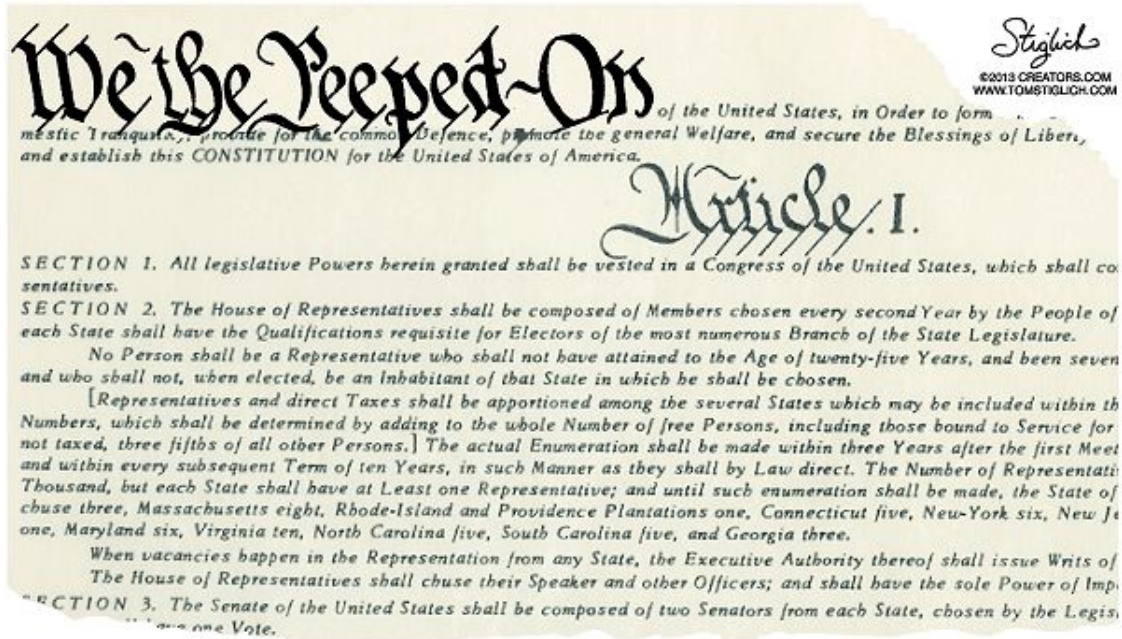


Military Resistance 11F6

FOR THE UPHOLD AND DEFEND BUSINESS. COME ON HOME.



Obama administration defends surveillance programs

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in with caption. She writes: " I keep waiting. . ."]

**Bush And Obama
Administration Scum Dismissed
Fears About Secret Government
Data-Mining:
The Lied In "Reassuring Congress
That There Were No Secret Nets
Trawling For Americans' Phone
And Internet Records"**

“On Friday, President Barack Obama Himself Acknowledged The Existence Of Such Programs”

“A Separate Government Program Also Collects Massive Amounts Of Data From At Least Nine Internet And Electronic Firms, Pulling In Everything From Emails To Photographs”

June 08, 2013 Associated Press [Excerpts]

For years, top officials of the Bush and Obama administrations dismissed fears about secret government data-mining by reassuring Congress that there were no secret nets trawling for Americans' phone and Internet records.

“We do not vacuum up the contents of communications under the president's program and then use some sort of magic after the intercept to determine which of those we want to listen to, deal with or report on,” then-CIA Director Michael Hayden told a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in July 2006.

But on Friday, President Barack Obama himself acknowledged the existence of such programs even as he gave the government's standard rationale to ease fears that Americans' privacy rights are being violated.

“By sifting through this so-called metadata, they might identify potential leads of people who might engage in terrorism,” Obama said during an exchange with reporters at a health care event in San Jose, Calif.

Obama's comments marked the first time a U.S. president publicly acknowledged the government's electronic sleuthing on its citizens.

They came in response to media reports and published classified documents that detailed the government's secret mass collection of phone and Internet communications.

When top officials in the Obama and Bush administrations have been asked in recent years whether U.S. citizens' communications were swept up as part of government surveillance, they've often responded with swift, flat denials.

The denials were often carefully constructed to avoid any hints of the activities they were denying.

Reports that first appeared in Britain's Guardian newspaper and The Washington Post indicate that the NSA pulls in phone records, though not the actual content of the calls, from its secret warrants allowing it to collect data from major telecom companies. The program is aimed at detecting the calling patterns of terrorist suspects.

A separate government program also collects massive amounts of data from at least nine Internet and electronic firms, pulling in everything from emails to photographs.

A review of congressional transcripts shows that from 2006 well into Obama's first term, top administration officials were rarely questioned publicly about the NSA's data-gathering activities. Instead, the agency's new director, Keith B. Alexander, was most often pressed about the NSA's growing efforts in cyberwarfare and security.

It was not until May 2011, as the Patriot Act again faced another reauthorization, that the NSA's secret programs began to receive cryptic attention from two Democratic senators, Ron Wyden of Oregon and Mark Udall of Colorado.

Hobbled by the classified nature of the secret programs, the two senators offered up only guarded warnings.

"When the American people find out how their government has secretly interpreted the Patriot Act, they will be stunned and they will be angry," Wyden said during a floor speech in May 2011.

He added: "Many members of Congress have no idea how the law is being secretly interpreted by the executive branch, because that interpretation is classified."

Still hamstrung by the programs' security classification in 2013, Wyden pressed National Intelligence Director James Clapper at a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing in March about the NSA. "Does the NSA collect any type of data at all on millions or hundreds of millions of Americans?" he asked.

"No, sir," Clapper replied. He added: "Not wittingly. There are cases where they could inadvertently perhaps collect but not wittingly."

