

## MILITARY RESISTANCE GUARD ISSUE: [9-1-1]

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

**“The CSM Stepped Forward,  
Looked At Our Gloved Hands And  
Rolled-Up Sleeves And Said: ‘I  
Don’t Care Who You Are...MEDICS,  
You Need To Stay In Uniform At  
All Times. Fix Your Sleeves’”**

**“I Didn’t Know Whether To Start Screaming At Him Or Simply Punch His Teeth Down His Throat”**

**“What I Did Know Was That Our Casualties Time Was Waning, So Without A Word I Turned And Bolted Towards The Vehicle”**

**“The Army Was Good At Telling Us That We Were Its Most Valuable Resource, And That We Were Making A Difference To The People Of Icrack Or Afcrapistan Or Wherever, But At The End Of The Day It Was All Bullshit To Me”**

*[From The Editors: To protect the writer, ID has been removed from this email as published here.]*

*[We welcome other letters from members of the armed services. Please email to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org) ]*

**From: “XXXXX SGT MIL USA EUSA**  
**To: Military Resistance Organization**  
**Subject: Musings of a Short-Timer (UNCLASSIFIED)**  
**Date: Aug 22, 2011 12:57 AM**  
**Classification: UNCLASSIFIED**  
**Caveats: NONE**

I can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

I have roughly 120 days until I sign out on Terminal Leave...and it seems surreal. I have wanted to ETS since 2008, and I have been able to realize my goals during my indentured servitude, as I marched slowly towards my inevitable separation.

Perhaps the lyrics of ‘Tom Sawyer’ by Rush best reflect my sentiments: “Though his mind is not for rent, don’t put him down as arrogant. His reserve a quiet defense; riding out the day’s events.”

When I shipped off to lovely, scenic Ft. Sill for Basic 8 days after graduating high school I was happy and confident in my decision.

My naïve optimism told me that I had made the right choice to better my life, and that I would be taking part in something much larger than myself.

My reservations began during my first assignment: 2ID Korea.

My reservations were cemented in my subsequent assignment: Recon Squadron, 82nd Airborne Division.

I could list the reasons and events that transformed me from a young and highly motivated soldier to a confused and bitter war veteran, however, I do not feel that I have a command of the English language to do the requisite novel justice.

**I can, however, present a source of continuing anger and confusion which occurred during my deployment to Baghdad.**

**One day we had received a call of incoming casualties.**

When we treated casualties, it was normal for the medics to roll the sleeves of their uniforms up to avoid soiling them in blood and other bodily fluids. After all, we were on a small base and did not have access to new uniforms.

One casualty in particular had caught the brunt of a nasty little bugger called an Explosively Formed Penetrator. (EFP) The EFP had blown away most of the facial landmarks that we use to drop an airway, so we resorted to cutting into his trachea and inserting a manual airway.

For lack of a better way to describe it, he was well and fucked if we did not get him into surgery pronto.

**We had stabilized him enough to take him to the makeshift helipad, so I grabbed a junior medic and told him to come with me so we could ready the ambulance. (FLA)**

**As we were running out of the aid station, I heard someone call out to us. I was busy, so I did not pay any attention.**

**Joey called out, "It's OK, we're medics." As we were rounding the corner, we heard: "STOP! Get back here!"**

**We turned, and there standing before us was the Brigade Commander and CSM. Why they were at our base I do not know.**

**The CSM stepped forward, looked at our gloved hands and rolled-up sleeves and said: "I don't care who you are...MEDICS, you need to stay in uniform at all times. Fix your sleeves."**

**I was floored.**

**For the first time in my life I was completely and utterly speechless.**

**I didn't know whether to start screaming at him or simply punch his teeth down his throat.**

**What I did know was that our casualties time was waning, so without a word I turned and bolted towards the vehicle.**

**That 19 year old MP died 4 hours later in the CSH. He also belonged to the brigade that those two 'leaders' oversaw.**

Although this incident happened some years ago, simply retelling this story has made my pulse quicken and muscles tighten in anger.

Prior to this incident I simply wanted to ETS and continue on with my life.

**At that moment, however, the Army died in my mind.**

**I completely lost any shred of faith that I had in my Command. Concrete Thinking had triumphed.**

Sadly, this was just one event out of many that made me the cynic that I am today.

The Army was good at telling us that we were its most valuable resource, and that we were making a difference to the people of Icrack or Afcrapistan or wherever, but at the end of the day it was all bullshit to me.

**The only thing I cared about was getting the guys I was living with home.**

I resolved to make a better life for myself when I separated. At that time, I had an Associate degree, so when I returned to the US I hit the books hard. Now I have completed my Bachelor of Applied Science, taken (and stomped) the GRE, and applied to graduate level civilian PA schools.

I will be getting word back in a month or two if the programs took the bait, but for now the outlook is good.

