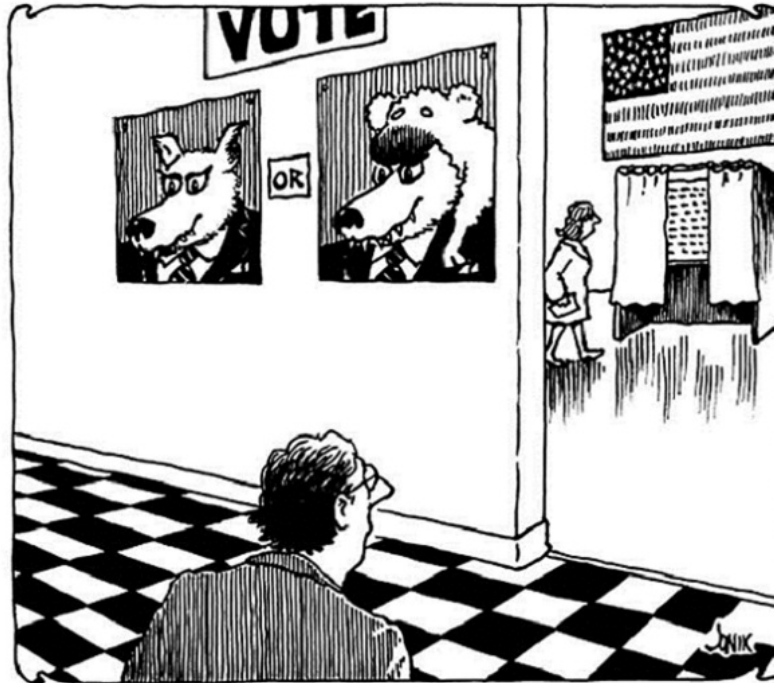


Military Resistance 10J17



**“Shortcomings In The Army’s
Suicide Awareness Program”**
**“How Can We Expect Our Soldiers To
Treat This Training Seriously When
The Material Contradicts Itself?”**
**“It Does Us All A Disservice When The
Army-Wide Training Program Cannot Be
Consistent Or Professional”**

Taking a soldier considering suicide to a chaplain who considers suicide a sin is akin to placing a judgment on that soldier’s potential choices. This does not help to reduce stigmas and can serve to further them.

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
October 29, 2012

I felt compelled to write about the shortcomings in the Army's suicide awareness program after recently undergoing mandatory training.

For an issue that the Army claims to care so much about, the laziness in even proof-reading training materials for this program is embarrassing.

To give credit where it is due, the instructors for this block of training did the best with the training materials they had. There were two videos, one of Terry Bradshaw and one of Gary Sinise, with subtitles that were obviously not proofread and contained multiple errors. This lack of attention to simple detail does not convey true concern about the quality of this training.

More disturbing was that the training contradicted itself.

The ACE acronym (Ask, Care, Escort) was introduced, with emphasis on the "escort" portion, to never leave your buddy and to take him yourself to the chain of command, chaplain, primary care provider or a behavioral health specialist.

Five vignettes presented later offered different choices for the class to determine what the best approach would have been to deal with a soldier who had committed suicide.

Of these "best answers," only two of the correct choices followed the "escort" portion of the training.

Some of the best answers contended that one should simply suggest that the individual talk to someone rather than insist on escorting the soldier to the help needed.

How can we expect our soldiers to treat this training seriously when the material contradicts itself?

Further, it is misguided to teach that a chaplain is an appropriate person (for) a soldier in trouble. At a maximum, the chaplain should be a waypoint on an at-risk individual's ultimate visit to a qualified behavioral health specialist.

While chaplains undergo more suicide prevention training than the rest of the formation, chaplains do not have the medical qualification to adequately determine whether a person is no longer a risk to themselves.

There are past instances of chaplains' determinations that a soldier was fit to return to duty, the chain of command ended the process there, and the soldier ended up committing suicide.

To place that responsibility on the Chaplain Corps is not right and not fair.

Taking a soldier considering suicide to a chaplain who considers suicide a sin is akin to placing a judgment on that soldier's potential choices. This does not help to reduce stigmas and can serve to further them.

Taking a soldier to a behavioral health specialist sends the message that you recognize the person is in pain and in need of help, not that he is potentially making a sinful decision.

It's time for some real thought, effort and basic proofreading to go into suicide prevention and awareness programs.

There are many individuals in our Army working hard to solve this problem, and it does us all a disservice when the Army-wide training program cannot be consistent or professional.

Capt. Erin Morgan
Wilmington, Mass.

MORE:

**“The Army Has Been Aggressively
Trying To Figure Out Why The
Suicide Rate Has Been Out Of
Control”**

**“Let’s Just Impose Yet Another
Condition That Could End Their
Career When It Is The Only Thing
They Have Left”**

“Let Me Know How That Works For You”

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
October 29, 2012

I am deeply scarred by the Army Training and Doctrine Command’s philosophy that if you can’t make the cut in physical training, you should be cut from schools and re-enlistments, and even booted (“Flunk PT, end your career,” Oct. 8).

I am so happy that someone who is a PT “guru” and has more time than most to stay conditioned on a regular basis is the only person worthy of retention and education.

Shame on you. Just because I can't complete one additional pushup/situp or need to shave a few seconds from a run, I will be sent packing.

For the record, the Army has been aggressively trying to figure out why the suicide rate has been out of control.

I mean no disrespect, but it doesn't take someone with a star rating or higher to know (whether) this kind of treatment against an already stressed soldier's life is going to have any positive impact.

When soldiers are already suffering personal issues before or after deployments, let's just impose yet another condition that could end their career when it is the only thing they have left.

Let me know how that works for you.

Staff Sgt. James Montgomery
Slatington, Pa.

