“I’m Sick Of This Shit! Guys Are Getting Killed Every Week”

“The First Stryker Had Hit A Massive IED”

“I Got, I Got, Seven KIA And An Afghan Interpreter KIA!’ A Broken Voice Came Across The Radio”
“Their Bodies, Ripped Apart In The Blast, Lay Scattered Around The Wreckage”
The Stryker Brigade Deployed In July. The Brigade Has Lost More Than 30 Soldiers. More Than 40 Have Been Wounded

The Stryker armoured vehicle along a dried out riverbed near Chahar Bagh village, on the outskirts of Kandahar City October 27, 2009 where seven U.S. soldiers from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion 17th Infantry Regiment, Stryker Brigade and their Afghan interpreter were killed when an IED that was buried underground blew up under the Stryker. REUTERS/Reuters TV

30 Oct 2009 By Jonathon Burch, Reuters. [Excerpts] (Editing by Jerry Norton and Dean Yates)

CHAHAR BAGH, Afghanistan

The mission was simple.

Some 20 U.S. soldiers were to patrol a riverbed in the dead of night, camp until morning, and provide backup to Afghan troops and their Canadian mentors in a
clearing operation in Chahar Bagh village, an insurgent hotbed on the outskirts of Kandahar City.

Less than 12 hours later, seven of the soldiers and their Afghan interpreter would be dead, killed by a massive homemade bomb buried deep under pebbles along the dried-out riverbed.

The attack illustrates how a more aggressive U.S. military strategy of going into Taliban strongholds risks mounting casualties as President Barack Obama weighs whether to send thousands more troops to Afghanistan.

The initial operation this week passed without incident. Around 200 Afghan soldiers and their Canadian trainers pushed through the village of mud houses surrounded by lush pomegranate orchards. A handful of men were arrested for later questioning.

The U.S. soldiers were not needed.

“What are you going to write about? This is some boring ass mission,” one 1st Platoon soldier joked with a reporter as the sun rose behind a cragged mountain towering over the village.

The soldiers -- small groups from three platoons of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion 17th Infantry Regiment Stryker Brigade -- had pushed out from their base at around midnight. Not far from Chahar Bagh village, they dismounted from their armoured Stryker vehicles and continued on foot.

Setting up in the riverbed alongside the village, the soldiers kept watch and waited. As the sun rose across the river valley, they jibed with each other and talked about life back home.

By mid-morning, the operation was over. Three Stryker vehicles rumbled towards 2nd Platoon men waiting further down the riverbed to bring them back to base.

As the vehicles returned with the soldiers on board, a huge explosion sent rocks and sand flying high into the air.

The first Stryker had hit a massive IED or improvised explosive device, flipping the 20 ton vehicle onto its side.

The thick armoured plate beneath the Stryker had been blown straight through the floor and the roof. Pieces of metal and debris lay strewn around the wreckage.

Minutes earlier, 1st Platoon soldiers had set off on foot, passing right over the site of the bomb, to meet their own waiting vehicles. As they mounted their Strykers, less than 400 metres (yards) away, the explosion tore through the air.

“Oh shit! Get in! Get in!” yelled 1st Platoon Sergeant First Class Kelekolio Paresa to his soldiers and accompanying reporters as the men scrambled into the vehicles.

“I got, I got, seven KIA (killed in action) and an Afghan interpreter KIA!” a broken voice came across the radio.
“Shit, we gotta go back and help!” shouted Paresa. The 1st Platoon Strykers turned around and raced back. As they reached the scene, gunfire broke out. Insurgents, laying in wait, were firing at the Strykers from orchards next to the village.

Seconds later, the deafening sound of gunfire burst through the air as the Strykers returned fire. Empty shell casings rained down inside the vehicle, bouncing off the floor.

“Open the ramp!” shouted Paresa. Soldiers poured out of the Stryker, firing a hail of bullets and grenades towards the oncoming gunfire.

