

Military Resistance 12L15



The Terror Infesting Our Streets:

Enemy Combatant Handcuffs And Beats African American Military Police Officer:

“The Body Cam Video Showed Him Beating A Military Police Officer Who Was In Handcuffs And On The Ground Throughout The Entire Ordeal”

An Orlando police officer is being scrutinized after he illegally arrested and beat a military veteran.

The entire Orlando Police Department is now being investigated along with Orlando Police Officer, William Escobar, after it was determined that they purposely withheld evidence from the State Attorney's Office relevant to the assault by Officer Escobar.

The body cam video from Officer Escobar clearly showed him beating a military police officer who was in handcuffs and on the ground throughout the entire ordeal: unable to resist. To top things off, the handcuffing and arrest itself was illegal.

During the beating, the Escobar can be heard yelling: "I am a cop, you understand you stupid motherfuckker."

All of this occurred back in March, when officers responded to a disturbance call.

The police claimed that they could "smell marijuana" in the air when they arrived.

One of the responding officers, Officer Williams said, "I am familiar with the odor of cannabis due to my training and experience in street level drugs."

But an investigation determined there was never any marijuana at the scene.

Officer Williams also claimed to have seen the silhouette of a handgun in the pocket of one of the suspects, Verrell Sheals. There was no handgun.

While officers illegally arrested Sheals, Refus Jerome Holloway – another at the scene – "charged" allegedly with his hands in his pockets.

But in actuality Holloway was reaching for and then holding up his military ID, to let the officers know that he was a military police officer.

All witnesses at the scene have said that Holloway had his hands up and was trying to show his ID to the police officers, so that he could ask why his cousin, Sheals was being arrested.

Officer Williams then drew his gun and aimed it at Holloway, following with a front kick to the military cop's abdomen.

But Holloway caught the slow kick and immediately released it once he saw that the officer was losing his balance.

Officer Williams sprayed an entire canister of tear gas spray in Holloway's face, along with another innocent bystander who had nothing to do with any of these events.

Once on the ground, Officer Escobar handcuffed Holloway and began punching and kicking him in the back of the head, yelling: "I am a cop, you understand you stupid mother fucker."

The video records Holloway pleading: "I didn't touch you, I didn't touch you."

MORE:

**City Of Indianapolis Paying
\$200,000 To Man Arrested And
Injured By Police "After He
Refused To Stop Filming A
Nearby Arrest"**

**"He Was Tackled To The Ground,
Arrested And Charged With
Resisting Arrest, Disorderly
Conduct And Public Intoxicating"**

**"A Widespread, Continuing Pattern
Of Law Enforcement Officers
Ordering People To Stop Taking
Photographs From Public Places,
And Harassing, Detaining And
Arresting Those Who Fail To
Comply"**

**"The Recent Victory 'Secures The Right
Of All Citizens To Observe And Record
Police Officers' Public Actions'"**

February 28, 2014 TV-Novosti

The terms of a recently settled lawsuit in Indianapolis, Indiana will require the city's police force to remind officers that it's legal for civilians to videotape on-duty cops, but it will also cost the department more than just that.

In addition to having to adopt an official policy recognizing the right for citizens to record law enforcement officials, the City of Indianapolis is also cutting a \$200,000 check for a local man who was arrested and injured by police in 2011 after he refused to stop filming a nearby arrest.

Willie King was watching Indianapolis police officers arrest a young man in his neighbor's driveway three years ago this month when he decided it would be a good idea to grab his cellphone and start recording. The cops weren't too keen about being caught on film, however, and ordered King, then 66 years old, to hand over his phone.

"Sir, you know that if he resists any more they can take your phone as evidence," an officer was caught saying, according to transcripts published this week by local news network WISH-TV.

"I don't give a (expletive) what you do, y'all just don't harm him," King responded.

When King refused to stop recording from his neighbor's porch, he was tackled to the ground, arrested and charged with resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and public intoxicating.

King was ultimately found not guilty of those charges, but turned around and filed a civil suit against the city over alleged First, Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment violations.

That case was scheduled to go to trial starting March 10, but it's now been reported that the city decided to settle this past January.

King is being awarded \$200,000 from the city as part of that settlement, but the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department is also being forced to institute a new policy prohibiting police officers from bothering with eyewitnesses who are recording their actions.

According to excerpts of the policy published on Thursday by WISH-TV, local law enforcement officials have 60 days to adopt a policy that states "police officers should not interfere with civilians who are observing or recording their actions by video or audio in public, so long as the civilians maintain a safe and reasonable distance if necessary from the scene of a police action, do not physically interfere with the officers' performance of their duty and do not represent a physical danger to the officers, civilians or others."

"Willie King was wronged when the officers stopped his videotaping and took away his cellphone," King's attorney, Richard Waples, was quoted as saying by The Indiana Lawyer website. "We want to make sure that in the future police officers understand that people have the right to video record their actions."

"We thought it was important in this case, not to just try to get compensation from Mr. King which we were able to do, but also to get the police department to realize, hey, they

need to train their officers, and say you can't interfere with people's rights to record and observe what you're doing in public," Waples told the network.

