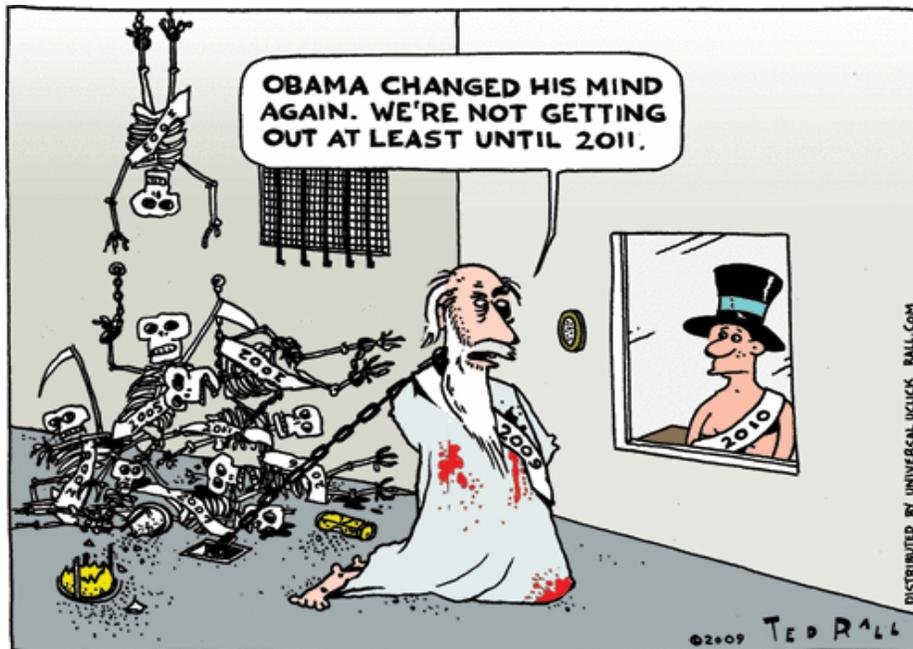


Military Resistance 8A4



A Military Resistance Exclusive:

**Congressman John Murtha
Linked To War Profiteer Chosen
By Army To Supply Inferior
Plate Carrier Protection For
Soldiers In Combat:**

**KDH Defense Systems "Had The
Assistance Of A Lobbying Firm That
Employed Both Murtha's Brother And
His Former Appropriations Aide"**

Part 1: The Plate Carrier

“During A Raging Conflict In Afghanistan, The SSB Chose A New And Inferior System ... Over A Proven, Superior And Currently Fielded System”

“Army Armor Experts That Have Used The MBAV In Afghanistan Told Army Times They Agree With Miller That The Gap In KDH’s Soft Armor Is A Serious Concern”

Sgt. Miller Says “This Decision Points To A Lack Of Common Sense”

Pentagon Fool Says “We Can’t Just Go With MBAV Because It’s Out There And Battle-Proven”

Miller questioned why the source selection board in charge of choosing a new plate carrier tapped KDH after soldiers who participated in a “soldier protection demonstration” at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., told Army officials they preferred the Eagle Industries’ Modular Body Armor Vest, “a proven system” that is issued to the 75th Ranger Regiment.

The Army is trying to quell criticism of its decision to buy an unproven plate carrier for soldiers in Afghanistan rather than the combat-tested model special operations forces wear today.

Soldiers have been questioning why equipment officials chose KDH Defense Systems to make the Army's new plate carrier.

Launched in May, the plate carrier effort came as the Army's Asymmetric Warfare Group and other Army commands searched to find ways to reduce the 130-pound loads soldiers shoulder in the mountains of Afghanistan.

The most vocal critic so far has been Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Miller, who asked Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston to look into the issue, Miller wrote in a Nov. 5 Internet forum post on www.lightfighter.net.

Miller questioned why the source selection board in charge of choosing a new plate carrier tapped KDH after soldiers who participated in a "soldier protection demonstration" at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., told Army officials they preferred the Eagle Industries' Modular Body Armor Vest, "a proven system" that is issued to the 75th Ranger Regiment.

"This decision points to a lack of common sense," Miller wrote.

"During a raging conflict in Afghanistan, the SSB chose a new and inferior system ... over a proven, superior and currently fielded system — the MBAV."

Program Executive Office Soldier officials, however, said KDH's proposal won the \$18.6 million contract in early October because it finished first in terms of performance, delivery schedule and cost.