In the end, the Army has taught me very well what I DO NOT want to do for the rest of my life.

I believe that the Army has the potential to be a great institution, but in my experience much change would have to happen to realize that potential.

**My belief is that most of the Army is run by "The Best of the Rest." The good get gone, and move on to greener pastures.**

Those that do not know of, or do not have the ability to pursue different opportunities continue to reenlist and become 'lifers.'

This is not true for everyone, there are a few diamonds out there, yet in my observations this is the prevailing trend. My hope is that I will be one of the good that get gone, but that remains to be seen.

I do resolve to get gone whether I am the good or not. Although my prospects are very good right now, I like to use Socratic Irony when asked about reenlistment.

When someone asks if I am going to reenlist, I simply say “fuck no.”

When they ask what I am going to do, I tell them I am going to be a hobo. You should see the expression on their faces.

**For the persistent, I break it down into the basics and ask some questions of my own, with the conversation going like this:**

**Me: The Army is a war machine, is it not?**

**The Best of the Rest: Yes**

**Me: Do you believe the Army will stop being a war machine by Dec 2012?**

**The Best of the Rest: No**

**Me: I have buried enough friends to last a lifetime. I have had enough of being at war, and of training for war.**

**The Best of the Rest: .....**

**Me: Methinks that sums it up. Peace!**

**I guess all that fancy book-learnin' was good for something after all! It taught me how to better articulate my dissent.**

**Sincerely,  
Today's Tom Sawyer**

**Classification: UNCLASSIFIED**

**Caveats: NONE**

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## **“What The Hell Are We Doing There?” [New York National Guard]**

From: Alan Stolzer  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: August 03, 2011  
Subject: Outreach To New York National Guard

A particularly friendly sergeant was encountered just outside an armory this morning.

Entirely open to conversation the sergeant said the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq weren't being fought well and if we don't plan on winning should get out. “What the hell are we doing there?”

The National Guard soldier was given a "Sir! No Sir!" DVD plus a handout distributed this past Saturday morning at another armory (7/11 issue of Traveling Soldier, F. Bouthillette's letter to troops, GI Rights Pamphlet and Military Resistance/IVAW intro card plus a copy of a current National Guard magazine that seemed to arouse particular interest.

**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**

**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.

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**“That Sailor Was Not Happy With  
The Navy Or The Entire  
Government”**

**“And Apparently Sailors All Over The  
Fleet Weren't Happy”**

**“It Should Not Be Surprising That  
President Obama Only Did What Every  
Corrupted President Before Him Has  
Done, And That's Keep The Money  
Flowing Into The Private Defense  
Industry's Pockets”**

**“America Needs Jobs And Healthcare, Not  
Destroyers”**

By Fabian Bouthillette, Iraq Veterans Against The War & Military Resistance  
Organization

On June 10, 2011 my girlfriend, Dara, and I drove up the Pacific Coast Highway to Malibu, CA from our home just south in Santa Monica.

We were heading to dinner with our friend Michael. Michael is an Army Ranger veteran who took part in the 1983 invasion of Granada, something he is not too happy about having been a part of.

Michael currently has his own business that focuses on water conservation, but spends numerous hours of his free time helping out injured veterans and promoting an end to the militarization of America's economy.

Michael and I met and immediately became close friends after a mutual friend had introduced us in December 2008. This friend knew me because of work I have done with Iraq Veterans Against the War and the Military Resistance organization after I left the Navy in July 2005.

I had been a Surface Warfare Officer in the Navy aboard USS CURTIS WILBUR (DDG-54) - a destroyer stationed in Yokosuka, Japan – after graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2003.

So, when Dara and I got to Malibu we were surprised to find a destroyer anchored near the Malibu pier. On its hull I could see the number 53.

Ah, it was USS JOHN PAUL JONES, the Aegis class destroyer built immediately before CURTIS WILBUR. We were an hour early for our dinner with Michael, so Dara and I sat down at a bar on the pier, hopeful that sailors would wander in and that we could talk with them.

Sure enough, after a few minutes, three men walked into the bar who were clearly sailors.

Trust me, I can spot them. And they spotted me quickly because I was wearing a Navy officer's jacket that I often wear because I still like it.

The oldest sailor, an Electronics Technician 2nd class as I quickly learned, approached me and asked me what the deal was with my jacket. I was also wearing my Naval Academy class ring, and have hair down to my shoulders now, so the sailor was quite curious. I told him that I had been aboard CURTIS WILBUR in Japan and some of what I had done. He shared some stories too and told me that his ship was in Malibu for a goodwill port visit that his captain had arranged. We continued to trade sea stories as we had some beers.

Finally, I asked him how things were going aboard JOHN PAUL JONNES.

His immediate complaint was that President Obama had put all Navy ships on minimal manning.

