

Military Resistance 7L4



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

**This Is The Real Movement
Against The War:
[Where It Counts]
Soldiers Thank Demonstrators
Attacking Obama's Afghan War Plan:
"And They Were Just One Carload
Among Many GI's Who Showed Their
Support"**

From: redvet- [Vietnam Veterans Against the War Anti-Imperialist]

Subject: Anti-War Up - What Happened on Wednesday? - Honolulu
Date: Dec 4, 2009

[Excerpt]

More than 40 held signs against the escalating war in Afghanistan at the Federal Building in Honolulu.

Some came with their own signs. Some picked up the bright orange signs brought by World Can't Wait. Some hastily scrawled their personal messages on cardboard.

Ala Moana was jam-packed with commuters. Many honked, waved, or gave us a shaka.

A car-load of GI's saw us, began yelling their support, and then pulled up alongside the protesters to give an enthusiastic "thank you" - and they were just one carload among many GI's who showed their support.

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

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

"The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops." Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

**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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Rocket Targets U.S. Military Base In Basra

December 5, 2009 By Sahar Issa, McClatchy Newspapers

A Katyusha rocket targeted the U.S. military base in Basra International Airport late Friday. The rocket fell short of the base and caused no casualties or damages.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Illinois Sgt. Killed In Kunar

December 04, 2009 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 946-09

Sgt. Kenneth R. Nichols Jr., 28, of Chrisman, Ill., died Dec. 1 in Kunar province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit using small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fires. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

St Joseph Soldier Killed



Sgt. Daniel A. Frazier'

Nov 25, 2009 Daily Kos

Sgt. Daniel A. Frazier's father, David Frazier, remembers how selfless his son was. "He was quiet, but he was big hearted. He was always a caring and fun guy to be around. He would always put other people before himself."

On Nov. 19, the 25-year-old son of St. Joseph, Mich. and Staff Sgt. John J. Cleaver, 36, of Marysville, Wash. were delivering supplies when a truck bomb went off, killing both soldiers. According to several reports, Cleaver and Frazier intercepted the bomb-laden vehicle. Frazier died while putting himself between danger and his fellow soldiers.

Students at Frazier's former high school, St. Joseph High School, had a moment of silence for the 2003 graduate, says the South Bend Tribune. They honored one of their own who, at 22 and in his third year of Army service, was on his second deployment in Afghanistan. Jim Berry, Frazier's drafting teacher at St. Joseph, remembered his former student as someone who came to class with a smile on his face every day. "I can't thank him enough for his service to our country," Berry said, adding that Frazier was a joy to be around."

He was also a newlywed, having married only eight months before he was killed.

"He loved the Army," (his stepmother) Sheri said. "He loved it. It was very good for him. Everything was in place for him. He loved his life and he loved his wife so much. They were just so new in love."

The news came in the night.

"When someone knocks on your door at 10 o'clock at night, you think it's a neighbor. And, when there's two Army gentlemen there, you think it can't be right," David Frazier said. "You think, it's got to be a bad dream."

But, knowing that his son's final act in service to his country helped save so many other lives did help bring a sense of purpose. "It's still very difficult, but it makes me feel better that he wasn't there in vain," David Frazier said.

"I have to focus on the wonderful time we had," David Frazier said. "That's all I got."

The Frazier family was told that their son's final act saved 40 lives. His stepmother told the Tribune that "it meant a lot that he had the heart to do his job and save the people he saved."

In the course of his service, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon and the Combat Action Badge. He was posthumously promoted from specialist to sergeant.

Capt. Burton Furlow, commander of Company E, remembered him this way: ""Sgt. Frazier always started and finished his days the same way, with a smile on his face... He earned the respect of subordinates, peers and superiors alike. He is truly one of our American Heroes and will be missed very dearly."

His casket arrived at Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Del. on Saturday night. His father flew across the country for this sad homecoming. In addition to his father, he is survived by his mother, Roxana, and his wife, Brittany.

According to the Michigan News, "Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. Monday, November 30, at Michiana Christian Embassy in Niles, Michigan, with burial in Arlington National Cemetery."

Local Soldier Dies In Afghanistan

December 03, 2009 BY BRIAN L. HUCHEL, Commercial-News

DANVILLE — Denny Gardner knew Kenny "Bub" Nichols since he was a baby, living just two blocks down from the Ridge Farm native's home.