PEO Soldier officials say they have 1,200 KDH carriers so far and will begin fielding in early January. They expect to have all 57,000 carriers before the Feb. 28 delivery deadline, Cole said.

One of the biggest concerns soldiers have voiced is over the differences in soft armor protection between the KDH and the MBAV.

Miller wrote in his post that "the KDH system has two-inch gaps in protection on either side of the cummerbund where it attaches to the front of the carrier, which means it provides less protective coverage than the MBAV.

The MBAV has a wrap-around cummerbund with integrated soft armor that creates overlapping protection from fragmentation."

Miller said he doesn't own an MBAV or a KDH carrier but wrote that his concern over the gap in armor in the KDH was based on conversations with an "individual with intimate familiarity with the program."

Army armor experts that have used the MBAV in Afghanistan told Army Times they agree with Miller that the gap in KDH's soft armor is a serious concern.

Another concern among soldiers is that the KDH is unproven compared with the combat-tested MBAV, which elite units have worn since 2003.

Fred Coppola, deputy project manager for Soldier Protection and Individual Equipment, said he is confident that the Army selected the right plate carrier.

"We can't just go with MBAV because it's out there and battle-proven," he said.

Part 2: Soldier-Killers At Work: The Smoking Gun In Murtha's Hand Aimed Straight At Our Soldiers: [From His Own Website]

The Online Office of Congressman John Murtha – December 16, 2009 [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, announced today that the U.S. House of Representatives has passed a \$636.3 billion fiscal year 2010 Defense Appropriations Bill **which includes funding for numerous local businesses, organizations, and universities working with the Defense Department on research and procurement programs.**

"I'm proud to secure funding for local programs that are providing our troops and the Defense Department with advanced technology, quality equipment, and other important services," added Murtha.

"These programs showcase the talent of small businesses, the skills of our local employees, and in many cases save the government money."

Murtha announced today that approximately \$75 million in funding is coming to western Pennsylvania:

The appropriations bill includes \$4,000,000 for Advanced Acoustic Concepts, located in Lemont Furnace, to improve submarine navigation, including route planning and vulnerability management, on the U.S. Navy's Virginia Class submarines.

Also included in the appropriations bill is \$6,400,000 for Argon ST, located in Smithfield, to continue working with the U.S. Navy on upgrading torpedo defense capabilities which are crucial to enhancing ship survivability against torpedo attack.

Compass Systems of Johnstown will receive \$2,800,000 to provide the Defense Department with a hand-held mobile mapping communications device that will enable a more rapid, accurate, efficient, analysis and dissemination of digital data from multiple sensors.

Also included in the appropriations bill is \$1,760,000 for KDH Defense Systems, located in Johnstown, to continue research and development of improved light body armor that provides greater underarm, side, arm, and leg protection against both high velocity rounds and explosives.

MORE:

KDH “Had The Assistance Of A Lobbying Firm That Employed Both Murtha’s Brother And His Former Appropriations Aide”

July 7, 2009 By Paul Singer, Roll Call Staff, Roll Call newspaper [Excerpt]

For the past several years, Rep. John Murtha (D-Pa.) has funneled more than \$3 million in earmarks to a company in his district to build an underwater “swimmer detection” sonar system for the Navy to use to protect its docks and ships.

But the company, KDH Defense Systems, sews bulletproof vests.

It had never built a sonar system and had no expertise in sonar engineering. The sonar project was to be the first product of a new “startup” company.

Documents indicate the company did have a plan — which never came to pass — to partner with other local defense contractors close to Murtha, and it also had the assistance of a lobbying firm that employed both Murtha’s brother and his former appropriations aide.

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

According To The Obama Regime, U.S. Troops Have Been Withdrawn From Urban Areas [Just One More Stupid Lie]



A U.S. Army soldier secures the site of a car bomb attack at the al-baiyaa area of western Baghdad, Iraq, Jan. 2, 2010. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Lewis-Based Sgt. Killed By IED In Afghanistan

Dec 28, 2009 The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A 35-year-old soldier from San Francisco has died in Afghanistan.

The Department of Defense said Sunday that Sgt. David Gutierrez died Christmas Day in Kandahar from wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device went off. Gutierrez was on patrol in the town of Howz-e Madad at the time.

Gutierrez was assigned to Fort Lewis, Wash., and had previously served in Iraq.

