

Military Resistance 13A1



[Thanks to Frank M, who sent this in.]

**“The War In Afghanistan Is
Technically Over, Though It
Certainly Doesn’t Feel That
Way:**

**Obama Says “Our Combat Mission
In Afghanistan Is Ending”**

**“He Did Not Mention His
Announcement Earlier In December
That He Would Stray From His Initial
Plan To Withdraw All Combat Forces**

From Afghanistan By The End Of This Year”

“The Afghan Taliban Offer A Different Perspective: “The Demoralized American-Built Forces Will Constantly Be Dealt Defeats Just Like Their Masters”

Dec. 30, 2014 By Paul D. Shinkman, U.S. News [Excerpts]

In January 2014 one of the top U.S. commanders in Afghanistan offered a grim prediction on the dangers facing his forces this year.

The Taliban will conduct “high-profile, spectacular attacks,” said Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, the commander of International Security Assistance Force Joint Command, in an attempt to explain why so many more Afghan troops were dying as they took on the mantle previously borne by America and its allies.

“I would expect additional attacks like that. They’ve been doing it all summer.”

His insights proved remarkably prescient now that the war in Afghanistan is technically over, though it certainly doesn’t feel that way.

ISAF in Afghanistan formally ended “Operation Enduring Freedom” this week, to begin “Operation Freedom’s Sentinel” for what the U.S. considers a new mission there.

Roughly 9,800 U.S. soldiers and 3,000 allied troops remain in the country, home to America’s longest war after almost 14 years of conflict.

However, insurgent bombers continue to conduct devastating attacks, including within the supposed relative safe haven of Kabul, the capital.

New leader President Ashraf Ghani has still not been able to navigate his power sharing agreement with rival turned second-in-command Abdullah Abdullah and fully fill his cabinet. Corruption is at an all-time high.

Local leaders fear the creeping influence of the Islamic State group. And the Taliban, with which the Afghan government and U.S. partners may have to negotiate in coming years, declared this week the American-led coalition had failed in its endeavors, earning it victory over the foreign invaders.

"For more than 13 years, ever since nearly 3,000 innocent lives were taken from us on 9/11, our nation has been at war in Afghanistan," President Barack Obama said in an address on Sunday.

"Now, thanks to the extraordinary sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, our combat mission in Afghanistan is ending, and the longest war in American history is coming to a responsible conclusion."

He did not mention his announcement earlier in December that he would stray from his initial plan to withdraw all combat forces from Afghanistan by the end of this year. Obama's fourth-quarter audible will give his top military officials on the ground there the option to deploy U.S. forces on missions if absolutely necessary.

It's remains unclear whether Obama will follow through on his target of roughly 4,500 troops by the end of 2015, down to zero the following year just before he leaves the White House.

But it certainly demonstrates the realities of modern warfare that are influencing the White House, whether in the form of growing advice among current and former combat commanders that the U.S. needs more time and manpower to support the fragile Afghan fighting force.

Or perhaps Obama saw the situation in nearby Iraq, from which the U.S. withdrew all forces in 2011, only to watch from afar as the local government centralized power along ethnic lines and cleared a path for the Islamic State group to march on Baghdad earlier this year.

Dangers in and around Kabul have been exacerbated by a spike in Taliban attacks, a rare occurrence outside of the usual fighting season in the warmer months when fighters leave the shelter of their homes.

The Pentagon's top spokesman recently disregarded this fact as merely incidental amid the fanfare of the U.S. withdrawal.

"We would not consider what they're doing a resurgence," said Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby at a briefing on Dec. 2. Such spikes in attacks are not atypical around major events, such as elections, he said.

His counterparts in the Afghan Taliban offer a different perspective.

"ISAF rolled up its flag in an atmosphere of failure and disappointment without having achieved anything substantial or tangible," said Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid in an emailed statement on Monday, reports Reuters.

He promised the hardline extremist group that first came to power in the 1990s would overthrow the U.S.-backed government, adding, "the demoralized American-built forces will constantly be dealt defeats just like their masters."

The Afghan army will have to "be more than tactics," ISAF's Milley said in January, saying its soldiers needed the critical skills the U.S. still has to provide for them, such as logistics, intelligence and medical support.

If the Taliban follows through on their plans, that may be the least of their problems.

MORE:

Afghanistan: A Look Back On America's Longest War; "The President Assures Veterans And Their Families That Our Country Is Safer For Their Sacrifices And Offers Everyone Listening A Coupon To Denny's"



January 1, 2015 by Juice Box, The Duffle Blog

KABUL – With the stroke of midnight last night marking the end of NATO's joint combat mission in Afghanistan, Duffel Blog looks back on 13 roller-coaster years of history that gripped a nation and forged a generation of American heroes and FOBBITs:

November 2001: Aided by US Special Forces and a coalition bombing campaign, Northern Alliance fighters sweep Afghanistan and uproot the Taliban from Mazar-e-Sharif, Bamiyan, Herat, Kabul, and Jalalabad – so basically nowhere we've ever heard of.

