

Military Resistance 1018



**“He’s Sympathetic To Our Work Of Outreach To Troops, And To Our Point Of View Opposing The War, Encouraging Troops To Organize Together To Do The Same”
[Outreach To New York National Guard]**

From: Alan S
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Outreach To New York National Guard
Date: Sep 7, 2012

I had just come from a commuter terminal where I handed out the latest Military Resistance National Guard issues, the Military Resistance newsletter, the DVD of Sir! No Sir! and the GI Rights pamphlet to a soldier who'd never seen me, plus another newsletter to a troop who did know me.

As I walked through another one of the commuter terminals, I was spotted by a soldier I'd spoken to back in February who was quite friendly and eager to talk.

He shook my hand enthusiastically, obviously glad to see me. I can't remember being greeted this way at any outreach.

We spoke at length. He said disobeying a command to participate in this war depends on the individual and this can be a very difficult decision. This is not something Military Resistance advocates, since organizing resistance among troops as a group is more effective than an individual going to military prison.

He also said he's sympathetic to our work of outreach to troops, and to our point of view opposing the war, encouraging troops to organize together to do the same.

He took the 5 handouts, 3 newsletters and 6 DVDs I had left in my bag. He plans to distribute the materials to other soldiers. He has done this before.

When I told him I was a playwright and had written several plays concerning the troops and how politicians leading unjust wars had treated them he seemed even more interested.

I promised to include him on any news of my plays and that was fine with him. He also wished to receive newsletters and had me jot down his e-mail.

Unfortunately, this morning, I tried e-mailing him and it came back. I thought I had double checked the address but evidently I got it wrong. This was particularly galling since this was one of the more capable soldiers I'd met. There's no choice but to try and find him again and get this straight. I will pursue and let you know results when and if there are any.

Whatever the case, he's quite a guy.

MORE:

ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to Military Resistance for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so.

If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out. Reporting what went wrong and/or got screwed up is especially important, so that others may learn from you what to expect, and how to avoid similar problems if possible.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Identifying information – locations, personnel – will be omitted from the reports.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the wars.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs identifying information be published in reporting on the action.

MORE:

The Military Resistance Organization: Mission Statement:

1. The mission of Military Resistance is to bring together in one organization members of the armed forces and civilians in order to give aid and comfort to members of the armed forces who are organizing to end the war of empire in Afghanistan. The long term objective is to assist in eliminating all wars of empire by eliminating all empires.

2. Military Resistance does not advocate individual disobedience to orders or desertion from the armed forces. The most effective resistance is organized by members of the armed forces working together.

However, Military Resistance respects and will assist in the defense of troops who see individual desertion or refusal of orders as the only course of action open to them for reasons of conscience.

3. Military Resistance stands for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. and other occupation troops from Afghanistan.

Occupied nations have the right to independence and the right to resist Imperial invasion and occupation by force of arms.

4. Efforts to increase democratic rights in every society, organization, movement, and within the armed forces itself will receive encouragement and support.

Members of the armed forces, whether those of the United States or any other nation, have the right and duty to act against dictatorships commanding their services, and to assist civilian movements against dictatorship.

This applies whether a political dictatorship is imposed by force of arms or a political dictatorship is imposed by those in command of the resources of society using their wealth to purchase the political leadership.

5. Military Resistance uses organizational democracy.

This means control of the organization by the membership, through elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels.

Any member may run for any job in the organization. All persons elected are subject to immediate recall, by majority vote of the membership.

Coordinating bodies report their actions, decisions and votes to the membership who elected them, and may be overruled by a majority of the membership.

6. It is not necessary for Military Resistance to be in political agreement with other organizations in order to work together towards specific common objectives.

It is productive for organizations working together on common projects to discuss differences about the best way forward for the movement.

Debate is necessary to arrive at the best course of action.

Membership Requirements:

7. It is a condition of membership that each member prioritize and participate in organized action to reach out to active duty armed forces, Reserve and/or National Guard units.

8. Military Resistance or individual members may choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Afghanistan, but do not support a candidate opposed to immediate, unconditional withdrawal.

9. Members may not be active duty or drilling reserve commissioned officers, or employed in any capacity by any police or intelligence agency, local, state, or national.

