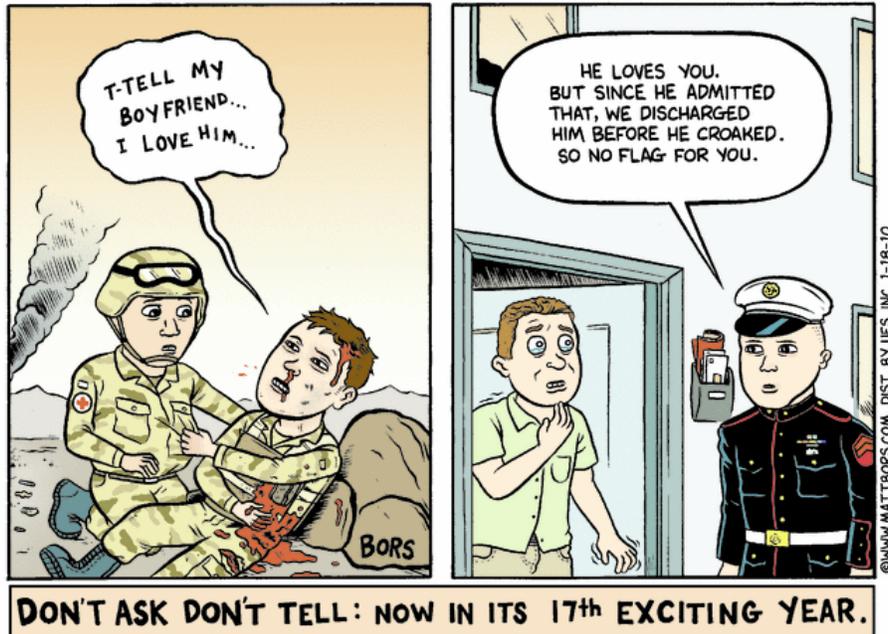


## Military Resistance 8A15



**Lesson Unlearned:**  
**“The Americans Are Fighting A  
People And Not A Regular Army”**  
**“They Should Understand That It Is  
Impossible To Fight Against A  
Nation”**  
**“Napoleon Never Could Win In Spain”**

1.25.10 By Benoit Finck (AFP) [Excerpts]

The United States is repeating the mistakes that the Soviet Union made in Afghanistan, Russian veterans say, convinced the USSR's disastrous near decade-long war there harbors deep lessons for Western forces.

'It is now (nearly) nine years since the coalition invaded Afghanistan and nothing has changed,' said retired Lieutenant General Ruslan Aushev, 55, who served five years in Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation there from 1979-1989.

However, Aushev, who was made a Hero of the Soviet Union after being wounded on his third Afghan deployment, admitted that NATO and US troops face a fiercer enemy today than did Soviet troops.

Then, the Red Army untrained for the mountainous terrain found themselves bogged down in an unwinnable guerrilla war against Mujahedeen Islamist fighters backed financially and militarily by Washington.

'Today, the situation is more complicated. The Mujahedeen were more moderate than the Taliban, who are radical. In our era, there were no suicide bombers,' said Aushev, who now heads the Afghan veterans committee.

'The Americans are fighting a people and not a regular army. Napoleon never could win in Spain. They should understand that it is impossible to fight against a nation,' Gareyev, now president of the Academy of Military Sciences in Moscow, told AFP.

Moscow initially saw its incursion into Afghanistan in December 1979 as a brief mission to bolster its Afghan supporters but became bogged down in a protracted and bloody struggle that lasted nearly 10 years.

Retired General Victor Yermakov, who commanded Soviet forces in Afghanistan from 1982 to 1983, has been among the first to point to the Soviets' failure as a warning to the West, calling Afghanistan an 'impossible' fight.

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

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

**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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550**

# IRAQ WAR REPORTS

## **Coordinated Attack Strikes Baghdad Hotels “Popular With Western Journalists And Businessmen”**



An explosion in the vicinity of Baghdad's Palestine Hotel. (AFP/Ali al-Saadi)

1.25.10 AFP & AP

Three huge and apparently co-ordinated minibus bombs targeted hotels in Baghdad popular with Western journalists and businessmen on Monday, killing at least 36 people and wounding 71 less than six weeks before a general election.

The first bomb struck near the Palestine and Sheraton hotels in Abu Nawaz, close to where a giant statue of Saddam was symbolically toppled almost seven years ago, at around 3:30 pm (1230 GMT), an interior ministry official said.

The second and third blasts just minutes later targeted the Babylon Hotel in the central district of Karrada and the Hamra hotel in Jadriyah, in the south of the capital, he added.

Some news organizations have offices in the Palestine and Al-Hamrra hotels.

A security source said armed clashes broke out near the Hamra in what appeared to be a diversionary attack before the bomber drove his minibus at the hotel seconds later and detonated it.

The first explosion in Abu Nawaz shook ground miles away from the site of the blast and sent plumes of smoke rising hundreds of metres (yards) into the sky.

Monday's attacks differed from recent high-profile bombings in Baghdad in that they targeted hotels, one of the capital's few remaining symbols of tourism, rather than government buildings.

