

## Military Resistance 14A18



**“Philanthropic Watchdog Groups Have Criticized The Wounded Warrior Project For Spending Too Heavily On Itself”  
Whistleblowing War Veterans Fired For Complaining About It:  
“It Spent Millions A Year On Travel, Dinners, Hotels And Conferences That Often Seemed More Lavish Than Appropriate”**

# “Former Workers Recounted Buying Business-Class Seats And Regularly Jetting Around The Country For Minor Meetings, Or Staying In \$500-Per-Night Hotel Rooms”

JAN. 27, 2016 By DAVE PHILIPPS, New York Times

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — In 2014, after 10 years of rapid growth, the Wounded Warrior Project flew its roughly 500 employees to Colorado Springs for an “all hands” meeting at the five-star Broadmoor hotel.

They were celebrating their biggest year yet: \$225 million raised and a work force that had nearly doubled.

On the opening night, before three days of strategy sessions and team-building field trips, the staff gathered in the hotel courtyard.

Suddenly, a spotlight focused on a 10-story bell tower where the chief executive, Steven Nardizzi, stepped off the edge and rappelled toward the cheering crowd.

That evening is emblematic of the polished and well-financed image cultivated by the Wounded Warrior Project, the country’s largest and fastest-growing veterans charity.

Since its inception in 2003 as a basement operation handing out backpacks to wounded veterans, the charity has evolved into a fund-raising giant, taking in more than \$372 million in 2015 — largely through small donations from people over 65.

Today, the charity has 22 locations offering programs to help veterans readjust to society, attend school, find work and participate in athletics. It contributes millions to smaller veterans groups. And it has become a brand name, its logo emblazoned on sneakers, paper towel packs and television commercials that run dozens of times.

But in its swift rise, it has also embraced aggressive styles of fund-raising, marketing and personnel management that have many current and former employees questioning whether it has drifted from its mission.

**It has spent millions a year on travel, dinners, hotels and conferences that often seemed more lavish than appropriate, more than four dozen current and former employees said in interviews.**

**Former workers recounted buying business-class seats and regularly jetting around the country for minor meetings, or staying in \$500-per-night hotel rooms.**

**The organization has also spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in recent years on public relations and lobbying campaigns to deflect criticism of its spending and to fight legislative efforts to restrict how much nonprofits spend on overhead.**

**About 40 percent of the organization's donations in 2014 were spent on its overhead, or about \$124 million, according to the charity-rating group Charity Navigator.**

**While that percentage, which includes administrative expenses and marketing costs, is not as much as for some groups, it is far more than for many veterans charities, including the Semper Fi Fund, a wounded-veterans group that spent about 8 percent of donations on overhead.**

**As a result, some philanthropic watchdog groups have criticized the Wounded Warrior Project for spending too heavily on itself.**

Some of its own employees have criticized it, too. William Chick, a former supervisor, spent five years with the Wounded Warrior Project. "It slowly had less focus on veterans and more on raising money and protecting the organization," he said.

Mr. Chick, who was fired in 2012 after a dispute with his supervisor, said he saw the Wounded Warrior Project help hundreds of veterans. But like other former employees, he said the group swiftly fired anyone leaders considered a "bad cultural fit."

Eighteen former employees — many of them wounded veterans themselves — said they had been fired for seemingly minor missteps or perceived insubordination.

**At least half a dozen former employees said they were let go after raising questions about ineffective programs or spending.**

A spokeswoman for the charity said it fired those people because of poor performance or ethical breaches, and that each of them was given the opportunity to address their work problems.

The spokeswoman, Ayla Tezel, said that more than a third of the charity's employees are veterans, and that the organization is rated one of the top nonprofits to work for by The NonProfit Times.

"Sometimes employees make poor choices that can't be overlooked," Ms. Tezel said. "And sometimes those employees are veterans."

### **"Her Former Husband Felt Like The Organization Was 'Stolen From Him'"**

Veterans organizations in the United States often reflect the era in which they were created: After World War I, they resembled fraternal orders. After Vietnam, many focused on advocacy in Washington.

The Wounded Warrior Project cuts a different profile. Under Mr. Nardizzi's direction, it has modeled itself on for-profit corporations, with a focus on data, scalable products, quarterly numbers and branding.

In an interview at the organization's four-story headquarters in a palm-lined office park in Jacksonville, Fla., Mr. Nardizzi, 45, said spending on fund-raising and other expenses not directly related to veterans programs has enabled the Wounded Warrior Project to grow faster and serve more people. It estimates that 80,000 veterans have used its services.

"I look at companies like Starbucks — that's the model," Mr. Nardizzi said. "You're looking at companies that are getting it right, treating their employees right, delivering great services and great products, then are growing the brand to support all of that."

The charity recently pledged to raise \$500 million for a trust to fund lifetime supplemental health care for severely wounded veterans. And on Tuesday, it started a program to provide care for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries, two of the most common injuries for veterans of recent wars.