December 2001: Osama Bin Laden located in Tora Bora, which clears that up.

March 2002: The coalition scores a net victory with Operation Anaconda, but that's not cheering anyone up when Peter Jackson's *The Lord Of The Rings: The Fellowship Of The Ring* suffers a harrowing defeat at the 74th Oscars to that Russell Crowe suckfest, *A Beautiful Mind*.

March 2003: Troops shocked and awed at how shitty the food around here's gotten all of a sudden.

May 2003: From Kabul, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld declares an end to "major combat" operations, which is embarrassing, because that speech was meant for Baghdad.

October 2004: Afghans flock to the polls for the first time since that hazy summer of 1969. Says one nostalgic voter, "What a long, strange trip it's been."

2005: No news is good news, so that thing in Afganistan (sp?) must be going great.

2006: ???

May 2007: The top Taliban commander for Afghanistan, Mullah Dadullah, is killed in Helmand Province, demonstrating once and for all the indomitable might of coalition air superiority and top-of-the-line weapons technology over a man with one leg.

Mid-2008: With civilian casualties from coalition airstrikes mounting, Afghan President Hamid Karzai implores American officials that his people have endured enough freedom.

November 11, 2008: Taylor Swift drops *Fearless*, and we're in love.

2009: Under a new counterinsurgency strategy, troop levels surge to an all-time high for the war. That's 142,000 problems for the folks in J-6, who will spend deployment asking, "Have you tried turning it off and on again?"

November 2009: With *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2*, Activision brings real Afghan action to living rooms everywhere. So grab a remote and hup two, soldier! There's a war on!

June 2010: US Army golden boy and future City University of New York professor Gen. David Petraeus replaces "Runaway" Gen. Stanley McChrystal amid scandal.

May 1, 2011: Gah!! He was in Pakistan?! All this time?!? Our Garmins were way off ...

2012: Attacks on coalition forces by Afghan military counterparts — so-called "green on blue" attacks — emerge as a prominent and alarming Taliban tactic. "Which is weird," says a Pentagon representative, "because that's not what we trained them to do."

February 2012: US troops at Bagram burn some Qurans, but who will notice? Oh, no, wait. A bunch of fucking people die for this one.

March 2012: Preliminary peace talks between United States and Taliban representatives in Qatar are suspended suddenly, when Taliban representatives learn they're involved in preliminary peace talks with the United States.

2013: We're new here, but can someone please explain all this construction on base? Are those stairs made of fucking marble?!

Mid-2013: As Afghans officially take the lead on nationwide security, ISAF gifts state-of-the-art command centers to local police and military forces. Swell news for the Afghans, who were really hurting for some copper wire and a few good corners to shit in.

April 5, 2014: Blood, sweat, and some \$700 billion USD spent in Afghanistan since 2001 have all set the conditions for a make-or-break presidential election between who and who, again?

Now keep it down. We're watching Game Of Thrones.

December 28, 2014: The NATO ceremony bringing a formal end to 13 years of war is carried out in secret, due to the threat of Taliban attacks in the Afghan capital.

We are not making this up; 2014 was the bloodiest year in Afghanistan since 2001. Womp womp.

December 28, 2014: President Obama hails the "responsible conclusion" to America's longest war.

"Responsible, like calling a cab when you've had too much to drink," he explains. The President assures veterans and their families that our country is safer for their sacrifices and offers everyone listening a coupon to Denny's.

January 1, 2015: Approximately 10,800 American troops remain in Afghanistan, roughly the same number as in parts of 2002, 2003, and 2004, when we were at war.

Happy New Year, and welcome home.

Mostly.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

All French Troops Go Home: No More Afghanistan

31 December 2014 By RFI

The last French troops in Afghanistan held a ceremony in Kabul on Wednesday to mark the end of their deployment there.

About 150 French soldiers who had been helping run the military airport handed over responsibility to a Turkish unit which will operate under the new NATO mission.

France, which withdrew all its combat troops from the country two years ago, lost 89 soldiers and saw 700 injured in the war, which began in 2001.

The foreign force next year will consist of the 12,500-strong NATO mission, most of them US troops, and a US counter-terrorism operation outside the NATO remit, though final numbers remain unclear.

Regime Police Rape 12–Year-Old: “The ALP Forces Harass The People Instead To Ensure Their Safety” “In Most Cases, The ALP Personnel Misbehaved And Threaten The People”

30 December 2014 Written by Shakeela Ibrahimkhail, TOLONews

A twelve-year-old girl has been allegedly raped by the Afghan Local Police (ALP) forces in Nijrab district of northeastern Kapisa, the local elders said.

