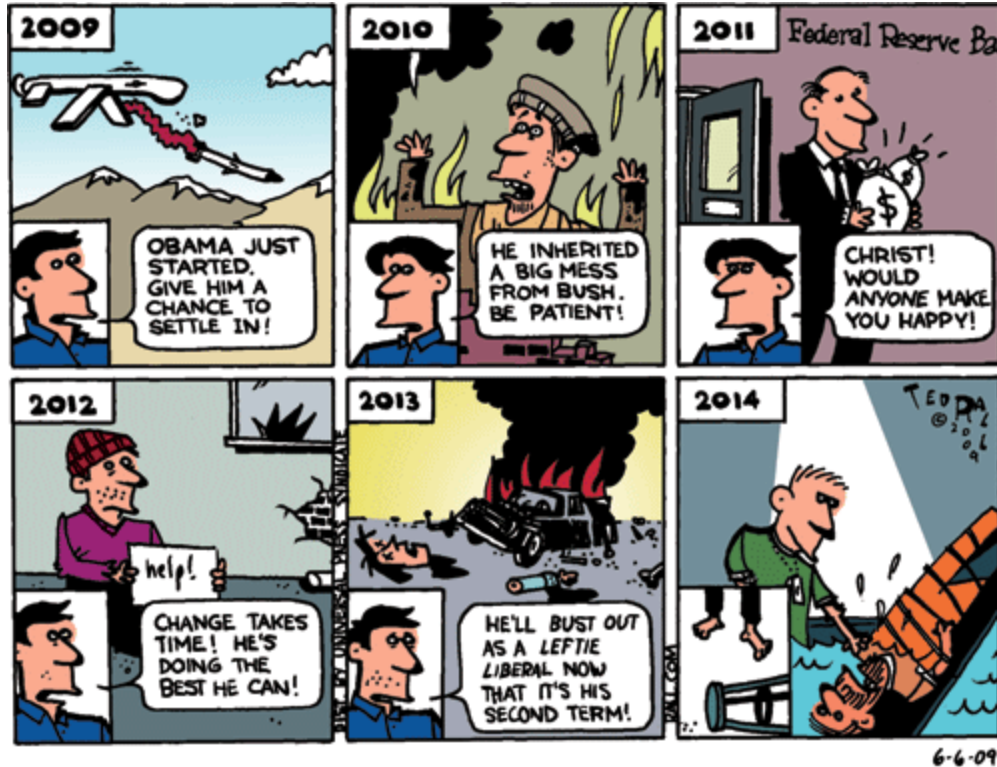


GI SPECIAL 7G6:



**Lying, Shit-Eating “Military
Officials” At It Again:
“Military Health Officials Continue
To Say There Are ‘No Known
Long-Term Health Effects’ Caused
By Open-Air Burn Pits In Iraq And
Afghanistan”**

“A Team Of Army Doctors Says A Soldier’s Cystic Lung Disease Is ‘Related To The Burn Pits In Iraq’” “After He Came Home, His Lungs Shut Down, Leaving Him Unable To Breathe”

July 6, 2009 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times

Even as military health officials continue to say there are “no known long-term health effects” caused by open-air burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan, a team of Army doctors says a soldier’s cystic lung disease is “related to the burn pits in Iraq.”

A second set of doctors, trying to determine why 56 soldiers in the 101st Airborne Division came back from Iraq short of breath, found each had bronchiolitis that could be diagnosed only with a biopsy.

That disease normally comes with organ transplantation, infection, rheumatoid arthritis or toxic fume inhalation.

Because there was no scarring on the soldiers’ lungs, doctors decided it must have been toxic inhalation and added a fifth cause of bronchiolitis to their list: “Iraq.”

Since Military Times began reporting in October about burn pits in the war zones, 400 troops have contacted Disabled American Veterans to say they have breathing problems or cancers they believe came after exposure to the burn pits.

Many say they have been diagnosed with “asthma-like” or “allergy-like” symptoms when they’ve complained of shortness of breath, but their doctors can’t come up with an exact diagnosis.

Meanwhile, annual cases of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease among service members have risen 82 percent since 2001, to 24,555 last year, while cases of all other respiratory illnesses have risen 37 percent, to 28,276, Defense Department data show.

The symptoms cited by service members are remarkably similar. But Spc. Edward Adams, 33, may be the first to have “burn pit” marked in his medical records.

Adams, who joined the Army in 2005, served at Camp Speicher in Tikrit, Iraq, from July 2006 to October 2007, where he lived downwind of a burn pit used to eliminate the base’s waste.

“At night, it was like stepping into a sewer,” he said.

“There was a giant black cloud.”

Within months of arriving, he found himself short of breath, felt tightness in his chest and had a constant cough.

By the end of his deployment, he couldn't keep up on physical training runs.

“They didn't treat me at all,” Adams said of medics at the base. “They told me it was ... dirt and sand.

I thought, ‘When I get home, it should clear up.’ But I immediately started getting worse.”

No one seemed able to diagnose his problem, and his X-ray looked clear.

Then one night after he came home, his lungs shut down, leaving him unable to breathe.

He spent six days in the hospital and was referred to the pulmonary department. A breathing test showed possible asthma, but that didn't match other tests.

His doctor, Army Col. Vincent Grbach, ordered an MRI that showed Adams' lungs were filled with hundreds of tiny black holes — cystic lesions that had spread throughout his lungs.