Such ambitious programs would be impossible without significant spending on fund-raising and staff, said Mr. Nardizzi, who has become a vocal advocate of the idea that charities should be able to spend what they want on travel, fund-raising and executive salaries.

"How many others are not scaling up to cure cancer, to help the environment, because there is a belief we shouldn't invest in those things?" said Mr. Nardizzi, who was given \$473,000 in compensation in 2014.

The Wounded Warrior Project's roots are more humble.

**Its founder, John Melia, was a Marine veteran who had been injured in a helicopter crash off the coast of Somalia in 1992. When wounded troops began returning from Iraq in 2003, Mr. Melia remembered how he had arrived in a stateside hospital with only his thin hospital gown, and began visiting military hospitals to distribute backpacks stuffed with socks, CD players, toothpaste and other items.**

As the backpack project grew, Mr. Melia hired a few employees, including Mr. Nardizzi, a lawyer who had never served in the military but was an executive for a small nonprofit, the United Spinal Association, which served disabled veterans.

They began raising millions of dollars and broadening their services to include adaptive sports for disabled veterans, employment and benefits help, and retreats to teach veterans to cope with post-traumatic stress disorder.

**By 2009, the group had grown to about 50 employees and \$21 million in revenue.**

**But by then, Mr. Melia and Mr. Nardizzi were fighting over the charity's future, with Mr. Nardizzi pushing for more aggressive expansion than Mr. Melia, former employees said.**

**In January 2009, Mr. Melia resigned.**

**Mr. Nardizzi said in an interview that Mr. Melia left to pursue business ventures.**

**But Mr. Melia's ex-wife, Julie Melia, who worked at the charity at the time, said in an interview that her former husband felt like the organization was "stolen from him."**

**"He didn't want to leave, but it was obvious something was going to happen," Ms. Melia said.**

The organization paid Mr. Melia at least \$230,000 after he stepped down, according to tax forms. He has never spoken publicly about his disagreements with Mr. Nardizzi, and declined to be interviewed.

**Today, on a list of 27 founders that was created by the charity's current leadership and handed out to all new employees, Mr. Melia's name appears well below the name of the charity's for-profit fund-raising consultant.**

When Mr. Nardizzi took over, in the depths of the 2009 economic downturn, most charities had dialed back their fund-raising efforts, figuring that the nation was in no position to give.

### **"People Could Spend Money On The Most Ridiculous Thing And No One Batted An Eye"**

Mr. Nardizzi doubled his spending on fund-raising and has increased it an average of 66 percent every year since. The Wounded Warrior Project spent more than \$34 million on fund-raising in 2014, according to tax records.

The organization began producing inspirational ads featuring wounded veterans fighting to recover.

"The secret sauce was the brand, and the mission," said Dave Ward, a vice president who left in 2015. "We put warriors on a pedestal and the nation wrapped its arms around that concept."

But as donations poured in, many former employees say the group became wasteful.

"People could spend money on the most ridiculous thing and no one batted an eye," said Connie Chapman, who was in charge of the charity's Seattle office for two years. "I would fly to New York for less than a day to report to my supervisor."

All staff members flying to the charity's office at a military hospital in Germany traveled in business class, employees said. One current employee said her last-minute ticket cost \$7,000.

Mr. Nardizzi fired Ms. Chapman, an Iraq veteran with PTSD, in 2012 as part of a "management restructuring," she said.

By 2014, the group was spending \$7.5 million per year on travel, according to tax forms.

**The Wounded Warrior Project asserts that it spends 80 percent of donations on programs, but former employees and charity watchdogs say the charity inflates its**

number by using practices such as counting some marketing materials as educational.



Connie Chapman, who was the director of the Wounded Warrior Project office in Seattle for two years, at a friend's home in Eatonville, Wash. "People could spend money on the most ridiculous thing and no one batted an eye," she said. Credit Evan McGlenn for The New York Times

**The spending began to attract attention. Charity Watch, an independent monitoring group, gave Wounded Warrior Project a "D" rating in 2011 and has not given it a grade higher than C since.**

Mr. Nardizzi fought back. In 2013, according to tax forms, the Wounded Warrior Project gave \$150,000 to a nonprofit called the Charity Defense Council and Mr. Nardizzi joined its advisory board.

The council's mission includes defending charity spending on overhead and executive salaries, its website says.

**In 2014, the Wounded Warrior Project lobbied in California and Florida to fight proposals that would have required nonprofits to increase financial transparency.**

Both bills passed in amended forms that did not significantly affect the charity, Mr. Nardizzi said.

**Also around that time, the group hired the global public relations firm Edelman, which has represented Starbucks, Walmart, Shell and Philip Morris, to improve public perception of the charity and its overhead spending.**

Former employees said they questioned the charity's focus on money and marketing techniques.

