

Military Resistance 8B1



“Death By Stand Down”

“Here Lies The 81st”

**“They Were Met By Fierce Gunfire
From Taliban Who Pinned Them
Down For Three Hours At The
Expense Of Two Of Their Men”**

2.1.10 By Jason Gutierrez, AFP [Excerpts]

Anger, frustration and a hunger for revenge are running high among US Marines as casualties mount on the frontline of the battle against the Taliban in southern Afghanistan.

On a base near Marjah, a Taliban stronghold in Helmand province, Marines are grieving the deaths of a sergeant and corporal killed by the remote-controlled bombs that have become the scourge of the long-running conflict.

“It causes a lot of frustration. My men want revenge, that is only natural,” says First Lieutenant Aaron MacLean, 2nd Platoon commander of the 1st Battalion, 6th Regiment Charlie company.

MacLean recently led his unit on a routine foot patrol near Marjah, expected to be the scene of a major offensive this month to drive the insurgents from one of their last bastions of control.

What the Marines encountered was a likely precursor of the battle to come.

They were met by fierce gunfire from Taliban gunmen who pinned them down for three hours at the expense of two of their men.

One corporal stepped on an improvised explosive device (IED) -- the remote controlled bombs now the main weapon in the Taliban arsenal and which military intelligence officials say claim up to 90 percent of foreign troop lives.

The corporal's legs were blown off and he was thrown metres (yards) into the air.

A second IED killed a sergeant who rushed to the corporal's aid as bullets flew everywhere, MacLean said.

Three others were wounded in the clash, making it one of the bloodiest days for US Marines since US President Barack Obama's December announcement of a fresh troop surge in the war to eradicate the Taliban.

MacLean's unit is among the first Marines outfit to be sent into Helmand since the surge was announced.

On the day of the ambush, Marines hunkered down in tents inside the camp as information about the encounter came in.

Some had tears in their eyes as the names of casualties were made known. Others held tightly to their weapons and yelled at their enemy on the horizon.

“We were attacked treacherously. We came under fire from everywhere, but the rules of engagement prevent me from doing my job,” said Lance Corporal Mark Duzick, who was in the unit that was ambushed.

Outside a tent housing the Marines unit responsible for firing mortars stands an improvised cross bearing the inscription: “Here lies the 81st, death by stand down.”

As the nature of the fight has changed, with the Taliban increasingly using suicide attacks and IEDs, there had been no traditional winter hiatus and defence ministry spokesman General Zahir Azimi said spring is likely to be ferocious.

“We will have the most intense clashes come the spring, and will shed the most blood this year,” he told AFP.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two UK Troops Killed In Malgir Area

2.1.10 Sky News & Ministry of Defence

Two British soldiers have been killed by two roadside explosions in Afghanistan, the Ministry of Defence has said.

The troops, from 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment serving as part of the 1 Coldstream Guards Battle Group, died in Helmand Province.

The soldiers had been on foot patrol when they were killed by two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) near Malgir, which lies between Babaji and Gereshk, the MoD said.

Their families have been told of the deaths.

Lieutenant Colonel David Wakefield, spokesman for Task Force Helmand, said: “It is with deep sadness I must inform you that IEDs claimed the lives of two British soldiers this morning in the Malgir area of Central Helmand.

U.S. Serviceman Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan

2.1.10 Channel 4

A bomb has killed a US serviceman in southern Afghanistan, NATO said.

The American death toll has risen as fighting escalates with an influx of 37,000 additional US and Nato forces being sent to Afghanistan as part of President Barack Obama's war strategy.

At least 29 US troops died in January, more than double the 14 deaths recorded in the same month last year.

NH Soldier Dies In Afghanistan

January 31, 2010 By Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. — A 19-year-old soldier from Waterville Valley has been killed in action in Afghanistan.

Pfc. Marc Paul Decoteau was killed in action Friday. National Guard officials tell the New Hampshire Union leader that Decoteau was stationed in Afghanistan as part of a Psychological Operations unit based out of Fort Bragg, N.C.

Decoteau was the son of Mark and Nancy Decoteau of Waterville Valley. He enlisted in the Army after his graduation in 2008 from Plymouth Regional High School.

Four years ago, the community suffered another war loss when Army Capt. Doug DiCenzo, another Plymouth Regional graduate, was killed by a roadside bomb in Baghdad.

Fort Atkinson Community Remembers Fallen Marine



January 12, 2010 The Associated Press

FORT ATKINSON, Wis. -- A U.S. Marine from Fort Atkinson who died Sunday in Afghanistan is being remembered as a "bright, upbeat kind of guy."

