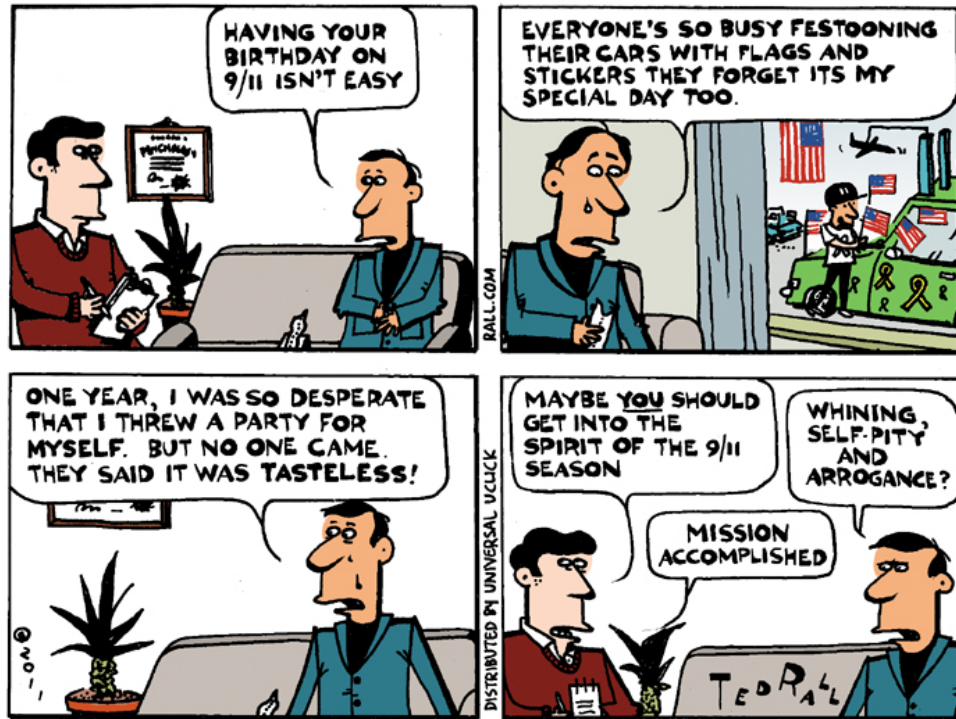


Military Resistance 9H21



**Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin:
“Since The Demise Of Gaddafi’s
Rule Over Libya, Activists And
Residents Have Been Reporting
Increasing Defections In The
Syrian Army”
“The First Reported Defections
Around The Capital, Where
Assad’s Core Forces Are Based”**

“Residents Reported Overnight Battles Between Defected Troops And Assad Supporters Backed By Security Forces Near The Damascus Suburb Of Harasta”

[Thanks to SANFORD KELSON, Veteran & Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

29 Aug 2011 Al Jazeera and agencies

Syrian forces have surrounded a town near the central city of Homs after the defection of tens of soldiers from the area, activists and residents say.

At least 40 light tanks and armoured vehicles, and 20 buses of troops and military intelligence, deployed at 5:30am (2:30GMT) on Monday at the highway entrance of Rastan, 20km north of Homs and began firing heavy machine guns at the town, two residents said.

“The tanks deployed at both banks of the highway, which remained open, and fired long bursts from their machine guns at Rastan,” one of the residents, who gave his name as Raed, told Reuters news agency by phone.

He said defections began in the town when it was stormed by tanks three months ago to crush large street protests against President Bashar al-Assad. The assault reportedly killed dozens of civilians.

Rastan has been the site of intense anti-government protests in recent months.

Reuters reported that since the demise of Muammar Gaddafi’s rule over Libya, activists and residents have been reporting increasing defections in the Syrian army.

They report there have been desertions in the eastern Deir ez-Zor province, the northwestern Idlib province, the Homs countryside and at the outskirts of Damascus.

On Sunday, residents reported overnight gun battles between defected troops and Assad supporters backed by security forces near the Damascus suburb of Harasta. The clashes reportedly started after four to five soldiers joined the anti-Assad protests.

A statement published on the internet by the Free Officers, a group that says it represents defectors, said “large defections” occurred in Harasta.

It was the first reported defections around the capital, where Assad’s core forces are based.

“The younger conscripts who defect mainly go back to their town and villages and hide.

“We have seen more experienced defectors fighting back in the south, in Idlib, and around Damascus,” said an activist who gave his name as Abu Khaled.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Afghanistan, Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Royal Marine From 42 Commando Killed In Sukmanda Area

30 Aug 11 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce that a Royal Marine from 42 Commando Royal Marines was killed in Afghanistan today, Tuesday 30 August 2011.

The Royal Marine was killed in the Sukmanda area of Nahr-e Saraj (South) District of Helmand Province while on a foot patrol to disrupt insurgent activity when he was fatally injured by an improvised explosive device.

Fosston High Graduate Killed In Afghanistan Leaves Behind Wife, Three Children

August 16, 2011 By: Tu-Uyen Tran, Grand Forks Herald

GRAND FORKS – U.S. Army Sgt. Matthew Harmon, a native of Lengby, Minn., survived two tours in Iraq, including a mortar attack that seriously injured a nearby soldier, but, a month into his first tour in Afghanistan, he has been killed by a roadside bomb.