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## **As “Tribal Figures” Are Used For Pretty Photo Op Decoration, The AP Caption Below Tells The Truth About Who Commands In Iraq**



Iraqi tribal figures attend a handover ceremony at Camp Ramadi, Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010. **The Marines formally handed over control of Iraq's western Anbar province to the Army on Saturday.** (Associated Press Photo/Adam Schreck)

### **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW 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/](http://www.ivaw.org/))**

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Arizona Soldier Killed In Abad**



U.S. Army Spc. Robert Donevski of Sun City, Ariz., 19, died Jan. 16, 2010, from wounds he suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with small-arms fire in Abad, Afghanistan. Donevski was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, at Fort Carson, Colo. (AP Photo, U.S. Army)

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### **Two U.S. Troops Killed By IED Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan**

Jan. 24 IJC Public Affairs Office 2010-01-CA-119

Two service members from the United States were killed today in an IED strike in southern Afghanistan.

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### **Another U.S. Service Member Killed By IED Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan**

Jan. 24 IJC Public Affairs Office 2010-01-CA-121

An ISAF service member from the United States was killed today in an IED strike in southern Afghanistan.

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## **British Soldier Killed Near Sangin**

January 24, 2010 Sky News

A British soldier from 3rd Battalion The Rifles has died following an explosion near Sangin in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Colonel David Wakefield, spokesman for Task Force Helmand, said: 'He was on foot patrol as part of operations that have been bringing security to the local population in that area.'

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## **Rocket Attack Hits Kandahar Occupation Base: Explosion Strikes Close To Visiting Bulgarian Defense Minister; 3 Bulgarian Soldiers Seriously Wounded**

January 24, 2010 Novinite Ltd

**A rocket attack on the NATO base near Kandahar in Afghanistan has left four Bulgarians injured, during the visit of Bulgarian Defense Minister Nikolay Mladenov to the base.**

**The rocket exploded about 200 meters from the accommodation of Mladenov and the Bulgarian government delegation just before 22:00.**

There is still no reports about who the injured Bulgarians are but Mladenov is not amongst them. 3 of the injured are said to be in a serious condition with one allegedly in a coma.

At present, the Bulgarian contingents in Afghanistan, numbering about 500 troops, are based in three locations – Kabul, Kandahar and Herat.

**Taliban rocket attacks on the Kandahar base, the outer perimeter of which is guarded by UK soldiers, are very common with up to 400 reported in 2009.**

Bulgarian Minister of Defense Nikolay Mladenov visited the Kabul headquarters of the Bulgarian NATO military contingent on Saturday, as part of his five-day visit to Afghanistan.

On Thursday Mladenov had suggested that the three Bulgarian military units serving in Afghanistan should all be based in the city of Kandahar.

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## Fallen Marine Felt Duty To Serve Country



Mark David Juarez, 23, who grew up in the Beacon Hill area of San Antonio, was killed Saturday in Afghanistan. Courtesy photo

01/12/2010 By Scott Huddleston - Express-News

Lance Cpl. Mark David Juarez didn't have to go to Afghanistan, but he volunteered because he loved the Marines and felt called to serve, his uncle said.

His family, now coping with news that Juarez, 23, was killed Saturday in Helmand province, believes he died for a worthy cause. 'He died for his country, and for freedom, and that's why he's a hero,' said the uncle, Toby Flores.

He said the Marine's parents, Cynthia and George Juarez, don't want circumstances of his death revealed until they've returned with his remains from Dover, Del. Military officials would not say whether Juarez was killed in a roadside bomb blast that took the life of British reporter Rupert Hamer and an Afghan soldier.

What is clear, relatives said, is that the native San Antonian they called Mark David was kind to others and determined to make something of his life.

Born in San Antonio on Nov. 14, 1986, Juarez grew up in the Beacon Hill area, near Hildebrand and San Pedro avenues, and attended St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

He had a large extended family, including a father who had been in the Navy and uncles who'd served in other military branches. He attended local Catholic schools, made good grades and 'studied all the time,' his uncle said.

Flores, who had served in the Army, tried to steer Juarez toward the Air Force so he wouldn't be routinely exposed to dangers in the war zone. But Juarez wasn't afraid and was drawn by a sense of unity that permeates Marine Corps culture, his uncle said.

Juarez, responsible for issuing weapons to troops in the field, loved his job and planned to re-enlist. He recently had served nine months in Iraq and could have chosen not to deploy to Afghanistan. He went there in November.

'He was not supposed to go on this tour. He volunteered for it,' Flores said.

**Juarez is the 10th San Antonian killed in Afghanistan, and the first to die in combat overseas this year. All four San Antonians who died in combat last year also were killed in Afghanistan. Three of them were Marines.**

Juarez's grandmother, Elida Flores, has her living room filled with photos of the young Marine. His kindergarten graduation photo shows an innocent-looking boy in a small commencement robe. In the photo from his 2005 graduation from Holy Cross High School, he had a thin mustache, but he was clean cut in his official Marine Corps photo.