He was the father of three and played amateur football for the South Sound Shockers in Lacey, Wash.

Coach Steve Matychowiak told the San Francisco Chronicle he was a hard worker who never complained and put his team before himself.

Paratrooper Killed By IED In Afghanistan

Dec 28, 2009 The Associated Press

ALBION, N.Y. — A 24-year-old Army paratrooper from western New York state has been killed in Afghanistan.

The Defense Department confirmed Monday that Spc. Jason M. Johnston of Albion died Dec. 26 in Arghandab, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

Brad Johnston told the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle that his son joined the Army when he was 19 to change his life. The soldier's Facebook page says he was with the 82nd Airborne Division.

Albion Fire Department president Stanley Farone told the Batavia Daily News that both of Johnston's parents are active in the department and that Jason was to be named an honorary member during a special meeting Monday night.

Brad and Jeanine Johnston flew to Dover, Del., on Sunday to retrieve their son's body and are expected to return Tuesday.

Notes From A Lost War:

“The Partial Closing Of This One Door From Pakistan Required A 10,000-Strong Task Force Of Marines, With 9,000 More To Help Finish The Job”

“The Troop Numbers Committed To Helmand Also Call Into Question If The Military Really Has The

Manpower To Secure Other Border Regions”

“And If Not, What Would Stop The Taliban From Using Those”

December 23, 2009 By Ben Arnoldy Staff writer, The Christian Science Monitor
[Excerpts]

Khan Neshin, Afghanistan

For Taliban fighters infiltrating Helmand Province from Pakistan, one ratline proved simple. They crossed open desert of pebble, sage, and moon dust toward a lonely mountain ridge, and entered Khan Neshin, a gateway to both the Helmand River Valley and one of the bloodiest corners of the Afghanistan war.

In July, though, US Marines seized towns along the Helmand River in a bid to shut down a central problem of the war: the cross-border flow of fresh fighters.

But their march stopped at Khan Neshin, 70 miles short of the Pakistan border, slowing but not shutting down Taliban traffic.

Now, some 9,000 of the new troops surging into the country are heading to Helmand to expand security and finish the march south.

The scope of the time and manpower dedicated to the effort underscores just how difficult it is to secure the 1,600-mile frontier between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

But it's not as simple as dropping troops into new border outposts.

Such posts have been tried before, only to have Pashtun towns deep inside Afghanistan begin to fall to the Taliban, cutting off the remote coalition outposts from behind.

That's the logic that has brought some 800 marines and a cadre of civilians to protect and build up this feudal district of some 17,000 people.

The town is little more than a crumbling, centuries-old mud castle – now the marines' headquarters – and an adjacent bazaar. Families live in mud compounds spread several football fields apart as they coax crops from a sage-strewn wasteland with the help of crude irrigation ditches. Forget cars; here, motorcycles and tractors are scarce.

Even the Taliban treated this place as flyover country.

“When the Taliban were here, they never disturbed the local people,” says local elder Fathie Mohammad. Often, they barely seemed to have time to sit down to eat with locals. “They just were moving and walking around.”

The Taliban first came five years ago, say the marines, returning from havens in Pakistan after noticing that neither the coalition nor the government kept any presence here. They used it as a staging point – much as the marines hope to do – to reach more critical population centers.

They also took a cut of the opium poppy crop – the world’s largest – says Mr. Mohammad, angering farmers.

But the Taliban’s cross-border movements helped farmers get poppy to market – something that may put farmers on a collision course with the marines (who don’t touch the crops) if they establish a border crossing.

The area has also taken an economic hit from the loss of drug trading in the sleepy bazaar, which still uses Pakistani rupees. “Before, was better. Now people are afraid to come, so it’s slower than before,” says Allah Daad, a mechanic with a shop in the bazaar.

Yet the partial closing of this one door from Pakistan required a 10,000-strong task force of marines, with 9,000 more to help finish the job.

And critics say the intense focus on the south has come at the expense of provinces closer to Kabul, including Logar and Wardak.

The troop numbers committed to Helmand also call into question if the military really has the manpower to secure other border regions – and if not, what would stop the Taliban from using those.

Getting coalition troops along the full border is “impossible” because of expense, says Haroun Mir, an Afghan analyst.

