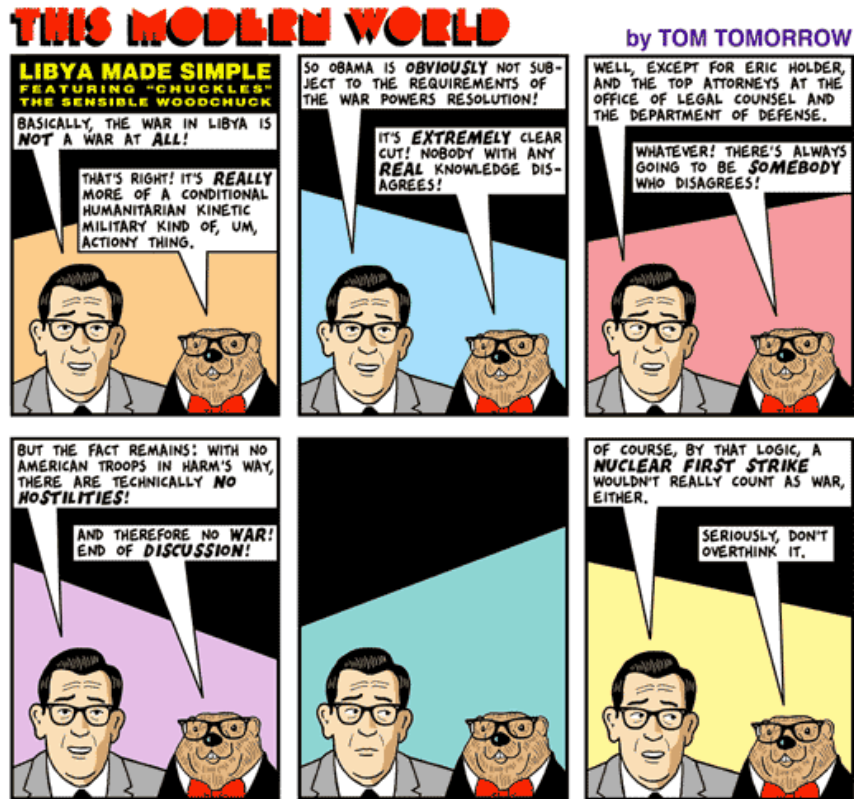


Military Resistance 9G7



**Endless Betrayal:
“Tens Of Thousands Of
Children Of U.S. Military
Personnel Attend Military-Base
Schools That Are Falling Apart
From Age And Neglect”**

“Fixing Military Schools Is A Small-Ticket Item In A Country That Spends \$2 Billion A Week On The Wars Alone”

“I Would Feel Disrespected If I Were On My Second Or Third Tour Of Duty And Then My Kids Were In A School That Was Dilapidated And Too Small Or Falling Apart”

“Military Families With Few Resources Face A “Stacked Deck” And Must Compete For Budget Dollars With The Well-Oiled Lobbying Machines Of The Military-Industrial Complex”

“The conditions scare me,” says Michelle Sherman, whose two sons, ages 6 and 4, attend Diamond.

She attributes her kindergartner’s two bouts of pneumonia to conditions at the school. And her preschooler’s teacher filed a complaint about “black stuff” blowing from vents, emails show.

The military schools crisis is so little known that New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof recently suggested the military’s treatment of kids might perhaps be its “most impressive achievement,” while first lady Michelle Obama boasted in April that the administration has made the education of soldiers’ children a top priority.

Jun 27, 2011 by Kristen Lombardi, The Center for Public Integrity’s iWatchNews; Newsweek [Excerpts]

For nearly half her life, 11-year-old Catie Hunter has lived apart from her father, an Army platoon sergeant deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, and twice to Korea.

Such extended separation would stress any child. But Catie must endure additional hardship at her elementary school at Oklahoma's Fort Sill.

To get to class on stormy days, the fifth grader must dodge what she calls "Niagara Falls," the deluge of rainwater that flows from the school's rotten roof into large trash bins below.

Pleasant days aren't much better at Geronimo Road Elementary.

Catie passes by chipped floors, termite-infested walls, and cracks in bricks the size of the principal's finger. In the ceiling, tiles are bent and browned by leaks. Some dangle by threads of glue.

A bucket, strapped by a bungee cord, hangs over the gymnasium door, another makeshift rain receptacle.

Inside her classroom — built before Dwight D. Eisenhower became president — an archaic air-conditioning unit at times drowns out her teacher's voice.

"I'm really proud of the fact that the school is still standing," says Catie, a pixie of a girl who twitches her nose when she talks. "Sometimes I wonder if it's going to fall in."

School conditions that disgust many adults only add to the pressures on a child longing for a father deployed four times since her birth.

"I wish he were here," she admits. "I miss him a lot."

Catie's circumstances are hardly unique.

An investigation by NEWSWEEK and the Center for Public Integrity's iWatchNews found that tens of thousands of children of U.S. military personnel attend military-base schools that are falling apart from age and neglect, and have failed to meet the Defense Department's own standards.

The conditions at schools on military installations have worsened in the last decade even as the average soldier-parent endures an average of three deployments, each lasting up to 18 months.

In Germany, for instance, the children of U.S. soldiers still go to class in World War II-era Nazi barracks that were cited for fire hazards just a few years ago.

At Fort Riley in Kansas, students drink water tainted brown from corroding pipes, while at Fort Stewart in Georgia, mold that grew on walls and sprouted from floors was so serious at one school that the library had to be shuttered for emergency cleanup.

The military schools crisis is so little known that New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof recently suggested the military's treatment of kids might perhaps be its "most impressive achievement," while first lady Michelle Obama boasted in April that the administration has made the education of soldiers' children a top priority.

But in nearly 200 interviews across the globe, educators, parents, and students at military-base schools painted a far bleaker story.