Angel Cedillo, principal at Holy Cross, said Juarez was a 'model kid' who never caused problems. During the school's morning prayer Monday, school officials announced his death and said a prayer over the public address system.

Juarez is the first known graduate of Holy Cross, which opened in 1957, to be killed in military service since 2001, Cedillo said.

'We prepared a prayer keeping Mark and his family in our thoughts,' he said. 'He was an incredibly quiet, unassuming young man. Knowing what we know of the Marines and their values of dedication and selflessness, it makes sense that he chose to be a part of that.'

His grandmother said Juarez used his auto mechanic skills to help others and was proud of the red Dodge Neon his mother gave him after she got a new car. After joining the Marines, he passed it on to his younger brother, Dominic, 21, who also attended Holy Cross.

'He was a real lovable, nice boy, always smiling,' his grandmother said. 'There wasn't anything you could ask that he wouldn't do for you.'

Juarez had a son who lives in Kentucky and will turn 2 in March.

Funeral arrangements, which include burial at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, are pending.

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# Lowell Father On Son Sgt. Lucas Beachnaw Death In Afghanistan: “I Can’t Stop Crying”



Lucas Beachnaw joined the Army in 2006      Courtesy Photo

January 14, 2010 By John Tunison, The Grand Rapids Press

LOWELL -- Kevin Beachnaw’s heart sank as he opened the door Wednesday night to see two U.S. Army representative standing before him.

‘Being from a military family, I knew ...,’ he said, choking up.

They told him his 23-year-old son, Sgt. Lucas Beachnaw with the 173rd Airborne Infantry, had been killed Wednesday in Afghanistan in small arms fire.

‘I can’t stop crying,’ the father said Thursday from his Charlotte area home. ‘I feel like my eyes are burning.’

He had just chatted on the telephone Tuesday with his son about the daily rigors of Army training school, deer hunting and sending him a care package of venison summer sausage and jerky.

Now, he’ll meet the plane carrying his son’s remains Friday at Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Del., along with Lucas’ roommate and Army comrade.

A 2004 Lowell High School graduate who joined the Army in 2006, Lucas was on his second tour in Afghanistan after being deployed in December. His earlier deployment was a 15-month stint in 2006 and 2007.

A squad leader, he was on patrol in eastern Afghanistan when a firefight erupted and he was killed, family members said.

**Lucas’ death was the third by a soldier or airman with West Michigan ties who died supporting U.S. military operations in Afghanistan since the war began Oct.**

**7, 2001. Twenty-eight other military personnel from West Michigan have died in Iraq since the war started in March 2003.**

Relatives described Lucas as someone who liked outdoor sports, particularly snowboarding, and who had a knack for humor.

'The first thing he did was make you laugh,' said his sister, Terra DeLong.

Her brother was a man who 'lived life to the fullest' and took advantage of his military station in Vicenza, Italy, to see the sights, including Rome. He once called her from a snowboarding trip to The Alps. 'He called just to rub it in, that he was on the top of the mountain,' she said.

Beachnaw went through sniper training last year and earned the top-gun honor as best in his class, an achievement he was proud of, his family said.

In October, he successfully completed a three-week school on helicopter landing zones and air navigation that has a high failure rate among participants.

Beachnaw was back in the States in July for DeLong's wedding and in October for the navigation training. She moved her wedding to July from the fall so her brother could attend.

'I wasn't going to get married without my brother being there,' she said.

Beachnaw came from a family with a history of military service. DeLong served in the U.S. Air Force. His grandfather, Donald Beachnaw, was a career Army man with 37 years service.

Another sister, Jamie Beachnaw, described her Lucas as 'the kind of person everyone loved. Whether you knew him for a week or his entire life, you loved him.

'He never did anything small. He did everything huge,' she said.

Family members said he talked about joining the ski patrol in Colorado if he ever left the Army.

Lucas loved playing with Jamie Beachnaw's 3-year-old daughter, Emma, but had not yet met her 4-month-old son, Brock.

She wants her children to know his sacrifice.

'I just want to make sure they remember him as a hero,' Jamie said.

Lucas is survived by his father; his mother, Jeanne Beachnaw, of Lowell; and his two sisters.

Arrangements are pending, but family members say the funeral and burial will be in Lowell.

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# Southmont Grad Killed In Afghanistan

January 4, 2010 By Will Higgins, IndyStar.com

Southmont High School became a quiet place Monday after its principal announced to the faculty that one of their former students had been killed in Afghanistan.

Pfc. Brian Bowman, 24, who'd been serving as a U.S. Army medic, was the first Southmont grad to die in combat in Afghanistan -- the apparent victim of an improvised explosive device.

It's a small school, with about 650 students, so many of the teachers knew Bowman. 'You could just hear the air get sucked out of the room,' said Brian Bartlett, the band director. The students were still on semester break.

The Department of Defense had not confirmed Bowman's death, but several of Bowman's friends in the Montgomery County area had been informed Monday. Details of the death were not known, but the Associated Press reported Monday that a roadside bomb killed four U.S. service members in southern Afghanistan.

