

## **Military Resistance 9G17**

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



WASHINGTON, DC - JULY 19: A picture of a soldier is seen on a gravestone as the burial for U.S. Marine Cpl. Kyle R. Schneider takes place nearby at Arlington National Cemetery, on July 19, 2011. Cpl. Schneider, 23, who was from Phoenix, New York, was killed on June 30 by an improvised explosive device in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. (Photo by Mark Wilson/Getty Images)...

**1.2 Million March  
Against The Loathsome  
Tyrant Assad:  
More Soldiers Go Over To The  
Revolution:**

**“We Decided To Intervene On  
Behalf Of The People”**

**“About 100 Defectors From The  
Syrian Army Engaged In The  
Fighting”**

**“A Group Of 14 Defectors Fought The  
Army And Security Forces In The Bab  
Siba’a Neighborhood Of Homs, Killing 20  
Of Them And Destroying Four Of Their  
Tanks And Seven Armored Personnel  
Carriers”**



Thousands in Hama demonstrated Friday against President Assad's regime. Reuters

22 Jul 2011 Al Jazeera and agencies & JULY 23, 2011 By NOUR MALAS in Dubai and  
A WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORTER in Damascus

Syrian democracy activists say security forces have killed as many as 11 civilians amid anti-government protests by more than one million people across the country.

Protest organisers had called for Friday's mass demonstrations to show support for Homs, the AFP news agency reported.

Mr. Assad's forces also faced off against some army defectors.

Clashes have reportedly been taking place there between Syrian army soldiers and defectors.

**Members of the Local Co-ordination Committee, an opposition rights group, in Homs told Al Jazeera that there were about 100 defectors from the Syrian army engaged in the fighting.**

One of those defected soldiers said a town north of the city, al-Rastan, has turned into a de facto base for young army conscripts who have defected to avoid orders to shoot protesters.

**"There are daily fights between the defected men and the army in al-Rastan, just small bouts of 15 or 20 minutes,"** First Lt. Housam, who consented to giving his first name only, said by satellite phone from Homs.

**On Thursday, a group of 14 defectors fought the army and security forces in the Bab Siba'a neighborhood of Homs, killing 20 of them and destroying four of their tanks and seven armored personnel carriers, Lt. Housam said.**

**"We decided to intervene on behalf of the people,"** he said.

He said the group of defected conscripts, which includes three soldiers, are fighting with the light weapons—machine guns, Kalashnikovs, and rocket-propelled grenades—that they kept with them.

Army defections remain limited across Syria, and have so far only drawn from the low ranks, leaving the largely-Alawite and higher ranks loyal to the regime.

In what has become a weekly occurrence, protesters took to the streets across Syria after Friday prayers, defying an intensified military crackdown on their uprising.

**"More than 1.2 million people marched.**

**In Deir az Zor there were more than 550,000, and in Hama more than 650,000,"** Rami Abdel Rahman, the head of the London-based independent group, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), told AFP on Saturday.

**Demonstrations demanding an end to Assad's rule also broke out in the Medan district of Damascus, Latakia on the coast, and the southern city of Deraa, opposition activists said.**

“Demonstrators have begun to march in various Kurdish towns” in the northeastern province of Hasaka, including Amuda, Derbassiya and Ras al-Aim, Abdel Karim Rihawi, head of the Syrian League for Human Rights, said.

Police and armed groups loyal to Assad used batons to attack thousands of pro-democracy protesters in the country’s mainly Kurdish city of Qamishli on Friday, witnesses said.

Hundreds more were marching in the southern town of Suweida, and demonstrations were also taking place in Idlib, particularly in Tastanas and Kafar Nubol.

At the same time, telephone communications and electricity were cut in Daraya and Douma, just outside Damascus.

Government forces have killed at least 22 people since Monday in Homs, according to activists.

**Both Homs and Hama, Syria’s third and fourth largest cities respectively, are strategically located between the capital Damascus, and Aleppo, two bastions of loyalty to Mr. Assad’s government.**

**Losing control of both cities would hamper the ability to move troops from Damascus to Aleppo, creating “an island in the country that is completely out of the regime’s control, which would be unprecedented,” says Exclusive Analysis, a London-based intelligence and political risk firm.**

## **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**

## **REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW**



ISKANDARIYA, IRAQ - JULY 13: Soldiers with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment participate in a patrol on July 13, 2011 in Iskandariya, Babil Province Iraq. Violence against foreign troops has recently picked-up with June being the worst month in combat-related deaths for the military in Iraq in more than two years. Currently about 46,000 U.S. soldiers remain in Iraq. (Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

---

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

**“As Of Tuesday, July 19, 2011, At  
Least 1,560 Members Of The U.S.  
Military Had Died In Afghanistan”**

**“Since The Start Of U.S. Military  
Operations In Afghanistan, 12,593 U.S.  
Service Members Have Been Wounded In  
Hostile Action”**

[Thanks to William Bowles, who sent this in. Check out his website, "Investigating The New Imperialism," at: <http://williambowles.info/> A wealth of useful information! T]

July 19 By Associated Press

As of Tuesday, July 19, 2011, at least 1,560 members of the U.S. military had died in Afghanistan as a result of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to an Associated Press count.