They have used boiler rooms, trailers, hallways, or closets as makeshift classrooms or workspaces, and fretted as children sweltered on hot days when antiquated air-conditioning units stopped working.

Conditions are so bad that some educators at base schools envy the civilian public schools off base, which admittedly have their own set of challenges.

“Some of the new schools in town make our schools look like a prison,” says David C. Primer, who uses a trailer as a classroom to teach students German at the vaunted Marine headquarters in Quantico, Va., just 30 miles south of the nation’s capital, in one of the country’s most affluent suburbs.

“Safety Also Is An Issue”

Safety also is an issue.

In April, a fire traced to an aging gas line broke out in the cafeteria at an elementary school at Fort Stewart in Georgia. “The conditions are terrible,” says Tina French, a mother of two autistic students at the school. “DOD schools are supposed to be the best. We’re not seeing that here.”

Military officials’ own reports to Congress in 2008 and 2009 show as many as three quarters of base schools the Pentagon operates are either beyond repair or would require extensive renovation to meet minimum standards for safety, quality, accessibility, and design.

Nonetheless, the DOD education office insists “none of our schools is unsafe, and no school is a hazard to anyone.”

The 1978 Defense Dependents’ Education Act requires the military to provide “academic services of a high quality” to the children of soldiers on active duty.

A 1988 Defense Department directive went further, broadly guaranteeing military families “a quality of life that reflects the high standards and pride of the nation they defend”—including education.

The Pentagon reports that 39 percent of the schools it runs on bases were graded in the worst category of “failing,” which means they should be replaced, and 37 percent were classified in “poor” physical shape, meaning they will require significant renovation to meet the standards.

Schools run by public systems on Army installations didn’t fare much better: at least 39 percent fell in the failing or poor categories.

The Pentagon now estimates it will take \$3.7 billion and as many as seven years to renovate or rebuild most of its schools, a backlog that accumulated over the last

decade as defense officials failed to press for the funds they needed in stretched military budgets.

To put that cost in perspective, the amount is about the same spent this year on drone aircraft, or half the cost of NASA's Hubble telescope, which scans distant galaxies from Earth orbit.

Essentially, fixing military schools is a small-ticket item in a country that spends \$2 billion a week on the wars alone but is trying to trim that cost with President Barack Obama's withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

“Military Families With Few Resources Face A ‘Stacked Deck’ And Must Compete For Budget Dollars With The Well-Oiled Lobbying Machines Of The Military-Industrial Complex”

“I would feel disrespected if I were on my second or third tour of duty and then my kids were in a school that was dilapidated and too small or falling apart,” says Chet Edwards, a former Democratic congressman from Texas who chaired the House Appropriations Military Construction Subcommittee that was dealing with the school issue before he lost reelection last year.

The problem, Edwards says, is that military families with few resources face a “stacked deck” and must compete for budget dollars with the well-oiled lobbying machines of the military-industrial complex.

“I had hundreds of representatives and lobbyists come into my office fighting for multibillion-dollar weapons programs,” he recalls. “But I only had a handful who ever walked in and said...our kids deserve better education.”

There's little doubt what a Defense Department task force now studying the base schools run by local districts will find. A preliminary assessment of Catie's school in Oklahoma, for instance, notes it is in “failing condition” and “should be considered for replacement.”

At an Army post two miles outside Stuttgart, Germany, children attend an elementary school built 73 years ago by the Nazis and used by German Gen. Erwin Rommel's tank division as barracks during World War II.

The school, the military's oldest, is so cramped that some students are shifted to trailers. Some modifications, including the addition of fire escapes, took place only after the facility was cited in 2006 for nine fire-safety violations.

At Diamond Elementary School at Fort Stewart in Georgia, leaks from a rotting roof have caused lights in classroom G3 to spark—“a serious safety hazard,” according to an Aug. 24, 2010, inspection report—forcing administrators to evacuate the classroom.

The leaks and antiquated ventilation units are also blamed for air-quality and related health problems.

“The conditions scare me,” says Michelle Sherman, whose two sons, ages 6 and 4, attend Diamond.

She attributes her kindergartner’s two bouts of pneumonia to conditions at the school. And her preschooler’s teacher filed a complaint about “black stuff” blowing from vents, emails show.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

New Hampshire Soldier Dies Of Afghan Wounds



Nicholas P. Bernier, 21, of East Kingston, N.H., died June 25, 2011, at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, of injuries sustained on June 22 when his unit was attacked in Kherwar, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)...

Three Foreign Occupation Troops Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

July 5, 2011 By the CNN Wire Staff

Three foreign troops were slain in an incident in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday. NATO's International Security Assistance Force said the three died in a bombing; The nationalities of those slain were not immediately released.

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

July 5, 2011 AP

A foreign servicemember died following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan yesterday.

Australian Commando Killed In Action And Another Seriously Wounded In Action In Afghanistan

7/5/011 Defence Media Operations & Radio Australia News

An Australian Commando Sergeant serving with the Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) has been killed in action and another has been seriously wounded in a separate, but related incident in southern Afghanistan overnight.

Sergeant Todd Langley was killed in action when he was struck by insurgent small arms fire during an extended contact. Sergeant Langley, 35, of Sydney, was shot in the head.

Earlier in the contact, another Australian Commando was struck by insurgent small arms fire and seriously wounded in action.

General Hurley said he was quickly moved from immediate danger and given life-saving first aid by his Commando team mates.

He was evacuated from the battlefield and after receiving emergency trauma care, he is now recovering well in the Kandahar Role 3 Medical Facility. The wounded soldier has notified his family and they are receiving support from Defence.