10. I understand and am in agreement with the above statement. I pledge to defend my brothers and sisters, and the democratic rights of the citizens of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

-----**(Signed)**

(Date)

----- **(Application taken by)**

**Military Resistance: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657
888-711-2550**

MORE

**You Can Take Action That Makes
A Difference:
Join The Military Resistance
Organization:
MILITARY RESISTANCE MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION**

Name (please print): _____

Armed Forces? (Branch) _____

Veteran? Years: _____

Union: _____

Occupation: _____

Mailing address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone (Landline): _____

Phone (Cell): _____

\$ dues paid _____
(See next: Calendar year basis.)

Armed Forces Members	@	Dues waived
Civilians	@	\$25
Students/Unemployed	@	\$10
Civilian/Military Prisoners	@	Dues Waived

Comments:

NOTE: Civilian applicants will be interviewed, in person if possible, or by phone.

**Military Resistance: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657
888-711-2550**

MORE

“People Need Not Be Helpless Before The Power Of Illegitimate Authority”

**MILITARY RESISTANCE:
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657
Contact@militaryproject.org**

[Based on a statement by David Cortright, Vietnam Veteran and armed forces resistance organizer.]

In the final analysis the stationing of American forces abroad serves not the national interest but the class interest of the corporate and political elite.

The maintenance of a massive, interventionist-oriented military establishment is based on the need to protect multinational investment and preserve regimes friendly to American capital.

Imperialism is at the heart of the national-security system and is the force fundamentally responsible for the counterrevolutionary, repressive aims of U.S. policy.

Only if we confront this reality and challenge it throughout society and within the ranks can we restore democratic control of the military.

Of course nothing can be accomplished without citizen involvement and active political struggle.

During the Vietnam era enlisted servicemen created massive pressures for change, despite severe repression, and significantly altered the course of the war and subsequent military policy.

To sustain and strengthen this challenge we must continue to build political opposition to interventionism and support those within the armed services, including national guard and reserves, who defy the goals and program of Empire.

The central lesson of the GI movement is that people need not be helpless before the power of illegitimate authority, that by getting together and acting upon their convictions people can change society and, in effect, make their own history.

The Military Project

Military Resistance: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657
888-711-2550

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly.

Whether in Afghanistan or at 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 and economic injustice, inside the armed services and at home.

Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Foreign Occupation “Servicemember”
Killed Somewhere Or Other In
Afghanistan:
Nationality Not Announced**

September 9, 2012 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan today.

Soldier From 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards Dies Of Wounds Sustained In Afghanistan

7 Sep 12 Ministry of Defence

It is with great sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce the death of a soldier from 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.

The soldier was serving within the Nahr-e Saraj district of Helmand Province when he was injured as a result of enemy action on 14 August 2012.

The soldier was flown back to the UK for treatment at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham where, sadly, he succumbed to his wounds on 7 September 2012.

Memorial To Be Held For Local Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

Sep 05, 2012 By Ashley Monfort, Updated by Phil Newsome, WWBT

CHESTERFIELD, VA -

A local soldier killed in Afghanistan this weekend will be buried at Arlington National cemetery.

A memorial for Staff Sergeant Jonathan Schmidt will be held Monday at Fort Bragg, that will be followed by a burial at Arlington.

Staff Sergeant Jonathan Schmidt was killed in Operation Enduring Freedom, just days before he was due to come home.

Friends say Staff Sergeant Jonathan Schmidt knew he wanted to serve his country early in life.

"John was all about joining the military from the time I met him," says Paul Pruitt, a long time friend. "It's just who he was."

Pruitt met Schmidt when they were teenagers. Pruitt was younger at Prince George High School, when Schmidt attended Thomas Dale High School.

“He’s one of the closest things to a brother I’ve ever had,” says Pruitt.

Schmidt joined the Army first. Then he convinced Pruitt and another friend, Richard Scott, to enlist, as well.

“My friends were in the military and they looked like they were having fun, and helping people and that’s something I always wanted to do,” says Pruitt.

Rosemary Scott, Richard’s mother, says the men remained friends despite their various moves and deployments. Schmidt was stationed at Fort Bragg.

“They knew they could pick up the phone, whether it’s been three months or three years, and it was like they never left each other,” she said.

The men tell us they always looked to Staff Sgt. Schmidt for guidance.

“John was definitely a special person. I never met anybody else like him,” says Pruitt.

Unfortunately on September 1, the men found out Schmidt had been killed in Afghanistan while serving in a special operations unit. Schmidt had already been on at least five deployments and was supposed to be home in two weeks.

“I’m sure he was doing what he loved, and that’s how he died,” says Pruitt.

He leaves behind a wife and a young son who lives in North Carolina.

“I hope they remember him for what he was: a loving father, a good soldier, and a good friend,” says Pruitt.

