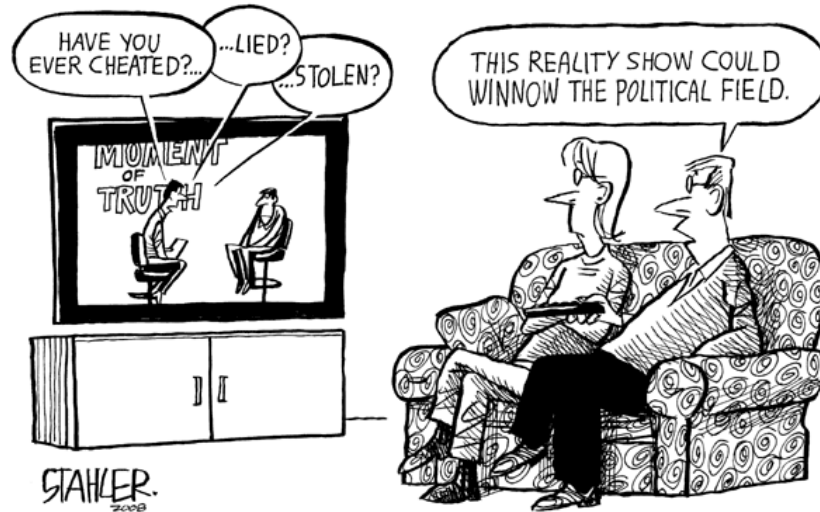


GI SPECIAL 6B20:



George Washington Orders Firing Squad To Kill Hungry, Ragged, Stop-Lossed Winter Soldiers:

**[The Mutiny Of The Pennsylvania
And Jersey Line, January, 1781]**

**“They Have Now Served Their
Country With Fidelity For Near Five
Years, Poorly Clothed, Badly Fed And
Worse Paid; They Have Not Seen A
Paper Dollar In The Way Of Pay For
Near Twelve Months”**

[Winter Soldier Reality Or Storybook Bullshit: Take Your Pick]

[Note: History fails to record any death penalties for “founding-father” politicians, slave-owners or wealthy merchants who built their fortunes during the war while refusing to come up with money for the troops. How odd. T]

Doublegv.com [Excerpt] & From: THE COLLAPSE OF THE ARMED FORCES By Col. Robert D. Heinl, Jr., Armed Forces Journal, 7 June, 1971 [Excerpt] & motherbedfor.com [Excerpt]

In January 1781, all the Pennsylvania and New Jersey troops in the Continental Army mutinied.

The mutiny began in the ranks of the New Eleventh Pennsylvania Regiment and spread to the First, Third, Sixth, Seventh and Tenth Pennsylvania Regiments,

In December of 1780, the 6 regiments of the Pennsylvania Line were quartered at Jockey Hollow south of Morristown.

According to their commander, General Anthony Wayne, writing to Pennsylvania President Reed, on December 16th:

“we are reduced to dry bread and beef for our food, and to cold water for our drink.

“Neither officers or soldiers have received a single drop of spirituous liquors from the public magazines since the 10th of October last, except one gill per man some time in November, this, together with the old worn out coats and tattered linen overalls, and what was once a poor substitute for a blanket (now divided among three soldiers), is but very wretched living and shelter against the winter’s piercing cold, drifting snows and chilling sleets.

“Our soldiery are not devoid of reasoning faculties, nor are they callous to the first feelings of nature, they have now served their country with fidelity for near five years, poorly clothed, badly fed and worse paid; of the last article, trifling as it is, they have not seen a paper dollar in the way of pay for near twelve months.”

The Mutineers marched south to Vealtown during the night, and then went on to Princeton. Others who had not immediately joined them, followed the next day.

They marched in regiment fashion, under strict discipline, without disturbing the inhabitants, which was considered highly remarkable.

At Princeton they were approached by two British agents, who offered them back pay in hard cash if they would desert to the enemy.

These two men were arrested as spies, and turned over to be tried as spies. (They were later convicted by a trial of officers and hanged.)

The biggest point of contention, though, was that they felt, after spending five years in service, their original three-year periods of enlistment were up.

They believed that they were not obligated to serve for the duration of the war, which in January of 1781, showed no sign of ending.

Washington only quelled the outbreaks by disarming the Jersey mutineers and having their leaders shot in hollow square – by a firing squad made up of fellow mutineers.

ACTION REPORTS

After Action Report **Louisiana NG Troops And Active-Duty Marines:** **“Not A Single Negative Encounter In 2 Hours”**

From: Ward Reilly, Veterans For Peace

To: GI Special

Sent: February 27, 2008

Subject: After Action Report

To the GI Special team....

Great to see the piece featuring VFPers Sandy Kelson and John Grant working with Kevin and Monica Benderman in Georgia.

I'm on a couple of the organizing committees for the "Winter Soldier: Iraq & Afghanistan" action, and we (the Media Committee) had postcards made last week advertising the event.

I spent a couple hours handing out, and strategically placing, 100 of those postcards to NG troops and active-duty Marines at both of their bases on [XXXXX] in [XXXXX] yesterday.