Two Kiowa attack helicopters circling above fired rockets into the orchards.

The insurgents stopped firing. “Cease fire!” shouted Paresa.

“I need seven litters (stretchers)!” yelled a soldier near the overturned Stryker.

It had carried nine men.

Seven soldiers and their Afghan interpreter were killed instantly. Their bodies, ripped apart in the blast, lay scattered around the wreckage. The soldiers lifted the dead onto stretchers to be picked up by a helicopter. Only the driver survived.

“Thank God we were on foot. We walked right over that IED. Twice! That triggerman was waiting for the Stryker,” said Paresa later.

The men from 1st Platoon had walked across the site of the bomb and had camped no more than 50 metres away.

A command wire, used to activate the bomb, was traced some 100 metres away behind a low stone wall. An insurgent had most likely been behind the wall, waiting for a Stryker to pass full of soldiers before he detonated the bomb, the soldiers said.

They estimated the size of bomb at 600-900 kg (1,300-2,000 pounds).

It was the largest IED any of the soldiers had ever experienced, in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The Stryker Brigade deployed to Afghanistan in July as part of a troop drive ordered by Obama to quell a strengthening insurgency. For the past few months, the Strykers have been trying to clear insurgents from villages they say are used as staging posts for attacks inside Kandahar City.

The militants, preempting the soldiers’ arrival, have laid dozens of bombs in their path. The Strykers have suffered a high rate of casualties.

In all, the Brigade has lost more than 30 soldiers, 20 of those from 1st Battalion and 10 of those from Charlie Company. More than 40 have been wounded. IEDs, the Taliban’s weapon of choice, have killed nearly 240 foreign soldiers this year alone.

“That was my best friend. We were together for two years. I just waved to him,” said Specialist Nicholas Saucier, speaking about one of the dead.
“I’m sick of this shit! Guys are getting killed every week,” he said, tears welling up as he looked back at the wreckage.

Soldiers at the site where a Stryker armoured vehicle blew up along a dried out riverbed near Chahar Bagh village, on the outskirts of Kandahar City October 27, 2009. Seven U.S. soldiers from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion 17th Infantry Regiment, Stryker Brigade and their Afghan interpreter were killed. REUTERS/Reuters TV

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Convoy Attacked; Casualties Not Announced

Oct 31 (KUNA)

A police source said that an explosive targeted a US military convoy in Zafraniya area south of Baghdad, adding that the US forces had set a security barrier over the area of the incident.

Resistance Action
In central Mosul, 350 kilometres (220 miles) north of the capital, a soldier was killed when a roadside bomb targeting an army patrol blew up, said a police officer.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol and wounded a soldier in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded a policeman guarding a state-run flour mill in northern Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb blew up an oil tanker, killing the driver and his assistant, on Tuesday near Tikrit, 150 km (95 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Oct 30 (Reuters)

Guerrillas opened fire on an Iraqi checkpoint killing three policemen and wounding an officer in western Mosul on Thursday, police said.

A senior police officer on a team investigating two high-profile blasts was found shot dead in his office, police said.

Oct 31 (Reuters)

A bomb attached to a car killed an employee of the Justice Ministry and wounded three people in south Baghdad’s Saidiya district on Friday, police said.

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**AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

**More Than 1,000 U.S. Troops Wounded Over Past Three Months In Afghanistan:**

**Total U.S. Combat Injuries Rise Sharply:**
IEDs “Are So Powerful That They Can Take Out The Latest Mine-Resistant Vehicles The Pentagon Has”
“I Immediately Reached Down -- Up, Really, Since I Was Upside Down -- For My Legs. I Could Tell They Were Gone”

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

October 31, 2009 By Ann Scott Tyson, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

More than 1,000 American troops have been wounded in battle over the past three months in Afghanistan, accounting for one-fourth of those injured in combat since the U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

The dramatic increase in amputees and other seriously injured service members comes as October marks the deadliest month for U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

U.S. troops in Afghanistan are suffering wounds at a higher rate than those who were serving in Iraq when violence spiraled during the military “surge” two years ago.