The U.S. Department of Defense confirmed late Monday that Lance Cpl. Jacob Meinert, 20, died on Sunday while supporting combat operations in Helmand Province in Afghanistan. Helmand Province is in the southern part of the country and is widely considered to be one of the most dangerous and volatile regions, officials said.

Meinert was known as "Jake" to friends in his hometown of Fort Atkinson.

"I feel sorry for the family, I couldn't fathom what they're going through right now," said Terri Morois, the owner of Ft. Atkinson's The Filling Station bar.

Morois' husband is currently stationed in Iraq.

"It's sad. You worry every day that something is going to happen to them and they won't come home," she said.

While Morois and daughter Tareva Feery didn't know Lance Cpl. Meinert, as part of the military family, they said they still feel the pain.

"They say whether you're Marine, Navy, Air Force or Army, they call it the color purple and we're all one big family," said Morois. "My heart does go out to that family for what they're going through right now, I mean seriously, my deepest condolences go to that family."

"When things like this happen you think about how you would deal with it -- it's scary -- I don't know how anybody could go through it," Feery said.

The principal of Fort Atkinson High School said he remembered the Marine he knew as a student.

"Jacob invested a lot of his time and efforts in our music department. I can recall him being part of our pep band and having a good time, being there, playing," said Jeff Zaspel.

Zaspel also said that Meinert had returned to the high school to visit since graduating in 2007.

"It wasn't that long ago that he was here visiting a little bit, and (his death is) just really a shock for us," Zaspel said.

Major Alan Crouch, the Director of Public Affairs for the Marine Corps base in Kaneohe Bay Hawaii where Meinert was stationed, said the 20-year-old would be posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal, among others. Meinert was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Crouch wouldn't go into detail about how Meinert died because he said the military doesn't want to give its adversaries information as to how successful their operations may have been, WISC-TV reported.

Meinert's family said that funeral services will be held next week, although details are still being worked out. They declined an on camera interview Monday.

Lance Cpl. Mark A. Juarez, a 22-year-old from San Antonio, Texas, also died on Saturday.

Juarez and Meinert's unit deployed in mid-November 2009, according to the military. The unit's deployment was planned long before President Barack Obama ordered 30,000 additional troops to enter the Afghan theater, Crouch said.

21 Year Old Spanish Soldier Killed In Qala-I-Naw, 6 More Wounded

Feb 1, 2010 Typically Spanish

A 21 year old Spanish soldier of Colombian origin, named as John Felipe Romero, has been killed and another six have been injured in an explosion in Afghanistan.

It happened in Qala-I-Naw, in the north of the country, as the Spanish soldiers were escorting a food convoy which was part of the World Food Program. The area has seen previous similar attacks.

The dead man lived in Mollet del Vallès, near Barcelona and lost his life when the convoy crossed over an anti-tank mine, described by defence sources as being very powerful.

His death takes the total number of Spanish soldiers to lose their lives in Afghanistan to 90, since troops were sent there in January 2002.

Spain currently has 1,068 soldiers stationed in the country, most of them from the JACA, Mountain Troops division.

Romeoville Soldier Killed By Roadside Bomb In Afghanistan

Jan 15, 2010 By Elisabeth Mistretta, Daily Herald Staff

By the time he was in middle school, Kyle Wright of Romeoville knew he wanted to join the U.S. Army.

“He decided when he was sitting in a classroom watching the Twin Towers fall,” said his father, Richard Wright.

The 22-year-old soldier was killed Wednesday in Afghanistan's Kandahar province after driving over a 250-pound roadside bomb, his father said.

Wright joined the Army after graduating from Romeoville High School in 2006, and was based in Fort Lewis, Wash., where he met his fiancée.

He quickly became fluent in Arabic after the Army placed him in the Defense Language Institute. Richard Wright said his son was selected for his high aptitude and was immersed in Arabic 10 hours a day for a year.

“They took the smartest guys they had and he excelled,” Wright said. “His writing in Arabic was like artwork.”

Kyle Wright was on a Stryker Brigade Combat Team and was driving an armored vehicle when it rolled over the explosive. He was on his first combat tour, where his team worked to fight drug and weapons trafficking.

Shortly before his death, Wright e-mailed his parents to share stories about a 6,000-pound drug and weapons seizure his team completed, which was reported on CNN.

“His message said 'This was us, on our own, with a couple of helicopters,’” Richard Wright said. “He was on the front, cutting edge of this whole war effort.”

After the bomb exploded under the driver's seat, Wright was pulled from the wreckage where he died surrounded by military friends, his father said.

