

Military Resistance 9B19



**Secretary Of The Navy Pushes
Clever Way To Kill More U.S.
Troops:
Feed Them Oil-Contaminated
Toxic Seafood:
“I Wouldn’t Eat Shrimp, Fish Or Crab
Caught In The Gulf,’ Said Robert M.
Naman, A Chemist At Act Labs”**

“Crude Oil Contains Benzene, Which Can Cause Cancer, Along With Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons And Heavy Metals Such As Lead, Mercury And Cadmium, Which Are Toxic To The Brain And Nervous System”

[Thanks to New Orleans activist Elizabeth Cook, www.stopgulfoildisaster.org, who sent this in, along with documentation in her own statement, below.]

December 8th, 2010 The Raw Story

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus wants the Pentagon to buy as much Gulf seafood as possible to help the region’s seafood industry recover from the damage of BP’s oil spill.

Secretary Mabus reportedly told the Defense Commissary Agency, which operates a worldwide chain of 284 commissaries to provide groceries to military personnel, “that we should be buying Gulf Coast seafood,” according to The New Orleans Times-Picayune.

“He expressed what we wanted to hear; he is in favor of the federal government buying seafood from the Gulf,” Ewell Smith, executive director of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, said.

Although the federal government has claimed that seafood from the Gulf of Mexico is safe to eat, experts told Raw Story they had serious concerns about the long-term effects of consuming Gulf seafood.

Multiple independent lab tests have found high volumes of crude oil and other harmful hydrocarbons in Gulf shrimp.

“I wouldn’t eat shrimp, fish or crab caught in the Gulf,” said Robert M. Naman, a chemist at ACT Labs in Mobile, Alabama, conducted a test on Gulf seafood after being contacted by a New Orleans activist.

“The problems people will face, health-wise, are something that people don’t understand.”

Direct exposure to crude oil can cause a number of short-lived health issues, but the effects of regular consumption of small amounts of crude oil is still being debated by the medical community.

Crude oil contains benzene, which can cause cancer, along with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and heavy metals such as lead, mercury and cadmium, which are toxic to the brain and nervous system.

“Once oil enters, it can damage every organ, every system in the body,” Dr. Susan Shaw, a marine toxicologist at the Marine Environmental Research Institute, said.

“There is no safe level of exposure to this oil, because it contains carcinogens, mutagens that can damage DNA and cause cancer and other chronic health problems. Many people in the Gulf have been exposed for months -- not just workers but residents. There are hundreds of health complaints from local people with symptoms that resemble symptoms of oil exposure.

“It will be years, possibly decades, before we understand the extent and nature of the health effects caused by this spill,” she added.

In addition, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and FDA officials told Raw Story that fish and shellfish being tested for possible contaminants are not being tested for heavy metals.

The government has also been withholding key data on Gulf seafood testing from scientists seeking an independent evaluation.

Although most seafood already contains small amounts of heavy metals, scientists and public health experts worry that increased levels could lead to mental health problems and increased rates of cancer.

“We know that heavy metals are linked to the development of cancer over the course of time,” Edward Trapido, the Wendell Gauthier Chair of Cancer Epidemiology at the Louisiana State University School of Public Health, said. “So if there is no testing, then that’s a problem for sure.”

Dock owners have asked fishermen to sign waivers that put the full responsibility for toxins found in the catch on the fishermen themselves, Louisiana fishermen’s activist Kindra Arnesen.

The Louisiana marketing board marketing board is reportedly receiving \$30 million from BP to promote Gulf seafood.

MORE:

U.S. Military Buys Gulf Seafood For 72 Commissaries “By Far The Majority From The Emeril Label”

“It Is ‘Reprehensible That Our Military Men And Women Should Now Become A Dumping Ground For Potentially Tainted Seafood”

“A New Orleans Environmental Attorney Sent Out An E-Mail Message That Says Offering Gulf Seafood To The Military Is “Reckless And Premature”

“The Human Health Effects Of The Spill Are Greater And Will Linger Far Longer Than The Oil Industry And The U.S. Government Have Acknowledged”

[Thanks to New Orleans activist Elizabeth Cook, www.stopgulfoildisaster.org, who sent this in, along with documentation in her own statement, below.]

Since at least December, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, who doubles as President Barack Obama’s point man on Gulf Coast oil spill recovery, has pressed America’s armed services to embrace Gulf seafood.

Mabus, former governor of Mississippi, spoke about that push with Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and the secretaries of the Air Force and Army, and Mabus’ staff in turn began discussions with the Defense Commissary Agency, which operates the global chain of stores for military personnel.

February 13, 2011 By Benjamin Alexander-Bloch, The Times-Picayune [Excerpts]

Launching a new initiative to buy more domestic produce, the U.S. military has purchased upward of 30,000 pounds of Gulf seafood in the past few months, by far the majority from the Emeril label.

