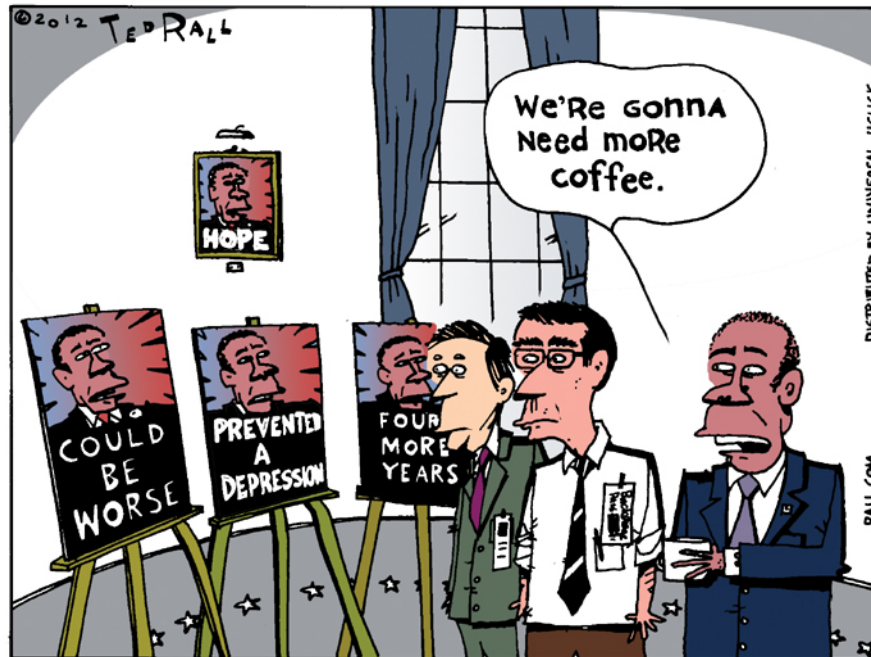


Military Resistance 10A17



The April 6th Youth Movement “Is Leading A Social-Networking Advertising Campaign Called ‘Protect The Egyptian Military’”

The Campaign Is “Encouraging The Egyptian Public To Protect The Rank-And-File Soldiers By Rejecting The Senior Officers Who Now Act As Interim Heads Of State”

JANUARY 17, 2012 By MATT BRADLEY, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts] Amina Ismail contributed to this article

CAIRO—Mohamed ElBaradei's withdrawal from Egypt's presidential race pounds another nail in the coffin of the youth movement he helped energize when he returned to Egypt in 2010 and which eventually overthrew Hosni Mubarak's regime.

The Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's most powerful civilian political organization, has announced it won't participate in any Jan. 25 protests against Egypt's interim rulers, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, or SCAF. Instead, it says it will throw its powerful lot behind official celebrations the military has organized in Tahrir Square.

The April 6th Youth Movement, a trenchant critic of the SCAF and a critical force during the uprising last January, begins an anti-military awareness-raising campaign on Friday with a concert in Tahrir Square followed by several days of rallies and lectures leading up to Jan. 25.

The group is also leading a social-networking advertising campaign called "Protect the Egyptian Military." The tongue-in-cheek title seeks to capitalize on high public esteem for the Egyptian military by encouraging the Egyptian public to protect the rank-and-file soldiers by rejecting the senior officers who now act as interim heads of state.

Whether such a campaign can compete with the military's official celebrations — plans include football matches, concerts and a touring folk music show — will offer an indication of whether the protest movement can remain a vital political force.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Lewis-McChord Soldier Wounded In Afghanistan Dies



Benjamin B. Wise

Jan 17, 2012 By KOMO Staff

A special forces soldier from Joint Base Lewis-McChord has died after being attacked in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense announced late Monday.

Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin B. Wise, 34, of Little Rock, Ark., died Monday at a military hospital in Germany. He was injured on January 9 when his unit was shot at in Konduz Province, Afghanistan.

Wise joined the army in 2000 and served two tours in Iraq and two in Afghanistan.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and daughter.

“Ben was proud of the career he built in the Army,” his family said in a statement released by the Army. “We would like to thank friends and his fellow Soldiers for their sincere expressions of sympathy during this very difficult time.”

‘He Would Have Been A Great Man’



Provided photo of Spc. Brian Leonhardt, 21, of Merrillville. Leonhardt was killed Thursday, Jan. 5, by an improvised explosive while serving with the Indiana National Guard in southern Afghanistan. | Andy Lavalley; Sun-Times Media

January 8, 2012 By Carrie Napoleon, Post-Tribune correspondent

MERRILLVILLE — Spc. Brian Leonhardt, 21, had a lot to give to this world, his family said Sunday, but he never will get the chance.