He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

“I don't know what people's stereotypes are of a quote/unquote grunt soldier, but he was the toughest, smartest, bravest man, and I don't just say that because he's my son,” said Wright. “He was the very, very best.”

Another Occupation Fuel Truck Blown Up In Pakistan, As Usual



A burning oil tanker carrying fuel supplies for foreign forces in neighboring Afghanistan, after it was attacked by militants in Peshawar, Pakistan, Feb. 1, 2010. Militants have frequently attacked trucks traveling through the Khyber pass carrying supplies to NATO and US troops in landlocked Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Mohammad Sajjad)

“Clear, Hold, Build” Strategy So Much Empty, Stupid, Meaningless Bullshit

January 28, 2010 Tom Coghlan, Defence Correspondent; Times Newspapers Ltd.

The military strategy in Afghanistan is seriously flawed and is doomed to failure without major adjustments, the outgoing head of the UN there has warned.

Kai Eide, who will stand down as UN Special Representative in March, was withering in his assessment of the Afghan surge recently set in motion by President Obama. He warned that the military focus was at the expense of a “meaningful, Afghan-led political strategy” and that Western troops and governments had left Afghans feeling that they faced “cultural invasion”.

He expressed deep concern at the tactical approach of British and other Western troops, which aimed to remove the Taliban from an area, hold it and then develop local infrastructure and security forces.

“The so-called clear, hold, build military strategy has serious flaws,” he said.

“First of all, we are not able to ‘clear’ when our opponents are insurgents one day and a normal inhabitant of a village the next day.

We are not able to ‘hold’ because it takes time to train and put in place police and sub-national governance.

“And we are not able to ‘build’ because we cannot expect civilian development agencies to come into what they feel is a military campaign.”

Oops: The Vice-Admiral Lets The Truth Slip Out About The Growing Envelopment Of U.S. FOBs: “Some 30-40 Percent Of The 180 FOBs Are Supplied By Air And The Number Is Growing”

Jan 27, 2010 By David A. Fulghum, Aviation Week.com [Excerpts]

The Pentagon’s top logistician says the outlook for Afghanistan is improving with the construction of more forward operating bases, airfields, expansion of ramp space at existing bases, creation of a new northern supply route and the introduction of new information technology to detect fraud and counterfeit parts.

In preparing for the Afghanistan troop increase, “We have been most focused in recent months on the build-out of additional forward operating bases,” which now number more than 180, said Vice Adm. Alan Thompson, director of the Defense Logistics Agency. “A lot of the work has been related to getting construction materials and portable buildings purchased and delivered — nearly 19,000 — into the country.”

Some 30-40 percent of the 180 FOBs are supplied by air and the number is growing.

“I think that after the increase additional forces and a predicted period of increased insurgent attacks there will be a decrease and more of the resupply will be done by ground.

The challenge of air supply is enormous. It takes a lot of airplanes,” Thompson says.

“I visited an airfield called Bastion. It had a single runway. When a large transport aircraft came in with a mechanical problem, it blocked the runway. While that was going on, there was an emergency medical evacuation and they had to struggle to clear the runway for a medical evacuation C-17.

The Incredible Shrinking NATO Troop Reinforcements: 10,000 Becomes 7,000 Becomes 4,000 Becomes 2,000: “Every Nation Fibs A Little, And When You Aggregate All The Small Fibs, It's Hard Not To Come Up With A Big Fib,’ He Said”

NATO is also excluding the planned withdrawal of some forces from Afghanistan this year, including the entire Dutch contingent of about 2,000 soldiers, scheduled to leave in December.

January 27, 2010 By Craig Whitlock, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

NATO is struggling to make good on commitments to deploy extra forces to Afghanistan, one month after the Obama administration said it was counting on the alliance to send as many as 10,000 more troops to serve alongside U.S. soldiers.

On Tuesday, Germany said it would send 500 reinforcements to Afghanistan, disappointing U.S. officials, who had been pressing Berlin for at least three times that number.

German officials, facing stiff domestic opposition to the war, said they would instead double their development aid to Afghanistan and begin withdrawing soldiers in 2011.

After President Obama announced his revised Afghan strategy in December, including the deployment of 30,000 more U.S. troops, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said allies had pledged about 7,000 “fresh forces.”

He also raised expectations that further commitments would be announced soon.

NATO leaders had been lobbying Germany and France, in particular, ahead of an international conference on Afghanistan scheduled for Thursday in London.

On Monday, however, French President Nicolas Sarkozy reaffirmed his previous refusals to send additional combat forces to Afghanistan, although he held out the possibility of dispatching more military trainers and civilian aid workers.

