

Military Resistance 10E14



**One More Rotten Betrayal By
Command:
No More Soldiers' Lawyer For
Medical Evaluations In Europe:
"Eliminating My Position Calls Into
Question The Sincerity Of The
Army's Commitment To Protecting
The Rights Of Wounded, Injured
Soldiers"**

“We Are Constantly Hearing New Stories About Injured Soldiers Being Separated Without The Benefits They Are Entitled To, And My Job Exists To Help Prevent That Sort Of Thing From Happening”

May 23, 2012 By Nancy Montgomery, Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany — U.S. Army Europe soldiers navigating the complex process of medical evaluations that can end their careers and determine future benefits are about to lose a lawyer.

The sole Soldiers Medical Evaluation Board counsel position in Europe is being done away with.

The Army said the position, designed to provide disabled troops facing separation from the Army with independent legal advice and advocacy, is no longer needed in Europe.

That’s because such troops must now change duty stations to one of several stateside processing locations, part of the new Integrated Disability Evaluation System.

The IDES, in which the Army and the Department of Veterans Affairs collaborate in evaluating soldiers’ injuries, began in October. The collaboration between the two bureaucracies is expected to speed up veterans benefits once a soldier leaves the Army.

“Because the MEB process will occur entirely within (the U.S.), there would be insufficient work in Europe to keep an MEB outreach attorney, operating at the appropriate casework load, engaged full time,” Maria Tolleson, an Army Medical Command spokeswoman, said in an email.

Some soldiers’ advocates, including the outgoing MEB counsel, disputed that.

Raymond Collica, who’s been MEB counsel in Europe for the past four years, and who’ll be unemployed when his job ends Friday, said cutting the position leaves Europe soldiers heading to medical evaluations without the ability to confer, in person, early on in the process, with an adviser and advocate working for them, not the Army.

“The soldiers headed for an MEB need advice BEFORE the process starts,” he said in an email.

“Eliminating my position calls into question the sincerity of the Army’s commitment to protecting the rights of wounded, injured soldiers,” Collica said.

“We are constantly hearing new stories about injured soldiers being separated without the benefits they are entitled to, and my job exists to help prevent that sort of thing from happening.”

The MEB counsel position is itself a relatively new thing, created, like the Warrior Transition Units, in the wake of the scandal in 2007 over serious shortcomings at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

But the majority of troops being medically separated have not consulted these lawyers, possibly because they're not aware of the service, Collica said.

Since the implementation of the integrated system in Europe in October, 761 soldiers in Europe have been identified as suffering a long-term mental or physical disability, which will require them to undergo an MEB, according to a report from Warrior Transition Battalion-Europe.

Although some troops recover and are eventually returned to duty, the majority are eventually separated from the Army, in what an Army Warrior Transition Command blog called a sometimes "lengthy and frustrating process."

Disabled soldiers found unfit for duty can be discharged, most often with a one-time disability severance check.

The most costly option for the government is for a soldier to be medically retired, which provides a lifelong pension and medical benefits.

The outcome depends, among other things, on the number and severity of disabilities that can be documented.

"It's important for every soldier entering the process to realize that the path to a particular outcome can be shaped even before the MEB begins," according to the WTC blog.

"Consulting with a soldiers' counsel early in the process will improve a soldier's chance of attaining his or her goals. ..."

According to a USAREUR fact sheet about IDES, moving soldiers stateside after they've entered the process takes about three months.

And it can take longer, said Mary Cima, program manager at the Soldier and Family Assistance Center in Wiesbaden.

"There are people here at various stages of the process who require legal assistance," she said.

"They're here for months before they get sent (to the U.S.), Cima said. "If there's nobody here to provide legal assistance, that's a problem."

Cima said the decision to do away with Europe's MEB counsel is only part of the problem in the new way the cases are being handled. Requiring the soldier, often with a family, to move to a unit in the U.S. for processing, adds an extra burden.

“We’re talking about somebody who wasn’t planning on this, who’s compromised physically or emotionally. All this stress and then they have to go through this,” Cima said. “I don’t get it.”

MORE:

“Ill Or Injured Service Members Now Wait An Average Of 394 Days To Move Through The Military’s Disability Evaluation Process, An Increase Of More Than 10 Percent Since 2010”

“At Some Installations, The Average Wait Is Nearly 18 Months Or Longer”

May 23, 2012 By Patricia Kime - Staff writer, Army Times & By Steve Vogel, The Washington Post [Excerpts]

Ill or injured service members now wait an average of 394 days to move through the military’s disability evaluation process, an increase of more than 10 percent since 2010 and well off the goal of 295 days, according to the Government Accountability Office.

Active duty troops waited 394 days on average in fiscal year 2011, while members of the National Guard and Reserve faced waits of 420 days.

In 2010, the wait times were 357 and 370 days, respectively, and in 2008, they were less than 300.

In fiscal 2011, just 19 percent of active-duty service members and 18 percent of National Guard and Reserve members completed the Integrated Disability Evaluation System, or IDES, process within the goal of 295 days for active-duty members and 305 days for Guard and Reserve personnel.

And at some installations, the average wait is nearly 18 months or longer.

