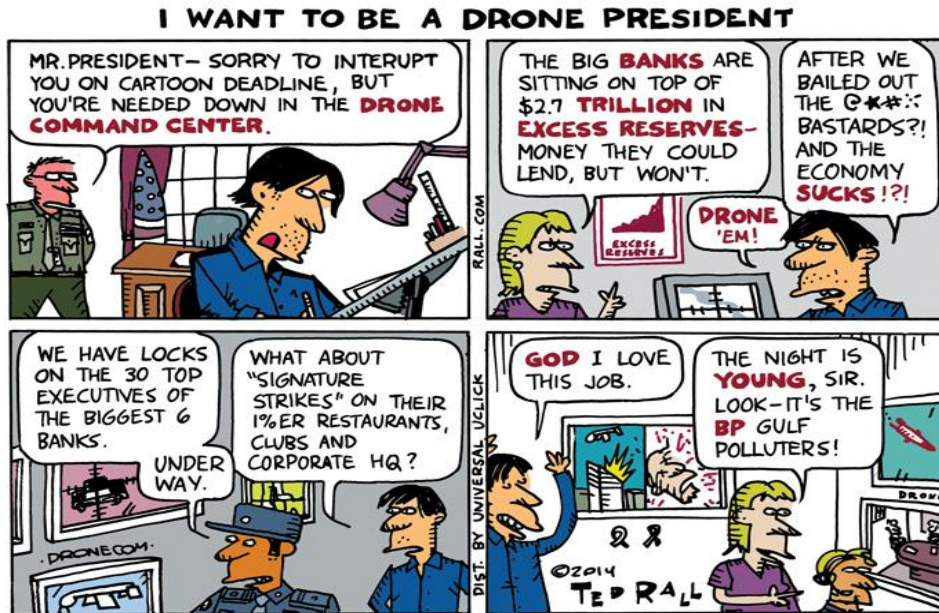


## Military Resistance 12K16



## Top Medical Groups Back Military Nurse Who Said 'No' To Force-Feeding Guantanamo Hunger Strikers:

**“Force-Feeding A Competent Person Is Not The Practice Of Medicine; It Is Aggravated Assault”**

**“The Military Is Planning To Try The Unidentified Nurse”**

NOV. 19, 2014 by BENEDICT CAREY, New York Times & AP & by Sarah Lazare, staff writer; Common Dreams [Excerpts]

The case of a Navy medical officer who refused to force-feed prisoners on a hunger strike at Guantánamo Bay prompted the country's largest nursing organization on Wednesday to petition the Defense Department for leniency, citing professional ethical guidelines that support the officer's decision.

The officer is a nurse and 18-year Navy veteran whose commander has called for an internal inquiry into the refusal, his lawyer said.

**The military is planning to try the unidentified nurse, who is an officer, before a Board of Inquiry, which could result in a dishonorable discharge that strips him of his veterans benefits.**

The case, which came to light in July when a hunger striker called the London-based legal defense group Reprieve, is the latest flash point in an increasingly heated debate over military medical professionals' role in interrogation and torture.

The World Medical Association has issued a statement condemning force-feeding, and in 2013 the American Medical Association called the practice a violation of "core ethical values of the medical profession," saying that "every competent patient has the right to refuse medical intervention," including life-sustaining measures.

In letters to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and the director of the Navy Nurse Corps, American Nurses Association President Pamela Cipriano said that the nurse, a Navy lieutenant whose name has not been released, was expressing a legitimate ethical objection to the practice of administering liquid nutrients through a nasal-gastric tube to prisoners on hunger strike to protest their indefinite confinement.

"The ANA code of ethics for nurses clearly supports the ethical right of a professional nurse to make an independent judgment about whether he or she should participate in this or any other such activity," she said.

"This right must be protected and exercised without concern for retaliation."

"The military setting does not change the nurse's ethical commitments or standards."

Force-feeding is done through a tube, and the nurse reportedly refused to manage the procedure.

"His commander has recommended that the case be brought before a formal Board of Inquiry, and that request is making its way up the chain of command," said Ronald Meister, the nurse's lawyer. If the board does take up the case, it has the authority to retain the nurse or discharge him, either honorably or dishonorably, Mr. Meister said. "The military pensions don't vest until 20 years of service, so depending on what happens, he could end up with nothing," he added.

Neither Mr. Meister nor the nurses association offered details about the man's identity, other than to say that he serves on a base in New England and spent much of his career working on submarines.

The nurse's act of refusal was originally revealed by Abu Wa'el Dhiab, a Syrian father of four who remains detained in Guantanamo Bay despite being cleared for release since 2009.

**Dhiab told his lawyers at Reprieve that he heard the nurse, described as an approximately 40 year-old Latino man, state, "I have come to the decision that I refuse to participate in this criminal act."**

**"Before we came here, we were told a different story," the nurse reportedly added. "The story we were told was completely the opposite of what I saw."**

The military's aggressive interrogation policy, at Guantánamo and elsewhere, has forced agonizing decisions on medical professionals. Psychologists have helped design the torturous techniques, which have included sleep deprivation and isolation; they have also monitored the interrogations. Medical doctors have advised on caring for the detainees.