NATO has not provided a precise breakdown of where its promised 7,000 new troops will come from.

But it appears that only about 4,000 of those forces were not previously announced or deployed.

For instance, U.S. State Department officials have acknowledged that NATO is counting 1,500 troops sent to Afghanistan last year to provide security for the August presidential election; they will remain in the country, instead of returning home as originally planned.

Similarly, U.S. and NATO officials have touted the forthcoming deployment of 900 soldiers from Georgia, which is not a member of NATO, even though the government in Tbilisi had committed to the mission well before Obama announced his revised Afghan strategy.

NATO is also excluding the planned withdrawal of some forces from Afghanistan this year, including the entire Dutch contingent of about 2,000 soldiers, scheduled to leave in December.

Daniel Korski, a senior analyst with the European Council on Foreign Relations and a former adviser to the Afghan government, said NATO members routinely inflate their troop commitments.

“Every nation fibs a little, and when you aggregate all the small fibs, it's hard not to come up with a big fib,” he said.

The reluctance of NATO allies to do more is a long-standing complaint in Washington, dating to the George W. Bush administration.

But U.S. officials said they are increasingly frustrated by the unwillingness of European countries to provide more trainers to build up the Afghan army and national police, a cornerstone of NATO's strategy to stabilize the country.

Sen. Carl M. Levin (D-Mich.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Monday that NATO allies had provided only about 10 percent of the trainers promised for Afghan security forces, a situation he called “totally unacceptable.” [As if anybody cares anymore what some political hack from a bankrupt Empire finds acceptable or unacceptable. T]

**GUESS WHO'S WORRIED
GUESS WHO ISN'T
GUESS WHY
ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. Army Soldier looks back while walking forward on patrol in Sundry, a village in the Pech Valley, Kunar province, northeastern Afghanistan, Jan. 22, 2010. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



Covering his fellow soldiers while they oversee the search of a building by Afghan soldiers, a U.S. soldier trains his scope on the near distance looking for threats during a patrol in the Pech Valley, Kunar province, northeastern Afghanistan, Jan. 24, 2010. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

The Great Afghan Amnesty Farce Rolls On: “That Program Was Ridiculous” “Taliban Fighters Who Surrendered Have Been Arrested. They Never Got The Land And Money That Were Promised”

January 27, 2010 By Alex Rodriguez and Julian E. Barnes, The Los Angeles Times & Jan 31 by Lynne O'donnell, AFP [Excerpts]

Reporting from Kabul, Afghanistan, and Washington - Afghan soldiers held the mullah at gunpoint outside his house while they stabbed at the walls and floors with bayonets, searching for hollow spots where he might have hidden explosives or weapons.

The mullah pulled a government document from his pocket stating that he had forsaken the Taliban and had been granted amnesty.

He showed it to an Afghan soldier, who shoved it back at him.

“He said, 'That letter means nothing to us,’” said the mullah, recalling the encounter last fall at his Kabul home. “We have reports about you.”

The mullah was jailed for three days, then released without explanation.

The episode left him regretting that he ever trusted Afghan authorities and so fearful of reprisals that months later he spoke only on condition of anonymity.

“That's why I joined this reconciliation process -- to get this letter,” the mullah said. “I don't even carry it anymore.”

Thousands of Taliban militants laid down their Kalashnikov assault rifles and signed up for the old program, which lasted 4 1/2 years and cost \$3 million. But many fighters didn't get the money and land they were promised and rejoined the insurgency. Others took the cash and returned to the Taliban.

“That program was ridiculous,” said Mohammad Arsalan Rahmani, a former Taliban deputy minister and now a senator in Afghanistan's parliament.

“Taliban fighters who surrendered have been arrested. They never got the land and money that were promised.

Political analyst Ahmad Saedi said the plan is not likely to pay a peace dividend as he expects many people will pose as militants to get the cash.

“I think this idea of making payments will see people such as criminals suddenly becoming 'Taliban', and others travelling from one part of the country to another to be paid, and that essentially this money is going to be wasted and will not serve any purpose in bringing peace,” he said.

U.S. Spending On Afghanistan Electrification Projects Plagued By Graft, Corruption And Stupidity

Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Military Resistance & Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.

Comment By Sandy Kelson:

If the goal of US spending is to rebuild Afghanistan there would be effective oversight.

If the goal instead is to secure strategic geography then maybe US spending is a stealth way of getting money into the hands of Afghan Quislings and American corporations with USG contracts in Afghanistan that donated to our great elected leaders.

What a great way of washing American tax dollars to try to deceive the American people into believing that the USG is trying to help the Afghani people instead of understanding that the entire enterprise, as well as the people we deal with over there, are often/mostly criminals and thugs.

