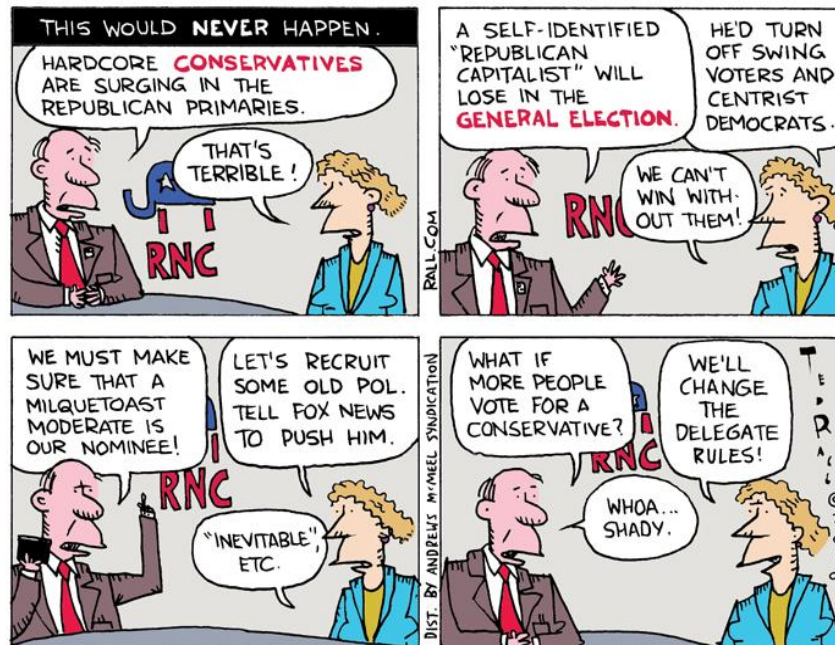


Military Resistance 17L3



**Trump Losing Military Support;
His Favorability Among Service
Members Continues To Slide:
Approval Of The President's
Performance Has Been On The
Decline Since The Initial Poll In 2016;
“Some 50% Of Troops Said They Had An
Unfavorable View Of Him”**

December 17 By: Leo Shane III; <https://www.militarytimes.com/> [Excerpts

President Donald Trump received a loud ovation when he participated in the coin toss ahead of Saturday's Army-Navy football rivalry game in Philadelphia. But troops' actual

feelings about the commander in chief appear much more ambivalent in the latest Military Times survey.

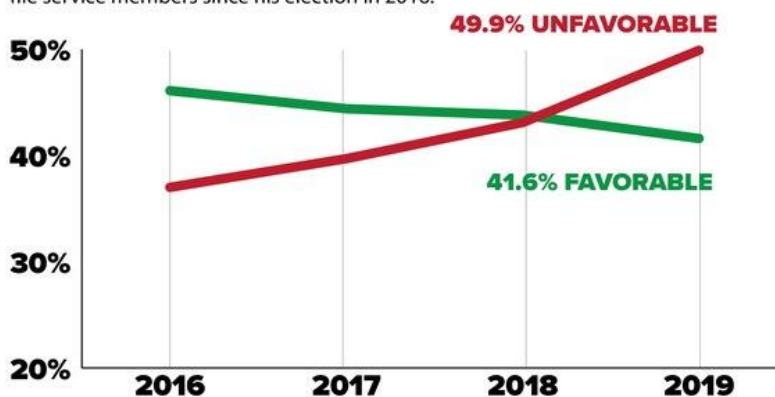
Half of active-duty military personnel contacted in the poll held an unfavorable view of President Trump, showing a continued decline in his approval rating since he was elected in 2016.

Trump's 42 percent approval in the latest poll, conducted from Oct. 23 to Dec. 2, sets his lowest mark in the survey since being elected president.

Some 50 percent of troops said they had an unfavorable view of him.

HOW SERVICE MEMBERS VIEW PRESIDENT TRUMP

The commander in chief has seen a decline in support from rank and file service members since his election in 2016.



*2016 Military Times poll was conducted in December 2016 when Trump was the President-elect.

Source: Poll of 1,630 active-duty troops conducted by the Military Times in partnership with Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families conducted online between October 23, 2019 through December 2, 2019.

By comparison, just a few weeks after his electoral victory in November 2016, 46 percent of troops surveyed had a positive view of the businessman-turned-politician, and 37 percent had a negative opinion.

The poll surveyed 1,630 active-duty Military Times subscribers in partnership with the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at Syracuse University. The numbers likely reflect a more career-minded subset of the military than the force as a whole, according to Peter Feaver, a former White House adviser to former President George W. Bush who is now a political science professor at Duke University.

Still, Feaver said, the drop in Trump's popularity in the poll (conducted with the same parameters over the past four years) indicates growing dissatisfaction with Trump and his handling of several military issues.

When asked specifically about Trump's handling of military issues, nearly 48 percent of the troops surveyed said they had an unfavorable view of that part of his job, compared to 44 percent who believe he has handled that task well.

That marks a significant drop from the 2018 Military Times poll, when 59 percent said they were happy with his handling of military issues, against 20 percent who had an unfavorable view.

“Over time, as the president has been involved with more controversial things connected to the military — whether it’s the border wall or the pardons or the way that Secretary Mattis left — that has changed the view of him,” said retired Marine Corps Col. Dave Lapan, who worked as a department spokesman during both the administrations of Trump and Obama.

“And they’ve seen more indications that he hasn’t been a great commander in chief. So, they’re moving closer to where the rest of the public is.”

Military men appear to be more supportive of Trump compared to military women. Among men, the survey shows a 43 percent favorable view, while among women service members, 53 percent of women expressed a “very unfavorable” rating of Trump and 56 percent responded negatively.

“(59 Percent Said They Approve Of Plans To Negotiate With The Taliban And Reduce Troop Levels There) And His Promises To Intervene Less Overseas”

The survey also shows a gap among white and non-white service members. Among whites, 46 percent of troops had a favorable view of the president, versus 45 percent with an unfavorable view. Yet among non-white service members nearly two-thirds responded with a negative view of him.

Troops surveyed by Military Times offered generally upbeat assessments of Trump’s steps in Afghanistan (59 percent said they approve of plans to negotiate with the Taliban and reduce troop levels there) and his promises to intervene less overseas (47 percent believe he will keep U.S. forces out of another major military conflict).

