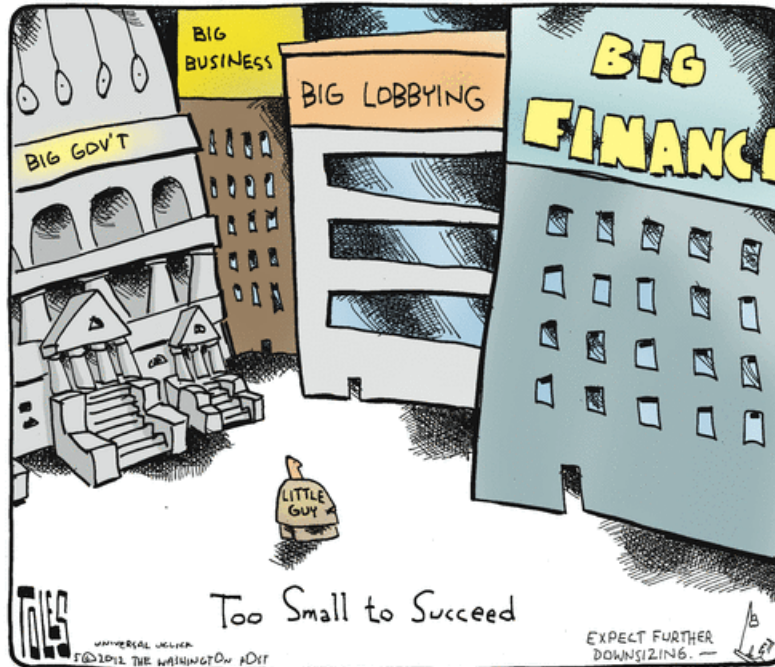


Military Resistance 10F1



ACTION REPORTS

“The Day’s Final Encounter Was 2 Sailors Agreeing On Our Message Part Re: Politicians And Their Misdeeds”

Fleet Week 2012: Outreach To Active Duty & National Guard

From: Alan S
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: May 30, 2012
Subject: Fleet Week 2012

The ships arrived this year in commemoration of Memorial Day and we were ready to greet them, mainly by combing Times Square over a period of 4 days.

All handouts were from our last outreach to a New York National Guard armory that included: several recent Military Resistance Newsletters, the last National Guard handout, GI Rights Pamphlet and the Military Resistance intro card [see below]. Naturally, there were "Sir! No Sir!" DVDs on hand as well.

Here's the contact breakdown by date:

5/25:

3 marines and 1 sailor (all had been to Afghanistan) were all given handouts and DVDs.

The sailor said he "never wants to see another goat again."

A young marine, upon seeing the front page of the lit handout on the Pentagon's plans to cut 67,100 from active duty and reserve units" said "I like that your reporting this."

Nothing like reporting material relevant to troop life I thought.

Later on, 6 sailors were reluctant to talk and took only a DVD. I felt they might have been warned about accepting material before coming ashore but subsequent encounters tended to disprove this.

5/26:

Multi handouts and DVDs to approximately 10 sailors and marines showing less resistance upon being approached than previous day, all young and polite.

5/28:

Two very friendly sailors right off the bat for 2 handouts and a DVD.

Four more took 4 handouts and 1 DVD responding to front page as well – they're not sure on reenlistment now even though one's wife had a baby recently.

The next was the most sobering moment of entire outreach: a National Guard sergeant stood somewhat uneasily as I approached and told me he'd been in Fallujah (in Afghanistan he insisted) and his vehicle was fired upon by a teenager who'd they just almost run over. Blinking hard, he went on about his PTSD and that on 9/21 of this year

there will be martial law declared by the military. Upon being questioned he assured me every military base is full of the news.

He took a handout and DVD and stood aside, staring at the ground. I asked where he drilled and he told me he's missed "many drills" and doesn't know when the next one is at his base here in the city. When I walked away I looked over my shoulder and saw this hard-to-forget soldier blinking in the Times Square sunlight.

The day's final encounter was 2 sailors agreeing on our message part re: politicians and their misdeeds.

They were pleased to take 3 handouts and a DVD. By this time I was running out of material so I offered only 1 "Sir! No Sir!" to any group of 3 or less to share.

5/29:

4 sailors took only one handout and a DVD. One of the older ones said in a surly manner "I know my rights" when informed of the GI Rights Pamphlet available. They were all older, first class petty officers

Next, a polite turndown from a very young marine who was thankful to the Corps for its discipline

3 sailors, all corpsmen (medics), back from Afghanistan took only 1 handout and DVD. They seemed a bit reluctant but considerate.