In mid-2007, 600 U.S. troops were wounded in Iraq each month out of about 150,000 troops deployed there. In Afghanistan, about 68,000 troops are currently installed, with about 350 wounded each month recently.

More than 1,000 improvised explosive devices, or roadside bombs, exploded or were found in Afghanistan in August, more than double any monthly total until this summer.

The bombs account for 70 to 80 percent of U.S. and coalition casualties in that country, according to Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Metz, director of the Pentagon’s Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization.

Metz told military reporters this week that IEDs are now the “weapon of choice” for Taliban fighters. The bombs are so powerful, he said, that they can take out the latest mine-resistant vehicles the Pentagon has employed to protect troops.

Walter Reed’s Ward 57 provides wrenching proof of the devastating effectiveness of the bombs, with patients suffering amputations, spinal cord damage, traumatic brain injuries and fractures.

On Aug. 18, Lt. Dan Berschinski, 25, of Peach Tree City, Ga., was serving as a platoon leader with the Stryker brigade combat team in Kandahar province, where the roads were laced with bombs and his unit had to operate without engineer support or mine-detection equipment.
His platoon was crossing a footbridge when a bomb threw Berschinski to the ground, deafened a sergeant and blew up Pfc. Jonathan Yanney, a radio operator.

An initial search located part of Yanney's shredded helmet, pieces of a boot and some small body parts that Berschinski said team members put in a plastic bag.

Realizing that not only the roads but also the foot trails were too dangerous, Berschinski and his men moved on by walking through shin-high water. Regrouping in a mud-walled compound later that day, Berschinski was passing a gate when another bomb blew up underneath him, bouncing him off a wall and tossing him back into the crater that had formed.

"I immediately reached down -- up, really, since I was upside down -- for my legs. I could tell they were gone," Berschinski said in a written account provided by his family. His right leg and hip and his left leg above the knee were amputated. According to Metz, few soldiers have survived stepping on such bombs.

"The ward is pretty full now," said Tracy Glascoe, a physician assistant on Ward 57.

Resting the stub of his right leg on his hospital bed one day last week, Spec. Harrison Ruzicka, 23, said he is eager for physical therapy. Ruzicka, who is from North Carolina, knows he faces a long recovery but said he was thankful to be alive after a bomb flipped his armored vehicle into a river on Aug. 7.

He recalled being pinned under the vehicle and fearing he could drown in the river. He said he screamed for help but quickly realized no one was there. He somehow got loose, swam to the embankment and dragged himself onto land with his arms. He knew his legs were broken. "I didn't want to look at them because I would have put myself in shock," he said.

He started calling for his good friend, vehicle driver Sgt. Jerry R. Evans Jr., 23, of Eufaula, Ala. "I was in his wedding party," Ruzicka said. "There was no response. Nothing from him."

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**British Afghanistan Injury Toll Doubles In A Year:**

“The Rising Casualty Rate Is One Of The Reasons Why General Sir David Richards, The Chief Of The General Staff, Persuaded Gordon Brown To Send Another 500 Troops To Afghanistan”
Nearly 1,000 Service personnel have been wounded in action in Afghanistan, the latest casualty figures have disclosed.

The number seriously injured, many with loss of limbs, has also doubled so far this year compared with the whole of last year.

The figures show that up to October 15, 386 Service personnel had been wounded in action, taking the toll of injured since 2001 to 940. All but ten have occurred since 2006, when the Government sent 3,300 troops to Helmand province.

This year has been the most dangerous yet for British troops, with the number killed and wounded exceeding any previous 12-month period. In the first two weeks of this month, 42 servicemen were wounded, compared with 48 for September.

