

# NORML's Daily Audio Stash

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4:20 News Police/DEA Media

## The Blackwater DEA photo scrubbed from the LA Times



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### [NORML Daily Audio Stash](#)

“We heard some noise outside, and then the door literally burst in, and the DEA came in in full combat gear, told everybody to get on the floor and put their hands behind their heads,” Carey said. “It was like, literally, an episode of “24,” when they bust in on a terrorist cell.”

That’s the description of the Culver City DEA dispensary raid [I blogged about](#) last Friday. Who knew that the “terrorist cell” description would have another frightening parallel. That agent unloading DEA evidence is wearing a Blackwater t-shirt.

[Blackwater](#) is the private “security firm” with millions of dollars in no-bid US government contracts in Iraq.

This is a photo published by the LA Times as part of its [photo slideshow](#) online accompanying [the news story](#) about the raid.

Or, it was published. If you click that photo slideshow link above, you’ll find that the seven picture slideshow has now been reduced to six. The Blackwater man is no longer there.

As of this writing, the photo is [still online](#) at the Times, but it’s an orphan (you won’t find links to it), along with the caption:

DEA agents remove evidence from Organica Collective after the business was raided by federal agents. (Gina Ferazzi / Los Angeles Times)

Now, maybe the LA Times took the photo down because the caption was inaccurate. If he’s working for Blackwater, he’s not part of “DEA agents”. But then why not just fix the caption?

Maybe he is a DEA agent and he just got the Blackwater shirt as swag at some convention, and the LA Times took the picture down to protect the identity of the hip young pony-tailed goatee-sportin’ undercover narc with a Robocop-sized gun on his hip.

It would be nice to know whether or not our federal Drug Employment Administration is outsourcing federal police duties to private mercenary armies like Blackwater. After all, they’ve done such a bang-up job with domestic policing in Iraq, like [shooting up 17 unarmed civilians without provocation](#). The Iraqi government revoked their license and kicked Blackwater out of the country, but, of course, they’re still there.

The Iraqi government has learned what the California government has learned - when it is engaged in a war on nouns like “drugs” or “terror”, the US government will do whatever it damn well pleases.

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Tags: [Blackwater](#), [California](#), [Culver City](#), [DEA](#), [LA Times](#)

## 17 Responses to “The Blackwater DEA photo scrubbed from the LA Times”

1. *dizil* Says:

[August 4th, 2008 at 10:08 am](#)

IF this guy does work for blackwater isn't that against the law or are we now outsourcing cops. If this is true he is blackwater what else will Blackwater be doing? Giving you a speeding ticket, parking ticket, knocking on your door to check your house for drugs? This is not good American's

2. *"Radical" Russ* Says:

[August 4th, 2008 at 10:21 am](#)

There is the Posse Comitatus Act that forbade the use of our military for domestic policing, but much of that has been eroded because of the “drug war exception”, so that National Guard and military have been used in certain drug operations. So would I be surprised if DEA is outsourcing to Blackwater? Under this maladministration, nothing surprises me. After all, if we can pay contractors ten times a soldiers' salary in Iraq, why not pay a contractor ten times a DEA agents' salary in the US? After all, it's only taxpayer money borrowed from China...

3. *moldy* Says:

[August 4th, 2008 at 2:18 pm](#)

Backwater? Isn't that a code word for oil?

And yeah, these guys don't have to follow the rules either. Don't they have immunity for all their atrocities as a private contractor? sick

4. *Brinna* Says:

[August 4th, 2008 at 8:11 pm](#)

Don't know which is more disturbing, Blackwater brandishing huge side-arms in a DEA raid, or the LA Times burying the image.

5. *Brian* Says:

[August 4th, 2008 at 10:00 pm](#)

Black Water was already deployed inside the states. There men were in New Orleans after Katrina. Last part of this video...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqM4tKPDIR8>

6. *Peter* Says:

[August 6th, 2008 at 2:42 am](#)

What's with all the hoplophobia in these comments?

Sure, the DEA are a criminal agency and so are Blackwater goons assisting them, but the ridiculous comments about the size of the guy's gun make us sound like gun-haters who only care about the rights that affect us - after all, why else would we even mention the size of his gun?