At Fort Belvoir, Va., for example, soldiers face an average processing period of 537 days, while guardsmen at Fort Carson, Colo., wait 651 days.

IDES was introduced in 2007 to streamline the disability evaluation process and integrate the Defense and Veterans Affairs department systems.

Before IDES, service members waited an average of 450 days to get through both the required Defense Department medical exams and the separate VA process to evaluate service members for benefits to which they may be entitled.

In fiscal 2008, with IDES operational at a fraction of the 139 total military treatment facilities, average wait time was 297 days.

But that figure has steady ticked upward since the new system went force-wide.

“Unfortunately, this new disability system is exhibiting some of the same failings of the broken system that it was designed to replace,” said the committee’s chairman, Sen. Patty Murray, (D-Wash.)

“Our servicemembers should never be forced to wait nearly 400 days to get a decision that will have such an important impact on their future.”

Murray said six service members in her home state of Washington have died of suicide, car crashes or accidental drug overdoses while wading through the IDES process.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

10 Michigan Guard Members Wounded By IED Attack In Afghanistan: One Lost Part Of Both Arms.

May 24, 2012 The Associated Press

DOWAGIAC, Mich. - The Michigan National Guard says a roadside bombing in Afghanistan has wounded 10 of its soldiers, including one who lost part of both arms.

The guard says the soldiers injured in Sunday’s attack were from the 1-126th Cavalry. The unit based in the southwestern Michigan community of Dowagiac has been serving in Afghanistan since January.

Wendy Kosch tells The Detroit News that her nephew, Eric Lund, is the soldier who lost parts of both arms. She says he’s “strong” and is expected to “pull through this.”

The Ludington Daily News reports Lund was a 2001 graduate of Ludington High School in West Michigan.

Detroit Free Press columnist Ron Dzwonkowski reports the soldiers were on patrol when they encountered two improvised explosive devices.

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

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WAR**

Insurgent Rocket Attack Hits Afghan Airbase

24/05/2012 By Morag Lindsay, Press and Journal & TOLONews

Insurgents mounted a rocket attack on an Afghanistan airfield which is currently home to more than 100 Scottish servicemen and women yesterday.

The attack happened around noon local time as the Press and Journal was at Kandahar on a visit to Moray-based 617 squadron.

The Tornado GR4 air crews and their engineering and support teams from RAF Lossiemouth are stationed at the airbase in the south of the country until July.

Two Afghan police were killed when an attacker detonated himself in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province Thursday, officials said.

The attacker with a motorcycle bomb detonated himself with his motorcycle while police were checking a location in the Musulmani area of Musa Qala district around 8:30 am, the Helmand governor's office said in a statement.

**“Since Opening In 2007, Craig Joint
Theater Hospital At Bagram Air Base
Has Treated About 4,000 Patients A
Month — 130 Every Day Including
Noncombat Patients”**

“The Survival Rate Has Climbed Even As Afghanistan Produces Growing Numbers Of Traumatic Brain Injuries, Genital Injuries And Other Catastrophic Wounds From Improvised Explosive Devices”



Members of the trauma team at Craig Joint Theater Hospital examine and care for a Polish soldier who was shot in the leg in combat and transported to the facility. Austin American-Statesman photos



An Air Force crew modifies an enormous C-17 cargo plane for transporting patients from the Craig Joint Theater Hospital at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan to a hospital in Germany. Austin American-Statesman photos

May 21, 2012 By Jeremy Schwartz, Austin American-Statesman [Excerpts]

Just after 9 a.m., the helicopter descends past jagged, snowcapped mountains, and the crew rushes a soldier with a gunshot wound to his leg into the trauma center.

Nurses, doctors and medical technicians, clad in camouflage scrubs, flood into the room, unwrapping his bloody bandage, checking vital signs and inserting lines for intravenous fluids.

The injury is minor compared with what these military medical workers see on a regular basis.

In addition to a growing number of gunshot victims, the trauma center sees many NATO troops whose legs and arms have been blown off by land mines hidden in the Afghan countryside, victims of what the military has termed dismounted complex blast injury.

On busy days, staffers treat dozens of patients, as they did on a recent Saturday when insurgent forces staged a series of attacks around Kabul.

By nighttime, the soldier will have been carefully bundled onto a stretcher, or "packaged," and along with a dozen other wounded service members, put on a C-17 cargo plane and flown to the Army's military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany.

The Craig Joint Theater Hospital at Bagram Air Base is a vital cog in an increasingly efficient military medical system that has produced record survival rates for American troops. Today, more than 90 percent of wounded service members survive, a rate that outpaces previous wars such as Vietnam and that has grown steadily throughout the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The survival rate has climbed even as Afghanistan produces growing numbers of traumatic brain injuries, genital injuries and other catastrophic wounds from improvised explosive devices. More survivors mean more patients.

The modern, 50-bed hospital in eastern Afghanistan, which serves as the staging point for the war's most badly wounded troops before they are transported to Germany and points beyond, has a strong Central Texas connection. Much of the medical staff is made up of Air Force personnel stationed in San Antonio, and a recently arrived Fort Hood unit helps command the hospital.

