

# POLITICS & THE NATION

## Magazine is printed with HIV-positive blood

BY LENNY BERNSTEIN

To make a big point, a small Austrian men's magazine printed an entire edition using ink laced with HIV-positive blood. The idea, said Julian Wiehl, co-publisher of the Vangardist, which he describes as a "progressive" magazine aimed at young, urban men, was to make a statement about the stigma that still surrounds the virus.

"If you see the magazine . . . the first question that comes to your mind is, 'Would I touch it? Would I take it in my hands?'" Wiehl said in an interview. "And the second question is, 'Why would I touch it?' or 'Why wouldn't I touch it?'"

From a health perspective, touching the magazine is not a problem; the human immunodeficiency virus dies quickly outside the body and can be transmitted only by direct contact with body fluids, mainly blood and semen. To be doubly sure, and to kill any other pathogens, the magazine sterilized the HIV-positive blood obtained from three donors before mixing it with the red ink used to print the magazine. The ink used in all 3,000 copies of the printed edition is 1 part blood to 28 parts ink, Wiehl said. There also is some blue ink to highlight its "Heroes of HIV" theme.

The magazine comes in a sealed wrapper, forcing the reader to "break the seal to break the stigma," Wiehl said. To avoid violating

laws that govern the transport of blood or blood products across borders, the edition can be ordered only online.

Normally, the five-year-old Vangardist, which is headquartered in Vienna, puts out 10 digital issues a year aimed at young, progressive urban men who don't fit gay or straight stereotypes, Wiehl said. It covers health, fashion and sexuality, among other topics.

But with the Life Ball, one of the world's biggest AIDS charity events, scheduled for May in Vienna, the magazine came up with a printed issue devoted to "Heroes of HIV." Its ad agency, Saatchi & Saatchi, suggested using HIV-positive blood in the printing process.

Three HIV-positive people — the heroes of "HIV heroes" — donated their blood: a 47-year-old mother; a gay 26-year-old man and a 32-year-old straight man. (Only about 5.5 pounds of ink was needed.)

"The stigma of HIV, although we have all these medical advances, is still a hard topic," Wiehl said, adding that infections are on the rise in some parts of the world and that the epidemic, though decades old, is not under control.

The magazine goes on sale Thursday.

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Excerpted from [washingtonpost.com/blogs/to-your-health](http://washingtonpost.com/blogs/to-your-health)

## Obama to tap Marine as Chiefs chair

BY MISSY RYAN AND DAN LAMOTHE

President Obama will nominate Marine Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr. to become the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, selecting an experienced field commander to guide the United States through familiar insurgent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and new threats from cyberattacks and China's military rise.

U.S. officials said Obama is expected to announce on Tuesday that Dunford, the commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, will be his pick to replace Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, who will step down this fall after four years on the job.

The announcement is the second time that Obama, who has sought to overcome the rocky ties with uniformed leaders that characterized the early years of his administration, has picked a senior officer to provide him with military advice. Dunford must be confirmed by the Senate.

The president will also nominate Air Force General Paul J. Selva, the head of U.S. Transportation Command, as vice chairman, officials said.

Officials said Dunford, a Boston native and former infantry officer, was a proven combat leader who had distinguished himself as commander of U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan in 2013-2014 as foreign forces shifted responsibility for fighting the Tali-



Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr.

ban to Afghan troops. Dunford also commanded a Marine regiment early in the Iraq war.

"What makes him attractive is that he's a ground leader, and we've still got ground wars going on," said an administration official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss the selection process.

Retired Gen. James T. Conway, the Marine Corps' top officer from November 2006 to October 2010, said he wasn't surprised that Dunford had become the Marine's second chairman in history — after Gen. Peter Pace, who was chairman from 2005 to 2007. While serving under Conway, Dunford was seen as an impressive leader who essentially "skipped a star," being selected for

promotion from one-star general to three-star general in a matter of months.

James Mattis, the retired Marine general who once headed U.S. Central Command, said Dunford was "unflappable in the face of tension, an excellent listener and superbly accomplished in the operational art."