As it just so happens, it's not even a large gun. His extremely “tacticool” (at least, it makes him feel cool) drop leg holster looks big and bulky, but he isn't carrying an Auto-9 (Robocop's gun), or even a Beretta 93r (the gun that the “Auto-9” was built from) in his too-tacticool holster. In fact, it looks like a Glock.

7. *john* Says:

[August 11th, 2008 at 12:39 pm](#)

Well Peter I'm glad you set the record straight. When this guy whose training and legal knowledge is unknown, and accountability (or lack of) IS known puts a bullet in some cancer patient running for the toilet I'm sure he'll be much less dead than if he'd been sporting some REAL firepower.

(I got a fiver that says ole Pete has a FFL just so he can own a full auto weapon- though I could care less if he keeps it at home. Most don't)

8. *ET PHONE HOME* Says:

[August 29th, 2008 at 4:25 am](#)

Readers, to put your mind at rest. There is no sinister shenanigans going on between Blackwater and DEA. The explanation is that there are several units DEA units that deploy to Afghanistan, Kabul and Iraq. They are called the FAST Team (Foreign Advisory Support Teams) who deploy to Kabul and Iraq for 120 days and work with the local counterparts in fighting drug cultivation and train them in narcotics investigations. Significant amount of training is also provided to the counterparts. Many of the other agencies and companies that are in these war torn countries is BLACKWATER. DEA and these contract agencies, like Blackwater and Northrop and Grummond train the locals counterparts in investigations. As you know many retired federal agents are employed with Blackwater and Northrop and Grummond. Either the agent in the photo was part of the FAST Team or knew someone or is a reserve military soldier and merely received the shirt from someone employed. The agent wears it probably because it is black. Instead of being suspicious, be positive and proud of what DEA does domestically and internationally.

If you want to read more about the FAST Teams, go to this site. <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/pressrel/pr111704.html> -

9. *robetsgt40* Says:

[September 5th, 2008 at 10:32 am](#)

The link to the L A Times is going to "page not found". Who da thunk

10. *Cadavre* Says:

[September 5th, 2008 at 10:37 am](#)

Quit looking at our little fuhrers heading our agencies and government (some are even foreign citizens, like the Gestapista head dogs at Homeland Security and Department of Justice, from, according to a recent global survey, the most despised nation on the planet - and no - it's not the US, we came in a close second).

It has nothing to do with law, protecting the public or enforcing the law.

IT'S ONLY ABOUT MONEY. THAT'S ALL IT'S ABOUT.

Now how can a fascist regime extort and defraud the born again dumbed downs, affectionately called "American Consumers" (remember when we were citizens - now we're cattle and chattel in an ever grow coral know as "Home Land Security")?

Well you star by associating everything with a war on something or other. But really, the only war being waged is the war against our constitutionally guaranteed freedoms. If they can be extricated, obfuscated by writ or act, then they are simply ignored and denied.

Blackwater is not only a way around the no soldiers as cops rule, it's a big money maker for the oligarchs supporting the United States of Fascism. IT'S JUST ANOTHER WAY TO STEAL OUR TREASURE.

Remember the liquid bomb ruse in the UK. Well all those guys were found nonchargeable to the

complaint. Further more, scientists reported to to even assemble a liquid bomb on a plane would require several bathtubs filled with ice and a trailer full of devices and compounds - basically to assemble a liquid bomb would take a fully quipped high school science class and about 10 hours. Where the fraud, you may be asking?

Well, Phoenix Arizona's airport was the lucky recipient of a multi-million dollar liquid bomb xray project that was delivered so quickly after the UK arrests you'd think that those detained, but eventually not charged in the UK, had set up a security business in the US and received a 100 Million dollars to build such an xray machine - just in case - and then got conveniently busted just days before PAP got the xray!

Home Land Security spends most of it's money building prisons and FEMA concentration camps. The xray machine tax dollar giveaways are just a sideline. As bad as it is to be busted by extralegal police - it's much worse to get murdered or suicided by them. Look up "FBI Agent John Oneil", "Deborah Palfrey", "CIA Agent Roland Carnaby", "Dr Iwins". Patriots, one and all that met convenient deaths and suicides!

A was man would study the police. A recent article suggested that by design low IQ's are preferred. A wise man would wear a Blackwater T-Shirt too!