The Bagram hospital sits behind a series of grim-looking concrete blast walls at the edge of a busy airfield where helicopters, fighter jets and cargo planes shriek around the clock. One of the largest and most technologically advanced hospitals in Afghanistan, it boasts one of the country's two Level III trauma centers, an advanced facility just below the top standing of Level I.

The facility is situated an hour north of Kabul, near the Hindu Kush mountain range and the volatile border with Pakistan, an area that is home to several insurgent groups and some of the war's fiercest fighting.

Since opening in 2007, Craig Joint Theater Hospital has treated about 4,000 patients a month — 130 every day including noncombat patients.

And hospital officials anticipate it is about to get much busier at the hospital, where the staff is gearing up for the spring fighting season, when Taliban and other insurgent groups traditionally emerge from their winter slowdown and increase attacks.

The hospital is preparing for the influx of patients, an effort that includes everything from making sure there are enough medical supplies on hand to preparing staffers psychologically for what they will see.

"It was a busy winter, but not as busy as it will be this summer," said Air Force Lt. Col. Paul Conner, the hospital administrator, who serves with the 59th Medical Wing at San Antonio's Lackland Air Force Base.

Meanwhile, the carnage of war exacts a toll on those who care for the wounded.

"I've been doing this for nine years, and I'm still not used to it," said Staff Sgt. DeMorris Byrd, 27, of Houston, a medical technician on his third deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan. "But you have your ways of coping with it. You try not to take it back home with you."

In the predawn darkness, a hulking C-17 cargo plane sits on the tarmac. Its massive open hull illuminates the night as members of the crew prepare for what many of them consider a sacred calling.

Service members wounded in the field are first airlifted to Bagram, a sprawling air base originally built in the 1950s and expanded by the Soviets after their 1979 invasion of Afghanistan. The evacuation process has grown increasingly efficient over time, officials said.

"It can be less than 20 hours from when they are blown up in battle to coming here and ending up in Landstuhl," said Air Force Capt. Douglas Ferrette.

The C-17 flight is one of the medical marvels of the war. In less than an hour, service members can unload tons of cargo and transform the massive plane into a flying ambulance, complete with hospital beds and oxygen lines.

The plane flies almost nightly, often carrying more than a dozen gravely wounded troops as well as a medical staff on the seven-hour flight to Germany.

That quick response has been credited with saving many more lives than in past wars. The ratio of service members who survive their wounds compared with those who die has increased dramatically since 2006.

Hospital officials said another factor is the deployment of surgical teams near infantry units, which means that more badly wounded soldiers are receiving trauma care within 60 minutes of their injuries, the so-called golden hour considered crucial to surviving major injuries.

Technical advances such as better use of tourniquets and blood clotting medications have also contributed to the higher rates.

On this night, 12 patients, including the gunshot victim, a member of the Polish armed forces, are flying to Germany.

The previous night, the flight had five soldiers in critical condition, most with gunshot wounds, including to the chest and scrotum.

In a highly choreographed movement, service members carry the wounded from a bus onto the cargo plane, where medical staffers place them on litters, hook them into oxygen lines and adjust IVs. The entire process takes less than 10 minutes.

A number of troops on the air base volunteer to help move the wounded. Among the volunteers on this night is Maj. Denise Taylor, of Marble Falls, Texas, an 18-year veteran of the Air Force, who works in logistics at Bagram Air Base.

"It's easy to forget about what's going on outside the safety of the walls of our base here," she said. "The military is family, and family helps each other out. This is great for putting life into perspective."

Alexandra Kennedy, a 21-year-old Air Force medical technician who was previously stationed in San Antonio, is one of the last people wounded troops talk to before their flight.

She helps bundle them onto stretchers, trying to make them as comfortable as she can, an effort that often means finding the words that will calm them in the face of grievous injuries and an uncertain future.

"I think about what I would want," she said.

"You have to think about the little things. For me, I try to find out about them, talk to them, what can I do to make the trip that much better for them.

I tell them, 'You're going home.' I try to give them that extra little bit of hope."

On this night, that meant bringing a photo of the Polish soldier's wife to him so that he could hold it during the flight. The soldier, who didn't speak English, touched his hand to his heart in thanks.

"It's heartbreaking when they say, 'Thank you,' "she said.

"It's like, 'No. Thank you.'

"I would do this 365 days a year if I could."

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE
REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK
LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT THE
PACK OF TRAITORS THAT RUN THE
GOVERNMENT IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE COVER
THEIR ASS:**

That is not a good enough reason.



An injured U.S. soldier is pulled to cover during a firefight in Maiwand district of Kandahar province in April. Reuters

**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

**Nothing has more revolutionary effect, and nothing undermines more the foundations of all state power, than the continuation of that wretched and brainless régime, which has the strength merely to cling to its positions but no longer the slightest power to rule or to steer the state ship on a definite course.
-- Karl Kautsky; ‘The Consequences of the Japanese Victory and Social Democracy’**

**THE SUCCESSFUL ANTI-WAR
REBELLION OF THE ARMED
FORCES IN VIETNAM:
“Sedition – Coupled With Disaffection
Within The Ranks, And Externally
Fomented With An Audacity And
Intensity Previously Inconceivable –
Infests The Armed Services”**



**Vietnam: They Stopped An Imperial War:
Honor And Respect To Them All**

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

Excerpts from an article by Col. Robert D. Heinl, Jr., North American Newspaper Alliance, Armed Forces Journal, 7 June, 1971

THE MORALE, DISCIPLINE and battleworthiness of the U.S. Armed Forces are, with a few salient exceptions, lower and worse than at anytime in this century and possibly in the history of the United States.