He was 29.

His father, Tom Harmon, said that, according to the military, Matthew died somewhere near the border with Pakistan.

Matthew had gone out with a crew to recover another vehicle damaged by a roadside bomb when another bomb went off, Tom said. No other information about Matthew's death has been released by the U.S. Department of Defense.

When Matthew's body is returned to them, his family will bury him in Lengby, where he grew up, Tom said.

Matthew Harmon leaves behind his wife, Nicole, a Grand Forks native; three children, Danika, 8, Vincent, 5, and Elsie, 3; his mother, Irene; and siblings Melissa, Dean and Mark. Matthew was the oldest of the four children.

Growing up in eastern Polk County, Matthew was an athlete at Fosston (Minn.) High School – he was in football, cross country and track and field – and an artist, Tom said. In 1999, when Matthew was a senior, he enlisted in the National Guard.

After graduation, he moved to Grand Forks, where he met his wife, to attend the University of North Dakota. He was studying stage setup for the performing arts when, in 2004, he decided to enlist full time in the Army.

Tom said Matthew enjoyed being in the Army and he wanted to make a contribution. His first tour in Iraq was "tough," Tom said, and, toward the end, Matthew had a close call when a mortar hit the barracks in which he was sleeping. Another soldier in the same barracks was seriously injured, Tom said, but Matthew only got a scratch.

Matthew rarely talked about the war, Tom said, but he believes the second tour in Iraq was better than the first.

Tom said he worries most for Matthew's children and wife, who live in Germany, where Matthew was stationed.

The family is trying to get them settled somewhere where the trauma won't be too much for them, he said.

“I Do Believe God Is With Me On These Long Patrols”

Aug 15 2011 BY STEVEN MAYER, Californian staff writer; The Bakersfield Californian

Warrior and humanitarian.

The dual role may seem like a contradiction in terms, but it never was for U.S. Marine Sgt. Adan Gonzales Jr.

The Bakersfield son, grandson, brother, husband and father of three was killed Aug. 7 during a fierce battle with Taliban fighters in Afghanistan.

As part of his sniper platoon, Gonzales carried a SAW machine gun, capable of firing a fearsome 1,000 rounds per minute. Yet to the end of his life, he balanced his role as a combat Marine with his strong desire to help the desperately poor families he came in contact with in that war-weary region.

In a letter mailed home earlier this year, the 28-year-old asked for prayers to protect his comrades in arms, as well as for “the innocent children that have to live, day after day, in this war zone.

“They are born innocent into war,” Gonzales wrote in longhand.

“Our gun bursts wake them up at night, and I can hear them crying after a firefight,” he continued.

“It haunts me to know that they frequently become victims of our bombs and missile strikes. They are no different from my own children, and have a God-given right to live in peace and happiness.

“As for me, don’t worry about me,” he wrote. “I am in God’s hands and I believe he will see me through this.”

Outside the family’s Bakersfield home, a Marine Corps flag and the Stars and Stripes fly in parallel over the front threshold. Inside, family photos and a crucifix decorate the living room wall.

A photo of Adan -- his friends and family usually called him Adam -- is displayed front and center. He’s in uniform, an American flag draped in the background.

His father, grandmother, sister Nichole Chavez, wife Catalina Gonzales and others gathered in the living room Monday morning to recall stories of Adam.

His mother, Yolanda, listened intently, but found it nearly impossible to speak through the lump in her throat.

Their hurt is still tender and profound, but the tears and somber reflections were eased at times by moments of laughter or reminders of sweet memories.

And their pride in Adam is without question.

Born with a high fever, Adam was so sick at birth he wasn’t expected to live. And if he did survive, doctors told the frightened couple, he would likely have serious mental disabilities as a result of the illness.

The elder Gonzales remembered moving behind a curtain at the hospital and beginning to pray. “I told God, if you exist and you heal my son ... I will seek you, find you and serve you,” Mr. Gonzales said. “My Lord and Savior has granted us 28 years with our son. I’m comforted that my prayer was answered and fulfilled.”

Catalina recalled the day she first met her future husband at a Catholic retreat -- he was 16, she 14.

Asked whether it was love at first sight, Catalina didn't hesitate.

"Absolutely not!" she said.

But that would soon change.

When she saw Adam some months later at a friend's quinceanera, she was smitten.

"The moment I saw him, I claimed him," she said to more smiles and laughter.

The descriptions and memories of Adam are too numerous to list here, but Catalina remembered him as a wonderful father to their children.

He loved his two daughters, but when they found out last year at an ultrasound appointment that they were going to have a son, Adam was "glowing," Catalina remembered.

"I was the pregnant one and he was glowing," she said.

His sister remarked on his "million-dollar smile" and the way he would throw his head back and laugh without holding anything back.

"He was the greatest," she said. "There was nobody like him."

Adam loved facts and details, and it wasn't unusual to find him reading the encyclopedia.

His father recalled fishing trips with his son. They didn't really have to catch any fish to have the time of their lives.

But Mr. Gonzales was most amazed by the transformation he saw in Adam after he joined the Marines in May 2006, not quite three years after he and Catalina were married.

Adam had always been respectful and well spoken -- other adults would comment on it, Mr. Gonzales said -- but a certain level of shyness held him back from fully engaging with life.

