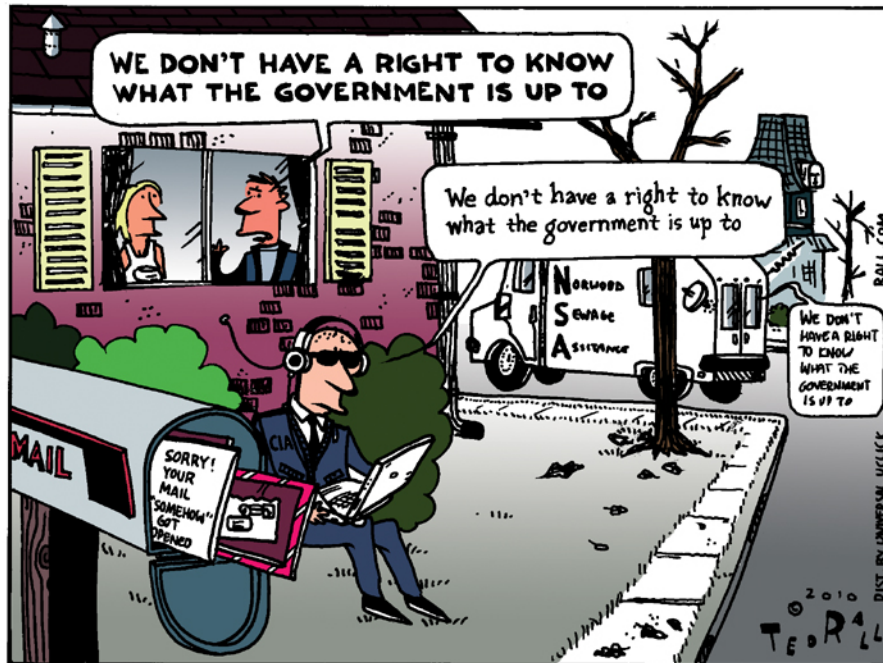


## Military Resistance 8L8



### Kunduz:

**“Once A Crossroads In The  
Country’s Northeast, Is  
Increasingly Besieged”**

**“The Taliban Are Expanding Their  
Reach”**

**“Armed Groups That Purportedly  
Support The Government Are Terrorizing  
Local People”**

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

**“The government claims they established arbekais to protect the villages, but if you go to the villagers and ask the villagers some will even say they prefer the Taliban, because the arbekais are harassing them, taxing them,” he said.**

December 15, 2010 By ALISSA J. RUBIN, The New York Times [Excerpts]

**KUNDUZ, Afghanistan — This city, once a crossroads in the country’s northeast, is increasingly besieged. The airport closed months ago to commercial flights. The roads heading south to Kabul and east to Tajikistan as well as north and west are no longer safe for Afghans, let alone Westerners.**

Although the numbers of American and German troops in the north have more than doubled since last year, insecurity has spread, the Taliban are expanding their reach, and armed groups that purportedly support the government are terrorizing local people and hampering aid organizations, according to international aid workers, Afghan government officials, local residents and diplomats.

The Pentagon’s year-end review will emphasize hard-won progress in the south, the heartland of the insurgency, where the military has concentrated most troops. But those advances have come at the expense of security in the north and east, with some questioning the wisdom of the focus on the south and whether the coalition can control the entire country.

“The situation in the north has become much more difficult, a much stronger insurgency than we had before,” said a senior Western diplomat, who asked not to be named because of the sensitivity of the subject. “We have to get these better under control.”

The NATO command has largely defined Afghanistan’s instability in terms of the Taliban insurgency, which is the most recent fight here, but hardly the only one that looms in people’s memories. For many, the period 20 years ago when mujahedeen warlords divided the country into fiefs shapes their current fears. It was the behavior of the warlords, among other factors, that drove people into the arms of the Taliban in the 1990s.

“The north has its own logic,” said Pablo Percelsi, the director of operations in northern Afghanistan for the International Committee of the Red Cross, which has had a staff and presence here for 30 years. “The Taliban are only a small part of the equation.”

“You have the whole fabric of the militias,” he added. “There are groups that collect money, and they collect it from civilians and by doing kidnapping and bold actions against internationals.”

NATO’s current strategy aims to transform many of these militias into local police forces that would augment the often thin national police.

However, many local Afghan officials worry that the plan legitimizes the groups, some of which are made up of little more than thugs, and amounts to putting government uniforms on gunmen whose real loyalty is to their local strongman.

Sometimes known as “arbekais,” these armed groups include semiofficial militias organized and paid by the Afghan intelligence service; others are simply armed gangs that prowl through villages demanding food, shelter or money.

Some are headed by former mujahedeen, strongmen who fought the Soviets; some are cobbled together by village elders. Still others, particularly in Takhar Province, are little more than protection for warlords who traffic narcotics along a drug transport corridor that runs to the Tajik border, according to military intelligence officials.

“There’s a major narco-drug corridor, and the militias are protecting that,” said a NATO intelligence official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not permitted to speak to reporters.

**The abuses of the armed groups, along with the growing disenfranchisement of Pashtuns who won few seats in Parliament in most northern provinces, have begun to make the Taliban more attractive for those who are already disillusioned with the government.**

“It is the carelessness of the government that the Taliban have come back,” said Mahboobullah Mahboob, the chairman of the Kunduz Provincial Council, who is a Tajik. “They returned here and they started to grow, and the government didn’t pay attention. We implored the central government repeatedly because the local government couldn’t counter them.”