Breaking down in tears, her father Abdul Basir claimed six local policemen came into their home at midnight and raped her daughter.

"We appeal to President to bring these armed men into justice," Basir said.

The family of the victim and the tribal elders, who have come to Kabul for justice, demanded the government to bring the rapists to justice.

Protesting before the Parliament on Tuesday, the Nijrab elders complained the ALP forces harass the people instead to ensure their safety.

The victim's relatives claimed that in most cases, the ALP personnel misbehaved and threaten the people.

They warned to avenge this inhumane act themselves if the government doesn't try the culprits.

"Some powerful groups are also behind these forces," tribal elder Abdul Qadeer claimed.

The protestors called on the government to award death penalty to the rapists same as the Paghman rapists were hanged to death in Kabul.

The Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOI) spokesman Sediq Sediqi admitted the incident, saying three people have been detained in this regard.

Former Insurgents Surrendering To The Regime Ambushed By Current Insurgents: Commander Killed

December 31, 2014 Xinhua

A 200-strong group of militants intending to surrender to the authorities came under attack in northern Afghanistan's Jawzjan province on Wednesday, police said.

"Some 200 Taliban militants were going to lay down arms and surrender to the government in Jawzjan province was ambushed by a group of Taliban in Qush Tapa district this morning, as a result five were killed and nine others injured," a police officer Abdul Manan Raufi told reporters.

A local former Taliban commander Qari Alutfullah who wanted to lay down arms is among those killed in the attack, said the officer.

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 past year – every single day of it – has had its consequences. In the obscure depths of society, an imperceptible molecular process has been occurring irreversibly, like the flow of time, a process of accumulating discontent, bitterness, and revolutionary energy.
-- Leon Trotsky, “Up To The Ninth Of January”**

Auld Lang Syne

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: January 01, 2014
Subject: Auld Lang Syne

Written by Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

Auld Lang Syne

**Joe knows he shouldn’t do it
but then he does it
takes an OxyContin for pain
the wound on the outside
doesn’t hurt anymore
but the wounds on the inside
are driving him crazy
so he takes the big white pill
with a swig from his beer
to take the pain away
grabs his remote & turns on
the game on TV**

he knew it was wrong when
during his 15 month stop-loss
the invisible enemy were
blowing up the Solders
so out of frustration
he started killing civilians
just to make it even
but now dancing in front of him
were the men women and children
as he pops another beer
to make it all go away then
he remembers his buddy John
just in front of him
stepping on a land mine
blowing both of his legs off
along with his cock and balls
taking his manhood away
but the game doesn't stop
the memories after Auld Lang Syne
and Happy New Year
when another Soldier friend
is blown against a rock wall
by the concussion of a bomb
and his brain will never be the same
Joe remembers forever
picking up the pieces of bodies
and putting them in black
body bags after a suicide
bomber blew up his car
but now the big white pill
is kicking in
and existence is much better
this way

written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

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: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

“Wars Have Always Been Waged For Plunder”



Canton, Ohio June 16, 1918

October 25, 2002 Socialistworker.org

DURING THE First World War, Socialist Party leader Eugene V. Debs gave a powerful antiwar speech on June 16, 1918, in Canton, Ohio.

Unlike many leading socialists in Europe and the U.S., who fell in line behind their governments, Debs joined a handful of revolutionaries, including the Bolsheviks of Russia, in taking an antiwar stand.

Debs was tried and sentenced to 10 years in prison for speaking out in Canton. Yet in 1920, he ran for president on the Socialist Party ticket for a fifth time--and got 1 million votes.

Here, we reproduce excerpts from Debs' Canton speech.

“Wars Have Always Been Waged For Plunder”

June 16, 1918 By Eugene Debs, Speech at Canton, Ohio [Excerpts]

I HAVE just returned from a visit over yonder [the Canton prison], where three of our most loyal comrades are paying the penalty for their devotion to the cause of the working class.

They have come to realize, as many of us have, that it is extremely dangerous to exercise the constitutional right of free speech in a country fighting to make democracy safe in the world...

[T]he gentry who are today wrapped up in the American flag, who shout their claim from the housetops that they are the only patriots, and who have their magnifying glasses in hand, [are] scanning the country for evidence of disloyalty, eager to apply the brand of treason to the men who dare to even whisper their opposition to Junker rule in the United States.

No wonder Sam Johnson declared that “patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel.” He must have had this Wall Street gentry in mind, or at least their prototypes--for in every age it has been the tyrant, the oppressor and the exploiter who has wrapped himself in the cloak of patriotism or religion or both, to deceive and overawe the people...

Wars throughout history have been waged for conquest and plunder. In the Middle Ages, when the feudal lords who inhabited the castles whose towers may still be seen along the Rhine concluded to enlarge their domains, to increase their power, their prestige and their wealth, they declared war upon one another.

