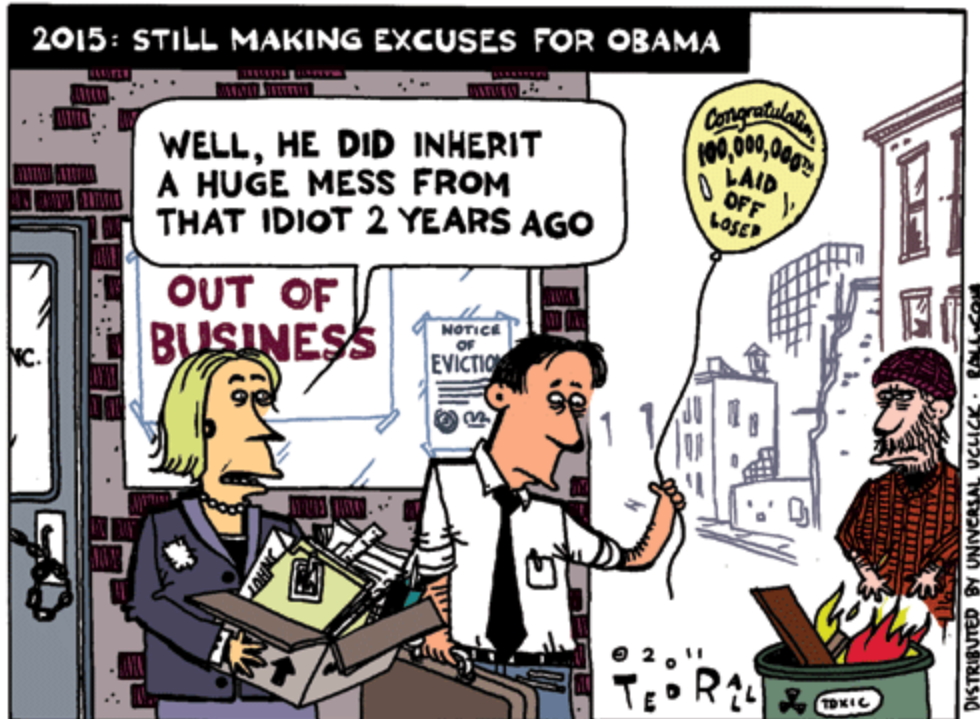


## Military Resistance 9D16



**“He Is Cornered”**  
**Burkina Faso Dictator Confronted**  
**By “A Chaotic Army Mutiny And**  
**Student Riots Against Police”**  
**Protests “Have Been Staged By**  
**Magistrates, Shopkeepers, The**  
**Opposition, Unions”**  
**“There Is An Abyss Between The Rich**  
**Minority, Who Are Mainly In The**

# Presidential Entourage, And The Rest Of The Population -- Civil Servants, Small Traders, Farmers, Labourers”

4.20.11 By Coumba Sylla (AFP) [Excerpts]

OUAGADOUGOU — Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore needs to take urgent steps to avoid a revolt like those that toppled the leaders of Tunisia and Egypt, observers say, amid weeks of protests.

Compaore, who took power in a coup in 1987, has been confronted by a series of unprecedented demonstrations over the past two months, including a chaotic army mutiny and student riots against police that left several dead.

“He is cornered, he must review a lot of things, solve problems at their root,” said Dieudonne Zoungrana, a commentator at the independent daily newspaper L'Observateur Paalga.

Steps already taken by the 60-year-old leader were not sufficient to quell the discontent, Zoungrana said, after the president ordered the payment of bonuses to soldiers, dissolved his government and fired military chiefs.

Other protests that have shaken the coup-plagued and destitute west African country since February have been staged by magistrates, shopkeepers, the opposition, unions and civil society.

They come amid rising costs in the cotton-producing nation where around half the 16 million residents live on less than 1,000 CFA francs (1.52 euros) a day.

The most alarming protest perhaps was the one by soldiers that erupted from inside Compaore's presidential guard on April 14 and spread into the capital and out to the provinces, with mutinous troops going on the rampage for days in several towns.

The troops were demanding their March wages and housing and food allowances, which the authorities began paying out on Saturday as the rioting started to calm.

In the capital Ouagadougou they took to the streets, opening fire in the air, looting shops, stealing cars and destroying property. Rapes were reported and dozens of people were wounded.