MORE:

“Overdoses Are A Greater Threat To Veterans Than Suicides, Which Have Been Far More Publicized”
“It's An Extremely Important Piece Of The Picture, And People Are Not Talking About It”
“Some Were Taking So Many Of The Drugs That Identifying Precisely Which Medicine Was Responsible For Killing Them Was Not Possible”

The Army also reported the number of amphetamine prescriptions doubled between 2006 and 2009, much of it because of the rising number of soldiers diagnosed with adult attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Sept. 29, 2012 By American-Statesman Investigative Team, Austin American-Statesman [Excerpts]

An American-Statesman investigation has found that, among the state's veterans of the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan receiving disability benefits when they died, an astonishing percentage succumbed to drug overdoses or toxic combinations of prescription drugs.

The deaths weren't simple to document. Information released by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs showed only that 345 Texas veterans of the two conflicts who received VA benefits had died between 2003 and 2011; it did not reveal names or how they died. The Statesman was able to identify and establish causes of death for 266, or 77 percent.

Of those, nearly 1 in 5 was killed by the toxic effects of drugs. Virtually all the deaths were ruled accidental; only two of the former service members wrote suicide notes.

Among all veterans receiving VA services nationally in a single year, 2005, she calculated 1,013 had died of accidental drug overdoses — double the rate of the civilian population, when accounting for age and gender. Her surprising conclusion: When compared to civilian rates, overdoses are a greater threat to veterans than suicides, which have been far more publicized.

And the Statesman's analysis suggests that among Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, overdoses may be even more prevalent than among the full veteran population Bohnert studied.

A review of the Texas veterans' autopsy and medical examiner reports shows that only a handful of the overdoses were attributable solely to illegal drugs.

The remainder of the drug-related deaths identified by the newspaper were caused by prescription medications — pills dispensed by physicians to dull pain, promote sleep and treat mood disorders such as depression and anxiety.

Three of the 47 overdoses were ruled suicides. The rest were determined to be accidents — fatal miscalculations of dosages, or a tragic failure to account for the deadly interactions among multiple drugs.

"Those numbers are even higher than we expected," said Kim Ruocco, a counselor for Virginia-based Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, which provides support services to family members of military fatalities.

"It's an extremely important piece of the picture, and people are not talking about it."

It is unclear how many of the legal pills directly responsible for the veterans' deaths were prescribed by VA doctors. Interviews with survivors suggest some were.

But many of the service members were initially prescribed the medications during their active duty as treatment for physical and mental injuries sustained during their service, family members said.

Some were taking so many of the drugs that identifying precisely which medicine was responsible for killing them was not possible.

Austin's Chad Everett Mitchell, a 40-year-old Navy veteran who served seven overseas tours, from the Persian Gulf to Iraq, died two years ago literally surrounded by pills.

"Due to the extreme amount of medications present, the medications could not be individually inventoried on scene," the Travis County medical examiner's report noted.

A 2010 Army study found that one-third of its soldiers were on prescription meds, and nearly half of those — 76,500 soldiers — were taking powerful and addictive opiate painkillers.

In 2009, military doctors wrote 3.8 million prescriptions for narcotic pain pills — four times as many as they did in 2001.

The Army also reported the number of amphetamine prescriptions doubled between 2006 and 2009, much of it because of the rising number of soldiers diagnosed with adult attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

A 2008 survey showed prescription drug abuse among military personnel doubled from 2002 to 2005 and then nearly tripled again over the next three years, the growth primarily attributable to the misuse of pain medications.

Studies of active-duty soldiers have found that what the Army study termed a "permissive climate of prescription medication use" posed a direct threat to soldiers' health.

Indeed, between 2006 and 2009, the Army reported 139 soldiers' accidental deaths involved prescription drugs. About one-third of Army suicide victims used prescription drugs to kill themselves.

Last year, a study of more than 450,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans found that 4.5 percent had a drug abuse disorder diagnosis — more than double the civilian rate — adding that the rate was likely even higher because of the VA's poor screening process.

The same study found that "funding for VA substance abuse treatment programs has declined relative to other healthcare services."

Over the past decade, the use of powerful opioid painkillers dispensed by VA doctors to treat retired military members has soared, according to data the Statesman acquired from the agency through the federal Freedom of Information Act.

Between 2002 and 2011, total prescriptions written by VA physicians rose 37 percent.

Over that same period, the number of prescriptions VA doctors wrote for oxycodone rose 150 percent.

The VA's use of hydrocodone — often mixed with acetaminophen under the brand name Vicodin — has exploded over the past decade.

Data from IMS Health, a health care information company, show the number of hydrocodone/acetaminophen prescriptions written by U.S. physicians for civilians rose 68 percent from 2002 to 2011.

Prescriptions of the drug written by VA doctors climbed 360 percent during the same period.

Those who work closely with service members say that the high incidence of drug poisoning deaths the Statesman found among Texas veterans is not a surprise.

“Unfortunately, it isn’t shocking,” said Tom Tarantino, chief policy officer for the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Association.

“If anything, the numbers understate” the problem.

There have been successes.

Use of benzodiazepines, addictive medications that are used to treat anxiety and that can interact fatally with narcotics, are down.

Last month, the VA’s Office of Inspector General found that physicians at a Maine VA clinic didn’t properly monitor their patients on opioids.

In some cases, they ignored positive drug tests or prescribed the painkillers to patients whom they had not seen.

Rather than reassess the opioid users every few months, some patients were not re-evaluated for more than a year.

“Five Years After His Death, Lance Pilgrim Still Occupies His Parents’ Home”

Five years after his death, Lance Pilgrim still occupies his parents’ home.

They are raising his 12-year-old son.

His mother, Judy, keeps several bags of his clothes in his old bedroom. Occasionally, she’ll deeply inhale his fading smell. An answering machine on the kitchen counter contains the last reminder of Pilgrim’s voice.

“I love you,” he can be heard saying.

The first hint their son was struggling came within hours of his return from Iraq on June 14, 2003, a month after President George W. Bush declared “mission accomplished.”