**“Senior Intelligence Official”
Says Taliban “Have Grown In
Size. ... 25,000 To 30,000
Fighters”
“Then You Have Others That Are
Out There. It Could Range**

**Anywhere From 30 More
Thousand To 50,000”
“Taliban Leaders Have Made
Adjustments To McChrystal’s
Population-Centric
Counterinsurgency Strategy, The
Official Said”**

**“They’ve Also Established Governors In
33 Of The Country’s 34 Provinces”**

12/28/2009 By Sig Christenson, San Antonio Express-News [Excerpts]

KABUL — Armed with a weapon that might be the trump card in the war here, the Taliban are confident they can drive out coalition troops from Afghanistan and have appointed dozens of “shadow governors” in anticipation of final victory, a top military official said Sunday.

Offering a grim picture of skyrocketing Taliban violence, a senior intelligence official with the International Security Assistance Force told reporters that time is running out for the coalition to show it can turn the tide.

He also said international development “has not met the expectations of the people” and that the Taliban “have an incredible ability to sustain themselves, weapons and ammunition funding and recruits.”

He added, “I really am concerned about recruits, their ability to recruit. They have grown in size. ... I think some of the testimony we talked about 25,000 to 30,000 fighters out there with leaders and enablers.

“And then you have others that are out there. It could range anywhere from 30 more thousand to 50,000 ... who are just what I would call wage workers, guys who are trying to earn a buck for their families.”

Attacks have risen 300 percent in the past two years, he said.

During the Sunday briefing, ISAF reported that 7,228 incidents involving improvised explosive devices have been recorded this year. That’s up from 4,169 incidents in 2008, 2,718 in 2007 and 1,922 in 2006.

In 2003, the year the U.S.-led coalition invaded Iraq, Afghanistan saw only 81 IED attacks.

With just a few days left in 2009, 506 coalition troops have been killed in Afghanistan this year, 310 of them Americans and 269 dying as a result of IED attacks. The U.S. death toll is twice what it was in 2008, according to the Iraq Coalition Casualty Count.

“They have chosen the IED as the way they are going to fight us,” the intelligence official said, adding the Taliban still engage troops in firefights and use suicide bombers.

“But the IED has had a strategic effect, and it’s the weapon of choice. ... And I say it’s akin to the surface-to-air missile system for the mujahedeen back in the Soviet era.”

The mujahedeen used U.S.-provided anti-aircraft weapons to help drive out Russian troops.

In a troubling development, Taliban leaders in Afghanistan have made adjustments to McChrystal’s population-centric counterinsurgency strategy, the official said.

They’ve also established governors in 33 of the country’s 34 provinces.

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

Eerie Isolated Outpost Unnerves U.S. Marines With Strange Lights And Whispers In The Night:

**“This Place Really Sucks,” Said
Lance Corporal Austin Hoyt;
“You Know, They Say The Russians
Up Here Were Executed By The
Mujahidin”**

“He Looked Meaningfully At His Successors And Prepared To Leave”



Corporal Jacob Lima, right, and another Marine at Observation Point Rock

[Perhaps the Taliban have a psyops detachment, in addition to everything else they got. T]

December 28, 2009 By Tom Coghlan, The Times

The Marines found the bone as they scraped a shallow trench.

Long, dry and unmistakably once part of a human leg, it was followed by others. They reburied most of them but also found bodies.

Three of the graves were close together; in another was a skeleton still wearing a pair of glasses. The Marines covered the grave and told their successors to stay away from it.

Observation Point Rock sits a few hundred metres south east of Patrol Base Hassan Abad, where a company from 2/8 Marines has been stationed for the past seven months. It is a lonely and exposed outpost 20 metres (65ft) above the surrounding landscape, which has been in NATO hands since it was captured from the Taleban in 2008.

Groups of Marines are posted to guard it, usually for a couple of months at a time, and “the Rock” has acquired a peculiar reputation.

American troops widely refer to it as “the haunted Observation Point”.

It is hard to say how much the 100F (38C) heat, round-the-clock guard shifts and months spent living in trenches and peering out of sandbagged firing points have gilded the legend of OP Rock. The only break from the tedium, apart from dog-eared magazines and an improvised gym, has been small-arms or rocket-propelled grenade attacks from the Taleban, usually on a Sunday morning.

But as Sergeant Josh Brown, 22, briefed his successor when a detachment of men from Golf Company was swapped for an incoming contingent from Fox Company, he warned of the strange atmosphere and inexplicable phenomena that plagued OP Rock.