By every conceivable indicator, our army that now remains in Vietnam is in a state approaching collapse, with individual units avoiding or having refused combat,

murdering their officers and non commissioned officers, drug-ridden, and dispirited where not near mutinous.

Elsewhere than Vietnam, the situation is nearly as serious.

To understand the military consequences of what is happening to the U.S. Armed Forces, Vietnam is a good place to start.

It is in Vietnam that the rearguard of a 500,000 man army, in its day and in the observation of the writer the best army the United States ever put into the field, is numbly extricating itself from a nightmare war the Armed Forces feel they had foisted on them by bright civilians who are now back on campus writing books about the folly of it all.

“They have set up separate companies,” writes an American soldier from Cu Chi, quoted in the New York Times, “for men who refuse to go into the field. Is no big thing to refuse to go. If a man is ordered to go to such and such a place he no longer goes through the hassle of refusing; he just packs his shirt and goes to visit some buddies at another base camp.

Operations have become incredibly ragtag. Many guys don’t even put on their uniforms any more... The American garrison on the larger bases are virtually disarmed. The lifers have taken our weapons from us and put them under lock and key...There have also been quite a few frag incidents in the battalion.”

“Frag incidents” or just “fragging” is current soldier slang in Vietnam for the murder or attempted murder of strict, unpopular, or just aggressive officers and NCOs. With extreme reluctance (after a young West Pointer from Senator Mike Mansfield’s Montana was fragged in his sleep) the Pentagon has now disclosed that fraggings in 1970(109) have more than doubled those of the previous year (96).

Word of the deaths of officers will bring cheers at troop movies or in bivouacs of certain units.

In one such division -- the morale plagued America -- fraggings during 1971 have been authoritatively estimated to be running about one a week.

Yet fraggings, though hard to document, form part of the ugly lore of every war. The first such verified incident known to have taken place occurred 190 years ago when Pennsylvania soldiers in the Continental Army killed one of their captains during the night of 1 January 1781.

Bounties, raised by common subscription in amounts running anywhere from \$50 to \$1,000, have been widely reported put on the heads of leaders whom the privates and Sp4s want to rub out.

Shortly after the costly assault on Hamburger Hill in mid-1969, the GI underground newspaper in Vietnam, “G.I. Says”, publicly offered a \$10,000 bounty on Lt. Col. Weldon Honeycutt, the officer who ordered (and led) the attack. Despite several attempts, however, Honeycutt managed to live out his tour and return Stateside.

“Another Hamburger Hill,” (i.e., toughly contested assault), conceded a veteran major, is definitely out.”

The issue of “combat refusal”, and official euphemism for disobedience of orders to fight -- the soldier’s gravest crime – has only recently been again precipitated on the frontier of Laos by Troop B, 1st Cavalry’s mass refusal to recapture their captain’s command vehicle containing communication gear, codes and other secret operation orders.

As early as mid-1969, however, an entire company of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade publicly sat down on the battlefield. Later that year, another rifle company, from the famed 1st Air Cavalry Division, flatly refused -- on CBS-TV -- to advance down a dangerous trail.

While denying further unit refusals the Air Cav has admitted some 35 individual refusals in 1970 alone. By comparison, only two years earlier in 1968, the entire number of officially recorded refusals for our whole army in Vietnam -- from over seven divisions - was 68.

“Search and evade” (meaning tacit avoidance of combat by units in the field) is now virtually a principle of war, vividly expressed by the GI phrase, “CYA (cover your ass) and get home!”

That “search-and-evade” has not gone unnoticed by the enemy is underscored by the Viet Cong delegation’s recent statement at the Paris Peace Talks that communist units in Indochina have been ordered not to engage American units which do not molest them. The same statement boasted - not without foundation in fact - that American defectors are in the VC ranks.

Symbolic anti-war fasts (such as the one at Pleiku where an entire medical unit, led by its officers, refused Thanksgiving turkey), peace symbols, “V”-signs not for victory but for peace, booing and cursing of officers and even of hapless entertainers such as Bob Hope, are unhappily commonplace.

Only last year an Air Force major and command pilot for Ambassador Bunker was apprehended at Ton Son Nhut air base outside Saigon with \$8 million worth of heroin in his aircraft.

The major is now in Leavenworth.

Early this year, an Air force regular colonel was court-martialed and cashiered for leading his squadron in pot parties, while, at Cam Ranh Air Force Base, 43 members of the base security police squadron were recently swept up in dragnet narcotics raids.

All the foregoing facts – and mean more dire indicators of the worse kind of military trouble – point to widespread conditions among American forces in Vietnam that have only been exceeded in this century by the French Army’s Nivelle mutinies of 1917 and the collapse of the Tsarist armies in 1916 and 1917.