Details of these professionals' roles have fueled debates within major medical associations; such debates have played a role in elections in at least one major group, the American Psychological Association.

Doctor Vincent Iacopino, senior medical adviser for Physicians for Human Rights, told Common Dreams that his organization strongly supports the nurse's refusal to take part in the force-feeding of competent adults, which is banned by the World Medical Association and the American Medical Association and has been condemned by the office of the United Nations high commissioner for human rights as torture and a violation of international law.

**"Force feedings are being done without informed consent, against people's wishes," said Iacopino.**

**"We have codes of conduct that prohibit us from conducting therapeutic interventions or diagnostic procedures that people do not consent to."**

**"The government is claiming it is doing this to save people's lives," Iacopino continued.**

**"The reality is that people are on hunger strike, protesting something: indefinite detention, often without charges. Any health professional under those circumstances has a duty to refuse. This is ill treatment with no respect for autonomy."**

This is not the first time medical professionals have called for non-participation in the Guantanamo Bay force-feedings.

In op-ed published in the New England Journal of Medicine in July, a team of doctors writes, "Force-feeding a competent person is not the practice of medicine; it is aggravated assault.

"Using a physician to assault prisoners no more changes the nature of the act than using physicians to 'monitor' torture makes torture a medical procedure. Military physicians

are no more entitled to betray medical ethics than military lawyers are to betray the Constitution or military chaplains are to betray their religion.”

Furthermore, the American Medical Association penned a letter to Hagel in April declaring, “Every competent patient has the right to refuse medical intervention, including life-sustaining interventions.”

One of the main issues is whether the medical associations should discipline members who have taken part in interrogations in any way, even as observers.

**The Navy case represents the flip side of the equation. It is the first known defiance of Guantánamo’s force-feeding procedure, and the nurses association is acting to defend, rather than to condemn, the medical officer’s actions.**

Human rights groups have also joined in defending the nurse’s actions based on ethical guidelines.

The Navy on Wednesday acknowledged receipt of the letter from the nurses association but did not provide more detail.

“Due to the statutory limitations of the Privacy Act of 1974, I am unable to comment on the specifics of this case,” Rear Adm. Rebecca McCormick-Boyle, director of the Navy Nurse Corps, said in a statement. “However, I can assure you that I am monitoring the situation closely.”

### **YOUR INVITATION:**

**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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.**

## **MILITARY NEWS**

**“I Told The Americans, Don’t Give Any Weapons Through The Army — Not Even One Piece — Because Corruption Is**

# **Everywhere, And You Will Not See Any Of It”**

**“Some Of The Weaponry Has Already Ended Up On The Black Market And In The Hands Of ISIS Fighters, According To Iraqi Officers”**

**“One Iraqi General Is Known As ‘Chicken Guy’ Because Of His Reputation For Selling His Soldiers’ Poultry Provisions”**

**“Dismissing The Generals Was Insufficient, He Argued. ‘They Should Be Executed’”**

November 24, 2014 New York Times

BAGHDAD — One Iraqi general is known as “chicken guy” because of his reputation for selling his soldiers’ poultry provisions.

Another is “arak guy,” for his habit of enjoying that anise-flavored liquor on the job.

A third is named after Iraq’s 10,000-dinar bills, “Gen. Deftar,” and is infamous for selling officer commissions.

The Iraqi military and police forces had been so thoroughly pillaged by their own corrupt leadership that they all but collapsed this spring in the face of the advancing militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria — despite roughly \$25 billion worth of U.S. training and equipment over the past 10 years and far more from the Iraqi treasury.

**Now the pattern of corruption and patronage in the Iraqi government forces threatens to undermine a new U.S.-led effort to drive out the extremists, even as President Barack Obama is doubling to 3,000 the number of U.S. troops in Iraq.**

The United States has insisted that the Iraqi military act as the conduit for any new aid and armaments being supplied for a counteroffensive, including money and weapons intended for tribal fighters willing to push out ISIS.

But some of the weaponry has already ended up on the black market and in the hands of ISIS fighters, according to Iraqi officers and lawmakers.

“I told the Americans, don’t give any weapons through the army — not even one piece — because corruption is everywhere, and you will not see any of it,” said Col. Shaaban al-Obeidi of the internal security forces and a Sunni tribal leader in Anbar province. “Our people will steal it.”

Iraqi officers and lawmakers, some speaking to the New York Times on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized, say that army and police payrolls are still wildly inflated by “ghost soldiers,” either conjured entirely by a superior officer or just splitting a paycheck with a patron instead of showing up for work.

**And Iraqi soldiers often charge that they have been furnished with partial supplies and cheaply made weapons because their commanders took kickbacks or skimmed off the savings.**

Buying officer titles, shaking down civilians and siphoning money from inflated payrolls are all “a continuous phenomenon,” said Talal al-Zubai, a lawmaker from a Sunni party.