“The local people say this is a cursed place,” he said. “You will definitely see weird-ass lights up here at night.”

Others in the outgoing unit had reported odd sounds. “It is weird what you hear and don't hear around here,” he added.

Each successive detachment that guards the Rock appears to add its own layer to the legend, which has spread through the Marine units pushing into southern Helmand.

There is talk of members of the Taleban entombed in caves below; the bodies buried on the summit are identified confidently as dead Russian soldiers from the ill-fated Soviet invasion.

Corporal Jacob Lima's story is the latest addition.

One night he was woken by the sound of screaming.

It was Corporal Zolik, a Marine who has since been moved to a unit farther south. “He was yelling and begging me to go up to the firing point he was guarding,” Corporal Lima, 22, told the men taking over from him.

“When I got there he said that he was sitting there when he heard a voice whisper something in his ear. He said it sounded like Russian. He begged me to stay in there with him till he was relieved from guard duty. After that he really didn't like standing post up there.”

The Marines' predecessors, a unit of Welsh Guards, also produced tales of the unexpected.

“The Brits claimed to see weird things, hear noises,” Corporal Lima said. “Lots of them said it's creepy at night, especially from midnight till 4am. You see a lot of unexplained lights through night-vision goggles.”

Its elevation has clearly made the Rock a natural defensive position for centuries. It is not a rock, though it resembles one.

Medieval arrow slits and the remains of fortified turrets on its eastern flank show that this was once a large mud fort that collapsed in on itself and was probably built upon in turn.

The locals say that it dates back to Alexander the Great, and another similar structure is visible in the distance to the south, part of a supposed line of such forts built at some point in Afghanistan's history of invasion and war.

When US Marines seized the post last summer they dropped a 2,000lb (900kg) bomb on one side, collapsing part of the structure on to what its current occupants claim was a cave where Taleban fighters were sheltering.

“This place really sucks,” said Lance Corporal Austin Hoyt, 20, putting his pack on to return to the main base.

“The Afghans say it’s haunted. Stick a shovel in anywhere and you’ll find bones and bits of pottery. This place should be in National Geographic — in the front there are weird-looking windows for shooting arrows. You know, they say the Russians up here were executed by the Mujahidin.”

He looked meaningfully at his successors and prepared to leave.

GET THE MESSAGE?



Afghans rally against U.S. military in Kabul Dec. 30, 2009, following the recent killings of school children by U.S. forces in Kunar province. (AP Photo/Musadeq Sadeq)

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

**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

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



Soldiers from 12th Infantry take cover as incoming fire hits inside Command Outpost Michigan at the Pech River Valley in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, Dec. 19, 2009. (AP Photo/Dario Lopez-Mills)



A U.S. Marine attached to 2nd Marines from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina uses a metal detector to search for IEDs during an operation in the Garmsir district of Helmand Province December 20, 2009. REUTERS/Adrees Latif



U.S. Marines, attached to 2nd Marines from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, pursue militants during an operation in Garmsir district of Helmand Province December 20, 2009. REUTERS/Adrees Latif

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Resistance Stages Open Graduation Ceremony For Their Soldiers In Capital Of Somalia: U.S. Government-Backed Force “Controls Few Blocks” Of Mogadishu

2 Jan GAROWE ONLINE

Hundreds of Al-Shabaab fighters have completed military trainings in the restive capital Mogadishu as top leaders in attendance vowing fight against the African Union [occupation] troops and UN-backed [translation: U.S. government-backed] Somali government.

The ceremony was held in the capital's northern Huriwa district at the group's base in Suqa Holaha where several people and top Al-Shabaab officials including Sheikh Mukhtar Robow Ali Abu Mansur.

“The new fighters have finished their military training and are ready to fight Amisom that has taken over the country’s source of economy. If they die, they are martyrs and will be rewarded in hereafter. If they survive they will live in blissful life,” he told the crowd.

He reiterated the group’s ambitions to topple the fragile UN-backed government and target anyone who support the government.

Another Al-Shabaab top official called Sheikh Fuad Mohammed Khalaf, who spoke at the ceremony, said the new recruits were specially trained to oust the AU troops from the country, insisting that the group is intact.

“The reports that say we are divided is false and we are engaged in alliance with Hizbul Islam to accomplish our mission of depose the government and its backers AU and UN,” he said.