Erick Millette, an Iraq veteran, said he quit after growing disillusioned about his work with a program called Warrior Speak, which involved veterans' telling their stories of healing to audiences. The veterans collected donations at those events.

"I wasn't speaking anywhere unless I was collecting a check," said Mr. Millette, who worked for the program for about two years, until he left in 2014.

Mr. Millette said the charity encouraged him to highlight its role in helping him recover from PTSD and traumatic brain injury.

**"They wanted me to say W.W.P. saved my life," he said. "Well, they didn't. They just took me to a Red Sox game and on a weekend retreat."**

As donations increased, Wounded Warrior Project executives began using data to measure staff productivity. The metrics were intended to improve efficiency and help fund-raising. But some employees assert that the productivity goals were set so high that they eroded program quality.

The Warriors to Work program, for instance, was intended to provide one-on-one counseling to develop résumés and interview skills, then place veterans in suitable jobs.

But executives quadrupled the number of job placements the program was expected to make each year, reducing the amount of time specialists had to find good ones, said Dan Lessard, who ran the program for about two years.

He was fired in 2014 for what executives told him was insubordination.

"They would just come up with numbers based on nothing," Mr. Lessard said. "I would push back and they would get very frustrated and yell. By the time I left, we were just throwing guys in jobs to check off a box and hit the numbers."

**The same push for numbers hit a program that brings wounded veterans together for social events.**

**Former staff members said they had less time to develop therapeutic programs and so relied on giving veterans tickets to concerts and sporting events. To fill seats, they often invited the same veterans.**

**"If the same warrior attends six different events, you could record that as six warriors served," said Renee Humphrey, who oversaw alumni outreach in Southern California for about four years.**

**"You had the same few guys who loved going to free events."**

**Ms. Humphrey, an Iraq veteran with PTSD, was fired in 2013.**

**Her termination was so abrupt that her work phone and credit card were shut off while she was leading an event.**



Mr. Nardizzi said his staff was constantly monitoring metrics to try to get the most out of every dollar donated. "It's a hard balance, but I think we strike the right balance," he said.

He said that the organization regularly followed up with veterans who receive Wounded Warrior Project services and that the vast majority reported having good experiences.

Part of the organization's drive for growth has been a tough stance toward workers considered unproductive or disloyal.

### **"I Knew Where The Money Was Going To. It Seemed To Me Like It Was A Big Lie"**



Jesse Longoria, a former Marine sniper whose right arm was amputated in 2012 after complications from injuries sustained in Iraq, with his 16-month-old son, Noah. Credit Tamir Kalifa for The New York Times

After Jesse Longoria recovered from a roadside bomb blast that nearly killed him in Iraq, he got a job with the organization training veterans to help other veterans.

"I loved it," the former Marine sniper said. "By giving back, I was helping myself and helping other vets."

**In 2012, after he had been working for the charity about a year, he had to have his right arm amputated because of lingering damage from Iraq.**

**Soon after the amputation, he said, he was racked by haunting emotions from Iraq and checked himself into suicide watch at a psychiatric ward.**

**A week later, he was back at work when a fistfight broke out between veteran mentors who had been drinking after one of his training sessions.**



**He was not in the room at the time but was held responsible for the fight, his boss at the time, Mr. Chick, said in an interview.**

**Mr. Chick's own supervisor told him to fire Mr. Longoria.**

**Mr. Chick said he refused, but was ordered by his boss to write an email recommending the firing. "He said you better do this or you are going to look disloyal to the organization," Mr. Chick said. "It was a very coercive conversation."**

**The Wounded Warrior Project said Mr. Longoria was terminated at Mr. Chick's recommendation.**

**The organization fired Mr. Chick later the same day for insubordination.**

Mr. Longoria said he was offered money in exchange for signing a nondisclosure agreement, but refused. Other former employees said they had signed such forms, and could not speak.

Mr. Longoria said after he was fired, he fell into depression but was also relieved. He said he felt guilty about what he saw as widespread waste.

Once a child came by the office to donate a piggy bank. Another time a woman called to donate part of her son's life insurance after he was killed in Afghanistan, he said.

"It got under my skin, started eating at me," he said. "I knew where the money was going to. It seemed to me like it was a big lie."

### **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.**

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **Taliban Attack Cuts Power To Afghan Capital:**

# **“The First Time That Militants Targeted The Capital’s Electricity Supply”**

JANUARY 27, 2016 By David Jolly, NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL — The Taliban have sabotaged a major power line in the northern province of Baghlan, officials said Wednesday, cutting a supply of electricity from Uzbekistan to Kabul, the Afghan capital, and exposing a vulnerability in the nation’s rickety infrastructure at a time when the insurgency has government forces thinly stretched.

Wahidullah Tawhidi, a spokesman for the national power company, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, said insurgents destroyed one electricity transmission tower and damaged two others late Tuesday in the area of Dand-e-Shahabuddin, near the highway that links Baghlan and Kunduz provinces.

