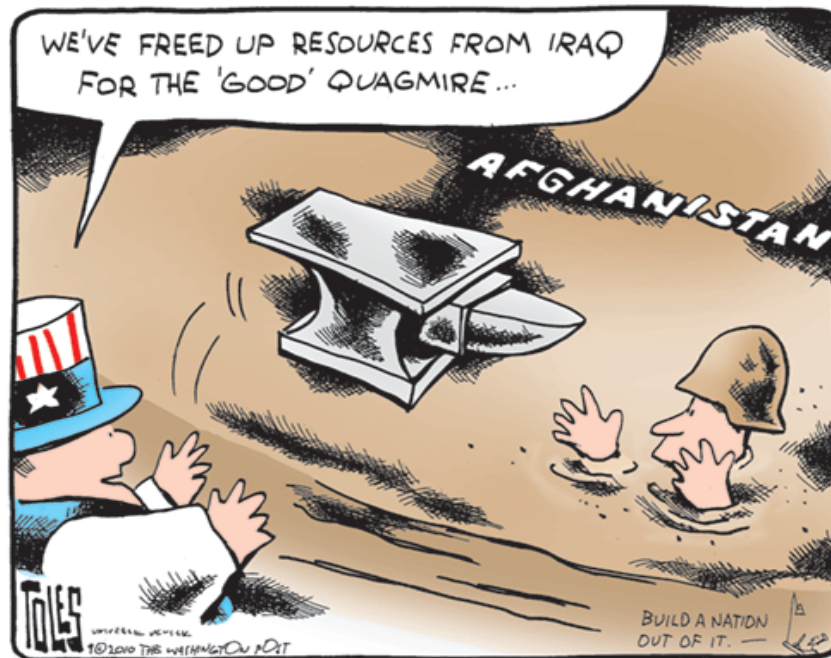


MILITARY RESISTANCE GUARD ISSUE:

IF PRINTED OUT, THIS NEWSLETTER IS YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY AND CANNOT LEGALLY BE CONFISCATED FROM YOU. "POSSESSION OF UNAUTHORIZED MATERIAL MAY NOT BE PROHIBITED." DOD DIRECTIVE 1325.6 SECTION 3.5.1.2.



**The SSG Says: “A War With No
Clear Objective”
“Why Are They Building
Permanent Barracks And Facilities
In A Country We Are Planning On
Leaving?”**

“It’s Hard For Me To Care When My Own Children Suffer Emotional Trauma Because Of My Deployments”

“And Where Is The Money For The Counseling They Are Supposed To Receive?”

“It’s In The Bank Account Of The Clean Civilian Contractor Who Looks Down On Me From His SUV As He Blows Dirt All Over My Buddies And Me”

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
August 23, 2010

Featured on the cover of Time magazine this month is the picture of a disfigured Afghan woman, the result of Taliban cruelty.

As upsetting as the image may be, I wonder what the result would be if they covered their pages with pictures of disfigured soldiers, parentless children and shattered families.

The result would be more anger over a war with no clear objective, no clear borders and no one clearly in control.

Why are they building permanent barracks and facilities in a country we are planning on leaving?

Why do high-paid civilian contractors stand around watching Afghan workers make three dollars a day, doing all of the labor?

Why do U.S. soldiers wait for hours in line to use a phone or computer in a Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility? They do because it is packed with contractors. The same contractors who treat us like second-class citizens in the bubble of security we provide.

In the wake of revelations about misplaced funds throughout the war, why is no one answering for this?

