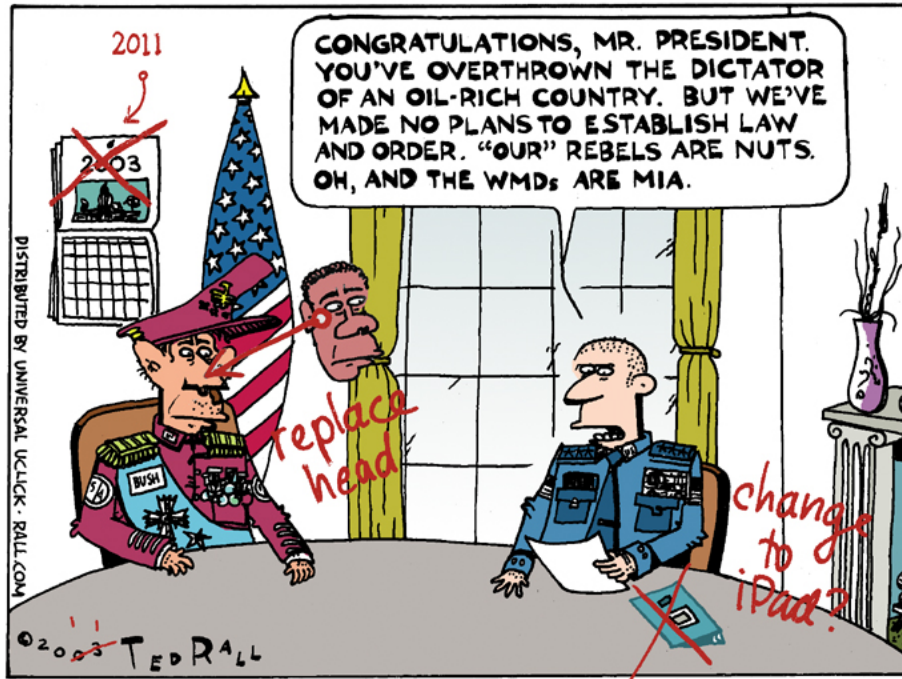


## Military Resistance 9H20



**Stupids In Command Ban  
FiveFinger Running Shoes:  
Soldiers Forbidden To Wear  
Footwear That "Reduces The  
Likelihood Of Injury"  
Sergeant Major Of The Army  
Raymond Chandler And His Idiot  
Board Of Directors Prefer Injured  
Soldiers Who Have A "Conservative  
Professional Appearance"**

# **Soldier Asks “Do You Want Us To Be Functionally Fit/Have Less Injuries Or Do You Want Some SGM To Sleep Well At Night Knowing That We All Have Matching Shoes?”**



One finger for Chandler & Co. [InlandPolitics.com]

Aug 29, 2011 By Lance M. Bacon - Staff writer, Army Times [Excerpts]

An Army message about footwear certainly stepped on some toes.

**The wear of shoes that feature “five separate, individual compartments for the toes” is prohibited in All Army Activities message 239/2011. Such shoes “detract from a professional military image,” the message said.**

Soldiers are not allowed to wear them with the individual physical fitness uniform or when conducting physical training in military formation.

When Army Times first reported the rule, it drew an immediate response from runners.

**Many said the Army was forfeiting safety and performance for aesthetics.**

The decision was made by Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond Chandler and his board of directors, which is composed of key command sergeants major.

**“The decision was based on the lack of conformity with the Army’s conservative professional appearance,” said Hank Minitrez, a spokesman for Army G-1.**

“The Army continues to foster a professional, conservative, nonfaddish image in its soldiers, and they believe this type of shoe detracts from this appearance.”

Minitrez said the issue is not likely to be addressed again.

And that is not sitting well with some soldiers.

“Wow,” said one Special Forces field grade officer who runs in such shoes daily. “I’ve been an avid runner for 20 years and have never had something as good as these. Bad call.”

**The Army stands alone in that decision.**

The Marine Corps allows local commanders to ban the shoes, but there is no servicewide ban.

**In fact, the headquarters battalion for the Corps’ top brass and support troops has approved them for PT.**

**The Air Force has taken an identical stance.**

The Navy on Aug. 5 gave the green light for sailors to wear the shoes.

One sailor who does is Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SW/AW) Rick West, Chandler’s counterpart in that service.

**Although the shoes certainly boast a unique look, the mimicry of barefoot running reduces the likelihood of injury and increases the runner’s performance, said Anne Tommasi, spokeswoman for Vibram, the maker of FiveFingers.**

“Vibram FiveFingers follow the biological design of the foot, which encourages full range of motion, increased muscle stimulation and a natural running and walking gait,” she said.

**The shoes are built without a heel lift to discourage the typical heel-strike running form and encourage a more natural forefoot strike, Tommasi said, pointing to medical studies that show this form to be less impactful than heel striking, and the possibility that this may reduce the chance of knee- and hip-related running injuries.**

While Vibram FiveFingers shoes lack support for your heel, they certainly have it among the rank and file.

**When Army Times dropped news of the ban on its blog “Outside the Wire,” readers quickly responded.**

**Here are some comments:**

**LongTabSigO:**

“They get the beret right. Why not this as well? What real harm accrues from their use? None. Just some Sergeant Major who wants to assert some legacy thinking. One step forward; two steps back.”

**CavScout02:**

“I don’t understand what the big deal is. I’ve got kids wearing basketball sneakers with little support but since they look like shoes they’re OK while I am motivated to run ... in my (FiveFingers) but aesthetically I cannot wear them?”