The group’s spokesman Sheikh Ali Mohammed Raghe Ali Dhere said the fighters were trained in the country and are willingly recruited to take part in the holy war.

“The fighters are trained in the country, they are ready to employ their tactics and uphold their oath of driving the enemy of Allah out of the country.”

This comes as the UN-backed government announced its plans to drive the insurgents out of the country in a major offensive in the New Year.

Al-Shabaab controls much of the south and central Somalia and is currently involved in arm struggle in the capital, which the TFG controls few blocks.

Somalia’s Resistance Captures Strategic Central Town

2 Jan GAROWE ONLINE

Somalia’s Al-Shabaab insurgent group has reportedly seized the control of central town of Dhusamareb, the capital of Galgadud region 500km north of capital Mogadishu.

Reports say heavily armed Al-Shabaab militia attacked the town on Saturday morning and overpowered militia loyal to Ahul-Sunnah Wal-Jamaa, who controlled the strategic town.

Local residents report that dozens have been killed in the fighting, but information about the actual figure is still scanty.

Earlier, Sheikh Abdullahi Abdirahman Abu Yussuf, a representative for Ahlu-Sunnah confirmed the fighting in the town but insisted that the town is still under their control.

Independent sources however report that the control of the town has totally changed hands with armed Al-Shabaab fighters patrolling the streets.

The fighting comes a day after Ahul-sunnah elected officials for the local assembly and a speaker. However, the officials were not around when the town was captured.

TROOP NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The coffin of Spc. Gooch at Arlington National Cemetery Dec. 10, 2009. Gooch, 22, was killed by a roadside bomb Nov. 5 in Jelewar, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

**Pentagon Fucks Over The
Wounded As Usual:
Memos Disqualify Numerous
Soldiers “From Receiving Extra
Pay That The NDAA Promised To
Veterans With Combat-Related
Injuries”**

“For Sgt. Perez, That Means No Lifetime Disability Pay And No Health Insurance From The Military For His Wife And Children”

"They Gave Me A Severance Package, But That Didn't Even Last Three Months"

[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the government couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,541st time, there is no enemy in Iraq or Afghanistan. Their citizens and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started these wars of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn't tell the truth: U.S. Imperial wars are about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. T]

12/28/09 By Amanda Carpenter, THE WASHINGTON TIMES [Excerpts]

Veterans groups hailed the passage last year of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which made it easier for wounded soldiers to have their injuries rated and treated by the federal government.

But less than a year after President George W. Bush signed the bill, the Defense Department interpreted the law in a way that reduced its scope and denied many veterans the benefits they thought they had been promised.

The Pentagon's interpretation, which veterans groups are challenging, is laid out in two memos written in 2008 by David S.C. Chu, who was undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

The effect of the memos, which have been obtained by The Washington Times, is to disqualify numerous soldiers who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder from receiving medical benefits and to prevent others from receiving extra pay that the NDAA promised to veterans with combat-related injuries.

In drafting the NDAA, Congress relied on the recommendations of a bipartisan panel headed by former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and former Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala.

The 2008 NDAA also made it easier for soldiers dismissed from service because of post-traumatic stress disorder to undergo treatment and receive compensation.

The law said veterans dismissed from service because of PTSD must be given a disability rating of 50 percent, high enough to ensure disability pay and health care for the soldiers and their families.

But a memo written by Mr. Chu on Oct. 14, 2008, added a catch: It said the policy should not go into effect until the date of the memo, nine months after the bill had been signed into law, leaving out any soldiers dismissed from service because of PTSD before that date.

Many soldiers with PTSD who were dismissed from service before the October deadline suffered severe physical injuries as well.

They included long-serving, decorated soldiers regularly exposed to mortar fire and roadside bombs. Seven of them have banded together with the National Veterans Legal Services Program in a class-action lawsuit, filed in December 2008, seeking the 50 percent rating.

Bart Stichman, a lawyer handling the case for the veterans legal services program, said the military has a "history of lowballing" the ratings and estimates that there are "thousands who have been discharged before October 2008 that the military has done nothing about."

One of the soldiers suing is former Army Sgt. Juan Perez, who was discharged from the military in 2006 after being deemed unfit for further service because of a PTSD diagnosis.

During his first deployment to Iraq, he routinely carried out reconnaissance missions near the Syrian border.