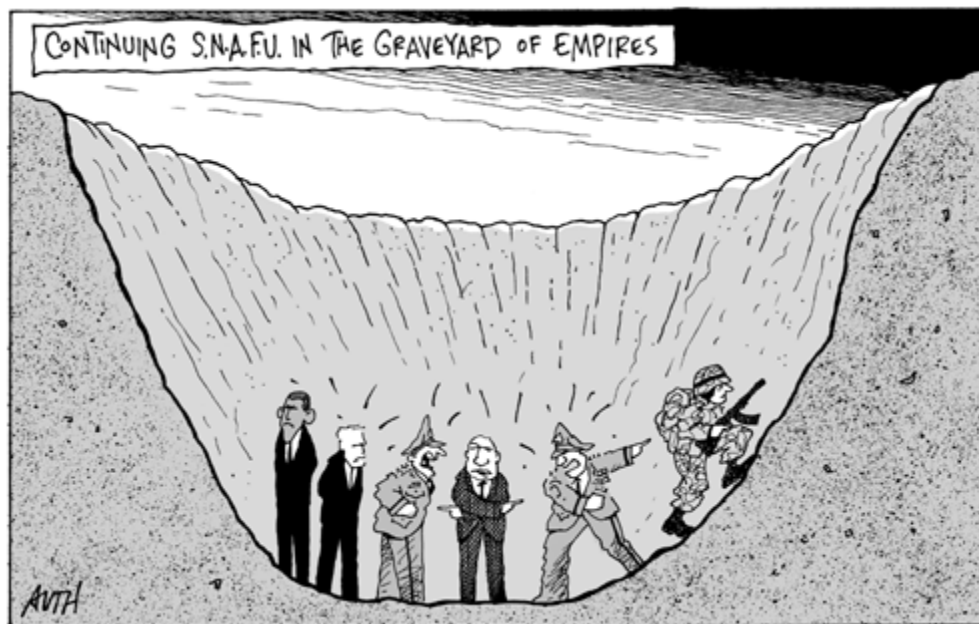
I'm sorry that bad things happen in the world.

But it's hard for me to care when my own children suffer emotional trauma because of my deployments.

And where is the money for the counseling they are supposed to receive?

It's in the bank account of the clean civilian contractor who looks down on me from his SUV as he blows dirt all over my buddies and me while we wait for a bus to take us to chow.

Staff Sgt. Stephen Rogers
Big Rock, Tenn.



**“We Should Just End It. Bring
The Troops Home”**

**“‘I Never Wanted My Son To Be A
Little Old Obituary In The Paper,’
Donna Shoecraft Explains, Still
Reeling From The Shock”**

“Why Are We There? Why Are We Even There?”

“Start Taking Care Of Our Own People” [An Indiana Town Reflects Growing Doubts Among Americans About The Afghan War]

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War & Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

September 18, 2010 By Peter Slevin, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

ELKHART, IND. - The Afghan war began more than half a lifetime ago for the teenagers in Adam Meyers's world history class.

“We should just end it. Bring the troops home,” said Ashley Ivory, 17, who thinks the war is doing nothing to stop terrorists. “They're just sneaking in here while we're over there. We don't have enough eyes.”

The views of the students and the community around them echo a growing national skepticism about U.S. involvement in a distant war that will soon enter its 10th year and register its 1,270th U.S. casualty.

A majority of Americans say the war has not been worth its cost, an opinion voiced frequently in Elkhart, a hard-luck town that sees the conflict through the lens of loss and economic hardship.

Meyers and his students have a particular reason to reflect. Army Spec. Justin B. Shoecraft, 28, who attended Elkhart Memorial High School with Meyers, was killed late last month by a roadside bomb, barely a month after he reached Afghanistan.

When his mother in Elkhart heard the news, she screamed, then fainted.

As combat deaths reached new monthly highs this year, 69 of the 301 U.S. soldiers killed in Afghanistan came from a dozen Midwestern states. Among the home towns of the fallen in the past month are Creve Coeur, Ill.; Mulvane, Kan.; Papillion, Neb.; Prairie du Sac, Wis.; White, S.D. And, on the morning of Aug. 24, Elkhart, Ind.

Disapproval of the war was once rare.

When President George W. Bush ordered the invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001, four weeks after the Twin Towers fell, American support for the overthrow of the Taliban was strong. Ninety-one percent of Americans supported the war at the end of its second month, 79 percent of them “strongly,” according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll.

This July, however, the number seeing the war as worth it dropped to 43 percent, with 53 percent saying the costs outweighed the benefits.

Even people who think U.S. troops should keep fighting tend to say so in reluctant tones.