5 sailors took 3 handouts and 2 DVDs.

They too felt the same about politicians and were happy to converse as they seemed eager for this kind of contact

3 sailors (taking 3 and 1) were taciturn but very respectful.

2 very young marines and very polite took 1 of each offer and were also in agreement re: politicians.

They then returned a 2nd handout so "someone else could get it." They were quite curious about the DVD.

Final Thoughts:

We've been outreaching over 10 years now and attending Fleet Week for, say, the last 6-7 years (I think). A constant remains: the overall attitude and demeanor of the troops remains generally thoughtful and interested in what we have to say.

If barricades aren't stormed today then they remain scalable tomorrow it would seem.

Solidarity,

AS

Military Resistance

Traveling Soldier
Newsletter



www.traveling-
soldier.org

(888) 711-2550

contact@militaryproject.org

Box 126, 2576 Broadway New York, NY 10025

SUPPORTING GI RESISTANCE

[Cards designed by Richie M]

MORE:

ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to Military Resistance for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so.

If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out. Reporting what went wrong and/or got screwed up is especially important, so that others may learn from you what to expect, and how to avoid similar problems if possible.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Identifying information – locations, personnel – will be omitted from the reports.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the wars.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs identifying information be published in reporting on the action.

MORE:

Military Resistance Mission Statement:

1. The mission of Military Resistance is to bring together in one organization members of the armed forces and civilians in order to give aid and comfort to members of the armed forces who are organizing to end the war of empire in Afghanistan. The long term objective is to assist in eliminating all wars of empire by eliminating all empires.

2. Military Resistance does not advocate individual disobedience to orders or desertion from the armed forces. The most effective resistance is organized by members of the armed forces working together.

However, Military Resistance respects and will assist in the defense of troops who see individual desertion or refusal of orders as the only course of action open to them for reasons of conscience.

3. Military Resistance stands for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. and other occupation troops from Afghanistan.

Occupied nations have the right to independence and the right to resist Imperial invasion and occupation by force of arms.

4. Efforts to increase democratic rights in every society, organization, movement, and within the armed forces itself will receive encouragement and support.

Members of the armed forces, whether those of the United States or any other nation, have the right and duty to act against dictatorships commanding their services, and to assist civilian movements against dictatorship.

This applies whether a political dictatorship is imposed by force of arms or a political dictatorship is imposed by those in command of the resources of society using their wealth to purchase the political leadership.

5. Military Resistance uses organizational democracy.

This means control of the organization by the membership, through elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels.

Any member may run for any job in the organization. All persons elected are subject to immediate recall, by majority vote of the membership.

Coordinating bodies report their actions, decisions and votes to the membership who elected them, and may be overruled by a majority of the membership.

6. It is not necessary for Military Resistance to be in political agreement with other organizations in order to work together towards specific common objectives.

It is productive for organizations working together on common projects to discuss differences about the best way forward for the movement.

Debate is necessary to arrive at the best course of action.

Membership Requirements:

7. It is a condition of membership that each member prioritize and participate in organized action to reach out to active duty armed forces, Reserve and/or National Guard units.

8. Military Resistance or individual members may choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Afghanistan, but do not support a candidate opposed to immediate, unconditional withdrawal.

9. Members may not be active duty or drilling reserve commissioned officers, or employed in any capacity by any police or intelligence agency, local, state, or national.

10. I understand and am in agreement with the above statement. I pledge to defend my brothers and sisters, and the democratic rights of the citizens of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

-----**(Signed**

(Date)

----- **(Application taken by)**

**Military Resistance: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657
888-711-2550**

MORE

**You Can Take Action That Makes
A Difference:
Join The Military Resistance
Organization:
MILITARY RESISTANCE MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION**

Name (please print): _____

Armed Forces? (Branch) _____

Veteran? Years: _____

Union: _____

Occupation: _____

Mailing address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone (Landline): _____

Phone (Cell): _____

\$ dues paid _____

(See next: Calendar year basis.)

Armed Forces Members	@	Dues waived
Civilians	@	\$25
Students/Unemployed	@	\$10
Civilian/Military Prisoners	@	Dues Waived

Comments:

NOTE: Civilian applicants will be interviewed, in person if possible, or by phone.