The violence provoked anger from the public, with youngsters and traders staging a counterprotest in which they attacked public and ruling party buildings.

“Even with double its budget, the state cannot pay back the businessmen,” commented one of those who suffered losses in the pillaging.

The soldiers said they were not targeting the Compaore regime, and this week declared their loyalty to the president on state television, but one would have to be “very clever to convince anyone that this does not have a whiff of politics,” Zoungrana said.

When there is a mutiny in the entourage of the head of state, “it is worrying,” added leading civil society activist Charles Sorgho.

“Today the situation is critical enough. One wonders if it could not worsen, to the total overthrow of the regime,” said Sorgho, from the pro-democracy and good governance group Gerddes-Burkina.

“Like in the Maghreb, we have to expect anything,” he said referring to revolts that rocked the Arab world this year, ending the long-standing regimes of Tunisia's Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Egypt's Hosni Mubarak.

In Burkina Faso, “there is an abyss between the rich minority, who are mainly in the presidential entourage, and the rest of the population -- civil servants, small traders, farmers, labourers -- while everything has become expensive,” he said.

The recent civilian and military protests were based on demands that should not be ignored and were similar to those from which were born the Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions, the L'Observateur Paalga warned Tuesday.

The demonstrators pointed to “a reality: a crisis of the state and governance”, the paper said.

To avoid a revolution that could cost him his job, Compaore must take urgent steps to increase civil service salaries, stabilise costs of basic commodities and restore discipline in the army, Sorgho said.

Sorgho is meanwhile campaigning to prevent a change in a two-term lock on the number of mandates a president can serve as the ruling party plans to revise the constitution to allow Compaore to stand again in 2015 -- a step that has ignited strong debate.

But, said Zoungrana, “there is no vacancy at the Kosyam,” the seat of the presidency.

## **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**

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

### **5,000 Protesters Defied A Ban On Friday Rallies In The Northern City Of Mosul “To Demand There Be No Extensions To The U.S. Troop Presence”**



An Iraqi demonstrator dressed as a U.S. soldier taken prisoner in chains by supporters of nationalist politician Moqtada al-Sadr during a parade near Sadr's office in Iraq's southern province of Basra, 420 km (260 miles) southeast of Baghdad April 21, 2011. Iraq's fiery al-Sadr will “escalate military resistance” and unleash his Mehdi Army militia if U.S. troops fail to leave Iraq as scheduled this year. Photo: REUTERS/Atef Hassan

4.22.11 Associated Press

BAGHDAD – The top U.S. military officer said Friday that Iraq must act very soon if it wants American forces to stay longer in the country, as discussions intensify over whether to keep any troops past this year.

Having American forces stay past 2011 would be politically risky for Obama, who campaigned on a platform of ending the war.

But it would be even more difficult for Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, whose closest allies in government are the virulently anti-occupation followers of Muqtada al-Sadr. The nationalist political leader has threatened violence if American troops stay in Iraq.

**About 5,000 protesters defied a ban on Friday rallies and gathered in the northern city of Mosul, 225 miles (360 kilometers) northwest of Baghdad, to demand there be no extensions to the U.S. troop presence.**

**Hundreds also converged from nearby provinces to join a sit-in at al-Ahrar square, which has been going on since April 9, against American troops.**

**And in Baghdad, dozens of Iraqis protested in Tahrir Square demanding the complete withdrawal of the American forces from Iraq and calling for an end to rampant corruption and for the release of prisoners.**

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## Resistance Action

April 19 (Reuters) & April 22 (Reuters)

BAGHDAD - Insurgents using silenced weapons seriously wounded a police major when they opened fire on his car in the Amiriya district of western Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

MOSUL - Insurgents in a speeding car shot and wounded the Oil Ministry's head of oil products distribution for Nineveh province in eastern Mosul late on Wednesday, police said.

RAMADI - A roadside bomb killed three policemen and wounded two others when it went off near a police patrol late on Thursday in central Ramadi, 100 km (60 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

RAMADI - A roadside bomb exploded near a police patrol, wounding four policemen in Ramadi, 100 km (60 miles) west of Baghdad, according to a spokesman for the governor of Anbar province.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb went off in Palestine Street in northeastern Baghdad, wounding an Iraqi soldier, an Interior Ministry source said.