Bartlett recalled that though Bowman was a skilled football player and a physical person -- six-feet tall and stout -- he chose to spend his extracurricular time in the marching band. For three years he played the baritone, a sort of mini-tuba, for the much-decorated Royal Mounties, perennial contenders in the Indiana State Fair's band competition.

'I remember his final year with us we played 'The Light Eternal,' ' Bartlett said. The piece is a tribute to four military chaplains killed during World War II.

Bowman drove a red Chrysler convertible, which he loved as much as his baritone, said Lana Presslor, whose son Darrin was Bowman's best friend. Darrin played trumpet.

The boys joined the Army within months of each other, Presslor said. Darrin Presslor is stationed in Germany.

'Brian was over at our house all the time,' said Lana Presslor. 'He was just a very nice boy. He was like another son to me.'

She recalled the two boys playing with a BB gun, shooting at tin cans.

Bowman later married. His wife, Cassie, flew to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware Monday to receive her husband's remains, Lana Presslor said.

Bowman's family could not be reached for comment.

**According to USA Today, 18 soldiers from Indiana were killed in Afghanistan prior to Bowman. The last was Dale R. Griffin, 29 of Terre Haute, who was killed by a roadside bomb in October.**

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# Troy Airman Killed In Afghanistan

January 05, 2010 By STEVE WHITWORTH, The Telegraph

TROY - A 24-year-old airman from Troy who was killed by a bomb blast in Afghanistan this week was remembered Tuesday by his church pastor as 'an All-American young man.'

Senior Airman Bradley Smith died Sunday near Kandahar Airfield, officials with the U.S. Department of Defense said. He was assigned to the 10th Air Support Operations Squadron out of Fort Riley, Kan.

Tim Lewis, senior pastor at Bethel Baptist Church in Troy, said he had known Smith for some 20 years. Lewis, who came to the church in 1986, said Smith's family has attended the church for many years.

'They're a great family, and he was a good kid,' Lewis said. 'He was an All-American young man and will be sorely missed by the family, the community and his wife.'

'He grew up in the church and was part of the youth groups,' Lewis said about Smith. 'He played sports and was a good student; he joined the service and wanted to serve our country.'

'He was a really fine young man, a real bright kid; he was just enthusiastic about life. He was the kind of young man who you would meet him, and you could just tell he was smart, bright, curious, full of life. He was just a really solid young man.'

Lewis said that Smith's parents, Gary and Paula Smith, went to Delaware, where Bradley Smith's remains were returned Monday to Dover Air Force Base.

Smith's widow, Tiffany, reportedly was returning to Troy from their home in California. Lewis said Tiffany Smith had given birth in October to the couple's first child, a girl they named Chloe Lynn.

The pastor said the child was born at a Belleville hospital and that Bradley Smith 'had the joy of getting to be with (his wife and daughter) for a little more than a month' before shipping out to Afghanistan in early December.

Bradley Smith reportedly was one of several members of the U.S. military killed when a bomb exploded near their vehicle Sunday.

Church leaders said Smith had been following in his older brother's footsteps when he joined the U.S. Air Force in November 2006.

Smith was a 2004 graduate of Triad High School in Troy, where he was a defensive back on the football team, school officials said. They said he also was active in the school's journalism program.

Lewis said he expected services for Smith to be held at Bethel Baptist, but he said no arrangements had been made as of Tuesday.

'When the military releases the body, the final arrangements will be made,' Lewis said. 'The church family are all trying to provide as much comfort and support as they can for the Smith family.'

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## **Fallen Marine Credited With Saving Lives: Radio Call Warned Others Of Ambush**

January 15, 2010 By Len Wells, The Courier Press

Rich May of Spencer, Ind., never had heard of Marine Cpl. Jamie Lowe of Johnsonville, Ill., until he received a text message from his son earlier this week from the battlefields of Afghanistan.

That's when he learned the fallen Southern Illinois Marine likely had saved his son's life.

May's son, Lance Cpl. Richard May, told his father that the actions of Lowe, Staff Sgt. Matthew Ingram of Altoona, Pa., and Cpl. Nicholas Uzenski of Tomball, Texas, on Monday likely saved his life and those of numerous other Marines who appeared to have been heading into an ambush.

'My son told me that Lowe and the other two Marines were conducting a reconnaissance mission when they encountered insurgents,' May said.

'One of the Marines was a sniper and took out an insurgent lookout. Moments later, a white truck appeared with more insurgents, firing on the Marine sniper.'

May said that Lowe and one of the other Marines were attempting to retrieve the mortally wounded Marine sharpshooter when insurgents opened fire on them. Lowe had time to radio information about the situation back to advancing members of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines.

'If it hadn't been for those three Marines, my son and his unit would have been headed right into an ambush,' May said. 'No telling how many would have been killed.'

The Courier & Press was unable to contact the U.S. Department of Defense to verify the account.

Moved by Lowe's heroism, May has plans to attend the fallen Marine's funeral.

On Thursday, May spoke with Wayne County Sheriff Jim Hinkle, asking for assistance in finding a way to meet Lowe's parents, Kevin and Teresa Lowe.