Leonhardt and Spc. Robert Tauteris Jr., 44, of Hamlet; Christopher Patterson, 20, of Aurora, Ill., a music student at Valparaiso University, and Staff Sgt. Jonathan Metzger, 32, of Indianapolis were killed early Thursday in southern Afghanistan by a roadside bomb.

A fifth soldier, Pvt. Douglas Rachowicz, 29, of Hammond was injured in the blast. Rachowicz initially was treated at a military base hospital in Kandahar before being airlifted to the U.S. military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, according to Indiana Adjutant Gen. Martin Umbarger.

The men were members of the Indiana National Guard 713th Engineer Company in Valparaiso.

“He would have been a great man,” Chuck Leonhardt, his older brother, said.

Chuck and his brothers, Randall and A.J., also are veterans. Brian, the family said, longed to follow in his brothers’ footsteps and was doing what he wanted to do when he was killed.

“He had so much more to give; he was an amazing person,” Chuck said. “He just had so much more to do. Not enough people knew him.”

The untimely death has left the family reeling.

“I still don’t want to believe it,” his younger sister, Jackie, said from their mother Marie Leonhardt’s Merrillville home.

The house has been a gathering place for Brian’s brothers and sisters since the family learned of his death. Family, friends and co-workers stopped by to offer support.

Marie, A.J., Robert Leonhardt Jr. (the siblings’ father), and Brian’s new wife, Dianne, were at Dover Air Force Base on Sunday to receive the body. Theresa Stoneback, the oldest of the siblings, said a memorial service will take place at the family’s church, First Baptist Church of Hammond, and a funeral will take place at Memory Lane Memorial Chapel in Schererville, followed by his burial after the body is returned to Northwest Indiana.

The family expects the remains to fly into the Gary/Chicago International Airport later this week.

Stoneback said the family only learned of Brian’s wedding to Dianne on Friday, after they received the news about Brian’s death. Stoneback said the couple became engaged in July 2010 and had planned a big wedding when Brian was to return.

Unbeknown to the family and the military, the young couple secretly wed in September. Brian’s brothers had to notify Dianne.

“I can’t imagine what she’s going through; it’s not fair,” said Christy Leonhardt, Chuck’s wife. She said it is hard because her husband and his two brothers came back from their tours unharmed, and now, Dianne must be alone.

Randy said as members of the military, the brothers have experienced loss before. Some of the men with whom they trained and served did not return. He said although you call the men in your unit “brother” and your experiences create a bond, the loss of a real family member is different.

“It’s one thing when it’s your buddies; it’s another thing when it’s your brother,” Randy said.

The family still is trying to cope with the tragic loss. As a military family, it’s a danger that has long hung in the backs of their minds. The loss remains surreal.

“It’s something you’re supposed to read about in the paper and you feel sorry for them,” Stoneback said, crying. “It’s not supposed to be happening to us.”

Her 2-year-old son, Peter, quickly offered comfort for her tears. “Hug, Mommy,” he said with outstretched arms.

Trevor, 16, the youngest of the clan, said the hardest part is knowing his brother did not have a fighting chance against the improvised explosive device. If it were a fight, he said, the results would not have been the same. “I know Brian would have given them hell,” Trevor said.

John Minchuk, post commander for American Legion Post 430, said the post has been in contact with the Indiana Patriot Guard, who will escort Leonhardt from the airport. “We have to make sure he gets the proper treatment,” Minchuk said.

It is important to veterans that fellow soldiers who paid the ultimate price be honored for their sacrifice. He said it is especially difficult when a soldier such as Leonhardt dies so young.

“That’s what hurts; when they are so young like that, they miss out on life,” Minchuk said. “That hurts all veterans.”

Showing support for Leonhardt and his family is important for people to do in the wake of such a tragic loss.

He said although many people may not support the war or the senseless killing that comes from it, people must always remember to support the men and women who serve.

“A lot of us Vietnam veterans, we don’t want our guys to go through what we went through, so whatever we can do to help out, we will,” he said. “I don’t think that will ever happen again in the U.S. — ever.”

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

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

MILITARY NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



Elijah Sandoval says a long farewell to Corporal Alberto Sandoval as the soldiers of the Utah Army National Guard's First Battalion, 211th Aviation leave on the first leg of their 12-month deployment to Afghanistan, Jan. 16, 2012, in West Jordan, Utah. (AP Photo/The Salt Lake Tribune, Scott Sommerdorf)

**Navy Families Sue Over Mold In
Norfolk Base Housing:
“They Shared Stories About
Collapsed Ceilings And Spongy
Walls Filled With Visible Mold, And
Some Said They’d Become Sick”**

“Instead Of Repairing The Problem, Maintenance Told The (Residents) Not To Fill The Bathtub Up So High” “Admiral Alexander Still Has A Job, Amazing”



Shelley Federico sits on Jan. 10, 2012, in the apartment she shares with her husband, Marine Gunnery Sgt. Joe Federico, on 21st Street in Norfolk. She and her husband moved out of Lincoln Military Housing in Norfolk in October 2011 due to mold and moisture problems that she says made her and her husband sick. They have little furniture in the apartment and want to get the furniture from their apartment in Lincoln Military Housing to have it cleaned. (Bill Tiernan | The Virginian-Pilot)

“At first Lincoln and the Navy wouldn’t admit there’s mold,” she said recently. “Now they’re finally admitting there’s mold, but they still won’t say it made people sick.”