Sinton Marine Killed In Afghanistan Known For What He Did For Others



Sinton native Marine Lance Cpl. Mark Goyet was killed in action Tuesday in Afghanistan, his family said. He was a 2007 graduate of Sinton High School who volunteered to serve in Afghanistan after having already served in Iraq. Contributed photo

June 29, 2011 By Mike Baird, Caller.com

SINTON — Loyalty to comrades prompted Marine Lance Cpl. Mark Goyet, a 2007 Sinton High School graduate, to volunteer for duty in Afghanistan, where he was killed Tuesday, family members said.

Goyet, 22, an all-district high school athlete and community volunteer, was shot several times in the chest and died before medics reached him, his mother said.

“He was the happiest, smiliest boy, the most loving son in the world,” Martha Goyet, a dental assistant in Portland, said about her only son. “He would hug me so hard it would hurt.”

Goyet, the youngest of three siblings, served one tour in Iraq as a mortar man, family members said. Afterward he was assigned to a Marine Expeditionary Unit on a Navy ship based in Japan for seven months before volunteering in March to go to Afghanistan.

“Mark didn’t have to go,” said his father, Navy Cmdr. Raymond Goyet, who has been in the Navy 34 years and was in Hawaii on Wednesday seeking a flight home. The elder Goyet is commanding officer of the Navy’s Engineering Assessments Pacific, based in San Diego, Calif. “All he had to do was bide his time, but Mark had a sense of commitment to friends he grew up with who didn’t make it back or were badly injured in Afghanistan.

“He was extremely dedicated and I was supportive of his decision,” Goyet said. “When your son tells you it’s his sense of duty you can’t argue with that.”

Before deployment his parents visited Goyet while he was staying in Twentynine Palms, Calif., with his older sister Jenna Cordy and her husband, Joshua.

The family went to a casino and the young Marine won about \$1,000 playing blackjack, his father said.

“His mother and I heard him say on the phone to someone that he had the money for them,” Raymond Goyet said. “We asked if it was a debt he was paying and Mark said, ‘It’s not for me.’”

“One of his fellow Marine’s family lost everything while he was in Iraq and the soldier couldn’t afford to get home despite having the leave approved,” the proud father said. “Mark gave him the money.”

While in high school, Goyet read Dr. Seuss books to children at Welder Elementary School and volunteered to help youngsters shop during the Sinton For Youth Children’s Christmas shopping spree, said Eileen Troup, spokeswoman for Sinton Independent School District.

He enlisted after his high school graduation.

News of Goyet’s death spread across Sinton late Tuesday, Superintendent Steve VanMatre said.

“Our prayers go to the Goyet family,” VanMatre said. “Mark was tragically killed defending his county and the school district where he grew up mourns his loss.”

Goyet was an all-district pick in football and basketball in the 2006-07 school year before joining the Marines.

“Mark was a tough football player, who would get in and get after it,” said his coach Jimmie Mitchell, who now coaches at Sealy High School. “His effort was second to none, and he was a pleasure to be around — a wonderful kid who did what was asked of him. He wanted to please. His death is a sad, sad deal.”

Department of Defense notified the family of Goyet’s death late Tuesday, but no information regarding his death or military service was available on the department’s website.

Goyet is survived by his parents and two sisters, Cordy, 26, and Brianne Schumann, 31, of Riviera.

Schumann’s husband is a civilian contractor in Afghanistan who is attempting to escort Goyet’s body home, his mother said. His body is expected to arrive in Dover, Del., Thursday, she said.

Soldier From 4 SCOTS Killed In Afghanistan

4 Jul 11 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce that a soldier from The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (4 SCOTS), was killed in Afghanistan today, Monday 4 July 2011.

The soldier was reported missing from an ISAF checkpoint in the early hours of the morning and was later found dead following an extensive search of the area.

Spokesman for Task Force Helmand, Lieutenant Colonel Tim Purbrick, said:

“The soldier was reported missing from his checkpoint very early this morning and an extensive search of the area was conducted throughout the day to locate him. This evening, the body of the soldier was found by ISAF forces. He had suffered gunshot wounds.

“His exact cause of death is still to be established and the circumstances surrounding his disappearance and death are currently under investigation.”

Family Remembers Mullins Marine Killed In Afghanistan

06.28.2011 by Tonya Brown, WPDE

The family of a Mullins Marine killed Sunday in Afghanistan says he wanted to be a Marine ever since he was a boy.

Gunnery Sergeant Ralph Pate Jr., 29, couldn't wait to join the US Marine Corps. He enlisted right after graduating from Mullins High School at age 17.

The home where Pate grew up on Park Street in Mullins is decorated with American flags and patriotic bows.

“EJ” as he was affectionately called was due to come home in September from his deployment in Afghanistan.

He died Sunday in combat operations.

“It was heart crushing. It was so surreal. It was almost like it could not be happening,” said his cousin Lisa Collins.

Pate's family says they always knew it was a possibility, but they never expected him to be killed because he had served overseas so many times.

He deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004, 2006, and 2008 and in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2009 and 2011.

Pate's family says they never heard him complain about going to war.

Collins said, "His main goal in life was to become a Marine, and that's what he really wanted to do, and that's what he loved doing. He loved his job. He loved his country and he wanted to protect all the rights that we have in the United States."

His sacrifice has given his family a new found respect for the upcoming Independence Day. "That is one of the true reasons why we do have our own independence now. People like EJ that gave all he had for us and of our freedoms, so he is the true face of Independence Day," said Collins.

Pate served in the Marines for 12 years.

He is survived by his wife and two children, ages 8 and 10.

A private memorial service will be held for him later this week

From a Department of Defense release:

The US Marine Corps says Gunnery Sgt. Ralph E. Pate Jr., 29, of Marion, died Sunday while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

The Marine Corps says Pate was an explosive ordnance disposal technician assigned to 2nd EOD Company, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Pate received the Bronze Star Medal, Combat Action Ribbon with Gold Star in lieu of second award, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with three gold stars in lieu of fourth award.