Staff Sgt. Schmidt was 28 years old.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WAR**

**Allegations Mount Against
Flagship Afghan Local Police**

**Force Built By The U.S.
Command:
Theft, Extortion, Rape, Murder,
Mass Executions Of Civilians Are
Some Of The Problems Reported
“The Taliban Were Better Than The
ALP”
“At Least They Respected Our Honour.
These People Assault Us In Our Homes”**

The trauma was so severe, it made him long for the days when rapists were publicly stoned to death or flogged under Taliban rule.

“The Taliban were better than the ALP,” he said. “At least they respected our honour. They opposed only women’s activities in public, but these people assault us in our homes.”

Aug 30, 2012 By Mirwais Harooni, Reuters [Excerpts]

CHAR DARAH, Afghanistan

Fahima had just arrived home from school when members of the Afghan Local Police (ALP), a U.S.-trained militia charged with making Afghans in Taliban strongholds feel more secure, started hammering on the front door searching for her father.

They elbowed it open and, frustrated at not finding him, started beating her younger brother, prompting 17-year-old Fahima to intervene.

One of the men turned and shot her dead.

“She was in her first days as an eleventh grade student,” said Fahima’s father, Khuja, who believes the killing was score settling over an old land dispute.

“Offenders are still serving as local policemen and they are free. Police say the killer has escaped but he’s walking in public with his gun and no one is able to catch him.”

The ALP was set up in 2010 in villages where the national force is weak, a flagship project of U.S. General David Petraeus, who stepped down as commander of foreign forces in Afghanistan in 2011.

American officials have hailed the ALP as an effective homegrown force which has restricted the ability of the Taliban to move in the countryside.

But security gains made by the now 20,000-strong militia are often overshadowed by mounting accusations of abuses, including rape and murder.

Human rights groups say ALP members sometimes act like warlords, demanding bribes, skimming contracts and committing the kind of atrocities that rattled Afghanistan in a civil war that killed 50,000 people before the Taliban took over in 1996.

The ALP was supposed to ease public anxiety, not fuel it.

Many complain they are underpaid and have to borrow or steal from the poor locals they are meant to protect.

“My father works as a farmer and I have to help him live. If I don’t get enough money then I’ll have an eye on other local people’s pockets,” said Lutfullah, 28.

Their pasts often don’t inspire confidence either.

Rights groups say some were former Taliban fighters or members of militias that wreaked havoc in Afghanistan for decades. There are reports of the ALP joining the Taliban.

“Some of them are guilty of repeated killings,” said Hussain Ali Moin, coordinator for the Afghanistan’s Independent Human Rights Commission.

In one of the most high-profile cases, an ALP commander and four of his men entered a house in Kunduz province, assaulted a family and abducted their 18-year-old daughter, Lal Bibi, in May.

She told her family she was chained to a wall and repeatedly raped before being brought home a week later.

“She says if she does not get justice she will set herself on fire,” her 56-year-old father, Hajji Rustam, told Reuters.

The trauma was so severe, it made him long for the days when rapists were publicly stoned to death or flogged under Taliban rule.

“The Taliban were better than the ALP,” he said. “At least they respected our honour. They opposed only women’s activities in public, but these people assault us in our homes.”

The problems may multiply, with plans to boost the force to 30,000 and make it operational over most of the country.

Some of the attacks allegedly committed by the ALP also seem to be motivated by sectarian rivalries, which could complicate efforts to tame the force.

In southern Uruzgan province, an ALP commander belonging to the Hazara minority ethnic group in late July gunned down 15 Pashtun civilians in Khas Uruzgan, a day after the Pashtun Taliban killed two of his friends, officials said.

“Commander Abdul Hakim Shujahi took nine villagers out of their houses and took them to the Matakzai area of the village and killed them with stones and gunshots,” said Mohammad Waris Faizi, who heads the Independent Human Rights Commission investigation office in the province.

“Then he and his people arrested six villagers from the Khak Afghan area and killed them too,” Faizi said.

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW



Spc. John Alamo returns fire at enemy combatants during a patrol in Logar Province. The troops avoid traveling in vehicles, which are more likely to hit roadside bombs. But traveling on foot makes them more susceptible to small-arms fire. Firefights are frequent when they patrol during the summer months. Erin Trieb / VII Mentor; Program 22 Aug, 2012, NBC News staff and wire reports.