January 16, 2012 By Corinne Reilly, The Virginian-Pilot [Excerpts]

Inspections of privately managed military housing have confirmed residents’ complaints about mold and moisture problems, although both the Navy and the management company contend the issue is a maintenance problem, not a public health concern.

Nonetheless, last week, a Richmond-based attorney who has signed on to represent half a dozen families who lived in homes managed by Lincoln Military Housing filed what he said will be the first of several lawsuits against the company over the mold.

Lincoln manages roughly 4,400 rental units in the region, in neighborhoods near Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, Norfolk Naval Station, Oceana Naval Air Station and other military bases. Concerns about mold inside the houses were first reported in November by local TV station WTKR.

Several families said their units had moisture problems and water leaks, including around windows and in their bathrooms, roofs and walls.

The families alleged that Lincoln repeatedly failed to make adequate repairs, allowing mold to grow. They shared stories about collapsed ceilings and spongy walls filled with visible mold, and some said they'd become sick.

Lincoln eventually announced a series of remedies, including new inspections, a change in maintenance contractors and the creation of two new positions for a customer service officer and a resident advocate.

Two dozen families were moved out of their homes and into hotels, in some cases before inspections were done.

After some residents said they didn't trust Lincoln's inspectors, the company agreed to use only firms approved by the Navy, and the Navy said it would test 14 homes independently.

So far, about half of those families have received results.

The Navy provided four of the reports to The Virginian-Pilot at the newspaper's request. Each notes evidence of water intrusion and mold.

- At a home on Cherbourg Road in Virginia Beach, the residents told inspectors that condensation came through their kitchen light fixtures, that exhaust vents in two bathrooms leaked water, and that when they pushed gently on the ceiling in a closet, their fingers went through.

"Repairs had been done on a 'dark' area in the space under the stairwell," the report says.

"Maintenance told them that it was not mold but a picture showed what looked like mold.... Wall materials have been partially removed and patched in the closet under the stairs. It also appears that a white substance, most likely a chemical used to prevent mold growth, has been applied to the structure. However, visible mold growth was present in the back corner of the closet on drywall and fiberglass insulation."

The residents told inspectors that their allergies had worsened since moving in six months earlier.

- At a home on Ingram Loop in Norfolk, inspectors reported a moldy smell coming from living room walls and visible mold on drywall and on wood framing around an attic door in a bedroom.

“In the second-floor bathroom the floor is soft at the tub,” the report says. “The PVC pipe and gutters used to redirect water at the front exterior of the property are ill fitting and leaky. The downspout that carries water from the upper roof does not appear to line up in a way that would direct water into the gutters.”

- At a home on Glen Falls Court in Virginia Beach, the residents reported no health problems, but inspectors found mold and water damage.

The report also notes instances of inadequate repair work:

“Mold grows on the drywall between the tub and toilet. The drywall has been repaired and painted three times and the mold keeps coming back.”

“The second-floor bathroom tub overflow valve leaks water into the kitchen light fixture. The kitchen light shorted out due to water damage and was replaced approximately six months prior to the inspection. Instead of repairing the problem, maintenance told the (residents) not to fill the bathtub up so high.”

In some instances, inspectors called for follow-up assessments, such as breaking into walls or using infrared technology.

The Navy has gone further in acknowledging the problems.

“We could have done better,” said Rear Adm. Tim Alexander, who heads the service’s mid-Atlantic region. “There is no doubt about it.”

But he rejected the notion that turning over off-base military housing to private companies was a mistake.

In 2005, the properties now overseen by Lincoln were transferred to Mid-Atlantic Military Family Communities LLC, a public-private arrangement in which Lincoln is responsible for managing and maintaining the homes, in the short term and the long term.

The Navy owns the land and is a minority member of the LLC.

Some tenants said the steps that Lincoln and the Navy have taken are helping, including Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Adam Quintela, whose home was among those inspected by the Navy. Quintela said his roof leaked for four years before Lincoln fixed it.

When the company finally did, crews uncovered “quite a bit of mold,” he said.

While he has yet to see the results of the Navy inspection, he said the fact that one was done is a start.

“We’re looking for reassurance that we’re safe and the roof is really fixed,” he said. “I’m hopeful we’ll get that reassurance.”