'Myself or one of my deputies will make sure that Mr. May is able to meet Mr. and Mrs. Lowe,' Hinkle said. 'He wants to meet privately with them long enough to extend his gratitude for the acts of heroism that likely saved his son's life.'

Lowe was 21. He leaves his parents, Kevin and Teresa Lowe, and two brothers, Cody and Hunter Lowe.

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## Elkton High Graduate Killed In Afghanistan Remembered

January 5, 2010 KATHY KORENGEL, The News-Review

A couple of months ago, Joshua Allen Lengstorf was back in the United States to celebrate his daughter's first birthday.

But on Sunday, the life of the 24-year-old soldier who grew up in Elkton was cut short, family members say.

Lengstorf was among three soldiers killed when insurgents attacked their Army unit with multiple improvised explosives devices and small arms fire in Ashoq, Afghanistan, according to a Department of Defense news release.

Lengstorf was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colo.

'It was four months until he came home,' said Chuck Collins of Lengstorf, who deployed in May. Collins of Yoncalla has been with Lengstorf's mother, Ronda Crewse, for 12 years and thinks of Lengstorf as a son.

'What's kind of most upsetting is he was really establishing his new family,' Collins added.

Lengstorf married his wife, Jesse, a little more than a year ago, he said. The couple has a baby girl, Kadence, who is about 15 months old.

On Sunday evening, Jesse Lengstorf flew to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to meet her husband's body.

On Monday, Collins remembered Lengstorf as someone who loved life.

'He was a guy that loved football, hunting and fishing,' Collins recalled. 'He was always ready to go. He wasn't the kind of person to be laying around. He's got to be doing something.'

According to a blog written by Jesse Lengstorf, her husband loved playing computer games and liked rock music. She and her husband both liked working cattle, riding horses, camping and visiting the coast, she wrote.

Collins' mother, Violet, said Josh Lengstorf 'had a good sense of humor. When it was time to be serious, he was serious. When it was time to have fun, he had fun with the family.'

'He loved life,' Chuck Collins reminisced. 'The last couple of years he was living in the military and he started loving that. ... The way he talked, everybody that was in his squadron were like brothers. That was what he was happy about.'

Collins said this had been Lengstorf's second deployment. He previously was deployed in Iraq for about eight months. During that time, he reconnected with his wife-to-be through the Internet.

The two had met in seventh grade at Elkton Elementary School, according to Jesse Lengstorf's blog. They stayed friends through high school, where he was the quarterback and she did stats for the football team.

Then she moved to Idaho after her junior year. Four and half years later, Lengstorf reconnected with his wife-to-be, then Jesse Church, online. They were married within three months.

Collins said the two wed when Lengstorf returned from Iraq. They were stationed at the Army base at Fort Carson. After Lengstorf deployed to Afghanistan, his wife and daughter moved to Idaho to be near Jesse's dad.

About a month ago, Jesse and Kadence moved to Roseburg to be near Jesse's mom, Collins said. On Monday, Collins reflected on Josh Lengstorf's death. 'I think he was doing what he loved and all we can do is respect the man for it,' he said.

'It sucks. We're all going to have to find a way to get by with it and deal with it. Everything's up in the air right now. ... There's a lot of tears, a lot of family, everybody trying to get through it.'

Many in that close-knit, extended family gathered at the couple's Yoncalla home Sunday evening after learning what happened to Lengstorf, said Anita Cox, Collins' cousin. She said she and Violet Collins, were busy making 'pots of spaghetti' to feed family members, whom she estimated numbered about 35.

'They have a strong network of family,' Cox said. 'When something happens, we all come together.' Lengstorf's two brothers, Brian Lengstorf and Corey Lengstorf, also live in Yoncalla.

Cox said the evening's mood was one of 'shock and bewilderment.' She remembered relatives texting Chuck Collins' teenage nephew, who had looked up to Josh Lengstorf as a brother.

'He went right upstairs' to deal with the news alone, when he arrived at the Yoncalla home, Cox said. 'I think for him, as far as emotions, it was very difficult.'

Cox also remembers seeing a care box that Lengstorf's mom was in the middle of putting together to send to her son in Afghanistan.

Crewse had put together a calendar for her son, to which she had attached photos of his wife and daughter.

'It never got sent,' Cox said. 'It was so sad.'

On Tuesday, someone else took note of Lengstorf's ultimate sacrifice to his country. The Army promoted Lengstorf posthumously to the rank of sergeant, said Brandy Gill, a Fort Carson public affairs spokeswoman. Because Lengstorf had completed the requirements to be promoted, Army officials bestowed the honor on him. 'It reflects better on the service he gave his country,' Gill said.

As of Monday evening, no local memorial service had been set for Lengstorf, Collins said. He said the family is waiting to work out arrangements with Jesse Lengstorf after she arrives back home.

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## Area Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

January 06 Jenah Kastelic, The Woodward News

A 2009 graduate of Shattuck High School has died of injuries suffered while fighting in the war in Afghanistan.

Pvt. John Dion lost his life on Sunday in Ashoq, Afghanistan, along with two other soldiers who were supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, according to a U. S. Department of Defense press release. The nineteen-year-old private and his fellow soldiers were wounded 'when insurgents attacked their unit with multiple improvised explosives devices and small arms fire,' the DOD reported.