BAGHDAD - Armed men using silenced weapons killed an Iraqi policeman in Baghdad's southwestern Jihad district, police said.

BAGHDAD - A bomb attached to the car of a general director of the Education Ministry killed him when it exploded in Baghdad's southern Doura district, an Interior Ministry source said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb placed near a caravan used by guards belonging to an office attached to the Finance Ministry wounded four policemen, when it went off in Palestine Street, northeastern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Ohio SFC Killed At FOB Gamberi**



U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division Sgt. 1st Class Charles L. Adkins of Sandusky, Ohio. Adkins, died April 16 as a result of an attack during a meeting on Forward Operating Base Gamberi, Nangarhar province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

### **Georgia SSG Killed At FOB Gamberi**



U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division Staff Sgt. Cynthia R. Taylor of Columbus, Ga. Taylor died April 16 as a result of an attack during a meeting on Forward Operating Base Gamberi, Nangarhar province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

## Missouri Soldier Killed At FOB Gamberi



U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division Spc. Joseph B. Cemper of Warrensburg, Mo. Cemper died April 16 as a result of an attack during a meeting on Forward Operating Base Gamberi, Nangarhar province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

## Florida SGT Killed At FOB Gamberi



U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division Sgt. Linda L. Pierre of Immokalee, Fla. Pierre died April 16 as a result of an attack during a meeting on Forward Operating Base Gamberi, Nangarhar province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

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## Two Texas Soldiers Killed In Nimroz



Army Pfc. Joel A. Ramirez of Waxahachie, Texas, died April 16, 2011 in Nimroz Province, Afghanistan when his unit was attacked by an improvised explosive device. He was with the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. (AP Photo/Fort Drum)



Army Spc. Charles I. Wren of Beeville, Texas died April 16, 2011 in Nimroz Province, Afghanistan when his unit was attacked by an improvised explosive device. He was with the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. (AP Photo/Fort Drum)



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## **Minnesota Soldier Killed In Afghanistan**



U.S. Army Spc. Joseph Kennedy, 25, was killed, April 15, 2011, when his unit was attacked by small arms in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

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

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

## **French Marine Killed, 9 Wounded In Kapisa**

20 April 2011 (AP)

PARIS - The office of French President Nicolas Sarkozy says that a marine corporal was killed in Afghanistan and nine others were wounded in an explosion.

Their armored vehicle was struck Wednesday during an operation in the Kapisa region where French soldiers are engaged as part of a NATO mission. The victims' identities were not revealed. They were members of a marine infantry regiment.

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## Community Mourns Loss Of Soldier



Staff Sgt. Scott Burgess

April 14, 2011 By CASSIE SMITH, The Bryan College Station Eagle

Robertson County is coming together to honor one of its own who was killed earlier this month while on duty in Afghanistan.

The county government is encouraging residents to stand along the 10-mile route that will take the body of Army Staff Sgt. Scott H. Burgess from Franklin's First Baptist Church to Wheelock Cemetery, where he will be buried.

"There's no way that they'll get all of the people interested in showing this family respect in the church," said County Judge Jan Anderson Roe.

Because of the large volume of calls her office received from residents wanting to know how they could pay their respects to Burgess, the county government sent automated calls to residents informing them of the service and funeral and encouraging them to stand vigil along the route.

Lining the route, Roe said, would be a "safe and orderly" way to pay respects to Burgess.

Visitation for Burgess will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at McCauley Funeral Home in Franklin, with services at 1 p.m. Friday at First Baptist Church there. The burial will follow.

Burgess was killed April 4 in northern Faryab province. According to reports, he and another soldier were providing security at a meeting between U.S. commanders and the Afghan border police when an Afghan police officer deliberately opened fire on them.

Burgess and the other soldier who died in the incident, Michael S. Lammerts, 26, of Tonawanda, N.Y., belonged to the 1st Battalion, 84th Field Artillery Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

According to a report in Stars and Stripes, Burgess joined the Army in October 2002 and had previously been deployed to Iraq.

Already, many in Robertson County have shown support for Burgess' wife, Jennifer, and their two daughters, Haley and Amy, by displaying yellow and black bows.

Burgess' father, Sam, said the family was thankful for the outpouring.

His son, he said, had an "unbelievable sense of humor."