This week, after the new revelations about the NSA's massive data haul, Clapper acknowledged the existence of both of the agency's secret operations and denounced the media disclosures as "reprehensible."

When contacted by the National Journal about his earlier exchange with Wyden, Clapper stood by his earlier comments denying that the NSA is collecting massive troves of data.

"What I said was, the NSA does not voyeuristically pore through U.S. citizens' emails," Clapper said. "I stand by that."

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Polish Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

10.06.2013 Polskie Radio S.A

Sergeant Jan Kiepura died Monday morning after stepping on a roadside mine five kilometers from the Polish military base in Ghazni, eastern Afghanistan.

The 35 year-old soldier, a member of the 1st battalion of the 21st Riflemens Brigade, who leaves behind a wife and two sons, was taking part in a patrol with American troops and an Afghan unit when the explosion occurred.

Major Marek Pietrak at Poland's military HQ described Sergeant Kiepura as "a very experienced officer" and his family has been notified of his death on active service.

Forty Polish soldiers have now died in Afghanistan with over 100 wounded and the latest Polish casualty comes after Taliban insurgency announced a "spring offensive" in April, saying it would target foreign military bases and diplomatic areas

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

Taliban Lay Siege To Military Air Base In Kabul In Early Morning Assault

June 10, 2013 By Jay Price and Rezwan Natiq, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban fighters firing from atop an unfinished mansion attacked the military side of Kabul's international airport early Monday, triggering a gun battle with Afghan security forces that lasted more than four hours before the attackers were killed.

Two civilians suffered minor injuries, but there were no casualties among the foreign troops on the base or the Afghan security forces, and the attackers never entered the base, said Afghan officials.

The military part of the base includes the operational headquarters for the U.S.-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the headquarters of the Afghan air force. It's also used by various foreign military aircraft, but is separate from the civilian portion of the airport.

In an email, a Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility for the attack.

The attackers began by firing from the upper floors of the four-story house down into the north side of the airport about 350 yards away.

As the fighting raged, journalists taking cover behind a nearby house could see modest damage to at least one tent-like temporary hangar.

The fighters drove into the residential neighborhood in a car and a delivery truck before 4 a.m., and tried to enter a different house, but the gate was locked, said a witness, Berhannudin, who was walking with a friend to a nearby mosque for morning prayers.

There were seven of them, all but one in the uniform of the Border Police, which has its national headquarters nearby.

The one in civilian clothes pointed a pistol at a local man outside the mosque and demanded his cell phone, before the attackers walked back to their vehicles speaking Pashto, said Berhannudin, who like many Afghans uses one name. They then drove about a block to the house they used for the attacks, a massive four-story home under construction about 350 yards north of the airport's security perimeter.

Next door, Sayed Maqbol, his brother, their wives and 10 children had just awoken and also were preparing for prayers when the attackers began shooting machine guns and what sounded like rocket-propelled grenades into the base.

As security forces from the base returned fire, Maqbol called police, who arrived within minutes and began exchanging fire with the militants. Reinforcements poured in, including dozens of Afghan regular and special operations soldiers and intelligence service commandos.

Maqbol's family hid in their house as the Afghan security forces fired grenades and hundreds of bullets over them into the house next door, and the Taliban fighters returned fire, he said.

Firing from the Afghan security forces grew so intense, Maqbol said, that attackers on upper floors were killed and the others were forced into the lower floors and basement, where they no longer had a clear shot into the airport or neighboring compounds. At that point, he said and police surged into the neighborhood and pulled his family and other civilians out of the nearby homes to safety.

The target may have echoed Camp Bastion, but the style resembled previous assaults in the capital in which Taliban attackers took control of the upper floors of a building to launch grenades and small arms fire into an objective. A similar attack took place on the U.S. Embassy in September 2011.

The fighting continued for hours, with dozen of explosions, several of them, as it turned out, suicide vests worn by the attackers. Two Afghan Army helicopters circled the scene for part of the battle, joined for awhile by a pair of the Black Hawks usually flown by U.S. forces.

Early in the fighting, Kabul police chief Gen. Mohammed Ayoub Salangi said, a police officer fired an RPG that destroyed the attackers's small truck, which he said was loaded with explosives. The attackers may have intended to use it to blow their way into the base.

Reporters taking cover behind a nearby house as the battle raged could hear loudspeakers from the base telling personnel there to remain in bunkers and predicting that the fighters would be repelled "in an hour or two."

Two U.S. troops were seen sticking close to Afghan police leaders, and at one point a Norwegian special forces operator pushed through the journalists to enter a house that Afghan security officials were using as a kind of command post.

The concrete house was pocked inside and out with holes from RPGs and hundreds of bullets, with some of the heaviest damage on the side that was just a few yards from Maqbol's house. He could scarcely believe his family survived.

Also on Monday morning, another group of attackers hit provincial offices in Zabul Province in the southeastern part of the country. Six of them tried to enter Provincial Council building in the city of Qalat about 11 a.m., said provincial police chief, Ghulam Sarhi Roghlewany, but police officers killed them.

Then a bomber outside detonated the charge in his truck. No one was killed, at least initially, but 20 people were injured, including police officers, provincial council members and their bodyguards, and several Qalat municipal employees, Roghlewany said.

Afghan Local Police Officer Kill 6 Police In Helmand

Jun 8, 2013 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press & Voice of Jihad

At least six local police officers were killed following an insider attack in southern Helmand province of Afghanistan late Friday evening.

A local security official speaking on the condition of anonymity said the incident took place in Greshk district and the assailant police officer managed to flee the area.

Taliban group following a statement claimed responsibility behind the attack and said the assailant local police officer was a Taliban fighter and managed to flee the area along with the weapons and other equipments after the attack.