I put them on lobby tables, windshields in the parking lot, and handed out a few directly to soldiers reporting in for work.

Not a single negative encounter in 2 hours.

Heading to the ROTC center on the LSU campus today, to duplicate yesterdays effort.

If anyone wants some of this fine, high-gloss IVAW-WSIA postcards, let me know.

Peace from Ward
wardpeace@hotmail.com

MORE:

MORE ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to GI Special for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so. If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not in any way identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the war.
If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs his or her name be listed as reporting on the action.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Texas Soldier Killed In Baghdad



U.S. Army Spc. Orlando A. Perez, 23, of Houston, died Feb. 24, 2008, in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered from small arms fire. He was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

Glen Burnie Man Died After Vehicle Hit Roadside Bomb

February 23, 2008 By Nicole Fuller and Rona Kobell, The Baltimore Sun

A Glen Burnie soldier was one of three men killed in Iraq this week after their vehicle hit a roadside bomb, the Pentagon said yesterday.

Spc. Micheal B. Matlock Jr., 21, an infantryman with the 101st Airborne Division, died Wednesday from wounds suffered when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, where the soldiers were responsible for security.

Also fatally injured in the Tuesday explosion were Sgt. Conrad Alvarez, 22, of Big Spring, Texas, and Cpl. Albert Bitton, 20, of Chicago.

Matlock was raised by his mother, Sheena Douglas, and his stepfather, Ronald Douglas, in Glen Burnie. His biological father, Micheal Matlock Sr., lives in North Carolina.

A year ago, Micheal Matlock Jr. married Breon Summers, his high-school sweetheart. The couple have one child, Byron, 1. Family members reached last night declined to comment.

Neighbors in the Cohansey Court townhouse community where Matlock grew up described him as a happy and responsible child, who often helped his stepfather with landscaping jobs he did on the side for elderly neighbors. Matlock also loved to play basketball.

"My heart goes out to Ron," said Kelly Gross, who is close to Matlock's stepfather. "He loved that boy, he loved him. Words cannot say... the devastation, the devastation."

Gross last saw Matlock about two weeks ago, when he came home for a visit. Matlock, he said, was in good spirits, and planning for his future: He even bought a gray Ford Explorer.

"It's not fair, it's really not fair," Gross said. "I'll be so glad when this war in Iraq is over."

Matlock joined the Army in 2006 and arrived in Fort Campbell, Ky., just four months later. Shortly afterward, he shipped out to Iraq as a member of a combat team responsible for security in the northwest part of the Iraqi capital.

Matlock's company has run counterinsurgency operations, such as joint patrols with Iraqi forces, in an effort to weed out insurgents, according to an article in the base newspaper.

Earlier this month, soldiers in Matlock's company captured a suspected Iranian-trained "special groups" criminal cell leader in Baghdad. On Feb. 10, the military reported that the company detained the alleged cell leader during a raid. The cell leader is believed to have been involved in IED and small-arms attacks against coalition and Iraqi security forces. The brigade had been in Iraq before, returning from a deployment to south Baghdad in September 2006.

Matlock's awards and decorations include: National Defense Service Medal; Iraqi Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; and Weapons Qualification, M4, expert.

A memorial service for the slain soldiers will be held in Iraq. Fort Campbell holds a monthly Eagle Remembrance Ceremony the second Wednesday of each month.

According to a Fort Campbell Web site, 19 soldiers from the base have died in Iraq since Oct. 31 of last year.

**REALLY BAD IDEA:
NO MISSION;**

POINTLESS WAR: ALL HOME NOW



8.26.07: US soldiers during Operation Gecko, south of Baghdad. (AFP/David Furst)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

2 Polish Soldiers Killed In Sharan

02/27/08 AP

KABUL, Afghanistan - A roadside bomb killed two Polish soldiers patrolling in eastern Afghanistan, officials said Wednesday.

The explosion hit the troops in the Sharan district of Paktika province on Tuesday.

The Polish troops were returning from a humanitarian aid meeting in a village when their Humvee drove over a roadside mine, Maj. Dariusz Kacperczyk, spokesman for the Polish army operational command, said in Warsaw.

The two soldiers killed were identified as Cpl. Szymon Slowik and Pvt. Hubert Kowalewski. One soldier was also wounded. Poland has about 1,200 troops in Afghanistan.

TROOP NEWS

Iraq Veteran “Convinced That The Entire War On Terror Was A Deception”



February 27, 2008 Andy Potter, WCAX News

You may have heard military advertisements offering college tuition as an inducement for young people to sign up. A Vermont man who fought in Iraq now claims that a military recruiter misled him about those education benefits.

Drew Cameron is 26 years old and finishing his last semester toward an undergraduate degree at the University of Vermont. Some, but not all, of his tuition is covered by the G.I. Bill, augmented by a cash bonus program. That's hardly enough, he says, especially when he believed the recruiter who signed him up for the Army.

"Look at the advertisement that the U.S. Army uses," Cameron told WCAX News. "Get money for college, pay for college, we'll empower you to go to college. The reality is, you get a really small portion."