**Hajji Aman Uthmanzai, a Pashtun colleague on the provincial council, agreed, but added that the Taliban also offered speedy justice, and the government did not.**

**“The government claims they established arbekais to protect the villages, but if you go to the villagers and ask the villagers some will even say they prefer the Taliban, because the arbekais are harassing them, taxing them,” he said.**

**Meanwhile, the Taliban have begun to spread throughout the north to areas that were previously untroubled, like the provincial capital of Sar-i-Pul and the neighboring province of Faryab.**

**More than 50 Taliban fighters — some officials put the number at 150 — staged a complex attack in Sar-i-Pul on Oct. 24 to try to win the release of Taliban prisoners.**

The proliferation of armed groups has left organizations, including the Red Cross, struggling to keep projects afloat. Since they work without armed security, they have to persuade local strongmen to allow their staffs to operate unimpeded. Doctors Without Borders is weighing whether to open a clinic, but found the number of armed groups there daunting, said Michiel Hofman, the country representative.

It used to be that such negotiations were time consuming, but possible. Now humanitarian officials say there are so many armed groups that it is difficult to get guarantees from all of them. “Every five kilometers there’s a different commander with no central command structure,” Mr. Hofman said.

The insurgency here includes extremists from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, although much of the rank and file is Pashtun, according to American intelligence and military officials. In the past two months, NATO officials announced the killing and capture of several Uzbek militants.

An estimated 25 Tajik extremists took up residence in an inaccessible border area of northern Kunduz Province, according to a NATO intelligence officer as well as the Kunduz police chief, Abdul Rahman Sayid Khali.

**In the meantime the armed groups continue to maraud in the northern provinces. “We are trying to bring them into the police,” Mr. Rahman said. “We’ll give them police uniforms and bring them under police discipline.”**

**Might they end up extorting people while in uniform? General Rahman, a former Northern Alliance mujahedeen commander himself, shrugged and picked his teeth with the business card of the reporter interviewing him.**

**“Their salaries will be lower than that of normal police,” he admitted, but he said it was hard to tell if that would make a difference. “We don’t know how much they are making now.”**

At dawn on the edges of Kunduz city, taxi drivers herd passengers into scuffed Toyota Corollas and Kia minibuses for the dangerous drive north to Imam Sahib District or west to Chardara, eager to make the most of the safer daylight hours. Once dusk falls, they are at risk from both the Taliban and armed militias.

“After 6 p.m. the road is absolutely dangerous,” said Ismatullah, 35, a taxi driver from Imam Sahib District.

**“Many times my car has been looted by unknown armed people. Who knows — are they arbekais, Taliban or are they our own police?”**

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

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

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

# AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

## Vancouver Marine Dies Two Weeks After Blast In Afghanistan Combat



Courtesy of the Peto family

December 08, 2010 By Michael Russell, The Oregonian

A U.S. Marine from Vancouver died Tuesday, two weeks after he was wounded in combat operations in Afghanistan, the U.S. Department of Defense announced Wednesday.

Sgt. Jason D. Peto, 31, was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

**He was the 144th service member with Oregon or Southwest Washington ties to die in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.**

He was serving in Helmand province when he was struck by an improvised explosive device Nov. 24 as he was going door to door, said Paula Dillmon of Vancouver, his mother-in-law. The family was informed of his injuries soon afterward.

"We were told they expected him to survive, but he took a turn for the worse," she said. His injuries were complicated by an infection.

Dillmon said Peto's wife, Tiffany Peto, and his parents, Ernie and Janie Peto, traveled to Maryland and were waiting to accept his remains for return home. Peto and his wife had no children.

Peto had moved to Vancouver from Southern California when he was in junior high school. His family lived near Hockinson and had a farm with a cattle operation, and he enjoyed riding horses.

He attended Mountain View High School and Clark College before he joined the Marines in September 2004.

“As long as I’ve known him, he was going to go into the Marines,” Dillmon said. She noted that he was following family tradition: His father, uncle and two brothers all served in the Marines.

Peto and his wife were high school sweethearts. They were married in a secret ceremony at the Clark County Courthouse in 2005, as he was preparing for his first deployment to Iraq, Dillmon said.

The couple had a formal ceremony at Mill Plain United Methodist Church after he returned in 2006.

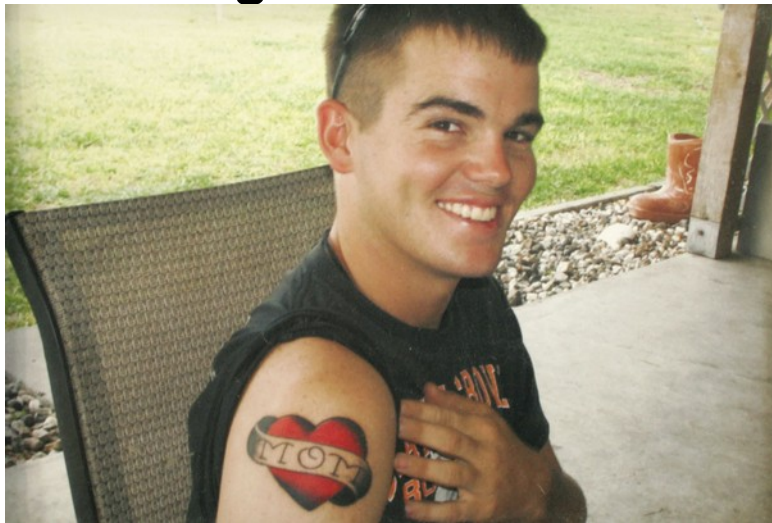
Peto was awarded a second Purple Heart for the wounds that led to his death. He received his first for injuries suffered four years ago while he was serving in Iraq.

The deployment to Afghanistan was his third combat tour.

Service arrangements are pending with Brown’s Funeral Home in Vancouver.