MILITARY NEWS

Surprise Inspection Finds Workers At The Navy's Top Maintenance Facility For F/A-18 Warplanes Exposed To "Extremely Toxic Materials"

**"Metals Such As Lead, Cadmium And
Beryllium Can Result In Serious
Illness And Even Fatal Respiratory
Disease"**

**"Two Violations Were Deemed 'Willful' –
"When The Employer Shows An
Intentional Or Voluntary Disregard For
Health Threats"**

September 7, 2012 By Tony Perry, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

SAN DIEGO — Workers at the Navy's top maintenance facility for F/A-18 warplanes have been exposed to "extremely toxic materials" such as lead, cadmium and beryllium, according to surprise inspections by the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

OSHA has given the Navy until Sept. 26 to fix the problems at the Fleet Readiness Center Southwest at North Island Naval Air Station on Coronado or face an order to shut down the facility. The violations were revealed Thursday.

"Exposing workers to metals such as lead, cadmium and beryllium can result in serious illness and even fatal respiratory disease," said Jay Vicory, director of the San Diego-area office of OSHA.

The facility employs 1,000 active-duty personnel and 3,200 civilians to work on a variety of fixed-wing and rotary aircraft. The OSHA violations were found in the part of the facility where 350 workers are assigned to the F/A-18.

Two violations were deemed “willful” and two were deemed “serious.” The former occurs when the employer shows an intentional or voluntary disregard for health threats; the latter occurs when there is a “substantial probability” of death or physical harm from a hazard that the employer knew about or should have known about.

The willful violations involved allowing workers to store or consume food in a place contaminated by toxic materials, and in allowing “dry sweeping” that can make cadmium dust airborne. The serious violations involved lead dust and failure to control the spread of beryllium.

Michael Furlano, a spokesman for the readiness center, said the Navy is removing all paint containing lead, has closed the lunchroom for repair and has stopped dry sweeping in problem areas, using wet mops to keep particles from becoming airborne.

US Commander Calls F-22s Stealth Fighters Deployed To Japan “A Strategic Gem, A National Treasure” The “Gem” On Restriction Following Pilot Death And Repeated Pilot Complaints Of Faulty Oxygen System: “Pilots In Japan Are Operating Under Altitude Ceilings So They Do Not Need To Use Flight Vests”

The “Gem” Also “On A ‘Tether,’ Meaning They Must Remain Close To An Emergency Landing Site”

August 30, 2012 By ERIC TALMADGE Associated Press [Excerpts]

The deployment of a dozen F-22 stealth fighters to Japan has so far gone off without a hitch as the aircraft are being brought back into the skies in their first overseas mission since restrictions were imposed over incidents involving pilots getting dizzy and disoriented, a senior U.S. Air Force commander told the Associated Press on Thursday.

The six-month mission is a key test for the fighters, which have been the focus of intensive investigations over potentially deadly breathing problems in the cockpit.

Following more than a dozen incidents in which pilots said they were having symptoms suggesting they were not getting enough oxygen, and a fatal crash in 2010 that has since been ruled primarily a case of pilot error, the F-22 fleet was grounded for several months last year.

It was put under restrictions again in May after two pilots came forward with claims that the aircraft weren’t safe to fly.

Brig. Gen. Matthew Molloy, commander of the 18th Wing at Kadena Air Base on the island of Okinawa, said there have been no incidents with the F-22s since they arrived in Japan late last month, just days after U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta announced he was easing the restrictions. The planes have been flying almost daily since then, weather permitting.

In giving the green light to send the stealth fighters to Okinawa, the Air Force said it had identified the main problem as a faulty valve in its “Combat Edge” flight vest and said it was taking a series of measures to ensure pilot safety.

The measures should be complete by the end of the year.

In the meantime, the pilots in Japan are operating under altitude ceilings so they do not need to use flight vests.

They are also on a “tether,” meaning they must remain close to an emergency landing site.

Some critics have questioned the Air Force’s decision to deploy the F-22s to Japan before all of the life support fixes have been finished.

Army Funding Development Of Anti-Suicide Nasal Spray: [No, This Is Not From *The Onion*]

August 17, 2012 Associated Press

An Indiana University School of Medicine scientist has been awarded \$3 million to develop a nasal spray intended to combat suicidal thoughts among soldiers.

The U.S. Army awarded the research grant to associate professor of anatomy and cell biology and of neurobiology Michael Kubek, He works with thyrotropin-releasing hormone, or TRH, a neurochemical he helped discover in the human brain.

IU says TRH is known to have antidepressant and anti-suicidal effects, but isn't suitable for injection or oral use. So Kubek and other scientists at Purdue and at Hebrew University in Jerusalem are developing a nasal spray designed to deliver appropriate doses of the drug to the brain over time.