But unlike the ragged lesions that show up in cases of emphysema, usually in middle-aged smokers, Adams' lesions were smooth.

And there was no scar tissue to show infection.

“The doctors said ... they hadn't seen these problems until the last few years,” Adams said.

“They asked me if I was near a burn pit.”

Grbach brought up the case at a thoracic conference at Tripler Army Medical Center at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, where Adams is stationed, to find a diagnosis.

Grbach, who did not respond to e-mail requests for an interview, typed a diagnosis based on the conference in Adams' file, citing “unanimous agreement” that Adams' pulmonary disease “represents something other than asthma and is probably related to the burn pits in Iraq.”

Grbach recommended that Adams be medically retired from the military, calling his disease a “chronic lifelong condition.”

In his medical evaluation board, a second doctor determined that Adams' aorta — the body's largest blood vessel, leading out from the heart — had decreased in size by about half.

The doctor, Michael McGriff, chief physician of the MEB at Tripler, attributed that to “toxic exposure,” according to Adams’ records, because, again, Adams had no other markers for the problem and no one could figure out what caused it.

“He told me, ‘Get life insurance. We don’t know if you have one year to live or 50,’” said Adams, the father of a 6-month-old boy.

Vanderbilt University Medical Center physician Robert Miller said Adams is not the only one coming home from Iraq with breathing problems that are proving difficult to diagnose.

Miller, assistant professor of pulmonary and critical care medicine, was asked by military physicians to see if he could find out why 56 airborne soldiers back from Iraq were short of breath.

Their pulmonary function tests came back normal, and their X-rays and MRIs showed nothing out of the ordinary.

But only one had had a baseline pulmonary function test before deploying. That test checks how much air a person’s lungs can hold, usually by seeing how much he can blow out or inhale.

That soldier scored 115 percent of normal on a pre-deployment test. Post-deployment, he tested at 80 percent. By itself, 80 percent is not considered abnormal — but a 35-point drop is “a huge change,” Miller said.

Miller and his research partner, Matthew King, began asking soldiers if they had been exposed to anything in Iraq. Most had been exposed to sulfur dioxide from a sulfur mine fire in Mosul in 2003.

The others had been exposed to open burn pits.

Miller biopsied the soldiers’ lungs. In each of the 40 soldiers he tested, he found bronchiolitis, an obstruction of the lungs’ tiniest airways — including in those soldiers who had not been exposed to the sulfur mine.

The disease should have shown up on the soldiers’ X-rays, but it didn’t. Miller called that “very unusual.”

As more soldiers came in over the years, Miller ordered a lung biopsy on every one who had shortness of breath — not normal procedure for that condition.

“At first, I didn’t biopsy them,” he said. “But two of my most severe patients had chest X-rays that were completely normal.”

One, a former marathon runner who had continued to run while in Iraq, was so debilitated upon her return in 2005 that she is now on oxygen. She had not been exposed to the sulfur mine fire, even though Miller said sulfur dioxide is “the most significant toxin for this lesion.”

What else could produce sulfur dioxide?

In a memo dated Dec. 20, 2006, Air Force Lt. Col. Darrin Curtis, former bioenvironmental flight commander for Joint Base Balad, Iraq, which at one time burned 250 tons of trash a day, cited sulfur dioxide as a byproduct of the burn pit.

Miller's patients probably will have breathing problems for the rest of their lives.

He recommends the military require baseline pulmonary function tests for all active-duty service members so there is something to compare with later, if necessary.

Ultimately, Miller said, the military needs to take a serious look at its practice of long-term, open-pit burning of trash.

"I believe it's ... inhalational exposure," he said of the patients he has seen and continues to see.

"I'm concerned about what's out there."

MORE:

Marine Spouse Battles Navy Over Contamination At Naval Base In Japan:

"As Early As 1989 The Navy Knew The Toxic Plume Was A Danger To Residents On The Base"

"Neither Myself, Nor Family Had Any Indication That We Were At Risk Because We Trusted The Navy And We Trusted The Word Of Our Commanding Officer"

Jul-04-2009 By Robert O'Dowd, Salem-News [Excerpts]

Bob O'Dowd is a former U.S. Marine with thirty years of experience on the east coast as an auditor, accountant, and financial manager with the Federal government. Half of that time was spent with the Defense Logistics Agency in Philadelphia.

(ATSUGI, Japan)

Shelly Parulis, wife of a retired Marine Master Sergeant, is engaged in a running battle with the Navy over dioxin and other toxins at NAF Atsugi, Japan.

No one assigned to Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi, the home of Carrier Air Wing 5, would have suspected that duty in Japan could exposed them to toxic chemicals, including deadly dioxin, the carcinogen infamously associated with Agent Orange.

In fact, prior to the closure of Atsugi's privately owned Envirotech (formerly Shinkampo) incinerators in 2001, that is exactly what happened to military, dependents, and civilian workers stationed at NAF Atsugi during the period 1985 to 2001.

NAF Atsugi is located on Honshu, the main island of Japan.

Shelly Parulis, a spouse of a retired Marine Master Sergeant who was stationed at Atsugi from 1995 to 1998, and her family suffered the results of toxic exposure and leads the effort to obtain compensation and health benefits for Atsugi veterans, dependents ad civilian workers.

The Navy has funded a number of engineering and technical reviews on NAF Atsugi.

Four air quality studies conducted from 1989 to 1997 found chemicals in the incinerator complex's smoke and ash known or suspected by the EPA "to cause cancer and/or upper respiratory injury and disease."