In Drew Cameron's case, he says he gets about \$1,500 a month toward tuition and expenses, or over \$13,000 a year. At UVM, he pays the in-state student tuition rate of just over \$20,000 a year. But the discrepancy is not Cameron's only problem.

Drew Cameron's beef with the Army goes beyond the education benefits he thought he was entitled to and never got.

After completing four years in the active Army, plus two more years in the Vermont Army National Guard, he joined Iraq Veterans Against the War, convinced that the entire war on terror was a deception.

"It's sending very young people to do atrocities, things based not on any reality of the security of this country," Cameron said.

"If anything, it's destroying the military. It's destroying peoples' lives and families' lives, not to mention all the innocent civilians. Massive amount of destruction."

Drew Cameron says he wouldn't sign up again -- not even for full education benefits. But if the legislation becomes law, it would give those who have served the opportunity to get a full -- and free -- college education, in return for that service.

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE
SERVICE?**

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

**Benefit For IVAW:
Brooklyn, New York
March 9**



Everyone,

The Green Party of Brooklyn has organized a fun night of music at Southpaw in Park Slope to benefit IVAW and Winter Soldier.

When: Sunday, March 9th. Doors at 7PM.

**Where: Southpaw, 125 5th Avenue, Park Slope,
Brooklyn, New York**

How much: \$10 (\$3 beers all night)

Spread the word!

Jose N. Vasquez, Iraq Veterans Against The War
Mobile phone 917-587-3334
John Jay College 212-237-8451
IVAW-NYC office 212-228-0450 x104
www.ivaw.org/wintersoldier

Ft Drum Afghanistan Veteran Killed By MPs: “We Don’t Believe That The Ft Drum Command Should Be Allowed To Investigate Itself”

From: CitizenSoldier1@aol.com

Sent: February 27, 2008

Subject: Group Calls for Congressional Probe of Ft Drum Soldier’s Death

Sgt. Dustin McMillen, 29, was shot to death by military police officers in his home on Ft Drum at 1:30 am on February 9.

They had gone to the McMillens’ housing unit in response to a report about a domestic dispute.

McMillen had returned from a 15 month combat tour in Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division last June.

Details that have been released by Ft Drum about the shooting so far are based solely on police accounts.

Shortly after the soldier was killed his widow, Alexis McMillen and their three young children were "relocated" from their quarters to "temporary housing" by base officials.

Mrs. McMillen’s version of events prior to her husband’s death is unknown at this time.

Tod Ensign, Esq., co-coordinator of "The Different Drummer" internet cafe, near Ft Drum has sent letters to Chairs of both the Senate and House Armed Services Committees, asking that in light of the growing epidemic of number of soldiers suffering from PTSD they conduct an independent investigation into Sgt McMillen’s death.

"There are several unanswered questions about this tragic incident and we don’t believe that the Ft Drum command should be allowed to investigate itself," Ensign stated.

"*First, were the responding military police officers trained in the use of various techniques--short of deadly fire, such as negotiation, Mace, pepper spray, Tazer gun, etc., often employed by police in domestic disputes?

Second, why does the Ft Dix command continue to withhold the identities of the responding police officers?

Third, why is Sgt. McMillen's widow still isolated from the public at Ft Drum?

Fourth, why did the Ft Drum Public Affairs Office feel it necessary to issue a statement just one day after McMillen's death concluding that, "he had not been referred nor sought counseling for battle related illnesses or PTSD?"

More info:
Citizen Soldier:
(212) 679-2250

MORE:

Foul Scum In Command: “Some Military Commanders At Fort Drum Doubt The Validity Of Mental Health Wounds”

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

February 25, 2008 by Maggie Mahar, Healthbeatblog.org [Excerpts]

Since 9/11, one Army division has spent more time in Iraq than any other group of soldiers: the 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum, New York.

Over the past 6 years and six months, their 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT) has been the most deployed brigade in the army. As of this month, the brigade had completed its fourth tour of Iraq. All in all, the soldiers of BCT have spent 40 months in Iraq.

Meanwhile, the soldiers of the 2nd BCT have been given too little time off in between deployments:

In one case they had only six months to mentally “re-set” following an eight-month tour in Afghanistan -- before beginning a 12- month tour in Iraq.

Then, in April 2007, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates decided to extend Army tours in Iraq from 12 to 15 months — shortly after the BCT had passed what it assumed was its halfway mark in Iraq.

“Fifty-two members of the 2nd BCT were killed in action (KIA),” the VFA [Veterans for America Wounded Warrior Outreach Program] reports and “270 others were listed as non-fatality casualties, while two members of the unit remain missing in action (MIA).”

This level of losses is unusual. “On their most recent deployment,” the VFA report notes “members of the 2nd BCT were more than five times as likely to be killed as others who have been deployed to OEF and OIF and more than four times likely to be wounded.”

When they finally returned to Fort Drum, these soldiers faced winter conditions that the report describes as “dreary, with snow piled high and spring still months away.