But they themselves did not go to war any more than the modern feudal lords, the barons of Wall Street, go to war. The feudal barons of the Middle Ages--the economic predecessors of the capitalists of our day--declared all wars. And their miserable serfs fought all the battles.

The poor, ignorant serfs had been taught to revere their masters--to believe that when their masters declared war upon one another, it was their patriotic duty to fall upon one another and to cut one another's throats for the profit and glory of the lords and barons, who held them in contempt.

And that is war in a nutshell. The master class has always declared the wars; the subject class has always fought the battles. The master class has had all to gain and nothing to lose, while the subject class has had nothing to gain and all to lose--especially their lives.

They have always taught and trained you to believe it to be your patriotic duty to go to war and to have yourselves slaughtered at their command. But in all the history of the world, you, the people, have never had a voice in declaring war, and strange as it certainly appears, no war by any nation in any age has ever been declared by the people.

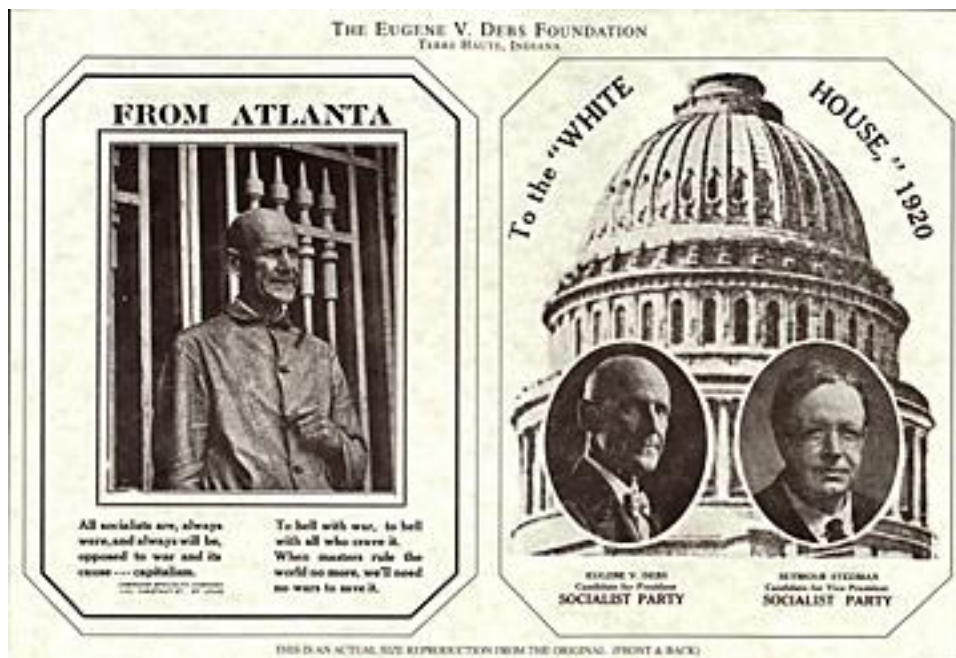
And here let me emphasize the fact--and it cannot be repeated too often--that the working class that fights all the battles, the working class that makes the supreme sacrifices, the working class that freely sheds its blood and furnishes the corpses, has never yet had a voice in either declaring war or making peace.

It is the ruling class that invariably does both. They alone declare war and they alone make peace. “Yours not to reason why; Yours but to do and die.” That is their motto, and we object on the part of the awakening workers of this nation.

If war is right, let it be declared by the people. You who have your lives to lose--you certainly above all others have the right to decide the momentous issue of war or peace...

You need at this time especially to know that you are fit for something better than slavery and cannon fodder. You need to know that you were not created to work and produce and impoverish yourself to enrich an idle exploiter...

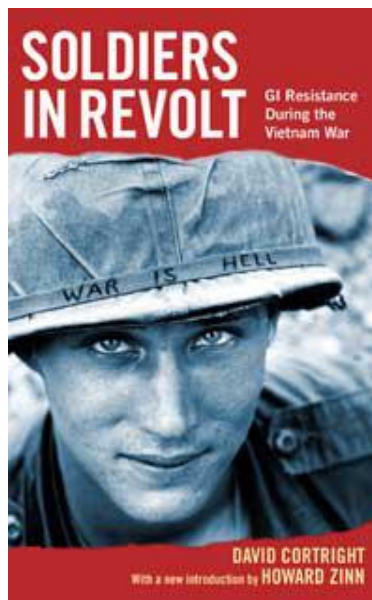
And now for all of us to do our duty! The clarion call is ringing in our ears and we cannot falter without being convicted of treason to ourselves and to our great cause. Do not worry over the charge of treason to your masters, but be concerned about the treason that involves yourselves. Be true to yourself and you cannot be a traitor to any good cause on earth.