So far, 72 of the military’s 249 commissaries, which are grocery stores that sell only to military personnel and their families, have begun selling that seafood, pitched as both

helping a Gulf seafood market turned on its side by the oil spill and a step toward increasing and promoting domestic catch nationally.

In doing so, the military apparently has cast aside concerns about the safety of seafood caught in waters tainted by the BP disaster in April.

Beginning to promote more domestically caught fish overall, the commissaries recently placed signs in their frozen food aisles, separating domestic and foreign fish into different freezer cases.

The wholesaler New Orleans Fish House, based in New Orleans with seafood processing centered in Lafayette, is supplying all the Gulf seafood to the commissaries, said Mike Ketchum, the fish house's director of retail sales.

Products include Emeril's frozen shrimp, crab cakes and jambalaya, and next week, the commissaries will add Emeril's crawfish etouffee.

Military officials acknowledged that some commissary customers have been nervous about the new Gulf seafood offerings because of the oil spill, but it appears customers are becoming accustomed to the Gulf fare.

Since at least December, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, who doubles as President Barack Obama's point man on Gulf Coast oil spill recovery, has pressed America's armed services to embrace Gulf seafood.

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On Tuesday, the New Orleans area's new Belle Chase Naval Air Station commissary opened with a ceremony highlighting the military's move toward juiced-up marketing of the local catch.

Joseph Jeu, director of the Defense Commissary Agency, acknowledged at the opening that the commissaries are selling Gulf seafood at Mabus' urging.

About 40,000 eligible people live within a 40-mile radius of the new 100,000-square-foot, \$43 million military grocery in Belle Chase, according to the Defense Commissary Agency.

But the 2,230 people who live at the base are expected to use the grocery most frequently.

The 72 stores selling Gulf seafood are along the East Coast and Gulf region.

Ketchum said that in the next six months, he expects to supply the Gulf seafood products to the remaining commissaries.

He says the New Orleans Seafood House lost about \$8 million last year because of the spill and that he hopes the military contract this year will help make up some of that shortfall.

Ewell Smith, executive director of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, has said he hopes the initiative eventually will expand to other public domains, such as prisons and schools.

But while most local fishers appear pleased with the steps, a few critics are pitching the move as a hazard to American soldiers.

On Tuesday, the same day as the Belle Chase opening, Stuart Smith, a New Orleans environmental attorney, sent out an e-mail message that says offering Gulf seafood to the military is “reckless and premature.”

Smith, who is representing fishers, businesses and organizations in suits against BP, wrote it is “reprehensible that our military men and women should now become a dumping ground for potentially tainted seafood, but that is what is happening as the Defense Commissary Agency bows to federal pressure to buy Gulf Coast seafood and feed it to our fighting men and women.”

Smith linked to findings by Wilma Subra, a New Iberia biochemist and environmental activist who has stated that the human health effects of the spill are greater and will linger far longer than the oil industry and the U.S. government have acknowledged.

A division of the National Institutes of Health has started a program to track the long-term health effects of the spill, and Obama’s National Oil Spill Commission recommended in January that the Environmental Protection Agency establish a more thorough protocol to monitor health effects of major spills.

MORE:

“Now We Have Heard That The U.S. Government Is Serving The U.S. Military Gulf Seafood In A Cynical Move To Promote The ‘Product’ And Increase The Price And Value Of Gulf Seafood”

“It Has Also Been Proposed That Schools And Prisons Serve Gulf Seafood, Potentially Endangering These Vulnerable Populations”

“‘Once Oil Enters, It Can Damage Every Organ, Every System In The Body,’ Dr. Susan Shaw, A Marine Toxicologist At The Marine Environmental Research Institute, Said”

[A Statement From A Louisiana Native: Health And Gulf Seafood Safety]

By Elizabeth Cook, www.stopgulfoildisaster.org

My name is Elizabeth Cook. I'm a Louisiana native, and have lived in Louisiana in the New Orleans area most of my 51 years.

What has happened to us as a result of the BP oil disaster, is a destruction of an entire ecosystem and way of life.

The poisoning of the people and the ecosystem has and is taking place with allegations that BP continues to use the dispersant Corexit, and genetically engineered bacteria, in our Gulf, our waterways, and near our shores.

Although the U.S. Coast Guard has reported that the use of Corexit had stopped as of July 19th, eye-witness accounts continue to come in of boats and planes spraying.

Many of us on Gulf coast have come to believe that our government is complicit with BP to hide the oil with the continued, massive and unprecedented use of the poisonous dispersant Corexit.

At the same time, in an effort to protect the political liability of the Obama administration, various agencies of the government, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), have declared the seafood safe.

NOAA has lauded the deploying of the “sniff” test as part of the “rigorous protocol” to make sure that seafood is safe.

Dr. Wilma Subra, a Louisiana environmentalist, through an independent lab, has had samples of seafood tested that shows otherwise.