The AP count is two more than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Tuesday at 10 a.m. EDT.

At least 1,295 military service members have died in Afghanistan as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Outside of Afghanistan, the department reports at least 99 more members of the U.S. military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, 11 were the result of hostile action.

The AP count of total OEF casualties outside of Afghanistan is one fewer than the department's tally.

The Defense Department also counts two military civilian deaths.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Afghanistan, 12,593 U.S. service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

---

## Josh Throckmorton Of B.C., Killed In Afghanistan, Called 'Amazing Man'



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Joshua Throckmorton of Battle Creek, killed Tuesday in an explosion in Afghanistan. / Courtesy U.S. Army

Jul. 8, 2011 Written by Eric J. Greene, The Enquirer

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Joshua Throckmorton, 28, of Battle Creek was killed in action Tuesday in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense announced Thursday.

His wife, Leslie, said Throckmorton "was an amazing man. He loved his children to death. They were his world. His family meant everything to him."

Leslie Throckmorton, speaking by phone Thursday afternoon, said she, along with Joshua's mother and father, were at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware for the arrival of Throckmorton's body.

Throckmorton, an honors student who graduated in 2001 from Battle Creek Central High School, had been stationed in Hohenfels, Bayern, Germany and was deployed to Afghanistan in April. He also had served in Iraq.

"He was a soldier doing his job and he couldn't wait to get home," she said. "He was a great person. He was the best."

The army said he and two other soldiers were killed Tuesday in Paktia province when their unit was attacked by enemy forces with an improvised explosive device.

In a statement, the Defense Department said: "The Department of Defense announced today the deaths of three soldiers who were supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. They died July 5 in Paktia province, Afghanistan of injuries suffered when enemy forces attacked their unit with an improvised explosive device. The soldiers were assigned to the 709th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Hohenfels, Germany."

Besides Throckmorton, two other soldiers, Spc. Jordan C. Schumann, 24, of Port Saint Lucie, Fla.; and Spc. Preston J. Suter, 22, of Sandy, Utah., also died.

Former Battle Creek Central Principal Bruce Barney said Throckmorton was "a solid citizen and well liked. He was a pleasant individual and very respectful. I appreciated him being a part of the student body of Battle Creek Central High School."

"He played sports and was a consummate team player," Barney said, "and he would do anything to make the situation better."

Central Football Coach Doug Bess said Throckmorton was one of 12 seniors on the 2000 Bearcat football team that started with a 1-3 record but played for the conference championship.

"He was an undersized center and only played at 170 pounds, which in our division was awfully small to play, but yet he was one of the leaders of the offensive line," Bess said.

An assistant to Head Coach Al Slamer that year, Bess said his own son was on the team. "They weren't best buddies but they were teammates and we were talking about Josh and he said, 'Dad, he was just a really good guy.'"

"He worked his butt off in football. He was undersized but he would work his butt off against bigger kids."

Bess said Throckmorton was one of the seniors who inspired the underclassmen and probably help mold teams which were undefeated the next two years. "He was one of our leaders and he played hard. I don't know of anyone who didn't like Josh. It is just a tragedy."

Funeral arrangements are pending. A memorial service is scheduled Wednesday in Germany, according to the military newspaper Stars and Stripes.

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

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

**“For Every 10 Recruits, Six  
Soldiers Quit”**

**“Major Hanifullah Shinwari In May  
Admitted That 155 Of His 650  
Soldiers Had Gone Home Or Were  
On Vacation”**

**“Two Days Ago Four Soldiers Ran  
Away. I Think They're Scared”**

**“The Beginning Of A Drawdown Coupled  
With The Start Of Transition Does Not  
Match The Reality On The Ground”**

7.22.11 By Aymeric Vincenot, AFP & July 20 By Kevin Sieff, The Washington Post  
[Excerpts]

Official figures number Afghan security forces at 300,000, moving towards a target strength of 370,000 by 2014.

But the report said for every 10 recruits, six soldiers quit.

In the rural town of Marjah in the volatile southern province of Helmand, army commander Major Hanifullah Shinwari in May admitted that 155 of his 650 soldiers had gone home or were on vacation.