Despite the risks of serious disease, the Navy continued to assign personnel and their families to NAF Atsugi while the privately owned incinerator complex spewed its smoke and ash over the base from 1985 until 2001.

The immune systems of children are especially vulnerable to toxins.

There's no evidence that limiting assignments to military only was under consideration by the Navy once the data on increased risk of cancer and upper respiratory injury and disease was known.

After making contact with hundreds of other Atsugi veterans and dependents, Parulis learned that many of them were seriously ill with diseases linked to toxic exposure.

There is currently no Navy initiative to fund compensation and/or health benefits for any Atsugi veterans and dependents. Funding for this would have to be appropriated by Congress.

In 2001, the United States Justice Department sued Envirotech, the private owner of the incinerators, in a Yokohoma court, but before any judgment was made, the Japanese bought out the company and the closed the facility by year end.

At the end of the day, the polluter walked away with \$40 million while the Japanese government “saved face” by closing the complex.

After nearly a decade, the Navy finally decided to study the environmental health effects of exposure. The findings of the Navy Marine Corps Public Health Center epidemiological study are expected to be released shortly.

The objective of the epidemiological study is to determine if the incidence of diseases associated with exposure to emissions from the Atsugi incinerators was significantly different for residents of NAF Atsugi from 1985 to 2001 when compared to a similar population at Naval Base Yokosuka over the same time period.

The U.S. Department of Justice initiated a lawsuit against the private owner and operator of the of the Atsugi’s incinerators in March 2000.

A Justice Department press release of March 27, 2000, stated that a civil lawsuit had been filed in Yokohama, Japan, against the owner and operator of a waste disposal incinerator adjacent to the Atsugi U.S. Naval Air Facility outside Tokyo.

“The suit alleges that toxic emissions from the incinerator complex, owned by Enviro-Tech (formerly Shinkampo), threaten the health and safety of the more than 8,000 American and Japanese civilian and military personnel living and working at the base.

“It further alleges that the incinerator spews high levels of dioxin, a suspected carcinogen, as well as numerous other toxic substances.”

“The suit charges that Enviro-Tech's operation interferes with the U.S. government's rights of property use and possession. It seeks immediate suspension of the company's incinerator operations in order to stop the toxic pollution.”

“The U.S. complaint cites considerable scientific and technical evidence of the existence of high levels of dioxin and other toxic substances found at the Atsugi base.

“A joint monitoring study, conducted last year under Japanese and U.S. government auspices, revealed dioxin levels as high as 90 times the current Japanese ambient air standard and pointed to Enviro-Tech's operation as the source.

“Such dioxin levels are reported to be the highest ambient air dioxin levels ever recorded in Japan.”

The Justice Department lawsuit was still ongoing when the Japanese government announced their decision to purchase the Atsugi incinerator for about \$40 million in April 2001.

The Japanese government then proceeded to dismantle and eventually closed the complex at the end of 2001.

All the evidence supports that Envirotech and its predecessor operated an incinerator complex not in compliance with sound environmental laws for years, thousands were

exposed to toxic chemicals, the United States Department of Justice filed a lawsuit in a Yokohama court to stop the toxic pollution, the Japanese government purchased the company for \$40 million, and then closed the incinerator complex the same year.

Every one is happy except for those unfortunate individuals exposed to the toxins, now seriously ill, out of work, and without health care.

The questions raised by Shelly Parulis relate not only to the legal but to the moral obligation on the part of the Navy to provide compensation and health care for Navy veterans, dependents and civilian workers injured by the toxins at NAF Atsugi.

How could toxic fumes and smoke from incinerators smoke stacks impact an entire military base? At NAF Atsugi, the geography and the relative location of the base and the incinerators couldn't have been worse.

A February 2001 news story in The Japan Times reported that: "Atsugi base sits on a plateau about 16 meters above the incinerators. The smokestacks rise a scant 23 meters.

"This means the stacks stand only 7 meters above the base's ground level.

"On both days I visited, smoke was blowing toward the base, and a 'downwash' effect was causing the smoke to billow across playing fields into base housing and schools."

As it turns out, the relative location of the incinerator complex and the base was an open invitation to toxic exposure.

In 2007, Shelly Parulis, wife of a retired Marine Master Sergeant, set-up a web site at www.atsugi-incinerator-group.com after learning that her husband was diagnosed with kidney cancer.

Parulis believes that upwards of 70,000 people were exposed to the toxic chemicals at Atsugi.

Parulis points to a quote by Captain Frank Sweigart, Commander, NAF Atsugi, in the base newspaper on October 2, 1997 as an example of the Navy's PR campaign to dismiss any possibility of exposure to toxic chemicals, Captain Frank Sweigart, Commander, NAF Atsugi, stated in the base newspaper: "Unfortunately we don't have anything in writing that says Jinkanpo is a serious health risk! All we have is a 94-95 study that shows the waste by products do not meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards. It would not be justifiable grounds for transfer".

"Neither myself, nor family had any indication that we were at risk because we trusted the Navy and we trusted the word of our commanding officer.

"We never thought our country, in which my husband faithfully served, would cut orders and assign military families, especially our children, to a place that they would be put in harms way and be exposed to deadly chemicals. As a military wife, I can attest that at times I knew my husband may have been put in harms ways for the greater good of our beloved country, however, I would have never imagined or believed that that the Navy

would knowingly put innocent children in harms way or the commanding officer of the base in which we resided would put our children at risk and mislead or tell untruths to military personnel and their families.