Soldiers also reported that given the financial realities of the Army, some of their fellow soldiers had to resort to taking second jobs such as delivering pizzas to supplement their family income.”

Soldiers told the VFA that “the leader of the mental health treatment clinic at Fort Drum asked soldiers not to discuss their mental health problems with people outside the base.

Attempts to keep matters ‘in house’ foster an atmosphere of secrecy and shame,” the report observed “that is not conducive to proper treatment for combat-related mental health injuries.”

The report notes that a “conversation with a leading expert in treating combat psychological wounds” confirmed “that some military commanders at Fort Drum doubt the validity of mental health wounds in some soldiers, thereby undermining treatment prescribed by civilian psychiatrists” at the nearby Samaritan Medical Center in Watertown, NY.

“In the estimation of this expert, military commanders have undue influence in the treatment of soldiers with psychological wounds,” the report noted.

“Another point of general concern for VFA is that Samaritan also has a strong financial incentive to maintain business ties with Fort Drum — a dynamic (that) deserves greater scrutiny.”

Because some soldiers do not trust Samaritan, the report reveals that a number of “soldiers have sought treatment after normal base business hours at a hospital in Syracuse, more than an hour’s drive from Watertown, . . . because they feared that Samaritan would side with base leadership, which had, in some cases, cast doubt on the legitimacy of combat-related mental health wounds.

“In one case,” the report continued, “after a suicidal soldier was taken to a Syracuse hospital, he was treated there for a week, indicating that his mental health concerns were legitimate.

“Unfortunately, mental health officials at Fort Drum had stated that they did not believe this soldier’s problems were bona fide.”

While talking to soldiers at Fort Drum, VFA also discovered “considerable stigma against mental health treatment within the military and pressure within some units to deny mental health problems as a result of combat.

“More than six years after large-scale military operations began in Afghanistan and, later, in Iraq, a casual observer might assume that programs would have been implemented to ensure access for Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division to mental health services on base.

“Unfortunately, an investigation by VFA has revealed that (soldiers) who recently returned from Iraq must wait for up to two months before a single appointment can be scheduled . . .

The Putrid Stench Of Corruption Dishonors Marine Corps Officers: Too Many Unanswered Questions About Strange Doings In Procurement Process; “Delays Of Nearly 18 Months May Have Led To An Untold Number Of Iraqi Civilian Casualties” Either Thieves Or Idiots In Command [Or Maybe Thieving Idiots]

"The urgency of the operational need for dazzlers was not debatable, since the tragedies it was designed to mitigate had already been experienced," Gayl wrote.

Marines in Iraq became so frustrated at the delays they bypassed normal acquisition procedures and used money from their own budget to buy 28 of the dazzlers directly from LE Systems, a small company in Hartford, Conn., according to Gayl. The dazzlers cost about \$8,000 each.

Feb 28 By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

An investigation into allegations the Marine Corps delayed sending blast-resistant trucks to Iraq also will examine whether the Marines were negligent in delivering a laser to

divert drivers and people from checkpoints and convoys, according to a memo obtained by The Associated Press.

Marines on the front lines sought the tool, known as a Compact High Power Laser Dazzler, but stateside acquisition officials did not deliver it, a civilian Marine Corps official said.

A less capable laser was eventually sent, but delays of nearly 18 months may have led to an untold number of Iraqi civilian casualties, according to allegations by the official, an internal critic whose claims are being investigated.

The deaths and injuries occurred when civilians mistaken as the enemy got too close to guarded areas and U.S. troops lacked a nondeadly way of forcing them away, according to the official. The Iraqi government has complained about such incidents in the past.

The dazzler emits a powerful stream of green light that stops or redirects oncoming traffic by temporarily impairing the driver's vision. Without it, troops have to open fire when warning signals are ignored or not seen.

The Marine Corps has stressed that the allegations made by the official, Franz Gayl, reflect his personal views. Gayl's conclusions stem from a series of case studies he was conducting for the Marine Corps plans, policies and operations department about the wartime acquisition system.

Gayl has been ordered to terminate the project, however, according to Adam Miles of the Government Accountability Project in Washington. Gayl filed for whistleblower protection last year.

"The Marine Corps has not muzzled this individual," [Lt. Gen. John] Castellaw said. [Who gets the stupid liar award for 2008, so far.]

Gayl completed a case study on the Compact High Power Laser Dazzler on Feb. 14. In it, he notes that Marines stationed in western Iraq filed an urgent request for the tool in June 2005. And he said that the 2005 request and subsequent calls for the dazzler were not met.

"The urgency of the operational need for dazzlers was not debatable, since the tragedies it was designed to mitigate had already been experienced," Gayl wrote.

Marines in Iraq became so frustrated at the delays they bypassed normal acquisition procedures and used money from their own budget to buy 28 of the dazzlers directly from LE Systems, a small company in Hartford, Conn., according to Gayl. The dazzlers cost about \$8,000 each.

But because the lasers had not passed a safety review process, stateside authorities barred the Marines from using them, his report states.