**Dismissing the generals was insufficient, he argued.**

**“They should be executed. They destroyed Iraq,” he said.**

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## **80-Year-Old Army Vet Mercilessly Beaten By Police Who ‘Feared For Their Lives’”**

**“‘I’m Afraid For Us To Even Drive Out Of Our Driveway Or To Get On The Street. I Don’t Know What They Will Do,’ Libby Swan, Bill’s Wife, Said”**

November 17, 2014 By Jay Symopoulos, [TheFreeThoughtProject.com](http://TheFreeThoughtProject.com)

Lone Jack, Mo. – An 80-year-old cancer survivor and Army veteran says that he fears for his life after being beaten, bloodied and left with broken bones by police.

"I'm afraid for us to even drive out of our driveway or to get on the street. I don't know what they will do," Libby Swan, Bill's wife, said.

Bill Swan was on his tractor when he noticed a utility crew attempting to dig on his property and approached them to tell them to vacate his property. The workers then called police, according to KCTV 5.

When officers arrived they yanked Swan off the tractor and took him to the ground leaving him bloodied and with broken ribs.

Officers of course claim that Swan was a threat to them, and that he attempted to back his tractor into a police cruiser and then tried to leave the scene. They claim they gave him verbal and hand signals to stop but he refused and attempted to run the officers over.

"Police got there and told him to get off his tractor, he was on his own property, and said, 'I don't have to get off my tractor,'" said Bill's grandson, Tim Swan, according to Fox 4.

According to Mrs. Swan, her husband suffers from hearing loss and most likely couldn't hear the commands to exit the tractor.

"Sometimes I have to get right in his face and talk to him," Libby Swan said.

One of the officers was able to get on the tractor and shut it off. Police claim that Swan then became violent and swung at officers and attempted to get the officers firearm out of its holster.

**The claim that Swan went for an officer's gun should ring alarm bells, as this is often a claim officers make after beating someone in an attempt justify their use of force.**

Swan was then taken to the police station where he was booked for disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and two counts of assaulting a police officer.

Libby Swan has a very difficult time believing that her husband provoked the incident as described by law enforcement and no longer feels that she can trust her local police.

"It makes me worried, police officers are supposed to serve and protect, and instead they're going after people that pay their taxes, that do the right things, and are law-abiding citizens, and they're picking on the small guy."

**The excessive force used against this grandfather is a reminder that no one is safe from being brutalized by law enforcement in police state USA.**

"If I was here and someone was trying to get into my house, I don't think I would call them. I think I would call the highway patrol or someone like that," said Mrs. Swan.

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**Former Ship Captain Is Up For Bigger Job After 2 Pilots Died:  
“Her Ship Handling And Other Factors Led To A Helicopter Being Broken Apart By High Waves”  
Head Of U.S. Pacific Fleet Concluded That “The Captain Contributed To The Loss Of The Pilots And Their MH-60 Aircraft”  
“The Commanding Officer Did Not Exercise The Highest Degree Of Judgment, Seamanship Or Prudence”**



Navy helicopters fly past the USS Midway Museum during the memorial service for downed pilots Lt Cmdr. Landon Jones and Chief Warrant Officer Jonathan Gibson.  
Jeanette Steele — U-T



Nov. 23, 2014 By Jeanette Steele, The San Diego Union-Tribune

The Navy ship captain partially blamed for the September 2013 accident that killed two Coronado-based helicopter pilots is in line for another, even bigger, at-sea command.

Cmdr. Jana Vavasseur passed a board review this month, making her eligible to command a Navy cruiser, amphibious assault ship or a group of warships.

She was commanding officer of the San Diego destroyer William P. Lawrence when, on a choppy day on the Red Sea, her ship handling and other factors led to a helicopter being broken apart by high waves.

The two pilots, who had just landed, were lost when the helicopter was swept off the deck.

**The families of those aviators are outraged that Vavasseur's naval career would be allowed to progress.**

"To put her in a position of command of even more people just doesn't make any sense," said Debbi Jones, whose 35-year-old son, Lt. Cmdr. Landon Jones, died in the helicopter incident.

"If she wants to make a career out of the Navy, she should be riding a desk. She should not have any effect over other people's lives," Jones said from her home in Lompoc. "I don't think she should have the right to make those judgment calls ever again."



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jonathan Gibson

Also killed was Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jonathan Gibson, 32. Both pilots belonged to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 6 in Coronado.

**Gibson's widow, Chrissy, said Vavasseur has not reached out to her family to offer condolences or express grief.**

"I am truly heartbroken to hear that her poor judgment can kill two innocent people ... and she gets a promotion to run a bigger ship with more responsibilities," Gibson wrote in an email to U-T San Diego.

**"She has shown poor character, lack of emotion, and is free to better her life ... while Theresa (Jones) and I each have two innocent children broken-hearted and struggling every day on where their Daddy is."**

In April, the head of the U.S. Pacific Fleet had laid partial blame at her feet in a Navy investigation.

**He concluded that by turning her ship crossways to waves and rushing toward the next assignment — while the helicopter's blades were still spinning — the captain contributed to the loss of the pilots and their MH-60 aircraft.**

**"The commanding officer did not exercise the highest degree of judgment, seamanship or prudence," the Pacific Fleet commander, Adm. Harry Harris, wrote. "We require more."**

At the same time, the investigation found that Vavasseur was operating within procedures, although it acknowledged a longtime hole in Navy guidelines for destroyers with low sides, called "low freeboard."

