

Military Resistance 14D7



**Deported Veterans:
U.S. Military Veterans Are Subject
To Deportation If They Pick Up A
Criminal Conviction;
“Even For A Misdemeanor”
“They Raised Their Right Hands And
Swore To Defend The Constitution”
“They Thought That Made Them
Citizens”**

April 10, 2016 By Lida Dianti, LAProgressive.com

To some U.S. veterans, the tragedy of war is more than the violence or conflict on the ground. It is a shadow that follows them home in the form of unemployment, PTSD and

substance abuse. Non-citizen veterans—despite spending years of their lives defending this country—must not only unpack shell shock but also face the threat of deportation.

Though they are promised naturalization, far too many U.S. military veterans, who are generally green card holders, never actually naturalize and are subject to deportation if they pick up a criminal conviction when they return home, even if it is just for a misdemeanor offense.

Thousands of immigrants have served to uphold the systems that protect the American people only to be vilified by the same institutions they risked their lives to defend.

Many deported veterans contend that military recruiters mislead them to enlist, telling them that they would become a U.S. citizen by virtue of joining the military.



As a result, immigrants often are completely unaware that they can be deported even with their veteran status.

Margaret Stock of Cascadia Cross-Border Law in Anchorage, Alaska, who has represented deported servicemen, expressed a common misconception among immigrant veterans.

“They raised their right hands and swore to defend the Constitution,” Stock told the Los Angeles Times. “They thought that made them citizens.”

Other veterans say that they in fact filed their naturalization paperwork while they were in the military, but the federal government lost the paperwork or never responded.

Still others say that the military could have helped them naturalize during basic training, but failed to do so. The Pentagon reports that since 2009, about 9,800 men and women have earned their citizenship during basic military training. More than 89,000 people have received citizenship through military service since 9/11.

It is important to note that naturalization after deployment has long been a benefit provided to servicemen.

As early as the Civil War, immigrants have played a pivotal role in the U.S. military. One in six troopers in George Custer’s 7th Cavalry at the Battle of the Little Big Horn was an Irish immigrant.

The promise of U.S. citizenship after military service has been a long-standing practice that provided immigrants with a highly valued avenue to naturalization. The history of military service in America would be significantly different without the inclusion of immigrants and the promise of citizenship that followed.

In recent years, as veterans return from Iraq and Afghanistan, they find adjusting to civilian life to be difficult. Many of them struggle with PTSD and substance abuse as they work to regain a sense of the lives they led before suffering the trauma of war.

The ACLU of California is partnering with Deported Veterans Support House, a shelter and resource center for deported veterans based in Tijuana, Mexico, on a project to end the unjust deportations of U.S. military veterans.

Although a 2011 Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) memo provides veterans special consideration in deportation hearings, more often than not, this consideration is ignored or applied inconsistently.

Since January, the ACLU of California has documented 70 cases of veterans deported to countries around the world, and is evaluating each case for possible avenues for legal relief to enable these veterans to come home.

“For these men, their deportation is like a life sentence – it means permanent separation from their families, their lives, their livelihoods and the only country that most of them have ever known,” said Jennie Pasquarella, attorney and immigrants’ rights director for the ACLU of California.

“They honorably served our country, and they also served their time in the criminal justice system. They should not serve a life of exile as well. It’s time for the United States to bring them home.”

Currently, the ACLU is representing Daniel Torres in his quest to become a U.S. citizen. Torres is a former Marine who served in Iraq and is now living in Tijuana. When Torres enlisted, he took an oath “to support and uphold” the Constitution and defend the only

country he called home. He certainly was “American” enough to serve in Iraq. But what he possessed in tenacity, military prowess and leadership, he lacked in legal immigration status.

“We’re not just some foreigners that got deported,” Torres told NPR. “We feel like Americans that have been banished, in exile from the country we love the most.”

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.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Mass Desertion Of Government Troops With Weapons To Join Taliban: “The Security Situation In Baghlan Has Sharply Deteriorated”

Apr 14 2016 By Khaama Press

At least 30 Afghan Local Police (ALP) soldiers have reportedly joined the Taliban ranks in northern Baghlan province of Afghanistan.

Sources have said the ALP forces have joined the Taliban ranks in Dand-e-Ghori district where heavy clashes have been reported among the Taliban and Afghan security forces.

The sources speaking on the condition of anonymity said the ALP forces have also taken with them 25 weapons.

The Taliban militants group has commented regarding the report so far which comes as local officials have said the Taliban insurgents have launched coordinated attack on Dand-e-Ghori.

