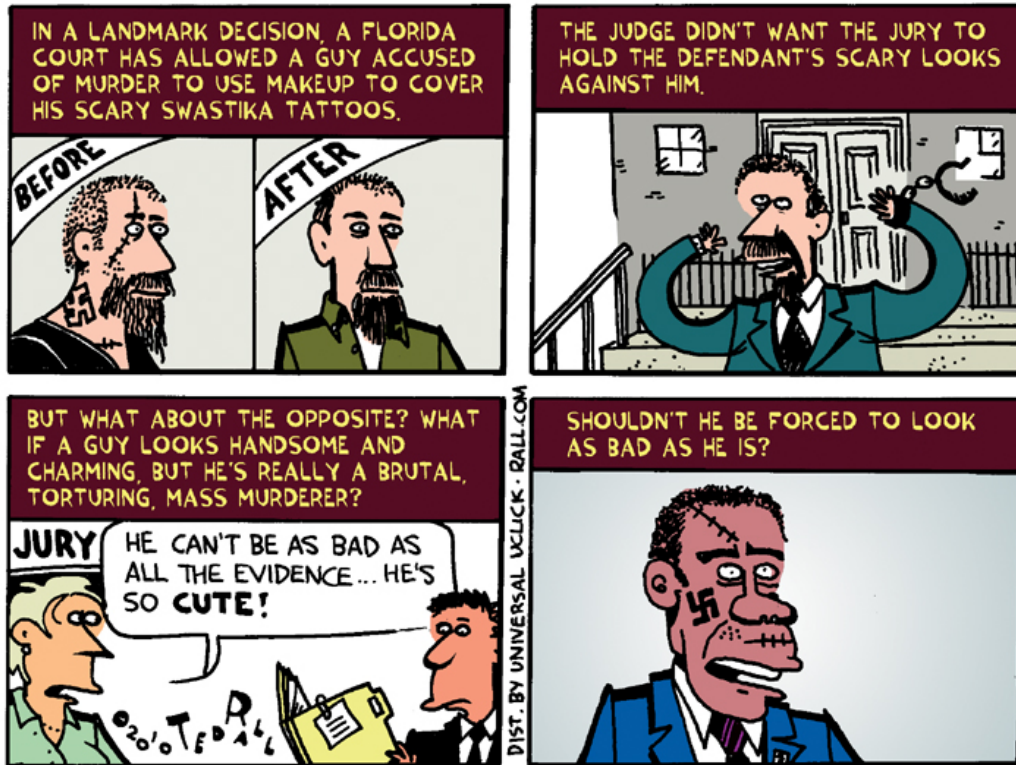


## Military Resistance 8L7



**Regrets for the delay in Military Resistance Newsletter.  
Computer problems. T**

**[Not From The Onion]  
U.S. Imperial Shit-Eaters At AP Won't  
Publish Jonathan Banks' Name:  
"The Associated Press Is Not Publishing  
The Station Chief's Name Because He  
Remains Undercover And His Name Is  
Classified"**

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

December 17, 2010 By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Filed at 10:41 a.m. EST

WASHINGTON (AP) — The CIA has pulled its top spy out of Pakistan after terrorists threatened to kill him, current and former U.S. officials said, an unusual move for the U.S. and a complication on the front lines of the fight against al-Qaida.

The CIA station chief was in transit Thursday after a Pakistani lawsuit earlier this month accused him by name of killing civilians in missile strikes.

**The Associated Press is not publishing the station chief's name because he remains undercover and his name is classified.**

The station chief's name has been published by local media covering the lawsuit and demonstrations related to it. Demonstrators in the heart of the capital have carried placards bearing the officers's name and urging him to leave the country.

Shahzad Akbar, the lawyer bringing the case, said he got the name from local journalists. He said he named the man because he wanted to sue a CIA operative living within the jurisdiction of the Islamabad court.

**MORE:**

## **CIA Chief In Pakistan Leaves After Drone Trial Blows His Cover: Jonathan Banks, Station Chief In Islamabad, Back In US After Calls For Him To Be Charged With Murder Over Drone Attack**

17 December 2010 Declan Walsh in Islamabad, The Guardian [Excerpts]

**Jonathan Banks, station chief In Islamabad, back in US after calls for him to be charged with murder over drone attack**

The CIA has pulled its station chief from Islamabad, one of America's most important spy posts, after his cover was blown in a legal action brought by victims of US drone strikes in the tribal belt.

The officer, named in Pakistan as Jonathan Banks, left the country yesterday, after a tribesman publicly accused him of being responsible for the death of his brother and son in a CIA drone strike in December 2009. Karim Khan, a journalist from North Waziristan, called for Banks to be charged with murder and executed.

In a rare move, the CIA called Banks home yesterday, citing “security concerns” and saying he had received death threats, Washington officials told Associated Press. Khan’s lawyer said he was fleeing the possibility of prosecution.