In January 2007, nearly 18 months after the first request, Gayl said the Marines received a less capable laser warning device built by a different company, B.E. Meyers of

Redmond, Wash. **[Wow. What a surprise. How about a betting pool on which Marine officer gets a neat executive job with B.E. Meyers?]**

There were also questions raised about whether the LE Systems could build sufficient numbers of the dazzlers.

LE Systems has said it could meet the demand.

What Were They Thinking? **“How The Army Could Field Combat Vehicles Without Adequate Crew-Cooling Systems — After Nearly Five Years At War In The Scorching Desert Of Iraq — Boggles The Mind”**

March 03, 2008 Army Times Editorial [Excerpts]

The Army fielded a new mobile gun system in Iraq without an air conditioning system for the crew. It got so dangerously hot in the vehicles last summer — 147 degrees in some cases — that some soldiers conducted their patrols while hooked up to intravenous fluids.

Eventually, the three-man crews were outfitted with cooling vests, which are cumbersome, but do the job.

The Army's budget includes \$1.2 billion for 119 Stryker combat vehicles, including 79 of the MGS variants. But, aware of its problems, legislators put a hold on that money until 30 days after Army Secretary Pete Geren certifies the vehicle as “operationally effective, suitable and survivable for its anticipated deployment missions.”

The hot and dirty business of soldiering in tanks and other combat vehicles is the stuff of legend. But in the modern era of advanced technology, it should go without saying that forcing crew members to endure 140-degree temperatures is an unnecessary burden.

How the Army could field combat vehicles without adequate crew-cooling systems — after nearly five years at war in the scorching desert of Iraq — boggles the mind.

Soldiers who recently talked with an Army Times reporter in Iraq said they generally like the wheeled vehicle with the 105mm cannon and the added firepower that brings to the fight. But their comfort and safety should not be matters of after-the-fact add-ons.

It is disappointing that senior leaders did not fully look after their troops' best interests and get it right from the start.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

GET THE MESSAGE?



Iraqi citizens condemn the occupation and demand the release of a woman arrested with her husband by American troops in front of the Abu Hanifa mosque, Baghdad, Feb. 28, 2008. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

Resistance Action

Feb. 28, 2008 Reuters & (KUNA) & AP

An off-duty Iraqi soldier was killed and two wounded when guerrillas opened fire on their car near Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents wounded four off-duty policemen in a drive-by shooting in Baiji, 180 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas in two cars kidnapped a senior official of Iraq's electricity ministry after he left work in Amara, 365 km (230 miles) southeast of Baghdad, police said. The official was identified as Mutar Thamer, director of electricity distribution for Iraq's southern provinces.

Two Iraqi policemen were killed in the northern city of Mosul on Thursday, Iraqi police said. A police source in Mosul told KUNA insurgents riding a civilian car shot dead the two policeman in Al-Tahrir neighborhood.

In central Baghdad Feb. 28, 2008, the explosion of a roadside device struck a passing army patrol injuring two soldiers and one civilian.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

THE COLLAPSE OF THE ARMED FORCES

[Part 2]

**“Unpunished Seditious, And
Recalcitrant Antimilitary
Malevolence”**

**Elected Enlisted Men's Councils “Made
Up Of Privates And Sp 4s (NCOs Aren't
Allowed) Which Sits At The Elbow Of
Every Unit Commander Down To The
Companies”**

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

By Col. Robert D. Heinl, Jr., Armed Forces Journal, 7 June, 1971 [Excerpts]

The Action Groups

Not unsurprisingly, the end-product of the atmosphere of incitement of unpunished sedition, and of recalcitrant antimilitary malevolence which pervades the world of the

draftee (and to an extent the low-ranking men in "volunteer" services, too) is overt action.

During 1970, large armory thefts were successfully perpetrated against Oakland Army Base, Vets Cronkhite and Ord, and even the marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton, where a team wearing Marine uniforms got away with nine M-16 rifles and an M-79 grenade launcher.

Operating in the middle West, three soldiers from Ft Carson, Colo., home of the Army's permissive experimental unit, the 4th Mechanized Division, were recently indicted by a federal grand jury for dynamiting the telephone exchange, power plant and water works of another Army installation, Camp McCoy, Wis., on 26 July 1970.

The Navy, particularly on the West Coast, has also experienced disturbing cases of sabotage in the past two years, mainly directed at ships' engineering and electrical machinery.

It will be surprising, according to informed officers, if further such tangible evidence of disaffection within the ranks does not continue to come to light. Their view is that the situation could become considerably worse before it gets better.

Part of the defense establishment's problem with the judiciary is the now widely pursued practice of taking commanding officers into civil courts by dissident soldiers either to harass or annul normal discipline or administrative procedures or the services.

Only a short time ago, for example, a dissident group of active-duty officers, members of the concerned Officers' Movement (COM), filed a sweeping lawsuit against Defense Secretary Laird himself, as well as all three service secretaries, demanding official recognition of their "right" to oppose the Vietnam war, accusing the secretaries of "harassing" them, and calling for court injunction to ban disciplinary "retaliation" against COM members.