Sedition – coupled with disaffection within the ranks, and externally fomented with an audacity and intensity previously inconceivable – infests the Armed Services:

At best count, there appear to be some 144 underground newspapers published on or aimed at U.S. military bases in this country and overseas. Since 1970 the number of such sheets has increased 40% (up from 103 last fall).

These journals are not mere gripe-sheets that poke soldier fun in the “Beetle Bailey” tradition, at the brass and the sergeants.

“In Vietnam,” writes the Ft Lewis-McChord Free Press, “the Lifers, the Brass, are the true Enemy, not the enemy.” Another West Coast sheet advises readers: “Don’t desert. Go to Vietnam and kill your commanding officer.”

At least 14 GI dissent organizations (including two made up exclusively of officers) now operate more or less openly. Ancillary to these are at least six antiwar veterans’ groups which strive to influence GIs.

Three well-established lawyer groups specialize in support of GI dissent. Two (GI Civil Liberties Defense Committee and new York Draft and Military Law Panel) operate in the open. A third is a semi-underground network of lawyers who can only be contacted through the GI Alliance, a Washington, D.C., group which tries to coordinate seditious antimilitary activities throughout the country.

One antimilitary legal effort operates right in the theater of war. A three-man law office, backed by the Lawyers’ Military Defense Committee, of Cambridge, Mass., was set up last fall in Saigon to provide free civilian legal services for dissident soldiers being court-martialed in Vietnam.

Besides these lawyers’ fronts, the Pacific Counseling Service (an umbrella organization with Unitarian backing for a profusion of antimilitary activities) provides legal help and incitement to dissident GIs through not one but seven branches (Tacoma, Oakland, Los Angeles, San Diego, Monterey, Tokyo, and Okinawa).

Another of Pacific Counseling’s activities is to air-drop planeloads of sedition literature into Oakland’s sprawling Army Base, our major West Coast staging point for Vietnam

On the religious front, a community of turbulent priests and clergymen, some unfrocked, calls itself the Order of Maximilian.

Maximilian is a saint said to have been martyred by the Romans for refusing military service as un-Christian. Maximilian’s present-day followers visit military posts, infiltrate brigades and stockades in the guise of spiritual counseling, work to recruit military chaplains, and hold services of “consecrations” of post chapels in the name of their saintly draft-dodger.

By present count at least 11 (some go as high as 26) off-base antiwar “coffee houses” ply GIs with rock music, lukewarm coffee, antiwar literature, how-to-do-it tips on desertion, and similar disruptive counsels. Among the best-known coffee houses are:

The Shelter Half (Ft Lewis, Wash.); The Home Front (Ft Carson, Colo.); and The Oleo Strut (Ft Hood, Tex.).

Virtually all the coffee houses are or have been supported by the U.S. Serviceman's Fund, whose offices are in new York City's Bronx.

While refusing to divulge names, IRS sources say that the serviceman's Fund has been largely bankrolled by well-to-do liberals.

One example of this kind of liberal support for sedition which did surface identifiably last year was the \$8,500 nut channeled from the Philip Stern Family Foundation to underwrite Seaman Roger Priest's underground paper OM, which, among other writings, ran do-it-yourself advice for desertion to Canada and advocated assassination of President Nixon.

"Entertainment Industry for Peace and Justice," the antiwar show-biz front organized by Jane Fonda, Dick Gregory, and Dalton Trumbo, now claims over 800 film, TV, and music names. This organization is backing Miss Fonda's antimilitary road-show that opened outside the gates of Ft. Bragg, N.C., in mid-March.

Describing her performances (scripted by Jules Pfeiffer) as the soldiers' alternative to Bob Hope, Miss Fonda says her case will repeat the Ft Bragg show at or outside 19 more major bases.

Freshman Representative Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif.) runs a somewhat different kind of antimilitary production.

As a Congressman, Dellums cannot be barred from military posts and has been taking full advantage of the fact. At Ft Meade, Md., last month, Dellums led a soldier audience as they booed and cursed their commanding officer who was present on-stage in the post theater which the Army had to make available.

MORE:

THE SUCCESSFUL ANTI-WAR REBELLION OF THE ARMED FORCES IN VIETNAM [Part 2]

“Unpunished Seditious, And Recalcitrant Antimilitary Malevolence”

Elected Enlisted Men’s Councils “Made Up Of Privates And Sp 4s (NCOs Aren’t Allowed) Which Sits At The Elbow Of Every Unit Commander Down To The Companies”

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

By Col. Robert D. Heintz, Jr., Armed Forces Journal, 7 June, 1971 [Excerpts]

The Action Groups

Not unsurprisingly, the end-product of the atmosphere of incitement of unpunished seditious, and of recalcitrant antimilitary malevolence which pervades the world of the draftee (and to an extent the low-ranking men in “volunteer” services, too) is overt action.

During 1970, large armory thefts were successfully perpetrated against Oakland Army Base, Vets Cronkhite and Ord, and even the marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton, where a team wearing Marine uniforms got away with nine M-16 rifles and an M-79 grenade launcher.