At least a handful of tenants are less satisfied, including Shelley Federico, who left her Lincoln home with her daughter and her husband, a Marine, in October, a year after they moved in.

She said Lincoln repeatedly failed to fix the Norfolk home's leaking windows and water-intrusion problems in the foundation. Her family finally moved after Lincoln cut open one of their walls, revealing what Federico called a "shocking" amount of mold.

She said she experienced an immediate, severe allergic reaction, and she believes her entire family was made sick by mold.

Besides respiratory problems and sinus infections, Federico said she suffered gastrointestinal symptoms, fatigue and memory loss.

"At first Lincoln and the Navy wouldn't admit there's mold," she said recently. "Now they're finally admitting there's mold, but they still won't say it made people sick."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, links between mold and lethargy and memory loss have not been proven.

Federico has hired David S. Bailey, a Richmond-based lawyer who said he is also representing half a dozen other families who lived in Lincoln homes.

On Wednesday, Bailey filed the first of what he said will be several lawsuits against the company. It seeks punitive damages and alleges that Lincoln broke state law in its handling of Federico's home.

It says Lincoln "adopted policies to hide and obscure mold contamination," including policies that instructed workers never to use the word mold with tenants and instead call it dirt; to perform repairs as cheaply as possible; and to test for mold only after it had been removed so that tenants "would never know what molds or what mold levels to which they were exposed."

In an interview, Bailey said, "There are a number of families who suffered exposure before Lincoln decided to take this seriously."

Comments From Article Website:

One Time Resident of LMH

Submitted by embarkguru on Mon, 01/16/2012 at 3:17 pm.

We live in LMH Norfolk for 3 years.

The house that we were assigned, had previous mold exposure that was cleaned up, unsuccessfully. Most spots were painted over or sanded down.

We notated all areas that we found in our check-in sheet (it was three pages long, front and back) None of our issues were ever addressed. Storm after storm, we would have maintenance come out and 'try' to fix the leaks only for it to come back after the next storm.

After moving out, we found out that LMH does not employ a licensed mold remover. Kind of amazing if you really think about it. Even after having a water line burst in our house, their solution was a mix of bleach and water to retard any mold growth. Find a better steward for the housing benefit!

Same thing

Submitted by aw on Mon, 01/16/2012 at 5:23 pm.

Experienced the same situation.

Maintenance used bleach in a spray bottle. They also indicated that it wasn't mold. Later, black spots returned. Had tests ran at our own expense... positive for MOLD!!!!

I have seen this in other apartments. Water damage to walls from improperly sealed windows. Plaster peeling.

All that is done by maintenance is they patch over the spots and paint. Dah dah!!!

They do not remove the moisture damaged dry wall or plaster. Gee, I wonder what lurks behind those walls now?

Forget getting any real resolution from any management company. That means they would not have as much money in their pockets!

Really Just The Tip of The Iceberg

Submitted by Concernedwriter on Mon, 01/16/2012 at 10:37 am.

As a former maintenance employee of Lincoln I can attest that the mold issues are really just the tip of the iceberg.

I still have countless pictures of mold flourishing under staircases and in walls.

This article doesn't mention all the potential mold and health issues from raw sewage backups in the Wadsworth community.

Sewage would billow out of toilets and run in-between the walls, under the base cabinets in the kitchen and onto residents' carpets.

The article doesn't mention the caving floors in the upper bathrooms in numerous homes from floor joists completely cut in two by ignorant plumbers.

If fixing something correctly meant not completing other service requests on time or within budget, then it was "highly" discouraged.

If the repairs were done

Submitted by phil32763 on Mon, 01/16/2012 at 8:53 am.

If the repairs were done cheaply ,again its because there isn't anybody checking.

Admiral Alexander still has a job, amazing.

There are 6 that have gone

Submitted by embarkguru on Mon, 01/16/2012 at 3:23 pm.

There are 6 that have gone public; there are MANY of us who have continually complained to LMH about mold and the repairs done.

If we have a problem with LMH, we have to go to a Navy liaison who basically tells LMH to make the repairs...end of subject.

There is NO follow up on if it was done satisfactory or CORRECTLY!

I served as an IG for a decade with the government. I believe something like this needs to be formed to ensure LMH has properly licensed contractors or seeks out contractors to perform any function that involves mold issues.

Cheaper isn't better

Submitted by Chesapeake on Mon, 01/16/2012 at 7:29 am.

The Navy used to employ hundreds of workers to perform repairs on Navy owned housing. However, since it's now a crime to pay for an employee's Federal retirement and a fair wage, everything now is outsourced to "low bid" contractors.

Sometimes...you get what you pay for.

The Navy "brass" thinks that since a company now leases the housing from them for 50 years, that they can shift the blame on the contractors or in this case deny the blame outright.