Pilgrim called his mother in the middle of the night to tell her he was having bad dreams and needed to hear her voice.

“He’d never had nightmares before,” she said.

Pilgrim went AWOL that October; his father, Randy, found him sleeping behind a dumpster. He returned to Fort Sill but walked away a week later.

After a stay at a Wichita Falls hospital that treats behavioral and substance abuse disorders, he returned to his post.

But after he left again — and was picked up with marijuana — the Army gave Pilgrim an other-than-honorable discharge in 2004.

He found work, mostly in construction, but struggled to hold a job; nightmares kept him awake, so he overslept. Loud noises panicked him. Over the next three years, he shuttled in and out of VA hospitals.

“We’d take him in, and they’d keep him for a few days, but nothing stuck,” Judy said.

In July 2007, Pilgrim was admitted to a special PTSD treatment program in Waco. After a scuffle with another patient, he was sent home Aug. 16 with a prescription for hydrocodone with two refills, the bottle showed.

Two days later, he was discovered dead of an overdose.

As her son added tattoos over the years, Judy had observed that his body was roughly divided in two. On one side, he’d printed his home address and his son’s birthday. “And the other side was just evil images,” she said. “It was like a battle.” Just before he died, he’d added a drawing of spider’s web on his arm. “It’s what I feel I’m trapped in,” he’d said.

Because of his discharge status, Pilgrim was buried without military ceremony at the Daingerfield cemetery Aug. 22, 2007. His father was furious.

“This young man fought for his country and came back with a problem, and they were sweeping it under the rug,” he said.

Two years later, the Army upgraded Pilgrim’s discharge to honorable. “The overall length and quality of the applicant’s service, to include the combat service, and the supporting medical documents from the Veterans Administration, mitigated the discrediting entries in the service record,” the decision read.

In 2010, the Pilgrims filed a lawsuit charging the VA with negligence for prescribing hydrocodone to their son. They later settled it at mediation, obtaining a small fund for Pilgrim’s son’s education.

“What we wanted was for the VA to take notice — that they did something wrong,” his mother said.

“I thought we’d finally get the chance to sit down across from the doctor and say, ‘How could you do this?’ ”

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Kill Government General: “The Attack Was Said To Be Fiercest Since The Allied Forces Moved In The Region Two Months Ago”

October 28, 2012 Sh.M.Network

MOGADISHU — A senior Somali government military commander was killed in the latest fighting between the government soldiers and Al-shabab militants which took place Sunday in Lower Shabelle region of southern Somalia, an official said.

General Mohamed Ibrahim Farah better known as (Gordan), Commander of sector five was assassinated in an ambush attack by Al shabab militants at El Waregow area near the port city of Marko, some 100 Km south of Mogadishu, according to military sources.

The attack was said to be fiercest since the allied forces moved in the region two months ago as the rival sides used heavy and light weapons during the deadly ambush attack on Govt. military convoy by the insurgents.

Bomb And Ambush Kills Government Soldiers

Oct 27, 2012 Garowe Online & Sh.M.Network

At least five Somali soldiers were killed on Saturday after a bomb exploded at a police station in the southern port city of Kismayo, Garowe Online reports.

Witnesses and local sources reported that a big explosion at a police station killed five soldiers and wounded ten others.

Unconfirmed reports said four civilians were wounded in gunfire following the explosion.

On Sunday, five people, mostly combatants were killed in the main road which links Kismayo to Afmadow city after al-Shabab fighters ambushed a military convoy carrying Somali and Kenyan forces.

Reports suggested that Tanks belonging Kenyan forces were visible in the battlefield as the combat continuing in the area. The allied forces were en route to Afmadow city as the ambush attack happened.

Insurgents Attack A District Commissioner Home In Bardale Of Bai Region

October 29th, 2012 RBC Radio

Bardaale

Al-shabab snipers have attacked the home of Bardale district commissioner, Yoonis Ma'alin Mohamed in the early hours of Monday morning around 1:00Am, in Bardale of Bai region, killing one body guard and wounding the chief.

The attack happened in the early hours of Monday, in Bardale district, after a unit of Al-shabab fighters stormed at the residential home of the district chief and exchanged heavy gunshots with the bodyguards of the chief which finally led the chief to sustain minor injury.

At least five people were confirmed dead in the shoot out, including one body guard and four of Al-shabab fighters and numbers of unconfirmed people were wounded.

The attackers have managed to evade from the scene after facing resistance from the guards but officials said, they in pursuit of them.

The situation of Bardale district is calm this morning as everything returned to normalcy after last night horrific attacks.

It is not the first time that Al-shabab fighters attack government officials in Bai region, last week, a similar attack was targeted on district commissioner home in Baidaba town despite he was unhurt but three of the attackers were killed in the shoot out by the security forces according to officials.

Since Somali government forces along side with Ethiopian troops captured Bai daba town, the regional capital city of Bai region, from Somalia's armed militias (Al-shabab) last year, the group started guerrilla tactics by carrying out hit and run attacks and assassinations on government officials in sight.

MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL

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MILITARY NEWS

**THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THEM HOME:
ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



October 16, 2012: The remains of Army Spc. Brittany B. Gordon, left case, and Army Sgt. Robert J. Billings, right case, early Monday at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Tampa Bay Times

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

**Thieving War Profiteer Paid Off By
U.S. For Poor Work, Audit Finds:
“Afghan Troops Had To Be Housed In
Temporary Facilities That Exposed**

Them To Mud, Freezing Conditions, Sewage And Unsafe Food Storage” Failings At The Camp In Northern Afghanistan That Included “Poor Site Grading” “Structural Failures” “And New Sinkholes”

Oct 25, 2012 By Tony Capaccio, BLOOMBERG L.P. [Excerpts]

The Army Corps of Engineers freed DynCorp International Inc., one of the largest U.S. contractors in Afghanistan, of responsibility for construction at an Afghan Army garrison even though long-standing deficiencies remain, according to an inspector general’s report.