“Maybe some of them don’t come back,” he said. “Two days ago four soldiers ran away. I think they’re scared.”

In nearby Sangin, the deadliest district for US marines fighting in the war-ravaged region, local commander Captain Ahmad last month said he had only 72 of the 140 men he should be leading.

But critics say overtures being made to the Taliban, as Afghan President Hamid Karzai and the United States seek a peaceful exit to 10 years of war, are damaging morale among troops who don’t know whether to fight or make friends.

Overall, the beginning of a drawdown coupled with the start of transition does not match the reality on the ground, said Gilles Dorransoro, an Afghan expert at the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

**The transition here is seen as a crucial test of the overall capacity of Afghan forces — a chance to gauge the abilities of troops and police in a place with no shortage of security challenges.**

**But only half of central Lashkar Gah — just over a square mile — will actually take part in the transition.**

The area is an island of relative security and marked progress in a region that continues to face grave threats from insurgents.

That small swath of land has been controlled by Afghan forces for more than a year, and the official transition will bring little change, even as officials call this the beginning of the end for NATO’s military engagement in the region.

Meanwhile, the operations that could dictate the city’s future are being conducted just beyond its periphery, where a bustling bazaar gives way to scrubby farmland.

**This week, Latif and his unit continued a push northeast of the city, encountering fire from Taliban fighters on nearly every patrol. When those fights intensify, they call on foreign troops: British armored vehicles and U.S. Apaches.**

“This is the front lines for us,” said Col. Ataullah Zahir, Latif’s commander, leaning against a mud-baked hut seven miles from central Lashkar Gah, a firefight echoing in the distance.

In more peaceful parts of the country, such as central Bamian province and the Afghan capital, Kabul, thousands of square miles of land have been entrusted to Afghan forces.

But in Helmand, home to fierce fighting for much of the past decade, the only viable transition was a modest one.

**Officials in the central government were eager to include a city in the country’s volatile southern region on the list of transition locations, a decision that some questioned in the grim days leading up to the transition ceremony.**

On Monday, an Afghan police officer poisoned and killed seven of his colleagues just east of the city.

On Tuesday, a makeshift bomb was triggered near an ISAF base here. And on Wednesday, a bomb exploded near a police station on the city's periphery.

---

## **MILITARY NEWS**

# **\$34 Billion Wasted In U.S. War Contracts:**

## **“Diversion Of Funds To Insurgents”**

**“Around 75% Of The Total Contract Dollars Spent To Support Operations In Iraq And Afghanistan Has Gone To Just 23 Major Contractors”**

**“\$1 Million A Day Paid Afghan Farmers To Work In Their Own Fields”**

JULY 23, 2011 By NATHAN HODGE, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

The U.S. has wasted or misspent \$34 billion contracting for services in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to a draft report by a bipartisan congressional panel, the most comprehensive effort so far to tally the overall cost of a decade of battlefield contracting in America's two big wars.

The draft report, which was viewed by The Wall Street Journal, identifies myriad instances of projects that were poorly conceived.

They include a \$300 million U.S. Agency for International Development agricultural development project with a “burn rate” of \$1 million a day that paid Afghan farmers to work in their own fields.

It flags diversion of funds to insurgents, such as a subcontractor on a community-development project in eastern Afghanistan paying 20% of their contract to insurgents for “protection.”

And it touches on cases where the host government was unable to sustain a U.S.-funded project, like a costly water treatment plant in Nasiriya, Iraq, that produced murky water and lacked steady electric power and the construction of an Afghan military academy that would cost \$40 million to operate and maintain, far beyond what the Afghan government budget could afford.

Around 75% of the total contract dollars spent to support operations in Iraq and Afghanistan has gone to just 23 major contractors, but the federal work force assigned to oversee those contracts hasn't grown in parallel with the massive growth in wartime expenditures.

Clark Irwin, a spokesman for the panel, declined to comment on the report's total preliminary estimate of wasteful spending, saying the commission was “working on a finalizing an estimate of the range.”

The report says the U.S. at one point employed more than 209,000 people in Iraq and Afghanistan.

That figure outstrips the total number of U.S. troops currently serving in combat: 46,000 in Iraq and 99,000 in Afghanistan.

---

## **The New Issue Of Traveling Soldier Is Out!**

**July, 2011 - Issue 35**

**At:**

**<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>**

**“The Pentagon Must Be Shit Worried Knowing These Soldiers Have Minds Of Their Own And No Fear In Expressing Their Opinions”**

**<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/7.11.action.php>**

**Afghanistan:**

**“All My Guys Are Hurt. No One Cares”**

**<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/7.11.afghanistan.php>**

**Americans Don't Support The War On Afghanistan:  
"Lopsided Majority" Says Get Out**  
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/7.11.americans.php>

[And More.....]