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## Friends, Family Remember Fallen Orange Grove Marine



December 8, 2010 By Jaime Powell, Corpus Christi Caller Times

ORANGE GROVE — U.S. Marine Pfc. Colton Rusk, 20, got some hard-earned advice from his friend Justin Rokohl before Rusk left for Afghanistan.

“Listen to the guys who have been there the longest, work hard and come home,” recalled Rokohl, 23, a former Marine lance corporal who lost his legs in southern Afghanistan in 2008.

“But Colton was the kind of guy who didn’t need much advice. He was real talented in everything he did.”

Rusk, a member of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Regiment, was killed in a firefight Sunday in Helmand Province, Sangin, Afghanistan. \

Great Britain’s military abandoned the region in mid-September because of troop losses.

Days later on his 20th birthday, Rusk, a dog handler and machine-gunner, deployed to Afghanistan with the Marines, his mother Kathy Rusk said.

“Colton wanted to go,” Rokohl said. “He wanted to be a Marine since he was 10 years old. If he had a chance to go again he would.”

When he was a little boy, Rusk was a big fan of Barney the purple dinosaur, toy guns and swords, his mother said. He outgrew Barney.

“Guns and swords, that’s what little boys do,” she said. “I ignored it, but he never outgrew it.”

Rusk turned 18 his senior year of high school and he already had talked to the Marine recruiters, his mother said. She drove him to Corpus Christi.

“I told Colton after we had gone to enlist, that one of the hard things is you protect your kids all your life and with this you just have to hand them over. Everything you protect them from, you just have to sign off on.”

Rusk’s aunt Yvonne Rusk added, “He still wanted to do it.”

Rusk won the coveted assignment of dog handler and he and his bomb dog Eli were inseparable, his mother said.

Rusk’s mother and father, Darrell, understood their son was in the worst of the fighting because the Marines had issued a communiqué saying so. The Marines lost nine soldiers in four days and have continued to lose men since, Rusk’s mother said.

Rusk told his mama not to watch TV or check the Internet. Instead she connected with other Marine parents in the past few weeks via social media and a Marine website.

“We’d pray and try to tell God to tell us, ‘you are doing the right thing,’” Kathy Rusk said. “Every time I turned around I’d see something Marine related and I’d say, ‘Is that a sign it’s going to be OK?’”

Rusk called his parents for the final time at 4:30 a.m. Saturday to say he was OK and that he wasn’t seeing much action.

Monday morning two Marines appeared at the gate at the family’s rural Jim Wells County property.

Since then, hundreds of friends and family from the close-knit community of 1,243 have come with food, an ocean of tears and condolences.

The photos cover tables — of Rusk as a chubby toddler hugging a Barney toy, as a star football and baseball player, at the beach and river with his buddies and with his best girlfriends Lauren Kirchoff and Robbye Rokohl, Justin's sister.

There is one of Colton in an orange tuxedo for Orange Grove's 2009 prom. His date, Robbye Rokohl, a good sport, wore black, so they would be in the school colors and Rusk could pull off a stunt, appearing as the characters from the movie "Dumb and Dumber," with a friend. The walls of the family home are covered with family photos — Mom, Dad and three boys Colton, Cody and Brady.

The Christmas tree is decorated in red, white and blue. A Marine teddy bear in a Santa hat sits near the tree and the family's U.S. flag and Marine flag was flying in the wind at half-mast.

When asked what the family would say to other Americans, Darrell Rusk, with his tear-reddened face, said to remember the patriotic, All-American boys like his son Colton doing the best they can for America.

Cody Rusk's grandmother Katy O'Neal, among the proudest of her grandson's short career, tearfully said, "Lock your sons in a closet."

Funeral arrangements are pending.

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## Fallen Marine Remembered For Sacrifice

12/10/10 TigerDroppings.com

BENTONVILLE — Twenty-one rifle shots pierced the air just before a Marine Corps bugler played taps at Fayetteville National Cemetery on Thursday.

The seven riflemen and bugler joined family and friends at the cemetery to pay their respects to Cpl. Chad S. Wade of Bentonville.

Wade, 22, died Dec. 1 in Afghanistan's Helmand Province after being struck by an improvised explosive device while on foot patrol, said Capt. Carl Martinez, public affairs officer the 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment in Springfield, Mo.

Each of the Marines serving in the honor guard gave Wade a final salute before the American flag draping his silver coffin was folded and given to his wife, Katie. Wade's mother, Tami Boyett, and his father, Terence L. Wade, also were given triangular folded flags to honor their son's service and sacrifice.

Several hundred people gathered earlier in the day at First Baptist Church of Rogers to pay respects to Wade and his family. Many of them wore Tennessee orange ribbons on their lapels. Wade was a big fan of the University of Tennessee Volunteers. The Rev. Daryl Lee shared many of the family's favorite memories during the hourlong service.



Wade, Lee said, loved music from a young age. He once grabbed a large cutout of a fork during a school play, immediately turned the stage prop onto its side and pretended to play guitar for the audience.

Wade could often be found singing his favorite country music songs as a child. He would wear a white cowboy hat when he belted out Alan Jackson tunes and a black hat when he crooned Garth Brooks' hits.

Laughter was one of the four things Wade taught everyone with whom he came in contact, Lee said.

"He enjoyed humor and making people laugh," Lee said. "If he were here, Chad would want you to be smiling. He would be doing something to try to get you to laugh."

Wade also taught people the importance of service, Lee said.

"Chad gave his life to service, to make the lives of others better and ultimately he gave his own life," Lee said.

Wade also showed those around him courage and faithfulness, Lee said.

"He went to the most dangerous place in the world. Bullets whizzing by him every day and he was still able to tell his family, 'I'm not afraid,'" Lee said.

Photos at the service showed Wade smiling, hunting and fishing, his wedding day and his youth.