According to the local security officials, the Taliban insurgents have launched coordinated attack on the area from different positions and gun battle is underway between the Afghan forces and the militants.

According to the earlier reports, the Taliban insurgents have managed to take control of certain areas in Dand-e-Ghori which is located close to Pul-e-Khumri city, the provincial capital of Baghlan province.

The provincial police chief, General Mohammad Ewaz Naziri, said clashes continued between the militants and Afghan forces but he did not confirm the fall of area to the Taliban militants.

The Afghan forces retook full control of Dand-e-Ghori from Taliban insurgents earlier last months which followed weeks after the area was in control of the militants.

The security situation in Baghlan has sharply deteriorated amid rampant Taliban-led insurgency across the country, including northern provinces.

7 Policemen Killed By Insider Attack In Kandahar

Apr 12 2016 By Khaama Press

At least seven policemen were killed in southern Kandahar province of Afghanistan by an insider attack, local officials said Tuesday.

The incident has taken place in Spin Boldak district of Kandahar late on Monday night near the Durand Line.

A local security official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the policemen were shot dead by one of their comrades who has managed to flee the area following the attack.

The Taliban group has claimed responsibility behind the incident and said the policemen were killed in an attack on a security post.

The group also claimed that the attack was carried out as part of the summer offensive launched by the group under the name of Omari Operations.

Taliban Destroyed Afghan Army Helicopter In IED Attack At Military Base:

“The Afghan Government Claimed Helicopter Damaged In ‘Emergency Landing’”

“The Taliban Recorded Attack On Video”



The blast that destroyed the Afghan National Army helicopter in Kuna:

April 15, 2016 BY BILL ROGGIO, The Long War Journal. Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of The Long War Journal.

The Taliban destroyed an Afghan National Army helicopter as it landed on a remote Army base in the northeastern province of Kunar late last month.

The Afghan government previously claimed the helicopter was damaged in an “emergency landing,” but the Taliban recorded the attack on video.

The dramatic video was produced by Al Emera, an official propaganda outlet of the Taliban, and released today by Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Muhajid.

The Taliban claimed the helicopter, an Mi-8 Hip transport, was destroyed by an IED, or improvised explosive device, as it landed on a hilltop outpost in the Nari district in Kunar on March 24.

According to the Taliban, 21 Afghan Army “commandos” were killed in the attack. The number of Afghan soldiers killed in the blast has not been confirmed.

The video is narrated by Taliban fighters who recorded the attack.

As helicopter landed at the small base, several soldiers were close by watching the aircraft land.

Within 30 seconds after landing, a massive blast toppled the aircraft, and completely destroyed it.

There is little chance anyone onboard survived the blast. The fate of the soldiers who were watching the landing is unknown. The blast was likely caused by a bomb that was placed underneath the aircraft, as the explosion appeared to originate from under the helicopter.

The placement of the IED, which was on the helicopter landing pad inside the base, would indicate security is extremely weak on the outpost, or the Taliban placed soldiers inside who planted the bomb.

Additionally, the Taliban team that recorded the video and likely detonated the bomb was close to the base, indicating that Afghan troops are not patrolling the perimeter.

The Afghan government denied initial claims that the helicopter was destroyed by the Taliban. On March 29, Kunar Governor Wahidullah Kalimzai told Pajhwok Afghan News that the helicopter landed at the outpost due to “some technical fault.”

“The helicopter was carrying logistics for security posts and made an emergency landing on a military base after developing some technical fault,” he said, according to Pajhwok. He also claimed that the air crew was not injured in the so-called “emergency landing.”

Such reports are usually difficult to confirm as the incidents often occur in remote areas. However, both the US and Afghan militaries have a spotty track record when reporting on such incidents.

For instance, on Dec. 17, 2013, a US Blackhawk helicopter went down in Zabul province, killing six US soldiers. The Taliban claimed it shot down the Blackhawk. But the US military discounted the Taliban’s claim and said in a press release that “initial reporting indicates there was no enemy activity in the area at the time of the crash.”

Three weeks later, the US military told the families of the soldiers killed that “enemy action caused the crash and loss of life.”

The exact cause of the destruction of the Blackhawk has not been disclosed, but like the Afghan National Army helicopter that was attacked in Kunar, the cause may have been an IED planted by the Taliban.

Three US military officials told CNN that “the Taliban has been deemed responsible — either by shooting the helicopter or if the low-flying aircraft set off a bomb hidden on the ground.”

In the past, the Taliban has shot down several US helicopters using RPGs, or rocket-propelled grenades.