## **TRAVELING SOLDIER**

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/>

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization

## **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**

**The past year – every single day of it – has had its consequences. In the obscure depths of society, an imperceptible molecular process has been occurring irreversibly, like the flow of time, a process of accumulating discontent, bitterness, and revolutionary energy.**

**-- Leon Trotsky, “Up To The Ninth Of January”**

**Of The 1%, By The 1%, For The  
1%:**

**“1% Of The People Take Nearly A  
Quarter Of The Nation’s Income —  
An Inequality Even The Wealthy  
Will Come To Regret”**

**“There Is One Thing That Money  
Doesn’t Seem To Have Bought: An  
Understanding That Their Fate Is  
Bound Up With How The Other 99  
Percent Live”**

# **“Throughout History, This Is Something That The Top 1 Percent Eventually Do Learn. Too Late”**

**Inequality massively distorts our foreign policy. The top 1 percent rarely serve in the military — the reality is that the “all-volunteer” army does not pay enough to attract their sons and daughters, and patriotism goes only so far.**

May 2011 By Joseph E. Stiglitz, Vanity Fair [Excerpts]

**Americans have been watching protests against oppressive regimes that concentrate massive wealth in the hands of an elite few.**

**Yet in our own democracy, 1 percent of the people take nearly a quarter of the nation’s income — an inequality even the wealthy will come to regret.**

**It’s no use pretending that what has obviously happened has not in fact happened.**

**The upper 1 percent of Americans are now taking in nearly a quarter of the nation’s income every year.**

**In terms of wealth rather than income, the top 1 percent control 40 percent.**

Their lot in life has improved considerably.

Twenty-five years ago, the corresponding figures were 12 percent and 33 percent.

One response might be to celebrate the ingenuity and drive that brought good fortune to these people, and to contend that a rising tide lifts all boats. That response would be misguided.

**While the top 1 percent have seen their incomes rise 18 percent over the past decade, those in the middle have actually seen their incomes fall.**

For men with only high-school degrees, the decline has been precipitous — 12 percent in the last quarter-century alone.

**All the growth in recent decades — and more — has gone to those at the top.**

**In terms of income equality, America lags behind any country in the old, ossified Europe that President George W. Bush used to deride.**

**Among our closest counterparts are Russia with its oligarchs and Iran.**

While many of the old centers of inequality in Latin America, such as Brazil, have been striving in recent years, rather successfully, to improve the plight of the poor and reduce gaps in income, America has allowed inequality to grow.

Economists long ago tried to justify the vast inequalities that seemed so troubling in the mid-19th century — inequalities that are but a pale shadow of what we are seeing in America today.

The corporate executives who helped bring on the recession of the past three years— whose contribution to our society, and to their own companies, has been massively negative — went on to receive large bonuses.

Those who have contributed great positive innovations to our society, from the pioneers of genetic understanding to the pioneers of the Information Age, have received a pittance compared with those responsible for the financial innovations that brought our global economy to the brink of ruin.

None of this should come as a surprise — it is simply what happens when a society's wealth distribution becomes lopsided.

**The more divided a society becomes in terms of wealth, the more reluctant the wealthy become to spend money on common needs.**

The rich don't need to rely on government for parks or education or medical care or personal security — they can buy all these things for themselves.

The top 1 percent may complain about the kind of government we have in America, but in truth they like it just fine: too gridlocked to re-distribute, too divided to do anything but lower taxes.

**But one big part of the reason we have so much inequality is that the top 1 percent want it that way.**

The most obvious example involves tax policy.

Lowering tax rates on capital gains, which is how the rich receive a large portion of their income, has given the wealthiest Americans close to a free ride.

Much of today's inequality is due to manipulation of the financial system, enabled by changes in the rules that have been bought and paid for by the financial industry itself — one of its best investments ever. The government lent money to financial institutions at close to 0 percent interest and provided generous bailouts on favorable terms when all else failed.

Regulators turned a blind eye to a lack of transparency and to conflicts of interest.

Wealth begets power, which begets more wealth.

During the savings-and-loan scandal of the 1980s — a scandal whose dimensions, by today's standards, seem almost quaint — the banker Charles Keating was asked by a

congressional committee whether the \$1.5 million he had spread among a few key elected officials could actually buy influence. “I certainly hope so,” he replied.

The Supreme Court, in its recent Citizens United case, has enshrined the right of corporations to buy government, by removing limitations on campaign spending.

The personal and the political are today in perfect alignment.