Dunford earned the nickname "Fighting Joe" while leading the 5th Marine Regiment as it became the first conventional force to cross into Iraq during the U.S. invasion there in March 2003. His Marines advanced north up Highway 1 from Kuwait, fighting a number of bloody battles while facing problems with weather and limited resources. Twelve Marines were killed and more than 120 were wounded in about a month, according to a Marine Corps unit history.

Once confirmed, Dunford must grapple with a long list of challenges, including deep cuts to military spending, the spread of extremist groups across the Muslim world, and the expansionist ambitions of Russia and China.

Most pressing on Dunford's first day may be the evolving U.S. operations in Iraq, where about 3,000 U.S. soldiers are providing advice and training to Iraqi forces battling the Islamic State.

While U.S. and allied airstrikes have helped Iraqi fighters halt the militants' advance, the group is proving difficult to defeat. As the Iraq conflict unfolds, it will fall to

Dunford to advise Obama about whether and how to expand U.S. operations there.

He will also shape decisions about the future of a U.S. mission in Afghanistan. While the remaining U.S. force of 9,800 is supposed to be gone by the time Obama leaves office in 2017, the White House has already shown flexibility in revising earlier troop withdrawal plans. In picking a former Afghanistan commander, well acquainted with the demands of that fight, Obama may be lining himself up for additional pressure to keep troops longer.

The U.S. military has a host of internal problems to solve, including needed reforms to military benefits and weapons programs.

Dunford will also have to walk a fine line in providing the president advice on military issues with big political ramifications, without veering into politicizing the military. "When that breaks down, it becomes extremely difficult and potentially fraught," Shawn Brimley, a former White House official now with the Center for a New American Security, said of the need to protect the military's non-political role.

He will also oversee military ties with a White House that has often been difficult for outsiders to penetrate. As commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, Dunford had more direct interaction with Obama than many generals.

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### DIGEST

#### NEW JERSEY

### Christie's ex-allies plead not guilty

Two former political allies of Gov. Chris Christie (R) pleaded not guilty Monday to charges that they were involved in politically motivated lane closures on the George Washington Bridge.

Bridget Kelly, Christie's former deputy chief of staff, and Bill Baroni, his former top appointee at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, entered the pleas through their attorneys in the nine-count indictment unsealed Friday after a year-long investigation.

Christie has not been implicated in the criminal case, but Kelly's attorney, Michael Critchley, did not rule out serving a subpoena on the governor.

David Wildstein, who went to high school with Christie and later became a top official in the Port Authority, pleaded guilty Friday to two criminal counts.

— Associated Press

#### NEW YORK

### Bribery charges for state Senate leader

The leader of the New York

Senate was arrested Monday on charges including extortion and soliciting bribes after investigators looking into the awarding of a \$12 million contract to a company that hired his son said they captured him on wiretaps boasting of his power.

Dean Skelos, 67, and his 32-year-old son, Adam, both of Rockville Centre on Long Island, surrendered at the FBI's offices in Manhattan as a criminal complaint was unsealed against them in federal court.

After a brief appearance before a magistrate judge, they were ordered to turn over their passports and were released.

Authorities said Dean Skelos, New York state's most powerful Republican official, has taken official actions in return for payments to his son that topped \$200,000.

— Associated Press

#### MASSACHUSETTS

### Tsarnaev cries as sobbing aunt testifies

For the first time in court, Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev dropped his blank, impassive demeanor and cried as his sobbing aunt briefly took the stand Monday in his

#### NEW YORK



New York City Police Commissioner Bill Bratton waits with police officers outside Jamaica Hospital. Brian Moore, a 25-year-old officer shot in the head over the weekend while on duty, died Monday.

federal death-penalty trial.

Tsarnaev, 21, wiped tears from his eyes quickly and fidgeted in his chair as his mother's sister sobbed uncontrollably. He had maintained an uninterested ex-

pression since his trial began in January.