"The Marines took away his shyness," Mr. Gonzales said. "That experience revealed his true heart."

And he excelled in the Marines. He loved the challenge, and he quickly moved up the ladder through merit promotions.

Marine Cpl. Madison Jefferson, of De Queen, Ark., met Adam last year in sniper indoctrination, a weeklong challenge to determine which Marines can endure the hardships of being a sniper.

Adam had something not every Marine had, the ability to be a combat-ready Marine when need be -- and the ability to "flip a switch" and let compassion and charity rule the day.

There's a cultural and a language barrier between the Marines and the "locals," Jefferson said. "Sgt. Gonzales would go out of his way to break down that barrier," he said.

Jefferson was in Afghanistan with Adam in June when their unit was ambushed.

Jefferson took a bullet to the leg and tumbled into an irrigation canal. The corpsman -- a Marine medic -- pulled him out and began trying to patch him up. Jefferson looked up to see Adam and the other men moving in to protect him.

"I remember seeing the whole team make a 360 around me and doc," Jefferson said.

The fighting was still fierce when Jefferson was put aboard a helicopter. He looked around, knowing he was done, and knowing he probably wouldn't see his team until they finished their deployment.

One of the last things he saw was Sgt. Gonzales.

"I remember seeing Gonzo ... up on one knee with his SAW," he said, "doing his work."

That's what Gonzales was doing two Sundays ago when he was fatally struck by enemy fire.

"I do believe God is with me on these long patrols through the poppy fields..." Sgt. Gonzales wrote in his beautiful letter home. "I know he is with me now and will be waiting for me hereafter."

Arlington Martin Graduate Among Seals Killed On Mission To Help Army Rangers



08 August 2011 By TANYA EISERER, Staff Writer, The Dallas Morning News

Stephen Matthew Mills died doing his job. “He loved his country, and he felt like what he was doing was right,” said his mother, Cheryl Mills.

The 35-year-old former Arlington resident and Navy Seal was among 30 U.S. soldiers, including 21 other SEALs, killed Saturday in Afghanistan when their helicopter was shot down as it rushed to help Army Rangers who had come under fire. All 38 people aboard were killed, including seven Afghan commandos and an Afghan translator.

Mills and all but two of the other SEALs were from SEAL Team 6, U.S. officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information. Team 6 is the elite counterterrorism unit that killed Osama bin Laden in May, although none of the SEALs killed Saturday took part in that mission.

U.S. and Afghan officials said Sunday that the SEALs and Afghan commandos had been called into Wardak Province as a “quick-reaction force” to assist a U.S. ground unit facing stiff resistance from insurgent fighters.

“This unit was engaged in heavy fire on the ground, and they called for help,” said one U.S. official.

The target of the initial mission, which one official said was being carried out by Army Rangers, was a Taliban leader whose network was responsible for a series of attacks and roadside bombs. Special forces are frequently used to target insurgent commanders as part of an effort to force the Taliban’s leadership to agree to a negotiated peace. The operations, mostly in the form of night raids, are often carried out by Afghan and coalition special operations forces.

The rescue team had subdued attackers who had pinned down the Rangers and were departing in their Chinook helicopter when the aircraft was apparently hit, one of the officials said. Eight Taliban fighters were killed.

Military investigators spent Sunday in the Tangi Valley, where the Chinook transport helicopter crashed, combing the ground to verify the initial assessment that insurgents had used a rocket-propelled grenade to down the helicopter.

The Taliban claimed responsibility within hours of the crash. It was the single largest loss of American life in the decade-long Afghan war.

The attack on the helicopter has heightened attention on the harsh reality that even now, at the height of the NATO troop presence and not far from Afghanistan’s capital, large stretches of the country are perilous and heavily infiltrated by insurgents. Afghan and U.S. officials say that the area where the attack took place has become increasingly insecure even as NATO has stepped up its troop numbers nationwide.

Mills, a graduate of Arlington’s Martin High School, joined the Navy 13 years ago, in part as a way to help support his wife and young son. But he soon set his sights on becoming a SEAL — even before finishing boot camp. He trained hard for it, embarking on a rigorous program of swimming, running and weight training to achieve his dream, said his mother, who lives in Bastrop, Texas. “He told me many times. ‘Mother, I just can’t believe I have the job I’ve always dreamed of.’”

The Navy commissioned Mills as a SEAL on Sept. 11, 2001, the same day terrorists attacked New York City and the Pentagon. Mills later completed the process that it takes to become a member of the elite Team 6.

“He’s always been one that was a protector” and someone who fought against “anything that was unjust or unfair,” his mother said. “He just saw that as a role in life he wanted to achieve. He tried his best to be the best at what he did.”

Mills’ friends and family said he’d been repeatedly in and out of Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. They described him as fearless and said Mills, a chief petty officer, rarely discussed his work.

“He definitely didn’t brag about it,” said his best friend, Casey Hedlund, a Lancaster firefighter. “He was extremely humble about it. He was doing it for me, doing it for you, doing it for everyone. Somebody had to do it, and they couldn’t have found anyone better.”

Cheryl Mills said her son had great compassion for Afghans. “He said they want the Taliban out of their country,” she said.

“He said they are such fierce fighters. He had much respect for them.”