According to Marilyn Odendahl at The Indiana Lawyer, Waples added that the recent victory "secures the right of all citizens to observe and record police officers' public actions."

Previously, the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit — whose jurisdiction includes Indiana, among other states — acknowledged that "The act of making an audio or audiovisual recording is necessarily included within the First Amendment's guarantee of speech and press rights as a corollary of the right to disseminate the resulting recording."

"Taking photographs of things that are plainly visible from public spaces is a constitutional right – and that includes federal buildings, transportation facilities and police and other government officials carrying out their duties.

"Unfortunately, there is a widespread, continuing pattern of law enforcement officers ordering people to stop taking photographs from public places, and harassing, detaining and arresting those who fail to comply," reads a portion of the American Civil Liberties Union's official website.

MORE:

Wisconsin Cops Deploy Armored Vehicle To Collect Fines From 75-Year-Old Man For Messy Land

October 26, 2014 By David Edwards, Raw Story

A 75-year-old Wisconsin man is considering filing a federal civil rights lawsuit after officials in Marathon County sent an armored military to collect fines that resulted from a property dispute.

Attorney Ryan Lister told the Milwaukee-Wisconsin Journal Sentinel that the Marathon County Sheriff's Department overreacted when it sent 24 armed officers and the Marathon County Response Vehicle (MARV) to 75-year-old Roger Hoepfner's home earlier this month.

Lister said his client contacted him as soon as he noticed the deputies arrive on the property, but roadblocks prevented the attorney from reaching the home until Hoepfner had been taken away in handcuffs.

The town of Stettin had sued Hoepfner in 2008, saying that the use of his land where he restored antique tractors violated city ordinances.

He was ordered to remove rubbish as part of a settlement, but a judge later ruled that he had not complied and fined Hoepfner \$500-a-day. "Rather than provide Mr. Hoepfner or

his counsel notice...and attempt to collect without spending thousands of taxpayer dollars on the military-style maneuvers, the town unilaterally decided to enforce its civil judgment” with overwhelming force, the attorney noted.

After losing an appeal, Hoepfner was ordered to pay \$80,000 to the city by October 2.

Sheriff’s Capt. Greg Bean defended the use of MARV to collect civil fines, saying it saved time and money.

“I’ve been involved in about five standoff situations where, as soon as the MARV showed up, the person gives up,” Bean said. “People may not always understand why, but an armored vehicle is almost a necessity now.”

For his part, Hoepfner paid the \$80,000 fine after being released so he could go to the bank. He said he had spent his retirement fund — more than \$200,000 — fighting the city.

MORE:

Off-Duty Black Cops Target Of Harassment By Racist Filth In Blue:

“They Have Experienced The Same Racial Profiling That Cost Eric Garner His Life” “That Could Have Been Any One Of Us”

“The Black Officers Interviewed Said They Had Been Racially Profiled By White Officers Exclusively”

“This Included Being Pulled Over For No Reason, Having Their Heads Slammed Against Their Cars, Getting Guns Brandished In Their Faces, Being

Thrown Into Prison Vans And Experiencing Stop And Frisks While Shopping”

24 December 14 By Michelle Conlin, Reuters [Excerpts]

From the dingy donut shops of Manhattan to the cloistered police watering holes in Brooklyn, a number of black NYPD officers say they have experienced the same racial profiling that cost Eric Garner his life.

Garner, a 43-year-old black man suspected of illegally peddling loose cigarettes, died in July after a white officer put him in a chokehold. His death, and that of an unarmed black teenager in Ferguson, Missouri, has sparked a slew of nationwide protests against police tactics.

What’s emerging now is that, within the thin blue line of the NYPD, there is another divide - between black and white officers.

Reuters interviewed 25 African American male officers on the NYPD, 15 of whom are retired and 10 of whom are still serving.

All but one said that, when off duty and out of uniform, they had been victims of racial profiling, which refers to using race or ethnicity as grounds for suspecting someone of having committed a crime.

The officers said this included being pulled over for no reason, having their heads slammed against their cars, getting guns brandished in their faces, being thrown into prison vans and experiencing stop and frisks while shopping.

The majority of the officers said they had been pulled over multiple times while driving. Five had had guns pulled on them.

Desmond Blaize, who retired two years ago as a sergeant in the 41st Precinct in the Bronx, said he once got stopped while taking a jog through Brooklyn’s upmarket Prospect Park.

“I had my ID on me so it didn’t escalate,” said Blaize, who has sued the department alleging he was racially harassed on the job.

“But what’s suspicious about a jogger? In jogging clothes?”

Nearly 90 percent of blacks stopped by the NYPD, for example, are found not to be engaged in any crime.

The black officers interviewed said they had been racially profiled by white officers exclusively, and about one third said they made some form of complaint to a supervisor.

All but one said their supervisors either dismissed the complaints or retaliated against them by denying them overtime, choice assignments, or promotions.

The remaining officers who made no complaints said they refrained from doing so either because they feared retribution or because they saw racial profiling as part of the system.