Utility workers reached the area not long afterward, he said, but could not begin repairs until Afghan security forces had dismantled mines left by the insurgents and secured the area. He predicted that service would be restored Wednesday.

Afghanistan suffers from a chronic power shortage, with less than 40 percent of the population even connected to the grid, according to World Bank data. Three-quarters of the country’s electricity is imported from the neighboring countries of Uzbekistan, Iran, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

The long transmission lines leave Kabul vulnerable to outages from sabotage. As a result, backup generators are de rigueur among those who can afford them.

Baghlan province lies between Kabul and Kunduz, the northern city that the Taliban seized and held for 15 days last autumn.

The sabotage of the line also hit Parwan, Nangarhar and Laghman provinces.

It marked the first time that militants had targeted the capital’s electricity supply. But such incidents have been rife elsewhere in the country.

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## **Policeman Collaborating With Insurgents Kills 10 Police After Poisoning Their Food: “Taliban Took Their Weapons And Burnt The Checkpoint And A Police Vehicle”**

27 Jan 2016 Reuters

A policeman collaborating with insurgents in southern Afghanistan has shot dead 10 colleagues after first poisoning their food, an official said.

The latest in a long series of so-called insider attacks took place at a checkpoint in the Chenartu district of the volatile southern province of Uruzgan, district chief Faiz Mohammad told Reuters.

He said security forces were looking for the policemen and the presumed Taliban allies who joined him in shooting his colleagues in the early hours of Tuesday (local time).

"After the shooting the policeman, Taliban took their weapons and burnt the checkpoint and a police vehicle," Faiz Mohammad said.

**Uruzgan, which borders the traditional Taliban strongholds of Helmand and Kandahar provinces, was the scene of a similar incident last week when four police shot and killed nine colleagues before joining the Taliban with weapons and equipment.**

Insider attacks have been a major problem among security forces struggling with low morale and high desertion rates and there have been repeated instances of police and soldiers going over to the Taliban.

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## **Afghanistan Ranked 2nd Most Corrupt Country In The World**

27 January 2016 by Sayed Sharif Amiri, TOLONews.

A new annual study of Transparency International illustrates Afghanistan, Somalia and North Korea as the most corrupt countries among 176 in the world.

Afghanistan is the second most corrupt country in the list of 176 countries ranked in the report.

Meanwhile, Executive Director for Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA) Mohammad Ikram Afzali is concerned over the Afghan government's anti-corruption campaign and recommended a number of changes to this drive.

"The fight against corruption should be the top priority of the National Unity Government. There should be a political will for this purpose," he said.

"The NUG has not implemented its promises it has made for overcoming the endemic corruption in the country," said Nasir Temori, a researcher at the IWA.

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## MILITARY NEWS

# **Protests Force Out Croatian Veterans' Minister: “He Caused Immediate Controversy With His Idea To Issue A Register Of Traitors”**

**“More Than 7,000 People Signed, Stating  
The Reasons For Considering  
Themselves Traitors”**



Mijo Crnoja announcing his resignation. Photo: BETAPHOTO/HINA/Daniel KASAP/DS

29 Jan 16 Sven Milekic, BIRN

Zagreb

Following more than a day of discussions within the Croatian government, War Veterans' Minister Mijo Crnoja resigned on Thursday evening.

Media reports had accused Crnoja of reporting a false residence, of tax and health insurance fraud, of acts of physical violence and of violations of private property.

From the started, he rejected the claims. He defended his case on Wednesday and Thursday to Prime Minister Tihomir Oreskovic and to Vice Prime Minister Tomislav Karamarko, also president of Crnoja's party, the Croatian Democratic Union, HDZ.

External legal experts were called in to evaluate the documentation Crnoja presented in support of his innocence. While announcing his resignation on Thursday, Crnoja again repeated his claim that he was innocent of the allegations. "I presented all the documents to the government and experts who have assessed that there was none of the guilt that you (the media) are placing on me... but I would not wish to be a problem or burden to the government," he said.

"I have submitted my resignation to the Prime Minister and take this opportunity to greet all Croatian Defenders (a term used for veterans of the independence war)," he concluded.

Oreskovic gave a guarded response to the resignation and to the allegations against him. "Today he handed in his resignation and I accepted it. I thank him for fighting for this country of ours as a defender. We will soon find a new man," the Prime Minister said.

"I wish all the best for Crnoja," he concluded. HDZ chief Karamarko supported Crnoja's case more clearly, calling him a victim of a media campaign. "These days we have heard serious allegations regarding Crnoja... We evaluated all of them and Crnoja proved that they were all lies," he said.

He said the documents proved that Crnoja was not guilty of the charges made against him, adding that there was no need for courts to decide on Crnoja's potential responsibility. "He has left because he's an honourable man who could no longer stand this. He proved to us all that there is no criminal liability and then decided to go honourably with a clear conscience," the HDZ leader said.