The Case For Treating PTSD In Veterans With Medical Marijuana:

**“We Really Believe Science Should
Supersede Politics”
“If Anecdotal Evidence Were The
Standard, Acceptance Of Marijuana’s
Calming Properties Among
Psychologically Scarred Soldiers Would
Be A Topic Relegated To The Past”**



Image: Gordon Swanson/Shutterstock.

As arguments among American government agencies continue, other nations are taking the lead generating medical arguments that advance Sisley’s theory. A study at Israel’s University of Haifa showed that marijuana administered to rats within 24 hours of suffering psychological trauma effectively blocked the development of post-traumatic stress disorder.

January 18, 2012 By Martin Mulcahey, The Atlantic Monthly Group

Researchers are one bureaucratic hurdle away from gaining approval for the first clinical examination on the benefits of marijuana for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS), working under the auspices of the University of Arizona College of Medicine, are preparing a three-month study of combat veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The plan is on hold until the National Institute on Drug Abuse and Public Health Service (part of the Department of Health and Human Services) agrees to sell researchers the marijuana needed for research -- or until the marijuana can be legally imported.

Social and political intrigue surrounding this research is far reaching, attracting opposing factions who must cede biases for the greater good and well-being of servicemen and servicewomen.

The University-controlled study Sisley advocates calls for a triple-blind and placebo-controlled environment. A meticulously prepared proposal recommends a sample base of 50 veterans, whose PTSD symptoms have not improved under current standard medical practices. All participants must agree to abstain from marijuana use for 30 days prior to participation. In two ensuing 60-day periods, the veterans are asked to either smoke or vaporize a maximum of 1.8 grams of marijuana a day (the equivalent of two marijuana cigarettes).

The test group will be furnished a weekly supply of various strains of marijuana, with THC levels ranging from 0 percent to 12 percent. Sisley's study objectives are twofold. "With this research, we can actually figure out which symptoms it might help with, and what an optimal dosing strategy might look like."

She is also mindful of public opinion regarding medical marijuana. "If we get a chance to do this, we're not taking liberties. This is a carefully controlled, rigorous scientific study. We're not sitting around trying to get these vets high."

If anecdotal evidence were the standard, acceptance of marijuana's calming properties among psychologically scarred soldiers would be a topic relegated to the past.

Statistical evidence to support that hypothesis could be petitioned from the state of New Mexico, where medical marijuana is legally prescribed for PTSD.

The state's number one diagnosis for a medical marijuana license, a noteworthy 27 percent of the total, lists PTSD as the qualifying criteria for issuance. That statistic comes as no surprise to Sisley, but she stresses circumstantial evidence is not enough to sway the wide range of government agencies she deals with.

"We really believe science should supersede politics," she said. "This illness needs to be treated in a multidisciplinary way. Drugs like Zoloft and Paxil have proven entirely inadequate."

In neighboring Colorado, the state's legislature failed to pass a proposal mirroring New Mexico's. It effectively forbade Colorado's large veteran population from citing PTSD on medical marijuana applications.

Brian Vicente, of the Sensible Colorado organization, became an advocate for veterans after the legislative rejection. Vicente has watched the government fight itself over this issue. "The federal government is, in some ways, divided," Vicente said. "Agencies like the Veterans Administration have taken some fairly decent stances of medical marijuana."

Quickly, he adds a qualifier: "But, then you have the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) and NIDA (the National Institute on Drug Abuse) and organizations like them blocking research that other parts of the government are authorizing."

“It’s another example of the federal government being schizophrenic and flat-out wrong on marijuana as medicine.”

This is a frustrating scenario Sisley has encountered first-hand. “I can’t help but think they simply don’t want to move forward,” she said. “Maybe they figure if they stall long enough, we’ll give up and go away.”

As arguments among American government agencies continue, other nations are taking the lead generating medical arguments that advance Sisley’s theory.

A study at Israel’s University of Haifa showed that marijuana administered to rats within 24 hours of suffering psychological trauma effectively blocked the development of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Dr. Irit Akirav’s study even concludes there is a time-frame that has to be taken into consideration. “There is a critical window of time after trauma, during which synthetic marijuana can help prevent symptoms similar to PTSD in rats,” Akirav stated at the time. “It does not erase the experience, but can help prevent the development of PTSD symptoms.”

In Germany, Switzerland, and Spain there are currently programs, some government funded, utilizing MDMA (from which the “ecstasy” drug is derived) as a possible inhibitor of PTSD symptoms.

A governmental lack of decisiveness has created unintended consequences and casualties in the medical field.

One is Dr. Phil Leveque, a World War II veteran who had his medical license revoked based on the large number of medical marijuana permits he issued for PTSD in Oregon.

Leveque estimates he signed 1,000 permits for PTSD, and said he did so with a clear conscience.

“Whether they were World War II, Korea, Vietnam or vets from the current conflicts, 100 percent of my patients said it was better than any drug they were prescribed for PTSD,” he said.