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MORE

“People Need Not Be Helpless Before The Power Of Illegitimate Authority”

MILITARY RESISTANCE:

Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

Contact@militaryproject.org

[Based on a statement by David Cortright, Vietnam Veteran and armed forces resistance organizer.]

In the final analysis the stationing of American forces abroad serves not the national interest but the class interest of the corporate and political elite.

The maintenance of a massive, interventionist-oriented military establishment is based on the need to protect multinational investment and preserve regimes friendly to American capital.

Imperialism is at the heart of the national-security system and is the force fundamentally responsible for the counterrevolutionary, repressive aims of U.S. policy.

Only if we confront this reality and challenge it throughout society and within the ranks can we restore democratic control of the military.

Of course nothing can be accomplished without citizen involvement and active political struggle.

During the Vietnam era enlisted servicemen created massive pressures for change, despite severe repression, and significantly altered the course of the war and subsequent military policy.

To sustain and strengthen this challenge we must continue to build political opposition to interventionism and support those within the armed services, including national guard and reserves, who defy the goals and program of Empire.

The central lesson of the GI movement is that people need not be helpless before the power of illegitimate authority, that by getting together and acting upon their convictions people can change society and, in effect, make their own history.

The Military Project

Military Resistance: Contact@militaryproject.org

Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657
888-711-2550

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.”
Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Western Indiana County Mourns Marine’s Afghanistan Death

Jun. 1, 2012 Associated Press

COVINGTON, Ind. — Family friends say a 23-year-old Marine from western Indiana has been killed during military action in Afghanistan.

Flags are flying at half-staff outside the Fountain County Courthouse in honor of Lance Cpl. Joshua Witsman in his hometown of Covington.

Fountain County Clerk Patty Gritten tells WLF1-TV that she knew Witsman his entire life and that he had always wanted to serve his country. Gritten says Witsman’s family was told he died Wednesday.

The military hasn’t yet released details about his death.

Gritten says Witsman went to Afghanistan about three months ago on his second deployment. He was married with two stepchildren.

Afghanistan Insurgents Kill Foreign Soldier And Afghan Policemen

June 1, 2012 By Aimal Yaqubi and Mark Magnier, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — A foreign servicemember was killed in southern Afghanistan by a roadside bomb on Thursday, and attacks on police in several provinces left at least 11 Afghan law enforcement officers dead.

Ahmad Jawed Faisal, a spokesman in the Kandahar governor’s office, said five policemen were killed and six policemen and six civilians were wounded in that southern

province Thursday morning when a bomber rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into the gate of a district police headquarters.

Ahmadzia Abdulzai, a spokesman in the governor's office of eastern Nangarhar province, said a bomb detonated at a police checkpoint on the Jalalabad-Torkham highway killed two policemen.

And in northern Kunduz province, a roadside bomb reportedly struck a vehicle carrying the head of a district anti-terrorism police force, killing him and three other policemen.

In an email, the Taliban claimed responsibility for all three attacks.

THE ULTIMATE EXERCISE IN FUTILITY: PACK IT UP AND COME ON HOME



Children rides on a cart past a gunner of the Battle company, 1-508 Parachute Infantry battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, securing a road during a patrol in Zahri district of Kandahar province, southern Afghanistan May 27, 2012. REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov

Attack On US Base Kills “Up To” 14 Base Workers In Afghanistan:

“A Few U.S. Troops Suffered Minor Injuries”

6.1.12 The Associated Press

A truck bomber attacked a US base on Friday, sparking clashes that killed up to 14 people in eastern Afghanistan near the Pakistani border, officials said.

Insurgents detonated a truck loaded with explosives at the entrance to the camp. The explosion allowed other insurgents to enter the compound.

No foreign personnel were killed in the attack in Khost province, a Taliban flashpoint that borders Pakistan.

Only a few U.S. troops suffered minor injuries.

The Taliban militia, which is leading a 10-year insurgency against foreign troops and the Kabul government, claimed responsibility for the attack.

But the precise details of what happened were murky.

An Afghan security official told AFP that the bomber drove a truck packed with explosives into the outer security checkpoint of Forward Operating Base Salerno, which is run by the US military.

“It was a very strong blast. Khost city shook and we heard firing,” Zazai said.

“The blast was inside the compound and then we heard firing,” Jan said. “There is a helicopter flying over the base.”

“Initial information shows that seven Afghans have been killed and 13 others injured,” the official told AFP on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the media.

According to the official, the victims are Afghan workers involved in a construction project at the base.

