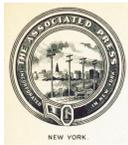

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2014 9:23 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
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Connecting

April 18, 2014



Colleagues,

Responses continue to arrive in the Connecting mailbox to a reader comment to a Spiegel Online International story that said slain AP photojournalist **Anja Niedringhaus** "*accepted the risks, let's move on*" - and the situation that confronts journalists who go into a danger zone to cover news, as well as the editors who assign them to that duty.

If you have been in either position, Connecting would welcome your own reactions and thoughts based on your personal experiences to share with your colleagues. Send them to me at: stevenspl@live.com

Here are the latest:

[Richard Pyle](#): (AP, 1960-2009)

On April 3, AP photographer Anja Niedringhaus and her equally intrepid AP reporter-colleague Kathy Gannon were victims of a bizarre attack as they covered Afghanistan's pre-election preparations. Shouting ``Allahu akbar," (God is great) an Afghan military officer riddled their car with AK-47 bullets, killing Anja outright and severely wounding Kathy.

It was in Cambodia, 44 years ago, that murder began to replace combat action as the leading cause of death for news media people. Of 74 journalists who lost their lives in the Vietnam war between 1965 and 1975, more than a third were killed or vanished, presumably kidnapped and slain.

In wars since, the greater number of journalist casualties have been local people, rather than foreigners, and most of these were not victims of combat, either. Local vendettas and score-settling, along with cold-blooded murder like Anja's, have been commonplace.

Among reader comments posted after the German magazine Spiegel wrote a glowing obituary for her was one saying simply, "She knew the risks. Let's move on."

Regardless of who they are or how it happens, the reaction to the deaths of journalists is rarely that cynical or insensitive. But the question is always there: What motivates people with cameras and notebooks to voluntarily risk their lives for the sake of a story or a picture?

I don't know whether Anja Niedringhaus was ever asked that question. Nor do I remember it ever being a serious subject of discussion during my own war-reporting career in Vietnam, Lebanon and the Persian Gulf. It was always a given, a possibility, but no more than that.

The question did arise, inescapably, when AP photo genius Horst Faas and I were working on our 2003-2004 book, "Lost Over Laos," the story of four top photojournalists killed when their South Vietnamese helicopter was shot down over the Ho Chi Minh Trail on Feb 10, 1971.

If we hoped to find in that incident a simple, clear answer to the question of risk-taking, we fell short. Ultimately the best we could offer was the obvious one - no "grand motive" but simply the "reporter's creed, the telling of a story so that others might know it."

It had to be more complicated than that, we thought.

Was there some kind of suicidal impulse common to the breed? Horst said that in years of covering armed conflicts in Africa and nearly a decade in Vietnam, he never met anyone with a "death wish."

British photographer Tim Page, a legendary figure for his daring and survival of serious wounds, might have mystified some readers (but not those who knew him) by calling the Vietnam war "the ultimate experience, laden with a magic, a glamorous edge, that none who went through it can truly deny."

However, given the elements of adventure, excitement and romance, and the idea of doing something professionally that most people could not imagine for themselves, it

would be foolish to suggest that reporting war can be "just a job," so to speak.

Nor can the power of camaraderie be overrated in a situation where even a single companion offers a reinforcing presence.

As the odds of getting killed were said (in the absence of any evidence) to be always 50-50, assessing the actual danger of a particular battlefield assignment depended on experience, knowledge and maybe gut instinct.

None were better at this than the veterans Larry Burrows of Life magazine and AP's Henri Huet. Widely acknowledged as the war's two finest camera craftsmen, They were also uncommonly courageous; neither of them would have chosen not to fly into Laos on that day.

Burrows once told an interviewer that he felt simply that photographing the war was important enough to take the risks. "I have a sense of the ultimate-death. And I must say, 'to hell with that'."

Perhaps the most telling comment about Huet came from Jim Bourdier, who in 1970 had replaced Horst Faas as AP's Saigon photo chief: While Henri's work was impeccable, Bourdier said, his "most important trait was his sheer, utter devotion to duty... his photography. Henri took it more seriously than life itself."

The readiness of Burrows, Huet and their colleagues to climb aboard that helicopter can be readily applied to many others, Anja Niedringhaus and Kathy Gannon most recently among them. But the answer to that question of "why" remains, at best, elusive.

(Vietnam was the first of six wars Richard covered and he was there five years, 1968-73, the last three as Saigon bureau chief.)

[Neal Ulevich](#): (AP, 1966-2002 not continuously)

I note with bemusement that none of the postings regarding "let's move on" are from photographers. I was an AP combat photographer in Vietnam. Accepting the risk, briefly mourning those who succumbed to risk and then moving on, was a part of life. So I can't agree with George Krinsky who sees it as "brusque and inhumane." Nor can I agree with Robert Meyers, who said "The commenter who wants to move on was never interested in the first place." How does he know?

Advice to move on does not suggest callousness or a lack of respect. Rather it goes to the heart of what we do, and the risks we accept. There is not much to say beyond that. I have in my collection a crude, hand printed sign summoning journalists to the Huong Giang Hotel in Hue for a drink honoring Terry Khoo, Sam Kai Faye, Tran Van Nghia and a freelancer named Hebert, all killed in combat in July, 1972. We loved and respected them. We had a drink and talked about them. Then we moved on.