Sixteen states and the District of Columbia currently have laws permitting marijuana for medical use.

However, Veterans Affairs physicians are expressly prohibited from recommending patients for enrollment in any state’s medical marijuana program.

This, again, highlights contradictions at different levels of government agencies.

Veterans Affairs data disclosed that from 2002 to 2009 one million troops left active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan and became eligible for VA care.

That's a number that will rise annually, revealing a need for effective treatment of PTSD that cannot be overstated. PTSD remains an enormous consideration with combat troops still serving in Afghanistan, where an estimated six to 11 percent are currently suffering symptoms of PTSD.

Statistics among Iraq War veterans are more disturbing, with between 12 to 20 percent of returning vets suffering PTSD-related anxieties.

Those are government statistics, and some non-governmental studies suggest that as many as one in every five military personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan could suffer various forms of PTSD. Veteran Affairs recognizes these facts, and to its credit funds unconventional studies of PTSD, employing therapy dogs and yoga.

Sisley has found an ally in Rick Doblin, executive director of the leading psychedelic studies group. Doblin has the unenviable job of lobbying Congress under the umbrella of the non-profit MAPS. The pair share a common frustration dealing with the multitude of government agencies, some of whose interests are diametrically opposed.

Doblin addresses apprehensions from the administrative standpoint: "We're asking for marijuana from an agency (National Institute on Drug Abuse) designed to prevent people from using marijuana.

There's something fundamental that just doesn't work here," he said.

Sisley's concerns revolve around medical studies in the field, which often fail to gain approval because of political motives instead of science.

"The doctors I know think this war on marijuana is awful, and they're tired of being in the middle of it," she said. "They just want to do real research, or read real research, and not operate around all of these agendas."

Veterans endure a framework of care for PTSD that has not changed since 1980, when PTSD was added to American Psychiatric Association's dictionary of maladies.

Federal agencies are clearly confused, unable to reconcile the illegality of marijuana with the benefits it could have on the lives of soldiers and their extended families.

These issues are not being addressed in an open forum; instead, they remain hidden behind committee doors or special panels of anonymous voices with unknown prejudices.

Medical marijuana remains one of the nation's biggest political hot potatoes, and when combined with our veterans' health creates a unique conundrum for politicians.

Disturbingly, the people caught in this crossfire of self-interest are veterans who risked their lives for the system that may be stifling their medical options now.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly.

Whether in Afghanistan or at 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 and economic injustice, 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

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.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy.
-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt

Frederick Douglass On The Stupidity Of Sending Petitions To Obama, Congress And/Or The Rest Of The Imperial Government

From: SANFORD KELSON, Veterans For Peace & Military Resistance Organization
Subject: Frederick Douglass
Date: Jan 11, 2011

Frederick Douglass while a supporter (he later departed from Garrison's view) of William Lloyd Garrison stated:

“These petitions delight the hearts of the slaves; they rejoice to know that something is going on in their favor... They get a vague idea that somebody is doing something to ameliorate their condition.

“Thus these petitions hold the slave in check; thus they are good for the master as well as for the slave, for they have prevented many an assassination, many an insurrection...

“But sir, the slaves are learning to read and to write, and the time is fast coming, when they will act in concert, and effect their own emancipation, if justice is not done by some other extraneous agency.”

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 email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

ANNIVERSARIES

January 18, 2003: 500,000 March Peacefully Against Invading Iraq [Then, As Now, The Imperial Government Doesn't Really Give A Shit]



Anti-war protesters march past the U.S. Capitol during the start of an anti-war protest that will culminate by a march to the Washington Naval Yard.

Carl Bunin Peace History January 17-23

In frigid temperatures, 500,000 converged on Washington, D.C. There were also joined by many more elsewhere around the world to oppose the threatened U.S. war on Iraq.

This was the largest U.S. peace demonstration since the Vietnam era.

STUCK ON STUPID

A Festival Of Epigones

26 December 11 **Occupy the Dinner Table**; By Carl Gibson;

27 December 2011 **Occupy the Caucus**; Mike Ludwig;

27 December 2011 **Occupy Rigged Elections**; Victoria Collier and Ronnie Cummins;

January 2012 **Occupy the Courts**; Facebook

7 January 2012 **Occupying Fears About Iran**; Winslow Myers

JAN 10, 2012 **Occupy Congress**; David Phillips Follow

Jan 11, 2012 **Occupy Your Stomach**; Burl Hall

17 January 12 **Occupy the Dream**; Scott Galindez

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**Obama Takes Bush's
'Preemption' Strategy To
Another Level:
"The United States Will Consider
'Directly Striking The Most**

Dangerous Groups And Individuals When Necessary” “Who Puts Them On The List, And What Are The Criteria?” “And Who Makes The Decision That Direct U.S. Strikes Are Needed, And On What Basis?”