“This is just diplomatic language they are using. Banks is a liability to the CIA because he’s likely to be called to court. They want to save him, and themselves, the embarrassment,” said lawyer Shahzad Akbar. Pakistani media reports have claimed that Banks entered the country on a business visa, and therefore does not enjoy diplomatic immunity from prosecution.

**[Hot tip: Google “Jonathan Banks CIA” and see just how much shit the Associated Press is eating to serve their Imperial masters. T]**

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Hawaiian Soldier Killed In Afghanistan**



U.S. Army, Cpl. Sean M. Collins, 25, of Ewa Beach, Hawaii, is one of six American soldiers killed in a bomb attack in Afghanistan. Officials said Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010, the attack vehicle was loaded with an estimated 1,000 pounds of explosives, enough to bring down the building the soldiers were in. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

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## North Carolina Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



U.S. Army Cpl. Willie A. McLawhorn Jr., 23, of Conway, N.C., is one of six American soldiers killed in a bomb attack in Afghanistan. Officials said Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010, the attack vehicle was loaded with an estimated 1,000 pounds of explosives, enough to bring down the building the soldiers were in. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

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## Florida Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



U.S. Army Spc. Patrick D. Deans, 22, of Orlando, Fla., is one of six American soldiers killed in a bomb attack in Afghanistan. Officials said Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010, the attack vehicle was loaded with an estimated 1,000 pounds of explosives, enough to bring down the building the soldiers were in. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

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## California Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



U.S. Army Spc. Kenneth E. Necochea Jr., 21, of San Diego, Calif., is one of six American soldiers killed in a bomb attack in Afghanistan. Officials said Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010, the attack vehicle was loaded with an estimated 1,000 pounds of explosives, enough to bring down the building the soldiers were in. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

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## California Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



U.S. Army Spc. Derek T. Simonetta, 21, of Redwood City, Calif., is one of six American soldiers killed in a bomb attack in Afghanistan. Officials said Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010, the attack vehicle was loaded with an estimated 1,000 pounds of explosives, enough to bring down the building the soldiers were in. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

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## Florida Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



U.S. Army Spc. Spc. Jorge E. Villacis, 24, of Sunrise, Fla., is one of six American soldiers killed in a bomb attack in Afghanistan. Officials said Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010, the attack vehicle was loaded with an estimated 1,000 pounds of explosives, enough to bring down the building the soldiers were in. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

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## Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Tuesday: Nationality Not Announced

December 14 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan today.

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## Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Wednesday: Nationality Not Announced

December 15 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan today.

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

December 17 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan today.

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## **Pittsburgh Marine Killed In Afghanistan**

December 16, 2010 The Pittsburgh Channel

PITTSBURGH -- A Peabody High School graduate was killed Tuesday while serving in Afghanistan.

Channel 4 Action News' Ari Hait reported that Staff Sgt. Justin Schmalstieg was a Marine working as a bomb tech in Afghanistan. He was killed when a roadside bomb went off.

Hait reported that Schmalstieg's parents are both detectives with the Pittsburgh Police Bureau.

Schmalstieg grew up in Stanton Heights and married his high school sweetheart last year. His body will be brought back to the United States next week.

“Justin grew up with nine boys around the corner at my house. Out of all my boys, Justin was the quiet child, the peacemaker out of all of them -- just humble, a sweet child. I can't say enough about that young man,” said family friend Renee Drummond-Brown.

Drummond-Brown's son, who was a childhood friend of Schmalstieg's, also serves in Afghanistan.

“My son, Cardell Nino Brown Jr., is in Afghanistan right now, and he’s in the public affairs department. He was given the initials, so he was covering the story, not knowing that this was his childhood friend that grew up right in my home,” said Drummond-Brown.

Funeral arrangements have not yet been announced but Pittsburgh police officers are working with Schmalstieg’s parents to plan a special tribute.

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## **French Soldier Killed In Alhasay Valley**

December 17, 2010 By Steve Rhinds, Bloomberg

A French soldier was killed by insurgent fighter fire during a reconnaissance mission in the Alhasay valley in Afghanistan, President Nicolas Sarkozy’s office said in an e-mailed statement today.

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## **Fallen Marine’s Wife Gives Birth To Son**

12/9/2010 Newsnet5.com

Twenty-five-year-old Sgt. Derek Wyatt, of Akron, was reportedly killed in the line of duty by a sniper while leading other Marines in Afghanistan on Monday.

The next evening, Wyatt’s wife, Kait, gave birth to the couple’s baby boy, Michael, at Camp Pendleton in California.

“Knowing that Derek passed away the day before his son was born, that’s sad,” said Master Sgt. John MacLean, who was Wyatt’s ROTC Marine instructor at East High School in Akron. Wyatt graduated from the school in 2004.

The day before Wyatt was deployed to Afghanistan last October, he spent time on a California beach with his pregnant wife, who is a Marine veteran.