Lee ended the service with a prayer of thanks. "Thank you for the joy. Thank you for the memories. Thank you for sending him to be a part of our lives," Lee said.

Wade was a member of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force based in Camp Pendleton, Calif.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps on Oct. 16, 2007, after graduating from Rogers High School in 2006.

This was his second combat deployment, according to the Marine Corps. His first deployment was to Iraq.

Wade was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he received Dec. 1. Purple Hearts were given to his wife, mother and father at Fayetteville National Cemetery.

His other service awards include a Combat Action Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal and the Iraq Campaign Medal.

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## **THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH; ALL HOME, NOW**



U.S. Marines help their 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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## **JCS Chair Shows Confidence In Outcome Of War On Afghanistan**



Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, right, expresses his view of the future of the U.S. war on Afghanistan during a press conference, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Friday, Dec. 17, 2010. (AP Photo/Altaf Qadri)

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## Welcome To Nangahar: Have A Nice Day



Taliban fighters at one of their checkpoints in Nangahar province December 13, 2010.  
REUTERS/Stringer

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## MILITARY NEWS

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





The casket of Marine Sgt. Nicholas Aleman at St Anthony's RC Church, Dec. 15, 2010, in New York. Aleman was killed Dec. 5 in Paktia province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo)

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## The Inhumane Conditions Of Bradley Manning's Detention



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

Dec 15, 2010 By Glenn Greenwald, Salon [Excerpts]

**Bradley Manning, the 22-year-old U.S. Army Private accused of leaking classified documents to WikiLeaks, has never been convicted of that crime, nor of any other crime.**

**Despite that, he has been detained at the U.S. Marine brig in Quantico, Virginia for five months -- and for two months before that in a military jail in Kuwait -- under conditions that constitute cruel and inhumane treatment and, by the standards of many nations, even torture.**

Interviews with several people directly familiar with the conditions of Manning's detention, ultimately including a Quantico brig official (Lt. Brian Villiard) who confirmed much of what they conveyed, establishes that the accused leaker is subjected to detention conditions likely to create long-term psychological injuries.

Since his arrest in May, Manning has been a model detainee, without any episodes of violence or disciplinary problems. He nonetheless was declared from the start to be a "Maximum Custody Detainee," the highest and most repressive level of military detention, which then became the basis for the series of inhumane measures imposed on him.

From the beginning of his detention, Manning has been held in intensive solitary confinement. For 23 out of 24 hours every day -- for seven straight months and counting -- he sits completely alone in his cell.

Even inside his cell, his activities are heavily restricted; he's barred even from exercising and is under constant surveillance to enforce those restrictions.

**For reasons that appear completely punitive, he's being denied many of the most basic attributes of civilized imprisonment, including even a pillow or sheets for his bed (he is not and never has been on suicide watch).**

Lt. Villiard protested that the conditions are not "like jail movies where someone gets thrown into the hole," but confirmed that he is in solitary confinement, entirely alone in his cell except for the one hour per day he is taken out.

In sum, Manning has been subjected for many months without pause to inhumane, personality-erasing, soul-destroying, insanity-inducing conditions of isolation similar to those perfected at America's Supermax prison in Florence, Colorado: all without so much as having been convicted of anything. And as is true of many prisoners subjected to warped treatment of this sort, the brig's medical personnel now administer regular doses of anti-depressants to Manning to prevent his brain from snapping from the effects of this isolation.

Just by itself, the type of prolonged solitary confinement to which Manning has been subjected for many months is widely viewed around the world as highly injurious, inhumane, punitive, and arguably even a form of torture. In his widely praised March, 2009 New Yorker article -- entitled "Is Long-Term Solitary Confinement Torture?" -- the surgeon and journalist Atul Gawande assembled expert opinion and personal anecdotes to demonstrate that, as he put it, "all human beings experience isolation as torture." By itself, prolonged solitary confinement routinely destroys a person's mind and drives them into insanity.

A March, 2010 article in The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law explains that "solitary confinement is recognized as difficult to withstand; indeed,

psychological stressors such as isolation can be as clinically distressing as physical torture.”

When one exacerbates the harms of prolonged isolation with the other deprivations to which Manning is being subjected, long-term psychiatric and even physical impairment is likely. Gawande documents that “EEG studies going back to the nineteen-sixties have shown diffuse slowing of brain waves in prisoners after a week or more of solitary confinement.”

Medical tests conducted in 1992 on Yugoslavian prisoners subjected to an average of six months of isolation -- roughly the amount to which Manning has now been subjected -- “revealed brain abnormalities months afterward; the most severe were found in prisoners who had endured either head trauma sufficient to render them unconscious or, yes, solitary confinement.

Without sustained social interaction, the human brain may become as impaired as one that has incurred a traumatic injury.” Gawande's article is filled with horrifying stories of individuals subjected to isolation similar to or even less enduring than Manning's who have succumbed to extreme long-term psychological breakdown.

Manning is barred from communicating with any reporters, even indirectly, so nothing he has said can be quoted here. But David House, a 23-year-old MIT researcher who befriended Manning after his detention (and then had his laptops, camera and cellphone seized by Homeland Security when entering the U.S.) is one of the few people to have visited Manning several times at Quantico.

He describes palpable changes in Manning's physical appearance and behavior just over the course of the several months that he's been visiting him.

Like most individuals held in severe isolation, Manning sleeps much of the day, is particularly frustrated by the petty, vindictive denial of a pillow or sheets, and suffers from less and less outdoor time as part of his one-hour daily removal from his cage.

The inhumane treatment of Manning may have international implications as well. There are multiple proceedings now pending in the European Union Human Rights Court, brought by “War on Terror” detainees contesting their extradition to the U.S. on the ground that the conditions under which they likely will be held -- particularly prolonged solitary confinement -- violate the European Convention on Human Rights, which (along with the Convention Against Torture) bars EU states from extraditing anyone to any nation where there is a real risk of inhumane and degrading treatment.