“One of our mujahideen rammed a vehicle packed with ten tons of explosives into a base in Khost city and detonated the truck near the restaurant of the base”, said Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Muhahid to AFP.

Forward Operating Base Salerno has a large Soviet-built airfield.

FOB Salerno is close to FOB Chapman, another US base in Khost where an insurgent triple agent blew himself up killing seven CIA agents and his Jordanian handler in December 2009, the deadliest attack on the US intelligence agency since 1983.

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

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

MILITARY NEWS

TSGLI To Start Paying \$50K For Loss Of Genitals

Jun 1, 2012 By Rick Maze - Staff writer, Army Times

The Veterans Affairs Department announced Friday it will begin paying \$50,000 in traumatic injury insurance to service members who suffer severe genitourinary losses.

The \$50,000 payment of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance traumatic injury payments will apply to the loss of genital or urinary organs as a result of military service, for injuries incurred on or after Oct. 7, 2001, VA announced in a Federal Register notice.

Bomb blasts suffered by combat troops are the primary cause for the loss of reproductive organs.

Coverage is provided for the anatomical loss of a penis or the permanent loss of use of the penis as a result of injury. Loss of use of a penis from disease is not covered.

The \$50,000 traumatic injury payment also applies for the anatomical loss of a testicle, or the loss of use of both testicles.

For women, payment is provided for the anatomical loss of the vulva, the uterus or vaginal canal, or an ovary. Payment also is available for the permanent loss of use of the vulva or vaginal canal or the permanent loss of use of both ovaries.

For both sexes, the total and permanent loss of function of the urinary system also qualifies for a payment, under the final rule effective June 1.

The insurance, known as TSGLI, provides a maximum payment of \$100,000 for severe injuries. The \$50,000 payment for genitourinary loss could be paid in addition to payments for other injuries as long as the total payment does not exceed \$100,000.

Applications for the insurance payment can be made online.

Music Used As A “Disincentive” In Handling Prisoners At Guantanamo: “Prisoners Forced To Listen To Songs From The PBS Children’s Show ‘Sesame Street’”

5/31/12 By AUSTIN WRIGHT, POLITICO

Music has been used as a "disincentive" in handling prisoners at the Guantanamo Bay military detention facility, a Pentagon spokesman said on Thursday.

“Music is used both in a positive way and as a disincentive,” Capt. John Kirby told reporters, but it is not a form of torture. “We don’t torture,” he said.

Kirby declined to comment on reports that prisoners have been forced to listen to songs from the PBS children’s show “Sesame Street.”

On Tuesday, Al Jazeera released the documentary “Songs of War,” which examines the use of music as a form of torture.

According to the documentary, prisoners at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba have been forced to wear headphones and listen to music for prolonged periods.

Composer Christopher Cerf, who writes music for “Sesame Street” and is featured in the documentary, expressed outrage that his songs were used as an interrogation tool.

“The idea that my music had a role in that is kind of outrageous,” Cerf told Al Jazeera. “This is fascinating to me ... because of the horror of music being perverted to serve evil purposes.”

In 2003, BBC News reported that U.S. interrogators had used songs from “Sesame Street” and “Barney & Friends” to break the will of prisoners in Iraq.

“They can’t take it,” a U.S. service member involved in psychological operations told Newsweek magazine at the time.

“If you play it for 24 hours, your brain and body functions start to slide, your train of thought slows down and your will is broken. That’s when we come in and talk to them.”

Military Resistance Available In PDF Format

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“Two Local Servicewomen Who Posed For Photos In Uniform As They Breast-Fed Their Children Say They Have Been Silenced By Superiors”

“Photos Were Part Of A Campaign For The Mom2Mom Breastfeeding Support Group, Launched In January By Military Wife Crystal Scott”



A photograph showing two soldiers nursing their children has caused another round of breastfeeding controversy. Terran Echegoyen McCabe And Christina Luna are members of the U.S. Air Force

June 1, 2012 Chelsea Bannach, The Spokesman-Review

Two local servicewomen who posed for photos in uniform as they breast-fed their children say they have been silenced by superiors.

The photos, meanwhile, have spread across the Web amid a fresh wave of debate about breast-feeding in public.

The photos were part of a campaign for the Mom2Mom Breastfeeding Support Group, launched in January by military wife Crystal Scott at Fairchild Air Force Base.

They were going to be used on posters the group planned to hang on and off base for breast-feeding awareness month in August.

They feature two Fairchild guardsmen and mothers, Terran Echevoyen-McCabe and Christina Luna, breast-feeding their babies while wearing their Washington Air National Guard uniforms.