January 9 By Walter Pincus, The Washington Post [Excerpts]

Has President Obama adopted George W. Bush’s “policeman of the world” approach to the fight against terrorism?

A troubling element of Bush’s defense strategy was the perceived need for the United States to prevent ungoverned areas of the world from becoming breeding grounds for terrorists, on the assumption that all terrorists are a threat to U.S. interests.

That approach apparently has been expanded and given more prominence in Obama’s revised strategic guidance, which was released Thursday.

Under the subtitle “A Challenging Global Security Environment,” the first pages discuss the success in killing Osama bin Laden and rendering al-Qaeda “far less capable,” then say that extremist groups in the Middle East, Africa and elsewhere “will continue to threaten U.S. interests, allies, partners and the homeland.”

The paper says, “For the foreseeable future, the United States will continue to take an active approach to countering these threats by monitoring the activities of non-state threats worldwide, working with allies and partners to establish control over ungoverned territories, *and directly striking the most dangerous groups and individuals when necessary*” — emphasis added.

The Bush State Department’s Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2007-2012 aimed to “directly confront threats to national and international security from . . . failed or failing states.” It called on the U.S. military to provide training to weak states’ security forces so they could combat internal terrorist threats and insurgencies.

The National Security Strategy added: “Military involvement may be necessary to stop a bloody conflict, but peace and stability will last only if follow-on efforts to restore order and rebuild are successful.”

Among the steps proposed: “Expanding Special Operations Forces and investing in advanced conventional capabilities.”

Does that sound familiar?

It's also contained in Obama's strategy paper, along with the Bush concerns about ungoverned territories.

But what particularly caught my eye was that phrase — the United States will consider “directly striking the most dangerous groups and individuals when necessary.”

What exactly does that mean?

Who are the “dangerous groups and individuals”?

Who puts them on the list, and what are the criteria?

And who makes the decision that direct U.S. strikes are needed, and on what basis?

All of this has a “policeman of the world” quality, to use a phrase employed 45 years ago by Sen. J.W. Fulbright (D-Ark.), who was questioning U.S. military and intelligence operations worldwide to counter communism, particularly in former colonial nations such as Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

We have since learned that many of those called “communists” back then were really nationalists opposing harsh, undemocratic rulers in their countries.

How many such rulers today are being given U.S. security assistance by labeling their opponents “terrorists”?

Insurgents Launch Attacks In Anbar, Iraq

Jan 16 (Reuters) & 17 January 2012 BC & Reuters

Five policemen have been killed in an attack on a checkpoint in Iraq, close to the Jordanian and Syrian borders.

Insurgents in the western province of Anbar targeted policemen who were guarding a highway that links Iraq to Jordan just after midnight on Tuesday. One report said an attacker was killed in the ensuing clash.

The attack, in the town of Rutba, came two days after insurgents stormed a government compound killing seven in the provincial capital of Ramadi.

MOSUL - A bomb planted at a police checkpoint exploded, killing three policemen and wounding three others, in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

BAQUBA - A sticky bomb attached to a car carrying a member of government-backed Sahwa militia killed him in central Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, an army source said.

FALLUJA - A roadside bomb exploded near an army patrol, wounding two soldiers near the town of Falluja, 50 km (35 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

HEMREEN - A roadside bomb went off and wounded two members of the Sahwa, a government-backed militia, in the Hemreen area northeast of Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police said.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

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**The Return Of Debtor's Prisons:
Thousands Of Americans Jailed For
Not Paying Bills;
"Many Borrowers Facing Jail Time Don't
Even Know They're Being Sued By
Creditors"**

Dec 13, 2011 By Marie Diamond, Think Progress

Federal imprisonment for unpaid debt has been illegal in the U.S. since 1833. It's a practice people associate more with the age of Dickens than modern-day America.

But as more Americans struggle to pay their bills in the wake of the recession, collection agencies are using harsher methods to get their money, ushering in the return of debtor's prisons.

NPR reports that it's becoming increasingly common for people to serve jail time as a result of their debt.

Because of "sloppy, incomplete or even false documentation," many borrowers facing jail time don't even know they're being sued by creditors:

Take, for example, what happened to Robin Sanders in Illinois. She was driving home when an officer pulled her over for having a loud muffler. But instead of sending her off with a warning, the officer arrested Sanders, and she was taken right to jail.

"That's when I found out I had a warrant for failure to appear in Macoupin County. And I didn't know what it was about." Sanders owed \$730 on a medical bill. She says she didn't even know a collection agency had filed a lawsuit against her.

A company will often sell off its debt to a collection agency, generally called a creditor. That creditor files a lawsuit against the debtor requiring a court appearance. A notice to appear in court is supposed to be given to the debtor. If they fail to show up, a warrant is issued for their arrest.