"Needless to say we were quite proud of that young man," Sam Burgess said.

Deb Burgess said her son loved his family more than life.

His death has been hard for the family, she said, but local support has made it easier to bear.

"You know your kid is special, but when other people say it, it means a lot," she said.

Burgess was born Oct. 24, 1978, in Hampton, Va., and shortly thereafter his family moved to Franklin.

Rhondalyn V. Ware-Culver said she went to school with "Scotty" from kindergarten through 12th grade. Now residing in Hawaii, Ware-Culver said she remembers Burgess as being one of the nice guys.

"He was quiet and laid back and had a very distinctive laugh that I will always remember," she said.

Ware-Culver said it was hard hearing the news about Burgess, not only because he was someone she knew but because her husband serves in the military.

"I hear and see it all the time, being an Army wife, but you never think this could happen to someone from our little town," she said.

Teresa Galloway of the Patriot Guard Riders said the motorcycle-rider group has been invited by the Burgess family to attend the services.

The group is present at the funerals of fallen soldiers to support survivors and shield mourners from interruptions created by protesters.

"We definitely are about honor and respect," Galloway said.

Westboro Baptist Church, the small Topeka, Kan.-based independent church known for its stridently anti-gay and anti-American protests, on Wednesday was displaying an announcement on its website claiming it will stage a protest in "lawful proximity" to Burgess' memorial at the Franklin church. It is not known if a protest will actually be mounted.

IN MEMORY

\* Scott Hamilton Burgess of Franklin

\* Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at McCauley Funeral Home

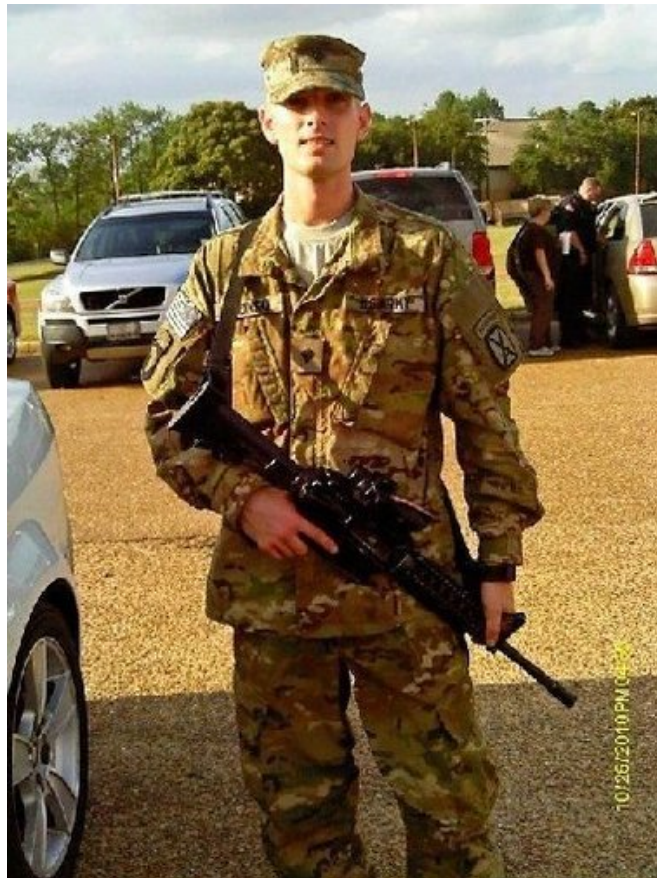
\* Services are at 1 p.m. Friday at First Baptist Church

\* Burial will follow in Wheelock Cemetery.

\* A fund has been set up for Burgess' daughters, Haley and Amy Burgess, at First Star Bank, P.O. Box 937 Franklin, Texas 77856

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## **Soldier Killed In Afghanistan By Small-Arms Fire To Be Buried In N.J. Hometown**



Keith Buzinski, 26, formerly of Hamilton, Mercer County. Courtesy of Lauren Buzinski

April 14, 2011 By Mark Mueller, The Star-Ledger

HAMILTON — As a teenager in Hamilton Township, Keith Buzinski struggled to find his way. He dropped out of Steinert High School and flirted with trouble, worrying family members.