They picked a name for their child and on the beach they wrote, “Derek + Kait = Michael.”

Wyatt’s friends said they’ll remember Derek as a man who was always there for them. Now, those friends say they’ll be there for Michael. He will never meet his dad, but he will always know him.

“Let Michael know that his father was something amazing. Try to tell stories and give memories to Michael that will hopefully stick with him for the rest of his life,” said Stephen Price, Wyatt’s close friend.

Master Sgt. MacLean said Wyatt lived his life with honor, commitment and courage. “He’s my hero, sir. He paid the ultimate price,” MacLean said.



Donations for the Wyatt family were accepted at the girl's varsity basketball game on Thursday evening at East High School. Before the game, spectators stood for a moment of silence to remember Wyatt.

Contributions will also accepted during a public memorial service on Sunday from 1p.m. to 4 p.m. at the school's auditorium.

Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic said all flags on public buildings in the city should be flown at half-staff to honor Sgt. Wyatt.

"He didn't die. He changed jobs," MacLean said. "He went from being a Marine here on earth to guarding the gates of Heaven. That's what Marines do."

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## **U.S. Military Fuel Supply Truck Blown Up Again Again Again Again As Usual**



A burning tanker carrying military fuel for foreign troops in the Behsud district of Nangarhar province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Dec. 16, 2010. Officials said they believed a bomb had gone off inside or near the truck, sparking the fire.  
REUTERS/Parwiz

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## **Occupation Air Force Gives Insurgents Some Help In Helmand**

2010-12-16 ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL: A U.S. airstrike has killed four Afghan soldiers who were mistaken for militants in the country's south, a spokesman for the Afghan Defense Ministry said Thursday.

The soldiers had left their base in Helmand's Musa Qala district on Wednesday night when they came under fire from U.S. planes, said Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi.

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## Resistance Action

December 11, 2010 By ROD NORDLAND, The New York Times

In Kandahar City, the Taliban assassinated two officials on Wednesday and Thursday, according to Afghan officials.

On Thursday, however, Noor Mohammed, the leader of the shura, or council, in the Zhare District, was killed as he headed home from a mosque, according to the district's governor, Niaz Muhammad Sarhadi.

On Wednesday, insurgents killed Muhammed Anwar, the finance officer for the narcotics department of the Kandahar provincial police force. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

"Noor Mohammed was a good friend of mine," said a member of the Zhare shura who asked not to be named because he feared for his safety. "I am so worried now I can't even sleep from fear," he said.

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

**"Since Taking Over On Sept. 20,  
American Forces, Mostly Marines,  
Have Suffered 42 Fatalities In  
Helmand Province"  
Marines General Boasts They "Have  
Taken The Fight Harder To The Enemy"**

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

December 11, 2010 By ROD NORDLAND, The New York Times [Excerpts]

Since taking over on Sept. 20, American forces, mostly Marines, have suffered 42 fatalities in Helmand Province, according to icasualties.org, an independent Web site that compiles battlefield data.

**About 20 of those deaths took place in Sangin, said Maj. Gabrielle M. Chapin, a spokeswoman for the Marines. By comparison, the British lost at least 76 soldiers in three and a half years.**

American military officials acknowledge that Sangin is proving “a very tough area,” in Major Chapin’s words.

Maj. Gen. Richard Mills, the Marines’ commander in Helmand, said that “Sangin is a key crossroads, the last place where the insurgent can grow, harvest and process poppy,” whose cultivation for opium helps finance the Taliban.

He added Friday that the Marines “have taken the fight harder to the enemy.”

General Mills will soon deploy a new company of heavy tanks, the first American tanks in Afghanistan, in Sangin because of the large numbers of improvised explosive devices there, officials said. **[Yes yes; no doubt “heavy” tanks in an area with few roads and limitless IEDs will prove absolutely terrifying to the Afghan resistance. A stroke of military genius almost equivalent to that of the Marine General who sent thinly armored Marine amphibious landing craft into the desert country of Iraq, producing a large quantity of scrap metal and dead Marines. T]**

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## **Taliban Small-Arms Attacks Against Foreign Troops Nearly Double: 18,000 Attacks This Year Compares With About 10,600 Such Attacks In 2009**

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

December 12, 2010 By Tom Vanden Brook, USA TODAY [Excerpts]

Taliban small-arms attacks against U.S. and allied troops in Afghanistan are nearly twice what they were a year ago, a reflection of increased coalition penetration of Taliban strongholds and the insurgency’s resilience, military officials and analysts said.

U.S. forces have encountered more than 18,000 attacks this year from Taliban fighters armed with automatic weapons, rocket-propelled grenades and in some cases missiles, according to data from the Pentagon. That compares with about 10,600 such attacks in 2009.