"The attack took place yesterday at 03:00 pm when the Mujahid opened fire inside a check post in Zumbuli region's Qala Poti area, killing all 6 puppets inside before joining up with Mujahideen along with seized arms including a sedan vehicle, 1 Pk machine gun, 1 pistol, 2 AK rifles and an assortment of other equipment."

Afghan Police Commander And Officers Join Taliban In Farah: “ALP Commander Has Taken A Number Of Light And Heavy Military Equipments With Him”

Jun 8, 2013 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

According to local authorities in western Farah province of Afghanistan, an Afghan local police (ALP) officer joined the Taliban militants group along with a number of other ALP officers.

The officials further added Yaqoub, ALP commander has taken a number of light and heavy military equipments with him.

Provincial security commandment spokesman, Ahmad Fawad Askari confirming the report said that the ALP commander has taken 18 weapons along with an armored national police vehicle with him.

Mr. Askari further added that the commander has surrendered all the weapons and the armored vehicle to Taliban militants.

Farah is among the volatile regions in western Afghanistan where Taliban militants are openly operating in a number of its districts.

It is yet not clear how many Afghan local police officers have joined the Taliban.

In the meantime Ahmad Fawad Askar confirmed that the ALP commander had contacts with the Taliban group earlier.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

IED Attack In Mogadishu

Jun 8, 2013 Garowe Online

MOGADISHU, Somalia – At least two government security officers were killed after an IED intended for Somali Federal Government officials exploded in Mogadishu on Saturday, Garowe Online reports.

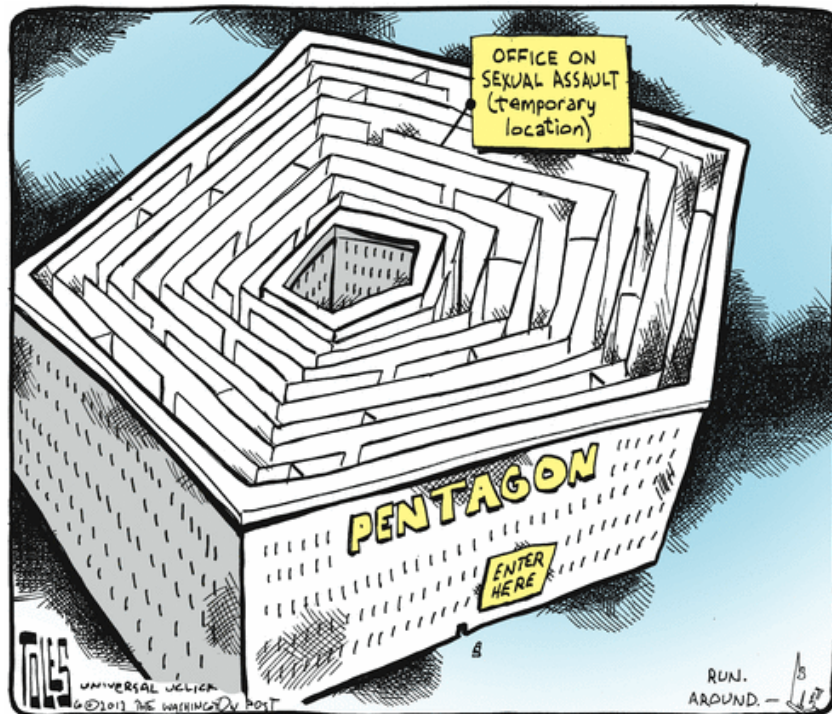
Banadir region Deputy Governor Ali Ahmed Gure was leading a delegation of Mogadishu district commissioners to a site in Dayniile district.

The officials did not sustain injuries but the brute of the force hit the officials' private security. Two personnel were killed and another 2 injured in the blast.

SFG officials accused Al Shabaab of carrying out the deadly attack.

The IED attack comes after AMISOM and government forces have been carrying out raids around Mogadishu.

MILITARY NEWS



**“Dr. Steven S. Coughlin’s
Charges VA Officials Hid,
Manipulated, And Even Lied
About Research Pertaining To**

Gulf War Illness And Health Problems Plaguing Iraq And Afghanistan Veterans”
“His Colleagues Watered-Down Analysis That Might Have Shed Light On Whether Recent Vets Got Sick From Open-Air Trash-Burning Pits On Overseas Bases”
“He Tried To Confront His Supervisors About What He Saw But Was ‘Openly Threatened And Retaliated Against’ When He Did”
“As A Veteran Who’s Been Suffering From Chronic Illnesses Since He Returned Home From Iraq 22 Years Ago, Hardie Calls The Officials’ Behavior ‘Criminal’”

Coughlin was co-authoring a paper for publication that he said would reveal connections between Iraq and Afghan war veterans who had been exposed to toxic burn pits on U.S. bases overseas and post-deployment diagnoses of asthma and bronchitis.

“My supervisor, Dr. Aaron Schneiderman, told me not to look at data regarding hospitalization and doctors’ visits,” Coughlin said.

May 10, 2013 By Kelley Vlahos, The American Conservative [Excerpts]

It’s not every day that a scientist creates such intense drama on Capitol Hill.

But Dr. Steven S. Coughlin's charges that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) officials hid, manipulated, and even lied about research pertaining to Gulf War Illness (GWI) and health problems plaguing Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are still causing fallout a month after his stunning testimony before a key House subcommittee.

Veterans and their advocates, as well as many in the scientific community, have long believed that the VA avoids responsibility for veterans' care by downplaying or outright ignoring evidence linking wartime experiences — such as exposure to Agent Orange, chemical weapons, or toxic pollution — to veterans' chronic medical issues back home.