“The Reorganization Of U.S. Forces In Kunar And Nuristan Has Led To An Insurgent Advance”

Jul 3, 2011 By Rahim Faiez and Solomon Moore - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

A study by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace published in June says "the reorganization of U.S. forces in Kunar and Nuristan has led to an insurgent advance."

"The fact is, the force was too dispersed, and local opposition — the population was allied with the insurgents — led the American command to evacuate the most isolated valleys ... as well as certain border outposts," wrote Carnegie visiting scholar Gilles Dorransoro.

The fighting then shifted to areas where U.S. forces evacuated and now "is intensifying throughout the rest of Kunar," Dorransoro added.

THE UNDOUBTED SUCCESS OF THE U.S. MILITARY EFFORT MAY BE SEEN HERE, SHOWING THE VAST QUANTITIES OF AFGHANISTAN THAT HAVE BEEN LIBERATED, AND WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR A NEW, FREE, DEMOCRATIC AFGHAN SOCIETY



US soldiers on patrol in Khost province, Afghanistan June 24, 2011. (AFP/Ted Aljibe)

POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS

MILITARY NEWS

Military Crime Lab Reeks Of Incompetence, Racism And Discontent:

“The Place Is A Rat’s Nest” “The Accusations And Counter- Accusations Include Racism, Sexual Harassment, Assault And Fraud”

June 26, 2011 By Marisa Taylor, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts] Michael Doyle and Tish Wells contributed to this article.

WASHINGTON — The military’s premier crime lab should be a place of sober scientific research, but lately it seems more like the set of a soap opera consumed with scandal and intrigue.

In less than four years, at least six internal investigations have been launched and six complaints filed against managers. The accusations and counter-accusations include racism, sexual harassment, assault and fraud.

The disputes have embroiled top managers and pitted them against one another. The lab’s former lawyer says she was retaliated against for blowing the whistle. The military counters that she made off with official records.

Amid the upheaval and finger-pointing, a lab analyst was convicted of embezzling almost \$70,000 from a professional association to pay for his gambling addiction.

“The place is a rat’s nest,” said Mike Jellison, a former firearms examiner who worked at the lab for 14 years. “It’s not conducive to science.”

Interviews and thousands of pages of court and military documents that McClatchy obtained reveal a litany of concerns about the lab where analysts handle evidence from all the military branches. Each year, about 3,000 criminal cases are processed at the facility called the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory.

Acrimony and backbiting permeate the lab, military officials have found.

Employees accuse the lab of protecting bad managers and ignoring serious complaints such as conflict of interest and waste.

“There are perceptions that managers are biased for a variety of reasons,” Army Col. Eric Belcher concluded after one inquiry in 2009 that described a brewing problem with “extremely bad relationships between managers.”

Military officials, however, continue to back the lab’s top officials, including its longtime director.

Last week, command officials sent an investigator to determine whether missing records that detailed the misconduct and forensic mistakes at the lab had been destroyed or stolen.

The Army realized that the documents had disappeared from the lab when it began responding to McClatchy's questions about two discredited analysts.

Separately, the Defense Department's inspector general confirmed last week that he was conducting an inquiry into the lab's handling of one of the analysts' misconduct at the request of Sens. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.

Started in 1943 by two soldiers at the Allied front in North Africa, the lab now has 180 employees in Fort Gillem, Ga.

Evidence in the military's highest-profile investigations has been analyzed there — from the friendly fire death in Afghanistan of former NFL player Pat Tillman to the mass shooting at Fort Hood, Texas.

Five years ago, however, misconduct by two analysts tarnished the lab's reputation.

A McClatchy investigation revealed in March that one of the analysts, Phillip Mills, was found to have falsified a report, prompting a three-year, \$1.4 million retesting of his cases. The lab concluded that he'd made dozens of mistakes, often when testing evidence in rape cases.

Making matters worse, the crime lab didn't always inform defense attorneys about mistakes, including evidence testing that wrongfully convicted defendants.

Since then, the accusations of impropriety have only multiplied, court and military documents show.

To some, the morale problems began when the Army tapped chemist Larry Chelko in 1993 to be the lab's first civilian director and began replacing most of its military examiners with civilians.

Although many of the lab's first civilian hires were former soldiers and Army investigators, many of the younger hires have no military background.

"In the military, the mindset is different," said Jellison, a former Army warrant officer. "It's mission first. The military does what the military tells it to do and things run smoothly."

"Now it's a military lab, but it's run by civilians," said Jellison, who recently decided against returning to the lab as a civilian. "I loved working there at one point but the people in management don't want any ex-military people there, period."

John Cayton, a retired Army investigator who ended up taking the job Jellison turned down, said he noticed hostility not only toward retired soldiers but also older workers. He resigned within months.

"I didn't feel welcomed," he said.

Racists In Command

Other divisions have emerged.

After a black temporary employee, A.D. Bell, was passed over for a permanent position, the lab's lawyer, Lisa Kreeger, testified in May 2010 that she'd overheard a manager make a racist remark about him.

Donald Mikko, the chief of the firearms branch, backed Kreeger, alleging that his boss resisted hiring Bell because he's black.

Lab officials have denied the allegations, saying Kreeger misheard the remark.

But a Defense Department investigator found merit in the discrimination claim, concluding, "Management has not articulated a legitimate nondiscriminatory reason for the action contested."

Kreeger and Mikko have filed their own complaints, alleging that officials retaliated against them.

Fueling the racism charges, other African-American employees raised concerns about several comments by whites, from an examiner telling a black IT worker in an email that he had "banana breath" to insinuations that the black employees were less educated, the lab's director testified in Bell's discrimination lawsuit.