I could not prove what I wrote in a court of law but based upon previous illegal and immoral US wars of choice I feel that there is considerable merit in my argument.

Also, the polls tend to show that the majority of American people aren't being deceived. The majority of patriotic Americans, as polls show, are opposed to American troops fighting and dying for a criminal endeavor.

Bring the troops home now!]

January 15, 2010 By Marisa Taylor, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — The U.S. has spent more than \$732 million to improve Afghanistan's electrical grid since 2002, but delays and rising costs have plagued many of the projects in part because of poor oversight by the American government, a watchdog agency reports.

Of six projects under way in 2009, only one has been completed on time.

While the U.S. Agency for International Development has relied on the companies, Louis Berger and Black & Veatch, for updates on projects, “that reporting has not always been timely or sufficient,” the auditors said.

In addition, Afghanistan began rebuilding its electrical grid without a concrete plan for how to approach such a complex effort, the auditors said.

In 2006, the USAID awarded the two U.S. companies a five-year, \$1.4 billion joint contract to build many of the roads and energy projects that now are under way in Afghanistan.

However, it's unclear whether Afghanistan will be able to operate the system without foreign aid, they said.

One major hurdle is collecting enough money to keep the grid running, the report said.

The reason: systemic corruption.

Afghans are more likely to try to bribe officials or rely on personal favors to connect to the system because of the country's byzantine bureaucracy.

To get electricity legitimately, Afghans have to obtain as many as 25 signatures.

Friday's report came after another watchdog, the inspector general for the USAID, last fall found cost overruns and delays in two power plant projects overseen by Louis Berger and Black & Veatch.

In one case, a \$300 million Kabul generating plant might not be able to operate to capacity because the Afghanistan government can't afford the diesel fuel to power it, which auditors said indicated poor planning by the U.S. government.

Auditors also blame lackluster oversight for about \$40 million in cost overruns on the Kabul project. The U.S. government still can't calculate how much was lost on other projects because of inefficiency and waste, the officials said.

Afghanistan Reconstruction Inspector General Arnold Fields told McClatchy that his agency should have been created before 2008 so that waste and fraud could have been better detected.

His agency currently has 41 ongoing investigations.

Peaceful Areas Of Afghanistan Get No Aid Money: Lesson Learned:

Form An Insurgent Armed Force To Fight The USA, Get Some Money

January 27, 2010 By Jerome Starkey, Times Newspapers Ltd. [Excerpts]

Nato's billion-dollar aid budget is putting lives at risk and undermining the long-term prospects for stability in Afghanistan, according to a damning report.

The warning by eight international charities comes on the eve of an international conference in London, where donors are expected to pledge hundreds of millions of dollars for development and reconciliation to complement Nato's counter-insurgency strategy.

Some of the world's leading non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including Oxfam, Care and ActionAid, say too much money is being channelled through the military, risking the safety of humanitarian staff by blurring the lines between aid workers and the army.

"Development projects implemented with military money or through military-dominated structures aim to achieve fast results but are often poorly executed, inappropriate and do not have sufficient community involvement to make them sustainable," it said.

Some of the poorest parts of Afghanistan have been almost completely neglected, while far wealthier areas have more or less cashed in on the insurgency.

In Daikundi, one of the poorest but most peaceful provinces, fewer than 1 percent of schools have buildings and there are no paved roads.

Yet in Helmand, home to most of the world's opium farms, army commanders are set to spend around \$400 million this year, a third of the total CERP funds, or \$285 per capita, according to the report.

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

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!**

Military Resistance Available In PDF Format
If you prefer PDF to Word format, email contact@militaryproject.org

TROOP NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The coffin of Sgt. 1st Class Michael Shannon in Canadensis, Pa., Jan. 26, 2010. Shannon, 52, was killed on Jan. 17 while serving in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Pocono Record, David Kidwell)

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.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

“Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.”
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War

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

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

**NEED SOME TRUTH?
CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

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

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

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> **And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)**

“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

Round After Round, Country After Country



Photograph taken by Mike Hastie 1970, near An Khe, Vietnam.