Coughlin, a senior epidemiologist with the VA's Office of Public Health (OPH), gave the VA's critics what they say is a smoking gun: after conducting major surveys of 1991 Gulf War veterans and "New Generation" veterans from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan, Coughlin told the committee he quit his post in December.

He claims the VA is hiding important survey results about the health of veterans and that his colleagues watered-down analysis that might have shed light on whether recent vets got sick from open-air trash-burning pits on overseas bases.

He told the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on March 13 that millions of dollars are invested in veterans' health studies each year, yet "if the studies produce results that do not support (OPH's) unwritten policy, they do not release them."

And "on the rare occasions when embarrassing study results are released, data are manipulated to make them unintelligible."

He tried to confront his supervisors about what he saw but was "openly threatened and retaliated against" when he did. "I took a beating, but I had to follow my conscience," Coughlin told The American Conservative.

For example, Coughlin said he had been working on the ten-year National Health Study of a New Generation of U.S. Veterans, which cost taxpayers \$10 million and targets 60,000 Iraq and Afghan war vets, of whom many are Gulf War I vets, too.

Among other data, the questionnaire given to the vets produced information about their exposure to pesticides, oil-well fires, and pyridostigmine bromide tablets, which were prescribed to Gulf War soldiers to protect against nerve agents.

The breadth of research today indicates that these and other battlefield exposures played a role in making an estimated 200,000 (out of 697,000) Gulf War soldiers sick, yet Coughlin and others charge the VA is still bent on treating GWI as a psychosomatic condition brought on by battle stress—which would be a less expensive prospect for future benefits and health costs.

The new information could have been a treasure trove for researchers outside the VA. But the Office of Public Health has never released the study data, "or even that this

important information on Gulf War veterans exists,” Coughlin testified. “Anything that supports the position that Gulf War Illness is a neurological condition is unlikely to ever be published.”

His charges were bolstered by pioneering Gulf War Illness researcher Dr. Lea Steele in her own testimony that day. “I regret to say ... there seems to have been backward movement with actions that seem intended to ignore the science and minimize the fact that there is a serious medical condition resulting from military service in the 1991 Gulf War.”

Coughlin was co-authoring a paper for publication that he said would reveal connections between Iraq and Afghan war veterans who had been exposed to toxic burn pits on U.S. bases overseas and post-deployment diagnoses of asthma and bronchitis.

He said the survey found that “a sizable percent” of vets had been exposed to the burn pits.

“My supervisor, Dr. Aaron Schneiderman, told me not to look at data regarding hospitalization and doctors’ visits,” Coughlin said.

By ignoring that data, the “tabulated findings obscured rather than highlighted important associations.”

The VA has initiated a new study but currently maintains that there are no long-term health risks associated with the burn pits, citing a limited Institute of Medicine study in 2011 that, based on old air samples, found no conclusive evidence that burning trash in the open was responsible for veterans returning home with scars on their lungs.

The original New Gen study could have provided fresh data, but it was deliberately ignored, said Coughlin, who testified that when he told Schneiderman he “did not want to continue as co-investigator under these circumstances,” he “threatened me.”

Since the hearing, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki has directed the Office of Research Oversight to review Coughlin’s allegations. “Any retaliation against VA employees is against the law and is not tolerated by the Department,” the VA said in a statement.

But even after repeated attempts by this writer, the VA declined to address Coughlin’s other claims, which include:

HIS SUPERVISORS LIED

Coughlin was the principal investigator for the ongoing Follow-up Study of a National Cohort of Gulf War and Gulf War Veterans, a survey of some 30,000 vets that began in 2010 and whose results have never been published.

From the beginning, the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, which is appointed by congress and is made up of outside researchers and veterans, had serious reservations about the way the questionnaire was structured, said Steele.

She complained that while it "contained scores of questions" about "psychological stress, substance abuse and alternative medicine," it did "not include the basic symptom data" nor define GWI, "by any case definition."

RAC demanded changes to the questionnaire, and Coughlin tried to push them through. "The VA Chief of Staff (John Gingrich) directed my supervisor" to send it out for objective peer review, he recalled to the House subcommittee. But it was instead sent out to a friend of OPH's Dr. Michael Peterson, who found a reviewer, "who had no background in Gulf War research," and was told by "my direct supervisor, Dr. Schneiderman" that "the RAC's comments were politically motivated."

"Not surprisingly the reviewer's comments were very favorable" toward the original questionnaire, he added.

Additionally, Coughlin's supervisors told Gingrich that making changes to the questionnaire would cost the government \$1 million and delay the study for a year or more.

"None of this was true," testified Coughlin, "but as a result (Gingrich) ordered the survey to proceed without any changes."

DATA PERMANENTLY LOST

Coughlin pointed to the results of the Gulf War family registry as another set of "important data that has never been released." Mandated by Congress, the registry began offering physical examinations to veteran's families in 1996 in an attempt to screen for possible congenital disorders that may have been caused by wartime environmental exposures.

Over 1,100 children and spouses of Gulf War vets were tested through 2001.

"I have been advised that these results have been permanently lost" from the registry database, Coughlin said.

SUICIDAL VETS IGNORED

Coughlin said that in both the Gulf War and New Gen studies, thousands of veterans reported they had suicidal thoughts in the previous two weeks and "would be better off dead." Coughlin said there was no protocol in place to offer these vets clinical assistance, and as a result only a "small percentage" got follow-up calls from mental-health specialists.

Coughlin fought for that, and "only after my supervisors threatened to remove me from the study and attempted disciplinary action against me" was he able to secure help for 1,331 vets in the Gulf War study.

But he was not been so successful with the New Gen vets, some 2,000 of whom expressed suicidal thoughts. Only a small percentage of those veterans ever got assistance, he said, insisting, “some of those veterans are now homeless or deceased.”