Some former and current employees say officials have made matters worse by obsessing over damage control and punishing employees who raise concerns.

After a recent series of articles by McClatchy chronicled the mistakes and misconduct by two analysts, the lab held a meeting in June to "set the record straight" and, according to several people familiar with what was said, implied that discussing the lab's problems with the news media could violate military conduct codes.

The sources asked to remain anonymous for that reason.

Recent hires have only worsened morale, the employees said.

W. Mark Dale, a former director of the New York State Police laboratory system, was hired to oversee training despite a recommendation by New York's inspector general in 2007 that he be criminally investigated for a scandal there.

He was accused of keeping secret misconduct at the lab and mistakes by a discredited analyst. He was never prosecuted.

Col. Martin Rowe, the chief of the lab's expeditionary forensics division, who's observed the disputes since he joined in 2009, testified that he'd noticed "half-truths circulating" and a "general lack of communications." He dismissed the tensions as due to "growing pains."

But the conflicts don't appear to be resolved.

Managers and employees argue for hours in closed-doors meetings. Adversaries exchange countless accusatory emails. At times, confrontations spill into the lab's hallways.

One female lab technician became upset when a male examiner put a lab brush in her lunch pail. An employee she'd accused of sexual harassment years before had used the brush. Ordered to apologize, the examiner appeared to grab her. Investigators concluded that it constituted assault. The examiner resigned.

Some employees have claimed that the tense environment has made them ill.

Mikko testified in one ongoing lawsuit that another midlevel manager and war veteran appeared to have developed post-traumatic stress disorder "severe enough a 59-year-old man who has served God and country and his organization for years (was) literally in tears and shaking."

Kentucky National Guard Troops Called Up And Deployed To Iraq So Generals Will Have Servants: "You Can't Just Throw A Four-Star General In A Tent, With Everybody Else"

Jul 3, 2011 By Dylan Lovan - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Staff Sgt. David Miller is dicing onions for a salmon sauce in the kitchen of Louisville's historic Brown Hotel.

The food prepping is practice for his call of duty later this year, when he'll be cooking for dignitaries in one of Saddam Hussein's former residences in Iraq.

Miller, a member of 617th Military Police Company based in Richmond, is one of about 30 Kentucky National Guard members who will be working at the Joint Visitors Bureau, a U.S.-run hotel in Baghdad that hosts VIPs, military brass and celebrities.

The troops are learning the finer points of guest services, maintenance and food prep from The Brown Hotel's staff over a two-week session.

Miller has been a cook for the military before, but never in a 5-star setting with high-ranking officials.

Col. Scott Campbell, commander of the 149th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, said it's not unusual for soldiers to serve as hotel staff in a military zone. Campbell said there was a similar visitor's hotel in Bosnia when he was deployed there.

“You can’t just throw a four-star general in a tent, with everybody else,” Campbell said Thursday at The Brown. “They have security needs ... they are high-risk personnel.”

The hotel in Baghdad is an ornate building located near the Baghdad airport, said Campbell, who has stayed there.

“It’s a pretty impressive building,” he said. Campbell said high-ranking Defense and State Department officials are typical guests at the hotel.

“It gives them a place to stay that’s secure,” Campbell said.

The Louisville-trained soldiers will be replaced a group of soldiers at the hotel who did their training last year at the Roosevelt, a hotel in New Orleans.

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.

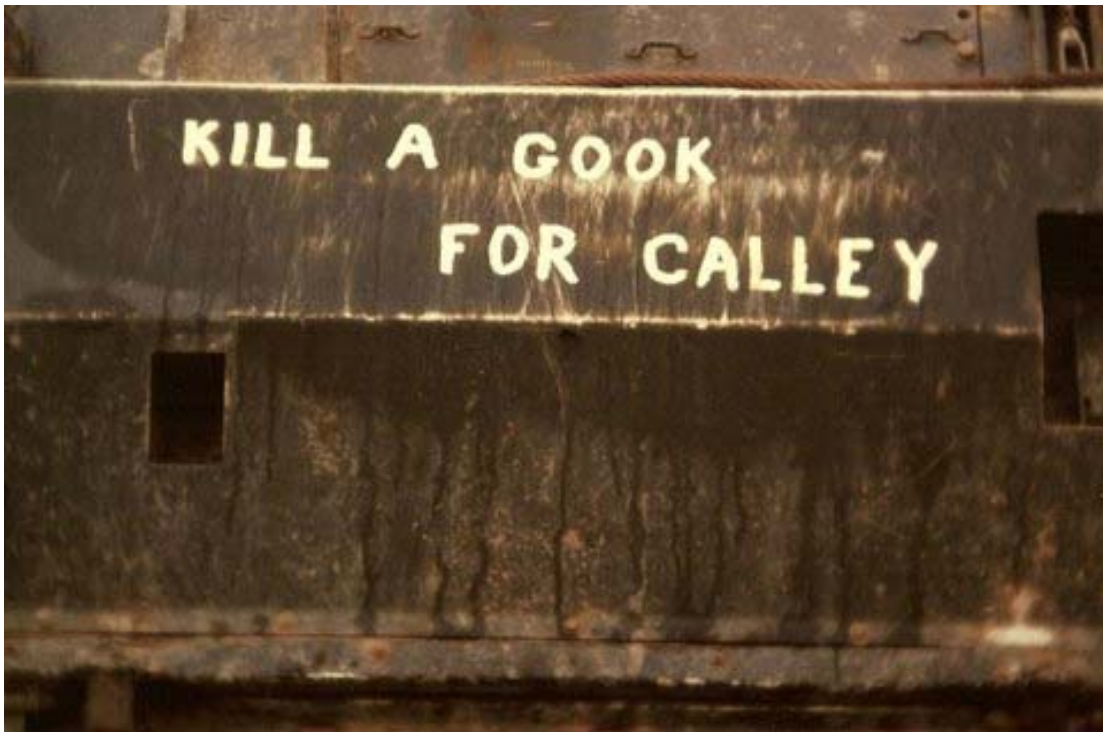
“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**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**

Trail Of Tears



An Khe, Vietnam 1970 Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: July 05, 2011
Subject: Trail Of Tears

Trail Of Tears

When I was in Vietnam, Lt. William Calley was found guilty of his actions at the My Lai Massacre on March 16, 1968. 504 innocent Vietnamese civilians were murdered by American troops.