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: February 01, 2010
Subject: U.S. Foreign Policy -- Round After Round, Country After Country

U.S. Foreign Policy -- Round After Round, Country After Country

**Since the end of World War II,
the United States has bombed
28 countries.
God Bless America.**

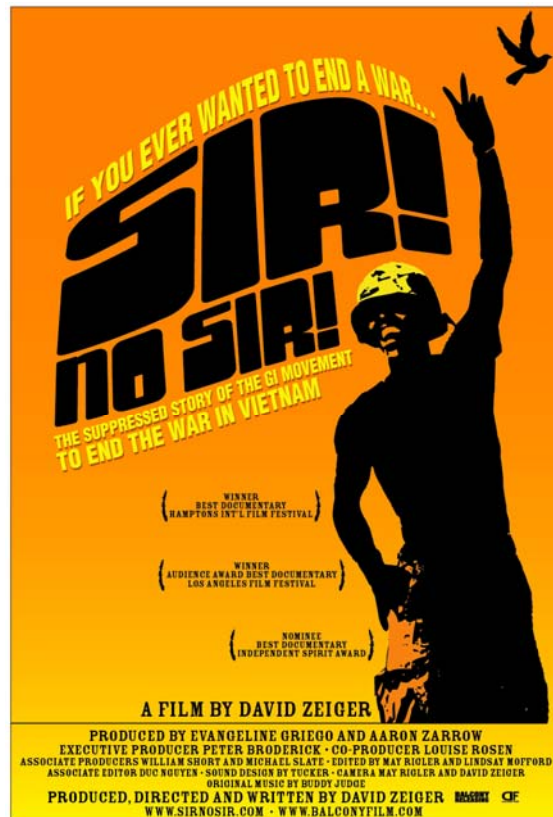
**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
February 1, 2010**

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

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

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

“How Soldiers Rebelled Within The Ranks Of The U.S. Military In Reaction To The Insanity Of The Vietnam War”



Doug Hazen, alt.current-events [Excerpt]

One example of yanking '60s history out of the closet is the new film, “Sir! No Sir!,” by David Zeiger.

This documentary, which opens April 7, tells the powerful story of how soldiers rebelled within the ranks of the U.S. military in reaction to the insanity of the Vietnam War.

It portrays the culture of the GI coffeehouses and the barnstorming actors and musicians led by Jane Fonda, who nurtured the resistance.

In the end, the film makes a convincing case that Nixon and Kissinger had no choice but to get the hell out of Vietnam. Toward the end of the war, thousands of GIs were refusing to do battle: some fragging officers who attempted to force them into hopeless and treacherous situations.

When I saw the film recently in Mill Valley, Calif., both Jane Fonda and Cindy Sheehan were present to honor many of the courageous vets who fought the war from the inside.

Fonda made one crucial point that night that stuck with me. She said that everyone associated with the successful soldier rebellion and the powerful themes of the '60s had to be demonized by the government and the media or else our military might would be called into question: the illusion of power we need to maintain empire.

The result is that soldiers who had the best of intentions and told the truth about what was really happening in Vietnam would be forever labeled as unpatriotic.

To find it: <http://www.sirnosir.com/>

**The Sir! No Sir! DVD is on sale now, exclusively at
www.sirnosir.com.**

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

**“January 2010 Was The Month
President Barack Obama Tried
To Get In Touch With His Inner
Populist”
“How Can Anyone Possibly Take
This Pose Seriously?”**

“Mr. Obama's Idea Of Advancing Reform Is To Cut Deals With All The Industries Involved So They'll Back His Legislation”

“And Whose Solution To An Economic Crisis Has Been To Propose A Program Of Corporate Subsidies”

Mr. Obama's populist act may be unbelievable, but it isn't unprecedented. Leaders ranging from Harry Truman to George W. Bush have cast themselves as outsiders challenging the elites even as they occupy the Oval Office, a base of operations that's pretty much impossible to acquire unless you have a lot of elite friends.

JANUARY 30, 2010 By JESSE WALKER, The Wall Street Journal [Excerpt]

January 2010 was the month President Barack Obama tried to get in touch with his inner populist.

Shaken by a Republican victory in Massachusetts and the likely defeat of his health-care bill, he adopted the lingo of an insurrectionary orator, calling out the big banks in his State of the Union address.

“If these firms can afford to hand out big bonuses again,” he said, “they can afford a modest fee to pay back the taxpayers who rescued them in their time of need.”

For much of the media, that was enough to conjure an image of Mr. Obama in bib overalls at the head of a pitchfork army.

That's one possible reaction to the president's rhetoric.

Here's another: How can anyone possibly take this pose seriously?

If all you knew about Barack Obama was that he once held a job called “community organizer,” you might be forgiven for finding something populist in his persona.

The rest of you have no excuses.

Even when attacking the malefactors of great wealth, Mr. Obama evinces all the insurgent anger of Charlie Rose obsequiously interviewing a starlet.