According to the Ministry of Defence figures, more than four members of the Armed Forces are being wounded for every death. In 2006, 85 were wounded and 234 the following year. In 2008, 235 were injured. The numbers who have been “very seriously” or “seriously” wounded have also increased sharply.

The rising casualty rate is one of the reasons why General Sir David Richards, the Chief of the General Staff, persuaded Gordon Brown to send another 500 troops to Afghanistan.

Community Mourns Death Of Asheboro Soldier

10/06/2009 By: Stephanie Stilwell, News 14

ASHEBORO, N.C. – News of an Asheboro soldier’s death is still sinking in for families and friends. Private 1st Class Alan Newton died Friday in Afghanistan during an attack.
Newton started his military career back in 2003; that’s where his former teachers say he found his niche.

“Shock; I was very saddened. I did not know that he was serving,” Judy Freeman a guidance counselor at the 26-year-old soldier’s alma mater, Randolph High School, said.

“I had saw Alan before he was deployed and told him good luck and everything and take care of himself,” Steve Taylor, a former teacher of Newton’s, said.

Newton served as a civil affairs specialist assigned to the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion stationed out of Greensboro. His teachers say that’s where he excelled.

“Alan found his little niche. He knew what he was looking for, he was excited about what he’s doing and to go over and be part of the military what he was doing,” Taylor said. “He was proud.”

During his service, Newton was honored with the National Defense Medal, the Bronze Service Star and a Purple Heart.

“I am seeing a young man, as a freshman coming through here, who was just again trying to fit in,” Taylor said. “Just finding his little place in life and then to see what he actually did and what he accomplished in such a short time. You can not be anything but proud of him.”

“But there was a part of me that was very proud in the fact that he was willing to go and sacrifice for our country and, not knowing what he was going to face, that he was willing to do that”, Freeman said.

Newton is survived by his wife, Lisa, his daughter, Riley, and his mother, Joyce. Pugh Funeral Home is handling the funeral arrangement for Newton. Those arrangements are not finalized yet.

Fort Carson Soldier Remembered As Loving Dad
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) -- The family of Army Sgt. Michael Scusa says the Fort Carson soldier, formerly of Villas, N.J., set his sights on the military as a child.

In a statement read at Scusa’s funeral Friday in Colorado Springs, Lt. Col. Robert Brown said Scusa’s efforts in a battle that killed him preserved the lives of many.

Scusa was one of eight Fort Carson soldiers killed Oct. 3 in an attack in Afghanistan, after hundreds of insurgents armed with automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades attacked two U.S. outposts. It was one of the highest U.S. death tolls in Afghanistan in a single battle in more than a year.

Scusa was 22. He leaves behind his wife and a 1-year-old son.

Scusa was posthumously promoted from specialist to sergeant.

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Friends Say Soldier Was Determined To Serve His Country


RANTOUL – From grade school on, Army Sgt. Christopher Rudzinski was ready to serve, say those who knew him in Rantoul.

Sgt. Rudzinski, 28, died Friday from injuries sustained when a bomb detonated near his vehicle near Kandahar, Afghanistan, according to the Department of Defense. He had been assigned to a military police brigade based in Fort Stewart, Ga.


Sister Sara Koch of St. Malachy remembers him as “very reserved” and someone who liked to serve.

“He was a responsible young man and was always there to help,” she said. “He certainly was involved and was always ready to serve, so it didn’t surprise me to hear he had entered the military.”

His eighth-grade teacher, Bob Robertson, remembers when Sgt. Rudzinski returned to speak to St. Malachy students several years later in full dress uniform.

“He was just bursting with pride that he was able to serve our country,” Robertson said.

“The kids really enjoyed it. He had all his medals and everything on. The kids were eager (to hear him speak)."
Violet LaPine, technical library assistant at the Rantoul Public Library, said Sgt. Rudzinski worked for several years as a library page.