Operating in the middle West, three soldiers from Ft Carson, Colo., home of the Army’s permissive experimental unit, the 4th Mechanized Division, were recently indicted by a federal grand jury for dynamiting the telephone exchange, power plant and water works of another Army installation, Camp McCoy, Wis., on 26 July 1970.

The Navy, particularly on the West Coast, has also experienced disturbing cases of sabotage in the past two years, mainly directed at ships’ engineering and electrical machinery.

It will be surprising, according to informed officers, if further such tangible evidence of disaffection within the ranks does not continue to come to light. Their view is that the situation could become considerably worse before it gets better.

Part of the defense establishment’s problem with the judiciary is the now widely pursued practice of taking commanding officers into civil courts by dissident soldiers either to harass or annul normal discipline or administrative procedures or the services.

Only a short time ago, for example, a dissident group of active-duty officers, members of the concerned Officers' Movement (COM), filed a sweeping lawsuit against Defense Secretary Laird himself, as well as all three service secretaries, demanding official recognition of their "right" to oppose the Vietnam war, accusing the secretaries of "harassing" them, and calling for court injunction to ban disciplinary "retaliation" against COM members.

Such nuisance suits from the inside (usually, like the Laird suit, on constitutional grounds) by people still in uniform, let alone by officers, were unheard-of until two or three years ago.

Now, according to one Army general, the practice has become so command that, in his words, "I can't even give a /34/ directive without getting permission from my staff judge advocate."

Other reports tell of jail-delivery attacks on Army stockades and military police to release black prisoners, and of officers being struck in public by black soldiers. Augsburg, Krailsheim, and Hohenfels are said to be rife with racial trouble.

Desertions And Disasters

With conditions what they are in the Armed Forces, and with intense efforts on the part of elements in our society to disrupt discipline and destroy morale the consequences can be clearly measured in two ultimate indicators: man-power retention (reenlistments and their antithesis, desertions); and the state of discipline.

In both respects the picture is anything but encouraging.

Desertion, to be sure, has often been a serious problem in the past. In 1826, for example, desertions exceeded 50% of the total enlistments in the Army. During the Civil War, in 1864, Jefferson Davis reported to the Confederate Congress: "Two thirds of our men are absent, most absent without leave."

Desertion rates are going straight up in Army, Marines, and Air Force. Curiously, however, during the period since 1968 when desertion has nearly doubled for all three other services, the Navy's rate has risen by less than 20 percent.

In 1970, the Army had 65,643 deserters, or roughly the equivalent of four infantry divisions.

This desertion rate (52.3 soldiers per thousand) is well over twice the peak rate for Korea (22.5 per thousand).

If desertions continue to rise (as they are still doing this year), they will attain or surpass the WWII peak of 63 per thousand, which, incidentally, occurred in the same year (1945) when more soldiers were actually being discharged from the Army for psychoneurosis than were drafted.

The marines in 1970 had the highest desertion index in the modern history of the Corps and, for that year at least, slightly higher than the Army's. Meanwhile, grimly remarked one officer, "let the bastards go. We're all the better without them."

But letting the bastards go doesn't work at all for the Army and the Navy, who do need a lot of recruits and whose reenlistment problems are dire.

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., chief of naval Operations, minces no words. "We have a personnel crisis," he recently said, "that borders on disaster."

The Navy's crisis, as Zumwalt accurately describes it, is that of a highly technical, material oriented service that finds itself unable to retain the expensively-trained technicians needed to operate warships, which are the largest, most complex items of machinery that man makes and uses.

"Discipline," George Washington once remarked, "is the soul of an army."

Washington should know.

In January 1781, all the Pennsylvania and New Jersey troops in the Continental Army mutinied. Washington only quelled the outbreaks by disarming the Jersey mutineers and having their leaders shot in hollow square – by a firing squad made up of fellow mutineers.

(The navy's only mutiny, aboard USS Somers in 1842, was quelled when the captain hanged the mutineers from the yardarm while still at sea.)

If Washington was correct (and almost any professional soldier, whether officer or NCO, will agree), then the Armed Forces today are in deep trouble.

What enhances this trouble, by exponential dimensions, is the kind of manpower with which the Armed Forces now have to work.

As early as three years ago, U.S. News and World Report reported that the services were already plagued with "... a new breed of man, who thinks he is his own Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and Attorney General. He considers himself superior to any officer alive. And he is smart enough to go by the book. He walks a tightrope between the regulations and sedition."

Yet the problem is not just one of trouble-makers and how to cope with them.

The trouble of the services – produced by and also in turn producing the dismaying conditions described in this article – is above all a crisis of soul and backbone.

It entails – the word is not too strong – something very near a collapse of the command authority and leadership George Washington saw as the soul of military forces. This collapse results, at least in part, from a concurrent collapse of public confidence in the military establishment.

Elected Enlisted Men's Councils

General Matthew B. Ridgway, one of the Army's finest leaders in this century (who revitalized the shaken Eighth Army in Korea after its headlong rout by the Chinese in 1950) recently said, "Not before in my lifetime ... has the Army's public image fallen to such low esteem ..."