To cast this man as a populist, you needn't merely imagine an alternate America where a William Jennings Bryan, the explosive orator who ran unsuccessfully three times for

the White House in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, has actually captured the presidency.

You need to imagine a Bryan who went to Harvard and taught at an elite law school, who received more money than his opponent from Wall Street and the corporate media, who personally intervened during the presidential campaign to help a bank bailout become law, who surrounded himself with advisers drawn from Goldman Sachs and Citigroup, and whose solution to an economic crisis has been to propose a program of corporate subsidies.

A populist?

Even at his most liberal, pushing a plan to move the country toward universal health coverage, Mr. Obama's idea of advancing reform is to cut deals with all the industries involved so they'll back his legislation.

There are politicians who have a gift for rabble-rousing rhetoric, and there are politicians who have a gift for sounding conciliatory even when they're showing you the back of their hand.

There's no question which category includes Mr. Obama:

The same State of the Union speech that included his little dig at the banks was overflowing with appeals to bipartisanship. He even threw in a defensive apologia for the Wall Street bailout.

Mr. Obama's populist act may be unbelievable, but it isn't unprecedented.

Leaders ranging from Harry Truman to George W. Bush have cast themselves as outsiders challenging the elites even as they occupy the Oval Office, a base of operations that's pretty much impossible to acquire unless you have a lot of elite friends.

Such presidential pretensions are one of the stranger side effects of the American populist tradition.

Honorable Anniversary: February 1, 1960 Sit-Ins Against Segregation Begin

Peace History: Carl Bunin

Four black college students sat in at Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, where they'd been refused service, to protest segregation. Similar protests subsequently took place all over the South and in some northern communities.

By September 1961, more than 70,000 students, whites and blacks, had participated, and many were arrested, during sit-ins.



Dishonorable Anniversary: February 1, 1968



General Nguyen Ngoc Loan executes Nguyen Van Lem, turning more Americans against the war in Vietnam

Peace History: Carl Bunin

General Nguyen Ngoc Loan executes Nguyen Van Lem a NLF officer.

Saigon police chief Nguyen Ngoc Loan summarily executed Nguyen Van Lem, suspected leader of a Viet Cong assassination platoon, with a pistol shot to the head on the street.

AP photojournalist Eddie Adams's Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of the incident became one of the most famous, ubiquitous and lasting images of the war in Vietnam, affecting international and American public opinion regarding the war.

Happy Anniversary: February 2, 1989 Russia Withdraws From Afghanistan In Defeat



Peace History: Carl Bunin

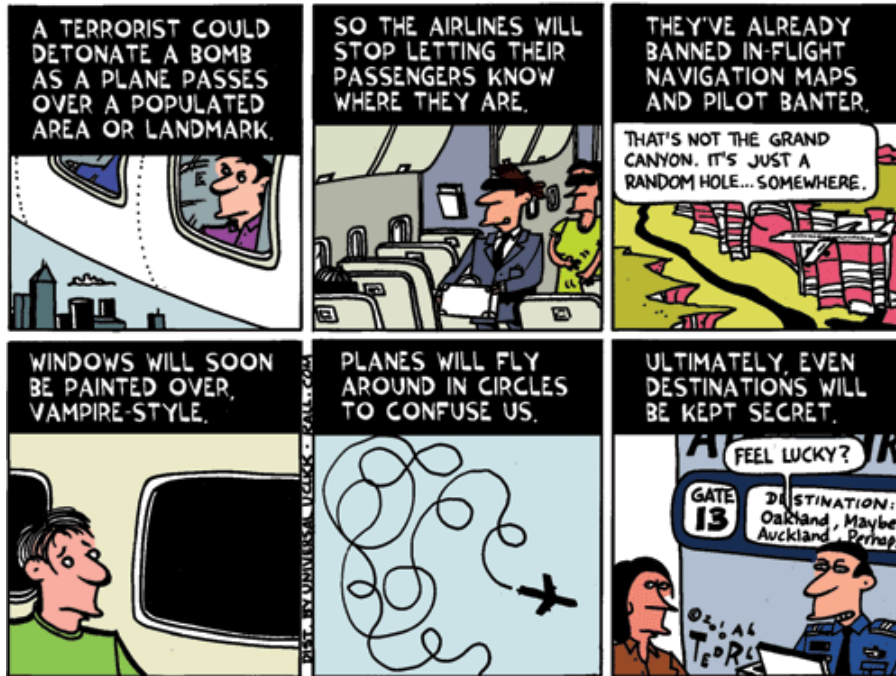
Russian participation in the war in Afghanistan ended as Red Army troops withdrew from the capital city of Kabul. They left behind many of their arms.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Cost Of Iraq, Afghanistan Wars Tops \$1 Trillion

WASHINGTON, Jan 26 (Reuters) - The cost to U.S. taxpayers of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001 has topped \$1 trillion, and President Barack Obama is expected to request another \$33 billion to fund more U.S. troops this year.