The European Court of Human Rights has in the past found detention conditions violative of those rights (in Bulgaria) where “the [detainee] spent 23 hours a day alone in his cell; had limited interaction with other prisoners; and was only allowed two visits per month.” From the Journal article referenced above:

**The plight of Manning has largely been overshadowed by the intense media fixation on WikiLeaks, so it's worth underscoring what it is that he's accused of doing and what he said in his own reputed words about these acts.**

If one believes the authenticity of the highly edited chat logs of Manning's online conversations with Adrian Lamo that have been released by Wired (that magazine inexcusably continues to conceal large portions of those logs), Manning clearly believed that he was a whistle-blower acting with the noblest of motives, and probably was exactly that.

If, for instance, he really is the leaker of the Apache helicopter attack video -- a video which sparked very rare and much-needed realization about the visceral truth of what American wars actually entail -- as well as the war and diplomatic cables revealing substantial government deceit, brutality, illegality and corruption, then he's quite similar to Daniel Ellsberg.

Indeed, Ellsberg himself said the very same thing about Manning in June on Democracy Now in explaining why he considers the Army Private to be a "hero":

"The fact is that what Lamo reports Manning is saying has a very familiar and persuasive ring to me. He reports Manning as having said that what he had read and what he was passing on were horrible -- evidence of horrible machinations by the US backdoor dealings throughout the Middle East and, in many cases, as he put it, almost crimes. And let me guess that -- he's not a lawyer, but I'll guess that what looked to him like crimes are crimes, that he was putting out. We know that he put out, or at least it's very plausible that he put out, the videos that he claimed to Lamo. And that's enough to go on to get them interested in pursuing both him and the other."

### **MORE:**

## **“What Is Being Done For Bradley Manning?”**

From: Frank Scott  
Sent: Dec 17, 2010  
To: Military Resistance

What is being done for bradley manning?

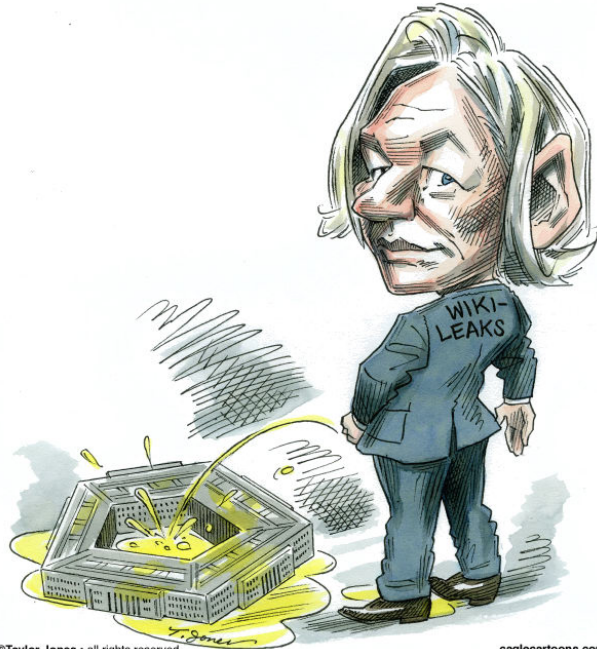
Everything i hear about him and his treatment is dreadful...he doesn't have the big names and big dollars that assange seems to command - justifiably - and manning should...

I fear that this kid will be left to hang out and die...we can't let that happen...he's a fucking hero and deserves and demands the absolute and total support of all who stand against the empire and for justice...what do you know, good buddy??

### **Reply: T:**

Yes, and yes again.

This is the Bradley Manning defense website, organizing on his behalf and raising funds for his defense: updated frequently: <http://www.bradleymanning.org/>



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caglecartoons.com

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

## **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

**Many Thousands Poisoned By  
Command Negligence At Camp  
Lejeune:  
“As We Unravel Lie After Lie, The  
USMC Simply Changes Their  
Story”**



**“Who In Their Right Mind Would Go Overseas And Fight For This Country Knowing That Their Family Was Being Poisoned At Home?”  
“That's The Betrayal Part”**



Retired Marine Joe Moser stands for a portrait in his home in Riverview, Fla., on October 15, 2009. Moser was stationed at Camp LeJeune in North Carolina from 1957-1960. He thinks contaminated well water at the base caused him to develop breast cancer, rare among men. New York Times photo

December 11, 2010 By Gary White, The Lakeland (Fla.) Ledger [Excerpts]

LAKELAND, Fla. | They have been called “Poisoned Patriots,” and no one is sure exactly how many of them are out there.

Their numbers include former Marines, their wives, children and civilian employees at Camp Lejeune, the sprawling United States Marine Corps base in Jacksonville, N.C.

They drank, showered and bathed in water contaminated by chemical compounds with unpronounceable names, chemicals that have been linked to cancers.

The Marine Corps has acknowledged that water supplies at Camp Lejeune were tainted with dangerous compounds between 1957 and 1987. Following orders from Congress,

the Marine Corps has taken steps to inform the hundreds of thousands potentially affected.

But many ex-Marines and former Camp Lejeune residents are far from satisfied. Activists, including former Winter Haven resident Mike Partain, have sifted through reams of documents, challenging minute details of the Marine Corps' version of events at Camp Lejeune.

**They say the contamination was far more widespread than the Marine Corps has admitted.**

**They accuse the leadership at Camp Lejeune of ignoring repeated warnings about hazardous drinking water for years before it took action.**

**They charge the Marine Corps with deliberately withholding crucial information and misleading investigators.**

“Trying to get the truth out of the USMC is akin to nailing Jell-o to the wall,” Partain said. “As we unravel lie after lie, the USMC simply changes their story.”