A move to Florida, where his older sister, Lauren, had settled, helped stabilize the lanky teen. He obtained his GED and took a few college courses, but Buzinski craved a clearer direction, a sense of belonging and accomplishment.

Four years ago, he found it in the Army.

“He wanted to make something of himself,” Lauren Buzinski said. “He wanted a good career and he ended up loving it. He was all about the Army.”

Lauren Buzinski watched as the “crazy kid” she grew up with came to embrace responsibility and leadership, serving first in Iraq and, since late last year, in Afghanistan.

Last week, she learned her brother had been killed there.

Spc. Keith T. Buzinski, recently married with two stepdaughters, was 26.

The Department of Defense said Buzinski was killed by small-arms fire April 7 in Logar Province, south of Kabul on Afghanistan’s eastern edge. He is to be buried in New Jersey next week.

Buzinski had just returned to duty after a two-week leave in the Daytona Beach area, said Lauren Buzinski, 30, of New Smyrna Beach, Fla. She said her brother hadn’t even made it back to base. He was en route there when the attack occurred, she said.

Posthumously promoted to sergeant, Keith Buzinski was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, a subordinate unit of the 10th Mountain Division. While the division is based at Fort Drum, N.Y., the combat team operates out of Fort Polk, La.

**He is at least the 30th service member with ties to New Jersey to die in Afghanistan since the war began in 2001.**

**Nearly 100 others with New Jersey ties have died in Iraq since the U.S. invasion in 2003.**

Lauren Buzinski said her brother was well aware of the dangers he faced. Dozens of Americans have been killed in fierce fighting in Afghanistan in just the past few months.

While in Florida a few weeks ago, Keith Buzinski mentioned he was nervous about his return, the sister said, but he also told her he had to get back to his “brothers.”

“He loved the brotherhood of the Army,” Lauren Buzinski said. “He loved that he was protecting his country, that he was doing something important.”

The son of a physical education teacher and a nurse, Keith Buzinski grew up in Hamilton’s Yardville section. In 2004, he followed his sister to Florida, where she had moved for a job. His parents later moved to North Carolina.

It was while in the Army that Keith Buzinski met his wife, Andrea, a civilian who was visiting Fort Polk when he was stationed there. They married in August last year, Lauren Buzinski said.

She called her brother fun-loving and adventurous. She said she's proud of him.

"He came so far," she said. "He changed his life, and he became a hero to our family."

A viewing will take place from 5 to 9 p.m. Monday at the Buklad Yardville Memorial Chapel. Buzinski's funeral will follow at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at United Presbyterian Church in Yardville.

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## **Friends Cope With Death Of Brandon Marine**

April 10, 2011 Associated Press

BRANDON — Friends of a Brandon Marine killed in Afghanistan are remembering him for his charismatic personality, his devotion to his wife and his patriotism.

The Defense Department announced Friday that 28-year-old Staff Sgt. Jason A. Rogers died Thursday during combat operations in the Helmand province.

"The loss of Jason Rogers is going to make this world an emptier and lonelier and colder place," his childhood friend Brandon Winfield said in *The Clarion Ledger*. "I could write a War and Peace-sized story of the kind of person he was. Some people have it - the room just seemed to be dizzier and brighter with him in it."

The 2000 Brandon High School graduate had been married to wife Angie for a little less than a year, said another friend, Derrick Brownlee of Jacksonville, Fla., who described Rogers as a happy, laid-back, charismatic practical joker. The two had talked in February.

"One of the things that's getting me through this is that he said he was finally really happy," Brownlee said. "He was proud of what he was doing, he loved his wife, and she loved him."

Brownlee said as word of Rogers' death made its way around to old friends, he began receiving calls from people he hadn't heard from in more than a decade, as well as people he never thought he'd hear from again.

The Rankin County School District issued a statement about Rogers. "Sgt. Rogers was a highly decorated Marine and a young man of strong character and commitment to his country. We are proud that he is a graduate of BHS but we are even prouder of the service he gave to his country," the statement read.

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# **“Dozens Of Tractor-Trailer-Sized Containers Are Disappearing Every Day From The U.S. Logistics Pipeline Coming Through Pakistan Into Afghanistan”**

April 25, 2011 Army Times [Excerpts]

Dozens of tractor-trailer-sized containers are disappearing every day from the U.S. logistics pipeline coming through Pakistan into Afghanistan.