The project is part of a national effort designed to combat suicides in the nation's military.

[Why stop with this? There are millions more in grant \$ where this came from, just waiting for enterprising money-grabbing scam artists. How about anti-suicide under-arm deodorant? Anti-suicide MREs? Anti-suicide condoms? Let your imagination run wild. And go for the gold! T]

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 email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

Judge Blocks Restriction Of Lawyer Access To Guantanamo Detainees:

“Access To The Courts Means Nothing Without Access To Counsel” “The Government’s Attempt To Supersede The Court’s Authority Is An Illegitimate Exercise In Executive Power”

September 6 By Del Quentin Wilber, The Washington Post & September 9, 2012 by David Drumm, Jonathanturley.org [Excerpts]

A federal judge on Thursday blocked the government from restricting lawyers’ access to detainees at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, ruling that proposed measures would violate the detainees’ right to challenge their confinement in the courts.

Royce C. Lamberth, chief judge of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, issued what has been termed a “scathing” opinion.

In a 32-page opinion, Judge Lamberth wrote that new Defense Department procedures would strip away a key provision of the detainees’ legal protections.

“Access to the courts means nothing without access to counsel,” Lamberth wrote, adding that “the Government’s attempt to supersede the Court’s authority is an illegitimate exercise in Executive power.”

“The Court has an obligation to assure that those seeking to challenge their Executive detention by petitioning for habeas relief have adequate, effective and meaningful access to the courts.”

“The Court, whose duty it is to secure an individual’s liberty from unauthorized and illegal Executive confinement, cannot now tell a prisoner that he must beg leave of the Executive’s grace before the Court will involve itself. This very notion offends the separation-of-powers principles and our constitutional scheme.”

The government sought to restrict lawyers’ access to six detainees as well as information about their cases.

The new rules would block lawyers’ access to key documents and would require them to petition government authorities for access to the attorneys’ classified “work product,” Lamberth wrote.

Under judicial orders, lawyers do not need permission to see such information.

The detainees’ attorneys challenged the rules, saying the restrictions would hinder their ability to help their clients.

Lamberth agreed, ruling that the government did not have the authority to “unilaterally impose” such measures because judges are still overseeing the cases and the detainees “have made plain their desire to continue challenging the legality” of their confinement.

The new rules also probably would have led to “lengthy, needless and possibly oppressive delays” in the cases, the judge wrote.

Lamberth seemed perplexed that the government would issue such restrictions in light of judicial rulings and Supreme Court decisions that granted detainees the right to be represented by attorneys and to challenge their confinements in the federal courts under the centuries-old legal doctrine of habeas corpus.

The judge called one government argument “preposterous” and quoted Shakespeare to critique another.

More than 160 detainees remain at Guantanamo Bay, and many have filed lawsuits in the District’s federal court to seek their release. Attorneys for detainees cheered the ruling.

“The government has never accepted the right of the detainees to effective legal representation,” said David Remes, who represents 17 of the prisoners, including two who challenged the new restrictions. “Instead of picking fights over the detainees’ access to counsel, the government should focus on what really matters — sending home the detainees it does not intend to prosecute.”

Justice Department spokesman Dean Boyd said in an e-mail that officials are “reviewing the opinion and have no further comment at this time.”

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

<p>I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war. -- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace</p>

“Barack Obama And The Democrats Are Not The Lesser Of Two Evils, They Are The More Effective Evil”

“Obama Is The More Effective Evil Because He Is Enabled By Democrats Who Are Either Afraid Of Their Own Shadows Or Who Are As Bad As He Is”

“The Activists Who Opposed War During The Bush Administration Can’t Seem To Find Their Voices Now”

09/05/2012 By Margaret Kimberley, Black Agenda Report [Excerpts]

Barack Obama and the Democrats are not the lesser of two evils, they are the more effective evil, and their convention coronation proves it.

They have the benefit of running against a Republic candidate who made a fortune by putting thousands of people out of work and who brags about it. While Democrats do not openly talk about putting Social Security and Medicare on the budget cutting table, the Republican vice presidential candidate makes eliminating Medicare his claim to fame.

The Democrats are once again committing the perfect crime.

They present themselves as the friend of working people and as the defenders against racism, misogyny and homophobia.

While a black camera operator will probably not have to fear being humiliated by Democrats, the residents of Afghanistan and Pakistan will not be so lucky. They will be the victims of American drone attacks whether the president inaugurated in January is named Obama or Romney.