**Camp Lejeune represents the worst contamination of a public water system in United States history, according to Congressional testimony by scientists. The maximum level of toxins was more than five times the highest measured at Woburn, Mass., in the case detailed in the book and movie “A Civil Action.”**

In that case, a leukemia cluster was traced to contamination of water supplies resulting from improper disposal of industrial solvents.

One contaminant at Camp Lejeune was measured at 1,400 parts per billion in water from a faucet at the base hospital where Partain was born. That is 280 times the current allowable limit, though the government had not established limits for the chemical compound at the time.

An estimated 700,000 to 1 million people lived or worked at Camp Lejeune during the period of water contamination.

Advocates push for wider investigations, support legal actions against the Marine Corps and lobby for Congressional action to assure medical care for those with health claims.

More than 161,000 people have joined an official online registry for former Camp Lejeune residents and employees created in 2008. Floridians compose more than 14,000 of that total, second only to North Carolina.

Those Floridians include Kim Ann Callan of Lakeland. Callan, the daughter of an ex-Marine, was conceived at Camp Lejeune and lived there for the first nine months of her life.

Callan, 52, was treated for malignant melanoma a few years ago and was diagnosed in July with leukemia.

"It's not just me," Callan said. "Everyone in my immediate family that was associated with even a short period of time on the base has significant medical issues."

Carla Morris of Auburndale is convinced that impure water at Camp Lejeune is to blame for her mother's death from a rare gastric cancer in 2006 at age 69. Cora Hoffman worked as a labor and delivery nurse at Camp Lejeune's Naval Hospital from 1966 through 1976 and again in the 1990s.

Morris, 45, said she has investigated her mother's ancestry and found no other examples of cancer.

"I sat there ... and watched my mother beg the doctor to cut her stomach out," Morris said. "I'm mad as hell. I don't know any other way to put it. That was my mama. Like I told my husband, she was only 69. That's not old. My mom's mom lived to be 92 years old."

Partain, 42, was diagnosed with male breast cancer, an extremely rare condition, in 2007. He underwent a modified mastectomy, with the removal of one lymph node, and endured chemotherapy.

**Partain said he has found 66 other men connected to Camp Lejeune who have been diagnosed with breast cancer.**

Partain, the son and grandson of Marine Corps officers, was born in the base hospital at Camp Lejeune, where his father, Warren Partain of Winter Haven, was stationed, and the family resided in base housing during the first 13 months of Mike's life. Partain said Camp Lejeune had been little more to him than a name on a birth certificate until he first learned about the water contamination through a CNN report in 2007.

It is almost impossible to determine clear causation for cancer and other diseases, said Dr. John Kiluk, a breast cancer specialist at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa. But Kiluk said some of the male breast cancer cases in men with ties to Camp Lejeune are unusual.

Kiluk said the lifetime risk for a man to develop breast cancer is one in 1,000. Kiluk said he has treated about 20 men for breast cancer, and some — he wouldn't give an exact number — have connections to Camp Lejeune.

The average age of diagnosis is 70. Partain was just 39 when he was diagnosed.

Kiluk said most men who develop breast cancer have a family history of female breast cancer. Partain said he knows of no breast cancer in his family.

"I think the thing that's surprising in meeting a few of these gentlemen is some of them fall outside of that normal description," Kiluk said. "Some are very young. When you're very young with a very rare disease combined with no family history, it just makes you wonder what's going on."

Partain has testified twice about Camp Lejeune before Congressional committees. He has been interviewed for a film documentary about Camp Lejeune scheduled for release next year.

"I would like very much to have never been born at Camp Lejeune and never set foot in that place," Partain said.

**"Who in their right mind would go overseas and fight for this country knowing that their family was being poisoned at home? These people left their families on this base and other bases across the country thinking they're safe, and in reality they were in just as much danger as the guys overseas being shot at. That's the betrayal part."**

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The saga of toxic water at Camp Lejeune is a complicated one covering decades and involving questions about military orders, federal pollution regulations and emerging knowledge about the dangers of certain chemical compounds.

Investigations have focused on four contaminants: trichloroethylene (TCE), tetrachloroethylene (PCE), benzene and vinyl chloride (VC). The Environmental Protection Agency lists all four as known or suspected carcinogens, meaning they can cause cancer in humans.

TCE and PCE are both solvents. TCE is commonly used as an engine degreaser and PCE is used in dry cleaning. Investigations have traced some of the contamination at Camp Lejeune to two private dry cleaners adjacent to the base.

Benzene, an ingredient in motor fuels, has been linked to leukemia and other diseases. Vinyl chloride, which arises from the breakdown of TCE and PCE, can affect the heart, liver and immune system.

**Partain and other activists have uncovered a history of fuel leaking from underground tanks at Hadnot Point Fuel Farm, constructed in the early 1940s. Recently discovered documents estimate the amount of fuel lost at between 400,000 gallons and 1.1 million gallons.**

**"Imagine taking a freighter and dumping (the contents) in the ground," Partain said. "That's what they did at Hadnot Point Fuel Farm. The Marine Corps has known this since 1996."**

First Lt. Gregory A. Wolf, a spokesman for the Marine Corps based at the Pentagon, said the Marines aren't sure how much fuel leaked at Hadnot Point. He said 1.1 million gallons is the upper end of an estimate from a 1996 draft document.