Yet 58 percent of those polled said they disapprove of Trump’s decision to withdraw U.S. forces from northern Syria in the face of Turkish military advances.

When asked about Trump’s decision to use military construction funds to build his controversial southern border wall, 59 percent said they disapprove of his decision.

More than half rated current U.S. relations with “traditional allies” like NATO as poor.

Troops were split evenly on the ongoing impeachment proceedings in Congress. In the poll, 47 percent said they back the impeachment, 46 percent said they were opposed. That’s roughly the same breakdown as the rest of the American public.

Feaver called that an interesting and potentially problematic finding, given that Trump will still be commander in chief if he is impeached by the House but acquitted by the Senate.

“I’m sure senior leaders won’t be happy seeing that half of them wanted him impeached, given the efforts to keep troops out of politics,” Feaver said.

More than three-fourths of troops surveyed said they believe the military community has become more polarized in recent years, with about 40 percent saying they have seen significantly more division in the ranks.

In the latest poll, respondents identifying themselves as conservative (about one-third of the total) still outnumbered the liberals (almost one-quarter) by a significant margin.

And the poll shows a subtle shift toward more service members identifying as political independents, who now make up 45 percent of respondents, an uptick of 3 percent compared to the 2018 survey.

This year's survey saw an increase in the number of Democrats (about 3 percent more) and a decrease in the number of those who considered themselves members of the Republican or Libertarian parties (about 7 percent less, combined) from the 2018 survey.

Feaver said that breakdown may be more indicative of the Military Times readership than changes in the whole of the military. But he also said that the findings give an important insight into the armed forces that few other polls can reach.

"It's a useful thermometer of that segment of the military that is more career-minded," he said.

"We know the military tends to follow the general public but lag conservative. We know that Trump is not as popular with the general public as he has been, and that he hasn't really built upon his base.

Now we're seeing that reflected in the military, too."

MORE

“Socialist” Candidate Sanders In First Place For Political Donations From Active Duty Military: Trump In Third Place “With Less Than 35% Of Sanders’ Total”

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Veteran & Military Initiative Organizing Committee, who sent this in.]

Dec 20 by Stan Goff, Medium [Excerpt]

A recent study by Foreign Policy-dot-com showed that Senator Bernie Sanders is far and away the most frequent recipient of individual contributions from active duty military members.



Donald Trump is not even second; PeeWee Buttigieg is, though he has only 43 percent as many contributions as Sanders.

The clown fascist who is the Commander in Chief right now of the United States Armed Forces, ranked third, with less than 35 percent of Sanders' total.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Death Of Soldier In Afghanistan Hits New Jersey Town Hard



Sgt. 1st Class Michael James Goble died in Afghanistan on Dec. 23, 2019, due to injuries sustained during combat operations the day before. U.S. Department of Defense

12.24,19 CBSNewYork

WESTWOOD, N.J. — Family, friends, and community members in Bergen County were mourning Sgt. 1st Class Michael Goble on Tuesday.

He will return home for a final time next week. Goble died Monday from injuries sustained in action in Afghanistan, CBS2's Christina Fan reported.

Goble dedicated his life to service, his chest full of the numerous ribbons and medals he was awarded while serving overseas. The 33-year-old grew up in Westwood, graduating from Westwood Regional High School in 2004. He entered the Army as a Special Forces candidate that same year and earned the coveted Green Beret in 2007.

Flags flew at half staff Tuesday to honor Goble. You didn't have to know him to see how much he loved his country.

"I read everything from start to finish. I was amazed. I couldn't even comprehend that many things to do in a 33-year-old life, amazing," Westwood resident Isabel Gates said.

Hearts were heavy all over the northern New Jersey town.

"We are very proud of his service. We are very proud of what he's done. This was his fourth tour of duty in Special Forces. Just a remarkable individual," Westwood Mayor John Birkner Jr. said.

"I saw it on Facebook and I re-posted it right away because I wanted people in town to know that one of ours died," resident Bobbie Cozic said.

Gov. Phil Murphy and Acting Gov. Sheila Oliver issued a joint statement on Goble's death that read: "Sergeant 1st Class Michael Goble represented the best values of our Armed Forces and of New Jersey — dedication, fearlessness, and excellence. His tragic passing reminds us of the tremendous sacrifices our soldiers and our military families make in the name of service so that our nation's values may continue to be a beacon around the world. "Our thoughts are with Sergeant 1st Class Goble's family and friends. May we all honor his service by endeavoring through our lives to represent the values for which he gave his life."

Goble was deployed several times overseas as a Special Forces soldier. He also served in Argentina, Guatemala, and Colombia. He died in the Kunduz province of Afghanistan after suffering fatal injuries. The Pentagon has not confirmed any other details, but the Taliban claimed they were behind a fatal roadside bombing.

Goble is the second service member from Westwood who has died recently. In 2010, Sgt. Christopher Hrbek was also killed in Afghanistan by an improvised explosive device. On Tuesday, strangers reflected on the sacrifices of both men.

"I always think of my father's generation. They say that generation was amazing, but I think that lives on, I really do, in the spirits of a lot of young men and women," Gates said.

"It just touches home. It's hard to understand. Sometimes we wonder why we hear about these things on the news all the time, but when it's your own it really hurts. It really hurts," Birkner said.

A GoFundMe page for Goble's family has already raised more than \$55,000. He was just about to celebrate his birthday in January.

The mayor said he is planning to meet with the town's police chief to see if they can coordinate any type of escort to help the family as they bring their loved one back home.

Friends and family requested privacy Tuesday, but told CBS2 that Goble was an amazing man who was passionate and patriotic. He leaves behind his girlfriend and a young daughter.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WAR**

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Protesters Set Fire To American Embassy In Baghdad: Embassy Storming Took Place After U.S. Attacks Killed 25

Dec 31, 2019 AL JAZEERA AND NEWS AGENCIES [Excerpts]

Dozens of protesters broke into the US embassy compound in Baghdad on Tuesday, smashing a main door and setting fire to a reception area, prompting tear gas and sounds of gunfire.

The US ambassador to Iraq and other staff were evacuated from the embassy.