He claimed the Inspector General’s Office would not take on the case. He quit and brought his concerns to the Office of Research Oversight and to Congress. Both are investigating his charges today.

He said it was his ethical duty to push, even if it cost him his job. (He’s now an adjunct professor at Emory University, and still looking for a full-time position.) “The only reason I testified was to help out the veterans,” he told The American Conservative. “As principal investigator for the study I heard from hundreds of veterans, I talked to them daily for months. I was happy to help out.”

Coughlin says this is an issue that affects all Americans: after \$120 million in taxpayer dollars spent on research over that last 10 years, the VA is no closer to targeted treatment for GWI than it was in the 1990s.

Capt. Mark Lyles, a Navy scientist who’s been working on research based on a theory that a highly toxic “stew” of heavy metals found in the Iraqi dust is making veterans sick, says he is “not surprised” to hear of inside data manipulation and research bias.

“I’ve had meetings with the VA and their epidemiology people and basically was shocked at their lack of concern for the data I was presenting,” he says.

“You have to realize the cost associated with a real pathology. A psychosomatic (illness) can be treated, thus cured. At the very least we can put you on some pills and ‘fix’ your problem. If there is an environmental toxin or exposure that is the cause of this, and they produce permanent neurological damage, than that is forever.”

Paul Sullivan, director of veteran outreach at the law firm of Bergmann & Moore, notes that research is the first step towards getting new regulations, which are required for expanding eligibility for service-connected healthcare and disability claims.

Coughlin’s “substantiated charges,” says Sullivan, show the VA is undermining the process to avoid the burden of lifetime costs on the system.

“The only way to block claims is to block the research,” charges Sullivan. “That is the shameful tragedy of the VA’s actions, as described by Dr. Coughlin.”

However, Hardie, who also testified before the subcommittee on March 13, tells The American Conservative that Coughlin’s testimony is just “the tip of the iceberg” of how far the “public health staff will go to lie and manipulate the outcomes they want.”

As a veteran who’s been suffering from chronic illnesses since he returned home from Iraq 22 years ago, Hardie calls the officials’ behavior “criminal.”

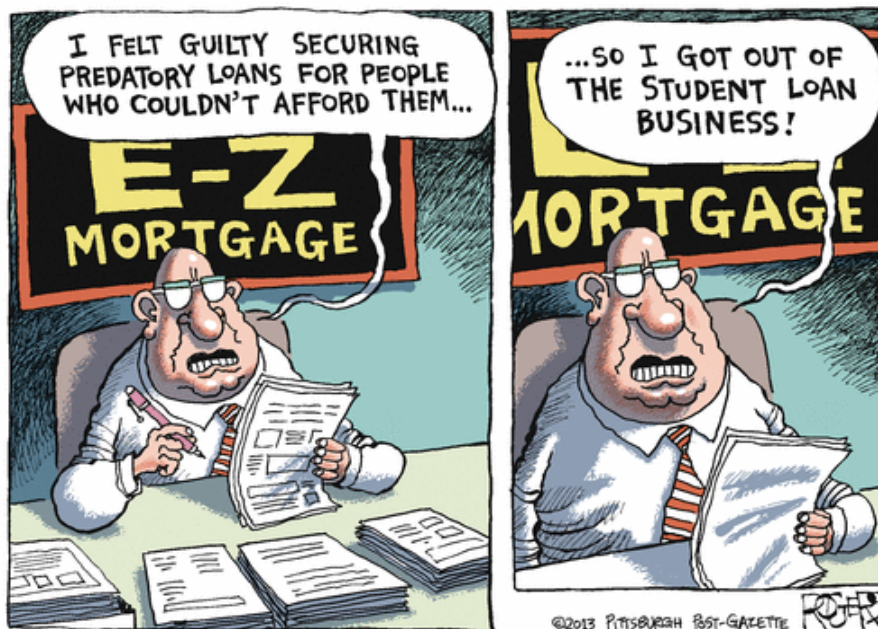
Coughlin's claims affect at least two generations of veterans as they struggle with life-altering, chronic illnesses that so far, can't be officially traced to their wartime service.

But while his testimony validated many suspicions about how the VA research arm operates, it left many questions unanswered, the least of which is, what were the results of those studies Coughlin insists are being hidden away?

Veterans hope these answers will come upon further investigation, but note that money is bleeding through the system in the meantime. The culture of the VA needs to be transformed, they say, before real progress can be made.

“There is an element of hope here,” Hardie said, however, “if we keep following this ‘don’t ask, don’t find’ strategy, then we’ll end up having an overburdened healthcare system and an overburdened disability claims system, and you’ll have more people like me who would do anything to get their health back and live a normal life.”

CLASS WAR REPORTS



Istanbul: “Tens Of Thousands Filled Taksim Square June 8 To

**Hold One Of The Biggest
Demonstrations Since The
Beginning Of The Protests”
“The Ultras Of Football Clubs Had
Called On Supporters To Join The
Demonstration And Stood In The
Forefront Of The Massive Protest”
“Everywhere Is Resistance”**



Ankara protesters at Kugulu Park. DAILY NEWS photo, Selahattin SÖNMEZ

The ultras of football clubs had called on supporters to join the demonstration and stood in the forefront of the massive protest. Fans joined them at the Taksim square, displaying flares like in the stadiums.

The fans shouted “Everywhere is resistance” in unison in an unprecedented scene.

9 June 2013 By Countercurrents.org. Source: Reuters, AFP, AP, BBC, ITV, Channel NewsAsia, The Peninsula, Anatolia News Agency, Dogan News Agency, Sunday's Zaman, Hürriyet Daily News

As anti-government protests in Turkey get into a second week police used tear gas and water cannon to quell more than 10,000 protesters on June 8 in Kizilay Square at the center of capital city of Ankara.

