “What if we were to escort you out with us? It would involve a pat-down, but it would be us doing it instead.”

“Would you touch my balls?”

“I don’t want to touch your – genital region, but my hand might brush against it.”

I clarify, “Well, like I said, I’ll do whatever you say is mandatory. If you tell me that you have to touch my balls—”

“—I said no such thing. You’re putting words in my mouth.”

“OK. I apologize. If you say that a pat-down is mandatory, and that as a condition of that pat-down, I may have my genitals brushed against by your hand, even though you don’t want to, I will do that. But only if you say it is mandatory.”

“I’m not going to say that.”

“OK. So am I free to go?”

“You are free to go in that direction.” He points back towards customs. Then he walks away to commune with the others.

My iPhone is running out of battery, so I take out my laptop, sit in a corner, and plug it in. I have some work to do anyway, so I pull up Excel and start chugging away for about 20 minutes.

This is where the turning point happens.

The cops come back and start talking with me. Again, they are asking why I’m doing it, don’t I have a connection to make, etc. They are acting more curious at this point – no longer trying to find a contradiction in my logic.

**I eventually ask what would happen if I got up and left, and just walked through security. They shrugged. “We wouldn’t do anything on our own. We are only acting on behalf of the TSA. They are in charge of this area.”**

**“So if he told you to arrest me, you would? And if he didn’t, you wouldn’t?”**

**“That’s right,” Young Cop says.**

“OK well then I think it is best if we all talk together as a group now. Can you call them over?”



The Supervisor returns, along with the Delta Manager. The Supervisor is quite visibly frustrated.

I explain, "The police have explained to me that it is your call on whether or not I am being detained. If I walked through that metal detector right now, you would have to ask them to arrest me in order for them to do anything."

He starts to defer responsibility to the officers. They emphasize that no – they have no issue with me and they are only acting on his behalf. It is his jurisdiction. It is policy. They won't detain me unless he tells them to.

So I emphasize the iPhone again, and ask, "So, if I were to get up, walk through the metal detector, and not have it go off, would you still have them arrest me?"

The Supervisor answers, "I can't answer that question. That is no longer an option because you were selected for the Backscatter."

"Well you can answer the question because it is a yes or no question. If I got up and left, would you have them arrest me?"

"I can't answer that question."

The moods have changed. The cops are now frustrated with him because he's pawning off his decision-making responsibility to them. He's stopping what is clearly a logical solution to the problem. Meanwhile, the Supervisor is just growing more and more furious with me.

In another deferment of responsibility (which he probably thought was an intimidation factor), "Well then I guess I'm just going to have to call the FSD."

Unfazed, I ask, "What's the FSD?"

"The Federal Security Director." And he walks away.

I can see him talking on the phone to the FSD – a man apparently named Paul – and I can only catch parts of the conversation:

"No, he's been perfectly polite..."

"We tried that..."

"All he said was ... Constitutional rights"

He walks over to Old Cop and hands him the phone. I can hear similar sound bites. They hang up, deliberate some more, and then wait some more.

Meanwhile, I'm typing away on my computer. Answering emails, working on my Excel model – things that I would have done at home regardless.

The Supervisor walks over and stands uncomfortably close to me. After typing for a bit more, I look up. His voice shakes, "I don't know if I ever introduced myself." He pulls out his badge. "My name is XXX XXX. Here is my badge. Now, I've shown you my credentials."

Ah – he’s gotten the Miranda talk. I hide my smile.

“Here’s what we’re going to do. I’m going to escort you out of the terminal to the public area. You are to stay with me at all times. Do you understand?”

“Will I be touched?”

“I can’t guarantee that, but I am going to escort you out.”

“OK. I will do this. But I will restate that I still do not give you permission to touch my genitals or the surrounding area. If you do, I will still consider it assault.”

“I understand.”

**And then came the most ridiculous scene of which I’ve ever been a part. I gather my things – jacket, scarf, hat, briefcase, chocolates. We walk over to the staff entrance and he scans his badge to let me through. We walk down the long hallway that led back to the baggage claim area.**

We skip the escalators and moving walkways. As we walk, there are TSA officials stationed at apparent checkpoints along the route. As we pass them, they form part of the circle that is around me.

**By the end of the walk, I count 13 TSA officials and 2 uniformed police officers forming a circle around me. We reach the baggage claim area, and everyone stops at the orange line.**

The Supervisor grunts, “Have a nice day,” and leaves.

In order to enter the USA, I was never touched, I was never “Backscattered,” and I was never metal detected. In the end, it took 2.5 hours, but I proved that it is possible. I’m looking forward to my next flight on Wednesday.

**Got an opinion? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.**

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