On one occasion, his Bradley fighting vehicle was hit with an improvised explosive device. But it was during his second deployment when he sustained an injury, as an industrial-strength bungee cord restraining ammunition lost its hold and snapped violently against his head.

"It hit me so hard it blew me back about 20 feet," Sgt. Perez said in an interview. "It knocked me out, completely out of it. It's just one of those freak things that happens."

The injury caused him to temporarily lose his eyesight, and he was flown to Germany for treatment.

He then began suffering migraines and sometimes losing consciousness. He was sent later to the United States, where he began to experience PTSD symptoms, including insomnia, paranoia and extreme irritability.

He was later diagnosed with PTSD and traumatic brain injury.

Because of the PTSD diagnosis, the Army officially declared him no longer fit to serve and dismissed him from duty in 2006, before any of the 2008 NDAA benefits became available.

"They didn't include my eye injury," he said. "They just said I was unfit to be a soldier anymore. And they gave me 0 percent for PTSD."

For Sgt. Perez, that means no lifetime disability pay and no health insurance from the military for his wife and children.

"They gave me a severance package, but that didn't even last three months," he said.

"It doesn't cover medical bills for my kids. If I would have gotten a 30 percent rating, at least, I could have medical care for my wife and kids, but now I don't have that."

Sgt. Perez said he can see, but not as well as before the accident. He suffers from migraines and carries an oxygen tank to help alleviate the headaches.

He has received an Army Commendation Medal and a Combat Action Badge but said he doesn't feel like he's getting the treatment and compensation he's due.

"I shouldn't have to feel guilty about having any kind of disability that's going to take me out of the military," Sgt. Perez said.

What To Do With The Mentoring Generals? “Put Them On Some Pile Of Rocks In Afghanistan, Stick An M-4 In Their Hands And Let Them Mentor From There”

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
1.4.09

Your first Dec. 21 editorial is titled "Review mentor program."

What is there to review?

I have never heard of a more blatant, vile, immoral and disturbing pack of individuals skulking around the Pentagon than those retired general officers lining up for yet another drink from the (public trough) — a \$300-an-hour drink at that.

We are getting our heads handed to us in a basket primarily because of those jerks and others like them, and now we are paying them to parade around so younger leaders might catch something from them.

They want to play soldier again?

Fly them downrange somewhere, put them on some pile of rocks in Afghanistan, stick an M-4 in their hands and let them mentor from there.

Col. Joseph C. Kopacz (ret.)
Louisville, Ky.

“A Crime Of Omission On The Part Of The Chain Of Command”

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
1.4.09

Your article about the two crooked captains in your (December 21) issue of Army Times was very interesting.

It highlights one of the great faults of our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is Army policy to hand out large sums of cash without proper controls. Some generals have called money a combat multiplier and encourage its use on the battlefield.

What a lot of bunk.

I have never seen as much money as these two crooks stole. That much money has no place in a combat zone. In the old days, cash was only dispensed on the battlefield to pay troops, and that amounted to relatively small sums of money that were rigidly controlled.

There were all sorts of auditing controls and two-person rules in place to prevent thefts and careless losses.

What happened to our standards of accountability? The finance corps used to be responsible, and if a payroll was short even a few cents, the officer in charge had to make up the difference himself.

Having the amount of cash that the two captains stole so easily available is a crime of omission on the part of the chain of command for even allowing it in the first place.

We did not send the Army halfway around the world to waste our taxpayer dollars in such a careless manner.

Using money as a combat multiplier has got to stop.

Lt. Col. Thomas D. Morgan (ret.)
Steilacoom, Wash.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**“Our Majestic And Sleepless
Protectors, Now Boldly Propose To
Prevent Airline Passengers From
Getting Out Of Their Seats For The
Last Hour Of Any Flight”
“Do You Feel Safer?”**

[Thank to Linda O, who sent this in.]

Dec. 28, 2009 By Christopher Hitchens, Slate.com [Excerpt]

In my boyhood, there were signs on English buses that declared, in bold letters, "No Spitting." At a tender age, I was able to work out that most people don't need to be told this, while those who do feel a desire to expectorate on public transport will require more discouragement than a mere sign.

But I'd be wasting my time pointing this out to our majestic and sleepless protectors, who now boldly propose to prevent airline passengers from getting out of their seats for the last hour of any flight.

Abdulmutallab made his bid in the last hour of his flight, after all.

