

Military Resistance 13A8

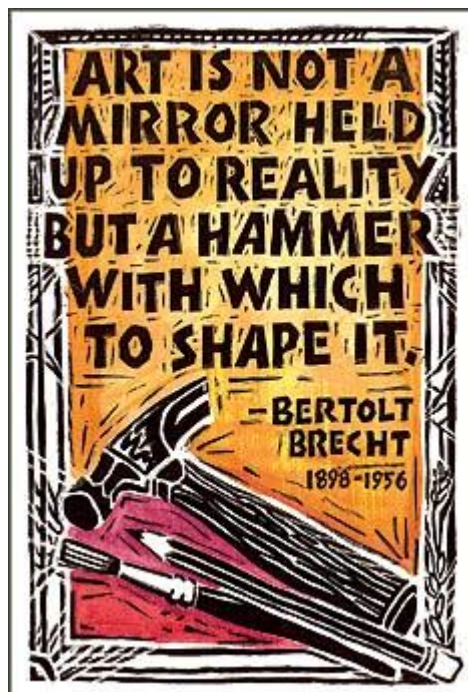
**WHEN IT COMES TO MARCHING
MANY DO NOT
KNOW**

**That their enemy is marching at their
head.**

**The voice which gives them their
orders**

**Is their enemy's voice and
The man who speaks of the enemy
Is the enemy himself.**

[Bertolt Brecht]



From: A German War Primer
By Bertolt Brecht

THOSE WHO TAKE THE MEAT FROM THE TABLE

Teach contentment.

Those for whom the contribution is destined

Demand sacrifice.

Those who eat their fill speak to the hungry

Of wonderful times to come.

Those who lead the country into the abyss

Call ruling too difficult

For ordinary men.

WHEN THE LEADERS SPEAK OF PEACE

The common folk know

That war is coming.

When the leaders curse war

The mobilization order is already written out.

**THOSE AT THE TOP SAY: PEACE
AND WAR**

Are of different substance.

But their peace and their war

Are like wind and storm.

War grows from their peace

Like son from his mother

He bears

Her frightful features.

Their war kills

Whatever their peace

Has left over.

ON THE WALL WAS CHALKED:

They want war.

The man who wrote it

Has already fallen.

THOSE AT THE TOP SAY:

This way to glory.

Those down below say:

This way to the grave.

THE WAR WHICH IS COMING

Is not the first one. There were

Other wars before it.
When the last one came to an end
There were conquerors and conquered.
Among the conquered the common people
Starved. Among the conquerors
The common people starved too.

THOSE AT THE TOP SAY COMRADESHIP
Reigns in the army.
The truth of this is seen
In the cookhouse.
In their hearts should be
The selfsame courage. But
On their plates
Are two kinds of rations.

**WHEN IT COMES TO MARCHING MANY DO NOT
KNOW**
That their enemy is marching at their head.
The voice which gives them their orders
Is their enemy's voice and
The man who speaks of the enemy
Is the enemy himself.

IT IS NIGHT
The married couples
Lie in their beds. The young women
Will bear orphans.

GENERAL, YOUR TANK IS A POWERFUL VEHICLE
It smashes down forests and crushes a hundred men.
But it has one defect:
It needs a driver.

General, your bomber is powerful.
It flies faster than a storm and carries more than an elephant.
But it has one defect:
It needs a mechanic.

General, man is very useful.
He can fly and he can kill.
But he has one defect:
He can think.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Marines Sent Back To Obama's Imperial Slaughterhouse: “They Were ‘Tested On Their Reaction To Different Insurgency Situations Such As Improvised Explosive Device Patrols And Investigating The Origin Of Enemy Fire’”

January 8, 2015 By Derrick Perkins, Staff Writer; Marine Corps Times [Excerpts]

Just months after marking the end of the Corps' combat operations in Afghanistan, officials revealed that Marines are headed back into the war-torn country, but details of the deployment remain scarce.

The disclosure came in a Marine Corps news release outlining preparations being made by 2nd Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company aboard Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The company tested its Supporting Arms Liaison Team Alpha's readiness for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan by tackling various “real-life” scenarios between Dec. 8 and 11, according to the release.

The training included unloading from CH-53E Super Stallion heavy lift helicopters, dealing with Afghan village elders, and overcoming ambushes and sniper attacks.

The Marines will be responsible for “security operations” in Afghanistan, according to the release.

To prepare, they were “tested on their reaction to different insurgency situations such as counter improvised explosive device patrols and investigating the origin of enemy fire,” the release states.

Outside of the news release, Marine Corps officials declined to discuss 2nd ANGLICO's upcoming deployment.