**cj.bad:**

“If these shoes help people in fitness training, who cares what they look like? Makes me wonder if the ethos is right since the policy makers disregard their own ethics, more specifically, always place the mission first.

Seems here instead of looking at worrying about what is better for results, they are to busy looking at people’s feet.”

**SSG Holman:**

“Total BS!!!! I see soldiers in Neon Pink Nikes, and that’s completely OK. I see soldiers wearing Air Force Ones and that’s OK. Put on a pair of (FiveFingers) and all of a sudden you don’t have a military appearance?

Why is it that the most elite soldiers like SF/Rangers are all wearing them? Take a look around the Army, and the units with platoons full of people on profile and some CSM bullshit about shoes.

You know what detracts from military appearance? Your whole unit falling out of a battalion run, or your unit’s pathetic 240 PT average.”

**J Dickenson:**

“I find it ironic that they are going through all the time and effort of changing the APFT in order to facilitate ‘functional fitness,’ but the first time some SGM gets a bee in his bonnet they put out an ALARACT.

Make up your mind guys — do you want us to be functionally fit/have less injuries or do you want some SGM to sleep well at night knowing that we all have matching shoes?”

**CW2 Mack:**

“These shoes improve balance and stability, they strengthen muscles in the feet and lower legs that you don’t normally use with traditional running shoes.

The idea that they detract from a professional military image is ridiculous. They stand to do more good than bad.”

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Resistance Action**

Aug 28 (Reuters)

MOSUL - A bomb attached to the car of an off-duty policeman killed him and wounded four other policemen who were travelling with him in central Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, a local police source said. The source said the off-duty policeman was dropping his colleagues home after work when the incident occurred.

TUZ KHURMATO - A roadside bomb targeting the vehicle of police Major Mohammed Taqi exploded, wounding him, his bodyguard and a passer-by in central Tuz Khurmato, 170 km (105 miles) north of Baghdad, police and hospital sources said.

JALAWLA - Insurgents in a speeding car opened fire at the car of Jawad Kadhim, an official with the National Security Ministry, killing him and his driver, in Jalawla, 115 km (70 miles) northeast of Baghdad on Saturday night, a local official and a police source said.

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## REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW



ISKANDARIYA, IRAQ - JULY 15: U.S. soldiers with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment patrol in Iskandariya, Babil Province, Iraq. (Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

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## AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

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

August 28, 2011 Reuters

Two foreign servicemembers were killed in southern Afghanistan on Sunday, by an insurgent attack and a roadside bomb,

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## **Kandahar IED Blast Kills Campbell Specialist**

Aug 29, 2011 Army Times

A Kentucky-based soldier was killed in combat in Afghanistan, according to a Defense Department release.

Spc. Michael C. Roberts, 23, of Watauga, Texas, died Saturday in Kandahar province of injuries suffered when insurgents attacked his unit using an improvised explosive device.

Roberts was assigned to the 561st Military Police Company, 716th Military Police Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, at Fort Campbell, Ky.

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## **Drum Sergeant Killed In Afghanistan**

Aug 26, 2011 The Associated Press

FORT DRUM, N.Y. — Army officials say an Illinois soldier has been killed while serving in Afghanistan.

Officials at Fort Drum in New York say 24-year-old Sgt. Andrew Tobin of Jacksonville, Ill., was killed Wednesday in Kandahar Province when insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire.

Tobin joined the Army in January 2008. He'd been deployed to Afghanistan in 2009 and returned there in March 2011.

Tobin was an infantryman with the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

The Army says he's survived by his wife and father.

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## Navy SEAL From Mpls. Killed In Afghanistan Remembered

August 11, 2011 Karna Bergstrom, WCCO

MINNEAPOLIS – Family and friends are mourning a second Navy SEAL from Minnesota killed in Afghanistan.

John Faas, 31, was among 30 United States troops killed when their Chinook helicopter was shot down by a Taliban launched rocket-propelled grenade Saturday .

Classmates, coaches and administrators remembered Chief Petty Officer John Faas as having two sides to him. They say the Minnehaha Academy graduate was a very compassionate and caring person who, on the other hand, was also this incredibly skilled and strong navy seal.

They say this combination made Faas someone they looked up to.

“Everybody knew John Faas and everybody liked him,” said classmate Chris Thompson.

Thompson says he met Faas in fifth grade. He says Faas was a person who knew how to have fun, but was driven to be the best at everything he did.

“He had a sense of what's right and how to do things the right way doing the right things and doing them the right way that's who I remember John,” said former football coach Ron Monson.

The high school football quarterback and class valedictorian could have attended the college of his choice but he decided long ago he would serve his country.

His high school football coach says Faas was bright and knew exactly what he was going to do — a Navy SEAL was his calling.

“As a principal, you hope you impact kids lives, but once in a while you have a kid that goes through that kind of impact your life and I think of John as one of those kids,” said former high school principal Dean Erickson.

Even his high school principal knew there was something special about Faas.

Now, all three men mourn, but are thankful for the time they had with him. Faas was doing what he loved when he die, .and that brings some comfort to the thousands that are mourning his death.

“He clearly was doing what he wanted to do. He knew the risk involved in and I think that provides the best solace for me. It's hard, but he knew what he was doing and he clearly wanted to do it,” said Thompson.