Such nuisance suits from the inside (usually, like the Laird suit, on constitutional grounds) by people still in uniform, let alone by officers, were unheard-of until two or three years ago.

Now, according to one Army general, the practice has become so command that, in his words, "I can't even give a /34/ directive without getting permission from my staff judge advocate."

Other reports tell of jail-delivery attacks on Army stockades and military police to release black prisoners, and of officers being struck in public by black soldiers. Augsburg, Krailsheim, and Hohenfels are said to be rife with racial trouble.

Desertions And Disasters

With conditions what they are in the Armed Forces, and with intense efforts on the part of elements in our society to disrupt discipline and destroy morale the consequences can

be clearly measured in two ultimate indicators: man-power retention (reenlistments and their antithesis, desertions); and the state of discipline.

In both respects the picture is anything but encouraging.

Desertion, to be sure, has often been a serious problem in the past. In 1826, for example, desertions exceeded 50% of the total enlistments in the Army. During the Civil War, in 1864, Jefferson Davis reported to the Confederate Congress: "Two thirds of our men are absent, most absent without leave."

Desertion rates are going straight up in Army, Marines, and Air Force. Curiously, however, during the period since 1968 when desertion has nearly doubled for all three other services, the Navy's rate has risen by less than 20 percent.

In 1970, the Army had 65,643 deserters, or roughly the equivalent of four infantry divisions.

This desertion rate (52.3 soldiers per thousand) is well over twice the peak rate for Korea (22.5 per thousand).

If desertions continue to rise (as they are still doing this year), they will attain or surpass the WWII peak of 63 per thousand, which, incidentally, occurred in the same year (1945) when more soldiers were actually being discharged from the Army for psychoneurosis than were drafted.

The marines in 1970 had the highest desertion index in the modern history of the Corps and, for that year at least, slightly higher than the Army's. Meanwhile, grimly remarked one officer, "let the bastards go. We're all the better without them."

But letting the bastards go doesn't work at all for the Army and the Navy, who do need a lot of recruits and whose reenlistment problems are dire.

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., chief of naval Operations, minces no words. "We have a personnel crisis," he recently said, "that borders on disaster."

The Navy's crisis, as Zumwalt accurately describes it, is that of a highly technical, material oriented service that finds itself unable to retain the expensively-trained technicians needed to operate warships, which are the largest, most complex items of machinery that man makes and uses.

"Discipline," George Washington once remarked, "is the soul of an army."

Washington should know.

In January 1781, all the Pennsylvania and New Jersey troops in the Continental Army mutinied. Washington only quelled the outbreaks by disarming the Jersey mutineers and having their leaders shot in hollow square – by a firing squad made up of fellow mutineers.

(The navy's only mutiny, aboard USS Somers in 1842, was quelled when the captain hanged the mutineers from the yardarm while still at sea.)

If Washington was correct (and almost any professional soldier, whether officer or NCO, will agree), then the Armed Forces today are in deep trouble.

What enhances this trouble, by exponential dimensions, is the kind of manpower with which the Armed Forces now have to work.

As early as three years ago, U.S. News and World Report reported that the services were already plagued with "... a new breed of man, who thinks he is his own Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and Attorney General. He considers himself superior to any officer alive. And he is smart enough to go by the book. He walks a tightrope between the regulations and sedition."

Yet the problem is not just one of trouble-makers and how to cope with them.

The trouble of the services – produced by and also in turn producing the dismaying conditions described in this article – is above all a crisis of soul and backbone.

It entails – the word is not too strong – something very near a collapse of the command authority and leadership George Washington saw as the soul of military forces. This collapse results, at least in part, from a concurrent collapse of public confidence in the military establishment.

Elected Enlisted Men's Councils

General Matthew B. Ridgway, one of the Army's finest leaders in this century (who revitalized the shaken Eighth Army in Korea after its headlong rout by the Chinese in 1950) recently said, "Not before in my lifetime ... has the Army's public image fallen to such low esteem ..."

But the fall in public esteem of all three major services – not just the Army – is exceeded by the fall or at least the enfeeblement of the hierarchic and disciplinary system by which they exist and, when ordered to do so, fight and sometimes die.

Take the case of the noncommissioned and petty officers.

In Rudyard Kipling's lines, "the backbone o' the Army is the noncommissioned man!"

In the 4th Mechanized Division at Ft. Carson, Sp 4 David Gyongyos, on his second year in the Army, enjoys an office across the hall from the division commander, a full-time secretary, and staff car and driver also assigned full time. He has the home phone numbers of the general and chief of staff and doesn't hesitate to use them out of working hours when he feels like it.

Gyongyos (with a bachelor's degree in theology and two years' law school) is chairman of the division's Enlisted Men's Councils, a system of elected [councils]

made up of privates and Sp 4s (NCOs aren't allowed) which sits at the elbow of every unit commander down to the companies.

"I represent, electively, " Gyongyos expansively told this reporter, "the 17,000 men on this post."

The division sergeant major, with a quarter-century in the Army, who is supposed to be the division's first soldiers and – non-electively – father and ombudsman of every soldier, has an office with is on even on the same floor with the general (or Sp 4 Gyongyos either). He gets his transportation, as needed, from the motor pool.