Separately, a Naval Safety Center report obtained last week by U-T San Diego said there were indicators of a "recognizable hazardous situation" on the destroyer's flight deck that day.

The report quotes William P. Lawrence sailors saying they had never observed flight operations being conducted at flank speed, which is more than 30 knots.

**One crew member is quoted as asking another, "Why are we going so fast?"**

Several flight crew members told safety investigators they had never seen the ship's "rooster tail" — the water that sprays up behind a ship at speed — so high.

**The Navy took administrative action against Vavasseur, a 1994 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, in the form of a counseling letter.**

**Now, some in naval circles are astonished that the former destroyer captain has been approved for what's known in the Navy as "major command."**

That's because it's counter to one of the oldest Navy traditions: that a ship's commanding officer accepts praise when things go well and blame when errors are made.

As a practical matter, the review board did not consider the counseling letter that Vavasseur received. Because the letter was categorized as non-punitive, it wasn't included in her personnel file.

**The unanswered question is whether the helicopter incident was mentioned in Vavasseur's fitness report, which is written by her superior officer. That report would be considered by a review board.**

"Major command selection boards are tasked to pick the best candidates to serve in leadership roles at the next level of responsibility for our Navy," said Cmdr. Chris Servello, spokesman for the chief of Navy personnel.

"The officers on those boards look at all facets of an officer's career — basing their decision-making only on information contained in their official personnel file. Stories, incidents or counseling not documented in that file cannot be considered."

By being approved for major command at sea, Vavasseur's chance of becoming an admiral someday has shot up dramatically, according to the retired officer.

Servello of the personnel command said it's hard to project when the decision on Vavasseur's future posting will be made.

Meanwhile, the families of Jones and Gibson said they are trying to move on.



Lt. Cmdr. Landon L. Jones, 35— Family photo

Jones left behind a wife and two young sons. Gibson, 32, and his wife have a young son and daughter.

Theresa Jones gave birth to her second son just months before her husband was killed.

She first learned about the crash on a Navy Facebook posting, about four hours before uniformed officers arrived at her front door. Then, she discovered via a news report that the search for the pilots had ended.

Today, she's in a protracted battle over Servicemembers Group Life Insurance. Her husband had elected not to carry the life insurance, but she said she never received the required notice that Landon Jones had turned down the policy.

The Joneses are still hoping the Navy will help convince the insurance carrier to grant benefits due to the technicality.

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## Admiral Denies Role In Counterfeiting Casino Chips



Nov. 23, 2014 By ROBERT BURNS, AP [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — An admiral linked by Navy investigators to counterfeit casino chips denied Sunday that he played any role in making them.

Investigation records say his DNA was found on the underside of an adhesive sticker used to alter one of the phony chips, but previously undisclosed emails indicate that the presence of his DNA is not conclusive evidence that he was involved in the fakery.

Rear Adm. Timothy M. Giardina, who was fired last year as No. 2 commander of U.S. nuclear forces at an early stage of a Navy criminal investigation into the counterfeit chips, acknowledged to The Associated Press that he played the fake chips at a poker table in the Horseshoe Casino in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in June 2013.

But he denied any involvement in the counterfeiting or even knowing the chips were fakes at the time he used them.

The three chips in question were altered with paint and stickers to make genuine \$1 casino chips look like \$500 chips.

He said he stands behind a detailed written statement he submitted in April 2014 to Adm. Bill Gortney, who at the time was determining disciplinary action against Giardina in light of the months-long probe by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

The AP on Sunday obtained a copy of that statement, which has not been publicly released and was not included in NCIS records of the Giardina case that the AP obtained last week under the Freedom of Information Act.

In the statement, Giardina said he deeply regretted having not immediately surrendered to security officers the four chips which he said he found in a toilet stall at the Horseshoe.

**He said it was an “error of judgment” that he put three of the chips in play at a poker table, and said he was sorry that he subsequently lied in saying he had purchased them from a man in the bathroom.**

“I should have either told the truth or remained silent instead of lying about the events when questioned” by an Iowa state investigator on June 18, 2013, he wrote. That was two days after he played the fake chips and casino officials determined they were counterfeits.

He added, “This lapse in judgment does not make me a thief and a criminal.”

**Giardina wrote that he does not have a gambling problem and does not consider poker a form of gambling.**

“Regardless of anyone’s opinion on the matter, disapproval of the legal manner in which I spent portions of my off-duty time is not adequate grounds to allege criminal misconduct,” Giardina wrote.

Giardina had been at risk of being prosecuted by the Navy for counterfeiting the chips, but Gortney chose instead to give him what the military calls non-judicial punishment — in this case a letter of reprimand and the loss of \$4,000 in salary. Navy officials have said no court martial was sought because the available DNA evidence against Giardina might not hold up in court.

Doubts about the DNA evidence are summarized in an email exchange between a Giardina lawyer and an examiner at the Army laboratory that tested the DNA. In the emails obtained Sunday by the AP, the examiner affirmed to the lawyer that while the “major contributor” of the DNA found on the underside of the adhesive sticker that had been affixed by the counterfeiter was Giardina’s, this did not necessarily mean he had touched the adhesive.