Debs was tried and sentenced to 10 years in prison for speaking out in Canton. Yet in 1920, he ran for president on the Socialist Party ticket for a fifth time--and got 1 million votes.

How To Stop A War: **“On April 27 [1968] A Group Of Forty Active-Duty People Marched At The Head Of An Anti-War Demonstration**

In San Francisco, The First Time GIs Led A Civilian Peace Rally” “On February 16, 1969, The Alliance Sponsored A Peace Rally In Downtown Seattle, With Two Hundred Active- Duty People Leading A Crowd Of Several Thousand”



[No, they didn”t go to DC begging the Imperial Congress to stop the war. They weren”t fools. They knew that when the army rebelled, the war would end. They did, and it did. T]

Excerpts from: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975. **[Reprint available from Haymarket Books]**

The young people forced into the ranks by the Vietnam build-up expressed a sometimes articulate, sometimes desperate, opposition to an unwanted mission.

The GI movement imbued the military with the voice of a troubled citizenry, providing a measure of democratic restraint on though otherwise unresponsive and imperious institutions of war.

The appearance of coffeehouses and a burgeoning GI press, in an atmosphere of mounting disillusionment over stalemate in Vietnam, set the stage for the first significant GI action.

The Army's huge armored training center at Fort Hood experienced a particularly rapid deterioration of troop morale, especially among combat returnees, and throughout the Vietnam period witnessed extensive unrest and drug use (the base's copious marijuana supplies earned it the sobriquet "Fort Head").

The civilians who opened the Oleo Strut in the summer of 1968 thus met with an enthusiastic response; with the founding of Fatigue Press, a long history of successful GI activism began.

The first political gathering of Fort Hood soldiers occurred in Killeen on July 5, 1968.

A "Love-In" and countercultural festival was held in Condor Park, featuring rock music and anti-war speeches; approximately two hundred soldiers attended, most of them white.

The atmosphere at the base grew considerably tenser in the following weeks, however, as thousands of troops were prepared for possible use against civilian demonstrators at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago — culminating in a dramatic and important act of political defiance among black troops.

On the evening of August 23, over one hundred black soldiers from the 1st Armored Cavalry Division gathered on base to discuss their opposition to Army racism and the use of troops against civilians.

After a lengthy, all-night assembly, which included a visit from commanding general Powell, forty-three of the blacks were arrested for refusal to follow orders.

The action of the blacks was spontaneous and unrelated to the work of the white soldiers (reflecting a common pattern of parallel but separate development of dissent among blacks and whites), but the Oleo Strut GIs supported the brothers and helped with their legal defense.

Because of widespread support for the resisters, especially among blacks, the Army's treatment of the Fort Hood 43 was not as harsh as it might have been; most received only light jail sentences.

The San Francisco Bay Area has been in the vanguard of most of the radical movements in the United States during the past decade, and the GI movement was no exception.

With the support of two local GI newspapers, The Ally and Task Force, area servicepeople were among the first to speak out in 1968.

On April 27 a group of forty active-duty people marched at the head of an anti-war demonstration in San Francisco, the first time GIs led a civilian peace rally.

Two months later, also in San Francisco, nine AWOL enlisted men (five soldiers, two sailors, one airman, and one Marine) publicly took sanctuary at Howard Presbyterian Church in moral opposition to the war. After a forty-eight-hour “service of celebration and communion,” they were arrested by MPs on July 17.

In the fall, the growing network of GI activists in the area laid plans for the largest servicemen’s peace action to date — an active-duty contingent for the scheduled October is anti-war rally in downtown San Francisco.

Among the efforts to mobilize area soldiers and distribute literature about the march was Navy nurse Susan Schnall’s daring feat of dropping leaflets from an airplane onto five area military bases (for which she was later court-martialed).

As the demonstration date approached, military authorities became nervous that a large number of GIs might become involved, and, in a manner that became standard whenever protests were planned, sought to prevent servicemen from attending.

A communication from the Military Airlift Command in Washington, later anonymously released to *The Ally*, depicted the military’s attitude toward even lawful dissent: it urged that “this demonstration be quashed if possible because of possible severe impact on military discipline throughout the services.”

On the Saturday of the actual march, soldiers at the nearby Presidio were detained for mandatory company formations, while special maneuvers and other diversions were held at several West Coast bases.

Despite such obstruction, two hundred active-duty GIs and some one hundred reservists marched at the head of the demonstration, in what was the largest gathering yet of the expanding GI movement.