In a 2010 audit, Pentagon inspectors identified failings at the camp in northern Afghanistan that included “poor site grading” and “serious soil stability issues.” Inspectors returned in March of this year to find “additional structural failures, improper grading and new sinkholes,” the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction said in an audit issued today.

DynCorp, which is owned by affiliates of New York-based Cerberus Capital Management LP, oversaw the construction at Camp Pamir in Afghanistan’s Kunduz province. The DynCorp project was part of a U.S. effort to train and house the Afghan Army, which is growing this year to 195,000 personnel.

“Despite the unsatisfactory performance of the contractor, DynCorp,” officials from the Army Corps’s District North region in Afghanistan “released DynCorp from further contractual liability,” John Sopko, the inspector general, wrote in today’s report.

The company was paid \$70.8 million on the contracts, “releasing it from any further liabilities and warranty obligations.”

Delays at the Kunduz complex hampered training, the special inspector general found in the April 2010 audit. Afghan troops had to be housed in temporary facilities that exposed them to mud, freezing conditions, sewage and unsafe food storage, auditors told Bloomberg News in June 2010.

The contract release, in the form of a December 2011 settlement, “appears to be on unfavorable terms to the U.S. Government,” Sopko said.

Sopko called the settlement terms “questionable” with a “lack of adequate explanation,” in a cover letter dated today to U.S. Central Command Commander General James Mattis and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan commander General John Allen.

Sopko wrote that the camp is “at risk of further structural failures, the construction contractor is not liable and further remediation to protect the initial investment” will require more funds that should be “justified and closely monitored.”

An example of the lingering deficiencies was found during a March 25 inspection at an electrical power transformer where inspectors found “a sinkhole developing and general structural settling,” according to Sopko’s report.

“Failure of the transformer would result in a loss of electrical power over a large portion of Camp Pamir, causing significant financial loss and increasing the risk of injury through fire and electrical shock,” he said.

Troops, Police Prep For Zombie Invasion:

“No Doubt When A Zombie Apocalypse Occurs, It’s Going To Be A Federal Incident, So We’re Making It Happen,”

“The Five-Day Halo Counterterrorism Summit Is An Approved Training Event By The Homeland Security Grant Program And The Urban Areas Security Initiative”

“Joe Newman, Spokesman Of The Watchdog Organization Project On Government Oversight, Said He Does Not See The Zombie Exercise As Frivolous”

[NO, NOT FROM DUFFLE BLOG: THIS IS FOR REAL]

Oct 28, 2012 By Julie Watson - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

SAN DIEGO — Move over vampires, goblins and haunted houses, this kind of Halloween terror aims to shake up even the toughest warriors: An untold number of so-called zombies are coming to a counterterrorism summit attended by hundreds of Marines, Navy special ops, soldiers, police, firefighters and others to prepare them for their worst nightmares.

Hundreds of military, law enforcement and medical personnel will observe the Hollywood-style production of a zombie attack as part of their emergency response training.

In the scenario, a VIP and his personal detail are trapped in a village, surrounded by zombies when a bomb explodes. The VIP is wounded and his team must move through the town while dodging bullets and shooting back at the invading zombies.

At one point, some members of the team are bit by zombies and must be taken to a field medical facility for decontamination and treatment.

The keynote speaker beforehand will be a retired top spook — former CIA Director Michael Hayden. “No doubt when a zombie apocalypse occurs, it’s going to be a federal incident, so we’re making it happen,” Barker said.

A few suggestions were similar to a few of the 33 rules for dealing with zombies popularized in the 2009 movie “Zombieland,” which included “always carry a change of underwear” and “when in doubt, know your way out.”

The five-day Halo counterterrorism summit is an approved training event by the Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Areas Security Initiative, which provide funds to pay for the coursework on everything from the battleground tactics to combat wounds to cybersecurity. T

he summit has a \$1,000 registration fee and runs Oct. 29-Nov 2.

Conferences attended by government officials have come under heightened scrutiny following an inspector general’s report on waste and abuse at a lavish 2010 Las Vegas conference that led to the resignation of General Services Administrator Martha Johnson.

The Las Vegas conference featured a clown, a mind-reader and a rap video by an employee who made fun of the spending.

Joe Newman, spokesman of the watchdog organization Project on Government Oversight, said he does not see the zombie exercise as frivolous.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it.

-- Karl Marx, “Theses on Feuerbach”

[Marine Corps General Smedley D. Butler (Ret'd) Speaks To The Veterans Bonus Army]

“We Are Divided, In America, Into Two Classes”

“On One Side, A Class Of Citizens Who Were Raised To Believe That The Whole Of This Country Was Created For Their Sole Benefit”

“On The Other Side, The Other 99 Per Cent Of Us, The Soldier Class, The Class From Which All Of You Soldiers Came”

[Thanks to Pham Binh, who sent this in.]

We are divided, in America, into two classes: The Tories on one side, a class of citizens who were raised to believe that the whole of this country was created for their sole benefit, and on the other side, the other 99 per cent of us, the soldier class, the class from which all of you soldiers came.

10.19.2011: Re-published at <http://louisproyct.wordpress.com>. Louis Proyct writes: “My heartfelt thanks to the Veterans of Foreign War national office for sending me a copy of the article that appeared in their magazine Foreign Service in 1933.”

December 1933 Foreign Service [Excerpts]

On the Firing Line for the V. F. W.

America's most colorful military figure, Major General Smedley Butler, is “off to war” again!

He is responding to the V. F. W. “call to arms” by going on a speaking tour under the auspices of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U. S.

Starting in Cincinnati on December 1st, he will visit ten different cities in as many states prepared to tell the truth about the vicious anti-veteran effects of the Economy Act.