A top officer at U.S. Transportation Command, Air Force Maj. Gen. Michelle Johnson, told Congress that “pilferage” continues to be a problem along the land-based trail that is critical to the Afghan war effort.

“One percent is what we’re showing; we think that is a pretty accurate figure. But 1 percent of 8,000 to 9,000 containers a day is dozens,” Johnson told the House Armed Services Committee’s readiness panel April 7. As a result, the military strictly prohibits ammunition and classified material from land-based logistics routes. (Those come in by air.)

And the U.S. is trying to send more equipment along an overland route through Europe into northern Afghanistan. Johnson said that is a “very secure route ... really nil pilferage issues.”

Airdrops are increasingly common in Afghanistan. This year, the military expects to drop about 100 million tons of gear, many at the most remote combat outposts. That’s up from 60 million tons last year, Johnson said.

Moreover, the military is ramping up its technology to track logistics shipments. This summer, the Army will start tracking large transit containers with satellite tags that will offer a new level of visibility on each shipment.

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## **Five Oil Tankers Supplying Foreign Military Forces Torched In Sya Chobak**

April 22 (Xinhua)

Armed militants attacked fuel tankers supplying oil to foreign troops and torched five vehicles in Baghlan province, some 160 km north of capital city of Kabul, a local official said Friday.

“A group of militants opened fire on a line of oil trucks in Sya Chobak area of Dushi district late Thursday night, leaving five tankers on fire,” district chief of Dushi Mohammad Khan told Xinhua on Friday.

He said two other vehicles had received bullets and damaged in the attack.

According to Khan the drivers and co-drivers of the vehicles escaped the firing luckily and no one was hurt in the incident.

On the other hand, Zabihullah Mujahid who speaks for Taliban militants claimed of responsibility and in talks with media from undisclosed location via cell phone said the militants torched the tanker to punish people who provide help for foreign forces.

The frequent attacks on the foreign supply convoy in neighboring country of Pakistan over the past couple of years has forced U.S. and NATO forces to decide in mid 2010 on opening another new logistic route from the north into Afghanistan through central Asian countries.

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## More Resistance Action



Police at a bombed minibus, in which three of their colleagues were killed and six others wounded, in Jalalabad city April 21, 2011. The police were from a training academy and included several instructors. REUTERS/Parwiz

Apr 21, 2011 By ASSOCIATED PRESS & 22 April, 2011 PAN

KANDAHAR CITY: Five Afghan border guards were killed in a roadside bombing in the southern province of Kandahar on Friday, a police commander said.

One policeman was wounded when a police pick-up struck a bomb in the Loy Karez area of Spin Boldak district late on Thursday night, said the border police commander, Gen. Abdul Razzaq.



A bomb blast killed three Afghan policemen on their way to Jalalabad. Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, a spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar province, said they were killed by a bomb that was placed on a bus. The bus was transporting Afghan policemen and trainees to a training academy in the provincial capital of Jalalabad. Six others on the bus were wounded in the explosion.

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## **BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: HOME, NOW**



U.S. soldiers with the 1-320 Field Artillery Regiment during a patrol near Strongpoint Manley in Arghandab Valley, north of Kandahar April 12, 2011. REUTERS/Bob Strong

## **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/>**

## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

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

**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**

**Rise like Lions after slumber  
In unvanquishable number,  
Shake your chains to earth like dew  
Which in sleep had fallen on you-  
Ye are many — they are few  
-- Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1819, on the occasion of a mass murder of British  
workers by the Imperial government at Peterloo.**

**The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the  
tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and  
oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the  
people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a  
single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take  
advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his  
socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and  
everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of  
the proletariat.”  
-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done**

**A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling  
classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.  
-- Leon Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution**

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

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

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

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

# WHY



Medevac helicopter in my military unit in An Khe, Vietnam 1970:  
Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: April 20, 2011  
Subject: WHY

## WHY

**Over 50,000 Vietnam veterans have committed suicide,  
and the American people never wanted to know why.  
Betrayal is always the swarming locust of national shame.  
The United States Government bombs countries around the world,  
just to watch them die...  
Yes, America believes in peace...  
a piece of this country and a piece of that country.  
Eventually, " For the love of money,"  
will take its toll on the soul of America,  
and all of the King's horses and all of the King's men,  
won't be able to piece this country back together again.**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
April 20, 2011**