**The Marine Corps says the first clear evidence of contamination in drinking-water wells at Camp Lejeune came in 1984, after which it promptly closed down those wells.**

**Partain and others argue that Camp Lejeune's leaders should have acted much earlier, noting volatile organic compounds were detected in water systems in 1980.**

**Documents posted on the “Forgotten” website show repeated warnings from 1980 onward, first from Army chemists and later from employees with a private company hired to analyze the water. One, written by U.S. Army Lab Services Chief William Neal in 1981, reads, “Water highly contaminated with other chlorinated hydrocarbons (solvents)!”**

Camp Lejeune officials ordered testing of water systems located near a landfill in the lightly populated Rifle Range area in 1980. Water-supply wells at Hadnot Point and Tarawa Terrace, where thousands lived and worked, were not tested until 1984. Wolf, the Marine Corps spokesman, said wells were not tested there earlier because “sources of contamination ... had not yet been identified.”

Partain makes the analogy to the average person learning that the water coming out of his kitchen faucet contains harmful chemicals.

**“A reasonable person would go and find the source,” he said. “The Marine Corps claims it didn’t know the source for 4½ years. In the court system that’s called negligence.”**

As the Marine Corps has repeatedly pointed out, the federal government did not set safe standards for the contaminants detected at Camp Lejeune until 1989, meaning the Marines were not required to take action before then.

Activists deride that stance as legally correct but irresponsible. Partain points to historical documents setting standards for drinking water at Department of Navy facilities, including Camp Lejeune. A 1963 order defines pollution as “the presence of any foreign substance (organic, inorganic, radiological or biological) in water which tends to degrade its quality so as to constitute a hazard ...”

Another order from 1974 described organic solvents in drinking water as hazardous.

“Where is the due diligence?” Partain asked. “Do you have to have a (federal) regulation to say it’s hazardous? If they were following their own orders, they could have prevented all this contamination going back to 1963.”

Several federal agencies have investigated the issue. The Environmental Protection Agency in 1989 added Camp Lejeune to Superfund, a program that designated federal money for the cleanup of major hazardous waste sites. That remediation project is expected to last for decades.

As part of the Superfund process, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry in 1997 issued a public health assessment that said Camp Lejeune residents faced little or no risk from drinking and using water at Camp Lejeune. Last year, though, the agency withdrew the assessment, saying it was flawed by inaccuracies and the failure to consider the presence of benzene in the water.

The EPA and the Government Accountability Office, an investigative arm of Congress, found no evidence of improper actions by Camp Lejeune’s leadership or the Marine Corps.

Partain and other activists, though, are highly critical of those reports. They say the investigations missed key documents and didn't review historical regulations on water quality from the Department of the Navy, which oversees the Marine Corps.

**An EPA investigator told a Congressional committee in 2007 that he recommended that charges be filed but was overruled by the Department of Justice, which is defending the Marine Corps for any tort claims filed in relation to Camp Lejeune.**

**Partain also dismissed the results of an investigation by a Marine Corps Commandant Blue Ribbon Panel released in 2004 as tainted by a conflict of interest.**

The National Research Council, a federal scientific agency, released a report in 2009 finding no conclusive link between water contamination at Camp Lejeune and diseases. In October, the director of the ATSDR released a letter criticizing the NRC report as flawed and incomplete.

The ATSDR is compiling a new assessment of water quality at Camp Lejeune that is scheduled for release late in 2011.

**Advocates say the Marine Corps has withheld crucial information from investigators. As one example, Partain said a sub-contractor to the ATSDR last year accidentally found an undisclosed web portal operated by the Department of the Navy that yielded new details about Camp Lejeune.**

**Another activist, Jerry Ensminger of North Carolina, said the Marine Corps is unable to produce crucial documents that were the basis for the original ATSDR public health assessment from 1997.**

**“They mysteriously got lost,” Ensminger said of the documents. “I said, ‘For God’s sake, how can you stand behind an official public document for which you can’t even produce the supporting documents you created it from?’ “**

Ensminger, a retired Marine Corps drill sergeant, ranks as probably the most prominent Camp Lejeune activist. Ensminger's daughter, Janey, died of leukemia in 1985 at age 9.

“Anybody who has a child who's been diagnosed with a catastrophic, long-term illness, once you get over the initial shock the first natural thing for a parent to do is start wondering why,” Ensminger said. “I was no different from anybody else. ... I never thought I'd get an answer. I never dreamed I would.”

**After seeing a TV news report in 1997, Ensminger said he began calling the environmental management department at Camp Lejeune and was assured the water contamination had been small and posed no health threat.**

As more details emerged, partly through Freedom of Information Act requests by other activists, Ensminger became convinced the military had deliberately understated the problem.

Ensminger, a co-creator of the “Forgotten” website, now devotes most of his waking hours to research about Camp Lejeune.

**He said he and other former Marines feel betrayed by what they see as deceit on behalf of the Marine Corps' leaders.**

**“I trained over 2,000 new Marines at Parris Island,” Ensminger said. “I instilled in those young people our core values, our saying, ‘Semper Fidelis,’ which means ‘always faithful,’ and our slogan, ‘We take care of our own,’ and I can tell you without any doubt that no one is more disillusioned by the misconduct of the leadership both past and present of the United States Marine Corps and the Department of the Navy than I am.”**

Partain was never a Marine, but his father — Warren Partain of Winter Haven — was.

“My dad had a bunch of sayings,” Mike Partain said. “One of them was, ‘Character is defined by what you do when nobody’s looking.’ The Marine Corps has known about this. They’ve known the extent of the contamination, and instead of doing the right thing and taking care of their people they turned their backs on us and left us out there to die. That goes against everything about the Marine Corps.”

Morris, the Auburndale woman whose mother died of gastric cancer, applauds the efforts of Partain and other advocates but doubts the military leadership will admit to what she sees as its culpability in the water contamination at Camp Lejeune.