The aunt, Patimat Suleimanova, cried as she sat down about 10 feet from Tsarnaev. She could not complete her testimony. As

she left the witness stand, Tsarnaev used a tissue to wipe his eyes and nose.

Five relatives — three cousins and two aunts — took the witness stand. As Tsarnaev was led

out of the courtroom before the lunch recess, he blew a kiss at the other aunt, who also cried during her testimony.

Tsarnaev was convicted last month of 30 federal charges, including 17 that carry the possibility of the death penalty, in the 2013 bombings that killed three people and wounded 260.

— Associated Press

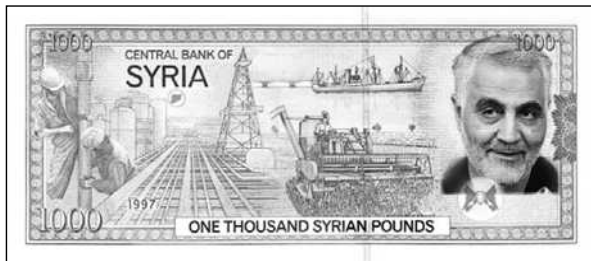
**\$63,000 found in Pa. park:** A plastic bag containing \$63,000 in moldy bills was found by a visitor at Bald Eagle State Park, about 90 miles northwest of Pennsylvania's capital, Harrisburg, on Saturday. Police say paperwork found near the money apparently includes the name of the woman to whom it belongs. Authorities say a woman who lives out of state reported the money missing nearly a year ago.

**Los Alamos employee suffers burn:** A Los Alamos National Laboratory employee was in critical condition Monday after being burned in an accident that sent eight workers at the nuclear weapons research facility in New Mexico to the hospital. A lab spokesman confirmed that the accident happened Sunday at an electrical substation.

— From news services

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## Iran is already occupying Syria, Mr. President

Iran's Revolutionary Guards' al-Qods Force, headed by General Qassem Soleimani, is in effective control of all major military operations attributed to the Syrian regime. Iranian and Hezbollah Lebanon commanders are in control of most Syrian regime forces, as well as Iraqi and Afghani Shia militias.

The Iranian role in Syria amounts to an unlawful military occupation, as defined by the 1907 Hague Regulations and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

In the areas out of their control, barrel bombs, mortars and missiles target civilians daily, with the full knowledge and complicity of Iranian and Hezbollah commanders. Chemical and toxic weapons have frequently been used.

The Iranian regime should not get away with war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Syria, while also spreading mayhem in Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen through the militias it controls there.

### This is why, Mr. President, we ask you to:

- Treat the war in Syria as an international armed conflict involving a foreign occupation by the Iranian regime and its militias and a liberation struggle by the Syrian people against this occupation.
- Refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court to investigate the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Syria, including Iran's and Hezbollah's role.
- Impose no-fly zones to protect civilians and allow humanitarian access throughout Syria, in line with the international 'responsibility to protect' norm.
- Fulfill your promises by arming and training enough moderate Syrian rebels, not only to fight ISIS and al-Qaeda-linked groups, but also Syrian and Iranian regime forces and militias.

Mr. President, the people of Syria need to know that they did not make a mistake in March 2011 when they took to the street demanding freedom and dignity.

To visualize the Iranian occupation of Syria, Naame Shaam produced a photomontage of a Syrian bank note with the counterfeit of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani, the de facto ruler of Syria.

For more information about Iran's role in Syria, see Naame Shaam's report "Iran in Syria — From an Ally of the Regime to an Occupying Force": [www.naameshaam.org](http://www.naameshaam.org)

Naame Shaam, which means "Letter from Syria" in Persian, is a group of Iranian, Syrian and Lebanese activists and citizen-journalists that focuses on uncovering the role of the Iranian regime in Syria. The group is supported by the Netherlands-based Rule of Law Foundation, [www.lawrules.org](http://www.lawrules.org).

**This is the first advert out of four. The next one will be published here in mid-May 2015.**

[www.naameshaam.org](http://www.naameshaam.org)