**In cultural terms, it is as if the people**

of the U.S. have become mummified  
in plastic wrap...have become rendered  
Body Bag People.  
Phil Rockstroh  
NYC poet

Betrayal is the swarming locust of national shame.  
Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran  
April 20, 2011

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)

# Blindfolded

Written by Dennis Serdel: Military Resistance 2010; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

\*\*\*\*\*

## Blindfolded

I was born in March of 1947  
when my Father came home from WWII  
and married my Mother who worked  
as a Secretary in Kalamazoo.  
Yes, I am a true "Baby Boomer" or  
in other words a "War Baby" born  
from the "Greatest Generation."  
I now know how they are going to handle  
the influx of all the "Baby Boomers"  
who are beginning to retire.  
The Companies are going bankrupt,  
They Say, and will Not pay me any  
Retirement pay or Health Care.  
But in the 1960's, it was my turn to serve  
in the Army in Vietnam because  
I was fighting Against the Idea  
that a Country's wealth should be  
evenly spread to All the Citizens  
as fair as possible.  
Instead, I was fighting for the Idea  
that a Few people should own  
the Wealth of a Country  
and the rest of the Citizens

should be poor.

But when I came home from the War  
I joined a Union and I was Not poor  
but "Middle Class."

However, it looks like I shall return  
to my proper place again  
that being poor as the Unions are  
being stabbed in the back by  
Obama who represents the Few.

Did I mention that my Son is a  
"War Baby" from America's  
"Worst Generation ? "

So let him be especially  
laid off fired let go and poor.

The Iraq and Afghanistan Soldiers  
and Veterans are another  
"Greatest Generation" who do  
what they are told to do by the Few  
but it looks like they will be poor  
anyway because that is the way  
America wants them to be.

A Few people have all the money  
and the rest of the Citizens are poor.

So I have taken on the job of  
convincing our new "Greatest Generation"  
that when the Wars are over,  
they will be tossed aside like  
used toilet paper and their reward  
will be to work hard at slave Worker  
wages to raise their "War Babies."

The government blindfolds them  
now with yellow ribbons,  
parades with all the trimmings  
all the welcome backs  
and elaborate funerals to assure  
them that their Country really  
appreciates them for fighting  
and dying for the Idea of America.  
The greatest fear that the Few have  
who own all the wealth have  
is giving guns and ammo to the poor  
people like our Iraq and Afghanistan  
Soldiers.

I mean, gee whizz Uncle Sam Few,  
you really do fear that after you  
keep stepping on their poor Mothers  
and Fathers, Aunts and Uncles,  
Brothers and Sisters  
Cousins and Neighbors  
and Friends that the Soldiers  
just might get together

and march on Washington  
DC and NY City  
to eliminate the Few.

### **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.

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

***Tiananmen Square:***  
***April 21, 1989: Honorable Anniversary***  
**Pissed Off People Rise Up Against A**  
**Corrupt Government Of Tyrants,**  
**Exploiters And Oppressors**



Carl Bunin Peace History April 16-22

Six days after the death of Hu Yaobang, the deposed reform-minded leader of the Chinese Communist Party, some 100,000 students from more than 40 universities gathered at Beijing's Tiananmen Square to commemorate Hu, voice their discontent with China's authoritative communist government, and call for greater democracy.

**Ignoring government warnings of violent suppression of any mass demonstration, the students were joined by workers, intellectuals, and civil servants.**

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***April 22, 1992: Honorable Anniversary***  
**Serbs Stand Up Against A Politician's**  
**Plan For War:**  
**“When The New Conscript Reached**  
**Barracks His Unit Had Already Split In**  
**Two – Between Those Who Agreed To**  
**Go To The Front And Those Who Were**  
**Refusing”**

Carl Bunin Peace History April 16-22

June 1994 By Ivan Vejvoda, New Internationalist [Excerpt]

It may come as a surprise to many Westerners that there was a large, spontaneous opposition within Serbia and Montenegro to the war waged by the Milosevic regime. Mostly it took the form of resisting conscription into the armed forces. In Belgrade only 10 per cent responded to the call-up to what was then, in 1991, still the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA).