Library staff gave him a going-away party when he graduated from high school, and Lapine remembers him saying that he planned to join the Army and be involved with tanks. Photos show him holding a book on tanks that the staff had given him and a cake with a tank drawing.

LaPine remembers him as “definitely adventurous.”

“I think being in the military is probably where he really wanted to be,” LaPine said. “He just seemed like the kind of guy who was ready for bigger action than the library.”

At the library, he worked with Rob Bross, who was a year younger. Bross said the two met while participating in an RTHS musical event.

“He was a great guy,” Bross said. “He always had a joke to tell. He knew from the start he was going into the military. I remember my senior year he came back from a (military) recruitment trip. He was enjoying himself.”

Bross said he saw Sgt. Rudzinski about a year and a half ago, and he said how much he enjoyed being in the Army. “I’m going to miss a good friend and a real good soldier,” Bross said.

The Rev. Jeff Laible, who was at St. Malachy parish for 10 years ending in 2007, knew the Rudzinski family, who attend the church. Laible, an Air Force chaplain who has served several stints overseas, said Sgt. Rudzinski “paid the highest price. I stand in awe of his service to our nation. He was a good soldier, faithful as to what was required of him. To me, it speaks volumes.”

Sgt. Rudzinski was serving his fourth tour of duty in an area of conflict. He served one tour in Kosovo and two in Iraq. His father, Michael, is a 2003 veteran of the Iraq war. His grandfather was also a military veteran.

Friday’s tragedy is the latest to hit the Rudzinski family. Sgt. Rudzinski lost his mother, Bonita, to cancer in 1993, and a sister, Jacqui, in a fall from a Florida nightclub balcony in 2005. The Rudzinskis have another son, Jordan, who is also in the Army and is scheduled to deploy next year.

Sgt. Rudzinski and his wife, Caroline, have a 1-year-old son, Ryan.

Funeral services for Sgt. Rudzinski are pending. His father said tentative plans call for visitation on Sunday, Oct. 25, and the funeral service Monday. Lux Memorial Chapel, Rantoul, is in charge of local arrangements.

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**Canadian Soldier Killed In Panjwaii By Landmine**
October 30, 2009 Matthew Fisher, Canwest News Service

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan -- For the second time in three days, a young Canadian soldier whose tour in Afghanistan had just begun was killed when he stepped on a homemade landmine.

Sapper Steven Marshall had been in Afghanistan less than one week in what was to have been a six-month tour, when he died while on patrol in Panjwaii District about 10 kilometres southwest of Kandahar City. No other Canadians were wounded in the incident.

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**Goddard Man Injured In Afghanistan**

October 29, 2009 By Jared Cerullo, KAKE

Some bad news and good news for a local family whose son is serving in Afghanistan. Austin Wagner, of Goddard, was injured when a roadside bomb exploded on his vehicle last Tuesday.

Wagner is just a boy. He is a medic assigned to the 5th Stryker Brigade based out of Fort Lewis, Washington.

“When you need to relieve the tension, he’s always there with a joke,” said Austins dad Todd Thursday.

Private First Class Austin Wagner, just 19 years-old, enlisted in the Army when he was 17 and shipped off to Washington right out of high school.

“I think he felt like he wanted to do something where he could make a difference and I think the military gave him a chance to do that,” Todd Wagner said.

Last week, a roadside bomb exploded on Austin's vehicle in Kandahar Province. They were transporting six soldiers. The driver of the armored vehicle, Spc. Kyle Coumas, was killed.

Kathy Wagner, Austin’s mom, says she learned that something wasn’t right after a Facebook posting Austin made about being “blown up.”

“I said ‘Son I don’t think that's very funny.’ He got really quiet and he said ‘It’s not a joke, mom. It’s real.’ And that’s when he explained to me what happened.”

October has become the deadliest month on record in Afghanistan since the War on Terror began. In all, 55 soldiers have died in combat this month. Just this week, another seven soldiers - also from Wagner’s unit - were killed in another attack.