Echevoyen-McCabe said she did one interview before she was ordered to stop by her superior officers.

“They ordered me not to speak to the media,” she said before declining further comment.

Capt. Keith Kosik, state public affairs officer for the Washington National Guard, could not confirm whether the women’s chain of command ordered them to stop doing interviews but said it is a possibility and confirmed that superior officers have been in contact with the women.

“Their military service is connected to what’s going on right now,” he said. “That’s why we do have some jurisdiction there.”

The military has no rules specifically regarding public breast-feeding while in uniform.

The photos of the women quickly went viral and caused a stir around the world.

“This was not what we were expecting,” said Scott, the support group program coordinator. “Literally overnight ... it just exploded and we were just like ‘Oh my gosh, what do we do?’ ”

The images have resulted in a flood of comments, many positive, some negative.

“I was so surprised at some of the comments,” she said. “The negative ones, they’re calling it a disgrace to the uniform.”

In an earlier interview for an MSNBC blog, Echevoyen-McCabe said, “I’m proud to be wearing a uniform while breast-feeding.”

Shown in the photo breast-feeding her twins, she said, “I have breast-fed in our lobby, in my car, in the park ... and I pump, usually in the locker room,” she said.

“I’m proud of the photo and I hope it encourages other women to know they can breast-feed whether they’re active duty, Guard or civilian.”

The women could face disciplinary action for violating Department of Defense rules, but Kosik said the Air National Guard will probably approach the issue as an educational opportunity.

“Members of the National Guard are welcome to participate in the vast spectrum of civilian organizations and causes on their own time, and with their own resources as private citizens,” Kosik said in an email. “Rank, title and uniform are to be used only for official purposes.”

Scott hopes the photos will encourage more women to breast-feed, including in public. The series of photos, taken by Brynja Sigurdardottir, a military spouse at Fairchild, also included members of the support group in civilian clothes. The photographer's website crashed Wednesday from the heavy traffic.

Said Scott, "I am dedicated to helping raising awareness to breast-feeding and I'm just very passionate about it. They should not be ashamed. They should not go hide in a closet. They should feel like they're doing the best that they can offer their child. And I hope that America can normalize breast-feeding."

She said that although the two women featured in the photos were surprised by the response, "in the end I think it definitely is good."

Said Kosik, "Our issue is that the uniform was used by an outside entity to further their cause. And with all of the attention this has received, it appears that they succeeded."

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

<p>Hope for change doesn't cut it when you're still losing buddies. -- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War</p>
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“Feeling The Futility Of Demonstrating And Of Working Within A Rigged Electoral System, The Movement And Its Press Turned Increasingly Toward The One Group Capable Of Ending The War With Direct Action: The People Forced To Fight It”

Excerpts from *Vietnam And Other American Fantasies*; H. Bruce Franklin; University Of Massachusetts Press; Amherst, 2000

Feeling the futility of demonstrating and of working within a rigged electoral system, the movement and its press turned increasingly toward the one group capable of ending the war with direct action: the people forced to fight it.

Liberation News Service's "Special Issue on Soldiers" gave prominence to stories from *Vietnam GI* and *The Bond*.

And the summer of 1968 became the "Summer of Support" for the GI antiwar movement.

The main focus was on coffeehouses, which were already centers for active-duty and other resisters near major bases in Missouri, Texas, South Carolina, and Washington state, while new ones were being opened in California and New Jersey.

When the manager of the Oleo Strut, the coffeehouse near Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas, "stood up before the G.I.s and announced that the Oleo Strut was part of the Summer of Support," LNS reported, the soldiers "responded with a standing ovation" because "this was their coffee-house, and, should trouble come, many of them will defy the army."

Indeed, within weeks the Oleo Strut proved to be a center of the insurrection that led to dozens of soldiers refusing to go to Chicago to suppress the antiwar demonstrations taking place outside the Democratic convention.

Simultaneously there emerged at Fort Hood itself *The Fatigue Press*, an underground paper published by the GIs, whose editor was arrested by base authorities two weeks after the Chicago confrontation.

As the underground press threw itself into the Summer of Support, there was a noticeable shift away from civilians leading soldiers toward soldiers providing leadership for the entire antiwar movement.

Before long, this trend would dramatically change the form and content not just of opposition to the Vietnam War but of the war itself.