The activists who opposed war during the Bush administration can't seem to find their voices now.

Instead they criticize Mitt Romney because he didn't "mention" wars in his convention speech. It isn't clear what these critics wanted to hear. Were they once again anti-war or had they already dropped those convictions once a Democrat became president? In any case, Romney has no room to criticize Obama because Obama is now the war monger in chief, with the body count to prove it.

Little children with abusive parents can be forgiven if they don't know how to break free from their victimizers.

Adults who claim to lead others have no such excuse.

The union leaders, and the peace activists and all other progressives in the Charlotte convention hall should walk out in protest but they won't. They won't because their convictions aren't really any better than Obama's. They want to belong more than they want to be right.

Obama is the more effective evil because he is enabled by Democrats who are either afraid of their own shadows or who are as bad as he is.

They should know that making the case for their demands, indeed having demands at all, is the sure path to political victory.

Too many people in the Democratic base are effectively evil too.

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: contact@militaryproject.org

Advice Column: Ask Top, Your Non-Friendly Neighborhood First Sergeant (Ep.3)



July 23, 2012 by Paul, The Duffle Blog [Excerpt]. About The Author: His hobbies include chewing ass, laughing at Second Lieutenants, killing people with his bare hands, and telling soldiers to get their damn hands out of their pockets.

“Ask Top” is your semi-monthly advice column where you can get the answers to the burning questions you always wished you could ask. Our resident First Sergeant has been in every infantry battle since Vietnam and has banged more quiff than all of you numb-nuts put together.

DEAR TOP: I am a thirty-something civilian with an itchy trigger finger and a halfway decent beard. Can I go over there and help you guys kill some terrorists? Thanks. – DISGRUNTLED TERRORIST-HATING PATRIOT in Boston, MA

DEAR DISGRUNTLED TERRORIST-HATING PATRIOT: Oh that’s really cute. You want to help us kill terrorists but your ass doesn’t go over to the nearest recruiting office and sign the fuck up? Where have I heard this one before.. oh yeah..

I’m on R&R from ‘Nam back in ‘68. I’m sitting in some bar in Fayetteville. Some civilian comes up to me and wants to talk – starts asking me questions. Finally he says, “Yeah, I always wanted to join but you know...”

I said, no, I don't know fuckstick. What are we suddenly brothers all of a sudden? You thought about cutting off enemy heads while I was actually doing it? I don't think so dickwad.

So anyway — back to your original question. The answer is absolutely. You can come on over. Go down to your nearest recruiting office, sign up for the National Guard.

You'll have to shave your beard but luckily you can continue to be a fat-ass and the terrorist hunting permit sticker on the back of your truck will now be valid.

ANNIVERSARIES

September 9, 1971: Heroic Anniversary; The Attica State Penitentiary Revolt



Carl Bunin Peace History September 3-9

The interracial revolt was led by blacks but featured cooperation between prisoners of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

It was finally brutally suppressed by the state five days later, upon orders from Gov. Nelson Rockefeller who refused to become directly involved.

29 prisoners and 10 guards were shot and killed by attacking state troopers in the bloodiest prison confrontation in U.S. history.

The prisoners had been demanding improvements in their living and working conditions at the increasingly overcrowded facility.



PBS.org/ [Excerpts]

On the morning of Monday, September 13, 1971, Governor Nelson Rockefeller arrived at his Fifth Avenue apartment for a meeting with some of his advisors. It had been a tough weekend, but he had finally reached a decision. It was, he told them, “a matter of principle.”

The Attica State Penitentiary — the scene of an inmate uprising just five days earlier — was to be retaken by force.

Trouble was in the air in the summer of 1971. The Vietnam war, court-ordered busing of students to integrate schools racially, and student protests had shaken the country.

Prisons were seeing a surge in the pressure — both from within and from without prison walls -- to recognize the rights of inmates, fueled in part by racial unrest. In the imposing Attica State Penitentiary, a maximum-security facility 30 miles south of Buffalo, New York, the tension had been particularly palpable for months.

Inmates, who were predominantly African American and Puerto Rican, were incensed at the deteriorating living conditions — among them the fact that they were only entitled to one shower a week and one roll of toilet paper a month.

Overcrowding had also become a source of resentment in a facility where the capacity limit had been exceeded by almost forty percent.

It was this pent-up unrest that prompted one of the guards to forcefully suppress a scuffle between two prisoners on September 9, 1971. The two inmates were taken to isolation cells. Rumors circulated that they would be tortured.