Virtually all U.S. senators, and most of the representatives in the House, are members of the top 1 percent when they arrive, are kept in office by money from the top 1 percent, and know that if they serve the top 1 percent well they will be rewarded by the top 1 percent when they leave office.

By and large, the key executive-branch policymakers on trade and economic policy also come from the top 1 percent.

When pharmaceutical companies receive a trillion-dollar gift — through legislation prohibiting the government, the largest buyer of drugs, from bargaining over price — it should not come as cause for wonder.

**It should not make jaws drop that a tax bill cannot emerge from Congress unless big tax cuts are put in place for the wealthy. Given the power of the top 1 percent, this is the way you would expect the system to work.**

Inequality massively distorts our foreign policy. The top 1 percent rarely serve in the military — the reality is that the “all-volunteer” army does not pay enough to attract their sons and daughters, and patriotism goes only so far.

Plus, the wealthiest class feels no pinch from higher taxes when the nation goes to war: borrowed money will pay for all that.

With the top 1 percent in charge, and paying no price, the notion of balance and restraint goes out the window.

There is no limit to the adventures we can undertake; corporations and contractors stand only to gain.

The rules of economic globalization are likewise designed to benefit the rich: they encourage competition among countries for business, which drives down taxes on corporations, weakens health and environmental protections, and undermines what used to be viewed as the “core” labor rights, which include the right to collective bargaining.

**It is this sense of an unjust system without opportunity that has given rise to the conflagrations in the Middle East: rising food prices and growing and persistent youth unemployment simply served as kindling.**

With youth unemployment in America at around 20 percent (and in some locations, and among some socio-demographic groups, at twice that); with one out of six Americans desiring a full-time job not able to get one; with one out of seven Americans on food stamps (and about the same number suffering from “food insecurity”) — given all this,



there is ample evidence that something has blocked the vaunted “trickling down” from the top 1 percent to everyone else.

All of this is having the predictable effect of creating alienation — voter turnout among those in their 20s in the last election stood at 21 percent, comparable to the unemployment rate

**In recent weeks we have watched people taking to the streets by the millions to protest political, economic, and social conditions in the oppressive societies they inhabit.**

Governments have been toppled in Egypt and Tunisia. Protests have erupted in Libya, Yemen, and Bahrain.

The ruling families elsewhere in the region look on nervously from their air-conditioned penthouses — will they be next?

They are right to worry.

These are societies where a minuscule fraction of the population — less than 1 percent — controls the lion’s share of the wealth; where wealth is a main determinant of power; where entrenched corruption of one sort or another is a way of life; and where the wealthiest often stand actively in the way of policies that would improve life for people in general.

**As we gaze out at the popular fervor in the streets, one question to ask ourselves is this: When will it come to America?**

**In important ways, our own country has become like one of these distant, troubled places.**

**The top 1 percent have the best houses, the best educations, the best doctors, and the best lifestyles, but there is one thing that money doesn’t seem to have bought: an understanding that their fate is bound up with how the other 99 percent live.**

Throughout history, this is something that the top 1 percent eventually do learn.

Too late.

---

**“48% Think Major Cuts In Defense Spending Won’t Put America At Risk”**

# “Seventy-Nine Percent (79%) Say The United States Spends Too Much On Defending Other Countries”

**“Being the world’s policeman” is a phrase often used to suggest America is the nation chiefly responsible for peace and the establishment of democracy in the rest of the world. But just 11% of voters think that should be America’s role.**

July 18, 2011 Rasmussen Reports [Excerpts]

Nearly one-half of Americans now think the United States can make major cuts in defense spending without putting the country in danger.

They believe even more strongly that there’s no risk in cutting way back on what America spends to defend other countries.

A new Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey finds that 48% of Adults feel it is possible to significantly reduce military spending without putting the American people at risk. Thirty-seven percent (37%) disagree and do not believe major defense cuts come without risk. Fifteen percent (15%) are not sure.

Seventy-nine percent (79%) say the United States spends too much on defending other countries. Only four percent (4%) think America doesn’t spend enough protecting its friends. Thirteen percent (13%) feel these defense expenditures are about right.

Sixty-eight percent (68%) of Americans believe it is possible to significantly reduce the amount the United States spends defending other countries without putting the American people at risk.

**Seventy-two percent (72%) of adults correctly recognize that the United States has spent more than \$100 billion annually fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past few years.**

Only three percent (3%) think that’s not true, while another 25% are not sure.