John Jay professor Delores Jones-Brown cited a 2010 New York State Task Force report on police-on-police shootings - the first such inquiry of its kind - that found that in the previous 15 years, officers of color had suffered the highest fatalities in encounters with police officers who mistook them for criminals.

There's evidence that aggressive policing in the NYPD is intensifying, according to data from the New York City Comptroller.

Police misconduct claims - including lawsuits against police for using the kind of excessive force that killed Garner - have risen 214 percent since 2000, while the amount the city paid out has risen 75 percent in the same period, to \$64.4 million in fiscal year 2012, the last year for which data is available.

People who have taken part in the marches against Garner's death - and that of Ferguson teenager Michael Brown - say they are protesting against the indignity of being stopped by police for little or no reason as much as for the deaths themselves.

"There's no real outlet to report the abuse," said Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, a former NYPD captain who said he was stigmatized and retaliated against throughout his 22-year career for speaking out against racial profiling and police brutality.

Officers make complaints to the NYPD's investigative arm, the Internal Affairs Bureau, only to later have their identities leaked, said Adams.

One of the better-known cases of alleged racial profiling of a black policeman concerns Harold Thomas, a decorated detective who retired this year after 30 years of service, including in New York's elite Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Shortly before 1 a.m. one night in August 2012, Thomas was leaving a birthday party at a trendy New York nightclub.

Wearing flashy jewelry, green sweatpants and a white t-shirt, Thomas walked toward his brand-new white Escalade when two white police officers approached him.

What happened next is in dispute, but an altercation ensued, culminating in Thomas getting his head smashed against the hood of his car and then spun to the ground and put in handcuffs.

"If I was white, it wouldn't have happened," said Thomas, who has filed a lawsuit against the city over the incident.

At an ale house in Williamsburg, Brooklyn last week, a group of black police officers from across the city gathered for the beer and chicken wing special.

They discussed how the officers involved in the Garner incident could have tried harder to talk down an upset Garner, or sprayed mace in his face, or forced him to the ground without using a chokehold.

They all agreed his death was avoidable.

Said one officer from the 106th Precinct in Queens, "That could have been any one of us."

MORE:

**Northern Calif. Cops Caught
Headlocking, Beating Oregon
Fan At Football Game:
"Officer Saw Lydon Walking The
Wrong Way Down A Stadium
Concourse"**

**"While The Encounter Unfolded,
Bystanders Chanted, 'He's Not
Fighting Back.' 'That Guy Didn't Do
Anything Wrong'"**

**"Another Person Can Be Heard Saying,
'Just Don't Choke Him, You Fucking
Cops'"**

Dec. 8, 2014 by Arturo Garcia, Rawstory & By Vic Lee, KGO & 12/09/2014 By Robert Salonga, San Jose Mercury News [Excerpts

Authorities in Santa Clara, California are preparing to respond to a video of three local officers hitting and threatening to use a Taser against a man during a college football game, the San Jose Mercury News reported.

The bystander said, “Whoa, whoa! Leave him alone,” as the crowd started chanting, “He's not fighting back!”

At least one officer began hitting the man with his baton.

The officer shown in the video with the baton broke it while hitting his leg

The video, taken during the Pac-12 championship game on Dec. 5, shows the officers' rough arrest of a man later identified as Mark Lydon, an Oregon resident visiting for the game. The department confirmed to Deadspin that its officers were involved in the altercation.

KGO-TV reported that Lydon was charged with assaulting an officer and resisting arrest. A department spokesperson said Lydon attacked the officers while they were trying to eject him from Levi's Stadium, where the game was held, when the altercation took place.

According to the unidentified man who filmed the encounter, however, the incident began after one officer saw Lydon walking the wrong way down a stadium concourse.

The person filming the encounter tells the officer, “I don't know (Lydon) at all.”

“I don't care,” the officer responds.

“This is crazy,” the man says. “You have your Taser out, there's a huge crowd. Don't touch this guy.”

The officer then directs Lydon away from the crowd and allegedly says he is under arrest.

“Under arrest for what?” the man filming asks.

Two more officers then surround Lydon and attempt to take him into custody.

The video shows Lydon's head and neck being held by one officer, while the other two grab his arms before taking him to the ground. Other officers arrive and instruct the man filming and the crowd watching the arrest to keep back.

“I have the video from the beginning,” the man filming says. “That guy didn't do anything wrong.”

Another person can be heard saying, “Just don't choke him, you fucking cops,” a reference to the death of Eric Garner, which was ruled a homicide by choking after his encounter with New York City police this past July.

The Mercury News reported that Santa Clara police regularly work security for events at the stadium, sometimes supplemented by officers from other nearby departments who are specially deputized to work there if a larger event is taking place.

MORE:

Enemy Forces Attack Wrong House, Throw Grenade In Crib, Maim And Burn Baby, And Refuse To Pay Baby's \$1m In Medical Bills:

“I Asked If He Got Hurt. And They Said, ‘No, Your Son Is Fine. He Has Not Sustained Any Serious Injury.’ ‘They Ended Up Telling Us That He Had Lost A Tooth”

**“His Chest Wall Had Torn Down To Muscle,” Stated Dr. Walter Ingram.
“And It Tore His Face Down To Bone, Down To His Teeth”**

“A Grand Jury Refused To Charge The Sheriff's Deputies Involved”



While searching the wrong house with a no-knock warrant, a SWAT team threw a flashbang grenade in a 19-month-old toddler's room, nearly killing him. A grand jury refused to charge the sheriff's deputies involved.