These seafood samples, according to Subra, had no visible or auditory presence of chemicals, yet these samples tested positive for toxic chemicals.

Now we have heard that the U.S. government is serving the U.S. military Gulf seafood in a cynical move to promote the “product” and increase the price and value of Gulf seafood.

It has also been proposed that schools and prisons serve Gulf seafood, potentially endangering these vulnerable populations.

A Raw Story article, “Navy Secretary Mabus pushes Pentagon to Feed Soldiers More Gulf Seafood”, published on December 8, quotes the dangers of exposure to petrochemicals:

“Once oil enters, it can damage every organ, every system in the body,” Dr. Susan Shaw, a marine toxicologist at the Marine Environmental Research Institute, said.

“There is no safe level of exposure to this oil, because it contains carcinogens, mutagens that can damage DNA and cause cancer and other chronic health problems.

Many people in the Gulf have been exposed for months -- not just workers but residents. There are hundreds of health complaints from local people with symptoms that resemble symptoms of oil exposure.

“It will be years, possibly decades, before we understand the extent and nature of the health effects caused by this spill,” she added.

In this same Raw Story article, the concerns of independent scientists on the safety of Gulf seafood are expressed:

Although the federal government has claimed that seafood from the Gulf of Mexico is safe to eat, experts told Raw Story they had serious concerns about the long-term effects of consuming Gulf seafood.

Multiple independent lab tests have found high volumes of crude oil and other harmful hydrocarbons in Gulf shrimp.

“I wouldn’t eat shrimp, fish or crab caught in the Gulf,” said Robert M. Naman, a chemist at ACT Labs in Mobile, Alabama, conducted a test on Gulf seafood after being contacted by a New Orleans activist. “The problems people will face, health-wise, are something that people don’t understand.”

A November 10th Raw Story article had previously revealed that independent tests results from several Gulf states show dangerous levels of toxic chemicals associated with the BP oil disaster in Gulf seafood.

In addition, for this oil disaster, the FDA raised the allowable levels of hydrocarbons in seafood.

The people of the Gulf coast are having to face down federal agencies charged with protecting the safety of people.

On February 10th, Don Kraemer, FDA's Deputy Director in the Office of Food Safety, called into question independent tests of Gulf seafood, labeling these tests "junk science". This statement was made in a recent meeting of Louisiana "seafood industry leaders' and quoted in an article on the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board web site, covering a recent Washington D.C. visit by these same, so-called "seafood industry leaders".

The article cited a quote from political consultant James Carville that appears to back the claim of seafood safety.

The same article also appears to support a number of fallacies that have already been widely discredited.

For example the article states, "Since then, a peer-reviewed study has confirmed that the dispersant did rapidly biodegrade, except for minimal concentrations that remain in a small patch of ocean. FDA chemists had been right."

Actually, a recent study by Woods Hole Institute revealed that the dispersant is breaking down much more slowly than originally thought:

"But she added, "the dispersant is sticking around," which is worrisome. The chemicals didn't seem to biodegrade the oil and gas as fast as basic chemistry would predict. Her study said the key chemicals in dispersants underwent "negligible or slow rates of biodegradation." Other studies have found that the oil – not the dispersant – broke apart quickly."

Just who, in fact, is citing "junk science"?

The Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, is managing a \$30 million fund from BP, \$10 million to be spent each year for three years, to promote Gulf seafood.

In fact, the state of Louisiana has received, so far \$218 million for "restoration" efforts and "tourism promotion".

As Dr. Wilma Subra has pointed out, we are "restoring" before we have fully assessed the damages. This inherently is rush, junk science that imperils the population and insures that propaganda and falsehoods will be used to assure folks that all is well.

"I am confident that we will absolutely revitalize Louisiana. I want to invite the entire nation down here to Louisiana to be a part of another great comeback. Book your ticket today. Come fish, come eat and stay a while", says Governor Bobby Jindal.

Fishermen and women on the Gulf coast are caught in an Orwellian situation: while not receiving enough compensation from the BP compensation fund that is being administered by Kenneth Feinberg, they are having to return to a livelihood that is no longer tenable.

Emergency payments are usually just \$5000, and if the claim is settled with Feinberg, claimants supposedly give up their right to sue.

Feinberg has also been ordered by a federal judge to stop declaring he is independent from BP. In fact, BP pays his rather large salary, reported to be \$850,000. That same judge recently seized the BP compensation fund in a move that has not received much media attention.

"Barbier wrote that he didn't intend to impede or interfere with Feinberg's ability to process claims, but he charted a whole new course for Feinberg to follow. He ordered Feinberg and the facility to disclose clearly at all times that they act for and on behalf of oil company BP. He ruled that a claim handler must begin any communication by telling a claimant he has the right to consult with an attorney of his own choosing."