More than a third of all states now allow borrowers who don't pay their bills to be jailed, even when debtor's prisons have been explicitly banned by state constitutions.

A report by the American Civil Liberties Union found that people were imprisoned even when the cost of doing so exceeded the amount of debt they owed.

Sean Matthews, a homeless New Orleans construction worker, was incarcerated for five months for \$498 of legal debt, while his jail time cost the city six times that much.

Some debtors are even forced to pay for their jail time themselves, adding to their financial troubles.

Stories of surprise arrests for unpaid debt have been reported in states including Indiana, Tennessee and Washington.

In Kansas City, one man ended up in jail after missing only a furniture payment.

The Federal Trade Commission received more than 140,000 complaints related to debt collection in 2010, and they've taken 10 debt collection agencies to court for their practices in the past three years.

Since the start of 2010, judges have signed off on more than 5,000 arrest warrants since in nine counties alone.

Beverly Yang, a legal aid attorney, says many debtor's — and judges — don't know debtor's rights, which results in the accused being intimidated into a pay agreement. She's seen judges interrogate debtors about why they can't pay more and whether they are trying hard enough to find a job.

Yang says some collection agencies are only too eager to use needlessly harsh tactics.

“Whatever the creditors or the creditors' attorneys can do to leverage some kind of payment, it will help their profits enormously because they have, literally, millions of these.”

Debt collection is a lucrative business — the industry is set to grow 26 percent in the next three years.

KBR Forced Into Settlement For Truck Driver Injured In Iraq: “The Company Sent Civilians Into A Battle Zone In Iraq In 2004 Knowing They Would Be Attacked And Possibly Killed” “The Company Faced The ‘Near Certainty Of A Protracted, Difficult Trial With Potential Damages Of More Than \$700 Million’”

January 11, 2012 By Margaret Cronin Fisk and Laurel Brubaker Calkins, Bloomberg
[Excerpts]

KBR Inc. settled a lawsuit brought by an injured convoy driver who claimed the company sent civilians into a battle zone in Iraq in 2004 knowing they would be attacked and possibly killed, according to a court filing.

Reginald Cecil Lane, the driver, reached a “confidential settlement” with KBR and its former parent, Halliburton Co., his lawyer, Tommy Fibich, said yesterday in court papers. Lane and the defendants asked the court to dismiss the lawsuit, according to the filing.

“Lane was severely injured in the attack, and his wife died during the pendency of the case,” Fibich said today in a phone interview. He declined to comment further on the settlement, citing the confidentiality agreement.

KBR, a Houston-based government contractor, was also sued by the families of seven drivers who were killed in Iraq.

The company is appealing a ruling by U.S. District Judge Gray Miller in Houston allowing the suits to go forward. The other claims haven't been settled, Scott Allen, a lawyer for the families, said today in a phone interview.

The drivers and their families claim KBR officials fraudulently recruited workers for safe jobs in Iraq and intentionally sent unarmed civilians into a recognized combat zone in April 2004.

The military-supply contract gave company officials the right to refuse assignments deemed too dangerous for civilians, according to the complaints.

Last July, KBR urged the U.S. Court of Appeals in New Orleans to throw out the drivers' claims, arguing that the cases required a jury to second-guess the military's actions in Iraq.

“We're not going to judge what the Army did; we want to judge what KBR did,” David Gunn, the drivers' appellate lawyer, told the New Orleans panel in asking to let the claims go to trial.

Calling the casualties “not even close to accidental,” Gunn said, “there is plenty of evidence on our side that they knew the attacks were ongoing and they refused to tell us or draw us back” to protected military bases.

[Scott] Allen, who represents several drivers killed in the attacks, told the appellate judges in July that three U.S. generals have testified in the case that “KBR has the right to turn their convoys around,” regardless of the military's opinion of the safety or necessity of any particular convoy mission.

The lower-court judge ruled the convoy cases could go to trial after reviewing extensive company e-mails sent between the drivers, their dispatchers and company officials during the weeklong series of convoy attacks.

The messages show company officials debating the dangers of sending the civilian convoys into battle areas, after the drivers had sustained casualties and the attacks were continuing, according to e-mails unsealed in the case.

Miller said the e-mail exchanges convinced him that the defendants knew that some drivers would be attacked and killed the next day if convoys were sent along the same route where drivers had been fired on the previous day.

The convoys were sent out anyway, with no warning to the drivers, Miller said in his ruling.

In early 2010, KBR attorney David Kasanow told the Army that the company faced the “near certainty of a protracted, difficult trial with potential damages of more than \$700 million,” according to court filings.

KBR previously stated it would submit the bill for any damage awards or litigation expenses tied to its military contracting work in Iraq to the government for possible reimbursement.



Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williambowles.info/military-resistance-archives/>; news@uruknet.info;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/;

<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

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