**Thousands of young conscripts went into 'internal exile' hiding with friends and relatives. The latter would ignore knocks at the door so as to avoid receiving the call-up orders. Thousands of potential conscripts left the country and headed for Britain, France, Germany, Holland and Greece. Visas were not needed then – as they are today.**

Even among those who did obey the draft, there was resistance. The story of young Miroslav Milenkovic from a small town in Serbia is a poignant example of the dilemma faced by many.

**When the new conscript reached barracks his unit had already split in two – between those who agreed to go to the front and those who were refusing.**



Milenkovic went from one group to another, not knowing which group of friends and relatives to side with. At one point he stopped and, standing between the two groups, took his rifle and shot himself.

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## April 23, 1971: Above And Beyond



Carl Bunin Peace History April 20-26

In the final event of Operation Dewey Canyon III, nearly 1,000 Vietnam War veterans threw their combat ribbons, helmets, and uniforms on the Capitol steps along with toy weapons.



**“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.”**

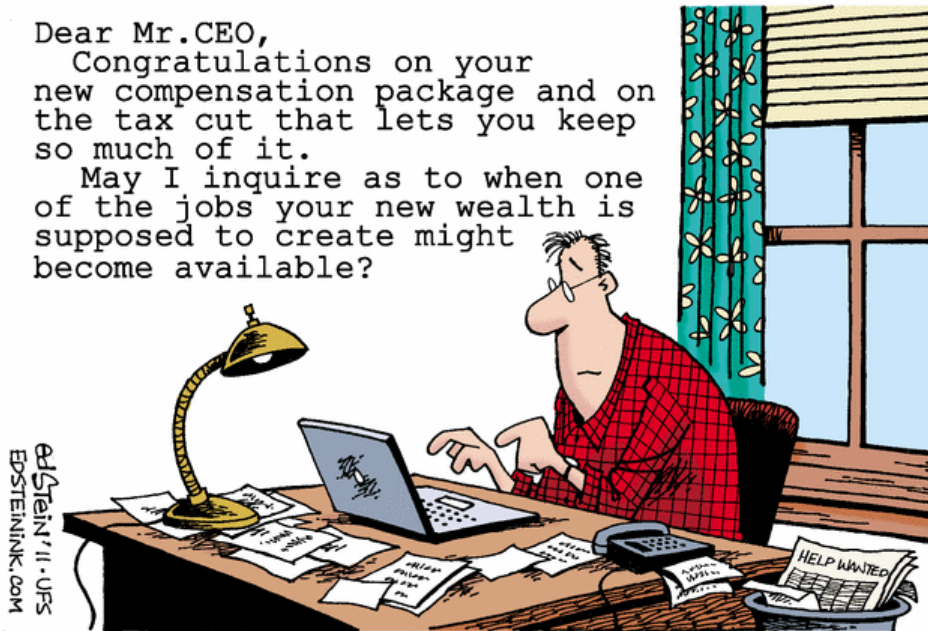
**Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



## CLASS WAR REPORTS

Dear Mr.CEO,  
Congratulations on your  
new compensation package and on  
the tax cut that lets you keep  
so much of it.  
May I inquire as to when one  
of the jobs your new wealth is  
supposed to create might  
become available?



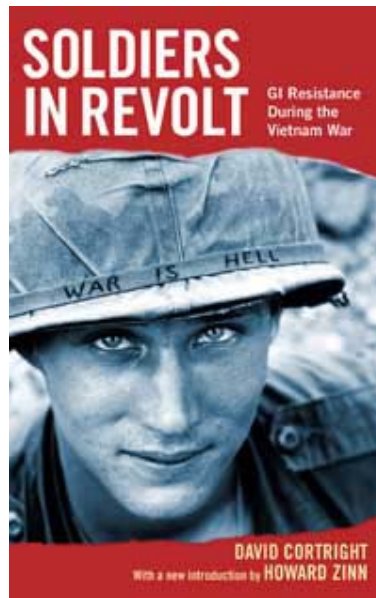
## Get The Message?



Pakistani protesters burn a U. S. flag during a rally to condemn U. S. drone attacks in Pakistani territory April 22,2011 in Multan, Pakistan. People gathered to condemn U. S. drone strikes in Pakistani tribal areas along the Afghanistan border. (AP Photo/Khalid Tanveer)

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

<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

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