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# Town Mourns Loss Of N.J. Marine, Former Manchester H.S. Athlete, Killed In Afghanistan

August 13, 2011 By Alexi Friedman and Stefanie Dazio, Star-Ledger Staff

MANCHESTER — There was something very different about Nick Ott when he returned to Manchester High School, his alma mater, last year.

Sure, the baby fat was gone, replaced with muscle after four years of service in the Marines.

"When we teach them, we see them as high school kids and they do high school things," said the coach, Gerard O'Donnell. "Now, he was an adult, a man. He was focused."

Friday, the tight-knit Ocean County community was in mourning after having received word that Cpl. Nicholas Ott, 23, had been killed Wednesday in Afghanistan during combat operations in Helmand Province.

No one answered the door at his family's home Friday afternoon. But along the streets throughout the neighborhood, hundreds of small American flags were lined neatly in front yards. At Manchester High, from where Ott graduated in 2006, the flag was lowered to half staff.

**Ott is at least the 36th service member with ties to New Jersey to die in Afghanistan since the war began in 2001. At least 100 others with New Jersey ties have died in Iraq since the U.S. invasion in 2003.**

Ott was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force of Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, said Lt. Diann Olson, a spokeswoman for the unit. "Our hopes and prayers go out to the family in New Jersey," Olson said. "Their brothers out in Afghanistan are praying and thinking about their fallen Marine."

Ott joined the Marine Corp. in September 2007 as an infantryman and was assigned to his unit in 2010. This was his first deployment to Afghanistan, but Ott had previously been deployed to other spots overseas, Olson said.

His battalion deployed to Afghanistan in April and was assigned to Garmsir District. There, Marines helped maintain roads and bridges, and took part in community-building operations such as school and soccer field construction.

It was what Ott wanted to do and where he wanted to be, said Ashley Nowakowski, a childhood friend.

"He was gung-ho. He was a real soldier," she said.



But there was something else about him, his former high school football coach said Friday.

After graduating high school, Ott enrolled at Ocean County College, but there was no doubt he wanted to join the military, Nowakowski said.

"He wanted to go to Afghanistan to be in the war. He wanted to go kick some (butt)," she said.

Every time Ott returned home to New Jersey, he would make sure to visit his high school friends. We'd all get together and have a party for him," she said. "He was just such a fun-loving guy, a lovable guy. He was big teddy bear."

His death also comes a year after another former Manchester High School student, U.S. Army Sgt. Ron Kubik, was killed in Afghanistan.

"To lose another student like this. It's very difficult," said Keith Lister, the high school's athletic director. Ott was a two-sport athlete, Lister said, playing football and wrestling. "He was a hard-working kid, team-oriented and willing to do whatever the coaches asked of him," he said.

And while not the most gifted player on the field, Ott made up for it with an immense work ethic, said O'Donnell, who was the team's defensive coordinator at the time. He turned himself into one of the better players, the coach said, by senior season, Ott was a captain. And a leader, said his friend, a former teammate Jeff Moore.

"There was a time when I ran into some problems, and was thinking about quitting the team," said Moore. "He talked to me about it, helped me through it, and I stayed."

In the military, Ott was also a standout, earning numerous awards including two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and three Sea Service Deployment Ribbons.

The honors didn't surprise his old coach, who recalled seeing that determination in Ott's eyes in what would be their final conversation at the high school. "I could tell. He had grown up."

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

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

# Another Drone Bites It

Aug 26, 2011 By Matiullah Achakzai, The Associated Press

CHAMAN, Pakistan — A spokesman for Pakistan's paramilitary force says a U.S. surveillance drone has crashed in a military area near the Afghan border.

Pakistani paramilitary spokesman Saeed Ahmed says the small aircraft was equipped with cameras and other equipment but no weapons and crashed Thursday in the border town of Chaman in southwest Pakistan.

Ahmed says the crash did not damage property on the ground and there was no evidence it had been shot down.

Ahmed says military authorities have taken the debris and will decide whether to hand it to U.S. forces across the border.

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## U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



A foreign occupation armed forces member from the USA searches the body of an Afghan citizen without consent on a public road near Patrol Base 302 in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Aug. 25, 2011. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

**Afghani citizens have no right to resist humiliating public body touching by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.**

**Foreign occupation soldiers from the USA make a daily practice of publicly humiliating Afghan citizens.**

**This encourages self-respecting honorable Afghans to kill them.**

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## **Resistance Action: Payday Bomb**

August 27, 2011 New York Times & CNN & 28 August 2011 TOLONews

**A bomber detonated a vehicle packed with explosives outside a crowded bank in the southern city of Lashkar Gah, where Afghan soldiers and police officers were lined up at noontime to receive their monthly pay, killing four people, a governor's spokesman said.**

Ten Afghan soldiers and five police officers were injured in the attack in Helmand province. The attack was carried out in a Toyota Corolla, said Dawood Ahmadi, the spokesman for the Helmand governor.

Aizatullah, 25, a police officer who goes by one name, raced out of the bank when he heard the explosion. "I saw bodies of police, soldiers and civilians bleeding and screaming everywhere," he said.

Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand Province, carries symbolic importance to insurgents and government forces alike because it was among the first to be turned over to Afghan security control last month, though a strong coalition presence remains in the area.

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Afghan local officials said that four bombers attacked on US reconstruction team in Zabul province on Sunday. The attackers hit the provincial reconstruction team (PRT) in Qalat, the capital of Zabul at 05:00 pm local time. Meanwhile, officials in Zabul hospital said four people were taken to the hospital. PRTs are typically joint military and civilian operations that work on trying to help build Afghan government capacity in the provinces. At first there was a huge suicide car bomb attack and then gunfire started in the capital of Zabul.