The U.S. government is encouraging people to believe the seafood is safe, yet many fishermen refuse to return to work, or refuse to eat their own catch.

At our recent Truthout Forum in New Orleans, Dr. Wilma Subra discussed the latest test result of blood, soil and seafood. The news was not good.

The blood levels of residents is showing high levels of the toxic chemicals associated with the oil disaster, as is the soil and seafood.

Her office is being flooded with calls from all along the Gulf coast: people are getting sick from exposure to the toxic chemicals, yet there is no U.S. government presence on the ground that is looking after the people and assisting them with their health issues.

Residents of the Gulf coast who worked for BP's Vessel of Opportunity Program are in particular, manifesting serious symptoms of toxic poisoning.

Fishing livelihoods destroyed for possibly generations to come, these men and women were recruited by BP to clean up the oil, and in the process, were actively discouraged from utilizing respirators; many were threatened with unemployment if they chose to adequately protect themselves.

It wasn't enough that for BP's and the government's criminal negligence this disaster was allowed to happen; now residents working for BP would have to give up their health

for the privilege of the government and BP demonstrating that the disaster itself wasn't all that bad.

The Gulf residents are having to fight this battle alone, so far.

We went the world to know the truth: the U.S. government has done everything to protect the corporate viability of BP, their own political liability, and the health of the Gulf people and ecosystem figure last in this equation.

Elizabeth Cook
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DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Afghanistan, 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: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

New London Says Goodbye To Its Fallen Son

Feb 17, 2011 Annie Zelm, Sandusky Register

New London:

Hundreds gathered Wednesday to say farewell to a soldier and embrace the family and friends who mourn him.

Sgt. Patrick Ryan Carroll, 25, provided the ultimate example of selfless love by sacrificing his life, his comrades said.

As an intelligence analyst, Carroll could have worked within the safety of the bunker, Major Gen. Rodney Anderson said.

But he chose to pound the pavement because he believed a good analyst needed to be out on the ground, witnessing the war himself.

The New London native died Feb. 7 along with two others when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan's Kandahar province. The attack cut short Carroll's dreams of starting a family with fiancée Kimberly Thomas, 26, and raising her two children as his own.

Those in his unit — the 319th Military Intelligence Battalion, 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps — described him as a man whose sense of pride and honor was infectious.

Speaking to at least 500 people gathered in the New London High gymnasium, Sgt. Sean Conwell reminded those who loved Carroll that, although tragic, his death was not without purpose. "His name will be written in our people's history as a reminder of the price of freedom," said Conwell, his voice choking as he spoke of the eager sergeant he fondly considered his little brother.

Raffel Hunter read a eulogy written by Army Spc. Justin Merrill, Carroll's comrade who was unable to attend the funeral.

Carroll was "cruelly taken" from the world, and it's difficult to contemplate his loss, Hunter said. "But soon we will wipe away our tears and soldier on, because that is what Sgt. Carroll demands of us," he said.

Carroll was more than an intelligent leader — he was a caring young man loved by all who knew him, Chaplain Jon Bouriaque said.

"He had a heart to match the size of his Great Dane George," Bouriaque said. "I know not everyone can serve in the military as Patrick did, but we can all serve each other."

Dozens of veterans and active servicemen and women honored Carroll with a final salute. Clusters of residents lined the five-mile route from the school to Fitchville Cemetery.

As the procession passed, residents waved flags and held their hands over their hearts.

Signs in front of local businesses thanked their hometown hero, and a giant American flag hung from a crane in front of the cemetery.

Even those who didn't know Carroll attended to pay their respects.

"It's just a very close-knit community," said Jaci Schillace, a clinical liaison who stood outside the Rehabilitation Nursing Center at Firelands with a dozen elderly residents. "A lot of times, we take it for granted that these things haven't affected our lives.

"But (our residents) have been through the Korean War and World War II," Schillace said. "You can tell with things like this, it really affects their hearts."

Gail Smiley, the rehabilitation center's director of nursing, fought back tears as she thought of her own son, who's scheduled to leave for his first tour in Afghanistan in July.

Korean War veteran Joe Merrilees, who attended the burial with fellow members of the Fitchville Memorial American Legion Post 729, said Carroll's death is a devastating reminder of the price of freedom.

Prior to the service, Carroll's father James said he was humbled by the outpouring of support he and his family have received.

"It's a tribute to small-town America," James Carroll said.

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

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

MILITARY NEWS

Soldiers In Libya Joining The Revolution:

**"Pro-Gadhafi Forces Were Chased
From A Presidential Compound By
Other Troops Sympathetic To The
Anti-Government Demonstrators"**

**"Abdul-Rahman, The Local Merchant,
Said He Saw The Battalion Chase The
Pro-Gadhafi Militia Out Of The
Compound"**

“The Police Dropped Their Weapons. We Contacted The Army Headquarters And They Are Sympathetic”



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

Khaled Abu Bakr, a resident of Sabratha, an ancient Roman city to the west, said protesters besieged the local security headquarters, driving out police and setting it on fire.