Mills, a father of three children, also recently embarked on a new chapter his life. On April 29, he married his second wife in an outdoor ceremony in Bastrop. Many of his SEAL comrades attended the wedding.

Mills was stationed in Virginia Beach, Va., where he lived with his wife and their 1-year-old son. He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His family expects to meet his remains on Tuesday at Dover Air Force Base.

The Associated Press, The New York Times and the Los Angeles Times contributed to this report.

Blast Injures Two Italian Paratroopers In Afghanistan

30 August (ANSA)

A roadside bomb blast injured two Italian paratroopers in western Afghanistan Friday as they traveled outside the Italian base Camp Snow.

The soldiers were on a reconnaissance mission with fellow troops from the San Marco Regiment in Herat when a roadside bomb exploded near their Lynx armored vehicle.

The wounded men were taken to a hospital in Farah, southwest Afghanistan, where they were reported to be in good condition.

It was the second roadside bomb to injure Italian soldiers in Herat this month.

Italy has a 4,200-strong contingent in Afghanistan.

Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini recently said Italy was paying “a very high price” for its involvement.

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

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

BBC Journalist Murdered By US Special Forces During Raid On The Taliban

25 Aug 2011 By Ben Farmer, Kandahar, BBC

Ahmed Omed Khpulwak was among at least 22 killed, mostly civilians, during a two-pronged militant attack on government buildings in Uruzgan province last month.

An independent investigation has now found he appeared to have been shot dead by American weapons after the attackers were already dead.

The BBC has asked the Nato-led coalition to investigate his death and the findings of that formal inquiry are expected to be released soon.

Khpulwak, 25, was a reporter for the BBC Pashto service and had done freelance work for The Daily Telegraph.

He was working in the office of state broadcaster RTA in the town of Tarin Kowt on July 28 when a suicide car bomb blew up outside and two attackers rushed in.

The compound was counter attacked soon after by American special forces soldiers and the two suicide bombers blew themselves up.

According to an investigation by the Afghanistan Analysts' Network, an independent Kabul-based research group, Khpulwak may have survived the initial assault only to be shot by coalition forces clearing the building.

The investigation, by Kate Clark, concluded: “It seems – in what would be the worst luck of all – that Omed may have survived the suicide bombs, only to be shot dead by US special forces when they entered the ruined RTA building.”

Khpulwak hid in a bathroom during the attack and texted his family, once saying: "I am hiding. Death has come" and 25 minutes later: "Pray for me if I die." The second message appeared to have been sent after the suicide attackers had exploded.

He was later found dead by Afghan police in the bathroom, seemingly untouched by blast injuries, but riddled with at least 11 gunshot wounds.

His body was buried quickly according to custom, but examination of spent bullets littering the bathroom where he died found they were US-made and probably fired from a US M60 machine gun.

The investigation found: "One possible scenario for Omed's death could be that, after the latter two bombs, whoever entered the building anticipated that more Taliban were hiding there and misidentified Omed as a combatant."

It added: "The key legal question would be whether those forces could reasonably have deduced that Omed was not a Taliban fighter, but a civilian." **[What lame bullshit. Did he or did he not, when found hiding in the bathroom, possess a weapon?. Three guesses. Obviously it's the murder of an unarmed civilian. Duh. T]**

NO MISSION; POINTLESS WAR: ALL HOME NOW



A U.S. Army soldier from Alpha Company 2nd battalion 27th infantry (the Wolfhounds), Task Force NO FEAR watches out from his bunker at OP Mace in eastern Afghanistan Naray district, Kunar province near the border of Pakistan early August 27, 2011. REUTERS/Nikola Solic

MILITARY NEWS

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



The remains of Army Pfc. Jesse W. Dietrich, 20, of Venus, Texas at Dover Air Force Base, DE Aug. 29, 2011. Dietrich died August 25, 2011 in Kandahar province, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit using small arms fire. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen)...

**“At Least One In Every Six Dollars Of
U.S. Spending For Contracts And
Grants In Iraq And Afghanistan Over
The Past Decade, Or More Than \$30
Billion, Has Been Wasted”**

“Poor Planning, Federal Understaffing And Over-Reliance Led To Billions Of Dollars Of Contracts Awarded Without Effective Competition”

August 28 By Christopher Shays and Michael Thibault, Washington Post [Excerpts]

Christopher Shays, a former Republican congressman from Connecticut, and Michael Thibault, a former deputy director of the Defense Contract Audit Agency, co-chaired the bipartisan federal Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

At least one in every six dollars of U.S. spending for contracts and grants in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past decade, or more than \$30 billion, has been wasted.

And at least that much could again turn into waste if the host governments are unable or unwilling to sustain U.S.-funded projects after our involvement ends.

Those sobering but conservative numbers are a key finding of the bipartisan Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan, which will submit its report to Congress on Wednesday.

Tens of billions of taxpayer dollars have been wasted through poor planning, vague and shifting requirements, inadequate competition, substandard contract management and oversight, lax accountability, weak interagency coordination, and subpar performance or outright misconduct by some contractors and federal employees.

Our final report shows that the costs of contracting waste and fraud extend beyond the disservice to taxpayers. The costs include diminishing for U.S. military, diplomatic and development efforts; fostering corruption in host countries; and undermining U.S. standing and influence overseas.

The contractor workforce in Iraq and Afghanistan has at times exceeded 260,000 people and has sometimes outnumbered U.S. military forces in theater.