Crnoja resigned only six days after he was named as minister on January 22.

**He caused immediate controversy with his idea to issue a register of traitors and aggressors against Croatia during the independence war of the 1990s.**

**This drew protests, with the artistic collective SKROZ introducing an electronic satirical register of traitors, which more than 7,000 people signed, stating the reasons for considering themselves traitors.**

On taking office on Monday, Crnoja also brought a controversial Catholic bishop, Vlado Kopic, to bless his office and led a prayer for war veterans in the presence of Tomislav Mercep, a former police commander in the 1990s who was later tried for alleged war crimes against civilians.

**Crnoja's real troubles on Monday began when the news portal Index said he had not registered his residence properly. Index found that at the address he gave in Samobor, a town next to Zagreb, there was only a shack, where clearly no one lived.**



Crnoja's registered address. Photo: BETAPHOTO/HINA/Damir SENCAR/MO

**He admitted not registering his residence properly and living in Zagreb, while promising to return all the local taxes he had thereby avoided paying in Zagreb from 2013. Later, he admitted that he registered the false address in 2011.**

His troubles mounted in the following days, with media reports alleging a history of physical violence, which he has since proven false, however. The media also reported a first-degree sentence against him, for violation of private property.

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## **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**

<p><b>He is whipped oftenest, who is whipped easiest. -- Frederick Douglass; My Bondage And My Freedom</b></p>
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**“Guns, Rifles And Munitions  
Are Excellent Servants Of  
Order, But They Have To Be Put  
Into Action”**

**“For That Purpose People Are  
Needed”**

**“And Even Though These People Are  
Called Soldiers, They Differ From  
Guns Because They Feel And Think,  
Which Means They Are Not Reliable”**

**“The People Seize This Moment To Go  
Among The Ranks Of The Soldiers And  
Convince Them, Face To Face, To Come  
Over To The People’s Side”**



**A dictator enjoys no moral support; on the contrary, he runs into obstacles every minute; around him forms a network of contradictory influences and recommendations; orders are given and then withdrawn; confusion grows; and the government's demoralisation spreads and deepens at the same time as it feeds the self-confidence of the people**

**From: "After the Petersburg Uprising: What Next?" (Munich, 20 January 1905) by L. Trotsky [Excerpts]**

As the soldiers file by on their way to the scene of 'military action', people will shower them from the windows with thousands of brief but fervent appeals; the troops will encounter passionate words from speakers on the barricades, who will take advantage of the slightest moment of indecision on the part of the military authorities; there will also be the powerful revolutionary propaganda of the crowd itself, whose enthusiasm will be transmitted to the soldiers through exclamations and appeals.

**Moreover, the soldiers have already been affected by the prevailing revolutionary attitude; they are irritated and exhausted, and they loathe their role of executioner.**

They tremble as they await the malicious command of their officer.

The officer orders them to open fire — but then he himself gets shot down, maybe as a result of a previously agreed plan, maybe just in a moment of bitter resentment.

Confusion breaks out among the troops.

The people seize this moment to go among the ranks of the soldiers and convince them, face to face, to come over to the people's side.

If the soldiers obey the officer's command and let loose a volley, the people respond by throwing dynamite at them from the house windows. The result, once again, will be disorder in the ranks, confusion among the soldiers, and an attempt by the revolutionaries — through appeals or by having the people mingle directly with the soldiers — to convince them to throw down their arms or bring them with them as they join up with the people.

If this fails in one instance, there must be no hesitation in using the same means of fear and persuasion again, even with the same units of troops.

Ultimately, the moral authority of military discipline, which restrains the soldiers from following their own thoughts and sympathies, will break down.

**Such a combination of moral and physical action, inevitably leading to a partial victory of the people, depends more on organised and purposeful street movements than on arming the masses in advance — and this, of course, is the main task of the revolutionary organisations.**

By winning over small units of the army, we will win control of larger units and eventually of the whole army, because victory over one part will give the people weapons.

Both during the Great French Revolution and again in 1848, the army, as an army, was stronger than the people.

**The revolutionary masses triumphed not because of the superiority of their military organisation or military technology, but because they were able to infect the national atmosphere that the army breathed with the germs of rebellious ideas.**

Of course, it makes a difference for the to and fro of street battles whether the range of a gun is only a few hundred sazhen or several versts, whether it kills a single person or hits tens of people, but this is still only a secondary question of technology when compared to the fundamental question of revolution — the question of the soldiers' demoralization.