Earlier, hundreds of protesters gathered outside the embassy to decry US air attacks in Iraq and Syria that killed 25 fighters from an Iran-backed Shia group.

Shouting "Down, Down USA!" the crowd hurled water bottles and smashed security cameras outside the embassy grounds.

MILITARY NEWS

IF YOU'RE IN THE MILITARY IS IT LEGAL TO GO TO A DEMONSTRATION?

TO TALK TO A REPORTER?

TO WRITE TO YOUR CONGRESSPERSON?

WHAT RIGHTS DO YOU HAVE?

Members of the military have rights under the U.S. Constitution and under the military's own regulations.

The military doesn't like this very much—so they don't tell you much about your rights and often limit your rights.

If you want to attend a peace or other demonstration, or want to speak out, then you want to know about your rights.

Here is some basic information about your rights regarding demonstrations, protests, dissent, and plain old saying what's on your mind.

Once you've read this, it would help to read the regulations (counseling services have them and there are various routes to them on the Internet). You can get more information by talking to a lawyer or counselor experienced in military law--he or she can help interpret the law and regulations and give you legal backup.

The regs give you important ways to protest what's going on in Iraq and elsewhere.

But the regulations also impose important limitations you need to know about; we'll talk about those.

These limitations say people in the military don't have as much constitutional right to express themselves as civilians do.

Courts have upheld a good many of the limitations; some of them haven't been to court yet, when they do they might be held unconstitutional (we think they should be).

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ATTEND PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS OFF BASE

This right is explained in Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 1325.6, "Guidelines for Handling Dissident and Protest Activities Among Members of the Armed Forces."

It tells commanders to preserve service members' "right of expression . . . to the maximum extent possible, consistent with good order and discipline and the national security."

Of course it puts limits on the right.

The demonstration must be off base and in the U.S. You must be off duty and not in uniform. Also your activities must not "constitute a breach of law and order," and you can't do it "when violence is likely to result."

That last part is pretty vague, so vague that we think you'd have a constitutional defense unless you were really rowdy or knew things were going to get violent.

Prosecutions under these vague regulations have so far been uncommon but it would be a huge hassle or worse if you did have to fight disciplinary action or prosecution and maybe lose and get fined or confined.

They seem to think having vague rules intimidates you. We think they know they're on shaky constitutional ground if they try to use them against peaceful protest activity.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO PETITION A MEMBER OF CONGRESS WHEN YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT, OR TO FILE A COMPLAINT THROUGH YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND UNDER ARTICLE 138 OF THE UCMJ (THE REDRESS OF GRIEVANCE ARTICLE.)

DoD Directive 1325.6 affirms these rights and there's how-to-do-it in DoD Directive 7050.6.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY & WRITE (MOSTLY) WHAT YOU THINK.

But there are some limits here, too.

You can't say things that encourage violence or urge others to violate the regulations, you can't communicate with "the enemy" by writing letters to Iraqi officials or soldiers, and you can't call the President, Dick Cheney, or other high government officials what article 88 of the UCMJ calls "contemptuous words."

Service people have gotten into trouble for using "fascist," "thief," murderer," "tyrant," "fool," and "gangster" in relation to such people (but officers didn't get in trouble for saying things like that about President Clinton).

Article 88 says it only applies to an officer but if they really want to go after an enlisted person for saying these things they'd probably try to use the catchall, art. 134's "to the prejudice of good order and discipline in the armed forces, or conduct of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces."

Art. 117 of the UCMJ outlaws saying ugly things about people, but that's so broad it's probably unconstitutional unless used against really super awful statements. You're in more substantial danger if you say things that could make GI's desert, disobey lawful orders, or refuse to do their jobs.

You can, subject to all of these limitations, write, publish, and distribute things like newspapers & leaflets.

You can write letters to the editor as long as they're not part of an organized letter campaign for a political candidate or party (the Army says this in its Regulation 600-20 Appendix B). It all has to be while you're off duty and without using military paper, ink, computers, phones, or other supplies or equipment.

You can put a bumper sticker on your car.

Yard signs off base are governed by the same rules as other writings (unless it's displayed by a civilian resident and so gets the benefit of civilian free speech rules); in base housing they're iffy, subject to local orders, and probably with more leeway for those on issues ("No War") than for politicians (Vote for Bush).

And, of course, you can't say or imply that you are speaking on behalf of the military.

Civilian spouses and children are just that—civilians. Off base, they aren't governed by the military's limitations. For on base activity, the command can issue orders that take away their right of expression almost the same as service members.

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO READ AND KEEP THIS MEMO, OTHER KNOW-YOUR- RIGHTS FLYERS, OR ANTI-WAR MATERIAL

DoD Dir. 1325.6 allows it and then specifies the limitations. One of them is you are not allowed to distribute such literature on base.

If the command finds that you have more than one copy of anything, they may claim that you intend to distribute it.

And you should remember other general rules about communicating, mostly the same as described in the part about what you can say.

You don't want to have literature that calls for the violent overthrow of anything, assassination of anybody, or blowing up anything but the military's targets.

You don't want to have material that violates sexual harassment regulations, and you don't want to have racist literature. Civilians have the right to have all of these things.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO TALK WITH AND GET HELP FROM A CIVILIAN ATTORNEY.

It's a right you should exercise. And it's also perfectly legal to talk with and get help from a military counselor--a non-attorney who can give information about discharges, administrative complaints, and many of your rights.

SO WHAT'S THE DOWN SIDE?

With the rights talked about here, we've also mentioned the main limitations on the rights--limitations the military uses to make it more difficult for folks to speak out about their opinions and to protest against policies and unjust wars.

Unfortunately, as you know, the military can restrict things you do off base as well as on, and can punish you for violating the UCMJ (which, in effect, requires you to obey most civilian laws) even out in town.

It's important to know how far the regulations protect you, and not assume the protection is perfect.

Another limitation is that courts have allowed the military to require its members to submit some things for approval before mailing or publishing them. For example look at the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Glines*, 444 U.S. 348 (1980).

In civilian life this would absolutely violate the first amendment of the Constitution; it's called "prior restraint."

The U.S. Supreme Court, in cases where GI's were seeking rights similar to those of civilians, has said, "the military is, by necessity, a specialized society separate from civilian society We have also recognized that the military has, again by necessity, developed laws and traditions of its own during its long history. The differences between the military and civilian communities result from the fact that it is the primary business of armies and navies to fight or ready to fight wars should the occasion arise. . . An army is not a deliberative body. It is the executive arm. Its law is that of obedience."