Poor planning, federal understaffing and over-reliance led to billions of dollars of contracts awarded without effective competition, legions of foreign subcontractors not subject to U.S. laws, private security guards performing tasks that can easily escalate into combat, unprosecuted instances of apparent fraud, and projects that are unlikely to be sustained by the governments of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Projects that are or may be unsustainable are a serious problem.

For instance, U.S. taxpayers spent \$40 million on a prison that Iraq did not want and that was never finished.

U.S. taxpayers poured \$300 million into a Kabul power plant that requires funding and technical expertise beyond the Afghan government's capabilities. Meanwhile, a federal official testified to the commission that an \$11.4 billion program of facilities for the Afghan National Security Forces is "at risk" of unsustainability.

Many examples of poor planning, bad management, weak accountability, misconduct and the waste that results from them are detailed in our final report.

**“The Army Spends Years And
Hundreds Of Thousands Of
Dollars Training Each Of Its
Foreign-Language Speakers”
“At The Same Time, It Uses Costly
Contractors To Work The Same Jobs
For Which Its Own Linguists Have
Trained”
“The Army Would Rather Spend
Hundreds Of Thousands On Contractors
To Do The Job It Trained Me For”**

August 25, 2011 By Max Rosenthal, Wired.com [Excerpts]

Max J. Rosenthal was a Sergeant in the U.S. Army and served as an Arabic linguist from 2006 to 2011. He is now a freelance journalist and photographer based in Fairfield, CT.

It's no secret that the U.S. Army has a language barrier to overcome in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But more galling is the fact that the few soldiers who do speak Arabic, Pashto and Dari are still being wasted, even in the war zones where they're needed the most. I know — because I was one of them.

The Army spends years and hundreds of thousands of dollars training each of its foreign-language speakers.

At the same time, it uses costly contractors to work the same jobs for which its own linguists have trained.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, private-sector linguists are largely replacing their military counterparts rather than augmenting their numbers, an expensive redundancy.

In the fall of 2006, I enlisted in the Army as a cryptologic linguist, one of the soldiers who translate foreign communications.

A year of college Arabic hadn't been enough to persuade intelligence-agency recruiters of my James Bond potential. Spook agencies assured me during a string of polite job-fair letdowns that the military was the place to start getting real-world experience. So off I went to boot camp.

More than two years of training followed, both in Arabic and the specific intelligence duties I'd need to perform in-country.

In March 2009, I stepped off a Blackhawk at Forward Operating Base Delta, a large base near al-Kut in southeastern Iraq. I figured I'd be translating captured Arabic communications to alert combat troops of danger.

So, imagine my surprise when my new team sergeant picked me up at the airfield and mentioned he was a Korean linguist.

It turned out that our five-man team had as many Korean speakers as Arabic ones — you know, for all the Korean spoken in the Iraqi desert.

It was my first sign that the deployment wouldn't be the one I trained for.

When I arrived for my first shift in-country, I quickly saw who would be turning those purloined insurgent communications into English: a large, middle-aged Arab dude, not me.

A native of Mosul, he was one of two contractors who would complete every language-related task required for the rest of our deployment.

Rumor was he made more than \$200,000 — easily five times my paycheck.

Meanwhile, the military linguists on my team simply sat to one side, numbly monitoring equipment and our computer screens for uneventful hours on end.

The situation was similar across our unit, the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade.

At some sites, linguists functioned as analysts to make up for shortages or operated secret intel equipment that required high-level clearances.

At many others, the daily routine was one of whiling away a shift with correspondence courses or a good paperback.

I got through 35 books in an eight-month tour, including Tom Ricks' Fiasco.

In one case, a soldier stationed in Amarah, near the Iranian border, spoke excellent Farsi.

If he had been translating insurgent communications, it might have come in handy for his team, given the extent of Iranian infiltration into Iraq.

But what did he spend his tour doing?

Busywork, mostly, interrupted by watching his buddies play World of Warcraft.

Problems like that were common to all deploying units that my fellow linguists and I knew of.

Whether assigned to military intelligence units or attached to infantry brigades, linguists found themselves in any capacity but their own.

Often, we waited for something to go wrong with our expensive communications-collections gear, and called the guy whose job it was to maintain the equipment if a glitch required more than flipping a reset switch. (Which it mostly didn't.)

If that's the way the Army wants it, maybe linguists like me shouldn't actually deploy at all. Those of us who don't go to war zones mostly work at intelligence centers like Maryland's Fort Meade, home of the National Security Agency.

Unlike their counterparts overseas, these soldiers routinely work with their adoptive languages while still directly supporting deployed units from afar, like writing reports on collected communications and feeding databases. Their missions continue every day, allowing them to maintain language proficiency.

Some defense companies are even working on techie ways to remotely connect linguists far from the front lines with combat troops who need quick translation help.

Meanwhile, linguists who actually go to war zones spend their time at home in a routine of garrison duties and unrelated training, no different from the rest of Big Army. Honing language skills falls far down the priority list. Many end up failing their yearly re-certification exams.

At the least, the Army needs to stop treating linguists like we're interchangeable.

Our skills are specific: There's no reason Korean speakers should be in al-Kut and not Korea.