The most newsworthy strike took place in August 2011 in the Tangi Valley in Wardak province. Taliban RPGs struck a US Army Chinook that was involved in a raid to capture a senior Taliban commander. That attack resulted in the deaths of 38 US and Afghan troops, including 17 Navy SEALs from SEAL Team 6, the unit that killed al Qaeda's founder and first emir, Osama bin Laden.

Jihadists in Afghanistan have also advertised the testing of what they described as an "anti-helicopter fragmentation mine" that is designed to take out US Army Apache attack helicopters.

In July 2013, the Islamic Jihad Union, the al Qaeda-linked offshoot of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, displayed one such weapon in a video about its operations in Paktika province. It is unclear if such a device has been successfully deployed against US or Afghan military helicopters.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

School Policeman Body-Slams 12-Year-Old Girl: “A Loud Crack Could Be Heard As Her Head Slammed Against The Brick Pavement” “She Landed On Her Face!” “The Officer’s Report Was Inconsistent With The Video”

12 April 16 By Lindsey Bever, The Washington Post

Texas school police officer who became enmeshed in controversy after he was captured on video seemingly body-slaming a sixth-grade girl has been fired from the San Antonio Independent School District.

District officials said officer Joshua Kehm was terminated Monday amid an investigation into an incident last month at Rhodes Middle School, in which he appeared to restrain and then throw down 12-year-old Janissa Valdez.

“We understand that situations can sometimes escalate to the point of requiring a physical response; however, in this situation we believe that the extent of the response was absolutely unwarranted,” Superintendent Pedro Martinez said in a statement.

“Additionally, the officer’s report was inconsistent with the video and it was also delayed, which is not in accordance with the general operating procedures of the police department.

“We want to be clear that we will not tolerate this behavior.”



Janissa Valdez, 12, was body slammed by a police officer that has since been fired. (photo: KABB/WOAI)

Janissa had told ABC affiliate KSAT after the incident that she and another student were meeting after school March 29 to discuss comments the other student had purportedly made about Janissa. The 12-year-old told NBC affiliate WOAI that other kids started to congregate in the hall to see whether the two girls planned to fight.

“I was walking toward her, telling her, ‘Let’s go somewhere else,’ because there was a lot of people,” Janissa told KSAT. “Then that’s when other people came over and the officer thought we were going to fight.”

The school district would not release details about the student seen in the video, but Janissa’s family has said it was Janissa.

The video, which emerged on YouTube last week, seemed to show Kehm struggling to hold the student from behind as her schoolmates called out, “Janissa! Janissa, chill!”

The officer then hurled the girl to the ground — and a loud crack could be heard as her head slammed against the brick pavement.

The crowd gasped and then fell silent.

“Janissa! Janissa, you okay?” one student said. “She landed on her face!”

The officer handcuffed the girl, pulled her to her feet and escorted her from the area as another student reached out and gently touched her shoulder.

District officials learned about the video when it surfaced on social media.

“The video is very disturbing,” district spokeswoman Leslie Price said in a statement to The Post. “We immediately launched a formal investigation, which is being conducted by both district police and administration.”

It has drawn intense criticism.

Judith Browne Dianis, co-director for Advancement Project, a civil rights organization, said last week that it “demonstrates the urgent need to take action to remove police officers from our schools.”

“It is unconscionable for a 12-year-old student involved in a verbal altercation to be brutalized and dehumanized in this manner,” she said in a statement. “Once again, a video captured by a student offers a sobering reminder that we cannot entrust school police officers to intervene in school disciplinary matters that are best suited for trained educators and counselors.”

She also questioned whether such incidents are driven by something more.

“How many students of color must be brutalized by police officers in their schools before we recognize the pattern?” she said in the statement.

“We saw this with 17-year-old Brittany Overstreet in Tampa, Fla., who was body-slammed and knocked unconscious by a school resource officer; in Baltimore, Md., where a middle school student required 10 stitches after she was assaulted by a school resource officer; in Columbia, S.C., where a student was thrown across a classroom, handcuffed and arrested for using her phone during class; and now, in San Antonio.

“We cannot wait for another violent video of police brutality in our schools to surface before we take action.”

Still, others have come out in support of Kehm. After the district announcement about his firing, the group Blue Lives Matter reported that students at the school wore white T-shirts Monday to show their support. “Officer Kehm was filmed subduing an irate and violent female student by taking her to the ground,” the group wrote on Facebook. “After a brief investigation Officer Kehm was given the opportunity to resign or be fired. He refused to resign so the San Antonio Independent School District terminated him.”

Martinez, the superintendent, told the San Antonio Express-News that the decision to fire Kehm came after district officials decided his use of force was unwarranted.