December 21, 2014 Andrew Emmett, NationofChange

While executing a no-knock search warrant on the wrong house, a SWAT team from the Habersham County Sheriff's Office nearly killed a 19-month-old toddler sleeping in his crib.

Scarred with multiple burns and a collapsed lung, the toddler was rushed to the hospital and placed in a medically induced coma.

A grand jury declined to indict the sheriff's deputies involved in the raid, and city officials refuse to pay his exorbitant medical bills.

After a fire destroyed their home in Wisconsin earlier this year, Bounkham Phonesavanh, his wife Alecia, and their four young children temporarily moved in with Bounkham's sister in Cornelia, Georgia. Two months later, they found a new house in Wisconsin and were planning to return home when a SWAT team raided their bedroom in the middle of the night.

Around 2am on May 28, the SWAT team broke down their door as Habersham Deputy Charles Long threw a flashbang grenade into their bedroom.

The grenade landed in the crib of 19-month-old Bounkham Phonesavanh, Jr., blowing a hole through his chest and leaving third-degree burns along his face and torso.

After slamming her husband to the floor, deputies ordered Alecia to sit down and shut up as she asked to hold her screaming child.

Instead of allowing Alecia to see her wounded son, Habersham Deputy Jason Stribling picked up the toddler, left the room, and waited outside for an ambulance.

As the deputies detained the family and searched the house for drugs, Alecia and her husband discovered a pool of blood and burn marks in the crib. Their son's pillow had been blown apart.

"I asked if he got hurt. And they said, 'No, your son is fine. He has not sustained any serious injury,'" Alecia recalled.

"They ended up telling us that he had lost a tooth."

Hours later after failing to find any drugs in the house, deputies allowed Alecia and her family to drive to Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta.

Her son was in the intensive burn unit and had been placed in a medically induced coma.

"His chest wall had torn down to muscle," stated Dr. Walter Ingram, head of Grady's burn trauma unit.

"And it tore his face down to bone, down to his teeth."

Suffering from severe burns and a collapsed lung, 19-month-old Bounkham Jr., affectionately referred to as "Bou Bou," remained in the coma for over five weeks.

His parents spent each night in the hospital not knowing if he would ever wake up again.

Using information acquired by a mendacious confidential informant, drug agent Nikki Autry secured a no-knock search warrant for the former residence of Bounkham's nephew, Wanis Thonetheva. Suspected of dealing \$50 worth of meth to the informant, Thonetheva had moved out of his mother's house months earlier after stealing several valuables from her.

"He had broken into her room and stole some of her jewelry and stuff," recalled Alecia. "We knew him as a thief."

No longer living at his mother's house, Thonetheva was arrested hours after the raid at a different location without the necessity of a SWAT team. He ended up pleading guilty to selling methamphetamine and is currently serving a 10-year prison sentence.

As Bou Bou remained in a coma, agent Autry resigned from the Mountain Judicial Circuit's drug unit. Judge James Butterworth, who signed the no-knock warrant, announced his retirement. And four months after the raid, the drug task force responsible for Bou Bou's injuries disbanded.

On June 24, Bou Bou was taken out of the medically induced coma and began rehabilitation.

With doctors attempting to assess any lasting brain damage, Bou Bou endured several surgeries to repair his face and torso.

Although the Phonesavanh family has accumulated nearly \$1 million in medical bills, Habersham County officials refuse to compensate the family.

Citing a state law that grants immunity from negligence claims against the county government, officials argue that compensation provided to the family would be an illegal gratuity.

On October 6, a grand jury failed to indict the deputies responsible for executing the no-knock search warrant.

Although the deputies claimed they had no way of knowing any children were present, Alecia pointed out that several of her kids' toys had been left in the front yard on the night of the raid.

While stepping over her children's toys, the SWAT team also chose to ignore the six stickers pasted on her minivan's back windshield depicting the Phonesavanh parents and their four young children.

Originally deployed to handle hostage, sniper, or terrorist threats, SWAT teams are now being used to conduct drug busts, disperse protesters, and execute no-knock search warrants in low-income residential neighborhoods.

In a similar case on May 16, 2010, a Detroit SWAT team tossed a flashbang grenade onto the couch where 7-year-old Aiyana Stanley-Jones had been sleeping.

As the flashbang incinerated her blanket, Aiyana was immediately shot in the head by Officer Joseph Weekley.

Weekly claimed that Aiyana's grandmother had reached for his weapon, but ballistics and another officer's testimony refute his accusations.

Police later realized they had forcibly entered the wrong apartment.

"We found that police overwhelmingly use SWAT raids not for extreme emergencies like hostage situations but to carry out such basic police work as serving warrants or searching for a small amount of drugs," said Kara Dansky, Senior Counsel with the ACLU's Center for Justice.