<p><b>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATIONS</b></p>
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## MILITARY NEWS

**“Because Of Dr. Stanley’s Disruptive Leadership And Siphoning Funds For Other Purposes, A Wounded Warrior Who Lost A Leg Or His Eyesight Is Now Languishing In A Warrior Transition Unit This Year For An Additional 100 Days!”**

**“Insiders Say Pentagon’s Top Personnel Official Is Incompetent, Retaliatory, And Wastes Money”**

[Thanks to Don Bacon, Lt Col, US Army (Ret), Vietnam & Smedley Butler Society: <http://www.warisaracket.org/>, who sent this in.]

These wasteful expenditures, the complaint says, “could have been used instead to pay for about 30 Recovery Care Coordinators, who could have made the lives of about 1,200 wounded soldiers and their families so much better.”

Aug 29, 2011 By NICK SCHWELLENBACH, Pogoblog.typepad.com [Excerpts]

The Pentagon’s top civilian official in charge of personnel issues has been accused of being incompetent, gutting his office of expertise by driving out employees, retaliating against employees with dissenting views, wasting \$5 million on outside consultants to perform an inherently governmental function, and other issues according to at least four complaints to the Department of Defense Inspector General (DoD IG) and Congress sent from May through August.

Employees within the Defense Department wrote the letters.

POGO is making three of these complaints public.

These three complaints have all been made anonymously; however, POGO has verified that they were written by DoD employees and has confirmed that several congressional

offices and the DoD IG have received them. The complaints from May, July, and August were written by different groups of employees, one senior DoD official told POGO.

Pentagon spokeswoman Cynthia Smith told National Journal's Megan Scully, who reported on these complaints a week ago, that "the department is aware of the allegations and takes them seriously."

Scully wrote that the investigation into Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD P&R) Clifford Stanley, "one of the Pentagon's most senior and powerful appointees, could pose the first significant personnel challenge for new Defense Secretary Leon Panetta." The Army Times' Karen Jowers first reported on some of these allegations in July.

According to a July 11, 2011, complaint, Stanley "has decimated the leadership core of" the OUSD P&R.

The "best people (many recipients or nominees of Presidential Rank awards) have been forced to leave, typically with no explanation." It adds that "30 members of the SES (Senior Executive Service) have been fired; forced to retire or resign; detailed involuntarily; or marginalized in other ways."

At the same time, all three complaints say Stanley has installed people with less experience.

A May 2011 complaint cites as one example "an SES position filled by an experienced Army social worker who had House Veterans Affairs Committee experience (who) was replaced by a former Acting Director of Security at BWI Airport" (the complaint says this position was not competed in violation of the hiring process).

**This particular "loss of leadership impacted" the effectiveness of the Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy Office, which, under Stanley's predecessor, had developed plans to implement a Disability Evaluation System, the May complaint says.**

These joint DoD/Veterans Affairs (VA) plans to complete the Disability Evaluation System and Electronic Health Records were "not taken into consideration" by Stanley, leading to "disarray" and to the Army splitting from the OUSD P&R effort to work on its own separate plan with the VA.

One complaint dated August 3, 2011, says "because of Dr. Stanley's disruptive leadership and siphoning funds for other purposes, a Wounded Warrior who lost a leg or his eyesight is now languishing in a Warrior Transition Unit this year for an additional 100 days!"

This complaint was signed unnamed by "Some Members of the OSD (Office of Secretary of Defense) Wounded Warrior team, and some who work with them."

The complaints say Stanley's expenditures on consultants with McKinsey & Company constitute a waste of money.

**The contract with McKinsey was further inappropriate, according to the complaints, because millions were spent on McKinsey while the Wounded Warrior budget was cut, the contract was not competed, and some of the work McKinsey was tasked with is inherently governmental, i.e., work that is so intimately tied to the public interest that only federal employees should perform it.**

**The August complaint says that “while slashing the Wounded Warrior Budget by \$11M, Dr. Stanley directed the Wounded Warrior office to pay \$2.7M for the expensive and wasteful services of McKinsey and Company.”**

The July complaint says \$5 million was spent on McKinsey to craft a strategic plan for the OUSD P&R and that the drafting of the strategic plan is an inherently governmental function violating the law.

**The plan crafted by McKinsey “has never been released or utilized,” the July complaint says.**

In addition, the August complaint states that Stanley directed the Wounded Warrior office to pay for part of a \$500,000 “unnecessary and sumptuous conference room.”

**These wasteful expenditures, the complaint says, “could have been used instead to pay for about 30 Recovery Care Coordinators, who could have made the lives of about 1,200 wounded soldiers and their families so much better.”**

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## **“High-Ranking Department Of Defense Employee Charged Thursday With Taking A Bribe” “While He Was Supposed To Be Working To Support Our Troops, He Was Lining His Pockets”**

Aug 25, 2011 By Greg Bluestein - The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A high-ranking Department of Defense employee was charged Thursday with taking a bribe at an international conference in Atlanta to steer lucrative federal contracts for work in Afghanistan to a contractor.

Desi Deandre Wade, the department’s Chief of Fire and Emergency Services in Afghanistan, was arrested Wednesday at the Fire-Rescue International Conference in downtown Atlanta after he took \$95,000 in cash from a contractor, U.S. Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said.