He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colo. During his service, Dion earned decorations including the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

Shattuck Superintendent Randy Holley said Dion adapted to a small community and school quite well when his family moved to Shattuck from California during his sophomore year.

'He always had a smile, he was very athletic and worked hard,' said Holley, who also added that Dion was 'an involved and dedicated kid, the kind you would want in your school system.'

Dion enlisted in the Army during his senior year.

'He knew what he was going to do, and to help provide for his family he wanted to go to the military,' Holley said. 'He left (Shattuck) in June, and after completing basics he was sent directly to Afghanistan.'

He was deployed to Afghanistan in November.

Holley said after enlisting, Dion never had the chance to return to Shattuck for a visit. Dion's family has since moved, except for his brother and sister-in-law, who remain in Shattuck.

Wanting to be on the front line 'was the kind of kid he was,' said Holley, who noted how Dion demonstrated that in football and baseball. Dion was a three-year starter at center field for the baseball team and a big part of the football team as well. 'He was a joy to be around and a fun kid to coach,' said Shattuck football coach Troy Bullard. 'He was always in a good mood and seemed to never have a bad day.'

Holley said several Shattuck graduates have gone on to serve the country. He said, 'I guess the way they are raised here results in their willingness to serve and step up to be leaders just like John.... He was a leader and a great example. If his coaches asked him to do something, he wouldn't bat an eye. That was just John.'

Bullard also remembered Dion as a kid who embraced the small town of Shattuck. Bullard said, 'he touched a lot of people and we are fortunate for the time that he went to school here.'

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## **Westwood Firefighter, Marine Killed In Afghanistan**

January 15, 2010 BY DEENA YELLIN, STAFF WRITER, The Record

WESTWOOD - Sgt. Christopher Hrbek, a 2002 graduate of Westwood High School and a nine-year member of the Westwood Fire Department, was killed in action Thursday while serving with the Marine Corps in Afghanistan.

The 25-year-old was killed when he stepped on an IED in the Hamal province.

Sgt. Hrbek comes from a family of firefighters; his stepfather, Jaymee Hodges, is senior captain in the Westwood department and his two stepbrothers, Jim and Beau Hodges, are members of the New York City Fire Department.

Hodges said his stepson, who had joined the Marines in 2002, was supposed to return home in May. He had planned to become a drill instructor in the Marines.

'I was proud of him like you can't imagine,' he said in a choked voice Friday morning.

He was due to receive a bronze star for saving the life of his sergeant major who stepped on an IED under enemy fire on Dec. 23.

The man's legs were immediately blown off and Hrbek acted quickly along with a Navy medic who was with him at the time.

Together, they applied tourniquets to stop the bleeding, removed him from enemy fire and got him to an airlift so that he could receive medical attention. The general recommended Hrbek and the medic for awards for saving the man's life. 'That was just so humbling,' recalled Hodges.

'He lit the room up when he walked in,' said his father, Richard Hrbek.

Mark Fedorchak, chief of the Westwood Volunteer Fire Department, recalled a young man so devoted to helping other people he joined the fire department as a 16-year-old. 'He joined as a cadet when he was a teenager and then worked his way up the ranks to firefighter. He was on military leave but still an active firefighter up until now,' he said.

Joining the U.S. military was something he wanted to do, Fedorchak said. 'He was passionate about it. He has two stepbrothers who are NYC firefighters so he took 9/11 to heart. He decided to make the Marines his career goal.'

Like everyone in Westwood who knew the energetic 25-year-old, finding out about his death yesterday, he said, was a shock.

'I've known Christopher since he was 8-years old. He was just an absolute wonderful person. He would give you the shirt off his back. That's why he went into the Marines. That's the type of person he was. This was what he wanted to do. He wanted to make a difference in the world. He was an incredible young man.'

Hrbek is survived by his wife, Jamie Lynn Wengerter; mother, Cheryl; stepfather, Jaymee; two stepbrothers, Jim, 31, and Beau, 29; Amy, 33, of Westwood; Lori, 33, of Boonton and his father Richard Hrbek of Emerson.

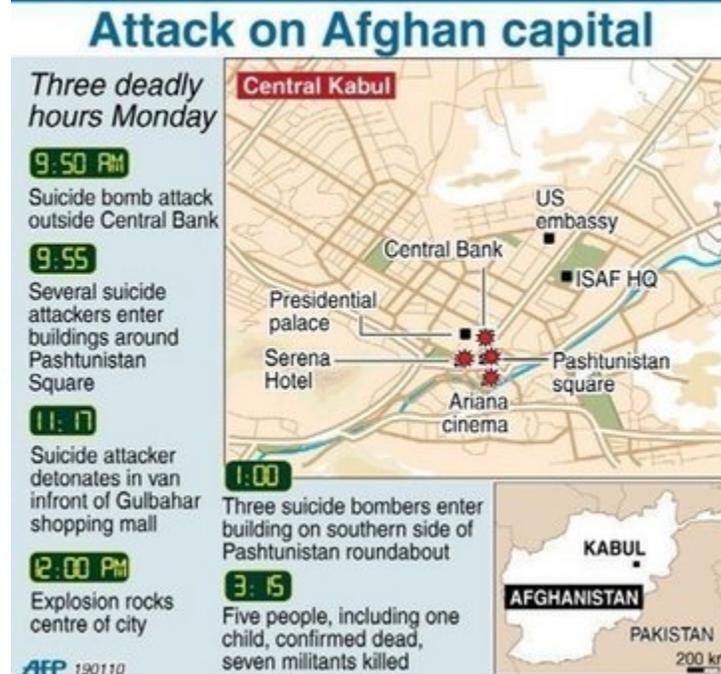
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## **The Thousand-Yard Stare Of A General Who Knows The Mission Is Irretrievably Fucked ....**