The very most that Gyongyos will concede to the sergeant major, the first sergeants, the platoon sergeants – the historic enlisted leadership of armies – is that they are "combat technicians." They are not, he coldly adds, "highly skilled in the social sciences."

The soldiers' [councils] of the 4th Division represent an experiment in what the Army calls "better communications".

Conditions throughout the rest of the Army do not quite duplicate those at Carson, but the same spirit is abroad. And experienced NCOs everywhere feel threatened or at least puzzled.

Most major units of the Army, Navy, and Air force have some form of enlisted men's councils, as well as junior officer councils.

Even the trainee companies at Ft. Ord, Calif. have councils, made up of recruits, who take questions and complaints past their DIs to company commanders and hold weekly meetings and post minutes on bulletin-boards.

General Pershing, who once said, "All a soldier needs to know is how to shoot and salute", would be surprised.

As for the officers, said a four-star admiral, "We have lost our voice."

The foregoing may be true as far as admirals are concerned, but hasn't hampered short-term junior officers (including several West Pointers) from banding together into highly vocal antiwar and antimilitary organizations, such as the Concerned Officers' Movement (COM).

At Norfolk, the local COM chapter has a peace billboard outside gate 2, Norfolk Naval Station, where every sailor can profit by the example of his officers.

Inspection – one of the most important and traditionally visible tools of command – is being widely soft-pedaled because it is looked on as "chicken" by young soldiers, sailors, and airmen.

In a move "to eliminate irritants to Air Force life" all major Air force commands got orders last year to cut back on inspection of people and facilities.

"You just damn near don't inspect barracks any more," said one Air Force colonel, "this is considered an irritant." Besides, he added, (partly to prevent barracks theft and partly for privacy), airmen keep the keys to their own rooms, anyway.

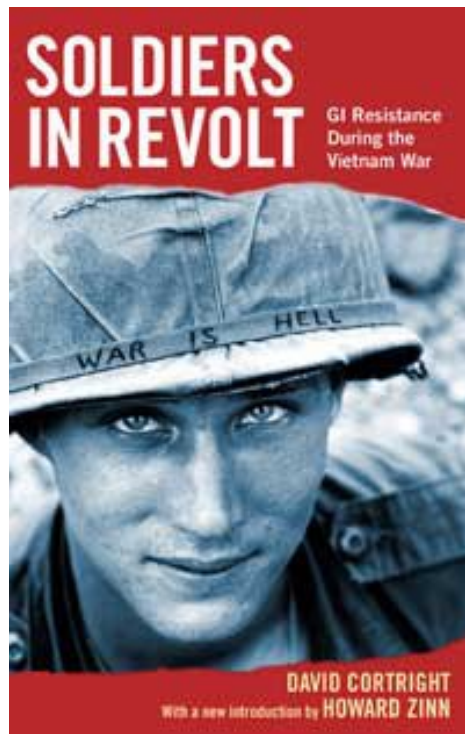
Aboard ships of the Navy, where every inch of metal and flake of paint partakes in the seaworthiness and battle readiness of the vessel, inspection is still a vital and nearly constant process, but even here, Admiral Zumwalt has discouraged "unnecessary" inspections.

If officers have lost their voices, their ears have in many commands been opened if not burnt in an unprecedented fashion via direct "hot lines" or "action lines" whereby any enlisted man can ring up his CO and voice a gripe or an obscenity, or just tell him what he thinks about something or, for that matter, someone.

Starting last year at naval Air Station, Miramar, Cal., sailors have been able to dial "C-A-P-T" and get their captain on the line. The system so impressed Admiral Zumwalt that he ordered all other shore stations to follow suit, even permitting anonymous calls.

At Ft. Lewis, Wash., soldiers dial "B-O-S-S-" for the privilege of giving the general an earful.

At the Air Force Academy, cadets receive early indoctrination in the new order of things: here, too, a cadet (anonymously, if he wishes) can phone the Superintendent, record his message and, also by recording receive the general's personal thanks for having called.



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975. Now available in paperback from Haymarket Books.

Drowning The Lie



**A boy brought his toy soldiers to the Oregon Vietnam Veterans Memorial
in Portland.
Veterans Day 2003**

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: February 27, 2008
Subject: Drowning The Lie

Drowning The Lie

Someday,
when this war is over,
I'm going to drown every toy soldier
I ever owned.
My mother still keeps that shit in the attic.
What a fool that kid inside of me was.
I was lied to from day one.
Something tells me,
that if my mom ever found out,
she would probably give me a medal.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
February 27, 2008

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

Questions

Letter To The Editor
Army Times
2.25.08

I am writing in response to Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Hawbaker's statement, "I sincerely hope the day never comes when I will be forced to serve with soldiers who are openly homosexual" ("Enforce letter of the law," Letters, Feb. 11).

This is 2008, and we are a country at war. Servicemen and women are getting killed in combat.