(We think armies and navies would most effectively fight for democracy if the soldiers and sailors had democratic rights themselves but the courts don't agree and, in any event, many believe it's been a long time since the U.S. military has done much fighting for democracy.)

The Court was writing in the context of the battlefield and preparing for it, but military commanders, given this inch, try to take it a mile.

When they do so they can come up against the fact that both the Supreme Court and the Court of Military Appeals have said the law of blind obedience "does not reach all disagreement with, or objection to, a policy of the Government."

According to the courts, that allows GI's a good bit of free speech off duty, off base, and out of uniform.

The main regulation carries this forward by saying "The Service members' right of expression should be preserved to the maximum extent possible, consistent with good order and discipline and the national security"

But then it leaves figuring that out to "the calm and prudent judgment of the responsible commander."

Yeah, sure.

You don't have to be in the military long to find out that commands sometimes ignore the rules and retaliate against whistleblowers and troublemakers and protesters.

Sometimes innocent and completely legal actions can lead to retaliation--poor performance evaluations, bad recommendations, and bogus disciplinary charges.

Sometimes folks are labeled as troublemakers and face informal harassment from co-workers and superiors (but sometimes this backfires—it produces admiration from co-workers).

There are several ways to challenge this sort of thing.

Getting some legal assistance is the first step — you can talk with a military counselor and/or an attorney who's familiar with military law.

They can give you information about ways to challenge illegal retaliation-- sometimes through Article 138 complaints, which commands really hate, sometimes through the Military Whistleblower Protection Act and sometimes through tier legal channels.

And an attorney or counselor can help you put together a complaint or can communicate with your command about the problem.

In fighting back against harassment like this, it helps to be able to show that you don't deserve the bad marks and, if possible, to show that your protest activities were the real reason the command developed an attitude and took action against you.

Since the war in Iraq started, lots of soldiers have talked to the media, both in Iraq and in the states, saying they want to come home and the war is wrong.

Some have talked and written to members of Congress to oppose the war.

Many have marched in demonstrations.

So far, the military hasn't done much to stop this, because the dissent is strong and because many Americans support soldiers who want to come home now.

But some commands have threatened soldiers and sailors, even for actions like these that are completely legal.

And experience teaches us that retaliation and false charges can be serious.

The best way to protect yourself is to be prepared in advance—before you use your rights, read the regulations for yourself.

Talk with an attorney or counselor and try to arrange in advance for legal backup in case your command develops an attitude.

It's also important to think about whether you are vulnerable — whether there is anything in your record or any action pending against you that might be a problem if your command wants to cause you trouble.

Here, too, an attorney or counselor can help you to be sure you have as much protection as possible against harassment or retaliation.

And remember, if officials ask you questions about subjects that could get you in trouble, even if you believe you were in the right, you don't have to answer.

But you can't lie. Saying "I don't know" when you do know is a lie.

USE IT OR LOSE IT

If we don't speak out, we deny our rights all by ourselves

If we don't use the regulations that let us protest a bad war, the regulations just sit there.

But if we don't protect ourselves while we protest, then the protections built into the regulations end up being useless.

Some advance preparation is the best way to use these rights; knowledge is power.

And using your rights is important for you, for others caught in a bad war, for democracy, and for all of us.

BY THE BOOK; INTERESTING REGULATIONS

DoD Directive 1325.6, Guidelines for Handling Dissident and Protest Activities, and the individual services' echoes, AF Policy Directive 51- 9, AR 600-20 Appendix B; MCO 5370.4A, and OPNAVINST 1620.IA. There are often local directives, too.

DoD Dir. 1334.1, you can't be in uniform while demonstrating

DoD Directive 1354.1, don't join a labor organization

DoD Directive 1325.6; AR 600-220; AFI 51-903; MCO 5370.4A; and OPNAVINST 1620.1A try to prevent advocating racial, gender, or ethnic hatred

DoD Directive 7050.6, implementing the Military Whistleblower Protection Act, 10 U.S.C. § 1034 (which also includes right to complain to members of Congress whether blowing a whistle or not)

Statutes That Bite:

UJCMJ arts. 88, 117, 133 (for officers) 134 10 U.S.C. 976, don't join a labor organization

Statutes That Help:

10 U.S.C. § 774, you can wear items of religious apparel while in uniform unless it would interfere with performance of duty, subject to some procedures and definitions in DoD Directive 1300.17

10 U.S.C. 1034 and UCMJ art. 138, right to complain to high officers, Inspector General, and members of Congress

The U.S. Constitution Helps More:

Especially the first amendment (free expression) and fifth amendment (due process including racial equality)

**FOR NON-PROFIT LEGAL HELP AGAINST
THE MACHINE:
[HTTP://NLGMLTF.ORG/CONTACT/](http://nlgmltf.org/contact/)**

**Command Knowingly Poisoned U.S.
Troops With Cancer Causing Toxins**

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Veteran & Military Initiative Organizing Committee, who sent this in.]

19 Dec 2019 McClatchy

More than 60 U.S. military personnel deployed to a site in Uzbekistan where ponds glowed green and black goo oozed from the ground have reportedly been diagnosed with cancer or died from the disease.

McClatchy obtained documents showing reports of radiation at the base, known as K2, which was leased by the U.S. from the Uzbek government weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks because it was near targets in northern Afghanistan.

The documents reportedly show that K2 was contaminated with chemical-weapons remnants, radioactive processed uranium, and other lethal hazards.

They also indicate the Defense Department was aware that K2 was toxic from the start, with one report dated from November 2001 saying: "Ground contamination at Karshi-Khanabad Airfield poses health risks to U.S. forces deployed there."

Military Resistance In PDF Format?
If you prefer PDF to Word format, email:
contact@militaryproject.org

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

There is something in human history like retribution; and it is a rule of historical retribution that its instrument be forged not by the offended, but by the offender himself.

**Karl Marx;
Dispatches
The New York Tribune.
September 16, 1857**

Impeachment?