"Carried out by ten or more officers armed with assault rifles, flashbang grenades, and battering rams, these paramilitary raids disproportionately impacted people of color, sending the clear message that the families being raided are the enemy. This unnecessary violence causes property damage, injury, and death."

The Phonesavanh family has created a website to raise money for Bou Bou's medical bills and retains the option to file a civil lawsuit.

U.S. Attorney Sally Yates has launched a federal investigation into the botched raid.

MORE:



MORE:

July 4, 1776

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

MILITARY NEWS

**ISIS Captures Beji City, Iraq:
“Police & Tribal Forces Made Pleas
For Coalition Air Support And
Supplies To Be Sent But These
Requests Fell On Deaf Ears”**

“Once Their Munitions And Morale Had Been Depleted, The Soldiers Decided To Retreat”

December 22, 2014 By Haidar Sumeri, Al-Masdar Al-'Arabi

On Saturday (Dec 20th), 3 mortars struck the Green Zone in central Baghdad, which houses multiple governmental/diplomatic buildings and residencies. The mortars caused no casualties or material damage, likely falling in a deserted area. Ministry of Interior investigators concluded that the mortars were launched from the Sunni-majority district of Dora, southern Baghdad.

The situation in Baghdadi seems to be worsening as ISIS tightens the siege on the township and the nearby Ain al-Asad Air Base.

Reports emerged of US soldiers participating in clashes with ISIS militants in the area but these claims were rubbished by the head of the Awakening Council (Sahwa) Wisam al-Hardan.

The town of Baghdadi is still under siege and the humanitarian situation is seriously deteriorating with reports of babies dying due to the lack of baby food. Iraqi Army soldiers have blasted the international coalition for the lack of airstrikes against the advancing militants. On Sunday (Dec 21st), ISF in the area announced the killing and wounding of at least 30 ISIS militants who had tried to attack the Ain al-Asad Air Base.

On Wednesday (Dec 17th), the news that Iraqi security forces and Shia paramilitaries withdrew from central Baiji emerged.

The nearby oil refinery was seen as more valuable than the district itself by ISF commanders and therefore made the priority.

Throughout at least five days of heavy clashes across multiple neighbourhoods in central Baiji, police & tribal forces made pleas for coalition air support and supplies to be sent but these requests fell on deaf ears.

Once their munitions and morale had been depleted, the soldiers decided to retreat, with some units withdrawing towards the much safer towns in the district's south (e.g. al-Malha and Mazra'a) and others heading towards the more secure refinery complex.

[Come Travel Back Though The Time Machine]

Insurgent Mortar Attack Hits Baghdad Green Zone

December 22, 2014 By Haidar Sumeri, Al-Masdar Al-'Arabi

On Saturday (Dec 20th), 3 mortars struck the Green Zone in central Baghdad, which houses multiple governmental/diplomatic buildings and residencies. The mortars caused no casualties or material damage, likely falling in a deserted area. Ministry of Interior investigators concluded that the mortars were launched from the Sunni-majority district of Dora, southern Baghdad.

Newest U.S. Stealth Fighter ‘10 Years Behind’ Older Jets: \$400 Billion Pissed Away On Useless Piece Of Shit; “It Won’t Be Able To Support Troops On The Ground The Way Older Planes Can Today” “That Will Leave Troops In A Lurch When The F-35 Eventually Becomes The Only Game In Town”

12.26.14 by Dave Majumdar, The Daily Beast Company LLC [Excerpts]

America’s \$400 billion, top-of-the-line aircraft can’t see the battlefield all that well.

Which means it’s actually worse than its predecessors at fighting today’s wars.

When the Pentagon’s nearly \$400 billion F-35 Joint Strike Fighter finally enters service next year after nearly two decades in development, it won’t be able to support troops on the ground the way older planes can today.

Its sensors won’t be able to see the battlefield as well; and what video the F-35 does capture, it won’t be able to transmit to infantrymen in real time.

Versions of the new single-engine stealth fighter are set to replace almost every type of fighter in the U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps inventory—including aircraft specifically designed to support ground troops like the A-10 Warthog.

That will leave troops in a lurch when the F-35 eventually becomes the only game in town.

“The F-35 will, in my opinion, be 10 years behind legacy fighters when it achieves (initial operational capability),” said one Air Force official affiliated with the F-35 program. “When the F-35 achieves (initial operational capability), it will not have the weapons or sensor capability, with respect to the CAS (close air support) mission set, that legacy multi-role fighters had by the mid-2000s.”

The problem stems from the fact that the technology found on one of the stealth fighter’s primary air-to-ground sensors—its nose-mounted Electro-Optical Targeting System (EOTS)—is more than a decade old and hopelessly obsolete.

The EOTS, which is similar in concept to a large high-resolution infrared and television camera, is used to visually identify and monitor ground targets. The system can also mark targets for laser-guided bombs.