**'Whose side is the army on?'**

**That is the question that decides everything, and it has nothing to do with what type of rifles or machine-guns may be used.**

**Guns, rifles and munitions are excellent servants of order, but they have to be put into action.**

**For that purpose people are needed.**

**And even though these people are called soldiers, they differ from guns because they feel and think, which means they are not reliable.**

**They hesitate, they are infected by the indecision of their commanders, and the result is disarray and panic in the highest ranks of the bureaucracy.**

**A dictator enjoys no moral support; on the contrary, he runs into obstacles every minute; around him forms a network of contradictory influences and recommendations; orders are given and then withdrawn; confusion grows; and the government's demoralisation spreads and deepens at the same time as it feeds the self-confidence of the people.**

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**New DOD Regulations Confirm That  
OPSEC Doesn't Apply To Everyone:  
“If You're Actually Holding A Cabinet  
Post Or Congressional Seat You're  
Given The Option To Pin Your Own  
Violation On Someone Of Lesser Status”**



January 25, 2016 Duffle Blog

**THE PENTAGON** — The Department of Defense is set to release new security rules later this week, making it clear that consequences for violations don't apply equally to everyone, sources say.

The revisions will make explicit what has until recently been an informal system that occasionally treated powerful people the same as peons, and, more rarely, sometimes failed to bring the wrath of God down on regular people acting out of conscience.

"When Snowden and Manning happened, releasing thousands of classified documents to civilian sources without approval, the way forward was pretty clear," explained Col. Antonio Jimenez, who helped craft the new regulations. "Manning is in a military prison and Snowden sleeps with one eye open."

Defense Secretary Ashton Carter says that things "get complicated" when high-level individuals start mishandling, or even deliberately leaking information to the public.

"Snowden was just a civilian analyst, and Manning was an Army private," Carter noted.

"They didn't have a chance. Manning had the right idea, becoming a woman and all, but she did it after she was convicted, so the victim angle didn't do her any favors. If she'd done it before she'd probably already have a book deal and a job at MSNBC."

"When Petraeus was caught giving secret information to his mistress, my predecessors initially ignored it, because Iraq," Carter said. "Plus she was kind of hot. Unfortunately, the new guidance from the White House says that military violations, but not political ones, must be dealt with harshly."

Carter appointed a Committee for State Security to write new regulations to comply with the directives of the White House.

"So, we're looking at taking a star away from him," Jimenez said. "If he'd been a member of congress or a former first lady of the United States then it would be a different story."

Jimenez apparently was referring to former First Lady and Senator, and current presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton.

Clinton's use of an insecure, private server for Top Secret emails, and a complete lack of accountability, forced the Pentagon and the White House to finally address accusations that high ranking individuals are treated differently when it comes to standards for handling classified information.

"Everyone has always known that was the case," said Jimenez. "But now we've clearly defined who gets away with what. If you're a military officer you pretty much get a free pass at lieutenant general and higher. There's a sliding scale from there down to colonel that mostly depends on who you know."

"But we still have to nail Petraeus' balls to the wall, because appearances."

Jimenez discussed the progression of punishment, noting, "At the very top you can see that if you're actually holding a Cabinet post or Congressional seat you're also given the option to pin your own violation on someone of lesser status."

When asked why the chart didn't list punishments or alternatives for anyone under the rank of O-6 or GS-15, Jimenez laughed.

"Those people are still in the real military where stuff like that matters. They're all fucked."

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## **ANNIVERSARIES**

### **January 1847: Citizens Defeat Slavehunters**



SOJOURNER TRUTH.

Carl Bunin Peace History January 21-27

Since 1832, Michigan had had an active antislavery society.

Quakers in Cass County, Laura Haviland in Adrian and former slave Sojourner Truth in Battle Creek were only a few of the many Michiganians who worked on the Underground Railroad—an informal network that assisted escaping slaves.

Southern concern over the Underground Railroad will lead Congress to pass a more stringent Fugitive Slave Law in 1850. In 1854 opposition to the extension of slavery prompted Michiganians to meet in nearby Jackson to organize the Republican Party.

**Several hundred citizens of Marshall, Michigan, helped former slaves escape to Canada rather than be returned to their “owner” by bounty hunters. Adam Crosswhite and his family, escaped Kentucky slaves, were tracked to the abolitionist town of Marshall by Francis Troutman and others.**

**Both black and white residents detained the bounty hunters and threatened them with tar and feathers.**

While Troutman was being charged with assault and fined \$100, the Crosswhites fled to Canada. Back in Kentucky, the slavemaster stirred up intense excitement about “abolitionist mobs” in Michigan.

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## January 1969: A Strike For Liberation

Carl Bunin Peace History January 21-27

In Detroit, African-American auto workers, known as the Eldon Avenue Axle Plant Revolutionary Union Movement, led a wildcat strike against racism and poor working conditions at Chrysler.

Since the 1967 Detroit riots, African American workers had organized groups in several Detroit auto plants criticizing both the auto companies and the UAW leadership. These groups combined Black-Power nationalism and workplace militancy, and temporarily shut down more than a dozen inner-city plants.

The most well-known of these groups was the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement, or DRUM. They criticized both the seniority system and grievance procedures as racist. Veterans of this movement went on to lead many of the same local unions.