“We’re stuck. I just wish we could pull out, but we can’t,” said Becky Cole, an office manager having a drink recently at the Bulldog, a restaurant in east Elkhart. “The one thing I hate about it is we’ve been there nine years.”

“I never wanted my son to be a little old obituary in the paper,” Donna Shoecraft explains, still reeling from the shock.

When she learned that Justin was heading to Afghanistan to fight, she tried to talk him out of it, telling him, “You go over there, you’re going to be in nothing but dirt, mud and sand.”

She and her husband, Carroll, known as “Blue,” don’t know what inspired Justin to enlist in his mid-20s. Maybe the fact that he had always wanted to drive a tank. Maybe the bonus money and the chance to leave northern Indiana. A few months earlier, his mother had forbidden him from traveling to London. Too dangerous to visit such a big city alone, she said.

“We’re just old factory people,” Donna Shoecraft says.

Blue wears an enormous gray beard and punches the clock at a local machine shop. On Sundays, he works at the local drag strip. He spends his spare time collecting Schwinn bicycles and fixing up old cars, most recently a ‘27 Dodge coupe, now a gleaming yellow.

After finishing high school in 2001, Justin Shoecraft showed little interest in the military recruiting pitches that came his way. He spent six years hefting boxes for UPS. “Big heart, do anything for you,” said Kevin Doctor, who often gave him a ride to work. “Real mild-mannered, head down. The kind of guy who flew under the radar.”

He married his girlfriend the day before he left for basic training.

When a pair of soldiers appeared unannounced at the Shoecrafts’ front door the other day, Donna Shoecraft screamed so loudly that neighbors four houses away heard her.

The war that she had long doubted finally broke her heart.

“Why are we there? Why are we even there?” she asked a few days later, the shock still fresh. “Start taking care of our own people.”

From the front door of his secondhand shop down the street, Don Fisher watches the comings and goings at the Shoecrafts’ home. He was fond of Justin and considers Blue Shoecraft a real friend. But he has not stopped by.

“I need to go down and hug him, and I just can’t bring myself to do it,” Fisher said. “Because I know that when I do, I’m going to cry, too.”

Fisher is an Army veteran who voted twice for George W. Bush and backed Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) over Obama.

Although polls show stronger support for the war among Republicans than Democrats, Fisher says he always considered the Afghan war unwinnable.

The billions in taxpayer dollars should be spent on “people who are sleeping under bridges or living out of food banks,” he said.

Blind, Stupid, Ignorant, Sadistic Freaks In Command Tormenting Troops Using Legally Prescribed Medical Marijuana:

**“‘What Are They Going To Do —
Send Me To Jail?’ Said Richelle
Golden, A Specialist With The
Oregon National Guard Who Is
Facing Court-Martial For Using
Medical Marijuana”**

**“Nobody Is Concerned About My
Health Care Here,” She Said. “They
Just See Me As A Junkie”**

One client, a former enlisted Marine who served three combat tours and was diagnosed with PTSD. The Marine began smoking marijuana while on active duty in California after a cocktail of prescription psychiatric drugs made him feel “like a zombie.” The Marine tested positive at a routine urinalysis. The Corps recently separated him on a general discharge, effectively stripping him of any disability payments or education benefits.

10.18.2010 By Andrew Tilghman, Army Times [Excerpts]

An Oregon National Guard soldier who smoked medical marijuana while in chemotherapy faces court-martial.

A Navy wife received medical marijuana for back pain but fears possessing or smoking it in her house will risk her husband's career.

A Marine combat veteran who smoked medical marijuana to ease symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder could wind up suing the Corps for denying him an honorable discharge.

Accessible in 14 states — some with large military populations — medical marijuana is gaining greater acceptance in the medical community at large and raising questions about how to maintain a drug-free force.

It's still illegal under federal law and the Uniform Code of Military Justice for service members to smoke or possess marijuana. Commanders have little discretion and typically must process for separation any troops who smoke pot. That can be done quietly with a general or even honorable discharge, or publicly by court-martial under Article 112(a) of the UCMJ.