The examiner indicated it was possible that the Giardina DNA had migrated onto the adhesive when an Iowa state investigator removed the sticker to confirm that the chip was phony. Giardina had handled the chip during the poker game, so his DNA would have been on the outside of the chip and possibly along the edges of the sticker.

The examiner said either explanation — that Giardina had, indeed, touched the underside of the sticker, or that his DNA had migrated to the sticker while others were handling the chip — was equally possible.

In his April 2014 statement to Gortney, Giardina wrote that he suspects the chip counterfeiter left them in the bathroom stall “for a reason,” possibly to observe casino security’s reaction when the finder either turned them in or put them in play.

“I do not believe I was singled out to find them, but believe that I was a patsy for someone who wanted the chips to be found,” he wrote.

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# **Blue Falcon In Command At Fort Leonard Wood: Among Other Things “Soldiers To Be Clean-Shaven, Whether They Are On Duty Or Off” “No Headphones While Wearing Any Army Uniform” Critic Says “God Forbid Soldiers Utilize Music Devices While Improving Their Physical Fitness”**

November 21, 2014 By Kyle Jahner, Staff Writer; Army Times [Excerpts]

If you want to go out in public on Fort Leonard Wood you better ditch the tank top, pull up your saggy drawers and shave that scruff.

Maj. Gen. Leslie Smith, the Missouri post’s commanding general, issued new appearance standards in a Nov. 10 policy update.

The rules not only crack down on sloppy dress, but skimpy outfits as well: No short skirts, exposed midriffs and revealing undergarments.

The rules fall under the post’s Command Policy 18, which used to be called “Wear and Appearance of Uniforms.”

Now it’s called “Wear and Appearance of Uniforms and Civilian Attire,” which really brings into focus the expansion of the policy to include not only soldiers in civilian clothes, but also spouses, kids, guests – anyone who comes on post.

“The entire concept is good order and discipline. The Army is talking about the Army profession, how we look, how we dress,” Smith told Army Times in a Nov. 21 interview.

While the policy change has garnered plenty of buzz online, Smith downplayed the changes.

**He has been the posts’ commanding general since June 2013, and said the base simply updated the regs after waiting for recent updates to AR 670-1, the Armywide regulation on appearance standards.**

**But Smith’s policy does go further in some cases than AR 670-1.**

**For example, the shaving rule. AR 670-1 requires soldiers to be “clean shaven” whenever they are in uniform or on duty.**

**Fort Leonard Wood has called for soldiers to be clean-shaven, whether they are on duty or off.**

This is one of the few rules in the policy that do not extend to civilians on post.

Policy highlights for everyone on post at Fort Leonard Wood:

No bare mid-drifts, shirts with cut-out armpits or sleeveless shirts, tank tops, swimsuits, or shorts/skirts/tops that “are too revealing.”

No sagging pants, pajamas or house shoes.

No clothing depicting obscenity, slander, drug paraphernalia, or vulgarity.

More policy highlights for soldiers only:

No headphones while wearing any Army uniform, including official PT uniforms, except for a hands-free device while driving.

Soldiers can wear headphones, however, while walking or running on sidewalks, troop trails, running tracks or inside the gym in civilian clothing.

Though not new, a draft poster depicting the changes reinforces that PT uniforms cannot be worn outside of unit personal training, transit to PT, and a few select locations such as the daycare center.

Access control officers at the post’s gates will have authority to prevent entrance to those not in compliance, and management of various facilities will also wield authority to ask people to leave.

As for enforcement, he said, “self-policing is the goal.” The policy states, as it did before the changes, that soldiers all “have the general military authority to make corrections on service members improperly wearing the uniform, regardless of the rank or duty” of the non-compliant soldier.

After a draft of a poster spelling out Smith's policy leaked online, soldiers and vets responded with mixed reviews via social media.

"God forbid soldiers utilize music devices while improving their physical fitness," Scott Welch said.

"I am a retired NCO, and I think the shaving point is total BS," said Steve Buero. "I NEVER shaved on weekends or on leave. That is my time and if I was on duty in civilian clothes I shaved, but you call me in for some BS on my leave you got what you got."

Some complained that family members and friends visiting the base not employed by the Army should not be subjected to Army rules.

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**“Women Who Were Pregnant  
And Exposed To Volatile  
Organic Compounds Found In  
Drinking Water On Camp  
Lejeune Had Higher Risk Of  
Adverse Birth Outcomes”**

**“Neither The Marine Corps Or The  
Department Of Defense Have Ever  
Notified Me Of My Exposure”**

**“I Have Been Denied Any Kind Of  
Benefit By The VA”**

**“I Have Received Absolutely Nothing”**

November 21, 2014 By Adelina Colbert, JDNnews.com/

Pregnant women exposed to contaminated drinking water aboard Camp Lejeune might have experienced adverse birth outcomes, according to documents released this week.

A study released by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry on Friday revealed that women who were pregnant and exposed to the volatile organic compounds



or VOCs, perchloroethylene or PCE, trichloroethylene or TCE, and benzene found in the drinking water on Camp Lejeune between 1968 and 1965 had a higher risk of having adverse birth outcomes.