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# **“I Trusted The Marines When They Said They Would Bring Security” “But Nawa Doesn’t Feel Secure” “If The Taliban Decide To Kill You, There’s Nothing The Americans Will Be Able To Do About It”**

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

**Of particular concern to some officers is that improvements in security are not spreading beyond the farming villages along the river.**

**In the White House debate over the troop surge last fall, senior military leaders promised that counterinsurgency operations eventually would enlarge a zone of safety as blots of ink spread on a map.**

**“The ink blot isn’t growing by itself,” the officer said. “The only reason it’s expanding is because we’re adding more ink.”**

December 12, 2010 By Rajiv Chandrasekaran, New York Times [Excerpts]

**IN NAWA, AFGHANISTAN** When Gen. David H. Petraeus makes his case that the military’s strategy in Afghanistan is succeeding, he cites the evolution of this community of mud-walled homes and wheat fields:

The story of Nawa is only one chapter in a narrative of progress Petraeus is presenting to claim that the United States is finally starting to win a war that it had won but then started to lose.

Despite the incipient signs of progress, Afghanistan still remains a violent, chaotic nation with as many signs of American defeat as of victory.

**There were, on average, more than 75 insurgent attacks on U.S., NATO or Afghan forces every day this summer - a rate significantly higher than last year.**

**Assassinations of government officials and people working with international troops and development firms are an almost-daily occurrence.**

Late last year, the NATO command decided to concentrate its efforts on several dozen “key terrain” districts.

**Not only have most of those places not improved, but Taliban activity, once concentrated in the south and east, has metastasized to northern and western parts of the country.**

That is why Nawa becomes so important. If Afghanistan is to achieve a semblance of stability without a negotiated end to the conflict, more districts need to look like this one.

After months of joint operations with the Marines, the Afghans have been deemed capable enough to take charge of five small patrol bases - the first step in a gradual process of transition to full Afghan control over the district.

The police are far more ragged. Until just a few months ago, this district of 75,000 people had two rival chiefs: One controlled the northern half; the other had the south. Both men have been removed and replaced with a new commander, but most officers still remain loyal to their old bosses.

In the southern village of Pinjadoo, the police "have no loyalty" to the new commander, said Lt. Brad Franko, who serves as a mentor to the force. Most of them, he said, are related to the previous chief, Ahmed Shah, who "is like the Godfather here."

**The area is quiet, Franko said, because Shah's men have struck a deal with the Taliban to conduct their operations elsewhere. "The Taliban don't come here to mess with these guys, and in return these guys don't mess with the Taliban," he said.**

The town of Nawa - home to the base from which Marines on foot patrol have not fired a bullet in five months - has seen almost no insurgent activity this year, but criminal behavior has been growing, prompting concern among some U.S. and Afghan officials because the Taliban has successfully pitched itself in the past as an antidote to lawlessness.

More than half of the new solar-powered streetlights installed by USAID are not working because their batteries have been stolen.

Even more worrisome was the nighttime robbery of the district's largest money changer. His shop is directly across from the police station, and many people here believe the culprits were officers loyal to the former northern chief. But there is no conclusive evidence.

**"I trusted the Marines when they said they would bring security," said the money changer, Abdul Sattar. "But Nawa doesn't feel secure."**

The situation is more problematic outside the main town.

The Taliban may not be here in large numbers or with the same arsenal of roadside bombs as in other places, but they have managed to sow fear with a flurry of nighttime warning letters and a few well-aimed bullets. One recent victim was the training coordinator for a USAID-funded agriculture project who was assassinated as he prayed in his neighborhood mosque.

“The Marines feel safe, but the ordinary people in Nawa do not,” said Khawanin, the headmaster of the main school in the district. He has started varying the routes he travels from his house to the school. “If the Taliban decide to kill you, there’s nothing the Americans will be able to do about it.”

Despite repeated Marine operations to flush them out, bands of Taliban fighters remain in the treeless desert between Nawa and Marja. Their ability to roam through the more-populated agricultural areas along the Helmand River remains limited, although they still have been able to plant roadside bombs and snipe at Marine patrols.

U.S. Special Operations Forces have targeted the bomb-laying cells repeatedly, providing the Marines with three to four weeks of relative calm until a new group moves in and resumes attacks, the officials said.

“The SOF guys are getting a lot of them, but they’re regenerating almost as fast as we can kill or capture them,” said one military officer familiar with the operations.

**Of particular concern to some officers is that improvements in security are not spreading beyond the farming villages along the river.**

In the White House debate over the troop surge last fall, senior military leaders promised that counterinsurgency operations eventually would enlarge a zone of safety as blots of ink spread on a map.

“The ink blot isn’t growing by itself,” the officer said. “The only reason it’s expanding is because we’re adding more ink.”