Also, Martinez said, Kehm failed to report it to the district — a requirement when students have been restrained.

“That did not happen,” Martinez told the newspaper. “When the police officer did submit a report, it was not at all consistent with the video.”

Martinez said Kehm’s report suggested the girl had fallen down.

Martinez told the Associated Press that he also blamed school staffers for failing to intervene before the incident. He said an assistant principal has been put on paid leave.

“We recognize the high level of emotion generated by this incident, and we want to ensure the public’s trust in this investigation, that it is being conducted without any perception of bias,” Martinez said in the statement.

“We know that this incident does not define our district police department, which is dedicated to serving and protecting our school community. We all want to make sure this kind of incident does not occur again, and we will seek to identify areas where improvement may be needed.”

Charley Wilkison, executive director for the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas said the group will represent Kehm during an appeal against his termination. “There’s two sides to every story,” Wilkison told the Associated Press on Monday. “We intend to fully, fully defend this officer and make sure that all of his rights are upheld.”

Teen, 17, Shot Four Times In The Chest And Stomach By Police For Carrying A Broomstick:

**“He Was Gunned Down When Police
Saw Him Arguing With A Man While
Clutching A Broomstick”**

**“The Police Said ‘Drop It’ Once, Then
They Shot Him Four Times”**

28 February 2016 By ASSOCIATED PRESS

This is the 17-year-old boy fighting for his life in a coma after Utah police shot him in the chest because he was brandishing a broomstick.

Abdi Mohamed was hospitalized in downtown Salt Lake City on Saturday night after the shooting near a homeless shelter.

Mohamed, who lives with his girlfriend and their son, moved to the States from Kenya 10 years ago, according to the New York Daily News.

He was gunned down at 8.15pm on Saturday when police saw him arguing with a man while clutching a broomstick, Fox 13 reports.

Surrounding them, police allegedly told the boy to drop the broomstick.

When he did not, 'shots were fired'. Mohamed was hit in the chest and the stomach.

He was a really caring, good, loving boyfriend, and a really, good caring loving father, I know what he was doing every day, the things he would do for us,' his girlfriend, Becca Monson, told Fox 13.



Abdi Mohamed, who lives with his girlfriend and their son, moved to the States from Kenya 10 years ago. He is now fighting for his life in a Salt Lake City, Utah, hospital after being shot in the chest and stomach by police

'He just wanted to make sure we were loved and we were happy he put us in front of everything.'

The shooting sparked fierce protests that ripped through the city on Saturday night.

Around 100 officers were dispatched to contain the uproar as crowds shouted and threw objects at police, Fox reports.

Mohamed's friend, Selam Mohammed, who was stood next to him at the time, claims the officers only gave the boy one chance to drop the broomstick in his hand.

'The police said 'drop it' once, then they shot him four times,' Mohammed told Fox News.

'We were trying to break it up before the police even came, but the police ran in on foot and pulled their guns out already, they already had them, like, as soon as he was running he was already grabbing for his gun, not even trying to Tase him or anything...

'He said 'drop it' [then] boom boom! Four times.'

Once shots were fired, hundreds of people flooded the streets screaming at officers and throwing rocks, bottles and other debris at officers, Fox reports.

Utah's transit authority shut down tram services in the area until 11pm as multiple law enforcement agencies combined to tackle the uproar.

Fans at the Utah Jazz game at Vivint Smart Home Arena were advised mid-game to avoid the area on leaving.

Detective Greg Wilking told the Tribune he did not know how many shots were fired or whether an officer fired them.

Salt Lake City police told the newspaper that one officer - and possibly a second one - were involved in the shooting.

City police were helped by officers from three other departments as onlookers threw rocks at officers and yelled obscenities, the Tribune said. Police closed a light rail stop in the neighborhood.

Police detained multiple people but Wilking could not elaborate on the reason for the detentions.

There were 'a lot of hostile people upset about what had taken place,' Wilking told the Tribune.

At 8.40pm, a line of officers moved protesters down a sidewalk, the newspaper reported.

There are a number of homeless shelters in the neighborhood, and business owners have long complained about the homeless population and drug dealing, the Tribune said.

Virginia Cop Attacks Black Man Having Stroke With Pepper-Spray And Taser: "Get Out The Car, Or I'm Going To Fucking Smoke You"

The Unresponsive Man Was Sitting In His Car



May 23, 2015 by Tom Boggioni, Raw Story & May 22, 2015 By Max Smith, WTOP
[Excerpts]

Saying he did nothing wrong, a Virginia police officer resigned from the Fredericksburg Police Department after body-cam video showed him using his Taser, and then pepper-spray, on an unresponsive black man sitting in his car.