“While he was supposed to be working to support our troops, he was lining his pockets,” she said.

Afghanistan-based investigators received a tip in July that Wade received a \$4,000 bribe to award a maintenance contract to a company and quickly began to monitor him, according to federal documents.

He later proposed steering a much larger contract to the same company for a percentage of a deal that amounted to about \$100,000, prosecutors said. He said he would feed the company quotes from rivals to ensure that it would be the lowest bidder to land the contract, they said.

Investigators were waiting for him when he traveled to Atlanta to attend the conference, which began Monday at the Georgia World Congress Center. Once there, he repeated to the contractor that he wanted \$100,000 for awarding the new contract to the company, and offered to disclose other companies' bids, according to the charges.

He was arrested shortly after accepting several bundles of cash from the bidder around 5:45 p.m. Wednesday and stuffing the money in his backpack, prosecutors said.

Wade, who said little at the hearing, was released on an unsecured \$20,000 bond. Authorities said he will soon be removed from his job. Authorities said he is from Climax, Ga.

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**Soldier Who Raped Army Wife  
Supports Her Suit Against The  
Army For Letting Him Do It:  
“Superiors Ordered Him Confined  
To His Barracks And Placed Under  
Guard, But The Order Was Not  
Followed, Leaving Him Free To  
Commit Rape”  
“His Superiors Rebuffed His Pleas  
For Help With His Trauma-Fueled**

# **Nightmares, Drug Abuse And Mental Instability”**

## **He Said He Was “Discouraged From Getting Help Because ‘It Would Mess Up My Military Career”**

August 29, 2011 By Joe Gould, Army Times [Excerpts]

**An Army wife at Fort Bragg, N.C., is suing the government for negligence, claiming an accused serial rapist was supposed to be under Army guard when he slipped into her home, raped her and threatened to kill her children.**

**In an unusual twist, Aaron Pernell, the former Fort Bragg soldier sentenced to 50 years in the attack, is supporting his victim’s claim.**

In a sworn statement obtained by the victim’s lawyer, Pernell said that in the months before he raped the woman, his superiors rebuffed his pleas for help with his trauma-fueled nightmares, drug abuse and mental instability.

“I take personal responsibility for raping (the victim),” said Pernell, 24, now confined at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

“I know what I did was wrong. I know I hurt their family badly and I am sorry for it. But I also know the Army failed me. I cried out for help over and over and they did not help me.”

Pernell, who was later accused in a string of break-ins and sexual assaults, said he repeatedly told superiors he planned to kill himself and members of his unit so that he could be locked into a mental health facility.

He said he was nevertheless discouraged from getting help because “it would mess up my military career.”

After Pernell’s first arrest, for a burglary at gunpoint in September 2009, he was released on bail.

He claims in a sworn statement that superiors ordered him confined to his barracks and placed under guard, but the order was not followed, leaving him free to commit rape.

**Pernell claims that he was restricted to his barracks and ordered to be escorted by a non-commissioned officer anywhere else on post. He said some of his superiors knew the order was not followed, but did not act.**

**“Soon I was able to walk out the front door again and be gone all night without anyone saying a word,” he said.**



**“We were all under these direct orders — that I be observed, that I stay on post, that I be escorted at all times on post — during the time period, I raped.**

**“I just walked out the front door as usual and came home with no recourse at the end of a long night of heavy drinking and using drugs,” he said.**

On Dec. 13, 2009, the former indirect fire infantryman with the 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division, slipped through an unlocked window into the victim’s home in the St. Mere Eglise neighborhood on Fort Bragg. He told her that she could either perform sex acts with him or he would kill her and her children.

DNA evidence later led investigators to Pernell, who was charged in February 2010.

Pernell is now accused in incidents involving seven women over several years in the Fayetteville area. He faces 26 charges including rape, kidnapping and robbery in civilian court in Cumberland and Hoke counties, according to court records.

The alleged offenses date between November 2008 and August 2009.

The woman, whose name is being withheld by Army Times, filed a lawsuit Aug. 12 in a North Carolina federal court alleging that the government should have known Pernell had violent tendencies and that it breached its duty to supervise him.

**The lawsuit cites a February 2010 article in the Winston-Salem (N.C.) Journal newspaper, in which then-82nd Airborne Division spokesman Maj. Brian Fickel said Pernell was not restricted to the barracks, but a sergeant was ordered to accompany Pernell on post, and an NCO had to escort him off post.**

At the time of the comments, Pernell had just been named a suspect in the assaults around Fayetteville.

In March, the Army denied the victim’s administrative claim against it for \$5 million, arguing that after Pernell’s burglary arrest, there was no indication that he was a sex offender.

He passed a mental health evaluation, and his chain of command “acted appropriately,” said Lt. Col. Gregory Mathers, chief of the Army’s tort claims division, in a letter to the victim’s attorneys.

“Unfortunately, while out on bail but under military restriction, SPC Pernell committed the horrific assault on your client,” Mathers wrote. “I am truly sorry for what your client endured but under the circumstances, the claim is not payable.”

Pernell pleaded guilty in the Fort Bragg case to rape, assault and housebreaking. On Dec. 9, he was sentenced by a military judge to 50 years, a dishonorable discharge, and he must forfeit any pay or benefits.