"He always had a smile," said Gardner, the Vermilion County Circuit Clerk. "And he loved to make other people smile."

Now Gardner is joining the family is mourning the death of the 27-year-old Nichols — a U.S. soldier who died on Tuesday while serving in Afghanistan.

He was on his second tour of duty when his unit was ambushed Tuesday night.

He had been promoted to the rank of sergeant just hours before he was killed.

Nichols' family was in Dover, Del., on Thursday to witness his body being returned to the United States. The plane carrying Nichols was expected early Thursday evening. An escort by local fire departments is being set up for when his body is released by the military and returned to Vermilion County.

According to Gardner, Nichols' family — he leaves behind a wife, Lexi, and four children — is handling his death as well as could be expected.

Nichols had just met with three of his children from a prior marriage — 6-year-old Brhyleigh, 4-year-old Kenneth III and 3-year-old Branden — at Thanksgiving and had made plans for Christmas.

"I love my daddy," said Kenneth III.

In a Facebook page set up by a family member, past and present friends as well as people who didn't even know him lauded the local man for serving overseas.

Amy Haussy of Georgetown wrote on the site that Nichols will be "truly missed."

"I remember the first time I met Bub, he was always smiling and never had a bad word for anyone. He was a very good guy. He always was laughing or trying to make a joke to get everyone in a good mood."

Sam Van Camp is a former teacher from the Georgetown-Ridge Farm School District where Nichols graduated in 2000. Van Camp said he had no problem remember Nichols from his teaching days.

“He was an aggressive kid, a typical boy,” Van Camp said. “It wouldn’t surprise me in the least that he would be over there defending our county and wanting to go on patrol. It just the kid he was, the kind of life he lived. He liked to mix it up.”

Van Camp said it’s tough for a former teacher to lose any student they’ve taught. “You hate to see a kid’s life lost at this early age, but serving our county is an honorable way to go,” he said.

Resistance Action

Nov. 27 (Xinhua) & Nov. 30 (Xinhua) & Dec. 5, 2009 The Associated Press

Three policemen were killed as a bomber targeted a police checkpoint in Farah province, in west Afghanistan, on Friday, provincial governor Rohul Amin Amini said. “A bomber driving an explosive-laden car blew it up next to a police checkpoint in Balablock district this morning, killing three policemen on duty,” Amini told Xinhua.

Two armed men riding a motorbike shot dead an employee of National Security Directorate (NSD) in Afghanistan’s northern province of Jauzjan, provincial police chief Mohammad Khalil Aminzada said Monday. “The criminal incident occurred Sunday evening in Akcha district,” Aminzada told Xinhua.

Three Taliban militants were killed Friday during a gunbattle with Afghan National Police at a checkpoint in Nimroz province, provincial Gov. Ghulam Dastagir Azad said Saturday. Five policemen were wounded in the clash in the Khash Rod district. The battle started after the Taliban fighters attacked the checkpoint with mortars and machine-guns, he said.

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

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

Stupid Liars Caught In Stupid Lies About Number Of Fresh Foreign Troops For Afghanistan

December 4, 2009 BRUSSELS (Reuters) –

Twenty-five NATO allies promised on Friday to send about 7,000 more troops to Afghanistan, backing U.S. President Barack Obama's new war strategy and reinforcing efforts to defeat the Taliban.

The extra commitment fell short of the 10,000 troops Pentagon officials had originally hoped for and did not account for some 4,900 Dutch and Canadian troops already due to leave the field in 2010 and 2011.

Despite the headline figure of 7,000 extra forces announced by Rasmussen, a breakdown of the numbers provided by NATO sources showed pledges for only 5,500 troops, with 1,500 more to be confirmed later.

Of the 5,500, at least 1,500 are already in the country and will not now be withdrawn as planned, NATO sources said.

One Area Of Town Is So Heavily Mined, Marines Refer To It As “No Leg Alley”

Dec. 4, 2009 By MIGUEL MARQUEZ, ABC News [Excerpts]

The Marine units dropped into two areas -- one just north of the once-bustling city of Now Zad and the small town further north called Kenjake Sofla. Both are places where Marines believe several Taliban insurgents operate.

In building defenses against the Marines, Taliban fighters have planted thousands of homemade bombs and dug in positions throughout the valley at the foot of the craggy Tangee Mountains.