(Neal worked as an AP photographer, photo editor, newsman and electronic communications specialist, mostly in the last century.)

[Madge Stager](#) (AP, 1972-2009)

There are always people who will/have said move on, no matter the circumstance, my bet is that this person has said it to a loved one. Just because a journalist, soldier, police officer, firefighter or good samaritan walks toward danger does not mean they cannot be mourned.

I have lost colleagues/friends and have had to 'get over it' same day because I was involved in the the news coverage of their death or coverage about unrelated events, which to me that day seemed meaningless. Richard Cross, Hansi Krauss, Miguel Gil Moreno de Mora and Anja Niedringhaus are just among those who deserved to be mourned full strength. I believe if I have trouble with the way someone else mourns it is my responsibility to turn away, not tell them what to do.

No one has ever asked my opinion on the subject, thanks for letting me get that off my chest.

News of the AP

AP wins SPJ award for public service

Rebecca Boone of The Associated Press received the Society of Professional Journalists' public service award for coverage of the Idaho prison system and The Boston Globe staff won deadline reporting honors for its stories on the Boston Marathon bombings.

Click [here](#) for a Poynter story on the awards and click [here](#) for a complete list of winners.

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Bill Kole: Tweeting through the Marathon

[Bill Kole](#), AP's New England bureau chief based in Boston, plans to run the Boston Marathon on Monday and live-tweet every mile for AP under hashtag #26Tweets2Boston. He reports that it has started to generate some local buzz, including these two stories:



[Foxyboro native will go from Hopkinton to Boston in 26 tweets](#)

Foxyboro native Bill Kole will line up with thousands

of others in Hopkinton Monday and begin the 26.2 mile trek to Boston in the 118th Boston Marathon. A year after twin bombs exploded at the finish line, the 2014 Boston Marathon will see the second-largest pack of runners in its history as people turn out to show their resilience, their strength and to finish the race that many started last year but never finished. Kole, the Associated Press New England bureau chief and former Sun Chronicle reporter, knows how important the race is and how closely it will be followed - which is why he'll be documenting the race on Twitter from inside the pack of runners.

Bill Kole and 26Tweets2Boston

It came to me, as all my best ideas inevitably do, during a pre-dawn training run: Why not live-tweet every mile of this year's Boston Marathon? Dozens of news organizations, including my own - The Associated Press - will be covering the bombings anniversary and the race itself. But how many of them will have a reporter embedded with the runners? AP will, since I'm already in the field. What better way to give readers a real-time update of the planet's most celebrated footrace than by running with my iPhone and tweeting each mile under hashtag #26Tweets2Boston?

Bill can be followed via www.twitter.com/billkole.

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Tom Berman named deputy for AP's Central Region

CHICAGO (AP) -- Tom Berman, a veteran editor and leader at The Associated Press who has directed coverage of stories ranging from air disasters, terror attacks and the ongoing unrest in Ukraine, has been named the cooperative's new deputy editor for the U.S. Central Region, overseeing the AP's journalism in 14 states in middle America.



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Russian state media claim AP skews Putin coverage

MOSCOW (AP) -- Kremlin-controlled television channels criticized The Associated Press' international television service for cutting into its live feed of President Vladimir Putin's nearly four-hour call-in show to send footage from other developing news stories, including the attempted raid on a Ukrainian national guard base.

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[Pulitzer-winners David Kennerly, Nick Ut, Peter Arnett to appear at Stanford Journalism Q&A April 23](#)

A Q&A with

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Vietnam War Journalists

David Kennerly

Nick Ut

Peter Arnett



{ WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23 }
12:15 - 1:15 p.m.
McClatchy Hall, 1st Floor - Mendenhall

Presented by the Stanford Journalism Program

Welcome to Connecting



[Barry Bedlan](#) - AP Dallas assistant chief of bureau. He earlier served as Atlanta news editor and Omaha news editor after joining AP 18 years ago from the Scottsbluff (Neb.) Star-Herald.

[Diane Parker](#) - AP director of staffing and diversity, Human Resources, New York.



Connecting wishes Happy Birthday

To

[Marc Wilson](#)

Stories of interest

[Carney's backhanded dig at Pulitzer winners](#)

White House Press Secretary Jay Carney seemed to question the Pulitzer Prize Board's decision to honor The Washington Post and The Guardian for their reporting on Edward Snowden's National Security Agency revelations.

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[NSA coverage wins Pulitzer, but Americans remain divided on Snowden leaks](#)

While the journalism world conferred its top honor yesterday to the newspapers that reported on Edward Snowden's National Security Agency leaks, the public remains divided over whether those classified leaks served the public interest.

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[The tea party radio network](#)

A POLITICO review of filings with the Internal Revenue Service and Federal Election Commission, as well as interviews and reviews of radio shows, found that conservative groups spent nearly \$22 million to broker and pay for involved advertising relationships known as sponsorships with a handful of influential talkers including Beck, Sean Hannity, Laura Ingraham, Mark Levin and Rush Limbaugh between the first talk radio deals in 2008 and the end of 2012. Since then, the sponsorship deals have grown more lucrative and tea party-oriented, with legacy groups like The Heritage Foundation ending their sponsorships and groups like the Tea Party Patriots placing big ad buys.