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## 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 philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it.**

**-- Karl Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach"**

# **WWE Brings You The Democrats Vs. The Republicans!**

# Obama Is “Part Of A Political Establishment That Has Wanted To Cut Entitlement Programs Like Social Security For Decades”

## “What’s Really Going On: A Bipartisan Drive For Austerity Where Both Parties Ignore What The Public Really Wants”

August 25, 2011 By Lance Selfa, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

Why are members of the political establishment continuing to promote the idea that Tea Party obstructionists are more responsible than anyone else for the debt deal and the austerity politics it embodies?

For one thing, this helps to obscure the reality that Washington’s commitment to austerity politics is thoroughly bipartisan.

It’s easy for liberals and Democrats to blame the Tea Party for the disaster.

It’s harder for them to face the truth that the Tea Party hostage-takers got what they wanted because Obama wanted to ransom the hostage.

When Boehner and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell both publicly stated early on that they wouldn’t allow a U.S. government default because the debt ceiling wasn’t raised, that was a tell that they weren’t as confident in their hard-line position as they seemed.

But rather than press them to show their cards, Obama upped the ante by putting a "grand bargain" of \$4 trillion in cuts on the table--including cuts in "entitlement" spending--not once, but twice.

Obama may be a lousy poker player, but he’s also part of a political establishment that has wanted to cut entitlement programs like Social Security for decades. The debt-ceiling deal gave him the opportunity to open the way for this.

**The media’s simple media morality plays--Democrats vs. Republicans, Tea Party conservatives vs. the establishment--serve to camouflage what’s really going on: A bipartisan drive for austerity where both parties ignore what the public really wants.**

Nevertheless, it’s central to the ideological legitimacy of American democracy that public policy be portrayed as a response to some sort of public sentiment.

No matter that the results of the debt deal are highly unpopular and will hurt millions of working people.

The politicians in Washington will claim that they were only trying to carry out the will of the American people, as expressed in the 2010 elections.

That's why the Tea Party has proved so useful to the corporate elite that funds and shapes American politics.

**In the Washington Post article, the writers describe how Tea Party and conservative groups mobilized to press Republicans to "hold the line" against tax increases during the debt-ceiling fight.**

At the same time, the writers note with little comment:

**"A similar message also came, in a quieter way, from the trade groups for the nation's hedge funds and private equity firms.**

"Their members had billions at stake, thanks to a White House proposal that would raise some tax revenue at their expense. As the July home stretch arrived, they had already spent \$4.2 million on lobbying expenses for the year."

**Ultimately, Wall Street didn't want a government default on its debt.**

**But Wall Street players did want to make sure that working people, rather than them, would be stuck with the bill for the debt.**

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## **Qaddafi's Overthrow: A "Blow To The Arab Spring"?**

**"We In The West Need To Do What We Can To Keep The Hands Of Our Rulers Off Of Other People's Revolutions, Which Means Taking A Stand Against Imperialist Intervention Even When It Is Disguised As Aid To A Beleaguered Rebellion"**

August 27, 2011 By Pham Binh, [Louisproyect.wordpress.com](http://Louisproyect.wordpress.com)

Pham Binh's articles have been published by Asia Times Online, Znet, Counterpunch, and International Socialist Review. His other writings can be found at [www.planetanarchy.net](http://www.planetanarchy.net)

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Not since the European revolutions of 1848 have revolutions spread with such speed and force.

The Arab Spring brought more change to the Middle East and North Africa in less than a year than occurred there over several decades.

Brutal dictators who seemed invincible were toppled in a matter of weeks in Tunisia and Egypt, protracted civil wars erupted in Yemen, Syria, and Libya, and the monarchy in Bahrain managed to survive only thanks to the political and material support it received from the Saudi monarchy and the U.S. government.

Muammar Qaddafi has joined the ranks of ousted dictators Hosni Mubarak and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, but not in the same way.

In the case of Libya, the U.S. government and its North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies became intimately involved in toppling his tyrannical regime after some hesitation.

Some on the left who initially supported the Libyan rebellion argued that the involvement of the U.S. and NATO in Qaddafi's ouster makes them the real winners in Libya, not the Libyan people.

In doing so, they have come perilously close to the positions of groups like the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) who were "skeptical of, if not downright hostile to, the popular challenge to the Qaddafi regime that began with mass protests" as the International Socialist Review put it.

A recent editorial in the U.S. Socialist Worker newspaper described Qaddafi's downfall in the context of NATO's military intervention as a "blow to the Arab Spring" and argued that: "(t)he new government that will come to power in Libya won't answer to the people of Libya and their desire for democracy and justice. It will answer to imperialism – and that is a blow to the Arab Spring, which this year showed the world the hope of an alternative to oppression, violence and tyranny."

These truisms apply equally to the post-Mubarak government in Egypt, which is a military dictatorship that uses force against protestors, outlaws strikes, continues its cozy relationship with Israel, and receives billions of dollars in U.S. military and economic aid.

Clearly, the military junta running Egypt "answers to imperialism" and not the people, nor does it care about their desire for democracy and justice (in fact, it fears that desire).

As with Libya, the U.S. became intimately involved in trying to get Mubarak out of office, albeit in a different form.

Even if Mubarak had stepped down under U.S. pressure instead of pressure from striking workers, no one would conclude that his overthrow was a “blow” to the Arab Spring.

Socialist Worker’s line of reasoning involves two errors: one is a failure to understand the Arab Spring and the other is a flawed view of the revolutionary process in the context of a world dominated by imperial powers like the U.S., China, Russia, Germany, Britain, France, and other nations.