The reversal of roles was aptly symbolized by a teach-in held in Berkeley's Provo Park on August 10, 1968, chaired by ex—Green Beret Donald Duncan. Students now came not to teach soldiers about the war, but to learn from them.

The Ally, a GI newspaper whose first issue in February had explained the profound significance of the Tet offensive, now reported the lessons brought to the teach-in by vets and active-duty GIs from the army, navy, coast guard, and marines.

The underground press, especially the rapidly proliferating papers published by military personnel, were filled with stories of the insurrections, mutinies, and fraggings that were crippling U.S. combat potential in Vietnam.

SDS criticized itself for not having taken previous work within the military seriously enough and emphasized that "showing that the Left supports the soldiers" is no less important than showing "that the soldiers support the left."

Perhaps the most compressed fantasy projecting what America's war against Vietnam was doing to America is a fourteen-line poem by Steve Hassett, who served as an infantryman and intelligence analyst in Vietnam:

**And what would you do, ma,
if eight of your sons step
out of the TV and begin
killing chickens and burning
hooches in the living room,
stepping on booby traps
and dying in the kitchen;
beating your husband and
taking him and shooting
skag and forgetting in
the bathroom?
would you lock up your daughter?
would you stash the apple pie?
would you change the channels**

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ANNIVERSARIES

June 1913: A Heroine In Action Elizabeth Gurley Flynn



Cover illustration by Arthur Machia for *The Rebel Girl*. Words & Music by Joe Hill (Ithaca, NY: Glad Day Press, 1940, c1915).

“The Rebel Girl” In Person



Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, June 1913, speaking against capitalism and for working class revolution to a mass audience

Joe Hill dedicated his song “The Rebel Girl” to her a few months before he was executed November 19, 1915 by firing squad in Utah for organizing workers to join labor unions affiliated with Industrial Workers Of The World.

***June 2, 1863: Glorious Anniversary:
“Col. Montgomery And His Gallant Band
Of 300 Black Soldiers, Under The
Guidance Of A Black Woman, Dashed
Into The Enemy’s Country, Struck A Bold
And Effective Blow, Striking Terror Into
The Heart Of Rebeldom”***



Harriet Tubman

It is significant as the only military engagement in American history wherein a woman black or white, “led the raid and under whose inspiration it was originated and conducted”.

Carl Bunin Peace History May 28-June 3

June 2, 1863

Abolitionist and former slave James Montgomery led 300 African-American troops of the Union’s 2nd South Carolina Volunteers on a raid of plantations along the Combahee River. Meanwhile, backed by three gunboats, Harriet Tubman’s forces set fire to the plantations and freed 750 slaves.

The following dispatch, quoted in part, appeared on the front page of The Commonwealth, a Boston newspaper, on Friday, July 10, 1863:

HARRIET TUBMAN

July 10, 1863:

Col. Montgomery and his gallant band of 300 black soldiers, under the guidance of a black woman, dashed into the enemy’s country, struck a bold and effective blow, destroying millions of dollars worth of commissary stores, cotton and lordly dwellings, and striking terror into the heart of rebeldom, brought off near 800 slaves and thousands of dollars worth of property, without losing a man or receiving a scratch.

It was a glorious consummation.

After they were all fairly well disposed of in the Beaufort charge, they were addressed in strains of thrilling eloquence by their gallant deliverer, to which they responded in a song. “There is a white robe for thee,” a song so appropriate and so heartfelt and cordial as to bring unbidden tears.

The Colonel was followed by a speech from the black woman, who led the raid and under whose inspiration it was originated and conducted.

For sound sense and real native eloquence, her address would do honor to any man, and it created a great sensation...

Since the rebellion she had devoted herself to her great work of delivering the bondman, with an energy and sagacity that cannot be exceeded. Many and many times she has penetrated the enemy’s lines and discovered their situation and condition, and escaped without injury, but not without extreme hazard.

The Combahee River, in South Carolina, was the first one visited by the Spaniards in the year 1520. Vasque de Ayllon, having discovered it, gave it the name “River Jordan.”

Although subsequently renamed the Combahee, the stream now became a River Jordan literally for more than seven hundred and fifty Negroes who, under the leadership of Harriet Tubman and the auxiliary command of Colonel James Montgomery, delivered this number of blacks into the free lines.

The River Jordan has been in biblical history a reality, and in modern Negro allusion a symbol of the barrier between bondage and freedom, and it is an interesting coincidence, therefore, that the Combahee campaign should so parallel the ancient situation.

It is significant as the only military engagement in American history wherein a woman black or white, "led the raid and under whose inspiration it was originated and conducted".