Homemade bombs, or improvised explosive devices, may be the gravest threat Marines face in the area. The bombs, coming in just about every size and shape, are used to create minefields, a defense against Marines and booby traps throughout the city.

Since 2005 several Marines have lost limbs there because of small bombs planted apparently not to kill, but to maim.

One area of town is so heavily mined, Marines refer to it as “no leg alley.”

Since 2005 several Marines have lost limbs there because of small bombs planted apparently not to kill, but to maim.

Taliban Use Donkey To Launch Bomb Attack On British Troops:

“The Incident Has Alarmed Military Chiefs”

03 Dec 2009 TELEGRAPH.CO.UK

The latest threat to Allied soldiers has been uncovered after insurgents sent a donkey loaded with high-explosives galloping towards a military camp in Helmand Province.

A suspicious sentry killed the animal with a single shot after flares failed to halt it.

As cautious troops approached the dead donkey they were wary of the bundle of hay tied to its back - and when it was lit with a flare within 30 seconds there was a huge blast that could have proved lethal.

Major Richard Streatfeild, of the 3rd Battalion the Rifles Regiment said: “The insurgents have really outdone themselves by strapping an improvised explosive device to a donkey and sending it towards the camp.

“Fortunately the gate guard noticed something suspicious when a group of men let the donkey go a short way from the camp and then hurried off.

“He tried to divert the animal but it eventually had to be stopped with a rifle shot. A team went out and realised there was something suspicious under the hay. One brave soldier set it on fire to the hay with a flare and there was a considerable explosion.

Major Streatfeild said his men had been alerted to the new threat by Afghan Army colleagues who has heard rumours about the “Drop the Dead Donkey” tactic.

But the incident has alarmed military chiefs concerned that the Taliban are now using desperate methods to attack occupying forces.

With typical Army humour, Major Streatfeild, in charge of A Company on the Sangin Valley front line, reported difficulty in reporting the incident to his superiors.

He said: “It is impossible to report a donkey IED up the chain of command without either a wry smile at the ridiculousness or a feeling that the world is slightly off its axis.”

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

ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT; ALL HOME NOW



U.S. soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division patrol above the Pech Valley in Afghanistan's Kunar province Oct. 25, 2009. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)



U.S. soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division patrol in the Pech Valley of Afghanistan's Kunar province Nov. 3, 2009. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)



Nov 21: US Marines search a compound in Lakari, Helmand Province. (AFP/Manpreet Romana)

**Obama Gets An Answer To His
Promise To Escalate Attacks
Inside Pakistan:
Resistance Kills Top Military
Leadership Inside Their Own Base
“In The Very Heart Of The Pakistani
Military Establishment”
“For 15 To 20 Minutes, We Were Helpless
And Hopeless”**

“The timing and the target were no accident: in the very heart of the Pakistani military establishment, and right after President Obama asked for action against Afghan insurgents based in Pakistan,” said a senior U.S. official, who spoke only

on the condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to discuss Friday's attack publicly.

December 4, 2009 By Saeed Shah, McClatchy Newspapers

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan — Militants killed at least 36 people Friday, including senior army officers and their children, as they gathered for prayers at a mosque for soldiers in Rawalpindi, the home of Pakistan's military headquarters.

Five active-duty officers died in the small-arms, grenade and bomb attack — Maj. Gen. Bilal Umar, the director general of the army's armored corps; a brigadier; two lieutenant colonels; and a major — the military said in a statement.

Gen. Mohammad Yusuf, a former vice chief of the military, was among the 75 people who were wounded.

The mosque is in the heavily guarded military living-quarters area of Rawalpindi, surrounded by housing for officers.

Access to it is restricted to army personnel and their families.

"The timing and the target were no accident: in the very heart of the Pakistani military establishment, and right after President Obama asked for action against Afghan insurgents based in Pakistan," said a senior U.S. official, who spoke only on the condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to discuss Friday's attack publicly.

"It was a very clear warning about what would happen if the Pakistanis responded to the pressure from Washington," the official said. "The chances that they would be always poor, and now they're probably worse than poor."

Witnesses said that at least four assailants struck at around 1:20 p.m. local time, hurling grenades and opening fire on worshippers before two of the attackers blew themselves up in the mosque, wrecking the building and leaving the holy site stained with blood and body parts.