Citing operational security, a spokesman for II Marine Expeditionary Force declined to specify when — and for how long — the unit will be deployed, where within Afghanistan it will operate and whether other Marine units will accompany it.

Attempts to glean more information from Marine Corps Headquarters were also unsuccessful.

It's unclear when Marines with Supporting Arms Liaison Team Alpha will depart, but officials did say the unit's next stop is Germany. There they will train alongside Georgian troops before heading to Afghanistan.

U.S. Paid \$57 Million For Afghan Troops' Military Base "Plagued With Broken Generators" & "A Litany Of Problems"

"Despite Deficiencies In The Facilities, The Contractors Were Paid In Full"

"\$3 Million Food-Storage Facility Never Used"

"\$34 Million Initiative Paid To Develop Market For Soybeans, Which Are Not Traditionally Farmed Or Eaten By Afghans"

January 8, 2015 by Jamie Tarabay, Al Jazeera America

A \$57 million military base paid for by the U.S. Defense Department for use by Afghan commandos and troops has gone over budget by several million dollars, is plagued with broken generators and will require an additional \$3 million to be finished, a report by the government agency investigating reconstruction projects in Afghanistan has revealed.

The findings are the latest in a long list of reported failures, misreporting and mismanagement regarding U.S. spending on reconstruction projects in Afghanistan.

In its report Thursday on Camp Commando in Kabul, the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, also known as SIGAR, cited inspections of the base in February and November last year that found a litany of problems.

The DOD established the camp in Kabul to house the Afghan National Army's Special Operations headquarters, as well as a commando school, a military intelligence unit and garrison support for the army.

SIGAR's report focused on the camp's power plant, fuel pump and dining facility — and found problems with all of them.

“We found that all three facilities inspected ... generally appeared to be well constructed, but a complete inspection was not possible because neither the power plant nor the fuel point were fully operating,” SIGAR said in its report.

Despite deficiencies in the facilities being unresolved, the contractors — both Afghan and American — were paid in full.

Only one of the four primary generators could operate at a time because of a software synchronization issue.

And because the system couldn't automatically switch from one generator to the next it all had to be done manually, wasting time and resources.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said that it agreed with SIGAR's findings, but that none of the shortfalls warranted disciplinary action.

It blamed the power problems on Afghan troops, saying that about two years ago someone in the Afghan army had damaged the transformers by improperly connecting them.

Instead of trying to fix the transformers, the camp used 19 generators to compensate for the drop in electricity.

But even this was met with problems, as some of the generators needed repairs.

SIGAR also noted that its site inspections “confirmed that fuel pumps were not operating and had not been tested and commissioned.”

Because of that, it said, the Army Corps of Engineers has not been able to check the systems for deficiencies, including whether there were leaks or problems with the pump nozzle system.

The Army Corps of Engineers insisted the fuel pumps had been tested and commissioned, but it did not provide supporting evidence.

Even the dining facility was inadequate. Originally slated to feed 280 people, the hall now serves some 1,600 troops. “To help better serve the number of people using the dining facility, the Camp commander told us that he built an addition onto the kitchen for cooking only rice,” SIGAR said.

SIGAR has recently catalogued a number of projects that may have squandered money, reporting on the inability of U.S. government agencies to find any successes in its programs designed to aid Afghan women.

It also found that Afghan troops had an oversupply of weapons and trouble tracking their shipments.

SIGAR recently investigated a \$3 million food-storage facility that was never used and a faltering \$34 million initiative to develop a market for soybeans, which are not traditionally farmed or eaten by Afghans.

The sum for the U.S. war in Afghanistan now tops \$100 billion, and will likely grow as the U.S. continues to foot the bill for the Afghan security forces and pours money into redevelopment projects.

MILITARY NEWS

**The Ridiculous Iraqi Troop
Training Fiasco Rolls Nowhere:
“Soldiers At Camp Taji Are
Restricted To Shouting ‘Bang
Bang’ To Simulate Firing”
“There Is A Shortage Of Weapons
And Ammunition”
“It’s Figuring Out Where All The Stuff Is.
It Exists Somewhere In The System; It
Just Has To Get To Us”**

**“HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF, FIRST AS TRAGEDY, THEN AS
FARCE.”**

Karl Marx in “The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte”

January 8 By Loveday Morris, Washington Post. Mustafa Salim contributed to this report. [Excerpts]

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Years after the U.S. military tried to create a new army in Iraq — at a cost of over \$25 billion — American trainers have returned to help rebuild the country's fighting force.

But this time, things are different.