Abu Bakr said residents are in charge, have set up neighborhood committees to secure their city. “The police dropped their weapons. We contacted the army headquarters and they are sympathetic,” he said.

Feb 20 By SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press [Excerpts]

CAIRO – Security forces loyal to Libya’s Moammar Gadhafi unleashed heavy gunfire Sunday on thousands marching in a rebellious eastern city, cutting down mourners trying to bury victims in a bloody cycle of violence that has killed more than 200 people in the fiercest crackdown on the uprisings in the Arab world.

Protests were even reported to have spread to downtown Tripoli and a coastal city only about 45 miles (about 70 kilometers) to the west of the capital.

In Benghazi, site of the funeral clashes, pro-Gadhafi forces were chased from a presidential compound by other troops sympathetic to the anti-government demonstrators, a witness said.

Benghazi is "in a state of war," said Mohamed Abdul-Rahman, a 42-year old merchant, who described how some protesters burned a police headquarters.

Protesters throwing firebombs and stones, got on bulldozers and tried to storm a presidential compound from which troops had fired on the marchers, who included those carrying coffins of the dead from Saturday's unrest in the eastern city, a witness said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of fears of reprisal.

The attempt was repulsed by armed forces in the compound, according to the witness and the official JANA news agency, which said a number of attackers and soldiers were killed.

"Everything is behind that (Gadhafi) compound, hidden behind wall after wall. The doors open and close and soldiers and tanks just come out, always as a surprise, and mostly after dark," resident Jamal Eddin Mohammed told The Associated Press by telephone.

Later, however, a Benghazi resident said he received a telephone text message that an army battalion that appeared to be sympathetic to the demonstrators and led by a local officer was arriving to take over control of the compound, and urging civilians to get out of the way.

Abdul-Rahman, the local merchant, said he saw the battalion chase the pro-Gadhafi militia out of the compound.

Libya's rebellion by those frustrated with Gadhafi's more than 40 years of authoritarian rule has spread to more than a half-dozen eastern cities.

In Tripoli, a Gadhafi stronghold, there have been few reports of protests said to have been quickly put down. Secret police were heavily deployed on the streets of the city of 2 million.

On Sunday, however, armed security forces were seen on rooftops surrounding central Green Square, a witness said by telephone, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal. The witness added that a group of about 200 lawyers and judges were protesting inside a Tripoli courthouse, which was also surrounded by security forces.

An exiled opposition leader in Cairo said hundreds of protesters were near the Bab al-Aziziya military camp where Gadhafi lives on the outskirts of Tripoli.

Faiz Jibril said his contacts inside Libya were also reporting that hundreds of protesters had gathered in another downtown plaza, Martyrs Square.

Khaled Abu Bakr, a resident of Sabratha, an ancient Roman city to the west, said protesters besieged the local security headquarters, driving out police and setting it on fire.

Abu Bakr said residents are in charge, have set up neighborhood committees to secure their city. "The police dropped their weapons. We contacted the army headquarters and they are sympathetic," he said.

In another key blow to Gadhafi, the Warfla tribe — the largest in Libya, has announced it is joining the protests, said Switzerland-based Libyan exile Fathi al-Warfali.

Although it had longstanding animosity toward the Libyan leader, it had been neutral for most of the past two decades.

Gadhafi has his own vast oil wealth and his response to protesters is less constrained by any alliances with the West than Egypt or Bahrain, both important U.S. allies.

In Cairo, Libya's Arab League representative Abdel-Monem al-Houni said he told the Foreign Ministry in Tripoli that he had "resigned from all his duties and joined the popular revolution." "As a Libyan citizen, I absolutely cannot be quiet about these crimes," he said, adding that he had renounced all links to the regime because of "my complete devotion to my people."

Al-Houni was part of the group that carried out the coup in 1969 that brought Gadhafi to power. He later fell out with the Libyan leader, but they reconciled in 2000. Gadhafi then named him to the Arab League post.

Sunday's defiant mourners chanted: "The people demand the removal of the regime," which became a mantra for protesters in Egypt and Tunisia.

Hatred of Gadhafi's rule has grown in Benghazi in the past two decades. Anger has focused on the shooting deaths of about 1,200 inmates — most of them political prisoners — during prison riots in 1996.

The U.S.-based Arbor Networks reported another Internet service outage in Libya just before midnight Saturday night. The company says online traffic ceased in Libya about 2 a.m. Saturday, was restored at reduced levels several hours later, only to be cut off again that night. People in Libya also said they can no longer make international telephone calls on their land lines.

In Cairo, exiled Libyans and members of Egypt's Doctors Syndicate have sent urgent medical supplies to Libya.