According to the WHOP, 34-year-old David Washington was having a stroke at the time of the incident.

The officer, Shaun Jurgens, resigned from the city police department on May 14, and was one of three officers who responded when the disoriented Washington drove the wrong way on a street before stopping in an intersection.

In the video, Jurgens is seen walking up to Washington's car and using his Taser on him, without warning, as he sits at the wheel of his car staring forward.

After another officer opens the door of the car, Jurgens sprays a massive amount of pepper spray into the face of Washington, who barely flinches.

Jurgens can then be heard yelling "Get out the car. Get out the car, or I'm going to fucking smoke you. Get out the car, right now. We ain't playing."

As Washington slowly attempts to unbuckle his seat-belt, officers pull the subdued man to the ground, bending his arm behind his back.

While on the ground, Washington tell the officers "I can't breathe," adding that he has been sick for days. It was later determined that he was having a stroke.

According to Jurgens, he said that he thought at the time Washington may have been under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and that he was concerned because there was a school nearby.

An investigation by the Fredericksburg Police Department showed that Jurgens' use of force was not in line with department policies.

The two other officers at the scene, Cpl. Matt Deschenes and Sgt. Crystal Hill, are still being investigated by the department.

Following his arrest, Washington was taken to a nearby hospital and later released. He has been charged with reckless driving and driving on a revoked license, but has not been arrested.

Although in the video Washington remains still, Jurgens says he aimed the Taser incorrectly because the driver was moving. He also says the sunlight made it hard to see the red dots that show where the Taser's prongs will attach.

US Marshals Arresting People For Not Paying Federal Student Loans: “Paul Aker Arrested At His Home Last Week”

“Seven Deputy US Marshals Showed Up At His Home With Guns”



Paul Aker was arrested by U.S. Marshals for student loan debt. Photo: Fox 26

Feb 15 2016 FOX 26 News reporter Isiah Carey & 16 February 16 By Stephen A. Crockett Jr., The Root

Believe it or not, the US Marshals Service in Houston is arresting people for not paying their outstanding federal student loans.

Paul Aker says he was arrested at his home last week for a \$1500 federal student loan he received in 1987.

He says seven deputy US Marshals showed up at his home with guns and took him to federal court where he had to sign a payment plan for the 29-year-old school loan.

Congressman Gene Green says the federal government is now using private debt collectors to go after those who owe student loans.

Green says as a result, those attorneys and debt collectors are getting judgements in federal court and asking judges to use the US Marshals Service to arrest those who have failed to pay their federal student loans.

Our reliable source with the US Marshal in Houston say Aker isn't the first and won't be the last.

They have to serve anywhere from 1200 to 1500 warrants to people who have failed to pay their federal student loans.

Oklahoma City Officer “Pointed A Firearm At Kurt Ward, Paulette Henson” And A Child “For The Purpose Of Threatening And Intimidating Them” “Cecil Was Pointing The Gun At Him And His Mother, So He Dropped Into The Floorboard”



Sgt. Cecil Moss, a 12-year veteran of the force, facing charges.

MAY 18, 2015 BY KFOR-TV & K. QUERRY

OKLAHOMA CITY – New details are being released related to charges being filed against an Oklahoma City police officer.

On Friday, the police department announced that Sgt. Cecil Moss, a 12-year veteran of the force, was facing charges.

On Monday, Oklahoma County District Attorney David Prater filed a charge of pointing a firearm at another against Moss.

According to the charges filed on Monday, Cecil Moss “willfully, knowingly, and without lawful cause, pointed a firearm at Kurt Ward, Paulette Henson” and a child “for the purpose of threatening and intimidating them.”

On April 4, an officer was called to an assault with a deadly weapon involving an off-duty police officer.

Ward told police that he went home to meet his ex-girlfriend, who is Moss’ daughter.

He said that he, his mother and his child were there to see his newborn, who was in the custody of Moss’ daughter.

When Ward walked into his home, he told police that he saw Cecil Moss in the baby’s bedroom.

According to the affidavit, he told authorities that he ran for the front door because he was afraid of Cecil.

He got back into his car and told his mother that they were leaving.

According to the charges, the victim saw Cecil step into the street, lift his shirt and pull out a gun.

Ward’s mother remembered her son saying, “Oh my God, mom, he’s got a gun.”

Ward “stated Cecil was pointing the gun at him and his mother, so he dropped into the floorboard,” the report alleges.

As the car passed the house, the victim told authorities that he heard two “bangs” that he believes was Cecil kicking the door and hitting the car with his gun.