With the Iraqis dependent on their own logistics, there is a shortage of weapons and ammunition available for training.

For the time being, soldiers at Camp Taji are restricted to shouting “bang bang” to simulate firing during exercises. And, mindful of how Iraqi troops fled their positions last June during a major offensive by Islamic State extremists, U.S. trainers have added some new elements to boot camp.

“We are giving classes on the will to fight,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Grinston, who instructed Iraqi troops in 2006 and 2007 and is now overseeing the U.S. training program.

“There’s a bare minimum of equipment,” said Capt. John Cumbie, one of the U.S. trainers.

He said that’s not necessarily because it doesn’t exist but because of the hurdles in getting weapons and gear to the right place, due to the complexity of the Iraqi bureaucracy and an underdeveloped logistics system.

“It’s figuring out where all the stuff is. It exists somewhere in the system; it just has to get to us.”

The battalion he is training was meant to be using Soviet-made Dushka machine guns in their exercise on Wednesday morning, but none were to be found.

During a morning session Wednesday, 80 soldiers practiced on just two M1A1 Abrams tanks.

The tanks belonged to the Iraqi 9th Division, whose soldiers are based here at Camp Taji and deploy to some of the country's worst flash points — Anbar, Baiji, Samarra.

While some of the division’s tanks are in action, many have been lost in combat or abandoned to the enemy, said Capt. Yassin Saleh, an Iraqi trainer at the camp.

He estimates that only half the 140 U.S. tanks provided to the division in 2011 are still available to the Iraqis.

In a morning briefing Wednesday, Staff Sgt. Timothy Barnhouse reminded a group of trainers that things have changed.

“We’re not here to fight anymore,” he told the American soldiers.

“We’re only rolling on amber. But you do have the right to defend yourself and your buddy. Measure the amount of force necessary and protect all equipment.”

Some Iraqi officers argue that whatever training the soldiers receive, the Iraqi army will remain weak at the core until those deep structural changes are made.

First Lt. Mohammed Hashim Mohammed, who is learning to be a trainer for the 15th Division, a new Iraqi army unit, said corruption is widespread in the Ministry of Defense.

“Even today you have to pay to be promoted,” he said.

US Troops In Iraq “Coming Under ‘Regular’ Mortar Fire” “Soldiers Transported To The Ayn Al- Asad Base Under The Cover Of Night By Helicopter To Protect U.S. Personnel”

“The First Time The Pentagon Acknowledged The 2,100 US Troops In Iraq Have Been In Danger Since Deploying Late Last Year”



Jan 1, 2015 By Missy Ryan and Erin Cunningham, Washington Post & January 6, 2015
By Paul McLeary, Defense News [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — The 320 US soldiers and Marines at Al Asad air base in western Iraq have been coming under “regular” mortar fire from insurgent forces for several weeks, Defense Department spokesman Col. Steve Warren told reporters Monday.

In a sign of the risks, military officials said American soldiers have been transported to the Ayn al-Asad base under the cover of night by helicopter — partly to maintain a low profile for the renewed U.S. operation in Iraq but also to protect U.S. personnel amid fierce fighting west of the capital, Baghdad.

While Warren insisted that the attacks have been “wholly ineffective” and “no US personnel, no US equipment have been impacted in any way,” this was the first time that the Pentagon acknowledged that the 2,100 US troops in Iraq have been in danger since deploying late last year.

In addition to the Marines from a Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force training units with the Iraqi Army's 7th Division at Al Asad, there are another 170 US soldiers from the Army's 1st Infantry Division training another four Iraqi Army battalions near Taji, which is just northwest of Baghdad.

Both sites were major US bases during the American war there from 2003-2011.

Suleiman al-Kubbaisi, a spokesman for Anbar’s provincial council, said Iraqi forces are battling to reclaim areas around Baghdadi, a town about 10 miles from al-Asad. In the meantime, he said, militants are using those areas to fire artillery and rockets at the base where Americans are stationed.

Sheik Naim al-Gaoud, an elder of the Albu Nimr tribe in Anbar, said Islamic State militants were dangerously close to the base and to Iraqis who lived nearby.

Islamic State fighters are also contesting the area around Taji, a district north of Baghdad where other U.S. military advisers are stationed.

ISIS Attacks Slaughterer Iraqi Regime Troops: “23 Killed And 28 Wounded In All On The Government Side”

Jan. 6, 2015 By SINAN SALAHEDDIN and SAMEER N. YACOUB, AP

BAGHDAD — A blast targeting Iraqi security forces and subsequent clashes with Islamic State extremists on Tuesday killed at least 23 troops and pro-government Sunni fighters in the country's embattled western province of Anbar, officials said.