Ameer Sheikh, a retired army officer who worships at the mosque daily and went to the scene immediately, said the attackers had gone around executing people. "They got hold of their hair and shot them," he said.

"I saw people who used to be in the front row with me, lying there dead," Sheikh said.

"It was very terrible inside," Nasir Ali Sheikh said. "There were two people wearing belts with grenades and bullets. . . . For 15 to 20 minutes, we were helpless and hopeless."

Officials said the mosque attackers had evaded a security cordon, with reports saying that they'd worn ammunition vests and used ladders to climb into the mosque through its windows.

"The area is a high-security zone," said Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas, the chief military spokesman. "It is yet to be established where the breach took place."

MORE:

Pakistanis Are Right To Fight Back: More C.I.A. Drone Attacks Have Been Launched Against Pakistan By The Traitor Obama Than By Bush: Majority In Pakistan Rank “The United States As A Greater Threat To Pakistan Than Its Archrival, India, Or The Pakistani Taliban”

For the first time in history, a civilian intelligence agency is using robots to carry out a military mission, selecting people for killing in a country where the United States is not officially at war.

December 3, 2009 By SCOTT SHANE, New York Times [Excerpts]

The White House has authorized an expansion of the C.I.A.'s drone program in Pakistan's lawless [translation: free of U.S. Imperial control] tribal areas, officials said this week, to parallel the president's decision, announced Tuesday, to send 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan.

More C.I.A. drone attacks have been conducted under President Obama than under President George W. Bush.

The political consensus in support of the drone program, its antiseptic, high-tech appeal and its secrecy have obscured just how radical it is.

For the first time in history, a civilian intelligence agency is using robots to carry out a military mission, selecting people for killing in a country where the United States is not officially at war.

A poll by Gallup Pakistan last summer found only 9 percent of Pakistanis in favor of the attacks and 67 percent against, with a majority ranking the United States as a greater threat to Pakistan than its archrival, India, or the Pakistani Taliban.

TROOP NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The casket of Army Spc. Christopher J. Coffland at Arlington National Cemetery, Dec. 1, 2009. Spc. Coffland, 43, of Baltimore, Md., died Nov. 13 in Wardak province of Afghanistan, of wounds from an IED. He was assigned to the 323rd Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort Meade, Md. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

Lejeune's 1/6 Will Lead The Surge Into Obama's Imperial Afghan Slaughterhouse

Dec 5, 2009 By Dan Lamothe – Staff writer, Army Times [Excerpts]

A North Carolina-based infantry battalion will be the first U.S. unit to deploy to Afghanistan as part of an additional 30,000 troops who will be sent into combat during the next six months, said a Marine official overseeing the unit.

Camp Lejeune's 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, "will deploy in the near future," said Col. David Fuqea, chief of staff for Lejeune's 2nd Marine Division.

He declined to say when the unit will arrive in theater, but Marine officials at the Pentagon said the first unit will deploy before Dec. 25.

Gates Says “There Are No Deadlines In Terms Of When Our Troops Will All Be Out” Of Afghanistan: “The Pentagon, Meanwhile, Quietly Acknowledged Slippage On The Front End Of The 30,000-Troop Deployment”

December 4, 2009 By Karen DeYoung, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

The withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan, scheduled to begin in July 2011, will “probably” take two or three years, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said Thursday, although he added that “there are no deadlines in terms of when our troops will all be out.”

The Pentagon, meanwhile, quietly acknowledged slippage on the front end of the 30,000-troop deployment that President Obama authorized for the first half of 2010.

“They are not all going to be there in six months,” a senior military official said.

The current thinking, the official said, is that the Pentagon will be able to push about 20,000 to 25,000 troops into the country by late summer, but that the final brigade – about 5,000 troops – will probably not arrive until early fall.

New details fleshed out the revamped strategy Obama outlined Tuesday night as Gates, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testified before Congress on the plan for a second day.

Soldiers’ Silence Louder Than Thunder

Dec 2, 2009 By Kevin Maurer, The Associated Press [Excerpt]

At the John Hoover Inn, a bar in Evans Mills, New York, near Fort Drum, a dozen soldiers watched the speech on a large-screen TV, drinking beer out of red cups.

When Obama announced the troop increase, only one cheered, and the rest remained silent.

They continued to play darts while the president was speaking.