However, he said he didn’t think Cecil fired any rounds from the gun.

Court records show Moss has a very different story, saying he pointed the gun because he feared for his life. He told investigators that he thought the driver was going to run over him.

Ward’s mother says that was not the case.

“He had the gun out before I was going forward,” Henson said.

According to a police report, Moss says he did not fire the gun because there was a baby in the car. He says he eventually moved to the side and the car brushed against his leg.

Moss will continue to be on paid administrative leave as the police department continues the internal investigation of this incident.

On May 20, Moss was booked into the Oklahoma County Jail on charges of Pointing a Firearm at Another. His bond is set at \$4,000.

MILITARY NEWS

THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THEM HOME: ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE



Marines removed the remains of SSGT Louis F. Cardin from a plane at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. SSGT Cardin was wounded March 19, 2016 by indirect fire while conducting operations in Iraq. Credit Cliff Owen/Associated Press

Scumbags In Congress “Would Cut In Half The Housing Stipend For Dependents Of Veterans

Attending School On GI Bill Benefits”

**“For Students In High-Cost Cities,
That Cut Would Total \$1,000 To
\$1,800 A Month”**

**“The Move Goes Back On A Promise
Made To Those Families That The
Full Benefit Would Be Available”**

“This Is A Whole New Level Of Stupid”

April 15, 2016 by Leo Shane III, Military Times [Excerpts]

A coalition of Democratic lawmakers and veterans organizations is vowing to block any legislation that includes proposed cuts to the Post-9/11 GI Bill, even if that means shelving a host of other proposals they authored.

At issue is a measure passed without objection in the House earlier this year which would cut in half the housing stipend for dependents of veterans attending school on GI Bill benefits. The move would save the government about \$773 million over the next 10 years and help pay for a host of other veterans initiatives.

“This goes back on a promise that all of us here are unwilling to break,” said Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn. “In the entire federal budget, there is nowhere else to fund (veterans) programs? That cannot stand.”

For students in high-cost cities such as San Diego or New York, that cut would total \$1,000 to \$1,800 a month. It would not affect students already using the transferred benefit but could affect families planning on the extra money in the future.

But officials from Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America said the move goes back on a promise made to those families that the full benefit would be available when they need it, and for the first time pulls money out of the GI Bill to fund outside programs.

They painted the legislative proposal as a betrayal of veterans’ service and accused lawmakers of viewing earned benefits as a “piggy bank” for other wants.

“This is a whole new level of stupid, to cut the GI Bill in a time of war,” said Paul Rieckhoff, CEO of IAVA. “This is about keeping a promise, investing in the future, about retention and recruiting and morale.

“Find the money somewhere else. Either you’re with us or against us.”

Officials from Student Veterans of America pushed back on that ultimatum, saying the issue is more complex than the opposition coalition will admit. Supporters of the cut have also argued that the benefit is overly generous to children of troops, sometimes awarding them housing stipends well beyond their dorm and living costs.

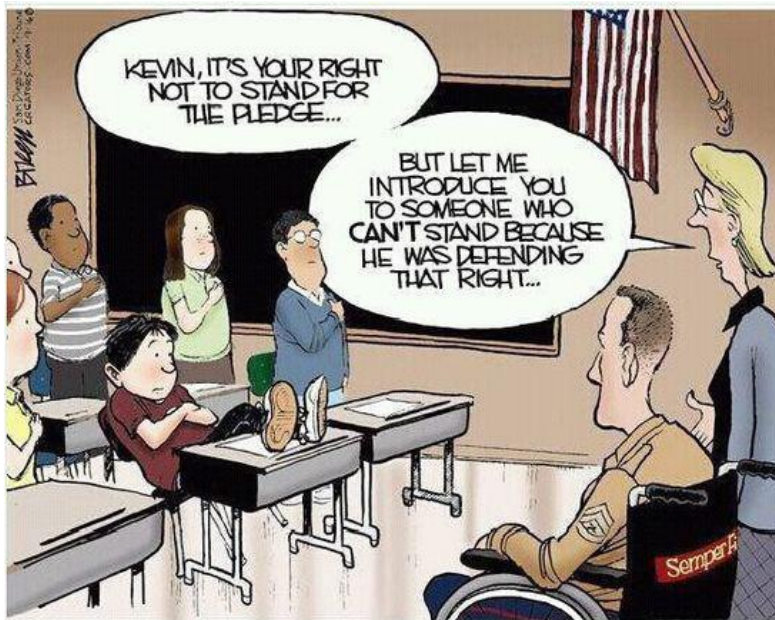
Michael Little, director of legislative affairs for the Association of the United States Navy, said any cut to the GI Bill benefit risks adding to the stress load of military and veteran families.