The day's heavy toll for the Iraqi forces came as they struggle in battles against the Islamic State group and try to claw back territory lost to the extremists during the militants' blitz last year. Iraq's prime minister vowed on Tuesday to dislodge IS militants from all areas under their control.

Police officials said a bomber first struck a gathering of pro-government Sunni fighters near the town of al-Baghdadi, about 180 kilometers (110 miles) northwest of Baghdad, in the morning hours.

Soon after, IS militants attacked nearby army and police positions, setting off hours-long clashes.

Police and hospital officials said 23 were killed and 28 were wounded in all on the government side. They did not give the death toll on the militants' side, saying only that the attackers “sustained some casualties” and declining to provide further details.

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

**“Iraq's Military Lacks Weapons,
Equipment And Battle-Ready
Troops”**

**“Both The Military And The
Government Riddled With
Corruption”**

**“There Was So Much Confusion And
Panic, They Started Shooting At Each
Other In The Dark”**

Al-Saadi was also left skeptical that the Americans are serious in helping Iraq defeat the extremists with the coalition air campaign.

“Sometimes, they would carry out airstrikes that I never asked for, and at other times I begged them for a single airstrike and they never did it,” citing logistical issues or orders from higher up, he said.

Jan. 2, 2015 By HAMZA HENDAWI and QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, AP

BAGHDAD — Lt. Gen. Abdul-Wahab al-Saadi had 225 fighters, a single Abrams tank, a pair of mortars, two artillery pieces and about 40 armored Humvees when he set out to retake a strategic city in northern Iraq captured by Islamic State militants over the summer.

It took 30 days as his force made an agonizingly slow journey for 40 kilometers (25 miles) through roadside bombs and suicide car attacks, then successfully laid siege to the oil refinery city of Beiji.

Yet al-Saadi is deeply pessimistic.

In a two-hour interview with The Associated Press, he said Iraq's military lacks weapons, equipment and battle-ready troops and complained that U.S. air support was erratic.

Both the military and the government remain riddled with corruption, he said. Most of the senior generals serving when the military fell apart had skills “more suited to World War II,” he said.

A Baghdad-born Shiite with family roots in southern Iraq, al-Saadi complained of “excesses” by some of the Shiite volunteers who joined the fight against the militants and on whom the military has come to rely.

“I am a military man, and they don't respect the rules by which we operate,” he said.

Volunteers, for example, looted homes in government-controlled areas around the city of Tikrit and tried to intimidate army officers, he said.

During his march toward Beiji, some of the volunteers whom he deployed as a rear guard left their posts.

The government and its media consistently praise the volunteers' role in the war against the Sunni militants.

Al-Saadi was also left skeptical that the Americans are serious in helping Iraq defeat the extremists with the coalition air campaign.

“Sometimes, they would carry out airstrikes that I never asked for, and at other times I begged them for a single airstrike and they never did it,” citing logistical issues or orders from higher up, he said.

“I don't think they trust Iraq's government or military.”

Also, al-Saadi's only means of communication with Baghdad was a mobile phone and whenever it had no signal he could not call in airstrikes.

Now al-Saadi worries the victory is in danger of being reversed. Already Islamic State militants are back on the outskirts of Beiji, and he said the men left to hold the city are too few.

One unit of reinforcements was attacked on the way to Beiji and quickly retreated, he said. A second one, 50-man strong, made it to the city but came under night attack by militants.

“There was so much confusion and panic, they started shooting at each other in the dark,” he said.

“We lost 10 men, nearly as many as we lost in the entire campaign.”

“Onslaught” Of Complaints From Staff Overwhelm Congressional Investigation Of Philadelphia VA: “Whistleblowers Allege Mail At Center Shredded, Dates On Claims Have Been Changed To Hide The Backlog”

“Mismanagement, Retaliation, Waste Of Government Resources, And Lack Of Accountability For Certain Managers”

January 02, 2015 By Tricia L. Nadolny, Philadelphia Inquirer Staff Writer

Two parallel probes into mismanagement and other problems at the Philadelphia VA benefits office have expanded because of a continuing stream of allegations from employees, according to a source familiar with the reviews.

The results of an investigation by the VA's Office of Inspector General that had been anticipated last fall is now not expected until late February. And a team of congressional staff members that arrived at the office in mid-December for a two-day visit ended up staying for a full week to catalog complaints from employees.

“Once at the (regional office) in a private conference room,” the source said, “the onslaught of employees who wanted to share concerns regarding mismanagement prompted our staff to extend the length of the visit.”