Congress has approved \$1.075 trillion dollars for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and “war-related activities” since 2001, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. It included the costs in its budget outlook Tuesday.



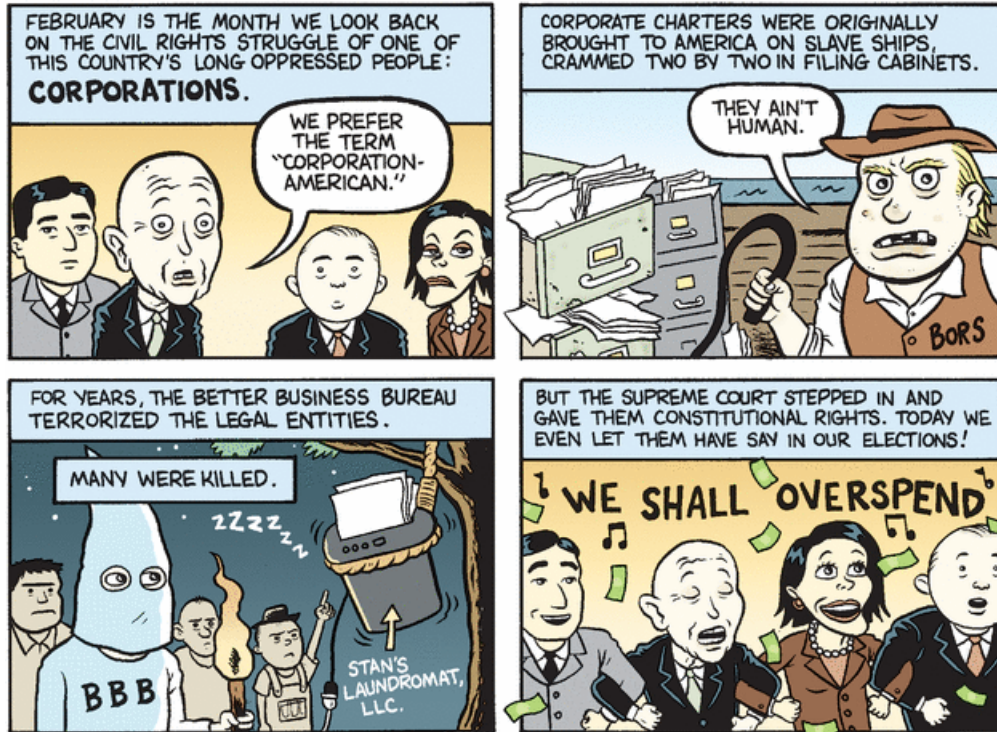
Troops Invited:

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. Phone: 888.711.2550

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 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

CLASS WAR REPORTS



RECEIVED

“Back From Iraq- The Veterans Story Project”

From: WPSU Penn State Public Broadcasting
To: Military Resistance
Sent: January 25, 2010
Subject: Back From Iraq- The Veterans Story Project

My name is Kevin Bagosy and I work for Penn State Public Broadcasting in University Park, PA.

I was looking at your website and thought you might be interested in this website, Back From Iraq, about a Penn State course aimed specifically to Iraq War veterans, “Narrative, Oral History, New Media Technologies.”

This course was designed to teach student veterans how to use video and web technologies in order to chronicle the stories and experiences of the Iraq War.

Over the duration of this class students are asked to create a documentary about some aspect of the war.

This website features their final movie, their experiences making it, and their feelings on the war.

The website features 4 student veterans. Some of the students turn the camera on themselves, while some feature other veterans.

All the students discuss the process of making their video and recount their experiences in Iraq.

The course offers a very candid and rare view of the Iraq war.

The website also features interviews with the creators of the course discussing the importance of veterans interviewing veterans. The instructors also discuss how the idea for the course came about.

Below is the link for the website.

If you have any more questions about the site or anything about Penn State Public Broadcasting let me know. Thanks for your time.

Kevin Bagosy

<http://wpsu.org/backfromiraq/index>

WPSU/Penn State Public Broadcasting
237 Outreach Building
100 Innovation Boulevard
University Park, PA 16802
Phone: 814-863-6643
Fax: 814-865-3145
<http://www.wpsu.org>

Got an opinion? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.

Military Resistance www.militaryproject.org

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



*Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org*

Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

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

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

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/index-2009.html>; news@uruknet.info;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/

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