The New Issue Of Traveling Soldier Is Out

This Issue Features:

**“I Am Thoroughly Opposed To The
Army As A Whole, And The War In
The Middle East”**

**[An Army Sergeant Sends An
Open Letter To Active Duty
Soldiers]**

1. “I am thoroughly opposed to the Army as a whole, and the war in the Middle East” An army sergeant writes an open letter to active duty soldiers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/12.09.opposed.php>

2. “If we make it back with ten toes and ten fingers the mission is successful” says a GI stationed in Afghanistan.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/12.09.tentoos.php>

3. “Soldiers aren’t dying because the Army is sending us overseas. Some of them pass away because the Army doesn’t care” says an active-duty soldier.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/12.09.dying.php>

4. “Morale is getting low”

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/12.09.morale.php>

5. Download the new Traveling Soldier to pass it out at your school, workplace, or at nearby base or National Guard armory.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS26.pdf>

**NEED SOME MORE TRUTH?
CHECK OUT THE NEW DECEMBER
TRAVELING SOLDIER JUST POSTED:
Fresh Comments From Active Duty Soldiers**

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/)

**Severely Wounded British Soldiers
Defy Prime Minister:
“They Closed Curtains Round Their
Beds During A Hospital Visit And
Refused To Speak To Him”
“Half The Lads Didn't Want To Speak To
Him And Those That Did Pretty Much
Blamed Him For Everything”**

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance and to Clancy Sigal, who sent this in.]

According to a survey of 10,500 Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel, published in August, the majority of servicemen and women feel morale is low, singling out equipment shortages as one of their biggest concerns.

December 6, 2009 The Sunday Times [UK] [Excerpts]

Gordon Brown was snubbed by badly injured Afghan veterans when they closed curtains round their beds during a hospital visit and refused to speak to him.

More than half the soldiers being treated at the Selly Oak hospital ward in Birmingham either asked for the curtains to be closed or deliberately avoided the prime minister, according to several of those present.

The soldiers, who have sustained some of the worst injuries seen in Afghanistan, described his visit as “opportunistic” and a “waste of time”.

Furious about equipment shortages and poor compensation for their injuries, one soldier said: “It is almost as if we are the product of an unwanted affair ... he has done nothing for us.”

Brown visited the military wing of Selly Oak on September 2, where about 25 wounded soldiers were being treated. They were told about the visit in the morning and asked by nurses if they wanted to speak to him.

Sapper Matthew Weston, 20, is one of the most seriously injured soldiers to have survived. He lost both legs and his right arm when a bomb exploded on a dirt track outside Sangin.

He said: “I didn’t want to speak to him, I didn’t want to waste my time talking to someone who was just trying to make themselves look good. I spent the day with my family instead.

“Half the lads didn’t want to speak to him and those that did pretty much blamed him for everything. Many of the lads just closed their curtains and hid themselves away.

Another soldier, who suffered severe injuries when caught in a mine explosion, left the hospital in an attempt to avoid Brown.

He was angry at the government’s attempt to cut compensation payouts for injured soldiers.

He said: “I went outside for a fag but when I came back he was still there. Most of us said we wouldn’t like to see him so we drew our curtains and waited for him to go.

“It was a pretty sour thing, we feel a lot of bitterness towards Gordon Brown.

“The guys read the papers, it is obvious to them that he doesn’t care. Many of us felt like it was an effort to accommodate him.

“At the time the Ministry of Defence were trying to sue wounded British soldiers to cut their compensation. It was so wrong. It doesn’t give the guys any faith in the government, it doesn’t make us feel like they support us or look after us.

“The lads didn’t say much after the visit. Some were grateful he had bothered to come up to see us, others were saying they wished they could have thumped him.”

Another soldier, who lost his right leg after being caught in a mine blast in Afghanistan, said that more than two-thirds of the 25 soldiers on the ward closed their curtains. He, however, decided to speak to Brown.

"I wanted to find out how the guy's head worked," he said. "I was interested in what he had made of his trip to Afghanistan and what he had learnt from it.

"I feel that even if someone is a moron, he should have the opportunity to defend his moronity. (His response) all seemed rather textbook and not from the heart.

"It is quite obvious to anyone that Brown is not concerned, it is almost as if we (soldiers) are the product of an unwanted affair.

"The straight fact is this: we don't like the man, he has done nothing for us and continues to kick us in the teeth over equipment and compensation."