He will tell the public—in his own inimitable way—just what he thinks of those who would make the veteran bear the brunt of the depression.

And he will preach the gospel of the V. F. W. to those overseas veterans who have not yet become members.

I HAVE been asked to give the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States some good advice.

Boys, there is no use giving you any advice.

You always do the right thing anyhow.

This outfit always does.

The V. F. W. isn't a knitting society; it is a real outfit and it always pleases me very much to be invited to meet with you because I just love to go every place soldiers ask me to go.

I have noticed that you are getting a little old, but you are the same lovable class of Americans as ever — dumb though you are. Anybody can put anything over on you but you are lovable just the same.

Usually soldiers don't know what it is all about.

Somebody beats a drum, somebody yells "Patriotism" and the soldiers go out, carry the guns, get shot, and, when there is no war, do all the suffering at home.

Peace times they suffer and in war times they bleed.

When you got ready to go to war to lick the Hun, what did you do?

You first learned how to fight, and a whole lot of brass-hats wrote a lot of instructions on how to shoot, how to march, how to do everything; so that you all marched together, keeping step.

You all spoke the same language. You all had the same objective and when anybody asked you your general orders, you all said the same thing.

Now what happens? There aren't any ten veterans in a hundred who will say the same thing to a man who asks them about a veterans' question. No positive information. My advice to every Post is to go to school.

We are divided, in America, into two classes: The Tories on one side, a class of citizens who were raised to believe that the whole of this country was created for their sole benefit, and on the other side, the other 99 per cent of us, the soldier class, the class from which all of you soldiers came.

That class hasn't any privileges except to die when the Tories tell them.

Every war that we have ever had was gotten, up by that class.

They do all the beating of the drums. Away the rest of us go.

When we leave, you know what happens. We march down the street with all the Sears-Roebuck soldiers standing on the sidewalk, all the dollar-a-year men with spurs, all the patriots who call themselves patriots, square-legged women in uniforms making Liberty Loan speeches.

They promise you. You go down the street and they ring all the church bells. Promise you the sun, the moon, the stars and the earth, — anything to save them.

Off you go.

Then the looting commences while you are doing the fighting. This last war made over 6,000 millionaires. Today those fellows won't help pay the bill.

All of these things you must be told so that you can present your case.

Remember, we can't win this alone. We have got to have the sympathy of all of our class of people.

Go out and make friends with the farmers; they are a scrapping outfit.

A man who is not for the soldiers is against them. There isn't any middle course.

If he hasn't got the courage to say yes for you, then lick hell out of him.

You can only lick him by every Post and every man going to school on your meeting nights, learning what it is all about with your instructions from your headquarters just as when you went to war. There is no difference between this battle and a sanguinary battle with guns.

Learn what you want, learn to be able to express yourselves. If I were the Commander of a Post, I would have a speaking class so that everybody would learn to get up and shoot off his mouth.

Bring into line all his family, all his friends, because the American people are absolutely fair.

It is only this damned Tory class that doesn't want this thing, doesn't want the veteran class cared for.

Stand by your own kind. That is what your conventions are for, to get together and learn to love each other all over again. Some of you have got falling chests and don't look exactly right but you rub shoulders and it all comes back.

There is a bond among soldiers who have slept in the mud together that nothing can supplant.

A whole lot of things face the veterans continually.

Right now we are all called upon to support the administration.

I know the soldiers; no matter what you tell them they are always going to support any president up to a certain point, but you must remember that you have two duties.

One is to your own flesh and blood, yourself and your family; and the next is your public duty.

Combined is another duty, equally important, and that is the duty to the people, the buddies who served with you, who have been hurt.

Go along, do the right thing.

At the same time, we must not desert the fellows among us who deserve help.

This organization, every other soldier organization, will disappear from the earth if you don't do something for your less fortunate comrades, the fellows who have done all the bleeding.

So just think it over. You have a whole lot to decide.

It will come, don't worry.

This is going to be a tough battle all the way through and you will have to be spanked and spanked and. spanked until you get mad enough to do something.

There is no class of people in the world which has been as abominably treated as the soldiers in the United States, and it is all your own fault because you haven't stood together.

Nobody joins hands, nobody joins together to fight a common battle for the class of people who do the dying.

Let me tell you again. Just get together, learn your lessons, be able to say them in your sleep. Get together, follow your leaders.

When you go down to Washington, you've got to growl and bite.

When you soldiers agree to lay aside your petty jealousies and personal ambitions and fight as you fought in wars, you'll get somewhere. Not until then will you get what you want.

You've got to get mad.

You've got to hate.

You've got to turn on these fellows who call you names such as "treasury raiders."

The only trouble with you veterans is that you still believe in Santa Claus.

It's time you woke up — it's time you realized there's another war on.

It's your war this time. Now get in there and fight.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Bejjia village Iraq, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes. 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 war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

ANNIVERSARIES

October 31, 1978: Honorable Anniversary



Striking Iranian oil workers: Photo: December 1978 issue of Resistance, A publication of the Iranian Students Association in the U.S. (ISAUS)

Carl Bunin Peace History Oct 29-Nov 4

Thirty thousand Iranian oil workers went on strike against the repressive rule of the U.S.-installed Shah and for democracy, civil and human rights.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

The Loathsome Assad Regime Assassinates Two Hamas Leaders

October 28, 2012 IMEMC News

Palestinian sources in Syria reported that two senior Hamas leaders were killed by Syrian army fire in Daraa refugee camp in Syria.

The sources added that Ahmad Khalil, known as Moammar, and Ahmad al-Kharroubi, were killed by Syrian army sharpshooters in the camp.

Their bodies remained on the ground for several hours until the sharpshooters left the scene and an ambulance was able to reach them to transport their bodies to a local hospital.