Yes, that ought to do it.

It's also incredibly, nay, almost diabolically clever of our guardians to let it be known what the precise time limit will be. Oh, and by the way, any passenger courageous or resourceful enough to stand up and fight back will also have broken the brave new law.

For some years after 9/11, passengers were forbidden to get up and use the lavatory on the Washington-New York shuttle. Zero tolerance!

I suppose it must eventually have occurred to somebody that this ban would not deter a person who was willing to die, so the rule was scrapped. But now the principle has been revisited for international flights.

For many years after the explosion of the TWA plane over Long Island (a disaster that was later found to have nothing at all to do with international religious nihilism), you could not board an aircraft without being asked whether you had packed your own bags and had them under your control at all times.

These two questions are the very ones to which a would-be hijacker or bomber would honestly and logically have to answer "yes."

But answering "yes" to both was a condition of being allowed on the plane! Eventually, that heroic piece of stupidity was dropped as well.

But now fresh idiocies are in store.

Nothing in your lap during final approach. Do you feel safer? If you were a suicide-killer, would you feel thwarted or deterred?

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

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

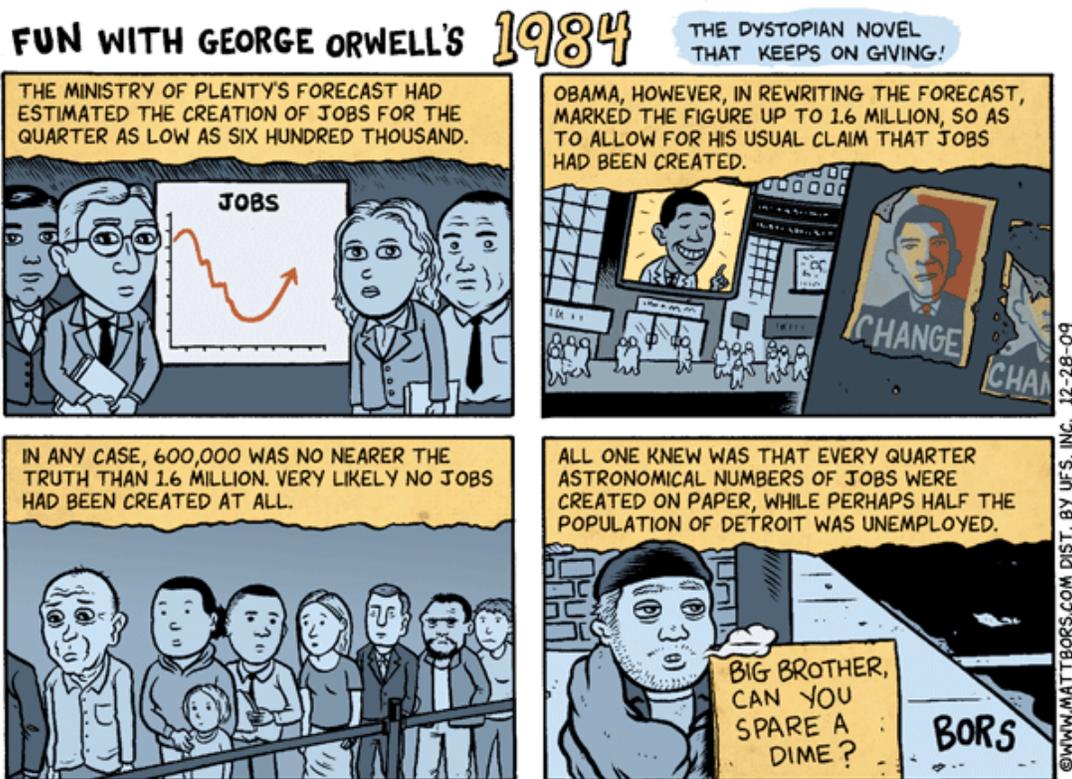
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CLASS WAR REPORTS



Puke

28 December 2009 Dean Baker, Guardian (UK) [Excerpt]

In the last quarter, the financial sector accounted for 34% of all corporate profits, dwarfing the share reached in the mad days at the peak of the housing bubble.

The economy might look bleak on Main Street, with double-digit unemployment rates and nearly 200,000 foreclosures a month, but they were dividing up \$13bn in bonuses at Goldman Sachs this Christmas.

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Not available from anybody else, anywhere

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<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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