In October he was forced to backtrack over plans to impose a £17.5m cut in the Territorial Army's training budget, while a month earlier the government took two injured soldiers to court in a test case that would have slashed compensation payments to injured soldiers.

The failings are damaging the morale of troops on the front line.

According to a survey of 10,500 Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel, published in August, the majority of servicemen and women feel morale is low, singling out equipment shortages as one of their biggest concerns.

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

Uncle Barack Does The Buck And Wing:

“History May Remember Obama As Just Another Vapid But Predatory Imperialist President Who Happens To Be...Superficially Eloquent”

“As A TV Native American Might Say, ‘Black Man In White House Speak Like Forked Tongued White Man’ Only Better”



[blackagendareport.com/]

12/02/2009 By Glen Ford, Executive Editor, Black Agenda Report

President Obama has reached a watershed in his presidency: he has devolved to the intellectual level of George Bush, while retaining his world class powers of speech.

History may remember Obama as just another vapid but predatory imperialist president who happens to be...superficially eloquent.

Unfortunately, the clarity of Obama's diction is not matched by coherence of policy. Af-Pak is at least as whack as Bush's Iraq.

Barack Obama's oratorical skills have turned on him, revealing, as George Bush's low-grade delivery never could, the perfect incoherence of the current American imperial project in South Asia.

Bush's verbal eccentricities served to muddy his entire message, leaving the observer wondering what was more ridiculous, the speechmaker or the speech.

There is no such confusion when Obama is on the mic.

His flawless delivery of superbly structured sentences provides no distractions, requiring the brain to examine the content – the policy in question – on its actual merits.

The conclusion comes quickly: the U.S. imperial enterprise in Afghanistan and Pakistan is doomed, as well as evil.

The president's speech to West Point cadets was a stream of non sequiturs so devoid of logic as to cast doubt on the sanity of the authors.

“(T)hese additional American and international troops,” said the president, “will allow us to accelerate handing over responsibility to Afghan forces, and allow us to begin the transfer of our forces out of Afghanistan in July of 2011.”

Obama claims that, the faster an additional 30,000 Americans pour into Afghanistan, the quicker will come the time when they will leave.

More occupation means less occupation, you see?

This breakneck intensification of the U.S. occupation is necessary, Obama explains, because “We have no interest in occupying your country.”

If the Americans were truly interested in occupying Afghanistan, the logic goes, they would slow down and stretch out the process over many years, rather than mount an 18-month surge of Taliban-hunting. The Afghans are advised to hold still – the pulsating surge will be over before they know it.

At present, of course, the Americans have assumed all “responsibility” for Afghanistan – so much so that President Hamid Karzai only learned about Obama's plans earlier on Tuesday during a one-hour tele-briefing.

This is consistent with Obama's detailed plans for Afghan liberation, under U.S. tutelage.

The president is as wedded to high stakes testing of occupied peoples as he is for American public school children. “This effort must be based on performance.

The days of providing a blank check are over,” said the Occupier-in-Chief.

He continued:

“And going forward, we will be clear about what we expect from those who receive our assistance. We will support Afghan Ministries, Governors, and local leaders that combat corruption and deliver for the people. We expect those who are ineffective or corrupt to be held accountable.”

Such rigorous oversight of their country's affairs should keep Afghan minds off the fact that they have been fighting to remain independent of foreign rule for centuries, if not millennia.

If Obama is right, Afghans might also be distracted from dwelling on the question of who their “Ministries, Governors, and local leaders” are answerable to – the Afghan people or the Americans?

Although President Obama is anxious to bring U.S. troop levels above 100,000 as quickly as possible, he advises Afghans to be patient and trusting regarding their sovereignty.

“It will be clear to the Afghan government, and, more importantly, to the Afghan people, that they will ultimately be responsible for their own country.”

That is, it will become clear in the fullness of time, but hopefully no later than 18 months after the planned surge begins.

If all goes well, the Taliban will be dead or nearly so, and the non-Taliban Afghans will be prepared to begin assuming “responsibility for their own country.”

If not, then the Americans will be forced to continue as occupiers – reluctantly, of course, since, as the whole world and the more intelligent class of Afghans know, the Americans “have no interest in occupying your country” – unless they have to.

Should the Afghans become confused about American intentions, they might consult with their Pakistani neighbors, for whom President Obama also has plans.