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## Happy Anniversary:

# **To The Committee Of Soldiers’ Mothers Of Russia: “Hundreds Of Mothers Organised By CSMR Went To Chechnya To Take Their Sons Away From The War”**

Carl Bunin Peace History

**CSMR was founded in 1989 and officially registered the same year by 300 mothers of soldiers, whose initial aim was to campaign for their sons to return home early from military service in order to resume their studies.**

**They succeeded in bringing home nearly 180,000 young men for this purpose.**

The mothers had been horrified by what they saw and learned about conditions in the armed forces: the regular beatings, abuse and humiliations, the lack of food or other necessities, the effective slavery imposed in the ‘construction’ battalions which comprised about 30 per cent of military manpower.



Their demands were for thorough reform of military structures, reform of the armed forces on a democratic basis, an end to forced labour in the construction battalions, demilitarisation on the justice system, the establishment of effective civil control over the military and legislation to provide for an alternative civil service.

In 1990 some of these demands, including partial demobilisation of the construction battalions, were conceded by President Gorbachev, but in general the situation did not improve.

CSMR set up a Rehabilitation Centre for soldiers who left the army for health reasons. Its activities expanded and diversified to include the organisation of human rights education for conscripts and their parents, dealing with individual complaints concerning

human rights violations, regular inspections of military units, the working out of legislative proposals and the organisation of non-violent public protests.

**In November 1994 the war in Chechnya broke out and, as CSMR put it, “the peaceful time for the Committee was over”.**

They opposed the war from the start, both in itself and for the threat it posed to the new Russian democracy.

Their new activities included dealing with individual complaints from soldiers and their mothers, running a weekly ‘School for Conscripts’, supervising the special military unit for the rehabilitation of so-called ‘deserters’, which is under the aegis of the CSMR, as well as participating in working groups of the State Duma (parliament).

In the first six months of the war, the Committee received letters from up to 200 people a day and in the same period nearly 10,000 people brought their complaints in person.

**Hundreds of mothers organised by CSMR went to Chechnya to take their sons away from the war. They negotiated with the Chechen army and obtained the release of ‘prisoners of war’.**

**CSMR organised a remarkable ‘March of Mothers’ Compassion’, bombarded the Russian government with statements and petitions, and campaigned for the young men who refused to serve in Chechnya, declaring themselves conscientious objectors.**

**Most controversially, they started a campaign encouraging mothers to support the right of their sons to refuse military service - and they travelled abroad to support the idea of an International Tribunal on Chechnya.**

The founders of CSMR were five women - two engineers, a journalist, a teacher and an economist. An all-volunteer organisation with no regular budget, CSMR now acts as the umbrella group for 50 regional organisations of soldiers’ mothers and liaises with others.

In 1995, CSMR received the Sean MacBride Award from the International Peace Bureau and an award from the Norwegian Committee on Human Rights.

**“The mothers’ love, the mothers’ aspirations to defend their children, turned very soon into conscious human rights activity... The soldiers’ mothers understood that to defend their children they have to change the State and society. Their call for human rights in all the military power structures meant a call for democracy.”**  
**- Ida Kuklina**

Contact Details:  
Committee of Soldiers’ Mothers of Russia  
4 Luchnikov Lane, Door 3, Room 32, 103982 Moscow  
Russia

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# January 30, 1972: Shameful Anniversary; Bloody Sunday: An Occupation Massacre



Carl Bunin Peace History Jan 28 - Feb 3

In Bogside, Derry, British Occupied Ireland, near the Rossville flats, 13 unarmed and peaceful civil rights demonstrators were shot dead by British Army paratroopers from the British Army's 1st Parachute Regiment in an event that became known as "Bloody Sunday."

The protesters, all Catholics, had been marching in protest of the British policy of internment without trial of suspected Irish nationalists. Internment without trial was introduced by the British government on August 9, 1971.

British authorities had ordered the march banned, and sent troops to confront the demonstrators when it went ahead.

The soldiers fired indiscriminately into the crowd of protesters, killing 13 and wounding seventeen. One wounded man later died from illness attributed to that shooting.

By the end of the year 323 civilians and 144 military and paramilitary personnel would be dead.

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## January 31, 1876: Odious Betrayal



Sitting Bull: One of several chiefs who refused to comply.

Carl Bunin Peace History Jan 28 - Feb 3

The U.S. government ordered that all Native Americans must move to reservations by this date or be declared hostile.

**Most Sioux did not even hear of the ultimatum until after the deadline.**

**Major General Philip Sheridan considered the notification exercise a waste of time.**

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## January 31, 1968: Resistance Anniversary: The Tet Offensive

Peace History: Carl Bunin

The Tet (the lunar new year) Offensive began as North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces launched surprise attacks against major cities, provincial and district capitals in South Vietnam.

The attack had been anticipated but, nonetheless, half of the ARVN troops (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) were on leave because of the holiday.