Police also clashed with protesters in Istanbul, Turkey's largest city. Protests continued amid a surging tide of opposition against conservative prime minister Tayyip Erdogan's rule. Demonstrators defied his call for an immediate end to protests.

Thousands of protesters shouted slogans against the Islamist government as they gathered for a rally at Taksim Square on June 8, 2013. Clashes have broken out in other parts of the city.

Police fired teargas and water cannon on protesters overnight in the working-class Gazi neighborhood, which saw heavy clashes with police in the 1990s.

Around Taksim, protesters have built dozens of barricades made of paving stones, street signs, vehicles and corrugated iron clogging part of the city centre.

Supporters of three rival football clubs - Fenerbahce, Galatasaray and Besiktas - set aside their differences to march together to Taksim Square , the epicenter of the protests.

"We're here against fascism, all together, shoulder to shoulder. Actually we should be thanking Erdogan for bringing us together. He united the entire country (against him)," an unnamed Fenerbahce supporter told the AP.

In a rare show of unity, thousands of fans from Istanbul 's three main football clubs marched on Taksim roaring "Tayyip resign!" and "Arm in arm against fascism!"

Tens of thousands filled Taksim Square June 8 to hold one of the biggest demonstrations since the beginning of the protests.

The ultras of football clubs had called on supporters to join the demonstration and stood in the forefront of the massive protest. Fans joined them at the Taksim square, displaying flares like in the stadiums.

The fans shouted "Everywhere is resistance" in unison in an unprecedented scene.

Some protesters took the roof of the Atatürk Cultural Center to set up flares, creating a firework spectacle. The building, in renovation since years, became another of the symbols of the demonstrations as Erdogan vows to replace it with an opera.

The roads connecting to Taksim were also congested with protesters. Other small-scale demonstrations were organized too in many points around the Taksim Square, such as Siraselviler, Tünel, Elmadag and Tarlabasi.

The Park became gradually an entity of its own, with its free market, libraries, playgrounds and even makeshift classrooms where students have the opportunity to prepare their approaching exams without leaving the park.

Protesters say the government is becoming increasingly authoritarian and imposing Islamist values on a secular state.

Mucella Yapici, an architect and spokeswoman for the Taksim Platform, criticized the government for pushing ahead with the redevelopment without proper public consultation.

“We call on the government not to provoke the people,” she told reporters.

She repeated the group’s list of demands, which include a ban on the use of tear gas against demonstrators and the sacking of police chiefs in cities that saw violent clashes.

MORE:

**The Soccer Fans At The Heart Of
Turkey’s Uprising:
“They Set Up Barricades, Threw Back
Tear Gas Canisters And Protected
The Core Of Protesters From
Violence”
“They Bring Mass Organization And The
Art Of Street Combat To This Dynamic
Stage In Turkey’s History”**

June 10, 2013 by Dave Zirin, The Nation

Mark Twain’s maxim that “History does not repeat itself, but it does rhyme” is echoing in the streets of Istanbul.

The echo is heard in everything that makes Turkey resemble a sequel to the 2011 Egyptian Revolution that toppled assumed President-for-Life Hosni Mubarak.

I’m not only referring to the fact that it marks another internal revolt against an iron-booted US ally. I’m not only referring to the repeat of the social equation that neoliberal shock economics plus police repression will equal upheaval.

I’m talking about soccer.

More specifically, the role that organized soccer fans are playing by the thousands.

Turkey and Egypt are of course two very different countries with different leaders, different political systems and different histories.

But the revolt of the highly intense, usually apolitical “ultra” soccer-fan clubs must be noted.

As in Egypt, for years the ultra soccer clubs have been places in Turkey where young, alienated men could express aggression without fear of serious retribution from the state.

They were places a young man could release steam, get in a brawl with other fan organizations or the police and receive at worst a beating.

In contrast, attending a political demonstration—or writing an article about the political demonstration—could land you in prison.

For the state, ultra clubs have been seen as ways to channel anger in a direction that doesn’t threaten their power. After the last two years, they may need to revise their playbook on how to manufacture consent.

There are differences between the ultra revolts in Egypt and Turkey.

Unlike in Egypt, the Turkish soccer fan clubs have historically been a magnet for people wanting a more liberalized, secular rule of law.

Perhaps because they share this connective tissue, there is another critical difference: unlike in Egypt, the Turkish ultra clubs have all united in very rapid order.

This isn’t Tahrir, where for days rival ultra clubs would organize on opposite sides of the square, until their hatred was worn down by the necessity of standing together against the police.

In Turkey, from the start, the ultra clubs hailing from the city’s most pugnaciously oppositional clubs—Besiktas, Galatasaray and Fenerbahce—marched arm-in-arm under the slogan “Istanbul United.”

For the people occupying in Taksim, their entry was not only welcome, it was desperately needed.

Bagis Erten, a reporter for Eurosport Turkey, was quoted by Middle Eastern soccer blogger James M. Dorsey as saying, “It was a critical moment. Supporters of all the big teams united for the first time against police violence. They were more experienced than the protesters, they fight them regularly. Their entry raised the protesters’ morale and they played a leading role.”

This development must be giving Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan night sweats.

The ultras normally interact only when they’re trading chants, curses or blows. Instead, they arrived looking more like mass-street-combat organizations than anything that could be described antiseptically as “fans.”

They set up barricades, threw back tear gas canisters and protected the core of protesters from violence.

As one 18-year-old ultra said, "We are normally enemies, but this has really brought us together. It's never happened before."

The fan group known as Çarşı has reportedly led this uniting of the ultras.