“If we want to talk about funding veterans’ benefits, the last place we need to look for money is in the GI Bill,” he said. “The discussion about the GI Bill shouldn’t be about where we’ll cut, it should be on sustaining and strengthening it beyond our current military budget situation.”

Opponents hope the latest objections convince them to look elsewhere for money.

“When we look troops in the eye and make them promises ... they expect us to keep those promises,” said Rep. Tammy Duckworth, R-Ill. “It’s not fair to rob one group of veterans to pay for services for another. “We can do better.”

RECEIVED FROM READERS



This one had me pulling my hair out. I think it means “It’s great that we have free speech. Now make sure you never use it.” Because nothing says “Freedom!” like enforced loyalty oaths I guess.

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

If you love freedom, thank an activist. If you love fascism, thank the Military Industrial complex. And their lies.

I pulled this off a Daily Kos diary called "Things I've learned from Facebook"

The quotation below the panel came with the illustration.

I could also argue that the day the public learns that the soldiers' wounds have nothing to do with defending freedom is the day wars will end.

The Two-Party Establishment Has Not Been Kind To The Trump And Sanders Development Because It Reflects The General Crisis In The System:

“The Forces Of US Capital Neither Want An Unpredictable Commander In Chief Nor One That Will Inspire Masses Of People To Push For Concrete Demands”



Black Agenda Report

04/05/2016 by Danny Haiphong, via Black Agenda Report

Danny Haiphong is an Asian activist and political analyst in the Boston area. He can be reached at wakeupriseup1990@gmail.com.

“The forces of US capital neither want an unpredictable Commander in Chief nor one that will inspire masses of people to push for concrete demands.”

Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders are products of US imperialism’s post-Obama stupor.

After eight years of bipartisan consensus on nearly every venture of imperialism, from privatization to endless war, Washington’s corporate duopoly finds itself in a delicate moment.

Trump has split the Republican Party with his unorthodox combination of white supremacist vitriol and populist appeal. The Bernie Sanders campaign, on the other hand, has galvanized a large section of the Democratic Party base to support a New Deal politician.

The two-party establishment has not been kind to the Trump and Sanders development because it reflects the general crisis in the system.

However, there should be no illusions about whether Trump or Sanders would alter the course of US imperialism. The answer is no. Both are running on establishment party tickets, which are fully indebted to US imperialism. War, privatization, and racist terrorism will exist and persist as long as the US is ruled by capital.

However, the significance of Trump and Sanders cannot be ignored. Both present a potential nightmare for imperialism as discontent with the rule of capital reaches a high point.

The forces of US capital neither want an unpredictable Commander in Chief nor one that will inspire masses of people to push for concrete demands.

Trump is the former and Sanders is the latter.

Although the corporate media has given Trump the most attention of any candidate, the Republican Party establishment has revolted against him. Sanders has survived multiple attacks from the Democratic Party establishment, including the media.

Trump and Sanders are not threats to the two-party duopoly in and of themselves. However, what their campaigns represent certainly is and the ruling class knows it.

The Sanders and Trump phenomenon emerged from the internal revolt occurring in the respective bases of the Democratic and Republican Party.

Young people across racial and gender lines favor Sanders while older Democrats favor Clinton. Donald Trump has become the most popular Republican Party candidate by attaching allegiance to white supremacy to real economic grievances. Since the Reagan era, the Republican Party has relied solely on appealing to racism for popular support.

Over this same period, large sections of Republican Party supporters have lost significant economic ground to the forces of Wall Street.

Trump and Sanders have promised to reverse this trend in their own way. US capitalist society is crumbling and the 2016 elections reflect the growing cracks.

Persistent joblessness, poverty, and debt have left workers disillusioned with the enormous profits raked in by lords of capital. US imperialism's endless path of destruction all around the world no longer provides material benefit to any section of workers in the US. Mass surveillance, police brutality, and mass Black Incarceration have plummeted trust in the US state. Masses of people are frustrated and are looking for an alternative.

But workers and oppressed people remain stuck in the two-party corporate duopoly because the revolt of the 2016 elections has taken place within the establishment parties.

However, in the coming months, the capitalist class will be forced to choose which candidate is best suited to run the Empire.

This President will be tasked with managing the affairs of capital in a much more hostile political terrain. Trump and Sanders have energized a large section of the population around legitimate concerns about the various ills that stem from capitalist rule. However, the atmosphere of enthusiasm around this election should not replace a concrete analysis of where the left should go from here.