Photo by Mike Hastie; Viet Nam Veteran

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Impeachment?
Date: Oct 1, 2019

"It was the seizure of power by corporations that vomited up Trump." -- Chris Hedges

It was the seizure of power by corporations that vomited up Obama. (Nobel Peace Prize)

"I Have a Dream" Martin Luther King Jr.
I Have a Drone. Barack Obama

U.S. Corporations Can't Make a Killing off of Peace

Mike Hastie
Viet Nam Veteran

Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact hastiemike@earthlink.net)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

**Mike Hastie, U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71**

“The Objective Meaning Of Revolution Is The Struggle For State Power For The Purpose Of Reconstructing Antiquated Social Relations”

**The State Is “The Greatest Means Of
Organising, Disorganizing, And Re-
Organizing Social Relations”**

**“Democracy, As The Party Of The
Proletariat, Naturally Seeks The
Political Supremacy Of The Working
Class”**

Excerpts from *Foreword to Karl Marx, Parizhskaya Kommuna* by Leon Trotsky
(December 1905)

The State And The Struggle For Power

A revolution is an open contest of social forces in the struggle for power.

The popular masses rise up, driven by vital elementary motives and interests, and frequently have no awareness of the movement's goals or the paths it will take: one party inscribes 'right and justice' on its banner, another 'order'; the 'heroes' of the revolution are either impelled by a sense of 'duty' or carried away by ambition; the army's behaviour is determined by unquestioning discipline, by a fear that consumes discipline, or else by revolutionary insight that overcomes both discipline and fear.

Enthusiasm, self-interest, habit, bold flights of thought, superstition and self-sacrifice — thousands of different feelings, ideas, attitudes, talents, and passions are swept into and swallowed up by a mighty whirlpool in which they either perish or rise to new heights.

But the objective meaning of revolution is the struggle for state power for the purpose of reconstructing antiquated social relations.

The state is no end in itself.

It is only a working machine in the hands of the ruling social forces.

Like any machine, the state has its motive power, its mechanisms of transmission, and its working parts.

The motive power is class interest; its mechanisms are agitation, the press, the propaganda of churches and schools, parties, street meetings, petitions and uprisings.

Finally, the executive mechanism is the administration together with the police, courts and prisons, and the army.

The state is no end in itself.

It is, however, the greatest means of organising, disorganizing, and re-organizing social relations.

Depending upon whose hands control it, it can be either a lever for profound transformation or an instrument of organised stagnation.

Democracy, as the party of the proletariat, naturally seeks the political supremacy of the working class.

The proletariat grows and becomes strong together with the growth of capitalism.

In this sense, growth of capitalism is also the development of the proletariat in the direction of its own dictatorship.

However, the day and the hour when power will pass into the hands of the working class do not directly depend upon the level of the productive forces, but rather upon the relations of class struggle, the international situation, and finally, upon a number of subjective factors that include tradition, initiative, and readiness for the fight.

The Soldiers Truce: A Hidden History From The First World War

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan]

To many, the end of the war and the failure of the peace would validate the Christmas cease-fire as the only meaningful episode in the apocalypse.

It belied the bellicose slogans and suggested that the men fighting and often dying were, as usual, proxies for governments and issues that had little to do with

their everyday lives. A candle lit in the darkness of Flanders, the truce flickered briefly and survives only in memoirs, letters, song, drama and story.



German and British soldiers fraternize – Christmas 1914

December 1, 2005 by John V. Denson, 2005 LewRockwell.com [Excerpts]

The Christmas Truce, which occurred primarily between the British and German soldiers along the Western Front in December 1914, is an event the official histories of the Great War leave out, and the Orwellian historians hide from the public.

Stanley Weintraub has broken through this barrier of silence and written a moving account of this significant event by compiling letters sent home from the front, as well as diaries of the soldiers involved. His book is entitled *Silent Night: The Story of the World War I Christmas Truce*. The book contains many pictures of the actual events showing the opposing forces mixing and celebrating together that first Christmas of the war.

This remarkable story begins to unfold, according to Weintraub, on the morning of December 19, 1914:

Lieutenant Geoffrey Heinekey, new to the 2ND Queen's Westminster Rifles, wrote to his mother, 'A most extraordinary thing happened. . . Some Germans came out and held up their hands and began to take in some of their wounded and so we ourselves immediately got out of our trenches and began bringing in our wounded also. The Germans then beckoned to us and a lot of us went over and talked to them and they helped us to bury our dead. This lasted the whole morning and I talked to several of them and I must say they seemed extraordinarily fine men It seemed too ironical for words. There, the night before we had been having a

terrific battle and the morning after, there we were smoking their cigarettes and they smoking ours. (p. 5)

Weintraub reports that the French and Belgians reacted differently to the war and with more emotion than the British in the beginning. The war was occurring on their land and The French had lived in an atmosphere of revanche since 1870, when Alsace and Lorraine were seized by the Prussians in a war declared by the French. (p. 4).

The British and German soldiers, however, saw little meaning in the war as to them, and, after all, the British King and the German Kaiser were both grandsons of Queen Victoria. Why should the Germans and British be at war, or hating each other, because a royal couple from Austria were killed by an assassin while they were visiting in Serbia?

However, since August when the war started, hundreds of thousands of soldiers had been killed, wounded or missing by December 1914 (p. xvi).

It is estimated that over eighty thousand young Germans had gone to England before the war to be employed in such jobs as waiters, cooks, and cab drivers and many spoke English very well. It appears that the Germans were the instigators of this move towards a truce.

So much interchange had occurred across the lines by the time that Christmas Eve approached that Brigadier General G.T. Forrestier-Walker issued a directive forbidding fraternization:

For it discourages initiative in commanders, and destroys offensive spirit in all ranks . . . Friendly intercourse with the enemy, unofficial armistices and exchange of tobacco and other comforts, however tempting and occasionally amusing they may be, are absolutely prohibited. (p. 6-7).

Later strict orders were issued that any fraternization would result in a court-martial.

Most of the seasoned German soldiers had been sent to the Russian front while the youthful and somewhat untrained Germans, who were recruited first, or quickly volunteered, were sent to the Western Front at the beginning of the war. Likewise, in England young men rushed to join in the war for the personal glory they thought they might achieve and many were afraid the war might end before they could get to the front. They had no idea this war would become one of attrition and conscription or that it would set the trend for the whole 20TH century, the bloodiest in history which became known as the War and Welfare Century.