Good news is there are more of us than them. According to some recent research, not more than 27% of humanity is predisposed for a Ziek Hiling authoritarian government of fascists and oligarchs. We could, if we put our hearts to it and embraced obligations under the Declaration of Independence anytime we wanted. There are lot's of patriots in our military services and federal and state agencies that would stand with us. We could take our country back anytime we wanted. Question is, why ain't we doing it now.

WRITE IN RON PAUL!

11. *john* Says:

[September 5th, 2008 at 12:54 pm](#)

"be positive and proud of what DEA does domestically and internationally."

Like helping their cousins from the FBI assist in the torture and murder of US citizens in our communities testing and deploying microwave harrassment devices from the JNLWP (joint non-lethal weapons project) based in Quantico?

Or perhaps playing cowboy in their paramilitary raids in California communities- where the majority exercised their democratic right and approved medical marijuana- in some infantile effort to stomp on anyone who dares to defy their authority. Municipalities have issued many complaints to the house judiciary committee about their gestapo like tactics and ridiculous misdirection of resources.

The very methods they use in raids- no knock, wearing clothing indistinguishable from a home invasion robber, meant to give residents no opportunity to flush the evidence, show an overzealous entity that have many members flat out of control. Seizing the evidence is more important than the family pet of even a family member's life.

To the point though, your "explanation" is nothing but the same doublespeak we expect from sneaky bureaucrats, whether you are one or not isn't really my concern. You don't come out and say "that cannot be a blackwater employee because for a military contractor to do narcointerdiction against US citizens on US soil is against policy, therefore could not be funded so is impossible".

You can't say that because the DOJ has had contracts with about a dozen blackwater type corporations for several years, at about \$750 million a year. You've heard of "mission creep", and that's what has been going on since the DEA issued that self serving money grab report in 2003 linking

illegal drug use with terrorism.

As the other person commented, it allows politicians and their corporate cronies to skim the till, and avoid accountability for disaster.

There may be many honorable people in the DEA and its parent agency. I think they have missed that this “war on drugs” has become a war on their own people. Their overzealous pursuit of what becomes an ideology has desensitized them from the human aspect. They think it’s them VS us, and if you think the oommunities are being “cleaned up” by filling jail cells up for long terms for social crimes- a human weakness that every society in recorded history has indulged in- you have a pretty sad future in mind.

“Slippery Slope”... or “when they came for the comunists, I said nothing for I was not a communist” come to mind.

12. [windycityatty](#) Says:  
[September 5th, 2008 at 5:05 pm](#)

“Instead of being suspicious, be positive and proud of what DEA does domestically and internationally.”

What the f\*ck are you doing on NORML?

Apparently, you didn’t get the memo. NORML is an acronym for the national organization for the reform of marijuana laws. Reform the laws, not enforce the laws. Reform is the keyword here. The DEA stands for Drug Enforcement Administration - perhaps you should go back to their website and talk shop with your brothers in tyranny.

Newsflash: The DEA lost. Cannabis will be grown and used in large quantities throughout the known world - again - just as it has been for thousands of years. You cannot stop it. The DEA cannot stop it. The people will be free.

13. [John Dunn](#) Says:  
[September 5th, 2008 at 5:25 pm](#)

It’s well known that guys with pony tails are marijuana smokers. Want to bet this guy got some for himself?

14. [www.buzzflash.net](#) Says:  
[September 5th, 2008 at 7:55 pm](#)

### **The Blackwater DEA photo scrubbed from the LA Times...**

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15. [Tom](#) Says:  
[September 6th, 2008 at 3:07 am](#)

Time to go Fallujah on these blackwater bastards.

16. [Justin Boland](#) Says:  
[September 6th, 2008 at 11:15 am](#)

That’s a great find, man, and I salute you for posting it up. Thank you for the work you’re doing here.

17. [john](#) Says:

[September 6th, 2008 at 3:43 pm](#)

John Dunn: I was in the Navy from '79-'83 and experienced firsthand the "zero tolerance" witch hunt.

If you parted your hair in the middle, you were fer sure a dooper.

If you had a pierced left ear you were a dooper. Or queer. If you had a pierced right ear it meant something else, can't remember what. Both ears pierced, well I think that meant you didn't have many lonely saturday nights?

LOL. I thought people with ponytails just don't want their hair in their face.

Wonder what Ed Meese would look like with a ponytail.....

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