Two days later, in an incident partly inspired by the show of antiwar strength on October 12, twenty-seven inmates of the Presidio stockade held a sit-down strike to protest the shooting death a few days earlier of fellow prisoner Richard Bunch and to call attention to unbearable living conditions—what became known later as the Presidio mutiny. (For a sensitive and penetrating account of the Presidio incident see Fred Gardner’s *Unlawful Concert*.)

As the GI movement emerged, civilian radical organizations played an important role in helping to sustain rank-and-file dissent. One of the first agencies to recognize the changes taking place within the Army was the Student Mobilization Committee (SMC) and its closely allied counterpart, the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA).

One of the first examples of this co-operation was the GI-Civilian Alliance for Peace (GI-CAP) and the newspaper Counterpoint at Fort Lewis.

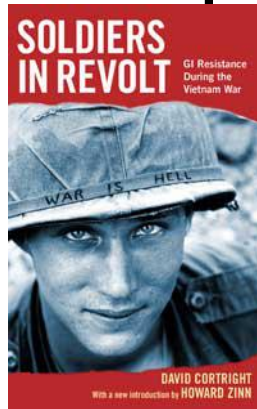
Aided by SMC activists, GI-CAP developed into one of the most successful early GI-movement groups, with as many as fifty servicemen at regular weekly meetings.

On February 16, 1969, the Alliance sponsored a peace rally in downtown Seattle, with two hundred active- duty people leading a crowd of several thousand.

A few months later, the servicemen formed their own organization apart from the civilians and continued their work as an all GI group.

MORE:

**FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY:
A Vietnam Soldier Wrote The Book All
About How An Armed Forces Rebellion
Stopped An Imperial War**



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York

**[CIVILIANS: \$16 INCLUDING POSTAGE:
BUY ONE FOR A FRIEND/RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE.
CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO: THE MILITARY
PROJECT]**

**Requests from active duty or
orders from civilians to:
Military Resistance
Box 126
2576 Broadway
New York, N.Y.
10025-5657**

Army Realizes It Left Troops in Kosovo: “The Nearly 14-Year-Long Operation Enduring Clusterfuck In Iraq And Afghanistan That Kicked Off In Late 2001 Overshadowed The Kosovo Mission”



A soldier in Kosovo asks "what the hell are we doing here?" during a town hall meeting with senior leaders. (Photo Credit: US Army)

Dec. 6, 2014 by Dirk Diggler, Duffel Blog

PRISTINA, KOSOVO — During a recent trip to visit U.S. troops in Iraq, Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey was suddenly reminded of the U.S. military’s 15-year mission in Kosovo while glancing at a commercial on the American Forces Network, Duffel Blog has learned.

“All of a sudden, this commercial aired on AFN, saying that KFOR [Kosovo Force] was “ready and relevant” in the 21st Century. And I”m like “what the hell, we still have troops there?”

U.S. troops first arrived in Kosovo in 1999, when Bill Clinton was still president and the Spice Girls were still together.

While it would be years before “Here Comes Honey Boo Boo” would air on television, the American public was, fortunately, not required to express any interest in military action, as a major sex scandal rocked the Clinton White House the previous year.

“Kosovo? Man, I haven”t thought of that since, well, since Britney Spears still had her original tits!” Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno remarked, when asked about the enduring mission of U.S. troops in KFOR.

Kosovo was in the throes of a major humanitarian crisis in the late 1990s, following massive “ethnic cleansing” by the Serbian government and a NATO-led bombing campaign which culminated in a cease-fire.

But the nearly 14-year-long Operation Enduring Clusterfuck in Iraq and Afghanistan that kicked off in late 2001 overshadowed the Kosovo mission, however.

That is not to say that Kosovo completely disappeared from public view. In 2013, Lt. Col. Andrew Stephens, a logistics officer in the 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, mentioned his sole deployment to Kosovo at every opportunity — and was frequently met with eye-rolling from veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2012, soldiers from the Georgia National Guard made headlines when their entire company was evicted from Kosovo following a massive hazing ring.

“It appears they got pretty bored and resorted to hazing,” said one Army officer who spoke on condition of anonymity, although why he needed to be anonymous to discuss a mission no one gives a shit about was unclear. “I mean, it’s Kosovo, what else were they going to do?”

When queried about the activities of U.S. forces in KFOR, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel could only respond, “Basically, KFOR’s been spending the last 15 years making AFN commercials about how relevant they think they are.”

“But honestly, if you have to make an AFN commercial about how important you are ... we can probably do without you,” he added.