Ayman Shawki, a lawyer in the Egyptian border town of Matrouh, said members of the powerful Awllad Ali tribe whose members live in the border area have volunteered to move the supplies to Libya.

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 to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

“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

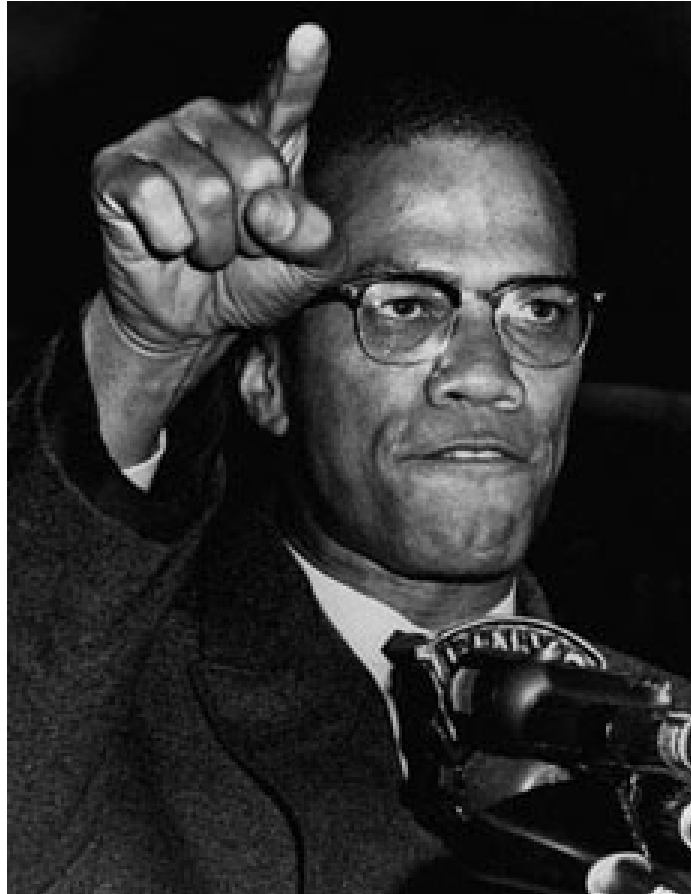
I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.

-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace

“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”

-- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787

February 21, 1965: A Brilliant And Courageous Soldier For The Cause Killed In Action



Carl Bunin Peace History Peace History February 18-24

Malcolm X was shot and killed by rival Black Muslims in New York City, as he was about to address his Organization of Afro-American Unity at the Audubon Ballroom in New York City's Washington Heights. He was 39. **[He was killed not long after announcing his new politics: that working class whites and African-Americans can join together to fight those who own and control the society for their own wealth and privilege. T]**

MORE:

The House Negro And The Field Negro:

**“The Slavemaster Took Tom And
Dressed Him Well, And Fed Him
Well -- Gave Him A Long Coat And
A Top Hat And Made All The Other
Slaves Look Up To Him”
“Then He Used Tom To Control
Them”
“The Same Strategy That Was Used In
Those Days Is Used Today, By The Same
White Man”**

Malcolm X, Message To The Grassroots, 10 Nov, 1963 in Detroit, MI:
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/malcolmgrassroots.htm>

[Excerpts]

First, what is a revolution?

Sometimes I'm inclined to believe that many of our people are using this word "revolution" loosely, without taking careful consideration what this word actually means, and what its historic characteristics are.

When you study the historic nature of revolutions, the motive of a revolution, the objective of a revolution, and the result of a revolution, and the methods used in a revolution, you may change words. You may devise another program. You may change your goal and you may change your mind.

A revolution is bloody. Revolution is hostile. Revolution knows no compromise. Revolution overturns and destroys everything that gets in its way. And you, sitting around here like a knot on the wall, saying, "I'm going to love these folks no matter how much they hate me."

No, you need a revolution.

Whoever heard of a revolution where they lock arms, as Reverend Cleage was pointing out beautifully, singing "We Shall Overcome"?

Just tell me.

You don't do that in a revolution.

You don't do any singing; you're too busy swinging.

To understand this, you have to go back to what young brother here referred to as the house Negro and the field Negro -- back during slavery.

There was two kinds of slaves.

There was the house Negro and the field Negro.

The house Negroes - they lived in the house with master, they dressed pretty good, they ate good 'cause they ate his food -- what he left.

They lived in the attic or the basement, but still they lived near the master; and they loved their master more than the master loved himself.

They would give their life to save the master's house quicker than the master would.

The house Negro, if the master said, "We got a good house here," the house Negro would say, "Yeah, we got a good house here."

Whenever the master said "we," he said "we."

That's how you can tell a house Negro.

If the master's house caught on fire, the house Negro would fight harder to put the blaze out than the master would.

If the master got sick, the house Negro would say, "What's the matter, boss, we sick?" We sick! He identified himself with his master more than his master identified with himself.