“(We) have made it clear that we cannot tolerate a safe-haven for terrorists whose location is known, and whose intentions are clear,” the president declared. “America is also providing substantial resources to support Pakistan's democracy and development.

“We are the largest international supporter for those Pakistanis displaced by the fighting.”

Obama did not mention that it was the Americans that coerced and bribed the Pakistani military into launching the attacks that displaced over a million people in the Swat region and hundreds of thousands more in border areas.

How nice of them to join in humanitarian assistance to the homeless.

The Pakistanis, like the Afghans, were assured the Americans will not abandon them to their own, independent devices.

Said Obama: “And going forward, the Pakistani people must know: America will remain a strong supporter of Pakistan’s security and prosperity long after the guns have fallen silent, so that the great potential of its people can be unleashed.”

Some Pakistanis might consider that a threat.

According to polling by the Pew Global Attitudes Project, only 16 percent of Pakistanis held a favorable view of the United States in 2009.

Actually, that’s a point or two higher than U.S. popularity in Occupied Palestine (15 percent) and Turkey (14 percent), the only other Muslim countries on the Pew list.

Not to worry. Obama knows things that escape the rest of us.

For example, the fact that “we have forged a new beginning between America and the Muslim World - one that recognizes our mutual interest in breaking a cycle of conflict, and that promises a future in which those who kill innocents are isolated by those who stand up for peace and prosperity and human dignity.”

Which means, we can expect those polling numbers to start going up, soon.

When Obama isn’t launching bold initiatives and “new beginnings,” he’s busy taking care of U.S. imperial business as usual.

Obama is most proud that the U.S. spends more on its military than all the rest of the nations of the planet, combined.

“(T)he United States of America has underwritten global security for over six decades,” he told the cadets, “a time that, for all its problems, has seen walls come down, markets open, billions lifted from poverty, unparalleled scientific progress, and advancing frontiers of human liberty.”

Others might not view the rise of U.S. hegemony in such a positive light. But they are wrong, said the president.

“For unlike the great powers of old, we have not sought world domination. Our union was founded in resistance to oppression. We do not seek to occupy other nations. We will not claim another nation’s resources or target other peoples because their faith or ethnicity is different from ours.”

In Obama’s worldview, it’s the thought that counts.

Americans don’t seek world domination; it just comes to them.

“We do not seek to occupy other nations,” they leave us no choice.

If it were not for American concern for the welfare of all the world’s people, the U.S. would not maintain 780 military bases in other people’s countries.

Obama has certainly matured as an American-style statesman in his nine and a half months in office. As a TV Native American might say, "Black man in white house speak like forked tongued white man." Only better.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

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CLASS WAR REPORTS



“I Discovered From Youtube That Today’s Students Are Being Beaten By A Fully Integrated Police Force” “That’s Progress!”

December 3, 2009 By Nanette Asimov, San Francisco Chronicle Staff Writer [Excerpts]

The Free Speech Movement lives on at UC Berkeley - 45 years to the day after a 21-year-old student named Mario Savio energized thousands by exhorting them to do all they could to stop the administration’s restrictive policies.

Today the issue is less about freedom of speech than about freedom of access to a quality education, as thousands of students have protested rising tuition, employee layoffs and course cutbacks in recent weeks.

“We’re the ones fighting for this to be a public university that everyone can afford!” Ronald Cruz, a Berkeley activist, told a crowd of about 100 students who gathered Wednesday on the steps of Sproul Hall, site of the late Savio’s famous speech. “The Free Speech Movement is alive!”

On Dec. 2, 1964, Savio used the metaphor of a machine to urge student action- not just against campus policies prohibiting them from even setting up tables for their causes, but against the rampant civil rights abuses of the era.

On Wednesday, students repeated Savio's most famous passage en masse: "There's a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can't take part. You can't even passively take part. And you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop. And you've got to indicate to the people who run it, to the people who own it, that unless you're free the machine will be prevented from working at all!"

On Wednesday, three gray-haired campus activists from The '60s - Gretchen Lipow, Anita Medal, and Gar Smith - Addressed the students, recalling their own experiences.

"I still remember how an officer held me so another could slap my face," Smith said to loud boos.

"They were White men. I discovered from YouTube that today's Students are being beaten by a fully integrated police force. That's progress!"

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From: C
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Vietnam GI: Reprints Available



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