Çarşı is also the ultra group most associated with the political left. Just so there is no doubt about where they stand, the "a" in Carsi is the anarchism symbol and their slogan is "Çarşı is against everything!"

Tensions were already extremely high between Çarşı and the security police when a post-match march, after their team Beşiktaş J.K. was victorious, strayed too close to Erdogan party headquarters, resulting in more gassing and violence than the typical ultra/police skirmish.

To be clear, ultras across the globe reflect at best a very mixed consciousness.

Although some are explicitly left-wing, others explicitly fascist and most proudly apolitical, they all carry features of hyper-masculine fight-clubs.

That can be heard in Taksim in the chants they raise at the state police, like, "You can use you tear gas bombs, you can use your tear gas bombs/ Have courage if you are a real man/ Take off your helmet and drop your batons/ Then we'll see who the real man is."

The difference, of course, is that they are directing their rage at the police in the name of basic democracy.

The difference is that instead of representing merely their team, they are "Istanbul United."

Like the ultras in Egypt, their very existence should be pushing sports writers, academics and sociologists to rethink the very stale conventional wisdom about sports fandom: that its most prominent feature is that it's devoid of all politics and actually serves to steer people away from struggle.

In the case of the Turkish ultras, they are citizens with the same concerns as anyone else.

The difference is they bring mass organization and the art of street combat to this dynamic stage in Turkey's history.

Sports fans — again — playing a leading role in a mass social uprising?

Welcome to the twenty-first century, where the revolution is not only televised: it takes place in between games.

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE
MILITARY?**



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

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**“The Regime Wants” Is A New
Sudanese Play Ridiculing
Dictators In The Fictional State
Of Majamrata With Obvious
Implications”**

**“The Masses Of The Republic Of
Majamrata Rise In Revolt.**

President Jalal, His Family, And His Assistants Are Swept Away And Flee The Country” “It Is A Political Play Without Mentioning Sudan Directly,” “To Avoid Security Complications.”



The dictator aims to change the people, so the people don't change his regime. [Ismail Kushkush/Al Jazeera]

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

07 Jun 2013 by Ismail Kushkush, Al Jazeera

Khartoum, Sudan - Not far from the junction of the White and Blue Niles in Khartoum, a large billboard outside the Chinese-built Friendship Hall grabs the attention of passers-by. It is an advertisement for a comedic play: "The Regime Wants."

No, it is not a typo. It is the title of a play that is meant to take a satiric jab at the Arab Spring's popular chant.

In 2011, in Cairo's Tahrir Square during the height of The Egyptian Revolution, protesters came up with the catchy and straightforward chant that would spread like

wildfire among the revolting youth of the Arab World: “The people want to bring down the regime!”



Actor and producer Jamal Abdelrahman has an important role in the play. [Isma'il KushKush/Al Jazeera]

Through Arab satellite TV news reports, YouTube, and Facebook, the chant spread from Egypt to Yemen, Libya, Syria and wherever protests broke out against aging Arab dictators.

“The title is the opposite of what people called for on the streets, but it points to it,” says playwright Mustafa El-Khalifa. “We approached it an inverted way.”

Not isolated from events in the region, El-Khalifa explains, and frustrated by the same set of problems such as dictatorship, humiliation, poverty and war, “The Regime Wants” reflects the same realities peoples throughout the Arab World live.

“We either create an Arab Spring or theatre for the Arab Spring,” El-Khalifa said jokingly.

“The Regime Wants” is the story of an imaginary Arab military dictator, President Jalal Barud al-Julla of the imaginary Republic of Majamrata.

“Majamrata,” a Sudanese Arabic colloquial word, means “messed up”.

President Jalal has been in power for 32 years. As he follows news reports on Arab satellite TV stations of popular revolts in the region and the overthrow of Arab leaders, he begins to worry.

In a scene, President Jalal steps down from his throne and asks his prime minister: “Do the people love me?”

“Of course they do!” the prime-minister replies, to which the audience in the theatre laughs hysterically, mocking overthrown Arab dictators, many of whom were under the impression that they enjoyed their peoples’ love and support.

President Jalal, however, remains concerned and comes up with a master plan that marks the plot’s climax: “I am going to change the people!”

And the audience again laughs, whistles and claps in amusement.



In the satirical play, the president contacts a corrupt power broker to import a group of more “suitable people.” Isma’il Kushkush/Al Jazeera

President Jalal seeks the assistance of a corrupt broker, to help choose and manage the importation of a “suitable people”.

“Bring me a people that go right when I say so, left when I say so,” President Jalal tells the broker.

While President Jalal spends his time assessing videos of samples of peoples the broker suggests to him, it is too late.

The masses of the Republic of Majamrata rise in revolt. President Jalal, his family, and his assistants are swept away and flee the country.

“It was the first time I play a president,” said actor and producer Jamal Abdelrahman with a laugh. “It gives you an idea what power can do.”

“But at the end of the play, you also understand how it feels to be defeated,” Abdelrahman added.

The play, Abdelrahman and other actors say, is not specifically directed to the Sudanese government, but to all leaders in the region who witnessed the uprisings in the region, but did not make the necessary reforms to meet the demands of their populations.

Columnist Osman Mirghani, however, does believe that the Sudanese government is the subject of the play’s satire.

“It is a political play without mentioning Sudan directly,” says columnist Osman Mirghani. “To avoid security complications.”

Early in 2011, anti-government protests broke out in Sudan but were immediately crushed.

In the summer of 2012, with rising prices and belt-tightening austerity economic measures, protesters took the streets again calling for the government's removal. While better organized this time around, the protests did not materialize into a revolution.