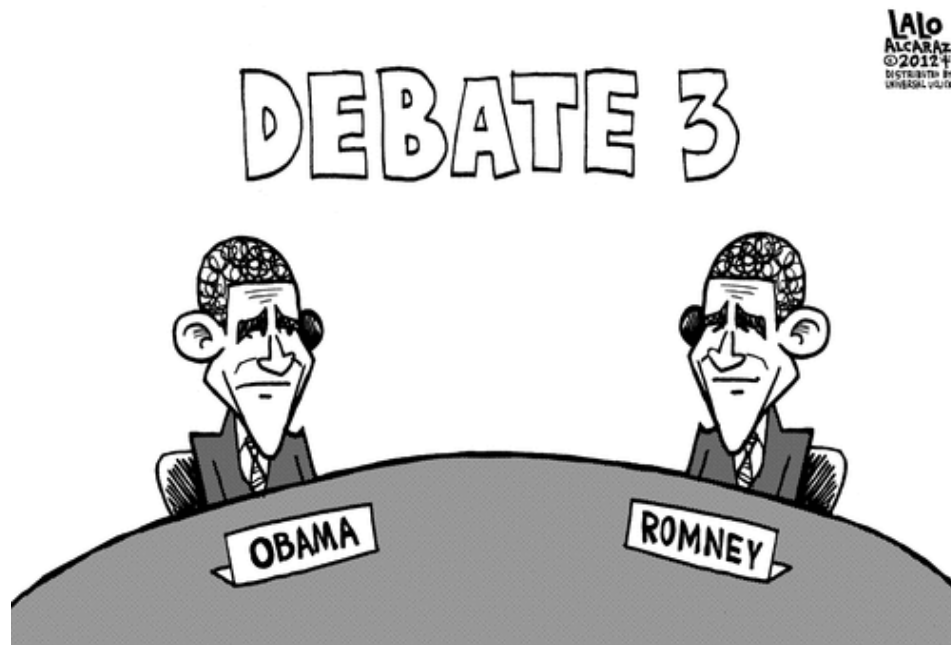
The two were shot in two different located in the refugee camp, and suffered multiple gunshots, the Ma'an News Agency reported.

Furthermore, Syrian TV reported that the army strongly denounced Hamas' Political Bureau head, Khalid Mashal, who moved out of Syria along with most of the movement's leaders after talking a stance against Syrian President Bashar Assad "for crimes committed against his people who are revolting against his regime".

Hamas initially refrained from talking any stance regarding the events in Syria, while some leaders even expressed support for Assad, but the movement later decided to oppose Assad, and most of its senior leaders left the country.

[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

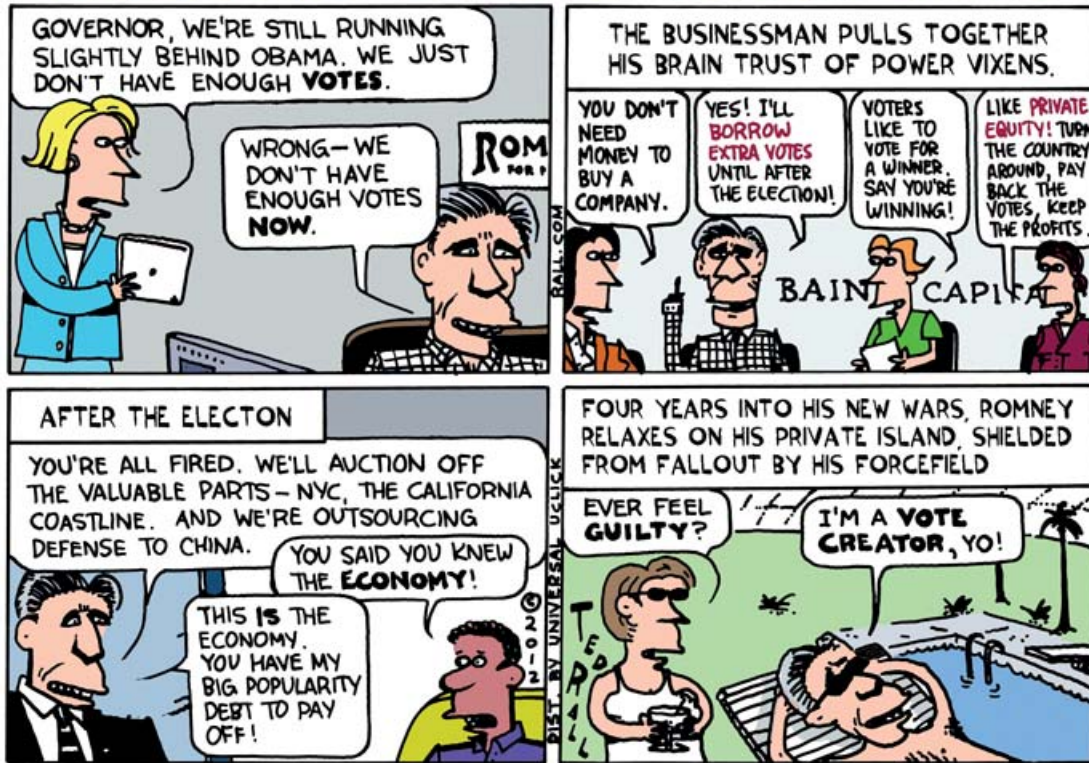


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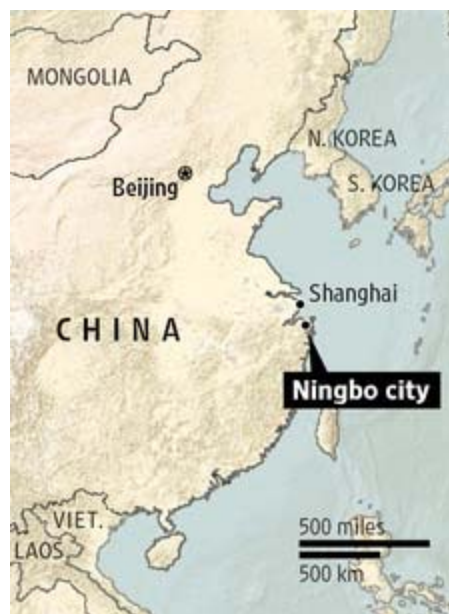
“Solidarity Is Strength”