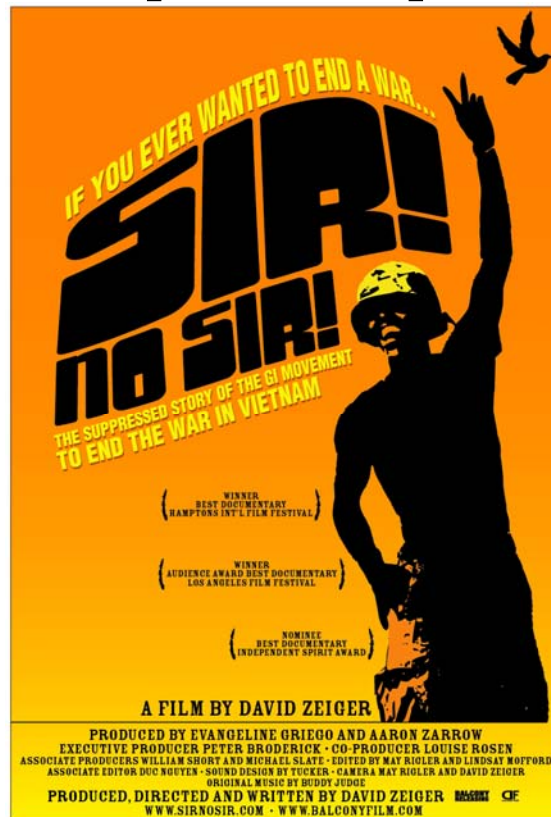
Most Americans (62%) also realize that the United States has more than 250,000 troops deployed in more than 100 foreign countries not counting Iraq and Afghanistan.

Fifty-six percent (56%) of voters know that the United States spends about six times as much on national defense as any other nation in the world.

**“Being the world’s policeman” is a phrase often used to suggest America is the nation chiefly responsible for peace and the establishment of democracy in the rest of the world. But just 11% of voters think that should be America’s role.**

---

# A Film All About How An Armed Forces Rebellion Stopped An Imperial War: [Hint Hint]



## Sir! No Sir!:

Dear Sir! No Sir! supporters,

Displaced Films, Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), and a growing number of organizations have been working to distribute free DVDs of Sir No Sir to soldiers.

Hundreds have been distributed and we want to see that number grow into the thousands.

The response has been tremendous.

David Zeiger and Jade Fox  
Displaced Films  
[jadefox@sirnosir.com](mailto:jadefox@sirnosir.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

To Whom it May Concern:

I just wanted to say thank you for this film, for raising my awareness, I never even knew some of these things happened.

I think this probably is one of the most important documentaries made about war resistance.

Thank you again,  
SGT Spencer Batchelder

**BUY SIR! NO SIR! FOR ACTIVE DUTY  
SOLDIERS NOW**

**HELP GET SIR! NO SIR!  
INTO THE HANDS THAT NEED IT  
MOST**

The Sir! No Sir! DVD is on sale now, exclusively at  
[http://www.sirnosir.com/home\\_dvd\\_storefront.html](http://www.sirnosir.com/home_dvd_storefront.html)

Also available is a Soundtrack CD (which includes the entire song from the FTA Show, "Soldier We Love You"), theatrical posters, tee shirts, and the DVD of "A Night of Ferocious Joy," a film about the first hip-hop antiwar concert against the "War on Terror."

**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.

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# **Former NSA Official Says Corruption And Cover Up Of Crooked Billion Dollar Contract Continuing At Spy Agency: “Fraud And Abuse Were Widespread”**

## **Judge Calls Government Persecution Of Whistleblower “Unconscionable” “It Took 2½ Years To Charge Mr. Drake And Another 14 Months To Bring Him To Trial Before All The Major Charges Were Dropped At The Last Minute”**

July 19, 2011 By Shaun Waterman, The Washington Times [Excerpts]

Former National Security Agency whistleblower Thomas A. Drake says continuing mismanagement and malfeasance have turned the nation's premier electronic spy agency into “the Enron of the U.S. intelligence community.”

Mr. Drake, whose federal criminal case concluded last week, said in an interview with The Washington Times that he thinks management failures at NSA related to electronic surveillance and other issues that he protested — first through internal channels and then by sharing unclassified data with a Baltimore Sun reporter — are continuing.

“The agency never even accepted the basis for the [Pentagon inspector general's] investigation in the first place,” he said, referring to the internal audit launched after he and others at NSA's Fort Meade headquarters in Maryland complained about contract fraud and mismanagement.

He compared the agency to the Texas-based energy trading giant Enron Corp., which went bankrupt in 2001 and became a symbol of corporate fraud and corruption.

Mr. Drake was sentenced to one year's probation and community service last week after the government's 10 felony counts against him were withdrawn. He instead pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor offense of exceeding authorized access to a government

computer.