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**“Every Day, The Taliban Are Getting More Powerful Than The Government”**

**“The Situation On The Ground Is Much Worse Than A Year Ago Because The Taliban Insurgency Has Made Progress Across The Country”**

**“The Insurgents Have Built Momentum, Exploiting The Shortcomings Of The**

# Afghan Government And The Mistakes Of The Coalition”

December 13, 2010 DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — One year after President Barack Obama ordered a troop buildup to halt the Taliban’s momentum, the war in Afghanistan has not broken decisively in favor of U.S.-led forces — at least not yet.

While NATO forces have routed insurgents from their strongholds in southern Afghanistan, the Taliban’s strongest region, the militants have opened new fronts in the north and west and have stepped up attacks in the east.

At the same time, the surge has exacted a high price: More than 680 international troops, including at least 472 Americans, have been killed in 2010, making it the deadliest year of the war.

A corrupt and ineffectual Afghan government remains a fragile pillar of the U.S. war strategy.

And many Afghans expect the Taliban to return to their southern strongholds when the winter snows melt.

Will they come back? This will be answered in the spring,” said Sadeek Dhottani, a 41-year-old farmer in Marjah. “What I think is yes they probably will because when spring appears, the Taliban always show up with greater force and enthusiasm.”

“I am not able to calmly come to my shop from my house,” Sayed Rahmat, a 27-year-old shopkeeper in Ghazni province in eastern Afghanistan, which has not seen the tentative security gains that Afghan and NATO troops have achieved in the south.

“If we don’t have security, then we don’t have work opportunities,” Rahmat told The Associated Press. “Every day that passes, the security situation is getting worse. The government is not in a position to bring peace. Every day, the Taliban are getting more powerful than the government.”

Using Badghis province as a hub, the Taliban also have spread their influence in western Afghanistan and now control several districts.

According to a quarterly report by the coalition, the number of Afghans who rate their security situation as “bad” is the highest since the nationwide survey began in September 2008. This downward trend is likely a result of the steady rise in violence since the beginning of the year, the report said.

“The situation on the ground is much worse than a year ago because the Taliban insurgency has made progress across the country,” more than 30 academics, aid workers and others working in Afghanistan wrote in an open letter to Obama last week.

“It is now very difficult to work outside the cities or even move around Afghanistan by road. The insurgents have built momentum, exploiting the shortcomings of the Afghan government and the mistakes of the coalition.”

Bribery, graft and political payoffs are commonplace all the way up to the highest levels of the Afghan government, undermining the people’s confidence in its ability to protect them and provide services.

The growth of the Afghan security forces has exceeded goals, but a shortfall of 770 international trainers threatens to impede plans for Afghan soldiers and police to take the lead in securing the country by 2014.

Improvements in governance and development — the second phase of Petraeus’ counterinsurgency strategy — are uneven and lag security gains.

“The foreigners seem more focused on providing us services, said Ismail Jalal Zai, a 23-year-old day laborer in the southern Afghan district of Marjah. “If you ask about the local government, I can barely see their interest in providing for us. Their attitude is about the same as before.”

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## **NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1: PACK UP GO HOME**



U.S. soldier from First Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division checking an area for IEDs during a patrol in district of Panjwai, Afghanistan’s Kandahar province, Nov. 23, 2010. (AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)

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## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

### **Insurgents “Raided The Bases Of The Somali Government Soldiers And Those Of Their AU Allies”**

Dec 12, 2010 GAROWE ONLINE

At least 15 people were killed over the weekend in the Somali capital Mogadishu, as fighting continued between Somali government forces backed by African Union peacekeepers and Al Qaeda-affiliated Al Shabaab insurgents on the other side, Radio Garowe reports.

The sectors in the city where these clashes are taking place are Hodan and partly of Howlwadag districts.

Both the warring sides used both heavy and light weaponry, which the inhabitants of the other surrounding districts could hear.

“The fighting has commenced in the late hours of Saturday night, and is till on Sunday daybreak taking place at Hodan and partly of Howlwadag districts” said Yusuf Ahmed who is among the few remaining residents in Hodan district speaking to Garowe online.

Mr. Yusuf has added that it's was the Al-Shabaab fighters who have raided the bases of the Somali government soldiers and those of their AU allies in Hodan district, adding that he has witnessed the death of 6 noncombatant civilians in the vicinity, 3 government soldiers and 2 of the Al-shabaab insurgents.

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

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

Burial service for Staff Sgt. David J. Weigle, at Arlington National Cemetery Nov. 3, 2010. Weigle, 29, of Philadelphia, died Oct. 10 in Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. (AP Photos/Ann Heisenfelt)



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# **“The VA Is Not The Place To Talk Politics”**

**“When The VA Uses These Eight Words, The Intent Is Actually Meant To Suppress Dissenting Views”**

**“If You Don’t Have Anything Nice To Say About Our Government, Or The War(S), SHUT UP And Don’t Say Nothing”**

December 10, 2010 By Robert L. Hanafin, Major, U.S. Air Force-Retired, U.S. Civil Service-Retired, Veterans Issues Editor, Veterans Today News Network [Excerpts]

In the fall 2010 edition of the VVAW – The Veteran, I noted something that Mental Health Therapist Johanna Hans Buwalda, one of VVAW’s Military Counselors , wrote that most any Veteran or Military Family who QUESTIONS, let alone OPPOSES the WAR(S), can relate to.