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[8 Digital Tools Every Journalist Should Try](#)

When Charlie Beckett asked me to join the Polis journalism conference this week at the London School of Economics and Political Science, he showed the depth of his university by asking a surprisingly practical journalism question for a school ranked No. 2 in the world in the research-laden "communication and media studies" field.

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[uFly fires flight instructor who appeared on CNN](#)

A Canadian flight simulator business fired an instructor who figured prominently in CNN's coverage of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, saying he showed up late to his regular job and "shamed Canadians" by dressing like a teenager.

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[Six things to consider about the new Los Angeles Register](#)

The first edition of the Orange County Register's expansion into the Times' turf is hot off

the presses. Is this about selling papers or positioning for a further shakeout of the newspaper market?

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[Newseum relents, will display weeklies after protest by editors](#)

A daylong protest by weekly newspaper editors from around the U.S. against the Newseum's snubbing of community journalism resulted in the Washington, D.C., museum changing its policy to include weeklies in its Today's Front Pages exhibit.

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[Media organizations challenge order to take down anti-Muslim video](#)

Major news organizations have filed a friend-of-the-court brief supporting Google and YouTube in their effort to overturn a takedown order for an anti-Muslim video that inflamed Islamic communities worldwide.

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[NJ WATCHDOG SALUTES REPORTER WHO RUNS OUTSIDE THE PACK](#)

New Jersey Watchdog offers a big wag of the tail in honor of David Neese, a feisty journalist not afraid to raise hell. After 40-odd years as a reporter and editorial writer at The Trentonian, Neese joins the growing ranks of newspaper veterans who are out of work. "I'm being eased out the door as of Friday, the job eliminated for supposed 'economic' reasons," Neese wrote in an email last week. "Well, anyway, what the hell, I've been at this so damn long it's maybe about time somebody gonged me."

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APME UPDATE - April 17, 2014 (Mark Mittelstadt)

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATIONS ENDS FRIDAY FOR ASNE-APME CONFERENCE

Don't miss the early bird registration for the ASNE-APME conference Sept. 15-17 at the Hyatt Regency in the heart of downtown Chicago. The Associated Press Photo Managers will also be part of the conference.

The early bird registration fee of \$199 is available to members of APME and ASNE till Friday, April 18. This will be the first joint conference of the nation's top editors. The theme: ASNE/APME 2014: Fast Forward

Register now: Early bird registration is available at \$199 for members of APME and ASNE until Friday, April 18. After that, the registration fee will be \$250 for members of APME and ASNE and \$350 for nonmembers. There are special rates for APME's Regents, retired editors, spouses and students. Click: <http://www.apme.com/event/2014convention>.

Book your hotel room:

A block of rooms is reserved at the Hyatt Regency until Aug. 29 for only \$189 per night. Make a reservation online: <https://aws.passkey.com/event/10816539/owner/2135/home>. Or call the hotel directly at 312-565-1234 and mention the block of rooms reserved for APME and ASNE.

For details, go to: <http://www.apme.com/?page=2014Convention>

FROM AP

Beat of the Week: [Butler, Arce](#)

Best of the States: [Duara, Forliti, Sewell, Barr, Cohen, Welsh-Huggins](#)

WATCHDOG REPORTING

Arizona Daily Star: Tucson is buying back unused sick days
Arizona Daily Sun: Drug trafficking arrests becoming costly
New York Times: Thought secure, pooled pensions teeter and fall
Los Angeles Times: Medical prison beset by waste and mismanagement
Sacramento Bee: New bay bridge shows signs of rust
Denver Post: Response slow to psychotropic drug use among foster children
Washington Post: Google masters the art of lobbying In Washington
Newark Star Ledger: Christie accused of interfering with ethics commission
Charlotte Observer: Feds eye ex-mayor's campaign in corruption probe
Akron Beacon Journal : Kent State shreds presidential search documents
Dallas Morning News: Official toll overlooks many injured in West explosion

[Read more Watchdog Reporting](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

Post, Guardian win Pulitzers for NSA revelations
Details and reaction on the winners of the 2014 Pulitzer Prizes:
Boston Globe wins Pulitzer for bombing coverage
Pulitzer for NSA coverage echoes tradition in news
Snowden says Pulitzer Prize is a 'vindication'
Two reporters who probed NSA surveillance back in US
AP photographer captured humanity amid chaos
AP president: Journalists 'under attack' worldwide
Media group names award after AP's Niedringhaus
Norcross says he'd pay \$77M for Philly newspapers
MS Ethics board: Text messages are public records
Judge orders station to surrender full interview
New LA newspaper embraces print in digital world
Boston Marathon survivor upset at 'Meet the Press'
Leaked findings paint pattern of CIA deception

Alaska's largest daily newspaper sold for \$34M
Alexandra Villoch named publisher of Miami Herald
Rutgers athletic director bashes ailing newspaper

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