The aim of the study was to assess the link between residential prenatal exposure to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1968 and 1985 and preterm birth, small for gestational age, term low birth weight and mean birth weight deficit. During the study, ATSDR used birth certificates to identify mothers living at Camp Lejeune at delivery and analyzed the entire pregnancy and individual trimesters.

The study showed that pregnant women who ingested or used the contaminated drinking on base were more likely to have increased risk of pre-term birth or children with forms of fetal growth retardation. These birth outcomes have been formerly linked to the risk for negative health outcomes later in the child's life.

The study is the most recent to be released by the ATSDR in its ongoing research on the effects of the toxic water found on Camp Lejeune and the installation's population.

Conceived and born on Camp Lejeune, 40-year-old Christopher Orris said he believes his congenital heart disease he currently suffers from was caused by in-utero exposure of the contaminated water.

"I was conceived and exposed in-utero at Tarawa Terrace in 1974 at the height of the pollution," said Orris. "My family has no history of congenital heart defect yet I was diagnosed with one."

Orris, who was diagnosed with the disease at the age of 37, said the study doesn't carry much weight now. "I think it's a little bit too late," he said. "This is something that could have been completed years, if not decades ago."

Orris said he had been unaware of the contaminated water on base until President Barack Obama signed the Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act in 2012.

**"Neither the Marine Corps or the Department of Defense have ever notified me of my exposure," he said.**

**"If they had reached out to me at the time they knew of the exposure, I could have been tested and my birth defect could have been corrected, reducing the damage to my other organs."**

**Since his diagnosis, Orris said he has had to have open heart surgery to fix the defect and other surgeries related to the exposure, which in the process has damaged his heart along with several other vital organs, such as his kidneys and liver.**

"It has drastically changed my life," he said. "As we know taking care of congenital heart defect is a lifelong condition that requires extensive treatment."

Despite the severity of his condition, Orris said he has no way of receiving any form of compensation or help from the Marine Corps or the government, even with evidence of that exposure.

“I have received absolutely nothing,” he said. “I have been denied any kind of benefit by the VA.”

According to VA, family members affected by the water contamination would only be eligible for VA health benefits if they have been diagnosed with any one of the 15 health conditions: esophageal cancer, breast cancer, kidney cancer, multiple myeloma, renal toxicity, female infertility, scleroderma, Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, lung cancer, bladder cancer, leukemia, Myelodysplastic syndromes, hepatic steatosis, miscarriage or neurobehavioral effects.

With the release of the study, Orris hopes the VA will be making changes to the list of diseases chosen as qualifiers.

**“We need to modify this law to match the science,” he said. “The science tells us that there are more illnesses and conditions that the law covers ... it’s a disservice particularly to people like me who have serious medical conditions yet is ineligible for any help.”**

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## **ANNIVERSARIES**

### **December 2, 1914: Courage In The Face Of The Enemy: One Member Of The German Parliament Votes Against Imperial War**



Karl Liebknecht

Carl Bunin Peace History Dec 26 - Dec 3

Karl Liebknecht was the only member of German Parliament to vote against war with France and Britain.

He was arrested shortly thereafter and conscripted into the German Army. Refusing to fight, Liebknecht served on the Eastern Front burying the dead.

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From: Spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk:

Karl Liebknecht, the son of Wilhelm Liebknecht, was born in Leipzig on 13th August, 1871. His father was one of Germany's leading socialists who helped form the Social Democratic Party in 1891.

Liebknecht studied law and political economy at Leipzig and Berlin where he was converted to the ideas of Karl Marx.

After serving with the Imperial Pioneer Guards in Potsdam (1893-94), Liebknecht worked as a lawyer in Westphalia before moving to Berlin in 1898.

Liebknecht became involved in smuggling socialist propaganda into Russia. He also defended others in court who had been arrested and tried for this offence.

Liebknecht also wrote extensively against militarism and this resulted in him being imprisoned for eighteen months in Glatz, Silesia.

In 1912 Liebknecht was elected to the Reichstag. On the left-wing of the Social Democratic Party, Liebknecht was one of the main opponents of the party's conservative leadership.

Liebknecht was opposed to Germany's participation in the First World War and at the end of 1914 joined with Rosa Luxemburg, Leo Jogiches, Paul Levi, Ernest Meyer, Franz Mehring and Clara Zetkin to establish an underground political organization called Spartakusbund (Spartacus League). The Spartacus League publicized its views in its illegal newspaper, Spartacus Letters.

**In January, 1915, Liebknecht, like the Bolsheviks in Russia, began arguing that socialists should turn this nationalist conflict into a revolutionary war.**

**He was arrested and then conscripted into the German Army. Refusing to fight, Liebknecht served on the Eastern Front burying the dead. His health deteriorated and in October, 1915, he was allowed to return to Germany.**

On 1st May, 1916, the Spartacus League decided to come out into the open and organized a demonstration against the First World War in Berlin. Several of its leaders, including Liebknecht were arrested and imprisoned.

They were not released until October, 1918, when Max von Baden granted an amnesty to all political prisoners.