When the VA, or some other government entity, uses these eight words, “this is not a place to talk politics” the intent is actually meant to suppress dissenting views, or cryptic for “if you don’t have anything nice to say about our government, or the war(s), SHUT UP and don’t say nothing.”

I personally ran into these eight dissent suppressing words as an observer, and military family member, at a PTSD rap session at the Dayton, Ohio VAMC circa 2006 or so.

My first and last PTSD rap session simply because these eight words were almost effective in shutting my mouth.

Thus, I know first hand where Therapist Johanna Buwalda is coming from. In fact, at that time I cautioned Military Families, Vets, and troops who questioned or opposed the wars on moral grounds to leave their views on the wars outside in the VA parking lot, avoid the VA at all costs, or better yet recruit your own professional Mental Health workers that share your views on the wars.

This would be similar to what Vietnam Veterans began doing when the VA was not fulfilling their needs during the early 1970s, WE created Vet Centers that would eventually become politically acceptable and part of the VA.

I still strongly advise Ray Parish and Johanna Buwalda, the Vet Counselors for Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW), that VVAW, Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), Veterans for Peace (VFP), Veterans for Common Sense (VCS), and Military Families Speak Out (MFSO) to combine resources and effort to create an outreach effort to recruit Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Mental Health technicians and related professionals who share our collective desire to end the wars.

Let's see what exactly is political about the VA.

First we have the Politics of PTSD, then we have the Politics of Agent Orange, then we have the Politics of Gulf War Illness, then we have the Politics of Burn Pits, then we have the Politics of Depleted Uranium, now we have the "Politics of You Can't Separate Support for the Troops from Support for the Political Decisions made to go to Wars" – a decision BTW our troops, Veterans, and our families had no part in.

**I believe that when (not if but when) military family members, troops, or Veterans who are intelligent enough to question or oppose the "political" wars, they must make every effort including legal to challenge these eight words "this is not a place to talk politics" where ever we hear them.**

As an aside, these eight words are not only used to suppress dissent of Veterans who need access to the VA, don't talk politics is also intended to silence any dissent of VA employees.

Among Veterans and Military Families who access the VA system, these eight words are used on professional medical staff, medical students, and administrative workers at all levels indoctrinating them to abide by what to think NOT how to think.

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## **DoD Extends Food Supply Contract For \$26 Million With Pack Of War Profiteers Under Criminal Indictment: Thieving Top Officials Are "Former Army Generals, One Of Whom Served In A Senior Position With The Defense Logistics Agency.**

December 12, 2010 By Walter Pincus, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

The Defense Department is being forced to extend multimillion-dollar contracts for services in Iraq, including one with a firm under criminal indictment, because losing bidders have legally challenged the companies selected as replacements.

Agility, a Kuwaiti firm charged in November 2009 with overbilling food contracts worth \$8.5 billion over four years for troops, civilians and contractors in Iraq, Jordan and Kuwait, recently received a \$26 million, six-month contract extension. The extension was granted because another Kuwaiti concern challenged the April award of the food contract to Agility's replacement, Anham, a Dubai-based conglomerate.

The Defense Logistics Agency, which supervises the food contract, decided to extend the Agility contract through April 2011 while the protest against Anham by another bidder is being adjudicated by the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

Agility had been scheduled to transition the work, which amounts to more than \$300 million a year, to Anham. However, cargo shipper Kuwait & Gulf Link Transport filed a protest against the award on the grounds that Anham's proposal failed to meet criteria set out in the contract offering.

While a decision by the GAO is expected shortly, Anham has been delayed in preparing to take over the contract, which involves not only purchasing and supplying food and other items, but also warehousing it in Kuwait before shipping to Iraq and Jordan to meet the needs of about 145,000 people.

Meanwhile, Agility, which has been barred from bidding directly or through affiliates on new U.S. contracts, will continue to provide provisions under the contract extension.

After the indictment, Agility closed its U.S. offices, even though top officials of the subsidiary handling the contract are not only U.S. citizens but also former Army generals, one of whom served in a senior position with the Defense Logistics Agency.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



**“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”**

**“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**

## **U.S. Government PayPal**



U.S. Army Medic Vietnam, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington, D.C. 1986  
Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance  
Sent: December 12, 2010 8  
Subject: U.S. Government PayPal

**“It is fascinating to see the tentacles of the American elite. In some ways, seeing the reaction is as important as the material we have released.”**

**Julian Assange  
WikiLeaks  
December 7, 2010**

**Photograph by Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic Vietnam  
Vietnam Veterans Memorial  
Washington, D.C. 1986**

**58,000 American soldiers  
died in Vietnam from the  
lies of the American elite.  
Two million Vietnamese people  
were removed from the face of  
the earth by the USA.**

**Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: ([hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)**

**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 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**

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



## Frightened UK Govt Sends Anti-Terror Police Against 12-Year-Old Dissident



December 12, 2010 Exclusive by Stephen Martin, The Daily Mirror

A schoolboy trying to save his youth club was hauled from class after his plan to protest outside David Cameron's constituency office was spotted - by anti-terror police.