“The first thing I told Mike (Partain) was, ‘They can come here and offer me every penny in the world; it ain’t going to change the fact that my mama’s gone,’ “ Morris said. “Money’s not going to bring my mama back to me, but if getting the story out reaches someone who doesn’t know about it and makes them find out something conclusive, then I’m all for it.”

Callan, the Lakeland woman with leukemia, also expressed anger at the government’s handling of the issue.

“It makes me absolutely sick that our government asks men and women who serve to fight for our country and then they don’t have our backs,” Callan said. “People are not necessarily looking for, ‘Here’s a check to make good all the trauma you’ve gone through.’ I don’t want that. I want accountability for the past and future. ... I in no way think money cures that, but an admission or an apology for putting people through something that didn’t have to happen — that’s justice to me.”

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## **War Profiteer Sold Defective Combat Helmet Screws**

Dec 17, 2010 The Associated Press

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — A business executive in upstate New York has admitted lying about the quality of steel screws his company supplied to the military for use in combat helmets.

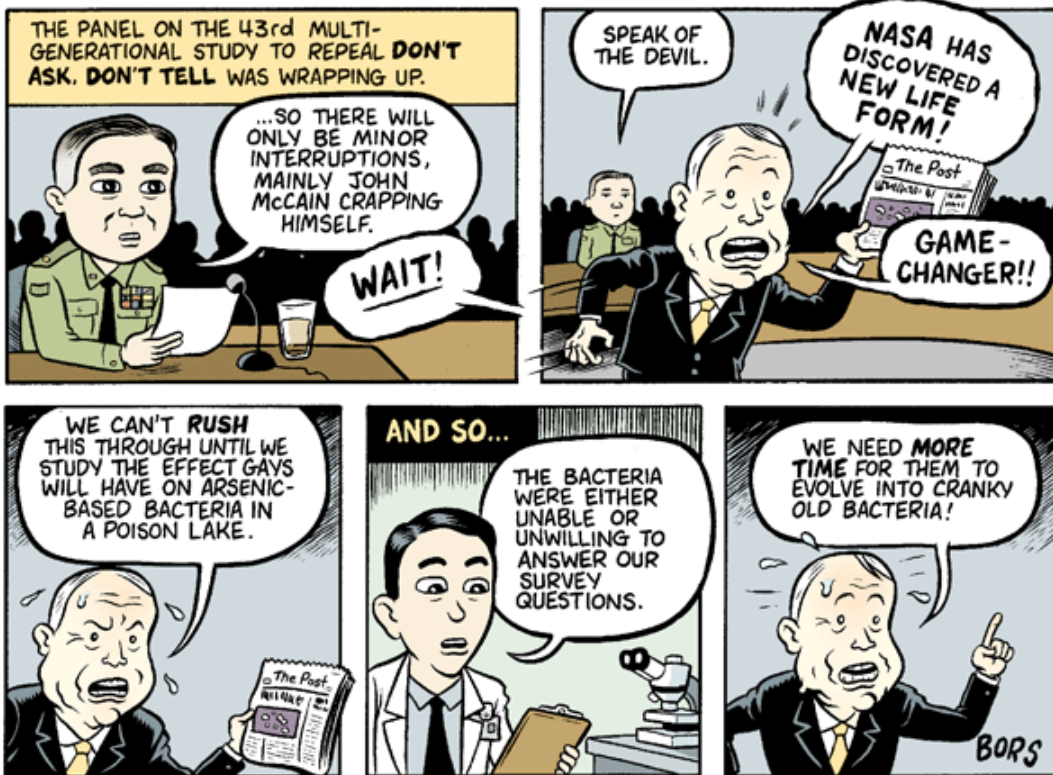
Greg Tremaine, a vice president of A.J. Hughes Co. in Rochester, pleaded guilty in federal court Thursday to filing a false claim with the U.S. government as well as filing a false document. If convicted, he could have drawn up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count.

The company picked up a deal in 2006 to supply screws to Pennsylvania defense contractor Gentex Corp.

But prosecutors say Tremaine changed both the type of steel and finish, making the screws less effective.

They estimated the government overpaid \$134,000 for defective screws. A Gentex worker noticed the switch and the screws were recalled.

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK





## 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.

## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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.

# This Is What Class War Looks Like



Near the parliament in Rome, December 14, 2010: An Italian Financial Police officer who threatened protesters with a handgun is taken down by demonstrators against government actions to help the rich. REUTERS/Remo Casilli

## **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/>**

**And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))**

**RECEIVED:**

**No Demolition!  
Hands Off Iberville!**



**Press Conference, Rally and March**

**Saturday, December 18  
12 Noon**

**Meet on neutral ground, corner of St Louis and  
Basin St.  
New Orleans**

From: John Arena

Subject: [NOLA\_C3\_Discussion] Saturday Rally and Press Conference to Defend Iberville

Date: Dec 15, 2010

**David Gilmore, the federally-imposed-administrator of the Housing Authority of New Orleans, and Mayor Mitch Landrieu, want to make life even more miserable for working class New Orleanians by demolishing the Iberville Public Housing development.**

To add insult to injury they have given the contract to greedy developer Pres Kabacoff, who drove hundreds of poor families from St. Thomas and still, a decade later, has not built the 100 off site apartment he promised.

But, to carry out their crime, HANO, Landrieu, and Kabacoff need a multi-million dollar grant from the Department of Housing Urban Development. Join us Saturday, December 18 as we demand:

**No to a HUD Choice Neighborhood grant to demolish Iberville**

**Yes to a massive public works program to rebuild Public Housing, Schools, Hospitals and Infrastructure**

Sponsor: Hands Off Iberville. For more information call 504-520-9521

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**“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**

**Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out**

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

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

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

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

[news@uruknet.info](mailto:news@uruknet.info); [http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/)

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