In January, 1919, Liebknecht joined with Rosa Luxemburg, Leo Jogiches and Clara Zetkin in the Spartakist Rising that took place in Berlin.

Friedrich Ebert, the leader of the Social Democrat Party and Germany's new chancellor, called in the German Army and the Freikorps to bring an end to the rebellion. By 13th January the rebellion had been crushed and most of its leaders, including Liebknecht were arrested.

Karl Liebknecht was executed without trial on 15th January, 1919

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## **December 2, 1964: 10,000 Strike At UC Berkeley To Defend Free Speech Rights**



Jack Weinberg in police car.

Carl Bunin Peace History Nov 28 - Dec 4

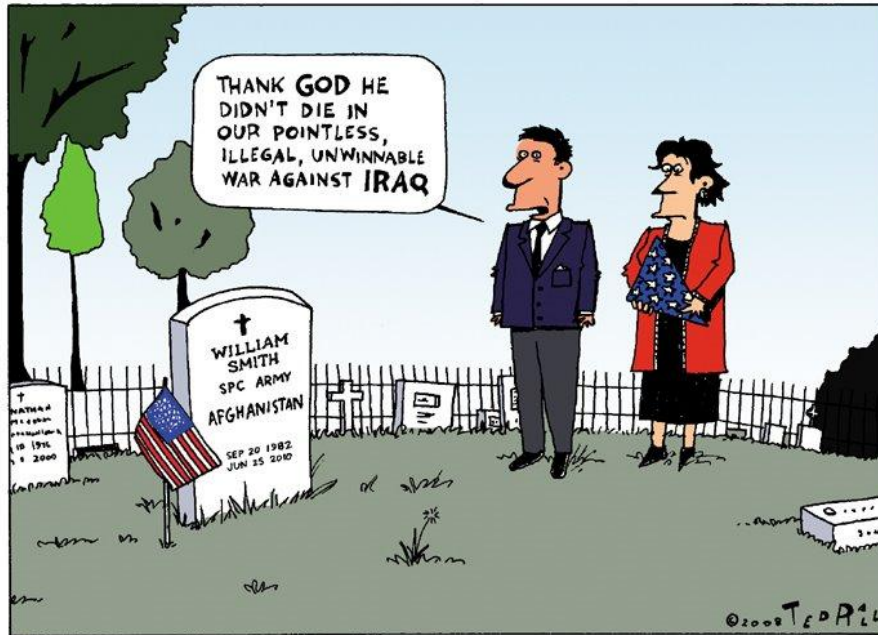
Thousands who were part of the Berkeley Free Speech Movement gathered on the steps of Sproul Hall, the administration building at that University of California campus, to protest four students being disciplined for distributing political literature; Joan Baez performed in support.

The next day, police arrested 773 who began a sit-in at Sproul Hall. 10,000 more students then went on strike and shut down the school.

**The Free Speech Movement had begun in October, when three thousand students surrounded a police car for 36 hours.**

Inside the car was a civil rights worker, Jack Weinberg, who had been arrested for distributing political literature on the UC-Berkeley campus.

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS

**Charges Dropped Against Man Beaten Unconscious By LAPD: "Alford's Head Bounced Off The Pavement After Each Blow"**

November 30, 2014 by Andrew Emmett, NationofChange

After reviewing the video of LAPD officers viciously beating an apprehended suspect unconscious, prosecutors decided to drop all charges against the man who recently filed a lawsuit alleging civil rights violations.

As the defendant's attorney announced plans to file a motion to release the footage of his arrest, prosecutors lost confidence in their ability to justify excessive police brutality.

Shortly after noon on October 16, Clinton Alford, Jr. was riding his bicycle home in South Los Angeles when a car pulled up behind him and the driver ordered him to stop. Since the man did not identify himself as a police officer, Alford continued pedaling until someone grabbed the back of his bike. Alford immediately jumped off his bike and fled.

While pursuing Alford on foot, officers used a Taser to subdue him. Without resisting, Alford fell onto the street and placed his hands behind his back.

Two officers restrained Alford as a patrol car pulled up alongside them.

**A uniformed officer identified as Richard Garcia exited the car and began kicking Alford in the head.**

Although Alford had already been placed in handcuffs, Officer Garcia allegedly used his elbows to strike the back of Alford's head and upper body. Alford's head bounced off the pavement after each blow. As the officers restraining Alford backed away, Garcia leaned one knee into the small of Alford's back while placing his other knee on Alford's neck.

Alford lost consciousness and a filling during the assault. The LAPD officers had to carry his limp body into the patrol car.

That's when the cops noticed the surveillance camera on a nearby building pointed at them. Garcia knocked on the door of the building until someone eventually opened it. The video, which has not been released to the public, ends with Garcia entering the building.

"I was just praying that they wouldn't kill me," recalled Alford. "I just closed my eyes and tried to hold on."

Alford was taken to the hospital where he received stitches and a head scan.

After charging him with resisting arrest and possessing rock cocaine for sale and for personal use, the LAPD released Alford of his own recognizance.

"They should have never filed it in the first place," said Alford's attorney Caree Harper who represented Marlene Pinnock, the homeless woman who settled for \$1.5 million after her beating by CHP Officer Daniel Andrew in July had been caught on tape and uploaded online.