“EOTS is a big step backwards. The technology is 10-plus years old, hasn’t been able to take advantage of all the pod upgrades in the meantime, and there were some performance tradeoffs to accommodate space and stealth,” said another Air Force official familiar with the F-35 program. “I think it’s one area where the guys are going to be disappointed in the avionics.”

Ironically, older jets currently in service with the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps can carry the latest generation of sensor pods, which are far more advanced than the EOTS sensor carried by the F-35. The latest generation pods—the Lockheed Martin Sniper ATP-SE and Northrop Grumman LITENING-SE—display far clearer high-definition video imagery in both in the infrared and optical spectrum—and from greater distances. Further, both pods have the ability to beam those full-motion video feeds to ground troops, which provides those forces with vital intelligence information.

When the Pentagon had initially drawn up the Joint Strike Fighter program’s specifications during the later half of the 1990s, the EOTS would have been bleeding-edge technology.

However, in the 14 years that have passed since the Pentagon awarded Lockheed the contract to develop the F-35, technology has evolved—and the services have gained experience from over a decade of war.

More damningly, the F-35 won’t be able to send even its already lower-quality live video down to those soldiers on the ground because its specifications were set before the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan started. Back then, no one ever imagined needing to beam live video to ground troops from a fighter jet. Nor are there any current plans to add that capability to the F-35.

“At no point is F-35 fragged to have VDL (video down-link) unless it carries a targeting pod and the F-35 EOTS does not have and will not get an IR (infrared) marker,” the first F-35 official said. “It won’t fit in the space available.”

One Air Force official said that with enough time and more money, the EOTS could be fixed. “Because in five years when the USAF (US Air Force) comes to Lockheed Martin and says we absolutely need an upgraded EOTS with an infrared pointer and (video down-link), Lockheed Martin says... OK no sweat, that’ll be \$5 million per jet,” the Air Force official said.

“Thus lies the problem in the U.S. military industrial complex. They purposefully build products that require mass amounts of money to ‘upgrade’ when in fact, they could have planned ahead and built an easily upgradable ship / aircraft / radio / weapon system.”

One of the JSF officials agreed that the EOTS does not speak well for the Pentagon’s ability to buy new weapons.

“EOTS is a poster child for one of the ills of the acquisition process,” the official said. “Because all of the subsystems depend on each other, requirements aren’t allowed to change after the design is ‘finalized.’ It’s not a big deal, unless it takes 20 years to field the jet... then it’s a problem.”

The end result is that when the F-35 finally becomes operational after its myriad technical problems, cost overruns, and massive delays, in some ways it will be less capable than current fighters in the Pentagon’s inventory.

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

The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it.

-- Karl Marx, “Theses on Feuerbach”

Cops Threaten Blue Coup In New York City:

**“It Was Always Inevitable That The
Cops Would At Some Point
Demand That The State Dispense
With Civil Liberties Pretenses And
Allow Them To Crush The Nascent
Movement”**

**“The Cops Understand The Law, And
That The Law Is Conditional, Based
On Place, Race And Wealth, And That
In The End There Is Only Force”**

“Cops Threaten Mutiny If The State Does Not Stick Up For The Men And Women Who Do Its Dirty Work”

Most of all, they know who is nobody: the beatable, friskable, disposable, killable folks who would be prey on any other day, but have lately been allowed to repeatedly parade down the most protected streets of the richest island in the country, screaming defamations.

12/25/2014 by BAR executive editor Glen Ford, Black Agenda Report

When Police Benevolent Association chief Patrick Lynch said New York Mayor Bill de Blasio has the blood of two dead cops on his hands, he was issuing a physical threat to both the person of the mayor and the civil authority to which the police are subordinate and sworn to protect.

In a nation under the rule of law, such a statement by a representative of an armed and enflamed constabulary – 35,000-strong, the equivalent of three light infantry divisions – would trigger an immediate defensive response from the State, to guard against mutiny.

But, of course, no such thing happened.

When Lynch’s PBA declared, in a prepared statement, that “we have, for the first time in a number of years, become a ‘wartime’ police department” and “will act accordingly,” that constituted an instruction to union members to impose a martial law-type policing regime on the city – with no authorization other than the weapons they carry.

Sounds very much like a coup.

On Internet message boards, police union activists instructed the rank and file to refuse to respond to incidents unless two units were dispatched to the scene, and to double up even if given orders to the contrary.

Under this “wartime” footing, the police would simply seize the power to deploy and assign themselves, as they liked – and to hell with the chain of command and civilian authorities.

To hell, especially, with Mayor de Blasio, who now travels nowhere except under the protective custody of police commissioner Bill Bratton, a “cop’s cop” and architect of the “Broken Windows” policing strategy that begat stop-and-frisk.

Bratton translates de Blasio’s words into cop-speak, and has forged a tense truce between the uniformed legions and the man who won 95 percent of the Black vote on the promise to put a leash on the gendarmes.

There is no doubt the cops feel betrayed – a rage that has been building in synch with the growth of a nationwide movement that challenges the legitimacy of the Mass Black Incarceration State, of which they are the frontline troops, the “heroes” in the war to criminalize and contain an entire people.

The chants and placards are an insult and an indictment of THEM, and of their centrality to the racist project that has been an organizing principle of the nation for more than two generations.