The Arab Spring is a dynamic process of mobilization from below, counter mobilization from above, and political radicalization on a mass scale.

This process is driven by material conditions, namely, the tremendous gap in wealth between the elites of the Arab and North African states and their populations on the one hand and the autocratic, repressive measures these states use to keep their populations in line on the other.

It is not primarily a process driven by opposition to U.S. imperialism.

This is why the uprisings did not stop at the borders of Libya, Syria, or Iran whose regimes were not friendly to the U.S. government but were just as economically polarized, brutal, and corrupt as their pro-U.S. neighbors.

The main loser of the Arab Spring process has been the U.S. government for the simple reason that there were far more pro- U.S. regimes in North Africa and the Middle East than anti-U.S. regimes.

The U.S. lost close allies in Egypt and Tunisia, is opposed to the “wrong side” winning the civil war in Yemen, would welcome the end of Assad regime in Syria, and managed to turn the Libyan revolution to its advantage, but not exclusively so.

As Richard Seymour who writes the Lenin’s Tomb blog noted: “(t)he government that now follows will be less oppressive and more democratic than the one it ousted.”

In other words, toppling Qaddafi was a step forward for Libya’s workers, students, and oppressed groups like the Berbers. They now have more space to organize unions, political associations, and struggles for what they need than they did under the decrepit Qaddafi dictatorship. This is a good thing and it should be celebrated, Socialist Worker’s admonitions notwithstanding.

If it wasn’t for the ongoing revolt, Qaddafi would still be in power today. NATO’s military might prevented the Libyan revolution’s physical destruction at Benghazi, played a decisive role in paving the way for its ultimate triumph in Tripoli, and corrupted the “normal” Arab Spring dynamic of mobilization, counter mobilization, and mass radicalization. That the U.S. government would manipulate and try to control a struggle against an adversary is unsurprising. What is surprising is socialists disowning a struggle because the U.S. moved to shape it or because the struggle’s leaders made political choices we find abhorrent.

The combination of a democratic revolution and imperialist intervention in conjunction with that revolution against their common enemy caused tremendous confusion on the

left internationally: Marxist academic Gilbert Achcar initially supported U.S. military attacks on Libya; PSL denounced the rebellion and supported Qaddafi's repression; Socialist Worker supported the rebellion prior to the intervention of NATO. Needless to say, this brief survey does not cover the range or nuances of positions expressed by various left currents, but it does show concretely how living revolutions pose new and challenging questions for us that make textbook responses inadequate at best.

The involvement of the U.S. military in Qaddafi's ouster is both a symptom and a cause of tremendous problems for the Arab Spring process generally and for the people of Libya specifically.

In Egypt, the military stood squarely behind Mubarak until general strikes by workers erupted in every industry and every town; this has not been repeated elsewhere.

In Libya, the rebel leadership's failure to mobilize the masses, particularly the workers involved with oil production and distribution in oil fields and at ports and sea terminals, meant that the struggle against Qaddafi was not a social struggle but a military one where he had the advantage, provided that outside powers did not step in. They did. He lost.

The question now is will Syria's revolutionaries call for U.S. military intervention as their counterparts in Libya did instead of relying on mobilizing the social power of the working class as was done in Egypt?

Will the U.S. exploit the difficulties of Syria's revolutionaries to turn their democratic revolution into a win for itself, bolstering its domination of the oil-rich Middle East?

Now that Qaddafi is gone, will the Libyan people force their new rulers to give them a greater share of the country's tremendous oil wealth and democratic rights?

How will they react to the integration of their country into the world capitalist system's global race to the bottom for workers, a race that is rapidly hollowing out what is left of the American dream?

How these questions are answered by the tens of millions awakened by the Arab Spring remains to be seen.

**We in the West need to do what we can to keep the hands of our rulers off of other people's revolutions, which means taking a stand against imperialist intervention even when it is disguised as aid to a beleaguered rebellion (John Reed was absolutely right when he said Uncle Sam never gives something for nothing).**

**We also have to realistically appraise the mistakes and successes of the Arab Spring instead of disowning them totally when imperialist powers try to use them for their own advantage, something that is inevitable in an increasingly multipolar world.**

**Above all, the best thing we can do is focus on organizing our own workers, students, and oppressed people to win whatever small gains we can.**

The accumulation of concrete victories, however small, is the only thing that can lead to our own desperately needed spring.

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## **This Is Just So Wrong In So Many Ways.**

[Thanks to Rick, AmeriConscience group, for posting.]

Salary of retired US Presidents .....\$180,000 FOR LIFE  
Salary of House/Senate .....\$174,000 FOR LIFE  
Salary of Speaker of the House .....\$223,500 FOR LIFE  
Salary of Majority/Minority Leaders.... . \$193,400 FOR LIFE

Average Salary of a teacher ..... \$40,065  
Average Salary of Soldier DEPLOYED IN AFGHANISTAN \$38,000

I think we found where the cuts should be made!