The Germantown facility oversees benefits for 825,000 veterans in eastern Pennsylvania, South Jersey, and Delaware, and also houses one of the nation's three Veterans Affairs pension centers.

Whistleblowers have alleged, among other concerns, that mail at the center has been shredded, dates on claims have been changed to hide the backlog, and employees have cherry-picked easy cases to meet unrealistic performance goals.

Officials there have denied that claim dates were changed to mask the backlog, saying the problems stemmed from a misunderstanding of VA policy.

At an October congressional hearing, an official from the Inspector General's Office said she found that "difficult to grasp."

At the time, she said the review of the office included more than 100 individual allegations.

Inspector general's spokeswoman Catherine Gromek declined Wednesday to say where that number now stood.

But, she said, the volume of "issues that have been continually raised" has kept the office from issuing a report.

One VA employee, who asked to not be named because she feared retaliation at work, said she was interviewed Dec. 10 by inspector general's staff about undated claims she occasionally found in the system, meaning they were not being processed and tracked.

The employee, who has worked for the VA for six years, said that she did not know why it was occurring, but that it "looks like we have less claims than what we have."

The congressional staffer, who is allowed to discuss the probe but did not use his name, said the Inspector General's Office did not expect to be able to respond to each complaint individually, as there were too many.

That staff member said the congressional team that visited the office from Dec. 15 to 19 - what was to be a routine two-day visit on other business - also saw the breadth of concerns being raised by employees.

They included mismanagement, retaliation, waste of government resources, and lack of accountability for certain managers, he said.

As the review continues, the delay is affecting morale, said Kristen Ruell, an employee at the office, who has testified before Congress about her concerns.

She said some employees who had made complaints were discouraged there had not been more change.

"The employees think the investigation was a big joke," she said. "They think it was a big waste of time."

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

They treasured up wrath for the time to come.

-- Edward, Earl of Clarendon, 1702, on the growing discontent below that led to the revolutionary overthrow and 1649 beheading of Charles I, King of England.

“The Burgeoning Movement Against Police Immunity And Impunity Really

IS A Threat To So-Called ‘National Security’”

“A Menace To The Privileges Of Banksters And Employers, Of Privatizers And Gentrifiers, The Prerogatives Of The 1%”

01/07/2015 by Bruce A. Dixon, Black Agenda Report

There's a potent and powerful racist and classist myth that tough cops, jailers, judges and prosecutors are all that stand between us and rampant crime, anarchy and ruin.

For American politics it's an increasingly necessary fantasy, a myth that generations of public officials from jailing judges and hang 'em high prosecutors, to lock 'em up legislators, sheriffs, governors and even presidents have based their careers upon.

The myths are necessary because no modern society can openly abandon its duty to provide its people quality educations, decent housing, living wage jobs and economic security, unless it is willing to brand large numbers of those it won't provide education or housing or jobs and a dignified retirement unworthy, undeserving and irredeemable.

The American political class of both parties, including black politicians stopped even talking about any rights to full employment, decent housing, economic security and the like decades ago, preferring to pretend that There Is No Alternative.

Thus the myths of the triflin' lazy, drug-addled crime-ridden, mostly black and brown poor are essential to the stability of America as we know it.

These myths are the ethical and moral justification of the neoliberal economic order and its prison state.

Overpolicing and mass incarceration don't just happen because the cops are racist, the prosecutors corrupt, and the legislators and media vicious and cowardly, nor are they driven by the profits of private prisons or captive labor.

America's savage police and prison states provide us with a long running reality show that justifies our profoundly unequal and unjust social order.

It gives us a morality play that casts the criminalized and mostly nonwhite poor as villains kept at bay by the heroism of that thin blue line, while schools, roads, parks public works, nature and even water are privatized, while private and public pensions are looted, while student loan debt, black unemployment and underemployment continue to rise and wages continue to fall, while child homelessness is at an all time high and there are more vacant homes than

homeless people, and while the rich and famous are celebrated and lionized for being famously rich.

This is something that politicians from the president down to local mayors and aldermen know, and top cops, from Homeland Security and the FBI to state and local departments know as well.

It's something those in motion in the streets today over the last dozen and the next dozen police atrocities need to better understand and articulate.

The burgeoning movement against police immunity and impunity really IS a threat to so-called “national security”, a menace to the privileges of banksters and employers, of privatizers and gentrifiers, the prerogatives of the 1%.

When more of them openly question these prerogatives in the same breaths as they do the privilege of cops to murder and maim with immunity and impunity, we'll be a long step closer to a better world.