Spanish and French linguists ought to be assigned to, say, Latin America or NATO units, where they'd be useful.

But, hey: If the Army would rather spend hundreds of thousands on contractors to do the job it trained me for, maybe it should just contract out all its language positions.

At least then it would get native speakers, who would have a fluency I probably can't match. It's expensive, but quality doesn't come cheap. And redundancy is expensive too.

Pick your solution. As long as the Army keeps mismanaging its linguists, guys like me will stay lost in translation. At least until the military finally goes the Federation route and develops a Universal Translator.

NATO Deputy Chief Of Staff For Operations In Italy Kicked Out Of California National Guard For Thieving: Maj. Gen. Took “About \$155,000 In Improper Double-Dip Earnings – Two Days’ Pay For A Single Day Of Work”

Aug. 25, 2011 By Charles Piller, The Sacramento Bee [Excerpts]

Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, who led the California National Guard from 2005 until early last year, was summarily removed Wednesday from active service as a Guard member.

Guard officials called the removal of a former California adjutant general in this fashion unprecedented.

The action by current Adjutant General David S. Baldwin stemmed from a controversy over Wade’s pay as Guard leader.

A Bee investigation published in April found that Wade had received about \$155,000 in improper double-dip earnings – two days’ pay for a single day of work.

Last month, after state officials completed their own analysis, the California controller demanded that Wade repay \$80,720.

The general currently serves as NATO deputy chief of staff for operations in Italy. To date, the Guard has not received any payment from him, said Maj. Thomas Keegan, a Guard spokesman.

The impact of Wade’s forced retirement on his current posting remains unclear. Neither the general nor his representatives in NATO could be reached for comment.

Wade earned a base annual state salary of more than \$200,000 when he headed the Guard, and on average took in \$50,000 extra in federal pay annually.

Guard members who also are state employees may collect limited dual payments from both the federal and state governments on the same days, but Wade was found by The Bee, and then in the state's analysis, to have exceeded allowed limits.

He previously contended that state rules limiting dual pay did not apply to him as adjutant general.

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.

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

-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done

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

Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

**Bloomberg Financial Writer
Tells Capitalists To Study Marx:
“We’re Facing A Once-In-A-
Lifetime Crisis Of Capitalism”
“Today’s Global Economy Bears
Some Uncanny Resemblances To The
Conditions He Foresaw”
“As Marx Put It In Kapital: ‘The Ultimate
Reason For All Real Crises Always
Remains The Poverty And Restricted
Consumption Of The Masses’”**



Illustration by Jordan Awan

Aug 28, 2011 By George Magnus, BLOOMBERG L.P. [Excerpts]

Policy makers struggling to understand the barrage of financial panics, protests and other ills afflicting the world would do well to study the works of a long-dead economist: Karl Marx.

The sooner they recognize we're facing a once-in-a-lifetime crisis of capitalism, the better equipped they will be to manage a way out of it.

The spirit of Marx, who is buried in a cemetery close to where I live in north London, has risen from the grave amid the financial crisis and subsequent economic slump.

The wily philosopher's analysis of capitalism had a lot of flaws, but today's global economy bears some uncanny resemblances to the conditions he foresaw.

Consider, for example, Marx's prediction of how the inherent conflict between capital and labor would manifest itself.

As he wrote in "Das Kapital," companies' pursuit of profits and productivity would naturally lead them to need fewer and fewer workers, creating an "industrial reserve army" of the poor and unemployed: "Accumulation of wealth at one pole is, therefore, at the same time accumulation of misery."

The process he describes is visible throughout the developed world, particularly in the U.S. Companies' efforts to cut costs and avoid hiring have boosted U.S. corporate profits as a share of total economic output to the highest level in more than six decades, while the unemployment rate stands at 9.1 percent and real wages are stagnant.

U.S. income inequality, meanwhile, is by some measures close to its highest level since the 1920s.

Before 2008, the income disparity was obscured by factors such as easy credit, which allowed poor households to enjoy a more affluent lifestyle. Now the problem is coming home to roost.

Marx also pointed out the paradox of over-production and under-consumption: The more people are relegated to poverty, the less they will be able to consume all the goods and services companies produce.

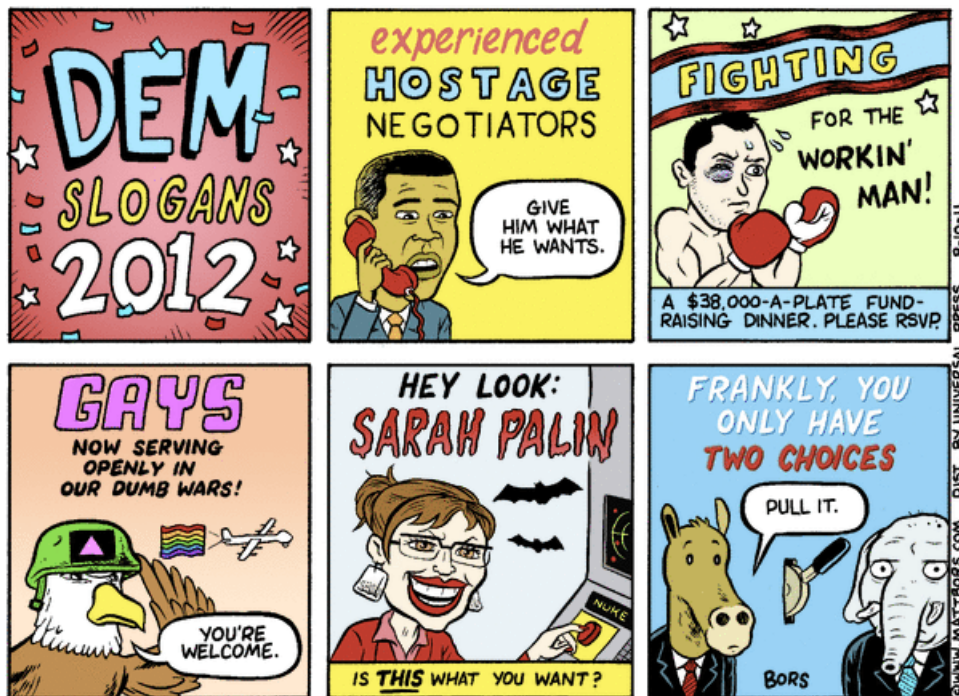
When one company cuts costs to boost earnings, it's smart, but when they all do, they undermine the income formation and effective demand on which they rely for revenues and profits.