For the Wagner’s they take some peace in knowing their son remains positive about what he has to do.
“When he was home, although he really didn’t want to go back, he knew that he had a job to do,” said Kathy. “He needed to go do that job so he could come back home. I think he has a good attitude about it and that makes it a lot easier for us.”

Of the 55 soldiers killed this month, 49 of them died in Afghanistan and foreshadowed more violence in the days before a presidential runoff election.

Austin Wagner’s deployment is scheduled to last until next July.

New Zealand Construction Manager Blown Up

30 Oct 2009 NZPA

AFGHAN - A New Zealand construction manager in Afghanistan has been badly injured after a landmine blast which killed an Afghan colleague.

Wellington man Peter Gerrard, 57, was injured on Tuesday when workers repairing a road hit a buried landmine, The Dominion Post reported.

He was working for Australian reconstruction firm Professional Service Solutions in the southern province of Helmand, near Gereshk, west of Kandahar.

The company said Mr Gerrard was in a stable condition at Britain’s military hospital at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan. They would not elaborate on his injuries.

An Afghan colleague died from injuries suffered in the explosion, the company said.

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/)
REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE:
ALL HOME NOW

Oct. 13, 2009: U.S. Marines with 2nd Recon Battalion inside a small patrol base during a pause in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

A U.S. soldier from Stryker Brigade patrols in Arghandab District Kandahar province October 29, 2009. REUTERS/ Omar Sobhani
IF YOU DON’T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATIONS

POLITICIANS CAN’T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS

[Thanks to SSG N (ret’d) who sent this in.]
A foreign occupation soldier from the USA publicly humiliates an Afghan citizen, putting hands on his body without consent during a foot patrol in Arghandab District Kandahar province October 29, 2009. REUTERS/Omar Sobhani

Foreign occupation soldiers make a daily practice of publicly humiliating Afghan citizens. This encourages self-respecting, honorable Afghans to kill them.

[Fair is fair. Let’s bring 50,000 Afghan troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it “sovereign,” and “detain” anybody who doesn’t like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Afghans are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it’s bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country.

[What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by Barrack Obama. Why, how could anybody not love that? You’d want that in your home town, right?]
HELLO U.S. SOLDIER:
WELCOME TO AFGHANISTAN!
HAVE A NICE DAY

A Taliban fighter with weapons in an undisclosed location in Afghanistan October 30, 2009. REUTERS/Stringer

TROOP NEWS

Pentagon Sewer Rats Give War Profiteers At Aecom Government Services A $78 Million Contract Extension To Do More Thieving: Aecom “Charged $237 For A Vehicle Side Mirror That Was Supposed To Cost $14.88” And “$196.50 For A Bag Of 10
Washers That Was Supposed To Cost $1.22”

October 30, 2009 By Walter Pincus, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

A defense contractor that supplied vehicle parts for the Iraqi army sought reimbursements from the U.S. military far in excess of the cost of the items, according to a new report by the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction.

The contractor, Aecom Government Services, charged $237 for a vehicle side mirror that was supposed to cost $14.88, according to the report. The company also submitted invoices to the U.S. military in Iraq seeking reimbursements of $196.50 for a bag of 10 washers that was supposed to cost $1.22, $10 for a fuse that should have cost 45 cents and $210 for an inner tube that was supposed to cost $24.09.

Stuart W. Bowen Jr., the special inspector general, said in the report that the findings point to larger issues with government contracts issued for work in Iraq. Preliminary audits of 22,000 Defense Department transactions involving about $10.7 billion have identified not just overpayments by the government, but also duplicate payments, as well as payments to fictitious vendors and addresses.

Aecom Government Services’ contract called for it to buy repair parts for Iraqi military units as part of a program to make the units self-sufficient in logistics. The firm won the contract based in part on the per-item unit price it quoted, plus an allowable markup.