And if you came to the house Negro and said, "Let's run away, let's escape, let's separate," the house Negro would look at you and say, "Man, you crazy. What you mean, separate? Where is there a better house than this? Where can I wear better clothes than this? Where can I eat better food than this?"

That was that house Negro. In those days he was called a "house nigger."

And that's what we call him today, because we've still got some house niggers running around here.

This modern house Negro loves his master.

On that same plantation, there was the field Negro.

The field Negro -- those were the masses. There were always more Negroes in the field than there was Negroes in the house. The Negro in the field caught hell.

He ate leftovers.

In the house they ate high up on the hog. The Negro in the field didn't get nothing but what was left of the insides of the hog. They call 'em "chitt'lin'" nowadays. In those days they called them what they were: guts. That's what you were -- a gut-eater. And some of you all still gut-eaters.

The field Negro was beaten from morning to night. He lived in a shack, in a hut; He wore old, castoff clothes.

He hated his master. I say he hated his master. He was intelligent.

That house Negro loved his master. But that field Negro -- remember, they were in the majority, and they hated the master.

When the house caught on fire, he didn't try and put it out; that field Negro prayed for a wind, for a breeze.

When the master got sick, the field Negro prayed that he'd die. If someone come to the field Negro and said, "Let's separate, let's run," he didn't say "Where we going?" He'd say, "Any place is better than here."

You've got field Negroes in America today. I'm a field Negro. The masses are the field Negroes.

When they see this man's house on fire, you don't hear these little Negroes talking about "our government is in trouble."

They say, "The government is in trouble." Imagine a Negro: "Our government"!

Just as the slavemaster of that day used Tom, the house Negro, to keep the field Negroes in check, the same old slavemaster today has Negroes who are nothing but modern Uncle Toms, 20th century Uncle Toms, to keep you and me in check, keep us under control, keep us passive and peaceful and nonviolent.

That's Tom making you nonviolent.

It's like when you go to the dentist, and the man's going to take your tooth. You're going to fight him when he starts pulling.

So he squirts some stuff in your jaw called novocaine, to make you think they're not doing anything to you. So you sit there and 'cause you've got all of that novocaine in your jaw, you suffer peacefully. Blood running all down your jaw, and you don't know what's happening.

'Cause someone has taught you to suffer -- peacefully.

There's nothing in our book, the Quran -- you call it "Ko-ran" -- that teaches us to suffer peacefully.

Our religion teaches us to be intelligent.

Be peaceful, be courteous, obey the law, respect everyone; but if someone puts his hand on you, send him to the cemetery.

That's a good religion. In fact, that's that old-time religion.

That's the one that Ma and Pa used to talk about: an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, and a head for a head, and a life for a life: That's a good religion.

And doesn't nobody resent that kind of religion being taught but a wolf, who intends to make you his meal.

The slavemaster took Tom and dressed him well, and fed him well, and even gave him a little education -- a little education; gave him a long coat and a top hat and made all the other slaves look up to him.

Then he used Tom to control them.

The same strategy that was used in those days is used today, by the same white man.

He takes a Negro, a so-called Negro, and make him prominent, build him up, publicize him, make him a celebrity.



washingtonpost.com

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.”

Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

FTA Is Back!

**The Film Provides A Rare Glimpse
Into The Revolt From Below That
Ultimately Forced The Pentagon To
Withdraw In Defeat From Vietnam:
“Behind-The-Scenes Footage Of Soldiers
Talking Candidly To The Troupe
Members About Their Frustration And
Anger At The Ongoing War”**



FTA Trailer

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HlkgPCgU7g&eurl=http://imageaworldof.blogspot.com/&feature=player_embedded

**FINALLY, AFTER 35-YEARS IN EXILE
FTA IS BACK! AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 24
EXCLUSIVELY ON DVD
FROM DISPLACED FILMS AND**

NEW VIDEO/ DOCURAMA

FTA:

Ultra-Rare! F.T.A. (aka FREE THE ARMY aka FUN, TRAVEL, ADVENTURE), 1972, Displaced Films, 97 min. Dir. Francine Parker.

F.T.A. was originally released by American-International but pulled from distribution after only one week, with rumors of pressure from the Pentagon.

– Phil Hall, Film Threat

About The Film:

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

February 22, 2009 By Dennis Lim, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

A time capsule of the anti-Vietnam War movement, "FTA" is also a vivid flashback to a world-famous movie star's stint as a political radical. At the peak of her celebrity, which coincided with the dawning of her political consciousness, Jane Fonda abdicated her Hollywood throne and remade herself as the face of the anti-establishment.

With government agents and the news media watching her every move, she led a vaudeville troupe on a tour of U.S. military bases in 1971 -- a trip chronicled in this fascinating documentary, largely unseen since its brief, abortive release and finally available on DVD this week.