“Kill a Gook For Calley,” was painted on

the front of this Armored Personnel Carrier
that was in my unit in An Khe.
That is how barbaric the U.S. Government
had become in Vietnam.
This is exactly how barbaric the U.S. Government
has become in the Middle East.

That's why so many Vietnam veterans are
still suffering from the trauma of Vietnam.
The Vietnam War has never stopped for them.
America has become the Roman Empire.
Every war the U.S. has ever been involved in has
an enemy we have dehumanized.
They are not humans, they are Gooks.
You're not killing Indians,
you are killing savages.
"Kill a Gook For Calley."
"The Only Good Indian is a Dead Indian,"
You are not killing humans,
you are killing Hajjis.

The madness of America never stops.
4.6% of the world's population wants it all.
The U.S. controls 25% of the world's
natural resources.
There are over 700 U.S. military installations
around the world.
There are American troops in 150 countries around the world.
The U.S. Government has bombed 28 countries since the end
of World War II.

The American Empire is everywhere...
But,
greed has finally taken its toll.
America is now on a high speed collision course
with over expansion.
The mantra of:
"Kill A Gook For Calley,"
has now become an epidemic of self destruction.
"The Only Good Indian is a Dead Indian."
Crazy Horse has finally risen like a mountain.
Truth and justice has reared its head over
the graves of millions.
Ancestors are reborn.

Mike Hastie
Army medic Vietnam
July 4, 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) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

ANNIVERSARIES

July 6, 1944 -- Noble Anniversary: Eleven Years Before Rosa Parks, A Courageous Lady Defies Bus Racism And Wins

Carl Bunin Peace History July 5-11

Irene Morgan, a 28-year-old black woman, was arrested for refusing to move to the back of the bus eleven years before Rosa Parks did so.

Her legal appeal, after her conviction for breaking a Virginia law (known as a Jim Crow law) forbidding integrated seating, resulted in a 7-1 Supreme Court decision barring segregation in interstate commerce.

By Robin Washington, Robin Washington. Com [Excerpts]

Eleven years before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama, a young woman named Irene Morgan rejected that same demand on an interstate bus headed to Maryland from Gloucester, Virginia.

Recovering from a miscarriage and already sitting far in the back, she defied the driver's order to surrender her seat to a white couple.

Like Parks, Morgan was arrested and jailed. But her action caught the attention of lawyers from the NAACP, led by Thurgood Marshall, and in two years her case reached

the Supreme Court. Though the lawyers fervently believed that Jim Crow - the curious pseudonym for racial segregation - was unjust, they recognized the practice was still the law of the land, upheld by the 1896 Supreme Court decision in Plessy v. Ferguson.

Instead of seeking a judgment on humanitarian grounds or the equal protection provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment, they made the seemingly arcane argument that segregation in interstate travel violated the Constitution's Interstate Commerce Clause.

On June 3, 1946, that strategy paid off. In Irene Morgan v. Virginia, the court ruled that segregation in interstate travel was indeed unconstitutional as "an undue burden on commerce." But though that the decision was now law, the southern states refused to enforce it, and Jim Crow continued as the way of life in the South.

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: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

**July 6, 1892 -- Heroic Anniversary:
"What Happened At Homestead Was
Not A Riot. It Was Organised Class
Violence, Consciously Controlled By
The Workers, As Part Of The
Struggle"**

**"A Militant Strike Of Steel Workers Of
The Carnegie Company In The U.S.
Defending Their Union Against The
Bosses, The Police And Hired Armed
Mercenaries"**



Defeated Pinkerton agents, escorted by armed union men, leaving their barges after surrendering. Harper's Weekly: 1892

Carl Bunin Peace History July 5-11

In one of the worst cases of violent union-busting, a fierce battle broke out between the striking employees (members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers) of Andrew Carnegie's Homestead Steel Company and a Pinkerton Detective Agency private army brought on barges down the Monongahela River in the dead of night. Twelve were killed.

Henry C. Frick, general manager of the plant in Homestead, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, had been given free rein by Carnegie to quash the strike. At Frick's request, Pennsylvania Gov. Robert E. Pattison then sent 8,500 troops to intervene on behalf of the company.

From Libcom.org

An account of a militant strike of steel workers of the Carnegie company in the US defending their union against the bosses, the police and hired armed mercenaries.

The Robber Baron Andrew Carnegie precipitated the Homestead Strike of 1892 with his attack against the standard of living of the workers and his bid to break the union representing the highest skilled workers.

Carnegie announced his intention to impose an 18 percent pay cut and issued a statement saying that the real issue was whether the Homestead steel workers would be union or non-union.

He ordered a 12 foot high fence to be built around the plant – 3 miles in length – with 3 inch holes at shoulder height every 25 feet, signaling preparation for an armed fight with the workers.

At the same time Carnegie hired the notorious Pinkerton company to provide armed thugs for the upcoming struggle.

An ultimatum was issued for workers to accept the wage cut by June 24th or face mass layoffs.

The workers did not take these provocations lightly.