“The general consensus on the base was that the Navy would not put families at risks and that the SIC issue was more of a political issue because the local residents’ complaints of the noise issues that surrounded NAF Atsugi, Japan.”

Parulis claim stated that: “As a result of the Navy’s negligence, failure to warn, failure to disclose actual facts regarding levels of contamination, failure to advise of latency health effects and failure to protect military personnel and their dependents, including my family and I from NAF Atsugi toxic chemicals exposure, as documented by the Navy, my family and I have suffered an array of health problems to include kidney cancer, migraines, rectal bleeding, irritable bowel syndrome, depression, Supraventricular Tachycardia, spindle cell tumors, hair loss, skin disorders and other health issues and we are currently under medical evaluation for Thyroid Nodules, and other illnesses confirmed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), to occur from toxic chemical exposure.”

Parulis now looks to “Congress to investigate and provide health care, and compensation to those exposed just like they did they did for Agent Orange and 911 victims. Because this didn't happen in the United States, but in Japan, I have had a hard time getting a representative to champion this issue.”

While Jinkampo incinerators are now closed, no action has been taken by the Navy to notify those who served on the base and now suffer the health effects of exposure.

Parulis noted that “dependents and Japanese and American civilian workers are now seriously ill, can’t work and many are without health care.”

According to Parulis, “While we faithfully served our country, military dependents, were exposed to high levels of Dioxin, Heavy Metals, PCBs, VOC and more toxic chemicals that exceeded Maximum Contaminant Levels. The Navy knew they were putting families at risk by stationing them at NAF Atsugi, Japan. Military personnel and dependents deserve the truth and medical care.”

As early as 1989 the Navy knew the toxic plume was a danger to residents on the base since York Research Consultants, a Navy contractor, recommended, “when the plumes come over the base keep all personnel indoors and send as many people off base as possible. Keep all pregnant women off of the base.”

Parulis said she had to fight to get the Navy to approve full health screenings for her husband, their two children and herself. She wants others who have lived at Atsugi to be aware of the potential link to health problems from exposure to contaminants at Atsugi.

Parulis has received hundreds of emails from former sailors and Marines on the health problems experienced by their families after duty at Atsugi. These serious illnesses include kidney disease, cancer, neurological problems, and intestinal problems, miscarriages and birth defects.

Normally, you expect the Navy to take the lead in contacting former residents of Atsugi to make them aware of the health effects of exposure to the contaminants on the base. However, this has not been the case. Parulis said she personally contacted approximately 350 former Atsugi residents. Out of the 350, 57 have cancer; several have died, including children.

In an email to me, Parulis included a list of other former NAF Atsugi dependents seriously ill. These included:

* At least two children have died of AML Leukemia after spending a tour of duty NAF Atsugi.

* A son was born with birth defects, his mother was pregnant while at Atsugi. He now has varicocele of the testes and is sub-fertile.

* Six former residents have been diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

* Three residents were diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. One was a young man, age 31.

* Three children have died of brain cancer.

Parulis now looks to "Congress to investigate and provide health care, and compensation to those exposed just like they did they did for Agent Orange and 911 victims.

"Because this didn't happen in the United States, but in Japan, I have had a hard time getting a representative to champion this issue."

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 917.677.8057

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

“U.S.-Style Hallmark Hype”

“Five Years Ago, Almost To The Day, L. Paul Bremer ‘Handed Over Sovereignty’ To The Iraqi Government”

June 30, 2009 by Jeremy Scahill, Rebel Reports [Excerpts]

As the airwaves and internet are flooded with reports of this new Iraqi sovereignty and U.S. withdrawal, it is important to remember a bit of history.

Five years ago-almost to the day- President Bush put on an almost identical show. His proconsul L. Paul Bremer “handed over sovereignty” to the Iraqi government just before he skulked out of Baghdad on a secret flight (right after he issued an order banning Iraq from prosecuting contractors).

Despite the pronouncements and proclamations and media hype, the occupation continued and real sovereignty was non-existent.

It is very doubtful that-decades from now-Iraqis will tell their grandchildren about where they were on June 30, 2009, “National Sovereignty Day.”

At the end of the day, this is U.S.-style Hallmark hype and will remain so until every last occupation soldier leaves Iraqi soil.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two UK Soldiers Killed Near Gereshk; Silly General Says Killing Occupation Troops Means “The Insurgents Are Desperate”

5 July 2009 BBC

Two British soldiers have been killed in separate attacks in Afghanistan, the Ministry of Defence has said.

A soldier from 2nd Battalion The Mercian Regiment was killed by a rocket-propelled grenade, the MoD said.

A soldier from The Light Dragoons was killed in an explosion. Both families have been informed about the attacks, which happened on Saturday.

The latest attacks took place during an operation near Gereshk, in central Helmand, on Saturday night, the MoD said.

The soldier from The Light Dragoons died after an improvised explosive device (IED) was detonated.

Brig Gen Tremblay added: "The insurgents are desperate and they are employing desperate tactics."

Plantersville Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



June 23, 2009 By Leesha Faulkner, Selma Times-Journal

Everybody knew him as "Mojo." But officially, he was known as U.S. Army Sgt. Ricky Dewayne Jones.

Jones, 26, died Sunday after a rocket attack at Bagram, a U.S. base in Afghanistan about 25 miles northeast of Kabul. Another soldier died in the attack and six Americans — four military and two civilians — were wounded.