"That's 270 sailors for a destroyer, isn't it?" I asked. The sailor confirmed that I was correct. "Damn," I replied. "We never had less than 300 aboard CURTIS WILBUR. You guys must be working your asses off doing maintenance and standing watches."



Indeed, this sailor was not happy. And apparently sailors all over the fleet weren't happy about having to work extra hours to save the government a relatively small amount of money.

To make things work, a new helm system had been installed on the bridge of JOHN PAUL JONES.

It was a touch screen console that had been generating more problems than it was worth – meaning more hours of work for highly skilled Electronics Technicians who were used to fixing radars, not helm consoles. We had a few more drinks and shared a few more stories before Dara and I wished the sailor well and went off to meet Michael. Again, that sailor was not happy with the Navy or the entire government.

About a month later I read a report that said, "According to statistics released by Rep. Randy Forbes, the Virginia Republican who chairs the House Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee, 22 percent of Navy ships didn't pass their inspections in 2011."

I couldn't help but think that was a result of the reduced manning. With 300 sailors aboard CURTIS WILBUR we still had to work long days in port and around the clock at sea to keep our ship battle ready, and able to pass inspection. I really just could not imagine having done it with 270.

There are currently 60 Aegis class destroyers in the Navy (including a few still under construction).

With a comfortable manning of 300 that would mean 18,000 sailors would be hired to run the Navy's destroyers.

Cutting 30 from each ship would eliminate 1,800 sailors.

**In essence, President Obama has laid off and unemployed 1,800 sailors in order to eliminate their salaries and save money.**

**Assuming an average annual salary of \$50,000 per sailor (and that's generous) the Navy is saving \$90,000,000 a year by laying off the sailors.**

**But the money to upkeep 60 destroyers has not been eliminated.**

**All the private defense contractors responsible for providing parts and technical expertise to the 60 destroyers will still get their money while 1,800 sailors are being forced to find new work.**

Instead, if the Navy kept the number of its destroyers at 54, where it was at only a couple of years ago, 300 man crews could be maintained and ships would probably pass their inspections.

Instead, taxpayers have dished out \$6 billion to build the newest six destroyers, and will have to keep paying \$20 million to \$30 million a year per destroyer to maintain all of them.

President Obama's decision to lay off 1,800 sailors has made the Navy less prepared. It has lowered the morale of sailors fleet wide, and it was far from being the most effective way to save taxpayer money.

**It should not be surprising that President Obama only did what every corrupted President before him has done, and that's keep the money flowing into the private defense industry's pockets.**

**But hey, at least America has 60 destroyers, and not just 54, capable of competing with the Soviet Fleet and launching cruise missiles into third world countries.**

**America needs jobs and healthcare, not destroyers.**

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**“The Afghan Insurgency’s Second Largest Funding Source After The Illegal Drug Trade Is The Diversion Of Money From U.S.-Backed Construction Projects And Transportation Contracts”**  
**“More Than \$60 Billion Of U.S. Spending For Contracts And Grants In Iraq And Afghanistan Has Been Lost To Poor Planning, Oversight, Fraud”**

08/30/11 By RICHARD LARDNER, Huffington Post & August 28 By Christopher Shays and Michael Thibault, Washington Post [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON -- As much as \$60 billion in U.S. funds has been lost to waste and fraud in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past decade through lax oversight of contractors, poor planning and payoffs to warlords and insurgents, an independent panel investigating U.S. wartime spending estimates.

Much of the waste and fraud could have been avoided with better planning and more aggressive oversight, the commission said.

Using information it has gathered over the past three years, the commission said at least \$31 billion has been lost and the total could be as high as \$60 billion. The commission called the estimate “conservative.”

The Afghan insurgency's second largest funding source after the illegal drug trade is the diversion of money from U.S.-backed construction projects and transportation contracts, according to the commission. The money typically is lost when insurgents and warlords threaten Afghan subcontractors with violence unless they pay for protection, according to the report.

**The Associated Press reported earlier this month that U.S. military authorities in Kabul have estimated that \$360 million in U.S. tax dollars has ended up in the hands of people the American-led coalition has spent nearly a decade battling: the Taliban, criminals and power brokers with ties to both.**

The commission said that in early 2010 there were more contract employees – 262,000 – supporting the departments of Defense and State and the U.S. Agency for International Development in Iraq and Afghanistan than there were military and federal civilian personnel in both countries.

Contractors are handling duties that U.S. laws and regulations require government employees to perform, the commission said. For example, agencies often hire contractors to help evaluate or support its management of other contractors.

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.

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.

## **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/>**

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



Relatives of a U.S. soldier who is deploying to Afghanistan with the District of Columbia National Guard come to say goodbye at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, August 12, 2011.

REUTERS/Mike Theiler

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“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.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

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Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

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

[http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/);

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

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

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



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