The judge called the prosecutors' handling of the case "unconscionable" because it took 2½ years to charge Mr. Drake and another 14 months to bring him to trial before all the major charges were dropped at the last minute.

**Mr. Drake's whistleblowing is related to NSA's multibillion-dollar plan to develop a digital eavesdropping and data storage system called Trailblazer, which would index and analyze large amounts of electronic data that the agency gathers from monitoring computers and telephones around the world.**

Even though the public version of the inspector general's report is heavily censored, Mr. Drake said: "It is clear that NSA disputes the findings. ... They have never accepted they did anything wrong."

**"There was a cover-up," Mr. Drake said. "The truth is Trailblazer was an even more abysmal failure than they let on in public."**

**In 2005, NSA Director Michael Hayden told Congress that Trailblazer was "a couple to several hundred million" dollars over budget and months behind schedule.**

**The program was abandoned in 2006.**

"In the end, they delivered nothing," Mr. Drake said of contractor SAIC, which was paid \$280 million for the demonstration phase of the program. Mr. Drake said executives at NSA, including the deputy director at the time, William B. Black, were former SAIC employees and the contract was "hard-wired for SAIC."

**Mr. Drake, who held a senior position at NSA from 2001 until 2008, said the agency had planned to spend more than \$4 billion on the program with SAIC and dozens of other contractors, and that fraud and abuse were widespread in Trailblazer and related programs.**

**"It really became a feeding frenzy as contractor after contractor bellied up to the Trailblazer bar," he said.**

Mr. Drake said NSA's accounts — like most other Defense Department bookkeeping systems — were "unauditable." The agency's budget is classified, but even for those inside the agency, "It was very difficult to determine where most of the money was going except at a very general level," he said.

**The government "fought very hard" to keep any reference to the inspector general's report, or his other whistleblowing activities, for instance to Congress, out of the court case.**

**"Why were they so afraid of that getting into court?" he asked. "It's the continuing cover-up."**

---



### **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**

**“Prisoners In The Security Housing Unit At Pelican Bay State Prison And Elsewhere In California Are Putting Their Lives On The Line To Protest Cruel Prison Conditions”**

**“The Most Politically Charged Demand By The Hunger Strikers Is For An End To The Prison’s ‘Debriefing’ Policy And Gang Status Validation Criteria”**  
**“Books By Authors Like George Jackson, Franz Fannon, Che Guevara, Bobby Sands, Nelson Mandela, Paulo Freire And Malcolm X Can Be Used To ‘Validate’ Gang Status”**  
**Debriefing Is “Is Used To Punish Political Activity”**

July 18, 2011 By Karen Stewart, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

EIGHTEEN DAYS into a hunger strike that began on July 1, prisoners in the Security Housing Unit (SHU) at Pelican Bay State Prison and elsewhere in California are putting their lives on the line to protest cruel prison conditions.

On July 1, some 400 residents of Pelican Bay State Prison’s SHU began an indefinite hunger strike to draw attention to the repressive conditions and near-total isolation that many have been forced to endure for months--and in some cases, years. After years of court battles over the notoriously inhumane practices in the SHU, prisoners who have endured long-term isolation opted for a hunger strike to challenge their abusive treatment.

Within a week, they were joined by as many as 6,600 hunger strikers at Pelican Bay and at least 11 other California prisons.

Pelican Bay hunger strikers have listed five main demands: an end to group punishment; ending the “debriefing” policy and modifying the prison’s gang status criteria; better food; expanded programs and privileges for long-term SHU residents; and compliance by the prison with the 2006 recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Safety and Abuse in America’s Prisons.



The most politically charged demand by the hunger strikers is for an end to the prison's "debriefing" policy and gang status validation criteria.

Currently, a prisoner can be detained in the SHU simply because he is accused of gang activity, whether the accusation is true or not. Correctional administrators determine who goes into the SHU. It's not part of any court sentence requiring due process and the term can be fixed or indeterminate.

If a prisoner's sentence is indeterminate, the only way out is through "debriefing."

**In "debriefing," prisoners are forced to implicate themselves and others as gang members.**

**"Non-debriefers" who refuse to be coerced face unconscionably long-term isolation and are told by guards that they "will die in the SHU."**

**Others break under the intense pressure and invent false accusations to secure release.**

Hunger strikers claim that 95 percent of "debriefers" lie to get out, and go on to be lifelong "stoolies" for the cops.

**The most insidious aspect of "debriefing" is that it is used to punish political activity. The fear-mongering related to gang activity is used to cover what is actually political persecution.**

**Anyone deemed to be political can be labeled a gang member and placed in the SHU, where activists and jailhouse lawyers are disproportionately represented.**

Steve Champion, writing from San Quentin's death row, calls the CDCR procedure for gang validation "the new inquisition." When someone is "validated" as a gang member, that designation stays with him throughout his prison term and even during parole. Although gang "validation" cannot legally extend for more than six years, the gang unit inevitably finds "new information," often through "debriefing."