In 2013, Reporters Without Borders ranked Sudan's press freedom to be in a "very serious situation" and Human Rights Watch criticised the Sudanese government's "stepped- up assault on media freedom."

So how was the play permitted to show?

"I think as long as there is no reaction from the audience in the form of chants or protests, the government will allow the play to go on," Mirghani said.

Political satire has long been a vibrant tradition in Sudanese arts with theatre playing an important role early on. The art of theatre came to Sudan in the early twentieth century with expatriate communities from Europe, the Levant and India, and Sudanese picked up on it.

"Sudanese love theatre," affirms Dr Abdel-Hakim El-Tahir of The Music and Drama Institute.

The heyday of Sudanese theatre was in the sixties and seventies, but it witnessed a decline because of underfunding and the overall political and economic instability in Sudan.

"An entire generation has not seen theatre," said Abdelrahman.

But theatre in Sudan has slowly been making a comeback, and "The Regime Wants" has made a contribution.

"It certainly has helped revive the interest of people in theatre," confirmed El-Tahir.

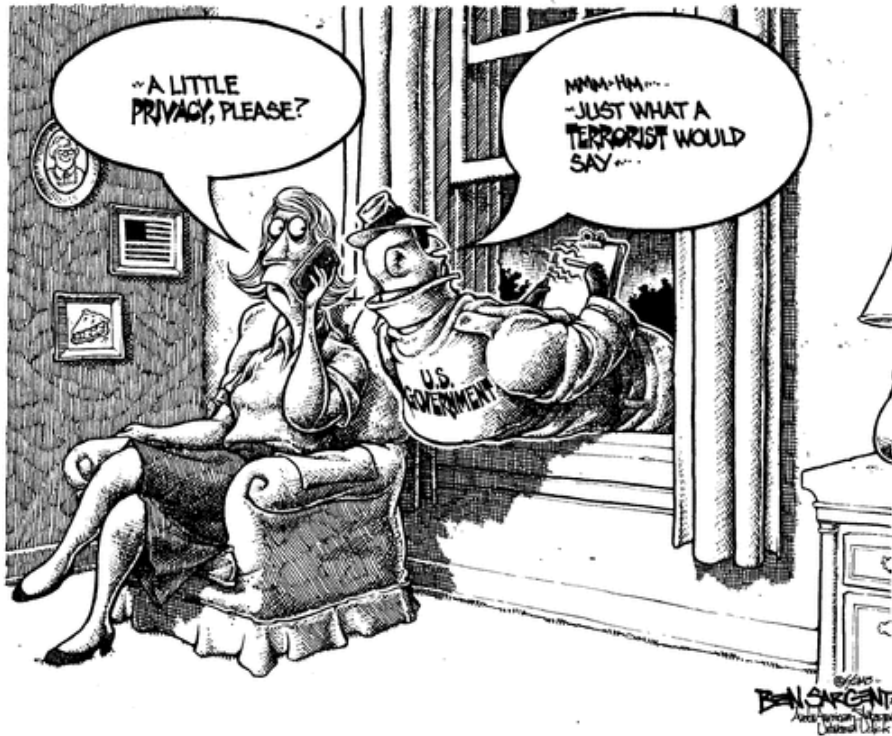
Muhammad al-Hasan, 53, said he has already seen the play twice and is willing to see it again.

"I've never seen the theatre full like this in a long time," he says. "You laugh, but it is meaningful."

Israa Ahmad, 25, said she hadn't been interested in theatre in Sudan before, but after hearing from friends, decided to attend a show of "The Regime Wants" with her family.

"It was very professional and similar to reality," she says. "I think it will inspire other artists."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



N.S.A. Enforces Zero-Tolerance Policy On Conscience

June 10, 2013 The Borowitz Report

WASHINGTON—The National Security Agency moved swiftly and forcefully today to remind its employees of its longstanding zero-tolerance policy on conscience, warning that any violation of that policy would result in immediate termination.

“When you sign on to work at the N.S.A. you swear to uphold the standards of amorality and soullessness that this agency was founded upon,” said N.S.A. director General Keith B. Alexander.

“Any evidence of ethics, decency, or a sense of right and wrong will not be tolerated. These things have no place in the intelligence community.”

To enforce the policy, General Alexander said that once a month all N.S.A. employees will be wired to a computer to take full inventory of what is going on in their minds: “We want to be sure they are spending their free time playing Call of Duty, not reading the Federalist Papers.”

The N.S.A. director attempted to reassure the American people that despite “unfortunate recent events,” the agency remains “one of the most heartless and cold-blooded organizations on the face of the earth.”

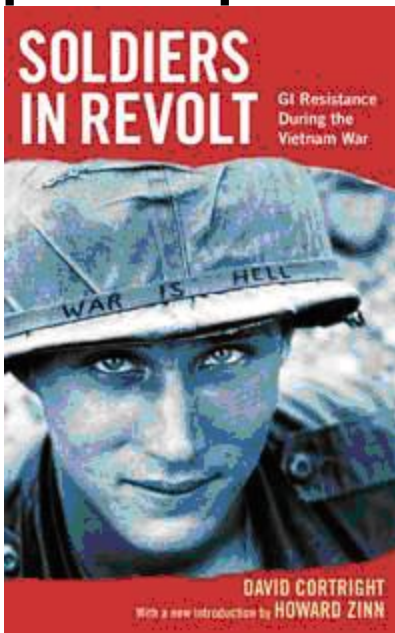
He added, “We refuse to let one good apple spoil the whole bunch.”

He said that going forward, the N.S.A. would try to recruit people who had already demonstrated “a commitment to invading people’s privacy” by working at Google or Facebook.

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.

FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY: A Vietnam Veteran Describes The Strategy And Tactics Used By Troops To Stop An Imperial War



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT

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