How is it that cops can be compelled to “protect and serve” marchers whose purpose is anathema to the American policing mission: to beat down, lock up, and extrajudicially execute dissident, disorderly, uppity or merely inconvenient Black people?

The cops understand the law, and that the law is conditional, based on place, race and wealth, and that in the end there is only force, the use of which is their sacred monopoly.

It’s what gives them a status that union paychecks cannot buy; what makes blue collar guys and gals “somebody” in society.

Most of all, they know who is nobody: the beatable, friskable, disposable, killable folks who would be prey on any other day, but have lately been allowed to repeatedly parade down the most protected streets of the richest island in the country, screaming defamations.

“The cops’ rage has been building in synch with the growth of a nationwide movement that challenges the legitimacy of the Mass Black Incarceration State, of which they are the frontline troops.”

The cops are understandably angry and confused.

As primary enforcers of the social order, they have an intimate knowledge of actual class and race relationships in America. Their perspectives are molded by the geographic and social boundaries they patrol; they are shaped and informed by the inequalities of the system they protect on behalf of the powerful people they serve. (Yes, they really do “serve and protect” somebody.)

The cop’s worldview is also firmly anchored in the history of the United States. He may not be aware of his profession’s antecedents in the slave patrols, or even that the U.S. Supreme Court once ruled that Black people have no rights that the white man is bound to respect, but cops are the reigning experts on the borders that delineate rights and privileges in their localities.

They know that public housing residents have virtually no rights that cops – as agents of the rulers – are bound to respect.

They know that whole sections of their cities, encompassing most of the Black and brown populations, are designated as drug zones where everyone is suspect and probable cause is a given, or as high-crime zones where every shooting is pre-qualified as a good one.

These are the Constitution-free zones, full of people who get and deserve no protection by or from the police.

The very existence of Constitution-free zones means that the Bill of Rights is not the law of the land, but a Potemkin façade, a con game, a chimera – and no one knows this better than the cops, whose job is to ensure, as best they can, that everyone stays within their designated space.

For about a million Black people, the assigned “space” is prison.

The Mass Black Incarceration State is the edifice that defines the American system of justice, setting it apart from the rest of the world in size, racial selectivity, draconian sentencing and institutionalized torture (80,000 inmates in solitary confinement on any given day).

The police are the drones that feed the infernal prison machine, and keep Black America in a state of rightlessness. As Shakespeare’s mercenary warrior Othello would put it: We “have done the state some service, and they know it.”

The cops threaten mutiny if the State does not stick up for the men and women who do its dirty work.

PBA honcho Patrick Lynch denounced “those that incited violence on the street under the guise of protests that tried to tear down what New York City police officers did everyday. We tried to warn, ‘It must not go on. It cannot be tolerated.’”

To which the protesters answer: the police killings and the criminalization of a whole people must not go on and cannot be tolerated.

The movement has come to a critical juncture, a moment that would have arrived even if Ismaaiyl Brinsley had not made his own fatal decision.

It was always inevitable that the cops would at some point demand that the State dispense with civil liberties pretenses and allow them to crush the nascent movement.

New York City’s police force – by far the nation’s largest army of domestic occupation – is especially prone to mutiny and coup-plotting.

Thousands of cops, many of them drunk, stormed City Hall in 1992 to express their utter contempt for Black mayor David Dinkins.

But, the current crisis is far different, because it is the movement’s show, not the cops’. The people are exposing the most acute contradictions of American life through direct confrontation with the armed enforcers of the State.

The cops are supposed to be upset.

As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. explained, “the purpose of direct action is to create a situation so crisis-packed that it will inevitably open the door to negotiation.” The crisis is here, and will grow deeper, but freedom is non-negotiable. The movement must win or be crushed.

YOUR INVITATION:

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Vietnam GI: Reprints Available

Vietnam GI

January, 1969

Free to Servicemen

"... he threw his rifle at his Commanding Officer..."



Below is an interview with a Marine who didn't like the war and figured out why. This guy is a Platoon SGT with five years in the Green Machine, and over a year in Nam, mostly in long range recon with Charlie Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion. VGI speaks to him while he was on leave awaiting his second tour. Since he doesn't ETS until 1972 we've let out his name.

VGI: How did you feel about the war when you went over there. Did your feelings change?

A: When I first went over there, I thought it would be a great thing to get, and a great new experience of being in war. I really thought it was going to be something different. But then I got put on some of those patrols and I got to see the people and got to talk to the people. This was the big thing that finally changed me. I finally saw that it wasn't worth while, and that they actually don't want our help because it actually isn't help.

VGI: Did you have any contact with the Vietnamese, with the people?

A: There was a place called Ben Son and for a while I was stationed down at the bridge there. This is where I lived, ate, slept, drank, everything. There were houses right next to my bunker, we had an address for ours and we gave everybody else addresses. We explained to the people what the addresses were and they got all shook up about the whole thing, were they got addresses too.

VGI: What was it like, living there?