But the fall in public esteem of all three major services – not just the Army – is exceeded by the fall or at least the enfeeblement of the hierarchic and disciplinary system by which they exist and, when ordered to do so, fight and sometimes die.

Take the case of the noncommissioned and petty officers.

In Rudyard Kipling's lines, "the backbone o' the Army is the noncommissioned man!"

In the 4th Mechanized Division at Ft. Carson, Sp 4 David Gyongyos, on his second year in the Army, enjoys an office across the hall from the division commander, a full-time secretary, and staff car and driver also assigned full time. He has the home phone numbers of the general and chief of staff and doesn't hesitate to use them out of working hours when he feels like it.

Gyongyos (with a bachelor's degree in theology and two years' law school) is chairman of the division's Enlisted Men's Councils, a system of elected [councils] made up of privates and Sp 4s (NCOs aren't allowed) which sits at the elbow of every unit commander down to the companies.

"I represent, electively, " Gyongyos expansively told this reporter, "the 17,000 men on this post."

The division sergeant major, with a quarter-century in the Army, who is supposed to be the division's first soldiers and – non-electively – father and ombudsman of every soldier, has an office with is on even on the same floor with the general (or Sp 4 Gyongyos either). He gets his transportation, as needed, from the motor pool.

The very most that Gyongyos will concede to the sergeant major, the first sergeants, the platoon sergeants – the historic enlisted leadership of armies – is that they are "combat technicians." They are not, he coldly adds, "highly skilled in the social sciences."

The soldiers' [councils] of the 4th Division represent an experiment in what the Army calls "better communications".

Conditions throughout the rest of the Army do not quite duplicate those at Carson, but the same spirit is abroad. And experienced NCOs everywhere feel threatened or at least puzzled.

Most major units of the Army, Navy, and Air force have some form of enlisted men's councils, as well as junior officer councils.

Even the trainee companies at Ft. Ord, Calif. have councils, made up of recruits, who take questions and complaints past their DIs to company commanders and hold weekly meetings and post minutes on bulletin-boards.

General Pershing, who once said, "All a soldier needs to know is how to shoot and salute", would be surprised.

As for the officers, said a four-star admiral, "We have lost our voice."

The foregoing may be true as far as admirals are concerned, but hasn't hampered short-term junior officers (including several West Pointers) from banding together into highly vocal antiwar and antimilitary organizations, such as the Concerned Officers' Movement (COM).

At Norfolk, the local COM chapter has a peace billboard outside gate 2, Norfolk Naval Station, where every sailor can profit by the example of his officers.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Thieves And Bullies Out Of Control:

“TSA Screeners In Los Angeles, Buffalo, N.Y., And White Plains, N.Y., Have Been Charged With Helping People Smuggle Drugs Through Airport Security”

“Two Elderly Women Had To Pull Down Their Pants To Show Medical Devices”

“There Have Been Multiple Arrests Around The Country In Which Screeners Were Accused Of Lifting Cash, Computers And Other Valuables From Passenger Bags”

May 23, 2012 By Scott McCartney, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

As anyone who travels regularly knows, airport screening has had its share of blunders, embarrassments and controversy.

And the Transportation Security Administration is, once again, attempting to change that.

The 10-year-old agency has been under fire from Congress and the public for treating all travelers like potential terrorists, inconsistently applying complex rules at checkpoints and putting people in distressing situations.

According to recent news accounts: A mother was told incorrectly she couldn't take an ice pack and empty bottles for breast milk through airport security. Two elderly women had to pull down their pants to show medical devices.

A teenager was wrongly ordered to go through a body scanner with her insulin pump, even though the machine can, and did, damage the device.

A 4-year-old girl became hysterical when an officer insisted on patting her down simply because she hugged her grandmother, who was awaiting a pat down.

The girl ran up and hugged her grandmother, Lori Croft, while she awaited a pat down. Because they touched, TSA decided the girl had to be patted down as well.

The girl became hysterical, and the family told the Associated Press that TSA officers began yelling at them, calling the crying girl an uncooperative suspect, and patted her down while she was held by her mother.

There is a police blotter, too.

A TSA screener was ticketed for hurling a cup of hot coffee at an airline pilot who asked a group of screeners to clean up their profanity-laced conversation.

TSA screeners in Los Angeles, Buffalo, N.Y., and White Plains, N.Y., have been charged with helping people smuggle drugs through airport security checkpoints.

And there have been multiple arrests around the country in which screeners were accused of lifting cash, computers and other valuables from passenger bags.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



An Estimated 300,000-400,000 People Come Out In The Streets

Of Montreal Against The Government:

**“Another Canadian Record, And In
Full Violation Of The New Law”**

**“Late Into The Night, A Spirit Of
Jubilant Defiance Spread Through
The City”**

**“On Balconies Along Entire Streets, And
On Intersections Occupied By Young
And Old, The Sound Of Banging Pots
And Pans Rang Out, A Practice Used
Under Latin American Regimes”**



Thousands of demonstrators march to mark the 100th day of a student strike against tuition hikes in Montreal, Quebec, 22 May 2012. Photograph: Olivier Jean/Reuters

24 May 2012 By Martin Lukacs, Guardian News and Media Limited

At a tiny church tucked away in a working-class neighbourhood in Montreal's east end, Quebec's new outlaws gathered on Sunday for a day of deliberations.