"I don't know how he got the name Mojo," said his mother, Shelia McCrary. "I was young when I had him. His grandmother and grandfather must have given him that name. Maybe because he moved so fast."

And Jones was known at Dallas County High School for his speed. He was a running back on the varsity football team. No. 3.

“He was the best No. 3,” his mother said.

McCrary said military officials notified her of Jones' death Sunday. He died instantly when a rocket hit his living quarters at the air base. He was assigned to the 1st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Fort Polk, La. The brigade organized at Fort Polk in 2007, the first of its kind in the regular Army.

Jones had come home in March on a two-week leave to help his mother as she recovered from hip surgery. He was fine, but knew he had to return to his duty station.

While he was home, he visited his father, Willie Tyus. “He was feeling good,” Tyus said. “He told me he loved it.”

Jones enlisted in the military shortly after graduating from Dallas County High School in 2001, his father said.

On Friday night, McCrary talked to her son for what would be the last time. He called about 9:30 p.m. local time.

“He was feeling fine,” Jones' mother said. “His son's birthday was coming up and he said he was sending something.”

Jones has three children — two 4-year-olds and a 2-year-old.

Two weeks prior in a telephone conversation with his mother, Jones told her about some bombing in the area.

“He said about 15 were killed over there,” McCrary said.

Jones' body arrived in Delaware about 11 a.m. Monday. His remains will be shipped to Alabama in about three days, his mother said.

Georgia Marine Killed In Afghanistan

July 4, 2009 ROME, Ga. (AP)

The uncle of a Marine from northwest Georgia who was killed in Afghanistan joined the military when he was 17 and previously had been in Iraq.

Lance Cpl. Seth Sharp of Adairsville was killed Thursday, just six weeks after arriving in Afghanistan, Shane Rogers told the Rome News-Tribune.

Rogers says the 20-year-old Sharp played football at Adairsville High School but left high school early to join the Marines.

He is survived by his mother, Angie Sharp, and his father and stepmother, Rick and Tiffany Sharp.

Sharp was killed during Operation Strike of the Sword, the latest push by the United States Marine Corps taking on the Taliban. He was serving in Company E of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines.

70 Years Ago: “Then As Now, The Pashtuns ‘Mined And Booby Trapped The Roads With Dud Shells And Stolen Grenades’” “An Elusive And Mobile Enemy.., (Who) Tried To Avoid Battle, And Instead Fight Us With Pinpricking Hit-And-Run Tactics”

July 4, 2009 By HDS Greenway, GlobalPost [Excerpts]

BOSTON — Napoleon recommended that every private soldier carry a marshal’s baton in his knapsack, to inspire leadership qualities.

U.S. Marines pouring into Afghanistan’s Helmand Province would be advised to carry a copy of a slim book called “Bugles and a Tiger,” the memoirs of a soldier-turned-author about campaigning against Pashtuns on the Northwest Frontier 70 years ago.

Before he turned his hand to writing novels, John Masters was a British officer fighting wily and resourceful tribesmen — the grandfathers and great-grandfathers of today’s Taliban. I have quoted Masters before in this space for his insights on the enemies America faces in those same barren hills.

Before Islam, Pashtuns had been resisting foreigners since Alexander of Macedon crossed the Kabul River in 327 B.C.

When they could, the British recruited Pashtuns to fight other Pashtuns.

They could cover “enormous distances at high speed on foot,” Masters wrote. “Each man carried 30 or 40 rounds of ammunition, a water bottle, a bag of raisins, a few disks of unleavened bread, and a lump or two of course sugar ... loping ceaselessly on at five miles an hour” for 20 or 35 miles at a time.

Today’s Talibs may prefer to travel in pickup trucks or on motor bikes, but their endurance and speed on foot has not diminished, and they travel just as lightly, except that today they carry more ammunition.

“The core of our problem,” Masters wrote, “was to force battle on an elusive and mobile enemy.., (who) tried to avoid battle, and instead fight us with pinpricking hit-and-run tactics.”

When the Pashtun “tried to defend something, whether a gun or a village, we trapped him and pulverized him.

“When he flitted and sniped, rushed and ran away, we felt as if we were using a crowbar to swat wasps.”

British troops were frustrated, “robbed of a soldier’s greatest weapon — aggression.”

For they knew that “there would be no tranquility among these proud and fierce people, however quickly we forced them into mere surrender, if we fought our campaign on unnecessarily ruthless lines.

“In normal warfare armies bomb cities and destroy the enemy food supply without compunction, but we had to be careful not to harm women and children if we could help it, and we could not shoot on suspicion, only on certainty, and we could not damage fruit trees or destroy water channels.”

After nearly eight years of war in Afghanistan, Americans are still wrestling with these problems — especially given our dependence on airpower, which is considerably more than it was in the 1930s.

Outside certain proscribed areas, the British troops were forbidden to “take any action at all until shot at. Inside it we might not fire at any band of less than ten men unless they were (a) armed and (b) off the path. These were dangerous conditions in a country where arms can be concealed close to flowing clothes, and where paths are tracks invisible from a hundred yards.”

Then as now, the Pashtuns “mined and booby trapped the roads with dud shells and stolen grenades.”

The Pashtuns have always been masters of terrain.

I can remember, during the war against the Russians, tribesmen showing me how they could throw their blankets over themselves at a moment’s notice to appear invisible from helicopters overhead. They would clench their fists lest their fingernails reflect light and be noticed.