In an astonishing over-reaction, 12-year-old Nicky Wishart was warned he faced ARREST.

**“I couldn’t believe it,” he said. “The policeman asked me lots of questions about why we were having a protest and who would be there.**

“I said it was simply because we didn’t want our youth centre to close - it’s a fantastic place to go and there isn’t much else for us to do round here.”

The full-scale security operation swung into effect days after Nicky made an innocent request on Facebook to “save our youth centre”.

The surprised boy was told police were now monitoring his Facebook posts - which are mainly gossip and banter from school about lessons and friends’ haircuts.

He was told he would be responsible for any “trouble” at the well-mannered picket on Friday night.

Public-spirited Nicky, one of the PM’s constituents in the Oxfordshire seat of Witney, said: “All this is because Mr Cameron is our local MP and it’s a bit embarrassing for him.”

He said the police arrived during an English lesson on Tuesday afternoon.

**“I was taken out of class - and the policeman said, ‘Are you aware that the anti-terrorist squad are looking at your Facebook account?’ He said that if anything got out of hand, they would arrest people.**

“Then he said that I could get arrested for organising it. I was frightened and wished my mum was with me.”

Nicky, who describes himself as a “maths geek, not a rebel or rioter”, said: “Then the policeman asked, ‘Does your mum know about this?’ I said, ‘Yes, of course, she supports it.’

**“But the policeman carried on, ‘Are you sure your mum wants you out protesting at night?’ He was trying to scare me off - but there was no way I wasn’t going to go.”**

In opposition, Mr Cameron often spoke of the need to keep youth clubs open to give youngsters a constructive way to spend their time.

He said in 2007: “Before people break the law, we need strong families, we need youth clubs, we need things to divert people from crime.”

But, as part of the Con-Dem cuts, Tory-run Oxfordshire County Council is axing £4million of funding for 20 clubs - including the one in Nicky’s home village, Eynsham. The council claims volunteers might take over as part of Mr Cameron’s “Big Society”.

But Nicky says that if funding for the five staff at the centre is removed, it will be forced to close in March. The wellused centre, catering for children aged 10 to 18 has a music room, pool table, table-tennis and coffee bar.

Nicky set up a Facebook group called Save All UK Youth Centres, which now has 649 members. At Friday's hour-long demo, he, his sister Beth, 14, and a dozen friends waved home-made placards outside the PM's office in Witney accompanied by two youth workers.

The picket was watched by four police officers on the other side of the street. Two more officers were nearby.

Liz Brighthouse, leader of the council's Labour group, said: "For anti-terror police to get involved is complete madness. This is a community-spirited 12-year-old we are talking about."

Nicky's mother Virginia, 41, said: "The school phoned on Monday to say the anti-terror police had been looking at his Facebook. I said it was OK for police to speak to him, but assumed I'd be there and I was appalled they interviewed him without me. Nicky has done nothing wrong. He's been brought up to be respectful and I support what he's doing."

Thames Valley police said an officer interviewed Nicky, with his head of year sitting in.

A spokesman said: "This was not to dissuade his protest but to obtain information to ensure his and others' safety." **[Not merely scum, but stupid lying scum at that. T]**

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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# **Georgia Prison Inmate Strike: “They’re Trying To Provoke People To Violence In Here, But We’re Not Letting That Happen”**

**“They want to break up the unity we have here. We have the Crips and the Bloods, we have the Muslims, we have the head Mexicans, and we have the Aryans all with a peaceful understanding, all on common ground.”**

**It’s time for us all to grow up and realize that warehousing, malnourishing, mistreating and abusing prisoners does not make us safer. Denying prisoners meaningful training and educational opportunities, and forcing them to work for no wages is not the way to do.**

12/15/2010 Story by Bruce A. Dixon, audio interview by Glen Ford; Black Agenda Report [Excerpts]

The historic strike of Georgia prisoners, demanding wages for their labor, educational opportunities, adequate health care and nutrition, and better conditions is entering a new phase.

Strikers remain firm in their demands for full human rights, though after several days many have emerged from their cells, if only to take hot showers and hot food. Many of these, however, are still refusing their involuntary and unpaid work assignments.

A group that includes relatives, friends and a broad range of supporters of the prisoners on the outside has emerged. They are seeking to sit down with Georgia correctional officials this week to discuss how some of the just demands of inmates can begin to be implemented.