As night fell on Christmas Eve the British soldiers noticed the Germans putting up small Christmas trees along with candles at the top of their trenches and many began to shout in English We no shoot if you no shoot.(p. 25).

The firing stopped along the many miles of the trenches and the British began to notice that the Germans were coming out of the trenches toward the British who responded by coming out to meet them.

They mixed and mingled in No Man's Land and soon began to exchange chocolates for cigars and various newspaper accounts of the war which contained the propaganda from their respective homelands.

Many of the officers on each side attempted to prevent the event from occurring but the soldiers ignored the risk of a court-martial or of being shot.

Some of the meetings reported in diaries were between Anglo-Saxons and German Saxons and the Germans joked that they should join together and fight the Prussians.

The massive amount of fraternization, or maybe just the Christmas spirit, deterred the officers from taking action and many of them began to go out into No Man's Land and exchange Christmas greetings with their opposing officers.

Each side helped bury their dead and remove the wounded so that by Christmas morning there was a large open area about as wide as the size of two football fields separating the opposing trenches.

The soldiers emerged again on Christmas morning and began singing Christmas carols, especially Silent Night. They recited the 23RD Psalm together and played soccer and football. Again, Christmas gifts were exchanged and meals were prepared openly and attended by the opposing forces.

Weintraub quotes one soldier's observation of the event: Never . . . was I so keenly aware of the insanity of war. (p. 33).

The first official British history of the war came out in 1926 which indicated that the Christmas Truce was a very insignificant matter with only a few people involved. However, Weintraub states:

During a House of Commons debate on March 31, 1930, Sir H. Kinglsey Wood, a Cabinet Minister during the next war, and a Major 'In the front trenches' at Christmas 1914, recalled that he 'took part in what was well known at the time as a truce. We went over in front of the trenches and shook hands with many of our German enemies. A great number of people (now) think we did something that was degrading.'

Refusing to presume that, he went on, 'The fact is that we did it, and I then came to the conclusion that I have held very firmly ever since, that if we had been left to ourselves there would never have been another shot fired. For a fortnight the truce went on. We were on the most friendly terms, and it was only the fact that we were being controlled by others that made it necessary for us to start trying to shoot one another again.'

He blamed the resumption of the war on 'the grip of the political system which was bad, and I and others who were there at the time determined there and then never to rest . . . Until we had seen whether we could change it.' But they could not. (p. 169-70)

Two soldiers, one British and one German, both experienced the horrors of the trench warfare in the Great War and both wrote moving accounts which challenged the idea of the glory of a sacrifice of the individual to the nation in an unnecessary or unjust war.

The British soldier, Wilfred Owen, wrote a famous poem before he was killed in the trenches seven days before the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918.

He tells of the horror of the gas warfare which killed many in the trenches and ends with the following lines:

*If in some smothering dreams you too could pace
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues – My friend, you would not tell with
such high zest
To children ardent for some desperate glory
The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est
Pro patria mori.*

(The Latin phrase is translated roughly as It is sweet and honorable to die for one's country, a line from the Roman poet Horace used to produce patriotic zeal for ancient Roman wars.)

The German soldier was Erich M. Remarque who wrote one of the best anti-war novels of all time, entitled *All Quiet On The Western Front*, which was later made into an American movie that won the Academy Awards in 1930 as the Best Movie of the year.

He also attacked the idea of the nobility of dying for your country in a war and he describes the suffering in the trenches:

We see men living with their skulls blown open; We see soldiers run with their two feet cut off; They stagger on their splintered stumps into the next shell-hole; A lance corporal crawls a mile and half on his hands dragging his smashed knee after him; Another goes to the dressing station and over his clasped hands bulge his intestines; We see men without mouths, without jaws, without faces; We find one man who has held the artery of his arm in his teeth for two hours in order not to bleed to death.

I would imagine that the Christmas Truce probably inspired the English novelist and poet, Thomas Hardy, to write a poem about World War I entitled *The Man He Killed*, which reads as follows:

*Had he and I but met
By some old ancient inn,
We should have sat us down to wet*

Right many a nipperkin!

*But ranged as infantry,
And staring face to face,
I shot at him as he at me,
And killed him in his place.*

I shot him dead because – Because he was my foe,

*Just so: my foe of course he was;
That's clear enough; although*

*He thought he'd 'list, perhaps,
Off-hand like – just as I – Was out of work – had sold his traps – No other reason
why.*

*Yes, quaint and curious war is!
You shoot a fellow down
You'd treat if met where any bar is,
Or help to half-a-crown.*

Many leaders of the British Empire saw the new nationalistic Germany (since 1870–71) as a threat to their world trade, especially with Germany's new navy.

The idea that economics played a major role in bringing on the war was confirmed by President Woodrow Wilson after the war in a speech wherein he gave his assessment of the real cause of the war. He was campaigning in St. Louis, Missouri in September of 1919 trying to get the U.S. Senate to approve the Versailles Treaty and he stated:

Why, my fellow-citizens, is there (anyone) here who does not know that the seed of war in the modern world is industrial and commercial rivalry? . . . This war, in its inception, was a commercial and industrial war. It was not a political war.

Weintraub alludes to a play by William Douglas Home entitled *A Christmas Truce* wherein he has characters representing British and German soldiers who just finished a soccer game in No Man's Land on Christmas day and engaged in a conversation which very well could represent the feelings of the soldiers on that day.

The German lieutenant concedes the impossibility of the war ending as the soccer game had just done, with no bad consequences – Because the Kaiser and the generals and the politicians in my country order us that we fight.

So do ours, agrees Andrew Wilson (the British soldier)

Then what can we do?

The answer's 'nothing.' But if we do nothing like we're doing now, and go on doing it, there'll be nothing they can do but send us home.

Or shoot us. (p. 110)

The Great War killed over ten million soldiers and Weintraub states, Following the final Armistice came an imposed peace in 1919 that created new instabilities ensuring another war, (p. 174). This next war killed more than fifty million people, over half of which were civilians. Weintraub writes:

To many, the end of the war and the failure of the peace would validate the Christmas cease-fire as the only meaningful episode in the apocalypse.

