



MAJ. JOHN SUPRYNOWICZ

ENSNARED: Army Maj. John Suprynowicz, a decorated Iraq War combatant, says investigators in a National Guard recruitment scandal have sullied his name and stopped his promotion to lieutenant colonel.

MILITARY

False fraud claims taint National Guard

Top brass untouched while recruiter aides' reputations tarnished

By **ROWAN SCARBOROUGH**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Two years ago, news headlines blared that the nation's oldest army, the National Guard, was awash in one of the biggest defense fraud investigations ever, destined to reach nearly \$100 million in stolen bonus money.

There were accusations that thousands of "recruiting assistants," or RAs — a special cadre

created in 2005 to steer young men and women to a war-depleted Army Guard — might be punished, according to a Senate subcommittee chairwoman. Adding to the headlines: The subcommittee declared that the Recruiting Assistance Program itself, called GRAP, created by generals in the National Guard Bureau headquarters, was illegal because it violated a law on congressional appropriations.

Today, after seven years of audits and a nationwide probe by the Army's Criminal Investigation Command, updated numbers do document fraud. But they are far short of the ballyhooed rampant larceny. The prediction by CID that nearly \$100 million was stolen stands in contrast to a proven theft of \$6 million by Guard RAs, according to Army figures provided to The Washington Times.

Sen. Claire McCaskill, Missouri Democrat, said two years ago that 2,000 RAs may be found to be thieves. Today, of 94,329 recruiting assistants, 492 have been determined guilty or suspected of fraud. The Army says the vast majority of the 94,329 were with the Guard, where the program was created and started in 2005. (Guard RAs received \$338

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THE OREGONIAN VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

STANDING HIS GROUND: Onlookers gathered near Burns, Oregon, on Thursday as the last four occupiers of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge surrendered to the FBI. They were among 25 indicted on felony conspiracy charges in connection with the Jan. 2 siege.

OREGON

Refuge standoff ends; 25 indicted

Last 4 federal land occupiers surrender

By **VALERIE RICHARDSON**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

More arrests and indictments came Thursday after the 41-day occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge ended with the dramatic surrender of the four remaining protesters, including one who threatened to commit suicide rather than go to prison.

Federal authorities sought or arrested another nine occupiers in six states, bringing to 25 the number indicted in connection with the protest. Also taken into custody was Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, father of Oregon standoff leaders Ammon and Ryan Bundy.

David Lee Fry, 27, shouted "Hallelujah" as he left the makeshift camp at the refuge near Burns, Oregon, and turned himself in at an FBI checkpoint about a half-hour after

telling facilitators on livestream that, "I'm actually holding a gun to my head."

He joined the three other holdouts — Sean Anderson, 47, his wife Sandy Anderson, 48, and Jeff Banta, 46 — who surrendered shortly beforehand following the arrival of two requested witnesses, Nevada Assemblywoman Michele Fiore and the Rev. Franklin Graham.

Their departures marked the end of the armed occupation that started Jan. 2, when several dozen people took over the refuge headquarters as a protest of federal public-lands policy. One occupier, Robert "LaVoy" Finicum, 54, was fatally shot at an FBI roadblock.

At a press conference Thursday afternoon with the FBI, Harney County Sheriff Dave Ward was clearly relieved to have the ordeal over.

"I apologize, I've been feeling a little



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A TWIST: Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, the father of two leaders of the standoff, was arrested at Portland International Airport.

emotional today," Sheriff Ward said. "I'm proud of this community, I'm proud of my friends and neighbors. I'm proud of the way

» see **STANDOFF** | **A10**

CAMPAIGN 2016

South Carolina party chief tied to Clinton camp

Chairman breaks black barriers, raises questions of transparency

By **KELLY RIDDELL**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

South Carolina Democratic Party Chairman Jamie Harrison's official biography calls him "a rising star" in the party, "a teacher at heart" and a family man who lives in Columbia with his law professor wife.

What his bio on the party's Web page doesn't mention, though, is that Mr. Harrison is also a principal at the Podesta Group, a lobbying firm founded by brothers Tony and John Podesta — the same John Podesta who is chairman of Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

Mr. Harrison's day job is likely to get more scrutiny as the presidential campaign turns to South Carolina and questions continue to swirl about whether the Democratic Party apparatus is fairly treating Mrs. Clinton's challenger, Sen. Bernard Sanders of Vermont.

"There should be full disclosure on how someone gets paid for a living, all of their biography — especially someone as important as the chairman of the Democratic Party in South Carolina — not any part of their biography should be left out," said Neil Sroka, spokesman for Democracy for America, a grassroots network supporting Mr. Sanders. "There are plenty of ways of which the deck is stacked against those calling out powerful interests in this country, and we're focused on taking out all of them."

Neither Mr. Harrison nor the state Democratic Party returned

A conservative test for Donald Trump

Evangelicals can play a large role in South Carolina. **A10**

Sanders and Clinton make pitch to court minorities

By **KELLY RIDDELL AND STEPHEN DINAN**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Sen. Bernard Sanders told fellow presidential candidate Hillary Clinton to hold off on her coronation as Democrats' presidential nominee as they faced off Thursday, making a plea for black and Hispanic voters as the primaries expand to more racially diverse states.

"You're not in the White House yet," Mr. Sanders scolded Mrs. Clinton after she had claimed she was better able to form the kind of coalition to advance Democrats' agenda, win tax increases and bridge divides of race, ethnicity or sex.

Fiercely battling back against Mrs. Clinton's attacks, Mr. Sanders questioned the millions of dollars of donations going to political action committees backing the former secretary of state, telling her not to insult voters' intelligence by saying she's not affected by that money.

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» see **DEBATE** | **A10**

KAZAKHSTAN

Young Kazakhs study abroad for ambitious 'Freedom' plan

By **DOUGLAS BURTON**
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Shalkar Nursetov hopes to teach at a university and then open his own political consulting/social media firm, not exactly a radical choice for a 23-year-old George Washington University student pursuing a master's degree in media and public affairs.

But Mr. Nursetov hopes to land a job not on K Street or in an American political science department but back in his native Kazakhstan, as one of the latest graduates

of an ambitious study-abroad program that the former Soviet republic has set up to lift the country to the top ranks of the world's developed nations by 2050.

The Bolashak — "Freedom" in Kazakh — Program has paid full expenses for more than 11,000 students like Mr. Nursetov since its inception in 1993. Even with oil, the country's economic lifeline, facing a prolonged price slump on world markets, the government of longtime

» see **KAZAKH** | **A11**



FOREIGN EXCHANGE: Shalkar Nursetov, a 23-year-old George Washington University student, hopes to take the U.S. education he is gaining and open a political firm in his native Kazakhstan.

IMMIGRATION

Democrats look to provide free immigration lawyers to illegals

By **STEPHEN DINAN**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Top Senate Democrats announced legislation Thursday to grant government-funded lawyers to tens of thousands of illegal immigrant children and mothers who surged into the U.S. from Central America over the last few years, opening another front in the thorny immigration battle.

Arguing the Obama administration has been unfair to illegal immigrants by shunting them through a complex legal

system without proper attention to their rights, Sen. Harry Reid, the top Democrat in the upper chamber, led colleagues in demanding lawyers and other protections, such as allowing migrants to delay their trials until they get access to their entire government file.

Currently, migrants are able to hire their own lawyers, but the government cannot pay for them.

Though unlikely to advance in the

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POLITICS

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NATION

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