Initially, Georgia-based representatives of this coalition supporting the prisoner demands included the Georgia NAACP, the Nation of Islam, the National Association for Radical Prison Reform, the Green Party of Georgia, and the Ordinary Peoples Society among others. Civil rights attorneys, ministers, community organizations and other prisoner advocates are also joining the group which calls itself the Concerned Coalition to Protect Prisoner Rights.

Prisoners have stood up for themselves, and the communities they came from are lining up to support them.

“They transferred some of the high Muslims here to max already,” one prisoner told Black Agenda Report this morning.

“They want to break up the unity we have here. We have the Crips and the Bloods, we have the Muslims, we have the head Mexicans, and we have the Aryans all with a peaceful understanding, all on common ground. We all want to be paid for our work, and we all want education in here. There’s people in here who can’t even read...

“They’re trying to provoke people to violence in here, but we’re not letting that happen. We just want our human rights.”

The transfers are intended to deprive groups of leadership and demoralize them. In some cases they may be having the opposite effect, stiffening prisoner morale and making room for still more leaders to emerge.

“The prisoners insist that punitive transfers are an act of bad faith, the opposite of what we should be doing,” said Minister Charles Muhammad, of the Nation of Islam in Atlanta. “The coalition supports them and demands no punitive transfers, either within or between institutions, and absolutely no transfers to institutions outside Georgia.”

It’s simple.

With one in twelve Georgia adults in jail or prison, parole or probation or other court and correctional supervision, prisoners are us. They are our families. They are our fathers and our mothers, our sons and daughters, our nieces and nephews and aunts and uncles and cousins. Most prisoners will be back out in society sooner, not later.

**It’s time for us all to grow up and realize that warehousing, malnourishing, mistreating and abusing prisoners does not make us safer. Denying prisoners meaningful training and educational opportunities, and forcing them to work for no wages is not the way to do.**

**It’s time to fundamentally reconsider prison as we know it, and America’s public policy of mass incarceration.**

**MORE:**

## **Background: Georgia Prisoners On Strike “A Demonstration That Seems To Transcend Racial And Gang Factions That Do Not Often Cooperate” “Ms. Brown Said Thousands Of Inmates Were Participating In The Strike”**

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

**“We’re hearing in the news they’re putting it down as we’re starting a riot, so they locked all the prison down,” said a 20-year-old inmate at Hays State Prison in Trion, who also refused to give his name. But, he said, “We locked ourselves down.”**

December 12, 2010 By SARAH WHEATON, The New York Times

**In a protest apparently assembled largely through a network of banned cellphones, inmates across at least six prisons in Georgia have been on strike since Thursday, calling for better conditions and compensation, several inmates and an outside advocate said.**

Inmates have refused to leave their cells or perform their jobs, in a demonstration that seems to transcend racial and gang factions that do not often cooperate.

**“Their general rage found a home among them — common ground — and they set aside their differences to make an incredible statement,” said Elaine Brown, a former Black Panther leader who has taken up the inmates’ cause. She said that different factions’ leaders recruited members to participate, but the movement lacks a definitive torchbearer.**

**Ms. Brown said thousands of inmates were participating in the strike.**

The Georgia Department of Corrections could not be reached for comment Saturday night.

“We’re not coming out until something is done. We’re not going to work until something is done,” said one inmate at Rogers State Prison in Reidsville. He refused to give his name because he was speaking on a banned cellphone.

Several inmates, who used cellphones to call The Times from their cells, said they found out about the protest from text messages and did not know whether specific individuals were behind it.

“This is a pretty much organic effort on their part,” said Ms. Brown, a longtime prisoner advocate, who distilled the inmates’ complaints into a list of demands. “They did it, and then they reached out to me.” Ms. Brown, the founder of the National Alliance for Radical Prison Reform in Locust Grove, Ga., said she has spoken to more than 200 prisoners over the past two days.

The Corrections Department placed several of the facilities where inmates planned to strike under indefinite lockdown on Thursday, according to local reports.

“We’re hearing in the news they’re putting it down as we’re starting a riot, so they locked all the prison down,” said a 20-year-old inmate at Hays State Prison in Trion, who also refused to give his name. But, he said, “We locked ourselves down.”

Even if the Corrections Department did want to sit down at the table with the inmates, the spontaneous nature of the strike has left the prisoners without a representative to serve as negotiator, Ms. Brown said.

Ms. Brown, who lives in Oakland, Calif., said she planned to gather legal and advocacy groups on Monday to help coordinate a strategy for the inmates.

**Chief among the prisoners' demands is that they be compensated for jailhouse labor. They are also demanding better educational opportunities, nutrition, and access to their families.**

**"We committed the crime, we're here for a reason," said the Hays inmate. "But at the same time we're men. We can't be treated like animals."**

## **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**

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**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.**

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

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

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