Criteria like tattoos or an association (even a casual greeting) with another prisoner deemed to be a gang affiliate can be used as a means of "validation."

**Most alarmingly, "validation" can be based on a person's reading matter, especially leftist and revolutionary books magazines or newspapers.**

**Books by authors like George Jackson, Franz Fanon, Che Guevara, Bobby Sands, Nelson Mandela, Paulo Freire and Malcolm X can be used to "validate" gang status.**

A recent California appeals court explicitly condoned the practice, stating that: "Assigning an inmate to secure housing based on his possession of constitutionally protected materials linking him to a gang (does) not violate his first amendment rights."

This is more than a first amendment issue, however. According to Champion, "What cannot be questioned is the truth that the only route from an apolitical gangster mentality to a socio-politically conscious prisoner is through education. This is the fundamental message to all prison writers and activists."

The strategy of "debriefing," "validation" and equating radical political writing with gang literature exposes the government's fear of a new radical prison movement.

It's noteworthy that the hunger strike has transcended gang affiliations and racial differences to include African American, white and Latino strikers. In spite of racial tensions that are often deliberately aggravated by guards, prisoners have demonstrated the ability to organize multi-racially behind bars under the most repressive conditions.

Hunger strikers have been without food for more than two weeks and for some, medical conditions have become critical. After years in isolation and with poor nutrition and medical care many strikers already had health problems. For them, the effects of the hunger strike are taking hold rapidly.

Strikers have vowed to continue the strike until death if meaningful negotiations do not begin. It remains to be seen whether California authorities will meet with the prisoner's mediation team. Meanwhile, outside strike support may be literally a matter of life or death.

#### **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

Visit the Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity website [<http://prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com>] for updates on the hunger strike and ways to take action in your community. You can also sign a petition [<http://www.change.org/petitions/support-prisoners-on-hunger-strike-at-pelican-bay-state-prison>] supporting the five demands of the hunger strikers.

## **MILITARY RESISTANCE NEWSLETTER BY MAIL FREE FOR ACTIVE DUTY TROOPS**

**IF YOU WISH TO HAVE A SELECTION OF MILITARY RESISTANCE NEWSLETTERS  
MAILED TO YOU, EMAIL YOUR ADDRESS TO:  
CONTACT@MILITARYPROJECT.ORG OR DROP A LINE TO: BOX 126, 2576  
BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10025-5657 USA.**

**Please say how many you wish sent.**

**NOTE WELL: They will all be different issues of Military Resistance to satisfy DOD  
regs that you may possess copies, *provided you don't have more than one of the  
same issue.***

Looking for a great way to get ahead in the job market? No?

*Then attend...*

# 4-Profit University

*A for-profit "educational" institution dedicated to profits since 3Q 2009*



Do you qualify for:

- A Pell Grant?
- The G.I. Bill?
- A U.S. Government-backed Student Loan?

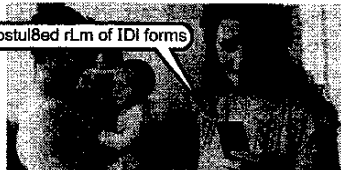
If so, you may be the type of go-getter that is right for 4-Profit University!



Stroll our campus, conveniently located between Happy Luck Nails and Pizza-n-Gyros.

pl8o postul8ed rLm of IDI forms

*Our business model combines massive "subprime" loans with a massive taxpayer-money grab.*



What could go wrong?

If you can't attend on-campus, take our online courses. No computer? No worries! Take our text-message courses.

*Our professors are there to help, from the moment you check in, to the moment your check clears!*

Offering majors in such disciplines as:

- *Staying Enrolled for Four Weeks*
- *Applications for Government Aid*
- *Starting a For-Profit School to Scam Students*
- *Selling Blood*
- *Pizza and Gyros Consumption*
- *Business and Finanz\**



Remember: The only thing standing between our shareholders and government money is...

**YOU!!**

Reading problem? No problem!



**Call Today: 1-555-4PROFIT!**

\*No relation to "business" or "finance."

## 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.

## 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/military-resistance-archives/>; [news@uruknet.info](mailto:news@uruknet.info);

[http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/);

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

## **Military Resistance** [www.militaryproject.org](http://www.militaryproject.org)

*This is how Obama brings the troops home,  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



*Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members  
[www.militaryproject.org](http://www.militaryproject.org)*

## **IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATIONS**

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: [www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml) for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

---

**If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.**