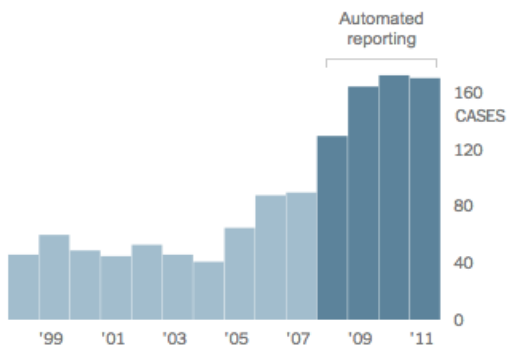
CLASS WAR REPORTS

**Police Have A Higher Domestic
Violence Rate Than Everyone
Else:
“At Least 40% Of Police Officer
Families Experience Domestic
Violence”**

“Not Only Is Domestic Violence By Police Officers Ignored By The Criminal Justice System, It Is Condoned And, At Times, Even Rewarded”

Cases reported to Florida state officials

Since Florida required the arrest of a police or corrections officer to be reported to the state automatically, it has received twice the number of domestic abuse complaints against them.

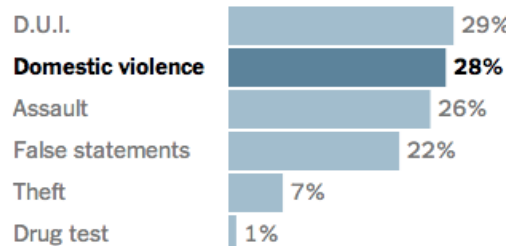


Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement database. Data for 2012 is incomplete. Notations in the database sometimes indicate that a domestic violence offense may not be domestic; others note that assaults or other offenses are domestic. An analysis by The New York Times shows these data inaccuracies do not affect the overall trends.

How often officers keep their jobs

Between 2008 and 2012, more than a quarter of Florida law enforcement officers accused of domestic violence were still certified and working at the same agency one year after the complaint.

PERCENTAGE OF OFFICERS CERTIFIED AND WORKING ONE YEAR LATER



December 25th, 2014 By Marcie Blanco, PopularResistance.Org [Excerpts]

In families of police officers, domestic violence is two-to-four times more likely than in the general population — from stalking and harassment to sexual assault and even homicide.

As the National Center for Women and Policing notes, two studies have found that at least 40% of police officer families experience domestic violence, in contrast to 10% of families in the general population.

America's police domestic abuse problem was on full display in Monday's horrific murder of Valerie Morrow, who police say was shot to death by her ex-boyfriend, Stephen Rozniakowski, a Philadelphia-area police officer. Morrow, 40, had just been granted a protection from abuse order against Rozniakowski, who had been charged with 75 counts of stalking.

After Rozniakowski reportedly resigned from his job Monday, police say he kicked open the door to Morrow's home, shot her to death and wounded her teenage daughter before being apprehended at the scene.

There is an epidemic of domestic violence by police officers: In the last two weeks, a Cleveland police officer was arrested for stalking and domestic violence, and officers in New Jersey and New York were charged in domestic violence cases.

A 2013 Bowling Green State University study, through news searches, tallied 324 cases of reported officer domestic violence. It is likely that this number is a gross underestimate, because as the National Center for Women and Policing has detailed, officers frequently cover for each other.

“A big part of police culture is the code of silence,” Diane Wetendorf, author of *Police Domestic Violence: Handbook for Victims*, told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. “The prosecutors depend on police for their cases, the police depend on each other — it’s a very insulated system,”

A September analysis on officer domestic violence by the Atlantic explains how cases come to be underreported.

It’s not just that women are more intimidated to report domestic violence because their attackers are officers and worry that nobody will believe them; it’s that officers adjudicate the entire process on an informal level.

“Cops “typically handle cases of police family violence informally, often without an official report, investigation, or even check of the victim’s safety,”” the Atlantic’s Conor Friedersdorf writes, quoting a study from the National Center for Women and Policing. ““Even officers who are found guilty of domestic violence are unlikely to be fired, arrested or referred for prosecution.””

From underreporting by victims and colleagues to informal investigations, this means that available statistics only hint at the pervasive violence perpetrated by the people who are paid to protect and serve us. If evidence from a 2007 change in reporting arrests of Florida officers is any indication, reported cases of officer domestic violence would double.

Unfortunately there is no solution to this solution in sight, because this epidemic is systemic.

Underreporting is a symptom of the fact that officers are rarely criminalized or even fired from their jobs even though, like Rozniakowski, their criminal history is well-documented.

In fact, as the Atlantic and other sources observe, not only are these officers not fired, many of them receive promotions.

This evidence suggests that not only is domestic violence by police officers ignored by the criminal justice system, it is condoned and, at times, even rewarded.

But available statistics prove one thing:

The criminal justice system needs to readjust its focus. Instead of policing the general public, it needs to turn inward to police itself first, before it can claim to “protect and serve” in the truest sense of justice.

Florida Crowd Forms To Protect Man Police Try To Arrest For Smoking Marijuana: ““They Formed This Shield And Started To Get Aggressive,” One Of The Officers Said” “The Next Thing They Know, There”s 70 To 75 People Out There”

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

December 31, 2014 By Zaid Jilani, AlterNet

In addition to the mass protests nationwide against police brutality, incidents where ordinary citizens speak up, start recording and attempt to intervene when they see excessive and abusive cop behavior are being reported more frequently.