This problem, too, is evident in today's developed world. We have a substantial capacity to produce, but in the middle- and lower-income cohorts, we find widespread financial insecurity and low consumption rates.

The result is visible in the U.S., where new housing construction and automobile sales remain about 75% and 30% below their 2006 peaks, respectively.

As Marx put it in Kapital: "The ultimate reason for all real crises always remains the poverty and restricted consumption of the masses."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



The Corrupt “Homeland Security” Scams Roll On: Cherry County “Got Thousands Of Federal Dollars For Cattle Nose Leads, Halters And Electric Prods -- In Case Terrorists Decided To Mount Biological Warfare Against Cows”

A \$205,000 Homeland Security Grant Bought A 9-Ton Bearcat Armored Vehicle Because “Police Fear Militants Might Be Eyeing Dreamworks Animation Or The Disney Creative Campus”

The Number Of People Worldwide Who Are Killed By Muslim-Type Terrorists Is “Basically The Same Number Of People Who Die Drowning In The Bathtub Each Year”

The spending has been rife with dubious expenditures, including the \$557,400 in rescue and communications gear that went to the 1,500 residents of North Pole, Alaska, and a \$750,000 anti-terrorism fence — fashioned with 8-foot-high ram-proof wrought iron reinforced with concrete footers — built around a Veterans Affairs hospital in the pastoral hills outside Asheville, N.C.

Reporting from Ogallala, Neb.—

On the edge of the Nebraska sand hills is Lake McConaughy, a 22-mile-long reservoir that in summer becomes a magnet for Winnebagos, fishermen and kite sailors.

But officials here in Keith County, population 8,370, imagined this scene: an Al Qaeda sleeper cell hitching explosives onto a ski boat and plowing into the dam at the head of the lake.

The federal Department of Homeland Security gave the county \$42,000 to buy state-of-the-art dive gear, including full-face masks, underwater lights and radios, and a Zodiac boat with side-scan sonar capable of mapping wide areas of the lake floor.

Up on the lonely prairie, Cherry County, population 6,148, got thousands of federal dollars for cattle nose leads, halters and electric prods -- in case terrorists decided to mount biological warfare against cows.

In the Los Angeles suburb of Glendale, where police fear militants might be eyeing DreamWorks Animation or the Disney creative campus, a \$205,000 Homeland Security grant bought a 9-ton BearCat armored vehicle, complete with turret.

More than 300 BearCats — many acquired with federal money — are now deployed by police across the country; the arrests of methamphetamine dealers and bank robbers these days often look much like a tactical assault on insurgents in Baghdad.

A decade after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, federal and state governments are spending about \$75 billion a year on domestic security, setting up sophisticated radio networks, upgrading emergency medical response equipment, installing surveillance cameras and bombproof walls, and outfitting airport screeners to detect an ever-evolving list of mobile explosives.

But how effective has that 10-year spending spree been?

“The number of people worldwide who are killed by Muslim-type terrorists, Al Qaeda wannabes, is maybe a few hundred outside of war zones. It’s basically the same number of people who die drowning in the bathtub each year,” said John Mueller, an Ohio State University professor who has written extensively about the balance between threat and expenditures in fighting terrorism.

“So if your chance of being killed by a terrorist in the United States is 1 in 3.5 million, the question is, how much do you want to spend to get that down to 1 in 4.5 million?” he said.

An entire industry has sprung up to sell an array of products, including high-tech motion sensors and fully outfitted emergency operations trailers.

The market is expected to grow to \$31 billion by 2014.

The expensive and time-consuming screening now routine for passengers at airport boarding gates has detected plenty of knives, loaded guns and other contraband, but it has never identified a terrorist who was about to board a plane.

Only 14 Americans have died in about three dozen instances of Islamic extremist terrorist plots targeted at the U.S. outside war zones since 2001 — most of them involving one or two home-grown plotters.

The spending has been rife with dubious expenditures, including the \$557,400 in rescue and communications gear that went to the 1,500 residents of North Pole, Alaska, and a \$750,000 anti-terrorism fence — fashioned with 8-foot-high ram-proof wrought iron reinforced with concrete footers — built around a Veterans Affairs hospital in the pastoral hills outside Asheville, N.C.