“Apparent Desperation By Local Officials To Avoid Social Unrest”

“The Fear Now For Beijing And Local Governments Across China Is Potential For Similar Disturbances”



Ningbo residents protested Sunday against a plant expansion amid fears the industrial chemical paraxylene could damage the environment. Reuters



October 28, 2012 By BRIAN SPEGELE, Wall Street Journal

BEIJING—Weekend protests forced officials in the eastern Chinese city of Ningbo to suspend a planned \$8.9 billion petrochemical facility expansion, in the latest example of the rising power of an increasingly environmentally conscious public to delay or stop massive industrial projects.

Ningbo officials said late Sunday that plans to expand a refining and petrochemicals facility run by a unit of state-controlled oil-and-natural gas giant China Petrochemical Corp., known as Sinopec Group, would be suspended pending further review.

In addition, the government said it would scrap a portion of the facility designed to produce the industrial chemical paraxylene, which local residents feared could be damaging to their health and the environment.

The protests are the latest case of heightened environmental awareness in China colliding with local government bids to shore up economic growth. In addition, they highlight apparent desperation by local officials to avoid social unrest at a period of particular political sensitivity in China.

A once-a-decade leadership change is set to begin Nov. 8, and security officials have called on local leaders in recent weeks to do everything possible to avoid disturbances ahead of the transition. The fear now for Beijing and local governments across China is potential for similar disturbances as part of China's burgeoning "not in my backyard" movement.

Protests against the facility appeared to intensify Saturday and Sunday.

Photos posted online showed what appeared to be more than a thousand demonstrators outside the gates to the city's municipal government and elsewhere marching through the city's streets.

Other photos showed police in riot gear scuffling with crowds of protesters, many of whom carried signs with slogans like "Save Zhenhai, Save Ningbo, Save China" and "we want to live, we want to survive."

Zhenhai is the name of the city district where the petrochemicals facility is located.

Less than an hour after the government published its statement Sunday on Sina Corp.'s popular Twitter-like Weibo microblog service, the message had been reposted by users 56,000 times. Some users commenting on the statement demanded an apology from city officials.

Environmental protests are potentially less volatile than other forms of unrest in China, in part because residents' concerns are locally focused. Recent cases have shown that when local leaders are willing to make concessions, social order is quickly restored.

In July, protests in the western city of Shifang turned bloody after police used tear gas and stun grenades in an attempt to disperse crowds. As with the Ningbo protests, unrest in Shifang was for days among the most discussed topics on the Chinese-language Internet. Local leaders eventually agreed to cancel the planned \$1.64 billion molybdenum-copper alloy plant.

Later that month, officials in the coastal community of Qidong in the eastern Chinese province of Jiangsu said they would stop construction of a pipeline intended to dump wastewater from a Japanese-owned paper mill into the sea, stopping a massive protest there.

For many watching the scenes of public empowerment in Ningbo from their computers at home, the protesters on Sunday emerged as victors.

Photos trickled in as did a stream of raw commentaries, both celebrating the people's power and lamenting claims of violence by local officials. The claims couldn't be independently verified.

"I love and admire the people from Ningbo," wrote one Weibo user Sunday night. "Solidarity is strength."

It is unclear whether large numbers of protesters were detained during the demonstrations. An official at the city's foreign-affairs office said he didn't have any information on numbers of protesters arrested.

The Ningbo protests are the latest example of increasingly well-educated urban residents aggressively resisting the heavy industrial expansion that many local governments are encouraging to keep China's economy humming. In addition, it highlights how local government bids to lure lucrative investments to their cities are meeting increasing scrutiny from concerned residents.

The local government-run Ningbo Daily newspaper reported that the city's Communist Party chief, Wang Huizhong, and Mayor Liu Qi held meetings with representatives of the protesters on Saturday night.

The report said the facility's expansion was "still in its early stages," and local officials would come up with a decision that reflected popular will. Ningbo is a relatively large coastal city with a population of around 7.6 million, located about 150 kilometers south of Shanghai.

Protesters in particular appear to be targeting the refinery's production of the industrial chemicals ethylene and paraxylene. Known as PX, paraxylene is an important chemical in the production of plastics and other goods. The demonstrations in Ningbo recall similar protests from August 2011 in the northeast city of Dalian, which also targeted a PX-producing facility. Local officials at the time promised to close the plant.

High levels of PX exposure can irritate the eyes and cause vomiting and respiratory discomfort, according to U.S. government and industry reports.

Sinopec didn't respond to a request for comment. The facility is already one of the country's largest, with a capacity of about 23 million tons of crude per year. An earlier Sinopec news release said the company would invest 55.9 billion yuan (\$8.9 billion) in the plant's expansion.

Chinese and foreign companies have worked in recent years to ramp up production of petrochemicals, needed to produce everything from plastics and cleaning solvents and textiles.

However, growing concern over potential health risks associated with these projects, as well as their proximity to population centers, threatens to further slow expansion efforts.

Vietnam GI: Reprints Available

VIETNAM: THEY STOPPED AN IMPERIAL WAR

Vietnam GI

January, 1969

Free to Servicemen

"... he threw his rifle at his Commanding Officer..."



WHEN HAWKS RETIRE

All of us who've had our "free" trips to Sunny Nam and Somo Korea shouldn't feel guilty about accepting such "gifts" from the Government. Lots of hawk politicians are taking Government trips too. Of course, their trips are a little bit different.

Take Senator Edward V. Long (D-Mo.), the Senate Judiciary Committee bigshot whose retirement in January was speeded up by graft scandals. The good Senator decided that as a last sacrifice to his country he would give himself TDY to Europe. The reason was to "get firsthand information on foreign aid and military assistance programs." Doubtless, that's why he took his wife along.