Aged mostly between 18 and 22, their membership in a progressive student union has made them a target of government scorn and scrutiny.

And they have been branded a menace to society because of their weapons: ideas of social justice and equal opportunity in education, alongside the ability to persuade hundreds of thousands to join them in the streets.

Under a draconian law passed by the Quebec government on Friday, their very meeting could be considered a criminal act.

Law 78 – unprecedented in recent Canadian history – is the latest, most desperate manoeuvre of a provincial government that is afraid it has lost control over a conflict that began as a student strike against tuition hikes but has since spread into a protest movement with wide-ranging social and environmental demands.

Labelled a "truncheon law" by its critics, it imposes severe restrictions on the right to protest.

Any group of 50 or more protesters must submit plans to police eight hours ahead of time; they can be denied the right to proceed.

Picket lines at universities and colleges are forbidden, and illegal protests are punishable by fines from \$5,000 to \$125,000 for individuals and unions – as well as by the seizure of union dues and the dissolution of their associations.

In other words, the government has decided to smash the student movement by force.

The government quickly launched a public relations offensive to defend itself. Full-page ads in local newspapers ran with the headline: "For the sake of democracy and citizenship." Quebec's minister of public security, Robert Dutil, prattled about the many countries that have passed similar laws:

"Other societies with rights and freedoms to protect have found it reasonable to impose certain constraints – first of all to protect protesters, and also to protect the public."

Such language is designed to make violence sound benevolent and infamy honourable.

But it did nothing to mask reality for those who have flooded the streets since the weekend and encountered police emboldened by the new legislation.

Riot squads beat and tear-gassed people indiscriminately, targeted journalists, pepper-sprayed bystanders in restaurants, and mass-arrested hundreds, including more than 500 Wednesday night – bringing the tally from the last three months of protest to a record Canadian high of more than 2,500.

The endless night-time drone of helicopters has become the serenade song of a police state.

In its contempt for students and citizens, the government has riled a population with strong, bitter memories of harsh measures against social unrest – whether

the dark days of the iron-fisted Duplessis era, the martial law enforced by the Canadian army in 1970, or years of labour battles marred by the jailing of union leaders.

These and other occasions have shown Québécois how the political elite has no qualms about trampling human rights to maintain a grip on power.

Which is why those with experience of struggle fresh and old have answered Premier Jean Charest with unanimity and collective power. There are now legal challenges in the works, broad appeals for civil disobedience, and a brilliant website created by the progressive CLASSE student union, on which thousands have posted photos of themselves opposing the law. (The website's title is "Somebody arrest me" but also puns on a phrase to shake a person out of a crazed mental spell.)

And Wednesday, on the 100th day of the student strike, Québécois from every walk of life offered a rejoinder to the claim that "marginals" were directing and dominating the protests: an estimated 300,000-400,000 people marched in the streets, another Canadian record, and in full violation of the new law.

They brandished the iconic red squares that have now transformed into a symbol not just of accessible education but the defence of basic freedoms of assembly and protest.

Late into the night, a spirit of jubilant defiance spread through the city.

On balconies along entire streets, and on intersections occupied by young and old, the sound of banging pots and pans rang out, a practice used under Latin American regimes.

The clarity that has fired the students' protest has, until now, conspicuously eluded most of English-speaking Canada.

This is because the image of the movement has been skewed and distorted by the establishment media. Sent into paroxysms of bafflement and contempt by the striking students, they have painted them as spoiled kids or crazed radicals out of touch with society, who should give up their supposed entitlements and accept the stark economic realities of the age.

All this is said with a straight face.

But young people in Quebec, followed now by many others, have not been fooled.

They know the global economic crisis of 2008 exposed as never before the abuses of corporate finance, and that those responsible were bailed out rather than held to account.

They know that meetings of international leaders at the G20 end by dispatching ministers home to pay the bills on the backs of the poorest and most vulnerable, with tuition hikes and a toxic combination of neoliberal economic policies.

And with every baton blow and tear-gas blast, they perceive with ever greater lucidity that their government will turn ultimately to brute violence to impose such programs and frighten those who dissent.

To those who marched Wednesday, and the great numbers who cheered them on, the fault-lines of justice are evident.

This is a government that has refused to sit down and negotiate with student leaders in good faith, but invites an organised crime boss to a fundraising breakfast; a government that has claimed free education is an idea not even worth dreaming about, when it would cost only 1% of Quebec's budget and could be paid for simply by reversing the regressive tax reforms, corporate give-aways, or capital tax phase-outs of the last decade; a government whose turn to authoritarian tactics has now triggered a sharp decline in support, and which has clumsily accelerated a social crisis that may now only begin to be resolved by meeting the students' demands.

As the debate went on at the CLASSE meeting in the church last Sunday, the students' foresight proved wise beyond their years.

"History doesn't get made in a day," one argued into the microphone.

Not in a day, no doubt, but in Quebec, over this spring and the summer, history is indeed being made.



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

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