Confrontations escalated between the prisoners and the guards.

More than one thousand strong, the inmates quickly took control of the prison and set fire to several of its buildings. By the time the state police was summoned and managed to recapture part of the facility that afternoon, the inmates had regrouped in one of the yards and were holding 40 hostages in a ring of wooden benches.

Their demands were soon made public: federal takeover of the prison, better conditions, amnesty and the removal of the prison's superintendent.

In their statement, they criticized the “unmitigated oppression wrought by the racist administrative network of this prison throughout the year,” and the “ruthless brutalization and disregard for the lives of the prisoners here and throughout the United States.”

Those words had a troubling ring for Nelson Rockefeller, who in his last years as governor had toughened his stand on crime and political dissent.

He believed that the rebellion was led by revolutionaries, and that any sign of compromise would have a domino effect throughout the nation. Having sent one of his closest aides to the scene, he retreated to the Rockefeller estate in Pocantico Hills, just a few miles outside of New York City.

Four hundred miles upstate, things were quickly heating up. A group of observers had been trying in vain to come up with a compromise package.

On Sunday, three days after the outbreak, they issued a statement, calling on Rockefeller to come to the prison to avert a “massacre... so we can spend time and not lives in an attempt to resolve the issues before us.”

The pressure on the governor to come to Attica was mounting, as the inmates and even the Commissioner of Correctional Services, Russell Oswald, urged him to address the situation in person.

“We must have Rockefeller,” said one of the inmates’ leaders. “We got to have Rockefeller here to save our lives and those of his hostages. ... I say his hostages because he created this situation.”

But Rockefeller wouldn't budge.

Saying that his physical presence on the site would not “contribute to a peaceful settlement,” he vowed to stand fast and rely on his aides on the scene, among them Robert Douglass.

“In life it’s not easy to face a hard decision, particularly when human lives are involved,” he told Commissioner Oswald, “But I think we have to look at these things not only in terms of the immediate but in terms of the larger implication of what we are doing in our society.”

By Sunday night, hopes for a non-violent compromise solution were wearing thin, and on Monday morning Rockefeller, determined to appear firm, authorized the operation to reclaim the facility.

It was 9:46am when a state police helicopter started dropping tear gas over the yard and walkways where the inmates were holding the hostages at knife-point.

Gunfire broke out, and within 6 minutes, 2,200 lethal missiles were discharged.

The use of shotguns, with their imprecise range, increased the bloodshed.

Ten hostages and twenty-nine inmates died — a horrific toll that was especially appalling after it was revealed that all the hostages had died from gunshots inflicted by state troopers and guards.

Rockefeller was also spared the sight of the capture’s grim aftermath.

Once the prison was reclaimed, guards, enraged by the events, ordered the inmates to crawl naked into the yard, beating them with clubs as they passed through.

One of the leaders, Frank Smith, was stripped naked and forced to lie on a table balancing a football under his chin for hours, threatened with being shot if he let it fall to the ground.

The extent of the chaos was not acknowledged by Governor Rockefeller, who said that the state troopers had done “a superb job.”

One year later, an investigative commission would reach a very different conclusion.

Its report stated that the operation had been ill-conceived, poorly executed and probably unnecessary, and stressed the fact that Rockefeller should have gone to Attica, “because his responsibilities as the State’s chief executive made it appropriate that he be present at the scene of the critical decision involving great risk of loss of life.”

In spite of the public outrage, Nelson Rockefeller’s hard-line stance in the Attica crisis made him more palatable to the conservatives who were now in control of the Republican Party.

He never publicly regretted the way he handled the situation, saying only that he wished he had been more aware of the “tremendous need that existed” at the Attica facility.

Yet the impact of the Attica crisis would be long lasting.

In August 2000, almost thirty years after the prisoners' revolt, the state of New York paid up to \$8 million to the 1,280 men harassed during the attack, after their lawyers filed a class-action lawsuit against prison and state officials in 1974.

The verdict, however, had little echo within the walls of the Attica Correctional Facility, where overcrowding is still a problem.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS

“We Plan To Keep Fighting, To Bleed Them Out”

“The Fact That Rebels Have Held Out This Long Is A Major

Accomplishment, Considering How Badly They Are Outgunned”

“I Will Obey Orders From A Senior Officer Here On The Ground, But Not From Someone Sitting In A Five-Star Hotel Or In A Camp In Turkey’ Abu Mohammed Said”

The front-line commanders seem to have an open disdain for their erstwhile superior officers in the Free Syrian Army, whose hierarchy is based across the border in Turkey.