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## **ANNIVERSARIES**

### **August 29, 1970: In Memoriam: The Los Angeles Police Murder Ruben Salazar As Thousands Of Chicanos Demonstrate Against The War On Vietnam**





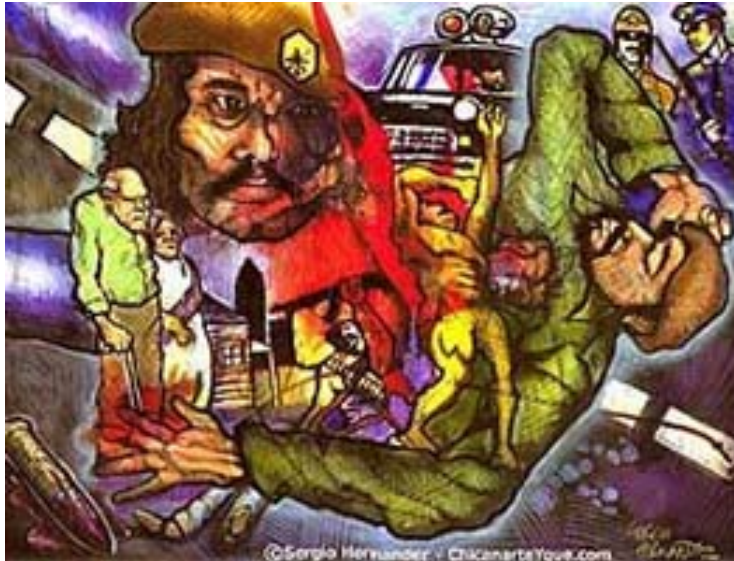
Carl Bunin Peace History Aug 27-Sept 2

**Between 15 and 30 thousand predominantly Chicanos (Americans of Mexican descent) gathered in East LA's Laguna Park as the culmination of the Chicano National Moratorium.**

**It was organized to protest the disproportionate number of deaths of Chicano soldiers in Vietnam (more than double their numbers in the population). There had been more than 20 other such demonstrations across the southwest.**

Three died when the anti-war march turned violent.

**The Los Angeles Police Department attacked and one gunshot, fired into Silver Dollar Bar, killed Ruben Salazar, a Los Angeles Times columnist and a commentator on KMEX-TV (he had been accused by the LAPD of inciting the Chicano community).**



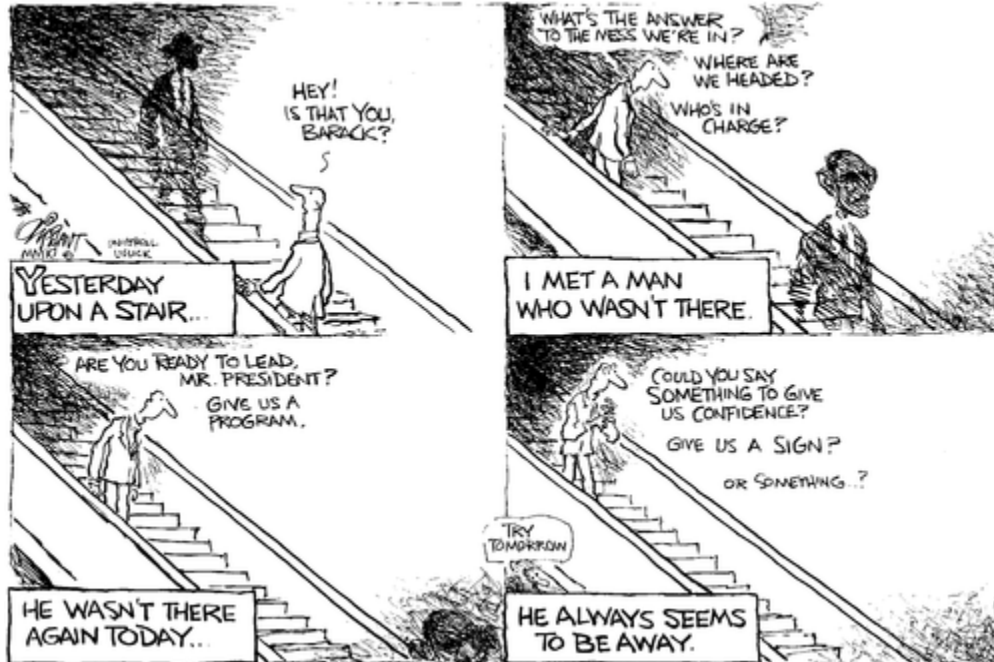
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Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

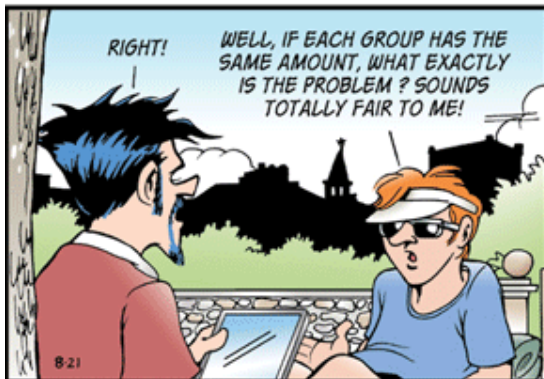
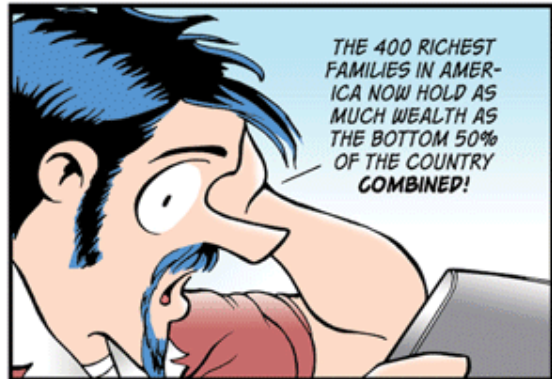
Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

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

# CLASS WAR REPORTS



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