Earlier this month in New York City, a woman angrily denounced police who were beating an already restrained teenage boy as others made sure to film the incident to hold the plainclothes officer accountable.

It is possible that the assembled and outraged crowd prevented further abuse, and with the help of the cellphone video, the cop faced at least some discipline from the department.

This past weekend in Delray Beach, Florida, dozens of people quickly organized to stop what they believed to be a petty and unnecessary arrest.

That night, Delray Police entered a neighborhood after seeing a man walking down the street smoking.

The officers thought the smoke smelled like marijuana, so they decided to pursue the man.

When the man entered a home nearby, the police followed and tried to apprehend him. They were surprised when about 20 people came out of the home and surrounded the man to prevent the arrest from taking place.

“They formed this shield and started to get aggressive,” one of the officers said.

“The next thing they know, there’s 70 to 75 people out there,” another officer who was on the scene reportedly said. “The officers had to use pepper spray to get the people back.”

The crowd grew rowdy, and at some point an object was hurled at the windshield of a police cruiser. By the end of the night police had detained four people, on charges including inciting a riot.

The incident could foretell greater citizen intervention against what they perceive to be abusive and unnecessary policing and shows the urgency of reining in the over-criminalization of American life.

School Basketballers Win Fight To Wear “I Can’t Breathe” T-Shirts: “California School District On Monday Reversed A Basketball Tournament’s Ban”



Photo: Chris Calder/Fort Bragg Advocate News/AP

31 December 14 The Associated Press

California school district on Monday reversed a basketball tournament’s ban on T-shirts reading “I can’t breathe” and said it would allow high school players to wear the shirts during warm-ups as long as they do not cause problems, lawyers said.

With backing from school officials, last week Bruce Triplett, the athletic director at Fort Bragg High School told the boys’ and girls’ teams from Mendocino High School they could not compete in the three-day event if they wore the shirts — inspired by the last words of Eric Garner, the New York man who died after an officer put him in a chokehold

— at the tournament. The two Mendocino varsity teams first wore the shirts before a Dec. 16 game against Fort Bragg.

Karen Boyd, a First Amendment lawyer who represents one of the players, said the reversal by the Fort Bragg School District came just moments before she intended to file a federal court motion arguing that banning the shirts violated the free speech rights of student-athletes.

Spectators will also be allowed to wear the shirts, and several did as the tournament got underway Monday at Fort Bragg High School, Boyd said. "This is always my preference, if we can get things worked out without a lot of court stuff," she said.

School district lawyer Patrick Wilson said Fort Bragg officials wanted to avoid the cost of a legal battle but remained concerned the shirts could cause a disruption in the community, which is still mourning a sheriff's deputy killed in the line of duty in March.

"The concern is, you are in a packed auditorium, this is a polarizing issue, and it's about something that happened in New York," Wilson said. "I think it's fine for people to protest about it, but emotions are still raw in that area."

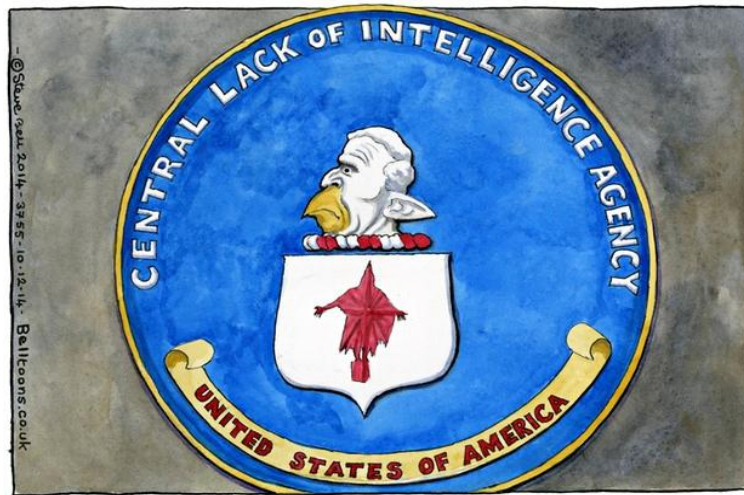
Before the district reversed its decision, Triplett reinstated the Mendocino boys' team after all but one of the players agreed to forgo the shirts. It played its first game of the tournament on Monday morning and has two more games scheduled. Too few members of the girls' team accepted the condition, and another high school was invited to take its place, Boyd said.

Professional basketball players such as LeBron James, Derrick Rose and Kyrie Irving have worn "I can't breathe" shirts during warm-ups without repercussions from the NBA.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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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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