We, as soldiers, are here to stand and protect those people who cannot protect themselves. We are here for the safety and security of our country and every citizen in it, regardless of color, creed, sex or sexual orientation.

The next time you're in a combat zone, and you and your soldiers are getting fired upon by the enemy, are you really going to care who is standing next to you in that firefight?

Are you going to be there for that soldier, to help him or her back home?

Spc. Jeffrey Rodgers
Oak Grove, Ky.

Troops Invited:

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

February 25, 1968: Anniversary Of Memorable Bullshit: A General Cuts His Throat With His Tongue



Vietnam commander Gen. William Westmoreland meeting with Pres. Lyndon Johnson

Carl Bunin Peace History Feb 25-March 2

Discussing the war capacity of North Vietnam, a country that had been fighting for its independence for 23 years and had just staged the massive, successful Tet Offensive, U.S. General William C. Westmoreland stated, "I do not believe Hanoi can hold up under a long war."

He was replaced as commander in Vietnam less than four months later.

[Yeah, the timing on carrying this anniversary notice is off, but then so was Westmoreland's. T]

February 26, 1984:

Reagan Withdraws U.S. Troops After Saying To Do So “Means The End Of Lebanon”

“There Was No Way That We Could Really Contribute To The Original Mission By Staying There As A Target”



[Thanks to Carl Bunin Peace History Feb 25-March 2]

The last of the 1400 peacekeeping troops Pres. Ronald Reagan had sent to the Lebanese capital of Beirut were evacuated. The troops were part of an international force sent to deal with the Lebanese civil war.

The president withdrew almost all American troops following the deaths of 241 Marines and 58 French paratroopers in a suicide truck bombing carried out four months earlier by combined forces of Islamic Jihad and Hizbollah.

France withdrew its troops as well.

Three weeks earlier, Reagan had told the Wall Street Journal, "As long as there is a chance for peace, the mission remains the same. If we get out, that means the end of Lebanon."

In a barb directed at House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr. (D-Massachusetts), Reagan had said, "He may be ready to surrender, but I'm not."

BBC News: On This Day

American forces have withdrawn almost all of their troops from the Lebanese capital, Beirut. About 1,000 US Marines left the coast beside the international airport as Shi'ite militiamen arrived in jeeps and armoured vehicles to take over.

US President Ronald Reagan ordered military personnel to begin pulling out of the area over a week ago following a recent upsurge in terrorist attacks.

"Once the terrorist attacks started there was no way that we could really contribute to the original mission by staying there as a target just bunkering down and waiting for further attacks," he said.

The US Marines were sent in 18 months ago to help the Lebanese administration but as the last troops pulled out there was no official government delegation present to see them off. Instead, gunmen riding motorcycles watched without emotion as US military helicopters airlifted the last front line troops to warships off the Lebanese coast.

OCCUPATION REPORT

60% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops Dead: Big Surprise



2.24.08: Foreign occupation soldiers from the US search a bedroom during a night home invasion in Baquba, 20 kms northeast of Baghdad. (AFP/Patrick Baz)

[61% of Iraqis say they approve of attacks on U.S.-led forces in their country, up from 47 percent in January. A solid majority of Shiite and Sunni Arabs approved of the attacks, according to the poll. 9/27/2006 By BARRY SCHWEID, AP & Program on International Policy Attitudes

[Iraqis feel about U.S. troops trampling them in the dirt the same way Americans felt about British troops trampling them in the dirt in 1776. They are right to resist by any means necessary. T]



[images.google.com]

English soldiers search an American settler's house (1770's)

Declared Bill Ehrhart, a marine in Vietnam:

In grade school we learned about the redcoats, the nasty British soldiers that tried to stifle our freedom. Subconsciously, but not very subconsciously, I began increasingly to have the feeling that I was a redcoat. I think it was one of the most staggering realizations of my life.

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

“With Iraqis As The Rope”

February 26, 2008 washingtonbureau.typepad.com/baghdad/

We walked into the Iranian embassy today to interview the ambassador. It was built 70 years ago and reoccupied by the Iranian mission after the fall of Saddam Hussein in

2003. My translator looked at me as we walked through the double wooden doors to interview the Iranian Ambassador.

"This is the second ruler of Iraq," she said.

I looked at her.

"After Crocker," she said, referring to the U.S. Ambassador. She never mentioned the Prime Minister of Iraq, Nouri al Maliki.

She expressed what most Iraqis feel, Iraq is a tug of war for power between Iran and the United States.

Comments:

Yes, with Iraqis as the rope.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

John McCain: Dumbfuck At Work



28 Feb 2008 Fairness And Accuracy In Media [Excerpt]

In a pre-invasion interview on CNN (Late Edition, 11/29/02), McCain stated:

“We’re not going to get into house-to-house fighting in Baghdad. We may have to take out buildings, but we’re not going to have a bloodletting of trading American bodies for Iraqi bodies.”

He added, "I don't think it's, quote, 'easy,' but I believe that we can win an overwhelming victory in a very short period of time."

On MSNBC (Hardball, 3/24/03), he stated that "we will be welcomed as liberators."

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