General Stanley McChrystal, Commander of the United States Forces in Afghanistan arrives to attend at the 13th Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) Meeting in Kabul, Afghanistan on, Jan. 20, 2010. (AP Photo/Musadeq Sadeq)

## .... The Day After Yet Another Disaster



Jan. 19.2010: Buildings in central Kabul that were attacked by Taliban militants. Afghan President Hamid Karzai has ordered a review of security in the capital after audacious attacks by Taliban militants highlighted the vulnerability of the city's defenses. (AFP/Graphic)

## Now The Taliban Have Started Using “Their Own Artillery”



As the Taliban fire their own artillery and machine guns, the impacts from U.S. mortar return fire can be seen on the mountainside above Combat Outpost Michigan, in the Pech Valley, Kunar province, northeastern Afghanistan, Jan. 21, 2010. The soldiers from the 2-12 Infantry, Task Force Lethal at COP Michigan regularly receive small and large-arms fire from Taliban militants who operate in the hillsides overlooking the base. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

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## **U. S. Fuel Supply Convoy Attacked In Peshawar, As Usual**



1.23.10 Militants destroyed a U.S. military supply tanker in Peshawar, Pakistan. (AFP/Hasham Ahmed)

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

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



One of the four bodies of Afghan men killed by a U.S. night raid in the Qara Bagh district of Ghazni province January 21, 2010. Locals said the victims were civilians. REUTERS/ Mustafa Andalib



Afghan citizens march against the U.S. occupation in Qara Bagh district, Jan. 22, 2010. They blocked roads and condemned the United States and the Afghan government for a second day amid mounting anger over the killing of four civilians in a village by U.S. forces in volatile Ghazni province. (AP Photo/Rahmatullah Naikzad)

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## Afghans Enthusiastically Welcome U.S. Soldiers To Their Village



A U.S. Marine from India Company, 3rd Battalion 4th Marines, patrols Delaram district in Nimroz province, southern Afghanistan January 19, 2010. REUTERS/Marko Djurica



Afghan boy looks at U.S. Marines from India Company, 3rd Battalion 4th Marines, as they patrol at Delaram district in Nimroz province, southern Afghanistan January 19, 2010. REUTERS/Marko Djurica

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**THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR  
HEALTH;  
ALL HOME, NOW**



US Marines take cover during a patrol in the outskirts of Marjah in central Helmand on January 19. (AFP/Christophe Simon)

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**THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THE TROOPS  
HOME:  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



The coffin of Army Sgt. Dale Griffin at a graveside service in Terre Haute, Ind., Nov. 11, 2009. Griffin was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Darron Cummings)

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



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**Welcome To The Occupied USA:  
Former Merchant Marine Arrested  
And Handcuffed For Annoying A  
Piece-Of-Shit Politician:  
'He Had Written 'The Jerk,' About Three  
Inches High, On A Campaign Poster For  
James P. Molinaro, The Staten Island  
Borough President'**

Since early 2003, the Police Department has been given more power to investigate political activities that, in its view, might pose a threat to public order.

January 24, 2010 By JIM DWYER, The New York Times Company

One evening last August, as Edward Kerry Sullivan stood outside his apartment building on Staten Island, a car pulled up and a man got out. By Mr. Sullivan's recollection, the conversation went like this:

'Are you Edward Sullivan?' the man asked.

'That's me,' Mr. Sullivan said.

'Do you have anything on you that I should be worried about?' the man asked.

'Who are you?' Mr. Sullivan replied.

'Police,' the man said. 'You're under arrest.'

A second police officer, in plain clothes like the first, stood by. They handcuffed him and then folded him into their unmarked car.

The officers told him, Mr. Sullivan said, that they had been watching him for several days.

The crime?

He had written 'The Jerk,' about three inches high, on a campaign poster for James P. Molinaro, the Staten Island borough president.

The undercover officers had taken a picture of the poster. There was no question that Mr. Sullivan had written it; moreover, there was no doubt that for weeks before that, he had launched far more pungent strikes against Mr. Molinaro in letters to a newspaper and public officials, criticizing the borough president's plans to develop part of the Staten Island waterfront.

Somehow the police had begun an investigation of Mr. Sullivan, 52, a former merchant marine who is now an advocate for environmental protection. He was brought to the 120th Precinct and charged with criminal mischief, a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail. Once the case came to court, the Staten Island district attorney declined to prosecute him.