They were not about to abandon the union and submit to Carnegie's dictates without a fight. The Amalgamated Union, which represented the skilled workers, about 750 of the plant's 3,800 employees, established an Advisory Committee, comprised of five delegates from each lodge, to coordinate the struggle against Carnegie's attacks.

A mass meeting of 3,000 workers from all categories, union and non-union voted overwhelmingly to strike.

The Advisory Committee took responsibility for organising an elaborate network to track the company's maneuvers, to monitor the possibility of an anticipated transport of Pinkerton goons by river boat from Pittsburgh.

Workers rented their own vessel to patrol the river. Every road within a five mile radius of Homestead was blockaded, and a thousand strikers patrolled the river banks for ten miles.

The Committee assumed virtual control of the town, assuming authority over the water, gas, and electricity facilities, shutting down the saloons, maintaining order and proclaiming ad hoc laws.

An attempt by the county sheriff to move against the strikers fell flat on its face when he proved unable to raise a posse.

The workers offered the sheriff a tour of the plant and promised to guarantee the security of the facility from any trespassers. Sympathy for the strikers was high.

On July 5th a steam whistle sounded the alarm at 4am.

Two barges transporting more than 300 Pinkertons left Pittsburgh.

By the time the thugs arrived at Homestead, 10,000 armed strikers and their supporters were gathered to “greet” them.

An armed confrontation erupted. Thirty workers were wounded, and three killed in the early fighting. Armed proletarians from nearby towns rushed to the scene to reinforce their class brothers. The shoot-out continued throughout the day.

Finally the demoralised Pinkertons, trapped in debilitating heat on the barges, outnumbered and outgunned, mutinied against their superiors.

Most were not regular agents, but reservists who had been recruited under false pretences; they were prepared to do some bullying, intimidating and terrorizing, but did not have the stomach to confront armed, organised class resistance.

Once the Pinkertons surrendered, the workers debated what to do with their despised prisoners. Angered by the casualties inflicted by the Pinkertons – a total of 40 wounded, 9 killed - some wanted to execute the thugs, but the Committee reasoned that a mass execution would be used against the strikers by the bosses.

Instead the Pinkertons were forced to run a gauntlet. In the end the casualties suffered by the Pinkertons were 20 shot, seven killed and 300 injured running the gauntlet.

In retaliation for the deaths of strikers, a young Russian anarchist called Alexander Berkman attempted to assassinate the Carnegie boss Henry Clay Frick. He shot Frick three times and stabbed him with a poison-tipped dagger, but Frick remarkably survived. Berkman was subsequently imprisoned for 14 years.

The strike continued for four months.

Eventually federal troops were brought in to crush the struggle, and 160 strikers were arrested and charged with murder and assault.

But the bosses’ repressive apparatus could not find a jury anywhere in the Pittsburgh region that would convict a single striker. All were acquitted.

Hugh O’Donnell, one of the strike leaders, was first charged with treason. Following his acquittal on those charges, he was immediately rearrested and tried for murder. And following acquittal on that charge, he was rearrested and tried for assault – again successfully beating back the state’s prosecution.

However, despite beating back the criminal charges, the strike morale was broken, and the union driven out. Throughout the country workers were sympathetic to the struggle at Homestead, and needless to say, the spokesmen of the capitalist class were furious. Strikers were referred to as a “mob.”

The New York Times granted that the company had provoked the battle, nevertheless maintained solidarity with its class brother and insisted that the obligation of the state was “to enforce law and order at Homestead, to quell the mob, to put the property of the Carnegie Steel Company in possession its owners and to protect their lawful rights.”

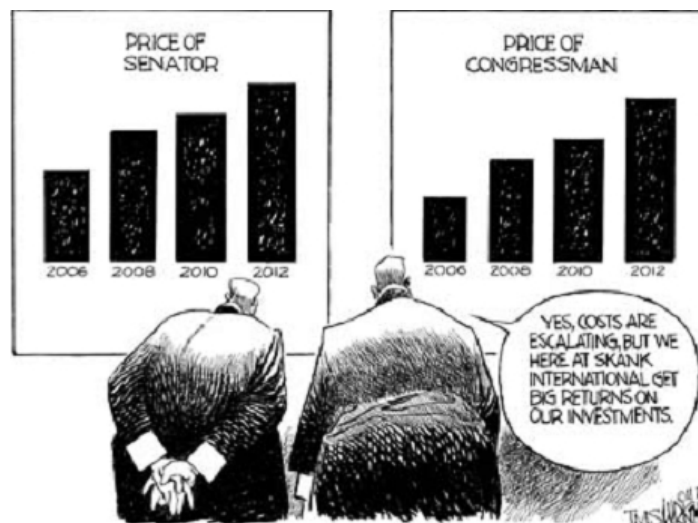
Despite ending in defeat, Homestead was an important moment in the history of class struggle in America.

What happened at Homestead was not a riot.

It was organised class violence, consciously controlled by the workers, as part of the struggle.

Homestead demonstrated clearly the capacity of workers to organise their struggles, to resist the attacks of the capitalist class, to achieve an active solidarity in struggle, to organise their own power to rival that of the local state apparatus during the struggle, to organise class violence and exercise it judiciously.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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CLASS WAR REPORTS



Prisoners Across at Least 6 California Prisons Join Pelican Bay Hunger Strikers

**“U.S.-Based And International Human
Rights Organizations Have Condemned
Security Housing Units As Having Cruel,
Inhumane, And Torturous Conditions”**

July 5th, 2011 Press Contact: Isaac Ontiveros; Prison Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition
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Oakland— More than 100 hours into an indefinite hunger strike started at Pelican Bay State Prison’s Security Housing Unit, prisoners in at least 6 state prisons have joined in, with participation potentially growing into the thousands.

Hunger strikers at Pelican Bay and other prisoners participating are protesting the conditions in the Pelican Bay’s Security Housing Unit (SHU).