"They filed (those charges) to cover up their unconstitutional felony battery on Mr. Alford."

According to the officers' attorney Gary Fullerton, the officers were attempting to locate a robbery suspect that fit Alford's description. In a case of mistaken identity, the cops pursued and arrested the wrong man. The officers have been placed on paid administrative leave.

"In broad daylight, the police feel emboldened enough to do these vicious acts of violating the suspect's rights before he has a right to get to court," stated Harper.

On November 14, Alford filed a federal lawsuit against the city, Police Chief Charlie Beck, and the five officers involved in his arrest. The LAPD has launched an internal investigation, while the department's independent inspector general has initiated a separate investigation. The district attorney's office is also looking into the incident.

"This investigation is ongoing, and there is still much that needs to be done to determine the facts of this matter," announced Chief Beck.

"But let me be very clear, any officer that is found to abuse the public is not welcome in this department, and we will apply whatever legal or administrative means necessary to ensure the community's trust without exception."

After Harper announced plans to file a motion on December 1 to release the footage of the incident, the prosecution abandoned any remaining hope and dropped all of the charges against Alford.

Because of pending investigations into the assault, Chief Beck has refused to release the video.

"I think if Chief Charlie Beck wants to be transparent, the chief will release it," Harper said. "He has the power to do so, no matter what he says. If he wants to be transparent, he will release it."

In light of recent events surrounding the grand jury's decision in Ferguson and the massive arrests of hundreds of L.A. protestors this week, Chief Beck will not be releasing the video any time soon.

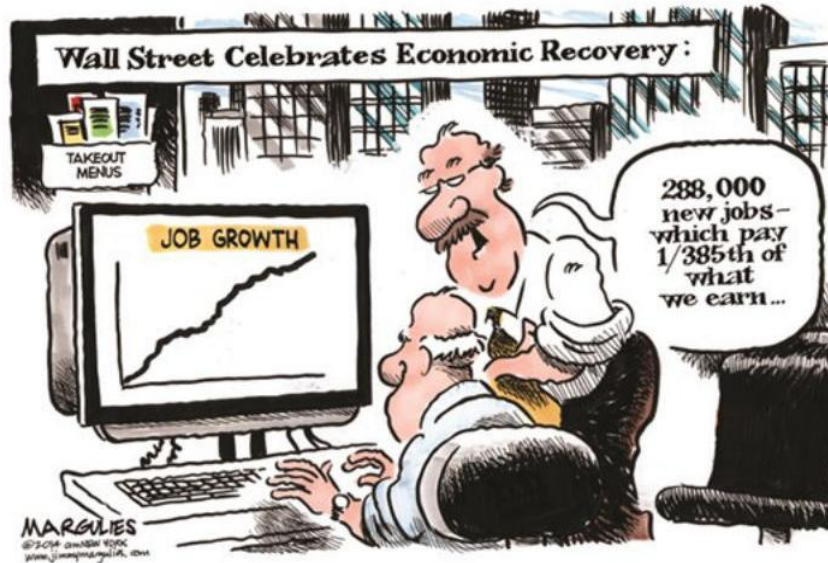
"I'm just happy just to see my son is alive," declared Alford's mother, Valerie Washington.

But she added, "You almost killed my baby."

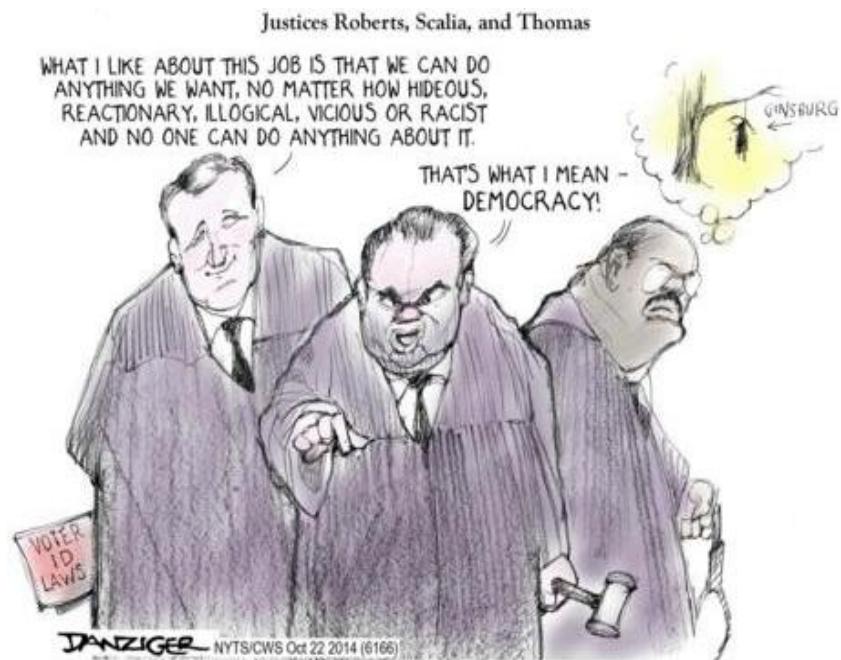
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