The left is visibly torn about this election cycle.

Some have focused energy primarily on preventing a Trump victory while others have become enamored with Bernie Sanders. Some believe that Hilary Clinton is the most dangerous candidate in the race while others think that Trump represents the rise of fascism in the US.

The contradictions of this election cycle have opened up room for debate that didn't previously exist in the Obama era. It is what principled forces of revolutionary struggle do with this room that matters.

The two-party corporate duopoly will always be a duopoly regardless of which candidates happen to speak to the issues afflicting the oppressed. The oppressed and working class inside the Empire has yet to grasp onto a political language and direction necessary to spur a mass movement.

Even so, the US ruling class is genuinely concerned that this election cycle will inspire people to rebel against its two-party dictatorship of capital. The sooner this concern becomes a reality, the closer imperialism's crisis comes to a revolutionary conclusion. The post-Obama hangover has the potential to be a violent one.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

“A Jew to Zionist Fighters, 1988” Do You Really Want To Be The New Wehrmacht? The New SA And SS?

Erich Fried was born in Vienna in 1921 and escaped to England, with his mother, after his father was tortured to death by the Gestapo, in 1938.

Because of his experiences with racism and Fascism he became involved in the Palestinian cause.

He was a leader in the fight against both Fascism and Zionism.

A Jew to Zionist Fighters, 1988

What do you actually want?
Do you really want to outdo
those who trod you down
a generation ago
into your own blood
and into your own excrement
Do you want to pass on the old torture
to others now
in all its bloody and dirty detail
with all the brutal delight of torturers
as suffered by your fathers?
Do you really want to be the new Gestapo
the new Wehrmacht
the new SA and SS
and turn the Palestinians
into the new Jews?
Well then I too want,
having fifty years ago
myself been tormented for being a Jewboy
by your tormentors,
to be a new Jew with these new Jews
you are making of the Palestinians
And I want to help lead them as a free people
into their own land of Palestine
from whence you have driven them or in which you plague them
you apprentices of the Swastika
you fools and changelings of history
whose Star of David on your flags
turns ever quicker

**into that damned symbol with its four feet
that you just do not want to see
but whose path you are following today**



**To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:
<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/>
The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."**

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?

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Whether at a base in the USA or stationed outside the Continental United States, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war and economic injustice, inside the armed services and at home.

Send email requests to address up top or write to: The 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.."



WHEN HAWKS RETIRE

All of us who've had our "first" trips to Saigay Nam and Sonay 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.

Like Senator Edward V. Long (D-Mo.), the Senate Judiciary Committee tonight wants 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 crates was to get forward information on 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 nice hotels).

Going to and from Europe Long traveled on Senate funds, but while on TDY there, he economized by using US military surplus, cars 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 expand 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 7,000 GIs have been killed in action.

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

The next issue of VGI will discuss the Paris talks in greater detail. By that time you will have more information on the subject.

Below is an interview with a Marine who didn't like the war and figured out why. This guy is a Platoon SGT with the 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 visiting his second Nam year. Since he doesn't ETS until 1972 we've left 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 to, 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 these 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 contacts 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 our own 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, 'cos, 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 walk up for the little treats in the crates, the gum and the occasional 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 stands 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 crates, 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 tin of nothing and make something out of it. She made me a sculpture which she had made out of a 6-ounce tin. She had pounded it out with a nail and a hammer. It had a little Buddha on it and I wore it all the time. I actually got to feel naked after I lost it.

One year, later on, during the Tet holidays, the Viet Cong came in and burned out half of the village, in order to stop them, the VC took this girl and they cut off her breasts. She was brought up to the hospital and later she died.

VGI: Did the brass give you any stark-awake lessons while in Vietnam?

A: The incident where I almost got into trouble was, there was a convoy of about 12 to 14 trucks. I think it was our main supply train, the VC took this girl and they cut off her breasts. She was brought up to the hospital and later she died.

the sleep. 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 a time when we didn't get enough of our observation points, 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 personal-owning flame-throwers like them out on a company deep 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 flame 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 stretchers. A 140-pound 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 bought our rice and got our rice. It's not poetry, it's really true. It was just this small village, maybe 16 or 17 houses. It was a "gray so white" village, all and on there'd be Viet Cong waiting the area. No hospitals 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 "Puff", "Puff" 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 sort of adopted this kid, this little two year old. He took this kid real close. When we went on R and R we brought him back toys and trucks 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-fashioned cars and stuff like that are these toys. They're a fascinating 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: The one incident—I know of the better one north Vietnam who was down south wrote to his brother in north who was intent on coming down

Continued on page 8

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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