There were attacks in Saigon (the South's capital) on the Independence Palace (the residence of the president), the radio station, the ARVN's joint General Staff Compound, Tan Son Nhut airfield, and the United States embassy, causing considerable damage

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## **January 31, 1945: Anniversary Of A Murder; The Execution Of Private Eddy Slovik**



Pvt. Eddy Slovik

Carl Bunin Peace History Jan 28 - Feb 3

Private Eddy Slovik became the first American soldier since the Civil War to be executed for desertion.

**Supreme Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered Slovik's execution be carried out, he said, to avoid further desertions in the late stages of the war.**

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[Excerpt from the article by Joe Allen; Death Row At The “Castle”: Inside The U.S. Military’s Judicial System; the International Socialist Review. Joe Allen is a member of Teamsters Local 705 in Chicago and the International Socialist Organization.]

**Alvin “Tommy” Bridges, a military policeman during the war and a future police chief, recounted his very bitter memories of “military justice” to Studs Terkel in the Good War: “They shot some of those same guys up there that were—if you’d go to a municipal court, they’d dismiss the case. Depending a lot upon the commanding officer.”**

Near the end of his narrative, Bridges makes clear the extent of summary “justice” and who was responsible:

**“Eisenhower says that’s the only guy (Eddie Slovik) that was ever executed for it (desertion). That’s what burns me up, when a gross of them that I know were executed for probably more minor things than what Slovik was. They said he was the only one. We had to make a show of it. The son-of-a-bitches.”**

Eddie Slovik was a Polish working-class kid from Detroit who had a minor criminal record and spent some years in a youth reformatory.

His draft classification was originally 4-F (unfit for military service) and therefore not eligible to be drafted. He married and got a decent paying job in the auto industry, whereupon he was reclassified 1-A.

The army was then drafting anybody it could get its hands on in preparation for the invasion of Europe. It was also clear that Slovik couldn’t kill a living thing and was terrified of combat. In his “confession” after he deserted he said, “I’ll run away again if I have to go their.” (He misspelled “there,” and by “there” he meant going into combat).

**Over 40,000 other deserters tried by lesser courts-martial were punished by confinement to disciplinary centers or dishonorably discharged. Another 2,864 were tried by general courts-martial.**

**Most were sentenced to long terms in prisons (many left prison soon after the war was over), but forty-nine were sentenced to death. All the sentences for desertion were commuted except Slovik’s.**

Slovik’s story is recounted in William Bradford Huie’s book The Execution of Private Slovik.

Why Slovik?

It seems likely that the reason Slovik was singled out was because he deserted at the time of stiffening German resistance in late 1944, when the Allied forces came dangerously close to collapsing on the Western front.

Yet, curiously, the army never publicized his execution beyond his company, never told his wife, and buried him in a secret cemetery.

It would be nearly a decade after Slovik's death before Huie began investigating the strange circumstances surrounding it.

Despite the efforts of many people, Slovik's wife never received the paltry \$10,000 plus interest she asked for in GI life insurance. Slovik's remains were finally returned to the U.S. in 1987, to be buried beside the grave of his deceased wife.

While many people believe that Slovik was the only American soldier executed during the war, that is not true.

Many were executed on charges other than desertion, and African American soldiers once again bore the brunt of these executions.

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## **DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK**



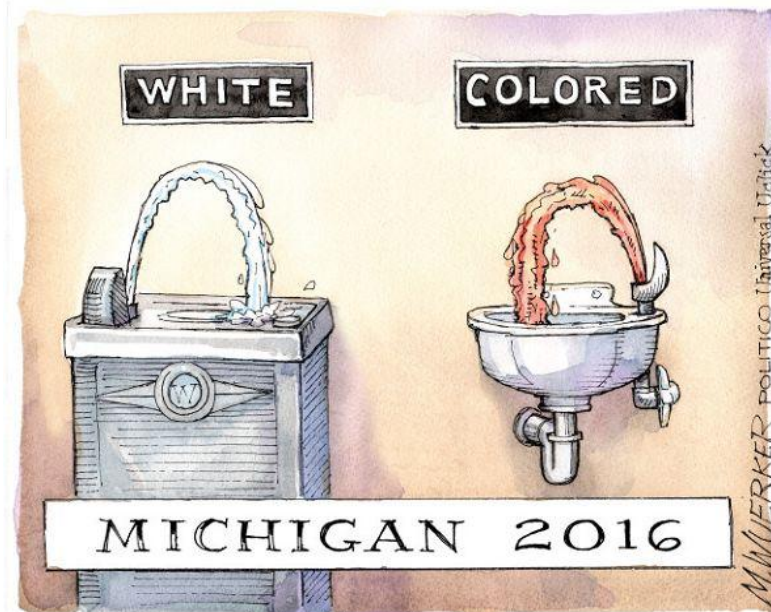
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# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Defending freedom."]

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