A: We lived with them, we shared our food with them. They used to really go for the little treats in the canteen packs, the gum and the cation cigarettes and everything, and in turn they'd bring back bananas. There was this one girl, her name was—I can't think of her name now—I had her picture but I lost it. This one girl, she really stood out in my mind because she used to come over and bring us beer every day and in turn, all she expected from us was the empty boxes of cations, that's all she wanted, the empty boxes. But then we started putting little things in the empty boxes and told her we wanted her to have them.

VGI: What would she want with the empty boxes?

A: I don't know, the Vietnamese people, they could take an empty can of nothing and make something out of it. She made me a soapdish which she had made out of a cation tin. She had pounded it out with a nail and a hammer. It had a little Buddha on it and I wore it all the time. I actually got to feel naked after I lost it.

Six yrs. later on, during the Tet holidays, the Viet Cong came in and burned out half of the village, and the women naturally went in panic. In order to stop them, the VC took this girl and they cut off her breasts. She was brought up to the hospital and here she died.

VGI: Did the brass give you any slack about being with the Vietnamese?

A: The incident when I almost got into trouble was, there was a convoy of about 12 to 14 trucks. I think it was. We had a whole bunch of plywood on it and we took the plywood over to a village chief in Ben Son. he was one of

the aides. We dropped off something like 14 sheets of plywood. Naturally, when we got back, there was one truckload of plywood missing, and they asked where it was. They later found out that I had given it to this village chief, not for my own good relations with him, but because there was times when we didn't get rations at our observation point, and they brought us food. So we gave them something else in return.

interview

VGI: What are some of the things you saw and did that led you into deciding in the middle of Nam not to fight anymore?

A: Well, I saw times when COL Bill Fisher, when he would tell his men to dismantle their personnel-carrying flame-throwers, take them out on a company sleep and put them back together once they got out. He went into a village and told them, "Are there any Viet Cong here?" The village chief naturally said "No" because he knew that if he said yes, he didn't know what'd happen to him. Then COL Fisher said, "Well, if there is any Viet Cong in this village, we'll show you what's going to happen." He sent one of his liaison men up to the house, he didn't check to see if there was anybody in it or not. Later we found out there was a woman in there who was real sick, she couldn't move or anything. She was burned to death. It was terrible. And seeing guys being carried in on ponies, a full grown man weighed about two pounds after he was brought in as a sack of raw flesh or something like that.

VGI: Did you see any other incidents like that?

A: There was this little village just out of Ben Son where we brought out rice and got out rice. It's not poetry, it's really true. It was just this small village, maybe 16 or 17 houses. It was a "gray to white" village, off and on there'd be Viet Cong raiding the area. No hostilities at all, they'd just go in there to be resupplied. Yet one day, they found out that VC were coming into that village and they called "Pull", "Pull" came over and leveled the whole village down. I think maybe three people lived out of the whole thing. One was a little baby about two years old whose mother and father was gone.

One of the guys sent of adopted this kid, this little two year old. He took the kid real close. When we went to R and R we brought him back toys and books and things like that. It was really something, because they don't get too many trucks over there. We'd round up a few dump trucks and stuff like that from Hong Kong. They were really surprised to see the new toys. I mean, the toys they play with, old cation cans and stuff like that are their toys. They're a starving people if you just have an opportunity to see them, to get to know them. They're really great.

VGI: How do you think they feel about us?

A: This one incident—I know of the letter one north Vietnamese who was down south wrote to his brother up north who was intent on coming down

(Continued on page 8)

WHEN HAWKS RETIRE

All of us who've had our "five" trips to Sunny Nam and South Korea shouldn't feel guilty about accepting such "gifts" from the Government. Lots of hawk politicians are taking Government trips too. Of course, their trips are a little bit different.

Take Senator Edward V. Long (D-La.), the Senate Judiciary Committee highest ranking retirement in January was speeded up by graft scandals. The good Senator decided that as a last sacrifice to his country he would give himself TDY to Europe. The reason was to "see firsthand differences in foreign aid and military assistance programs." Doubtless, that's why he took his wife along.

Of special interest was his visit to

Switzerland, which neither gets US aid nor wants any. It doesn't really make any difference, since as soon as Senator Long returned from his "fact-finding mission" he retired from the Senate, thus depriving our Congress of all his "facts" (mostly on nightclubs and ritzy hotels).

Going to and from Europe Long traveled on Senate funds, but while on TDY there, he accompanied by using US military aircraft, cars and chauffeurs to get around. The Pentagon ordered the red carpet rolled out around the world. Nothing too good for a retiring hawk politician. As the saying goes, in America we're all equal — only some are more equal than others!

As we go to press we learn that the government has finally agreed on the shape of the table and seating arrangements for the Paris talks. Now that everyone is seated and comfortable, maybe we can expect further "breakthroughs."

The grim fact is that while the government benches are being in Paris, thousands of our buddies are still dying in Nam. In fact, since they began talking last May, 1,000 GIs have been killed in action.

Talks or no talks, the only solution is to get the hell out of Nam, immediately. Stop talking and start dropping us home.

The next issue of VGI will discuss the Paris talks in greater detail. By that

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command.

The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

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