The N.Y. Tribune " says that the Negro troops at Hilton Head, S.C. will soon start an expedition, under the command of Colonel Montgomery, differing in many respects from any heretofore projected.

The Combahee strategy was formulated by Harriet Tubman as an outcome of her penetrations of the enemy lines and her belief that the Combahee River countryside was ripe for a successful invasion.

She was asked by General Hunter "if she would go with several gunboats up the Combahee River, the object of the expedition being to take up the torpedoes placed by the rebels in the river, to destroy railroads and bridges, and to cut off supplies from the rebel troops.

She said she would go if Col. Montgomery was to be appointed commander of the expedition...

Accordingly, Col. Montgomery was appointed to the command, and Harriet, with several men under her, the principal of whom was J. Plowden...accompanied the expedition".

Actually in this raid it was Montgomery who was the auxiliary leader. The whole venture owed its success to the complete preliminary survey made by Harriet Tubman's espionage troops.

Captain John F. Lay, the Confederate investigating officer, discussing the movement afterwards, said, "The enemy seems to have been well posted as to the character and capacity of our troops and their small chance of encountering opposition, and to have been well guided by persons thoroughly acquainted with the river and country.

It was a commentary, however indirect, on Harriet's work and the labor of her subordinates.

About ten miles north of Port Royal Island, Harriet's station, was St. Helena Island, and between this island and the mainland of South Carolina was the water known as St. Helena Sound. The Combahee River, a narrow, jagged stream that ran about fifty miles into the interior of the State, began at the Sound: and on its banks were rice fields and marshes.

During the night of June 2, 1863, Harriet and Colonel Montgomery, with a party of about 150 Negro troops in three gunboats, started up the Combahee River. Pickets located at stations near the mouth of the stream spotted the oncoming boats and dispatched word to the Confederate commander, Major Emanuel, located deeper inland at Green Pond...

Every plantation on both sides of the river was aroused; the Union soldiers, in small detachments, raced from one to another, creating a general devastation of the zone.

In the Combahee Ferry region the Blake, Lowndes, Middleton and Heyward plantations were in ruins. The Negroes fled to the gunboats and the slavemasters skedaddled inland. The bridge at Combahee Ferry was burning too "but not badly.

As the gunboats passed up the river, the Negroes left their work and took to the woods, for at first they were frightened.

Then they came out to peer, "like startled deer." But scudding away like the wind at the sound of the steam-whistle.

The word was passed along that these were "Lincoln's gunboats come to set them free." From that moment on, the overseers used their whips in vain, for they failed to drive the slaves back to the quarters.

They turned and ran for the gun-boats; they came down every road, across every field, dressed just as they were when they left their work and their cabins.

There were women with children clinging around their necks, hanging onto their dresses, or running behind, but all rushed at full speed for "Lincoln's gun-boats."

Hundreds crowded the banks, with their hands extended toward their deliverers, and most of them were taken aboard the gun-boats to be carried to Beaufort.

This is about what happened all through the night and morning of June 2 when Harriet, Montgomery and the colored soldiers overran the Combahee.

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OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**“For The Second Consecutive Week, Armed Jewish Settlers Attacked Palestinian Villagers”
“Occupation Troops Immediately Intervene With Full Force Whenever Assaulted Palestinians Put Up Any Semblance Of Resistance To Settler Violence, Or Even When They Seek To Put Out Fires Set By The Settlers”
"From The Israeli View Point, We Are Supposed To Be Killed Quietly And Silently”**

By Khaled Amayreh in Nablus; AL-AHRAM [Cairo] 31 May - 6 June 2012 [Excerpts]

For the second consecutive week, armed Jewish settlers attacked Palestinian villagers and torched their fields in the northern region of the West Bank as Israeli occupation troops were looking on passively.

According to international law, the safety and security of people under occupation is the responsibility of the occupying power.

However, in most cases, Israeli army troops don't content themselves with watching settlers shoot and murder Palestinians and vandalise their property, they also collude in and coordinate terror against Palestinians.

On the other hand, occupation troops immediately intervene with full force whenever assaulted Palestinians put up any semblance of resistance to settler violence, or even when they seek to put out fires set by the settlers.

One local Palestinian farmer said: "From the Israeli view point, we are supposed to be killed quietly and silently. This is the unwritten message Israel is communicating to us."

"And Israel keeps claiming it is the only true democracy in the Middle East, and the stupid Americans and Europeans readily swallow the big lie."