Bowen’s auditors reviewed four of 139 invoices Aecom submitted for repayment from July 2005 to September 2009; they totaled $29.9 million. From those, the audit identified “about $4.1 million in potential overbillings.”

The auditors disputed assertions that Aecom had repaid the government in full. In an interview, Daniel Kopp, a spokesman for Bowen, cited the case of the washers.

“Based on the documentation Aecom provided us, they’ve never reimbursed the government for the washers,” he said.

On its Web site this month, Aecom Government Services announced a $78.8 million six-month extension of its contract with the U.S. Army to support operations in Afghanistan, which entails providing general support maintenance and running maintenance facilities at two military bases as well as forward operating bases and satellite locations.

Prosecutor Sharon McCaslin Declares War On Vets:
The Traitor McCaslin “Defiantly Pronounced In Federal Court That It Is ‘Desecration’ And A ‘Crime’ For A Veteran To Hang The American Flag In The ‘Distress’ Mode: After Judge Throws Out Charges Against Veteran, The Rat McCaslin Issues Warrant For His Arrest

By a motion of the U.S. Government, Judge Mumm ordered the “unauthorized demonstration” charges against me dismissed.

In an amazing act of defiance, Ms. McCaslin unilaterally ordered a Warrant for my arrest on that very same Case after the Judge had already dismissed the “unauthorized demonstration” charge. Moreover, her fraudulent Warrant on behalf of the Department of Justice was ordered and postmarked by U.S. Mail on October 21st, immediately after my hearing.

October 27, 2009 By Robert L. Rosebrock, Staff Writer, The Veterans Today Network [Excerpts]

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Rosebrock is a U.S. Army Veteran, Vietnam War-era, HQ USARHAW, Schofield Barracks. He is Director of The Veterans Revolution, Co-Director of We the Veterans, Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee of the West Los Angeles Neighborhood Council, and a Member of the American Legion Press Association.

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Sharon McCaslin, prosecuting attorney for the United States Department of Justice, officially declared war on America’s Veterans when she defiantly
pronounced in federal court that it is “desecration” and a “crime” for a Veteran to hang the American Flag in the “Distress” mode alongside the POW / MIA Flag.

She declared her act of warring defiance even when Veterans are in full compliance with the VA’s approval and the U.S. Flag Code, and while lawfully protesting against the U.S. Government for abusing and misusing their sacred and sovereign land for the benefit of commercial and non-Veteran special interest groups, which is a flagrant violation of the Congressional Act of 1887 and the Land Grant Deed of 1888.

U.S. deputy attorney Sharon McCaslin officially declared this to be “desecration” and a “crime” as these noble and patriotic Flags are apparently nothing more than “placards and material” to her.

The billion-dollar parcel of Veterans’ land behind these locked gates was recently given away rent-free by the U.S. Government to a wealthy homeowner group for a public community park.

Now that that’s desecration and a crime in the most disgraceful sense!

On October 21st, I appeared before the Honorable Judge Frederick F. Mumm in the United States District Court in Los Angeles for the hearing and arraignment of a criminal citation issued to me via U.S. mail by the Los Angeles VA police.

The trumped-up charges were for a purported “unauthorized demonstration” held on July 26, 2009, during what would have been our 71st consecutive Sunday Rally to “Save Our Veterans’ Land.”

No such “unauthorized demonstration” happened then or on any of the previous or following Sunday Rallies.

In Case 2085602 in the United States of America vs. Robert L. Rosebrock, Judge Mumm officially ordered the charges dismissed.

It’s quite clear that the VA’s citation for “unauthorized demonstration” was malicious and discriminated against me when the VA police, directed by VA bureaucrats, to single me out personally and trample all over my First Amendment Rights with a fabricated and unwarranted “unauthorized demonstration” charge.