As The Fog Of Bullshit Spreads Over D.C., Remembering Reality May Be Useful:

**“The Insurance Companies That
Profited From Rationing Health Care
For The Healthy And Denying It To
Those Who Needed It Most Were The
Ones Who Called The Shots On
Obamacare”**

**“Obama's Law Relies On The Same
Corporate Interests That Caused The
Health Care Crisis In The First Place”**

“The Core Of The New System Forced Millions Of People To Buy Their Overpriced, Defective Products”

July 31, 2014 Editorial, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

The racist, anti-“big government” and anti-poor circus is in town in Washington, D.C., with the Republicans as its ringmasters.

But the other side of this sick system is the fact that the political leaders who promised that they would make health care affordable for every American--Barack Obama and the Democrats--have failed miserably to do so.

On the contrary, those who obtain private insurance through the ACA's exchanges are discovering that they have to accept expensive plans with big deductibles and poor coverage--if, that is, they managed to navigate the seemingly impenetrable bureaucracy created with the insurance exchanges.

But the Obama administration didn't fail for the reasons that Republicans claim--that “big government” took over people's health care choices.

It failed because Obama's law relies on the same corporate interests that caused the health care crisis in the first place.

The same insurance companies that profited from rationing health care for the healthy and denying it to those who needed it most were the ones who called the shots on Obamacare--not the people who actually looked forward to the promise of a national health care plan in the U.S.

For the Obama administration, a single-payer, “everybody in, nobody out” option was off the table from the start. A few long-overdue regulations were imposed on insurers--like a ban on using “pre-existing conditions” to deny coverage--but the core of the new system forced millions of people to buy their overpriced, defective products.

No wonder all the problems of the for-profit health care are exacerbated under Obamacare. The people most dedicated to protecting the health care industry's bottom line designed the law.

As health care activist Donna Smith wrote recently, Liz Fowler was an executive at the for-profit managed care company Wellpoint before she briefly went to work for Sen. Max Baucus writing the ACA. After that, she moved onto the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she helped decide how the law would be implemented. And now, she's made the transition to back to lobbyist for pharmaceutical manufacturer Johnson & Johnson.

Smith, the executive director of Health Care for All Colorado, writes:

“Health insurance is not health care. Health insurance is a financial product sold to us to protect health and wealth which may do neither thing very well at all. So we weren't duped by Fowler...as they worked to help the health industry from the inside or as they left to do similar work more directly from outside the public administration of Obamacare.

“We patients and private citizens were always the means to an end--higher profits for the health industry and bigger salaries for those who help make it so. As an old adage goes and has ever stayed true, ‘Follow the money.’”

If the Republicans can get a hearing by raving about big government and its impenetrable bureaucracy, it's because the Democrats gave them a huge, impossible-to-miss target with the wild patchwork of for-profit insurance “options” that make up the Obamacare exchanges.

In reality, the problem isn't “big government”; it's the twisted system that's needed to make sure the insurance industry gets its cut.

Physicians for a National Health Program co-founders David Himmelstein and Steffie Woolhandler compared the Obamacare mess to the relatively easier and less expensive rollout of the Medicare health program for the elderly in 1966:

“(C)omplexity is “baked in” to the design (of the ACA), just as simplicity was ‘baked in’ to Medicare. Obamacare's exchanges must coordinate thousands of different plans, with premiums, co-payments, deductibles and provider networks that vary county-by-county; Medicare offered a single, uniform plan...

“Obamacare's byzantine complexity reflects the contortions required to simultaneously expand coverage and appease private insurers. And private insurers will exact a steep ongoing toll...To avoid glitches and wasteful expense, design the system right; eliminate private insurers and cover everyone under a single payer program.

People hoping for health care coverage have been left to the whims of the health insurance giants--not to mention the drug companies and hospital industry.

And they have the Democrats and their loyalty to the status quo--corporate profit over human need--to thank for it.

The stories of people struggling to get basic health care shows the crying need for a better health care system, but neither party looks interested in fighting for it.

“Military Hypnosis Is The Faith Energetically Promoted Among The Soldiers That They Are

**Invincible, Mighty, And Superior
To All The Rest Of The World”**

**“The War Has Killed That Faith
Everywhere”**

**“Nothing Remains But Mechanical
Discipline; There Is No Longer Faith
That Things Must, Or Even Can,
Continue In The Old Way”**

**“The Last Remnants Of The Hypnosis
Induced By The Barracks Will Dissolve In
The Revolutionary Enthusiasm Of The
People”**

From “Up To The Ninth Of January,” 1905; By L. Trotsky [Excerpts]

One of the main elements of military hypnosis is the faith energetically promoted among the soldiers that they are invincible, mighty, and superior to all the rest of the world.