But some troops claim it's a flawed policy that should permit exceptions.

"What are they going to do — send me to jail?" said Richelle Golden, a specialist with the Oregon National Guard who is facing court-martial for using medical marijuana.

Golden, a 39-year-old mother of four, said she began smoking marijuana in January while undergoing chemotherapy for a rare autoimmune disease known as Sjogren's syndrome, which causes rheumatoid arthritis and crippling joint pain.

She obtained the marijuana with a recommendation from her doctor in Oregon, which has allowed medical marijuana for certain conditions since 1998.

She said a colonel in the Oregon National Guard assured her that she could use the marijuana because she would soon receive a medical discharge.

In February, Army activation orders summoned her to the Warrior Transition Battalion at Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Seattle.

Showing up in a wheelchair, Golden told Army officials there that she was using marijuana.

She was ordered to undergo a urinalysis and had her discharge placed on hold pending an investigation for drug use.

"Nobody is concerned about my health care here," she said. "They just see me as a junkie."

The new command offered her an Article 15; she refused and asked for a court-martial.

In an interview with Military Times, she said she declined nonjudicial punishment because the offer would have reduced her paygrade to E-1 and adversely affected her future benefits after 10 years of service.

Suzanne Ovel, a spokeswoman for Golden's WTU, declined to comment on her specific case.

More broadly, Ovel said, "The Department of Defense and the U.S. Army prohibit the use of marijuana for any service member as it is illegal according to federal law."

The Veterans Affairs Department had similar rules prohibiting medical marijuana, but it eased them in July and now permits former troops under its care to use medical marijuana without risking benefits or other disciplinary measures.

It's not just troops who feel pinched between military regulations and medical use of marijuana.

One Navy wife said she has a doctor's recommendation but is reluctant to bring medical marijuana into her home. "I desperately want to be pain-free and am willing to try this, but do not want to risk my husband's career," said the woman, who declined to give her name.

On-base housing is legally federal property, so possession of marijuana by civilian family members, even under a doctor's recommendation, is considered a crime under federal law.

Retired Brig. Gen. David Brahms, who served as the Marine Corps' top judge advocate, is now a defense attorney in San Diego. He pointed to one client, a former enlisted Marine who served three combat tours and was diagnosed with PTSD.

The Marine, whom Brahms declined to name, began smoking marijuana while on active duty in California after a cocktail of prescription psychiatric drugs made him feel "like a zombie," Brahms said.

Predictably, the Marine tested positive at a routine urinalysis. The Corps recently separated him on a general discharge, effectively stripping him of any disability payments or education benefits.

If administrative appeals are unsuccessful, the former Marine plans to sue the Corps, seeking to have his discharge upgraded to honorable, Brahms said.

"We trust commanders to make life-and-death decisions out in the field," he said. "Why can't we trust them to make informed decisions about what to do in the case of one of their young people who has used marijuana?"

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication.

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

Our Good Earth

**By 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**

Our Good Earth

**National Guard, you're still in Iraq
but you're supposed to be home
protecting and helping us
you didn't sign up to fight
overseas and now they want
you to fight in Afghanistan
It was the Bush the Coward
who sent you to Iraq
but Obama said if elected
he would bring you home
but the Rich own him too**

**They have imprisoned the Earth
like a large cage in Alcatraz
with bars and locks
so that the Rich can enjoy life
but nobody else can**

**They don't like so-called
Socialism like Social Security
that makes them share**

**Instead they send their great Armies
wherever they want to
to plunder the wealth that any
Country has on supposedly
"Their Earth"**

They do it with flags with bombs

**with guns and with wounded
and dead Soldiers.**

**o Soldiers beware
don't let them make you be
mercenaries to keep
your own Families
back home in an "Earth Jail"
that they keep locked tight
as they lay off Worker Members
of your extended Families**

**So open your cage door
with your guns with your supplies
so you can fly home to
jail all the Bankers
who will not share
like Madoff in chains**

**"Our Good Earth" will be
glorious without them**



"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."

Frederick Douglass, 1852

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Bejjia village Iraq, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Forward Military Resistance 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 wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.