In the end, the Pashtuns, no matter on which side of the Afghan border they fought, have never really been subdued or pacified.

The Edinburgh Review of 1844, upon the capture of the Sind in what is now Pakistan, said that the British wanted to secure an empire “more secure than Ceasar’s,” but that they had stored up so much hatred that the tribesmen would unite “just to get rid of us.”

As Piers Brendon wrote in his “Decline and Fall of the British Empire,” the “dialectical process often, though not invariably, repeated throughout imperial

history” (was) that any setback at the hands of “natives” would cause a belligerent response “which in turn sowed the seeds of further discord and ultimate alienation.”

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

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

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED
THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

**FUCK THIS:
ALL HOME, NOW**



U.S. Army soldiers from the 7th Cavalry, Fort Hood, Texas before departing on a patrol at an American base on the outskirts of Baghdad, Iraq, June 28, 2009. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

TROOP NEWS

National Guard Members “Coming Home To Face A New Enemy” “They Pretty Much Said There’s Nothing To Come Back To, Better Start Looking For Another Job” “25% Of The Company Have No Work Awaiting Them, Including Many Whose Jobs Vanished While They Were Heeding Their Nation’s Call”

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

July 3, 2009 By Mike Bruner, MSNBC [Excerpts]

EDINBURGH, Ind.— The return of the Elkhart-based Indiana National Guard’s 1538th Transportation Company from Iraq this week was a joyous occasion. About 400 friends and family members lustily cheered and applauded the unit’s 182 citizen-soldiers as they marched in formation into a hangar at Stout Field in Indianapolis.

The gathering might have been even more boisterous were it not for the realization that these Guardsmen are coming home to face a new enemy — a swooning economy that has landed like a KO’d heavyweight on the canvas of their home towns.

The 1538th sustained no casualties during its almost 10 months in Iraq ferrying supplies and providing security for U.S. military convoys, perhaps in part by obeying its unofficial motto, “Drive it like you stole it.”

But the same can’t be said for the jobs its members left behind.

Forty-six soldiers — fully 25 percent of the company — have no work awaiting them, including many whose jobs vanished while they were heeding their nation’s call.

“They pretty much said there’s nothing to come back to, better start looking for another job,” said Pfc. Jonathan Maher, 20, of the Elkhart County community of Bristol, recalling the letter he received from his employer, Keystone RV, shortly after Christmas.

With one foot in the military and one in the civilian world, National Guard and Reserve soldiers typically are more susceptible than members of the active duty services to economic downturns. While they serve, their civilian jobs are protected by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), but that is no help when layoffs occur, unless discrimination can be demonstrated.

That's a point being driven home for many members of the 1538th. It draws most of its members from Elkhart County and other areas of northern Indiana that have some of the highest unemployment rates in the U.S. following the collapse of the RV industry and other key manufacturing sectors.

Elkhart-Goshen's unemployment rate was 17.5 percent in May, an increase of 11.4 percentage points from a year earlier.

Maher, who had saved enough money to buy a house after 2-½ years in Keystone's receiving department, had to back out on a pending offer after learning he had been let go. Now he's going to move back in with his mom and stepdad.

“They had told us when we left that we had nothing to worry about,” he said matter of factly. “I was shocked at first, but I just figured I'd go deal with it and figure something else out.”

Maher appears to be one of the lucky ones, having lined up a new job welding UMP dirt racecars for a South Bend company, thanks to the recommendation of a fellow mechanic he served with in Iraq.

But many others are expecting to hit the bricks as soon as they get home this weekend after demobilization at Camp Atterbury, a sprawling training camp about 40 miles south of Indianapolis.

Sgt. Russell See of Elkhart said he found out in April that his job as a welder at Valmont Industries had vanished, a development that was communicated via an e-mail from the human resources department.

“It kind of floored me at first,” said the 41-year-old See, who worked in a unit building steel light poles which the company eliminated. “You're feeling comfortable and cushy with a steady paycheck from the government and suddenly you've got to look at how you're going to keep your head above water.”

The resumés that See has dispatched in advance of his return have yielded no offers. He has some savings, some accrued leave and will be eligible for unemployment benefits.

But with a new house purchased for \$65,000 just days before he was laid off, he figures he has only eight months or so to either find a job or consider what is now almost unthinkable — signing up for a third tour of duty in Iraq or Afghanistan.

“I'll have to do something, but it really starts hitting you more the older you get,” he said of the stresses of a combat mission.

Returning soldiers interviewed by msnbc.com at Camp Atterbury said they were generally aware of the economic mayhem unfolding at home while serving in Iraq, but found it difficult to follow the story from afar.

Spec. Joseph Dilts of Fulton County commuted to a job as a plastics handler for Plastics Solutions Inc., in South Bend, before being laid off a month ago.

The 37-year-old said he learned that his job was gone after receiving an urgent phone call from his wife telling him to call work. When he did, he found out that his entire section had been eliminated.

Dilts said he had become concerned when he saw televised reports in Iraq about the stock market's steep decline and the horrific sales and earnings posted by the auto industry.

Still, he said, it was shocking to hear about the layoff because it was difficult to piece together the story when he was only able to catch snatches of newscasts.

"I saw President Obama go to Elkhart," he said. "I didn't really understand why he was going, but then I heard about the RV industry."