West Virginia got \$3,000 worth of lapel pins and billed the federal government for thousands of dollars in cellphone charges, according to the Center for Investigative Reporting, which compiled a state-by-state accounting of Homeland Security spending.

In New York, \$3 million was spent on automated public health records to help identify bioterrorism threats, but investigators for the department’s inspector general in 2008 found that employees who used the program weren’t even aware of its potential bioterrorism applications.

In some cases, hundreds of millions were spent on ill-fated projects, such as when Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano earlier this year pulled the plug on the Secure Border Initiative, a Boeing Co. contract that was to set up an ambitious network of surveillance cameras, radar and sensors as a 2,000-mile-long “virtual” barrier across the U.S.-Mexico border.

Originally intended to be in place by 2009, the endeavor was plagued with cost overruns and missed deadlines and wound up costing \$1 billion before it was canceled.

“Rather Than Address Its Own Corruption, Ineptitude And Illegal Actions, The Government Made Me A Target Of A Multi-Year, Multimillion-Dollar Federal Criminal ‘Leak’ Investigation”

“A Vicious Campaign Against Whistleblowers That Started Under President George W. Bush And Is Coming To Full Fruition Under President Obama”

“I Could Not Stand By And Become An Accessory To The Willful Subversion Of Our Constitution And Our Freedoms”

“To The Government, I Was A Traitor And Enemy Of The State”

Once exposed, these unconstitutional detours are justified by vague and undefined claims of “national security,” aided and abetted by officials’ shameful fear-mongering while they cover up their own actions and keep them secret from the public.

August 25 By Thomas Drake, The Washington Post [Excerpts]

Thomas Drake, a former senior executive at the National Security Agency, received the 2011 Ridenhour Truth-Telling Prize.

The Justice Department’s high-profile Espionage Act case against me collapsed on July 15, with all 10 felony charges dropped, when I was sentenced to community service after entering into a plea agreement for a minor misdemeanor.

During the sentencing hearing, the judge clearly set the tone for holding the executive branch of our government accountable.

He expounded on the judicial branch’s role as final arbiter of the law, while noting that the basis for the American Revolution was British tyranny in the colonial era.

Over more than a year, my case became a disturbing illustration of “off the books,” irresponsible government behavior that is increasingly alien to the Constitution.

The government's penchant since Sept. 11, 2001, for operating in secrecy and hiding behind an executive branch "state secrets" doctrine has damaged our long-term national security and national character.

It has, by sacrificing Americans' general welfare and civil liberties, given rise to a persistent military-industrial-intelligence congressional surveillance complex.

From 2001 through 2008, I was a senior executive at the National Security Agency.

Shortly after Sept. 11, I heard more than rumblings about secret electronic eavesdropping and data mining against Americans that bypassed the Fourth Amendment and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act — the exclusive means in the law for conducting such activity, with severe criminal sanctions when violated.

Such shortcuts were not necessary.

Lawful alternatives — using the best of Americans' ingenuity and innovation — existed that would have also vastly improved our intelligence capability against legitimate threats.

A highly innovative intelligence data collection, processing and analysis system called ThinThread was operationally ready and had built-in safeguards to comply with the Fourth Amendment. But this revolutionary system was rejected by the NSA while much higher-cost work on the multibillion-dollar flagship Trailblazer program proceeded.

While at the NSA I became a material witness and whistleblower for two Sept. 11 congressional investigations starting in late 2001 and through the summer of 2002, and then for a multi-year audit by the Defense Department inspector general of the failed Trailblazer program and the ThinThread alternative from 2003 until 2005 — after a Defense Department hotline complaint was made by three former NSA employees and a House intelligence committee staffer in September 2002.

I raised the gravest of concerns through all the proper channels, reporting massive contract fraud, management malfeasance and illegalities conducted by the NSA, including critical intelligence information and analysis that was never reported or shared by the NSA.

Had this vital and actionable intelligence been properly analyzed and disseminated by the NSA, it could have led to the capture of the Sept. 11 hijackers and prevented the attacks.

I followed all the rules for reporting such activity until it conflicted with the primacy of my oath to defend the Constitution.

I then made a fateful choice to exercise my fundamental First Amendment rights and went to a journalist with unclassified information about which the public had a right to know.

Rather than address its own corruption, ineptitude and illegal actions, the government made me a target of a multi-year, multimillion-dollar federal criminal "leak" investigation

as part of a vicious campaign against whistleblowers that started under President George W. Bush and is coming to full fruition under President Obama.

To the government, I was a traitor and enemy of the state.

As an American, however, I could not stand by and become an accessory to the willful subversion of our Constitution and our freedoms.

It is a basic precept when taking the oath to defend the Constitution as a government employee and providing for the common defense that you do not sell out intelligence or national security to the highest bidder, or keep our nation's decision makers in the dark, or turn information into a political tool and, driven by self-interest, use it to hammer whistleblowers.

Such egregious behavior sends a chilling message about what the government can and will do to those who speak truth to power — a direct form of political repression and censorship.

Once exposed, these unconstitutional detours are justified by vague and undefined claims of “national security,” aided and abetted by officials’ shameless fear-mongering while they cover up their own actions and keep them secret from the public.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

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

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

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

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