“I will obey orders from a senior officer here on the ground, but not from someone sitting in a five-star hotel or in a camp in Turkey,” Abu Mohammed said.

September 6, 2012 By Times Staff, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

ALEPPO, SYRIA –

There are persistent rumors that they are about to retreat. But six weeks after launching an offensive aimed at capturing Syria’s most populous city, rebel commanders who oppose the government of President Bashar Assad insisted there would be no withdrawal.

“We plan to keep fighting, to bleed them out,” said a thick-set, bearded front-line officer who gave his name as Hosam abu Mohammed, one of a quartet of field commanders who spoke Wednesday in an apartment-turned-headquarters not far from the battlefield.

Outside, shells from government howitzers landed every few minutes with a thunderous crash, shaking the earth and adding to the mounting destruction of Syria’s commercial hub.

The fight for Aleppo has become a grueling battle of attrition in which parts of the historic city are gradually leveled amid mounting numbers of casualties -- many, if not most, of them civilians hit by shrapnel and sniper bullets.

At least 200,000 people have fled the city, according to the United Nations. Vans and pickups filled with furniture and fleeing families continue to exit town.

The two sides are arrayed across a nearly 4.5-mile front, rebel commanders say, marking the approximate boundaries of a horseshoe-shaped series of mostly working-class districts that opposition forces seized in late July. Despite some fluctuations, the front lines have remained relatively stable.

Government forces, with vastly superior firepower, apparently have no intention of launching a block-by-block clearing operation that could expose already overtaxed troops to even higher casualty numbers.

The Syrian military prefers artillery and airstrikes.

Rebels, however, are often ensconced in the lower floors of apartment blocks, more or less immune to the bombardment.

Many buildings have heavily damaged roofs and upper levels but relatively intact lower floors.

From the opposition perspective, the fact that rebels have held out this long is a major accomplishment, considering how badly they are outgunned.

“The fact that we have been here for 40 days is a victory,” said Abu Mohammed, who says he was a colonel in the Syrian military who defected eight months ago.

Several opposition fighters complained that they had been led to believe at the outset of the attack on Aleppo that arms deliveries would arrive regularly from neighboring Turkey, but that the anticipated shipments never materialized.

“We would have had an entirely different strategy had we known the weapons we were promised would never arrive,” asserted another commander, who gave his name as Abu Omar.

He said he defected two months ago.

In retrospect, he says, the strategy in Aleppo should have been geared more toward classic guerrilla tactics, such as hit-and-run attacks, rather than trying to hold and defend territory.

The front-line commanders seem to have an open disdain for their erstwhile superior officers in the Free Syrian Army, whose hierarchy is based across the border in Turkey.

“I will obey orders from a senior officer here on the ground, but not from someone sitting in a five-star hotel or in a camp in Turkey,” Abu Mohammed said.

The commanders put the number of rebel fighters in the city at 4,000 to 5,000, an estimate that appears exaggerated. One military analyst on the scene put the number at considerably fewer than 1,000.

Despite the war, Aleppo seems to have no shortage of food. Business was brisk at Alshafi, a popular ice cream shop, and the other day, someone was selling goldfish from a tank on the same street. A few blocks away is a bustling produce market where stands are overflowing with fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant and other produce from surrounding agricultural districts.

Given the city’s relative affluence, the bread lines and piles of uncollected garbage have been major irritants for residents. Trash has been left to smolder at numerous street

corners, giving off an acrid smell that permeates the city. On Wednesday, to the delight of some residents, a bulldozer was finally collecting piles of garbage in one district.

In a bid to consolidate control, rebels have begun setting up a police force and justice system.

Commanders working out of a former kindergarten building boasted of a major coup: a feared shabiha, or government militiaman, had been captured. A tribunal had sentenced the alleged militiaman, Ahmad Assab, to death. The execution was to be a public event, to be held Wednesday at 4 p.m in Sukkari Square. Word soon spread.

Several thousand people gathered at the square. Rebels in all style of revolutionary garb and brandishing various arms arrived on motorcycles and in vehicles; some fired their weapons into the air.

A festive atmosphere prevailed. But crowds in a war zone can attract trouble.

Soon, mortar shells were falling nearby, sending people and cars scrambling away in panic. The crowd and the fighters scattered. The execution was postponed. The thud of incoming mortar rounds echoed across the square, a soundtrack now all too familiar to the people of Aleppo.



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/military-resistance-archives/>; news@uruknet.info

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance

understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.