Dilts said he is looking to take advantage of programs the Guard offers to assist returning soldiers and is considering returning to school. Asked what sorts of jobs he would look for in the near term, he said he would likely draw on his military experience and look for work in transportation or security.

Spec. Heather Smiechowski, 25, of South Bend said she is concerned about her ability to land a good civilian sector job because she sometimes needs to take time off on short notice to care for her autistic daughter, the youngest of her three children.

She said she has a little breathing room, after saving everything she could from her pay while in Iraq while sending back money to her grandfather to help pay for her children's care while she was gone.

"I'm going to take some time off and spend it with the kids ... and then I'm going to hopefully get a decent job to where I could support the three of them and myself, and hopefully still have the leeway to get the care my daughter needs," she said.

"But my confidence really isn't too high," she said of her job prospects. "I understand when people need someone to be there ... and they've got this person who can't because they have to do the things that I have to do. I mean I understand, but it doesn't mean that I'm going to stop fighting."

Retired British Officer Says Army Rife With "Toxic Leadership And Full Of Opportunists"

“In June A Serving Officer, Major SN Miller, Labelled Afghanistan An ‘Unmitigated Disaster’”

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

July 01, 2009 PSCA International Ltd

The Army is rife with “toxic leadership” and full of opportunists, a retired officer has said in a scathing attack on the service.

In “Lessons Unlearned: a former officer's perspective on the British Army at war”, appearing in the newest RUSI Journal, retired major Patrick Little said that badly needed reforms and changes in the British Army had been negated by a “conformist culture” and a “long term state of denial.”

Little, who served 16 years in the Army including in Afghanistan, retired last year.

In his article he pointed out that the US Army went through a period of candid-self criticism after well noted failings in Iraq. This has led to a dramatic transformation of the way in which it operates. The same must now occur in the British Army.

Commanders are “hiding behind tradition” where constructive dissent is ignored.

As a result, 'there seems to be a feeling amongst middle tier officers that they are not listened to, are largely expendable and that their own hierarchy does not adequately reflect their concerns...

“Unable to accept being submerged, their views diluted or just unheard, many of the more talented officers will probably have been long lost to the armed forces altogether through departure to less stratified civilian employment,” Little warns.

Middle tier officers with operational experience were “threatened” for their dealings with the media by senior officers with less experience in combat, Little said.

The refusal to accept dissent has paralysed the Army, allowing “systemic shortcomings” to be ignored.

In his harshest attacks however, Little claimed that many officers were more concerned about advancing their careers than trying to install major reforms.

Little believes that the Army must “turn a critical mirror on itself” in order to make sweeping changes to the way in which it operates and functions.

This is the second notable attack on the Army in less than a month.

In June a serving officer, Major SN Miller, labelled Afghanistan an “unmitigated disaster” and said that the government had “sleepwalked” into the country in 2006.

Russian Army Officer Blown Up By His Yard Fence

July 6, 2009 Army Times

A Russian army officer who decided to mend a fence around his yard using scrap iron he collected from his base got a big surprise when he tried to weld the pieces together.

The “fence poles” found by the officer turned out to be live rocket shells that exploded when he turned his welding torch on them, according to the Interfax news agency. The officer — clearly not an artilleryman — was badly wounded.

Police are trying to determine how the missiles, thought to have been stored in a munitions bunker, were mistaken for scrap. The weapons may have been scattered during a 2001 bunker explosion, the news agency said.

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



The remains of Sgt. Raul Moncada, at Dover Air Force Base, Del. April 15, 2009. Moncada, 29, of Madera, Calif., died April 13 near Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an explosive device detonated near his vehicle. (AP Photo/Rob Carr)

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

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

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

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

General Strike by Christopher Hutchinson

7/02/09

"The U.S. military launched a major operation in southern Afghanistan, an early test of the Obama administration's new strategy... The administration has also signed off on the deployments of 21,000 American reinforcements, which will push U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan to 68,000 -- their highest point since 2001 -- by year end."

-Yochi J. Dreazen Wall Street Journal

James Bond Where Are You When We Need You? Wife Of Newly Appointed Head Of British Secret Intelligence Agency Reveals All; She Posts His Address And Photos Of “C” In His Swimming Suit On Facebook; An “Intriguing” Parrot Ornament Also Makes An Appearance

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

5 July 2009 Sam Jones and Richard Norton-Taylor, Guardian News and Media Limited

It was just the usual sort of stuff that gets posted on Facebook: embarrassing family photographs, humdrum details of home life and a few congratulatory messages from relatives and friends on that promotion to the top job.

Nothing to get excited about – unless the top job in question happens to be as the director of Britain's secret intelligence agency, MI6.

And the man pictured in the questionable swimwear happens to be the next C himself.

Sir John Sawers, who takes up the post in November, found himself at the centre of the embarrassing security row after it was revealed that his wife, Shelley, had posted the sort of information that MI6 operatives are supposed to keep under wraps on her Facebook page. As well as the photos, she had posted details about their children and the location of the flat the couple use in London.

She had not taken advantage of Facebook's privacy settings, so all the information was available to any of the 200 million users in the open-access London network, as well as being searchable on Google.

In the past year, Shelley Sawers has posted on topics from family parties and holidays to the health of their pets.

On 16 June, the day Sawers's appointment was announced, she posted 19 pictures of the couple on holiday in the West Country. Her Facebook friends also used the account to send messages to her husband about his new job.

One relative wrote: "Congrats on the new job, already dubbed Sir Uncle 'C' by nephews in the know!"