On Saturday, 25 May, settler thugs from the settlement of Yitzhar shot and seriously wounded a young villager from the nearby village of Orif near Nablus, after manacling his hands to his back.

A local eyewitness named Muntaser Safadi said he saw dozens of settlers set fire to wheat fields, ready for harvest, outside the village of Orif.

And when village youngsters sought to extinguish the fire, armed settlers started shooting at them. Israeli troops, watching the incident unfold, also began shooting at the Palestinians in order to keep them a safe distance from the settlers.

Several villagers sustained gunshot wounds while others suffered from smoke inhalation. The entire incident was caught on film, prompting the Israeli army to order an investigation, ostensibly for public relations reasoning.

Meanwhile, the guard of the settlement shot and seriously wounded a 22-year-old Palestinian named Najeh Assad Safadi.

Settlers kicked Safadi as he was bleeding heavily. He was then transferred to hospital in Nablus where his condition was described as "very serious".

A Palestinian official who monitors settler violence said at least eight Palestinians were injured, one seriously. The official, Ghassan Daghlas, said the attacking settlers opened fire on Palestinian villagers as part of their military training.

Many of the attacking settlers were only 15-17 years of age, eyewitnesses said.

Daghlas said the settlers' ultimate goal was to force Palestinian villagers out of the area so that settlers could take over their homes and lands.

"The Jews experienced one Kristalnacht in Germany in 1938. But here every night is a Kristalnacht. The Jewish version of the Hitler Youth is given carte blanche to terrorise and persecute unarmed and unprotected Palestinians."

The governor of Nablus, Jebriil Bakri, admitted that Palestinians living in Area C, which is controlled by the Israeli army, were effectively at the mercy of settlers. "I call upon the international community to protect our people from the terror and violence of these murderous savages.

We just can't entrust the task of protecting our people to the Israeli occupation army.

"The occupation army and the settlers are two sides of the same coin. The snake wouldn't bite its tail."

Palestinian Authority security forces lack the ability and "legal framework" to protect Palestinians from settler violence.

According to agreements and understandings with Israel, Palestinian security forces must not confront settlers under any circumstances, even if they are seen shooting Palestinians.

The settlement of Yitzhar near Nablus is considered a hotbed of Jewish terror and extremism and the Israeli occupation army has always had difficulties pacifying settlers there.

Most of the settlers are indoctrinated in racist Talmudic ideology that teaches that non-Jews living in Palestine-Israel must be enslaved to Jews as water carriers and woodcutters, expelled, or physically exterminated.

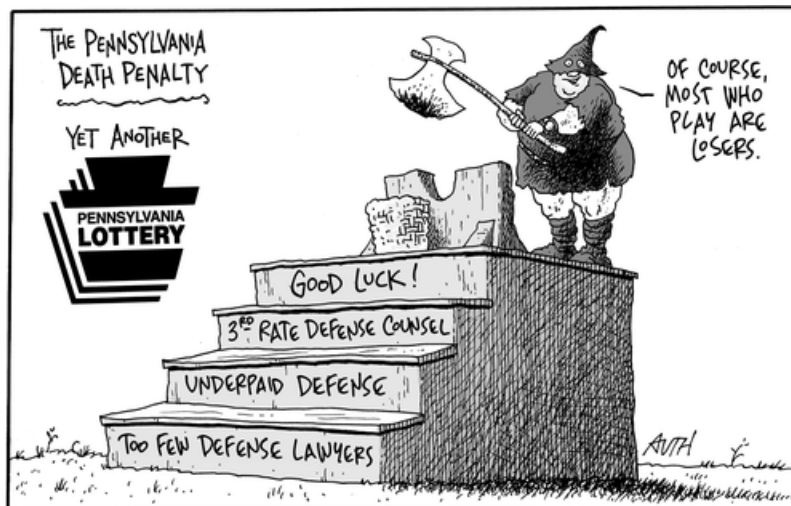
On several occasions, the settlers of Yitzhar tried to poison Palestinian wells and cisterns as well as livestock, and torch and vandalise fields and orchards.

In the past, two or three decades ago, the Israeli army exercised some authority over the settlers. However, the occupation army lost nearly all its authority over settler thugs as the Netanyahu government, which many Israelis call a government of settlers, by settlers and for settlers, passed laws obliging the army to treat settlers with extreme leniency.

In fact, it is the army that fears settlers, not the other way around, as the settlers are backed by powerful politicians in government.

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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