Moreover, this fraudulent citation not only disenfranchises me of my Constitutional Rights to peacefully protest, but it undermines the Civil Liberties of all fellow Veterans and every American citizen and fellow human being around the world who believe in freedom and justice and the Right to lawfully protest against their government.

By a motion of the U.S. Government, Judge Mumm ordered the “unauthorized demonstration” charges against me dismissed.

In an amazing act of defiance, Ms. McCaslin unilaterally ordered a Warrant for my arrest on that very same Case after the Judge had already dismissed the “unauthorized demonstration” charge.
Moreover, her fraudulent Warrant on behalf of the Department of Justice was ordered and postmarked by U.S. Mail on October 21st, immediately after my hearing.

This was not a “clerical” error.

No, this was a calculated and an illegal act in a flagrant and cowardly attempt to harass and intimidate me even more.

Ms. McCaslin is defending the wrong people and she has dangerously retaliated against me for exposing the serious violations of the Congressional Act of 1887 and the Land Grant Deed of 1888.

This land was exclusively deeded to America’s Military Veterans “to be permanently maintained as a National Home for Disabled Soldiers,” but the powerful politicians have aided and abetted in taking this land away from Veterans and giving it to special interest groups.

Clearly, issuing a false Warrant for my arrest immediately after the charges were dismissed by the Judge is fraud, amongst many other charges, yet Ms. McCaslin continues to pick up her paycheck in spite of breaking the laws that she is getting paid to enforce.

Where is the justice in the Department of Justice?

Clearly, it is Ms. McCaslin that should be on trial, and not me.

It is disgraceful beyond comprehension that Ms. McCaslin has declared war on the Constitutional Rights of the very men and women who have pledged their lives to defend the U.S. Constitution, the very Document that she has taken an Oath to uphold, but has failed miserably.

During Sunday’s demonstration, several VA police snuck up from inside the VA gates and ordered the Veterans who were in attendance, all in their 70s and 80s, including 86-year old World War II Veterans Steve Palmer in his wheelchair, to remove the U.S. and POW Flags, including the Flags with the five Branches of the U.S. Armed Forces that were posted far away from the “fence.”

These elderly, senior citizens are American Veterans, and all they did was simply and honorably post America’s most revered Flags in front of the largest VA in the nation, yet they were treated like criminals by armed VA security police.

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Comment from a reader:

Give her a call and ask her who the fuck she thinks she is:

Sharon McCaslin Contact Info:

Address:
HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA’S WARS?

New Mexico Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth W. Westbrook’s casket at the veterans’ section of the Shiprock, N.M. Community Cemetery Oct. 16, 2009. Westbrook was wounded Sept. 8 when insurgents attacked his unit in the Ganjigal Valley in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/The Daily Times, Xavier Mascare

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.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

“Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.”
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War

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

“While there is a lower class I am in it; while there is a criminal element I am of it; while there is a soul in prison, I am not free”
-- Eugene V. Debs

“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.

“The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!”
-- Camille Desmoulins

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

G-20:
From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance  
Sent: October 23, 2009  
Subject: G-20: Police React to Incoming Rocks

G-20: Police React to Incoming Rocks

For several seconds, 
rocks were thrown at the police. 
I did not see who threw them, 
because they came from over a hill. 
I looked up, 
and saw them in the air. 
The police were taken by complete surprise, 
and I could see the fear in their faces.

Mike Hastie  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
September 24, 2009

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)
October 31, 1978: Honorable Anniversary

Striking Iranian oil workers: Photo: December 1978 issue of Resistance, A publication of the Iranian Students Association in the U.S. (ISAUS)

Carl Bunin Peace History Oct 29-Nov 4

Thirty thousand Iranian oil workers went on strike against the repressive rule of the U.S.-installed Shah and for democracy, civil and human rights.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we’ll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

Troops Invited:
Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550
DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

CLASS WAR REPORTS
Military Resistance looks even better printed out.

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:
http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2008/index.html; news@uruknet.info;
http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/

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