Of special interest was his visit to

Switzerland, which neither gets US aid nor wants any. It doesn't really make any difference, since as soon as Senator Long returned from his "fact-finding mission" he retired from the Senate, thus depriving our Congress of all his "facts" (mostly on nightclubs and ritzy hotels).

Going to and from Europe Long travelled on Senate funds, but while on TDY there, he economized by using US military aircraft, cars and chauffeurs to get around. The Pentagon ordered the red carpet rolled out around the world. Nothing too good for a retiring hawk politician. As the saying goes, in America we're all equal... only some are more equal than others!

As we go to press we learn that the government has finally agreed on the shape of the table and seating arrangements for the Paris talks. Now that everyone is seated and comfortable, maybe we can expect further "breakthroughs."

The grim fact is that while the government hunches are living in Paris, thousands of our buddies are still dying in Nam. In fact, since they began talking last May 7,000 GIs have been killed in action.

Talks or no talks, the only solution is to get the hell out of Nam, immediately. Stop talking and start shipping us home.

The next issue of VGI will discuss the Paris talks in greater detail. By that time we'll have some more news, although we're not too optimistic about it.

Below is an interview with a Marine who didn't like the war and figured out why. This guy is a Platoon SGT with five years in the Green Machine, and over a year in Nam, mostly in long range recon with Charlie Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion. VGI spoke to him while he was on leave awaiting his second Nam tour. Since he doesn't ETS until 1973 we've left out his name.

VGI: How did you feel about the war when you went over there. Did your feelings change?

A: When I first went over there, I thought it would be a great thing in pay, and a great new experience of being in war. I really thought it was going to be something different. But then I got put on some of these patrols and I got to see the people and got to talk to the people. This was the big thing that finally changed me. I finally saw that it wasn't worth while, and that they actually don't want our help because it actually isn't help.

VGI: Did you have any contacts with the Vietnamese, with the people?

A: There was a place called Ben Son and for a while I was stationed down at the bridge there. This is where I lived, ate, slept, drank, everything. There were houses right next to my bunker, we had an address for ours and we gave everybody else addresses. We explained to the people what the addresses were and they got all shook up about the whole thing, wow, they got addresses now.

VGI: What was it like living there?

A: We lived with them, we shared our food with them. They used to really go for the little treats in the cration packs, the gum and the oration cigarettes and everything, and in turn they'd bring back bananas. There was this one girl, her name was—I can't think of her name now—I had her picture but I lost it. This one girl, she really stands out in my mind because she used to come over and bring us beer every day and in turn, all she expected from us was the empty boxes of orations, that's all she wanted, the empty boxes. But then we started putting little things in the empty boxes and told her we wanted her to have them.

VGI: What would she want with the empty boxes?

A: I don't know, the Vietnamese people, they could take an empty can of nothing and make something out of it. She made me a sapphire which she had made out of a cration tin. She had pounded it out with a nail and a hammer, it had a little Buddha on it and I wore it all the time. I actually got to feel naked after I lost it.

But yet, later on, during the Tet holidays, the Viet Cong came in and burned out half of the village, and the marines naturally went in pursuit. In other words, the VC took this girl and they cut off her breasts. She was brought up to the hospital and later she died.

VGI: Did the brass give you any static about living with the Vietnamese?

A: The incident when I almost got into trouble was, there was a convoy of about 12 to 14 trucks. I think it was, we had a whole bunch of plywood on it and we took this plywood over to a village, chief in Ben Son, he was one of

the elders. We dropped off something like 14 sheets of plywood. Naturally, when we got back, there was one truckload of plywood missing, and they asked where it was. They later found out that I had given it to this village chief, not for my own good relations with him, but because there was times when we didn't get resupplied at our observation point, and they brought us food. So we gave them something else in return.

interview

VGI: What are some of the things you saw and did that led you into deciding in the middle of Nam not to fight anymore?

A: Well, I saw times when COL Bull Fisher, when he would tell his men to dismantle their personnel-carrying flame-throwers, take them out on a company sleep and put them back together once they got out. He went into a village and told them, "Are there any Viet Cong here?" The village chief naturally said "No" because he knew that if he said yes, he didn't know what'd happen to him. Then COL Fisher said, "Well, if there is any Viet Cong in this village, we'll show you what's going to happen." He sent one of his flame men up to the house, he didn't check to see if there was anybody in it or not. Later we found out there was a woman in there who was real sick, she couldn't move or anything. She was burned to death. It was terrible. And seeing guys being carried in in ponchos. A full-grown man weighed about two pounds after he was brought in as a sack of raw flesh or something like that.

VGI: Did you see any other incidents like that?

A: There was this little village just out of Ben Son where we bought our rice and got our ice, it's not poetry, it's really true, it was just this small village, maybe 16 or 17 houses. It was a "gray to white" village, off and on there'd be Viet Cong visiting the area. No hoodlums at all, they'd just go in there to be resupplied. Yet one day, they found out that VC were coming into that village and they called "Puff," "Puff" came over and leveled the whole village down. I think maybe three people lived out of the whole thing. One was a little baby about two years old whose mother and father was gone.

One of the guys sort of adopted this kid, this little two year old. He took this kid real close. When we went on R and R we brought him back toys and trucks and things like that. It was really something, because they don't get too many trucks over there. We'd round up a few dump trucks and stuff like that from Hong Kong. They were really surprised to see the new toys. I mean, the toys they play with, old oration cans and stuff like that are their toys. They're a fascinating people. If you just have an opportunity to see them, to get to know them. They're really great.

VGI: How do you think they feel about us?

A: This one incident—I know of the letter one north Vietnamese who was down south wrote to his brother up north who was intent on coming down

Continued on page 8

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command.

The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

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