Dozens of U.S.-based and international human rights organizations have condemned Security Housing Units as having cruel, inhumane, and torturous conditions.

SHU prisoners are kept in windowless, 6 by 10 foot cells, 23½ hours a day, for years at a time.

The CDCR operates four Security Housing Units in its system at Corcoran, California Correctional Institution (CCI), Valley State Prison for Women (VSPW) as well as Pelican Bay.

As of Tuesday morning, advocates had confirmed hunger strike participants at Corcoran and CCI, as well as Folsom, Centinela, and Calipatria State Prisons.

Despite the Hunger Strike spreading, the CDCR claimed in an LA Times article this past weekend that less than two dozen prisoners were on hunger strike.

“The CDCR is not following its own protocol around hunger strikes, but we have evidence that thousands of prisoners across in at least 6 prisons in California could be participating in the strike. We think that CDCR knows this and is purposefully withholding information,” said Carol Strickman, staff attorney at Legal Services for Prisoners with Children and legal team representative for Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity.

In a statement released from Corcoran Prison’s SHU, prisoners said, “It is important for all to know Pelican Bay is not alone in this struggle and the broader the participation and support for this hunger strike and other such efforts, the greater the potential that our sacrifice now will mean a more humane world for us in the future.”

A recent prisoner work strike in Georgia drew support from thousands of prisoner across at least 5 prisoners – the largest prisoner strike in US history.

And at the Lucasville, OH State Prison this January, three hunger strikers won far-reaching changes to prison policy concerning conditions for prisoners on death row.

“Given what’s happening in California prisons themselves, its no surprise we’re seeing organized action here too,” said Taeva Shefler from Prison Activist Resource Center. “The US Supreme Court – not just liberal activists– has agreed that California prison conditions amount to cruel and unusual punishment.

“This growing Hunger Strike is the culmination of decades of abuse, neglect, foot-dragging, and incompetence by an unbroken sequence of CDCR administrations.”

Actions in more than 12 cities are scheduled to happen throughout this week to show support for the Hunger Strike, and an end to indefinite Solitary Confinement, gang validation and inadequate food and medical care as administrative punishment.

**“This Is A Movement, He Says,
Against The Political System”**

**“They’ve All Cheated Us. They
Destroyed The Banks, Our
Pension Funds”**

**“There Are People Here From All
Walks Of Greek Society; At Times
The Rhetoric Is That Of A National
Resistance”**

**“On Either Side Of The Mediterranean Is
A Shared Frustration That The Powers
That Be Are Playing On Fear Of ‘Chaos’
To Co-Opt And Gut Civil Society”**

Jun 28, 2011 By Michelle Chen, In These Times [Excerpts]

While economists “debate” the academic merits of austerity, the sight of enraged protesters awash in tear gas has come to symbolize populist backlash in an age of austerity.

But as Al Jazeera reports, corporate media portrayals have consistently projected an image of lazy workers and savage rabble-rousers. At the same time, reporters continue to regurgitate the International Monetary Fund’s official prescription, despite that institution’s record of mishandling, if not directly causing, the Eurozone’s malaise.

A dispatch from the Nation’s Maria Margaronis suggests something different is playing out on the ground:

“On the street in front of Parliament, protesters are banging drums, chanting and waving, singing. The crowd is huge, politically diverse and overwhelmingly peaceful.

“There are people here from all walks of Greek society; at times the rhetoric is that of a national resistance.

A neat elderly couple on their first demonstration push through the crush because their pensions have been slashed, prices are rising and they just can't make ends meet.

“Vassilis Papadopoulos, a 50-year-old unemployed truck driver living on loans from his mother, has come all the way from Corinth wrapped in a giant Greek flag, with a look of despair in his eyes and saucepans to bang together. This is a movement, he says, against the political system:

“They've all cheated us. They destroyed the banks, our pension funds. They invested our social security money in bonds for their own benefit.”

“Farther down, in the square itself, something entirely new seems to be taking shape. A tent village has sprung up, a liberated zone in which an open conversation has been going on for weeks. University professors, passers-by, unemployed laborers, all get their three minutes with the microphone. There's a medical tent, a 'time bank,' a 'team to promote calm.’”

“When riot police cleared the square with clubs on the night of June 15, these protesters didn't fight. They simply walked right back, picked up the rubbish and repaired their neighborhood.”

Though the economy was largely paralyzed, in a sense, everyone kept working as they channeled a kinetic collective energy, reports Al Jazeera:

“Apart from the metro, no public transport was operating in Athens and the streets were relatively empty. But in an 11th-hour U-turn, metro drivers joined other employees on the subway system who decided not to strike 'so as to allow Athenians to join the planned protests in the capital'.

Protesters aren't just incensed by a ruling elite that tightens its belt around the necks of the poor.

When the government's economic rescue plan involves literally “selling itself off to the highest bidder”—attempting to shed debt by privatizing public assets—citizens realize that it's not just their pensions, but their national identity and democracy itself, that are at stake.

A fiery middle-aged surgeon-turned-activist, Dimitris Antoniou, explained his legal challenge to the Greek government in May:

Antoniou says that the terms of the loan agreement with the troika of the EU, IMF, and the ECB, are illegal. He says the three must be consulted in any changes to the Greek legislature - in order to get its emergency bailout loan, the government had to agree to change the country's labour laws and pension system - which should be the job of the Greek parliament. ...

He compares the loan agreement to the occupation of Greece by Germany during the Second World War.

“Nothing has changed, only the weapons. This time the weapons are the terms of the loan agreement.”

On either side of the Mediterranean is a shared frustration that the powers that be are playing on fear of “chaos” to co-opt and gut civil society.

On the political and economic fronts, people are tired of being asked to trade their dignity for survival.

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