The war has killed that faith everywhere.

Soldiers and sailors were sent to the East without any hope of victory.

And when an army loses faith in its own invincibility, it is already halfway to losing faith in the invincibility of the social order it serves.

The one leads to the other.

In the current war, tsarism has shown itself for what it really is.

War is an event that focuses not just the public interest, but also the professional interest of the army. Our ships are slower; our guns have a more limited range; our soldiers are illiterate; our non-commissioned officers have neither compass nor map; our troops are barefooted, naked and hungry; our Red Cross steals; the commissariats steal — and the news and rumours of all this naturally penetrate the army and find eager listeners.

Every such rumor acts like an acid that eats away at the corrosion of moral drill.

Years of propaganda work during peacetime could never accomplish what is achieved by a single day of warfare.

The result is that nothing remains but mechanical discipline; there is no longer any faith that things must, or even can, continue in the old way.

The less faith there is in autocracy, the greater is the likelihood of faith in the enemies of autocracy.

We must make the most of this state of mind.

We must explain to the soldiers the meaning of the mass working-class action being prepared by the Party.

We must fix this knowledge in their consciousness with a continuous stream of pamphlets.

We must make every possible use of the one slogan that can unite the army with the revolutionary people: 'Down with the war!'

We must do this so that the officers, on the decisive day, will not be able to trust the soldiers, and the soldiers will have the same distrust of their officers.

Everything else depends on the street, where the last remnants of the hypnosis induced by the barracks will dissolve in the revolutionary enthusiasm of the people.

Of course, it is easier to fire over people's heads than to refuse to fire altogether or to hand over one's rifle to the insurgent masses. That is a fact.

But the difference is not so great as it may first appear to be.

The same soldier who yesterday fired into the air will tomorrow hand over his rifle to a worker, provided he is confident that the people are not just being 'rebellious' but are able and determined to hold the bridges until they win recognition of their rights.

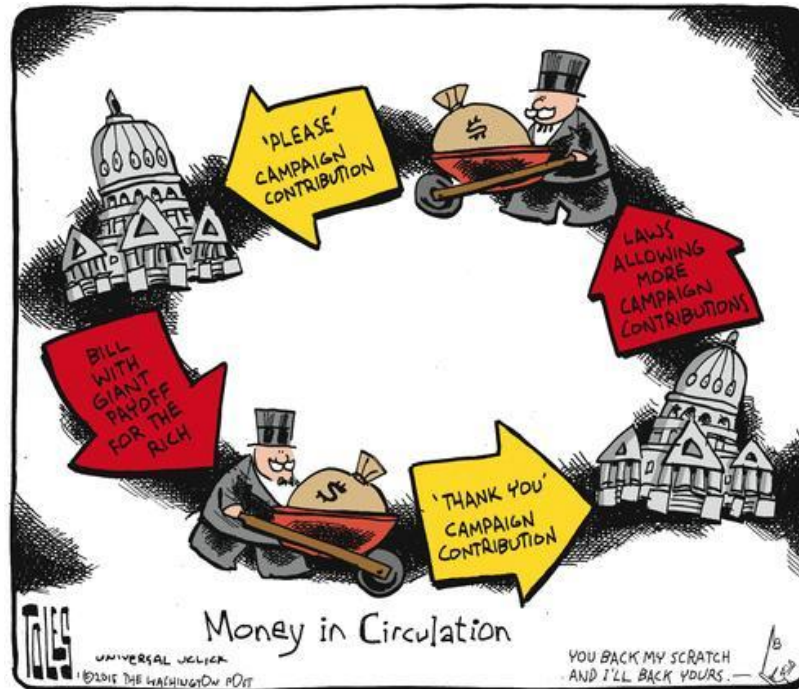
That confidence can and will be instilled in the soldiers by the numbers and the enthusiasm of the crowds in the street, supported by the entire people, and by the news of simultaneous action throughout every region of Russia.

Therefore, in order for the proletariat's political strike, once transformed into demonstration by the entire people, to become the starting point for a victorious revolution, a sympathetic attitude must be widespread throughout the army.

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: contact@militaryproject.org

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



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.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Zionists Poison 13 Sheep Near
Aqraba And Shoot Unarmed
Palestinian Shepherds:**

“An Hour Later The Israeli Military Showed Up And Arrested Four Shepherds”



Close-up of one of the poisoned sheep with frothing at the mouth and nose (photo by ISM).