Stripy trunks and thespian friends - what Lady Shelley Sawers' Facebook page revealed:

Sir John wears stripy blue swimming trunks and is apparently partial to a game of beach frisbee

Lady Sawers and her daughter, Corinne, are big fans of the Bob Fosse-directed 1972 film Cabaret.

One of the pictures posted on the Facebook shows mother and daughter apparently imagining themselves in Weimar Germany and balancing on two golden chairs just like Liza Minnelli when she played Sally Bowles.

It also reveals an intriguing and extremely colourful parrot ornament perched on a table.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



Workers Threat To Occupy Illinois Factory Wins

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: Good for them!]

July 2, 2009 By Mike Elk, AlterNet [Excerpts]

This week, workers at Hartmarx Factory [Moline, Illinois] won a major victory against Wells Fargo, as Wells Fargo agreed to keep their factory open. The story of the Hartmarx workers had drawn national attention as they threatened to occupy their factory if Wells Fargo closed it. Their victory yesterday represents a major triumph in the growing trend of factory sit ins that started last December when workers, members of United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers (UE) occupied the Republic Windows and Doors factory in Chicago

Last January, Hartmarx, the maker of men's apparel and an employer of nearly 4,000 people, filed for bankruptcy after Wells Fargo refused to extend them a line of credit. Wells Fargo then pushed for the company to be liquidated in order to increase their short term profits.

They favored liquidating the factory and laying off the 4,000 workers despite the fact that there were proposals by several groups to purchase the company and keep it running.

The workers, members of SEIU, refused to accept the bank's ruling and decided to do something about it. The workers said they were inspired after having gone to see a speaking tour of members of who had occupied Republic Windows and Doors in Chicago. They then decided that perhaps they should consider threatening to occupy their plant in order to force the bank to keep it open.

The workers then voted to sit-in to occupy that plant if Wells Fargo decided to liquidate it and drew national media attention to their story.

As a result of the worker's resolve to fight the company, they received a large degree of political and community support. Over 43 members of Congress signed a letter calling on Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner to investigate Wells Fargo's use of bailout money. Congressman Phil Hare, a former worker at Hartmarx, promised to be Wells Fargo's "worst nightmare" if they closed the plant. Finally, State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias brought Wells Fargo to their knees when he threatened to cut off \$8 billion dollars worth of business that the state does with Wells Fargo if they closed the plant

As a result of the union members' activism, community pressure and politicians' threat to take action against Wells Fargo, the union was able to force the bank to accept a bid from another company to keep the plant open.

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

10,000 In Karachi March Against Obama Military Attacks On Pakistan: “No To American Slavery” “The Protesters Also Accused US President Barack Obama Of Pursuing The Same Policies Of His Predecessor”



10,000 Pakistanis hold rallies against US government in port city of Karachi.

[Thanks to Ward Reilly, Veterans For Peace.]

June 29, 2009 By PressTV

About 10,000 participants in Karachi, Pakistan, holding party flags, banners and placards, chanted anti US government slogans and demanded the government put a stop to Washington's policies on Sunday.

Member of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), a religious political party, also burnt American flags.

The protesters also accused US president Barack Obama of pursuing the same policies of his predecessor in the volatile region.

The demonstrators chanted slogans like "Leave America, Leave!" and "Down with the US," while holding banners which read "No to American Slavery," a Press TV correspondent reported.

Addressing the rally, JI chief Munawar Hassan held US responsible for political and economic instabilities in Pakistan.

While condemning the US drone attacks in Pakistani tribal region, protesters held President Obama responsible for the killing of what they believe "innocent people".

Washington says the drone attacks are aimed at suspected militants, but Pakistani media say only one-sixth of US missiles actually hit militant hideouts.

Hundreds of Pakistani civilians have lost their lives in such attacks, which started under the Bush administration.

Islamabad has repeatedly condemned the US raids, demanding an immediate end to the imprecise drone attacks.

RECEIVED

WEST POINT FIRST AMENDMENT TRIAL ASKS FOR BIG SHOW OF SUPPORT

**JURY TRIAL AGAINST WEST POINT OFFICIALS SET FOR MON.
JULY 13 IN FIRST AMENDMENT SUIT BY WESTCHESTER
PROTESTERS**

PLEASE ATTEND AT WHITE PLAINS FEDERAL COURTHOUSE

July 02, 2009 Nick Mottern

Federal Court Judge Stephen Robinson affirmed yesterday (July 1, 2009) that a jury trial in a suit against West Point officials for violating the First Amendment rights of eight protesters from Westchester County, NY, will proceed at 9 am, Monday, July 13, 2009 at the Federal Courthouse, at 300 Quarropas Street in White Plains, NY.

Judge Robinson yesterday denied last minute motions by Justice Department lawyers that could have killed the suit or delayed the trial.

The protesters are seeking a judgment against West Point for forcing them to end an “Out of Iraq” messaging at the annual Army-Navy basketball game at West Point in February, 2004 and for preventing them for entering West Point for five years.

Those bringing the suit are: Valerie Courreges, Sandra Dolman, Gayle Dunkelberger, Margaret Eberle, David Finucane, Kwame Madden, Nick Mottern and Frank Smith. Their attorney is Michael Sussman.

**WE NEED A BIG SHOW OF SUPPORT TO WIN THIS VERY IMPORTANT
DEFENSE OF OUR RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH**



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<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2008/index.html>; news@uruknet.info;

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

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