It belied the bellicose slogans and suggested that the men fighting and often dying were, as usual, proxies for governments and issues that had little to do with their everyday lives. A candle lit in the darkness of Flanders, the truce flickered briefly and survives only in memoirs, letters, song, drama and story. (p. xvi).

He concludes his remarkable book with the following:

A celebration of the human spirit, the Christmas Truce remains a moving manifestation of the absurdities of war. A very minor Scottish poet of Great War vintage, Frederick Niven, may have got it right in his 'A Carol from Flanders,' which closed,

*O ye who read this truthful rime
From Flanders, kneel and say:
God speed the time when every day
Shall be as Christmas Day. (p. 175)*

MORE:

Soldiers Arm-In-Arm



Soldiers fraternize on the Eastern Front

The spirit of Christmas made itself felt in at least one section of the trenches at the front, where British and German soldiers fraternised, and for a brief while, during an informal and spontaneous truce, there was peace on earth and goodwill towards men among those who a few hours before had been seeking each other's blood, and where bound to do so again after the truce was over.



The Illustrated London News of January 9, 1915
 [Thanks to June VI, who sent this in.]

**BRITISH AND GERMAN SOLDIERS ARM-IN-ARM AND EXCHANGING HEADGEAR: A CHRISTMAS TRUCE BETWEEN OPPOSING TRENCHES.
 DRAWN BY A. C. MICHAEL**

The part of the British lines where these incongruous scenes occurred, was, it is said, at a point where the enemy's trenches, only about eighty yards away, were occupied by a Saxon regiment. Further along the line, where Prussian troops were said to be stationed, there was a certain amount of fighting.

It was apparently towards the British left that the friendly truce was observed, while officers and men from both sides left their trenches and met in No Man's Land between, where, as a rule, no man dares to show so much as the top of his head.

British and Germans met and shook hands, exchanged cigars and cigarettes, newspapers and addresses, and wished each other the compliments of the season, conversing as far as possible with the aid, as interpreter, of a German soldier who had lived in America.

A group of British and German soldiers, arm-in-arm, some of whom had exchanged head-gear, were photographed by a German officer.

The figure on the extreme left in our drawing, for instance, is a German soldier in a British service-cap, while the fourth figure from the left is a British soldier in his goat-skin coat wearing a Pickelhaube, or German helmet.

Some of the British, it is said visited the German trenches and an Anglo-German football match was even played.

The dead who lay in front of the trenches were buried, and a party of German brought back the body of a British officer.-

ANNIVERSARIES

December 30, 1936: Class War At GM



Workers sit down at GM



Supporters pass in food to sitdown strikers

Peace History Dec 26 - Jan 1 By Carl Bunin

Members of the United Automobile Workers sat down at a General Motors plant in Flint, Michigan. GM, the world's largest corporation at the time, had refused to recognize or negotiate with the union, despite passage of the National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act) in 1935 which promised unions the right to organize.

The local's membership adopted a tactic developed by French workers. Instead of picketing outside a factory only to be ignored or forcibly cleared away, the sit-down strike enabled workers to halt production and seize the plant "from the inside."

The strike began just days after the end of a successful sit-down at Ford supplier Kelsey-Hayes.

Happy Anniversary December 31, 1948; Honor To The 60,000

Peace History December 25-31 By Carl Bunin

Sixty thousand Puerto Rican men refused to register for the draft. Eight were prosecuted.

Happy Anniversary December 31, 1970 The Day The Liars Were Repudiated

Peace History Dec 31 - Jan 6 By Carl Bunin

The U.S. Congress repealed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, which in 1964 authorized a dramatic increase in U.S. military involvement in Vietnam in response to an attack on U.S. forces that was later revealed to be fictitious.

How The Tonkin Gulf Lie Launched Vietnam War

July 27, 1994 By Jeff Cohen and Norman Solomon, Media Beat

Thirty years ago, it all seemed very clear. "American Planes Hit North Vietnam After Second Attack on Our Destroyers; Move Taken to Halt New Aggression", announced a Washington Post headline on Aug. 5, 1964.

That same day, the front page of the New York Times reported: "President Johnson has ordered retaliatory action against gunboats and `certain supporting facilities in North Vietnam' after renewed attacks against American destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin." But there was no "second attack" by North Vietnam -- no "renewed attacks against American destroyers."

By reporting official claims as absolute truths, American journalism opened the floodgates for the bloody Vietnam War. A pattern took hold: continuous government lies passed on by pliant mass media...leading to over 50,000 American deaths and millions of Vietnamese casualties.

The official story was that North Vietnamese torpedo boats launched an “unprovoked attack” against a U.S. destroyer on “routine patrol” in the Tonkin Gulf on Aug. 2 -- and that North Vietnamese PT boats followed up with a “deliberate attack” on a pair of U.S. ships two days later.

The truth was very different.

Rather than being on a routine patrol Aug. 2, the U.S. destroyer Maddox was actually engaged in aggressive intelligence-gathering maneuvers -- in sync with coordinated attacks on North Vietnam by the South Vietnamese navy and the Laotian air force. “The day before, two attacks on North Vietnam...had taken place,” writes scholar Daniel C. Hallin. Those assaults were “part of a campaign of increasing military pressure on the North that the United States had been pursuing since early 1964.”

On the night of Aug. 4, the Pentagon proclaimed that a second attack by North Vietnamese PT boats had occurred earlier that day in the Tonkin Gulf -- a report cited by President Johnson as he went on national TV that evening to announce a momentous escalation in the war: air strikes against North Vietnam.

But Johnson ordered U.S. bombers to “retaliate” for a North Vietnamese torpedo attack that never happened.

Prior to the U.S. air strikes, top officials in Washington had reason to doubt that any Aug. 4 attack by North Vietnam had occurred. Cables from the U.S. task force commander in the Tonkin Gulf, Captain John J. Herrick, referred to “freak weather effects,” “almost total darkness” and an “overeager sonarman” who “was hearing ship’s own propeller beat.”

One of the Navy pilots flying overhead that night was squadron commander James Stockdale, who gained fame later as a POW and then Ross Perot’s vice presidential candidate. “I had the best seat in the house to watch that event,” recalled Stockdale a few years ago, “and our destroyers were just shooting at phantom targets -- there were no PT boats there.... There was nothing there but black water and American fire power.”