Aqraba residents who showed up for the shepherds are met with tear gas (photo by Aqraba Municipality).

January 6, 2015 International Solidarity Movement

Nablus team;| Aqraba, Occupied Palestine

Yesterday, ISM volunteers traveled to the area of Lifjim in East Aqraba, where shepherd Mohammed Ibrahim Abu Hamed grazes his sheep.

Thirteen sheep lay dead there, foaming at the nose and mouth, one with green vomit visible – a clear case of poisoning.

Abu Hamed and the Aqraba Municipality reported seeing a settler named Assaf spread an unknown substance over the land shortly before the sheep died.

As the area is under illegal cultivation by settlers, this could have indicated intentional poisoning or indirect toxicity from herbicides.

At the municipality office, ISM interviewed a Public Relation Officer named Gloria, who detailed the many difficulties the villages around Aqraba continually deal with.

The town of Aqraba is in Area B, which is under Palestinian Authority civil control but partial Israeli security control, but many of the villages under the Aqraba municipality are in Area C, under full Israeli military and civil control.

Thus, these communities are constantly threatened by the expansion of Israeli settlements, including the Gittit settlement just south of Lifjim where the sheep were killed.

Furthermore, the Israeli military prevent people from building life-sustaining infrastructure such as water and electricity grids and new houses.

In the last month and a half alone, the Aqraba municipality has repaired the electricity grid three times after soldiers cut it.

On Saturday, five shepherds were out grazing their sheep in the Area B part of Aqraba when at least seven armed settlers came down and attacked them.

The settlers shot at the unarmed shepherds and two were injured.

A number of people from Aqraba came out with the municipality in response to the shepherds' call.

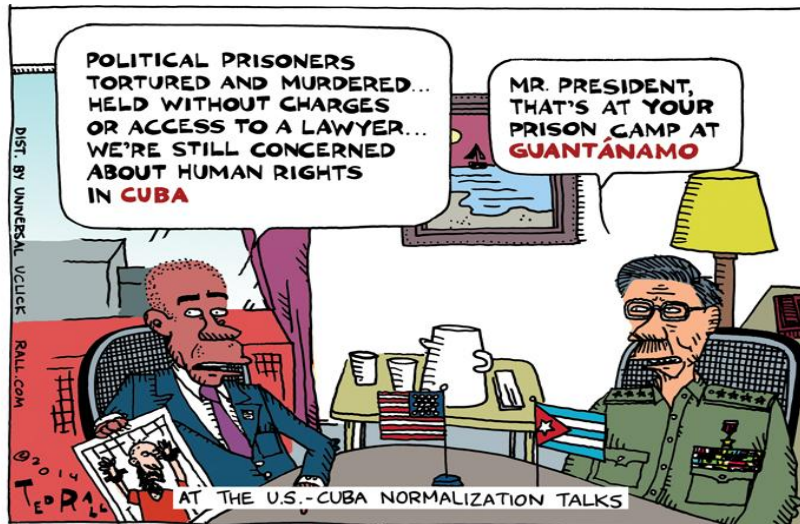
An hour later the Israeli military showed up, deployed tear gas on the crowd and arrested four shepherds, accusing them of trying to steal from the settlement.

To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:

**<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and
<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>**

**The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves
"Israeli."**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to injustices, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

Vietnam GI: Reprints Available

Vietnam GI

January, 1969

Free to Servicemen

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



Below is an interview with a Marine who didn't like the war and figured out why. This guy is a Platoon SGT with five years in the Green Machine, and over a year in Nam, mostly in long range recon with Charlie Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, VGI speaks to him while he was on leave awaiting his second tour. Since he doesn't ETS until 1972 we've let out his name.

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

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

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

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

VGI: What was it like, living there?

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

VGI: What would she want with the empty boxes?

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

Six yrs. later on, during the Tet holidays, the Viet Cong came in and burned out half of the village, and the women naturally went in panic. In order to stop them, the VC took this girl and they cut off her breasts. She was brought up to the hospital and here she died.

VGI: Did the brass give you any slack about being with the Vietnamese?

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

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

interview

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

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

VGI: Did you see any other incidents like that?

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

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

VGI: How do you think they feel about us?

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

(Continued on page 8)

WHEN HAWKS RETIRE

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

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

Of special interest was his visit to

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

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

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

The grim fact is that while the government hawks are living in Paris, thousands of our buddies are still dying in Nam. In fact, since they began talking last May, 1,000 GIs have been killed in action.

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

The next issue of VGI will discuss the Paris talks in greater detail. By that

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

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

Military Resistance has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.

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This is how Obama brings the troops home,
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