Who gave the orders for the police to investigate him? Why would a nearly broke city squander resources on this?

And by the way, what about freedom of speech?

Representatives of the Bloomberg administration, the New York Police Department and Mr. Molinaro's office did not respond to these and other questions.

**So far, no one has explained why the government used its power of arrest against Mr. Sullivan.**

**Since early 2003, the Police Department has been given more power to investigate political activities that, in its view, might pose a threat to public order.**

Getting such powers for the police was a major policy initiative of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg; his police commissioner, Raymond W. Kelly; and the corporation counsel, Michael A. Cardozo.

Yet the Sullivan case could be rooted in a long custom of police and political entanglements on Staten Island.

**In January 2001, a city employee named Terence Hunter wrote to the borough president at the time, Guy V. Molinari, to complain about the closing of a community center in a predominantly black neighborhood.**

He compared it to a ‘high-tech lynching’ and accused Mr. Molinari of being the type of person who would approve of a lynching — including a picture of the low-tech kind in the letter.

**The day after Mr. Hunter’s letter arrived at the borough president’s office, five officers from the Intelligence Division came to his home. He was arrested, photographed, fingerprinted and interrogated. He said he was ordered to write an explanation of the letter.**

**After spending the night in a cell, he was released from the courthouse the next day without charge.**

He sued. Had the case gone through the normal process for city lawsuits, he and his lawyers from the New York Civil Liberties Union would have had a chance to question officials under oath about how he had come to be arrested.

Instead, city lawyers offered him \$200,000 for his night in jail. He took it.

**‘The city clearly was in a rush to settle Hunter so as to keep us from delving into the relationship between the N.Y.P.D. on Staten Island and the borough president’s office,’ said Christopher Dunn, associate legal director of the New York Civil Liberties Union.**

Now Mr. Sullivan, too, has sued.

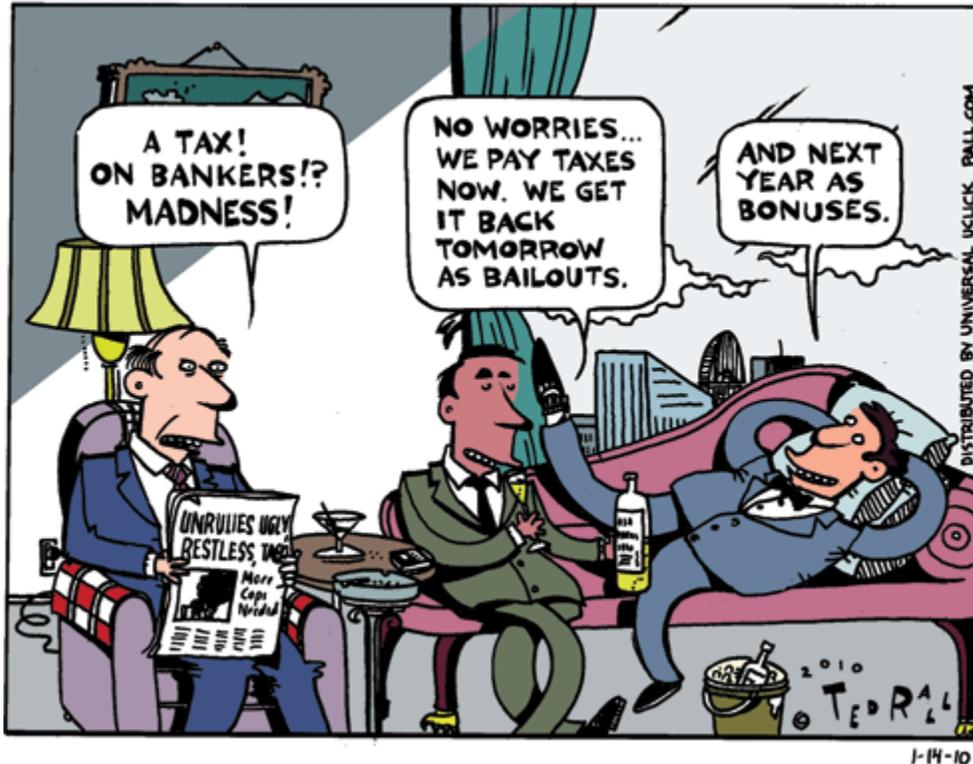
**Once again, the use of police resources in a political debate will be a central issue. The posters themselves appear to have been put up illegally. Given that, it is unlikely that writing on one of them, as Mr. Sullivan did, would violate any law.**

Last summer, in letters to The Staten Island Advance and to elected officials, Mr. Sullivan criticized Mr. Molinaro (who succeeded the nearly identically named Mr. Molinari in 2002) over the private development of 36 shorefront acres, saying it was a betrayal of the public trust.

Mr. Sullivan — who is fighting cancer and hoping for a liver transplant from someone with type O-positive blood — said the arrest had worn him down.

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



### **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

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



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

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/index-2009.html>; [news@uruknet.info](mailto:news@uruknet.info);

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

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