In 1965, Lyndon Johnson commented: “For all I know, our Navy was shooting at whales out there.” But Johnson’s deceitful speech of Aug. 4, 1964, won accolades from editorial writers. The president, proclaimed the New York Times, “went to the American people last night with the somber facts.” The Los Angeles Times urged Americans to “face the fact that the Communists, by their attack on American vessels in international waters, have themselves escalated the hostilities.”

An exhaustive new book, *The War Within: America’s Battle Over Vietnam*, begins with a dramatic account of the Tonkin Gulf incidents. In an interview, author Tom Wells told us that American media “described the air strikes that Johnson launched in response as merely ‘tit for tat’ -- when in reality they reflected plans the administration had already drawn up for gradually increasing its overt military pressure against the North.”

Daniel Hallin’s classic book *The ‘Uncensored War’* observes that journalists had “a great deal of information available which contradicted the official account; it simply wasn’t

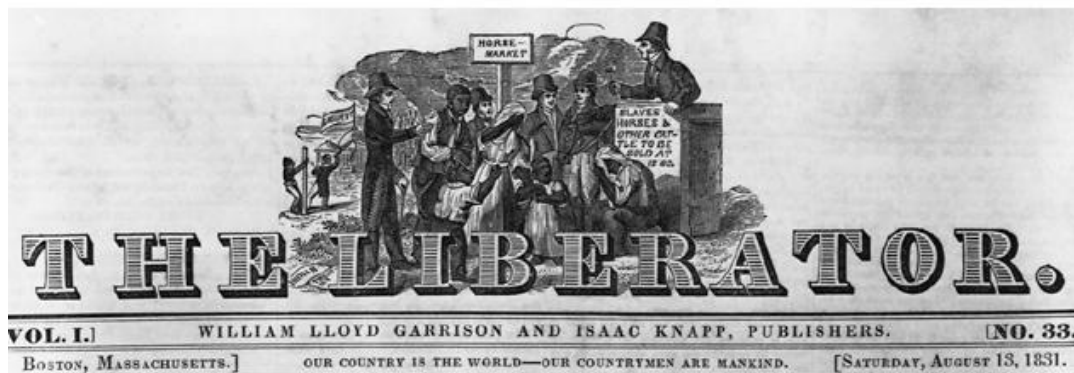
used. The day before the first incident, Hanoi had protested the attacks on its territory by Laotian aircraft and South Vietnamese gunboats.”

What’s more, “It was generally known...that ‘covert’ operations against North Vietnam, carried out by South Vietnamese forces with U.S. support and direction, had been going on for some time.”

In the absence of independent journalism, the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution -- the closest thing there ever was to a declaration of war against North Vietnam -- sailed through Congress on Aug. 7. (Two courageous senators, Wayne Morse of Oregon and Ernest Gruening of Alaska, provided the only “no” votes.) The resolution authorized the president “to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression.”

The rest is tragic history.

January 1831: Magnificent Anniversary



The masthead of William Lloyd Garrison’s abolitionist newspaper, The Liberator, denounces slavery. [Wwnorton.com/]

January 1831:

William Lloyd Garrison, abolitionist, announces his anti-slavery newspaper, The Liberator.

“I am aware that many object to the severity of my language, but is there not cause for severity? I will be harsh as truth, and as uncompromising as justice.

“On this subject, I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation.

“No! No! Tell a man whose house is on fire to sound a moderate alarm...but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present...

“I am in earnest--I will not equivocate--I will not excuse--I will not retreat a single inch--AND I WILL BE HEARD.”

January 1, 1781: Anniversary Of A Betrayal; “General George Washington Tricked The Troops Into Disarming” “He Then Had Their Leaders Shot By A Firing Squad”

1.1.11 By Dave Blalock, GI Café Kaiserslautern, Facebook, Open Group

**PAST NEW YEARS DAY IN THE GI RESISTANCE MOVEMENT
FIRST RECORDED FRAGGING & MUTINY!!!**

Vietnam wasn't the first war in which disgruntled US troops murdered their own officers. This tradition goes back to the American Revolution.

The first incident of “fragging” was recorded in the Revolutionary War diary of a 9th Pennsylvania troop officer named Captain Joseph McClellan, who wrote that drunken troops turned on their superiors on January 1, 1781.

These soldiers were disgruntled because they felt they should have been discharged after serving for three years. In describing the casualties of this fragging he wrote that, “Captain Biting was shot through the body and soon died,” and that “Captain Tolbert was badly wounded.”

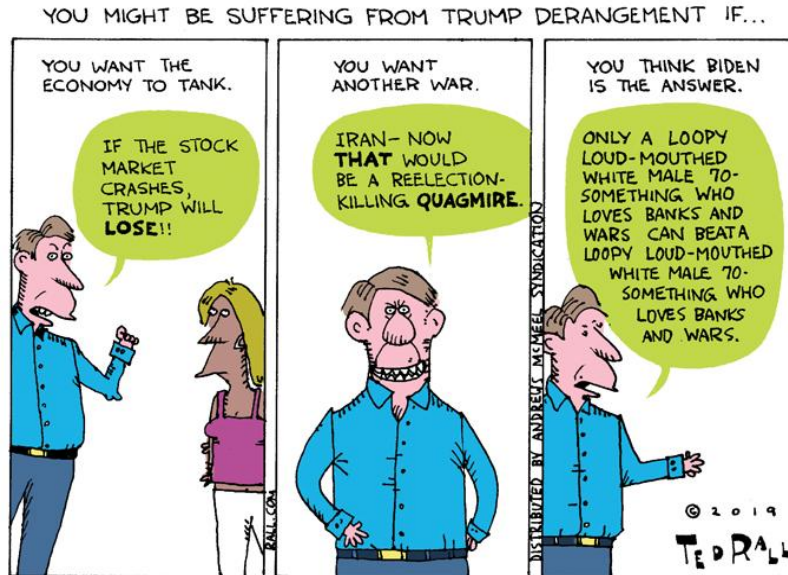
Later in the month the Pennsylvania and New Jersey troops of the Army wage a mutiny.

In order to crush their rebellion General George Washington tricked the troops into disarming. He then had their leaders shot by a firing squad made up of some of their fellow mutineers.

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Military Resistance Newsletter, P.O Box 2604, N.Y., N.Y. 10108 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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