In the disc's only extra, a 20-minute interview, Fonda recounts how the project came about.

She and Donald Sutherland, her costar in 1971's "Klute" (which won her an Oscar), were approached by Howard Levy, a doctor who had become an antiwar cause célèbre for refusing to train Green Beret medics.

He proposed that they put on a corrective to Bob Hope's gung-ho USO shows, giving voice not just to the growing peace movement but to antiwar sentiment within the ranks of the military.

The FTA troupe staged its first shows in the U.S., with Fonda and Sutherland (who had just played the irreverent Hawkeye in Robert Altman's "MASH") headlining a company that included Peter Boyle and Howard Hesseman. (The all-purpose acronym is short for "Free the Army" and a more profane variation.)

When it came time to embark on the two-week Pacific Rim tour, Fonda assembled a more politically correct lineup that stressed racial and gender parity -- equal numbers of

black and white, and male and female, performers, including singer Holly Near and comedian Paul Mooney.

Fonda, Sutherland and company stopped off in Hawaii, the Philippines, Okinawa and Japan (where they were initially refused entry).

Denied permission to perform on U.S. bases, they set up shop in nearby coffeehouses and other venues, although military officials apparently tried to minimize attendance by publicizing incorrect show times.

All told, the troupe played 21 shows, which were attended by some 64,000 servicemen and women.

Many of the male GIs, as Fonda ruefully concedes in the interview, must have been anticipating the Space Age sex kitten from "Barbarella" and not the righteous radical who took the stage in jeans, no makeup and a raised fist.

The show mixes protest songs with broad and bawdy skits, taking potshots at military chauvinism and top-brass privilege. But what it lacks in finesse, it makes up for with a raucous energy.

Directed by Francine Parker (who died in 2007), the documentary alternates between the song-and-dance routines and behind-the-scenes footage of soldiers talking candidly to the troupe members about their frustration and anger at the ongoing war and the American presence in the region.

As fate would have it, "FTA" opened the same week in July 1972 that news broke of Fonda's trip to Hanoi, where she made radio broadcasts for the North Vietnamese regime and was photographed sitting on an anti-aircraft gun.

Within a week, the distributor (youth-flick specialist American-International Pictures) had pulled the movie from theaters.

Fonda's career went into partial eclipse, and she remains to this day a favorite target of the right, but she recovered to win a second Oscar for the 1978 war-veteran drama "Coming Home."

For years she quietly has distanced herself from her radical past, which might explain why "FTA," which she co-produced, has been out of circulation for more than three decades.

Its recent reemergence points to a change of heart and owes much to the efforts of filmmaker David Zeiger, who used footage from "FTA" in "Sir! No Sir!," a 2005 documentary about antiwar resistance within the military.

To Get Your Copy Of FTA:

http://militarylies.typepad.com/military_lies/2009/01/preorder-fta-from-displaced-films.html



Vietnam Days

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

Telling the truth - about the occupations 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 to Imperial wars 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.

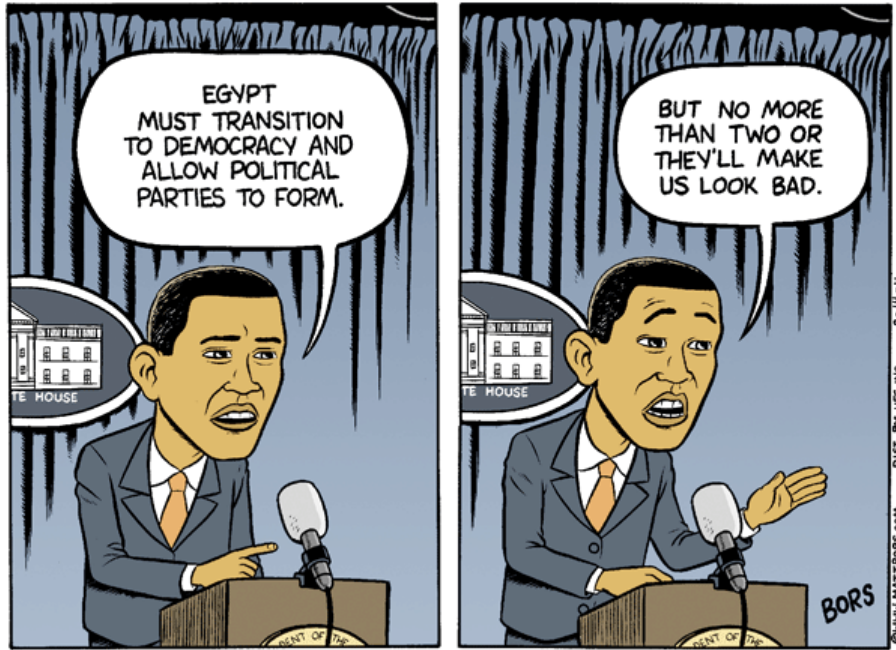
If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

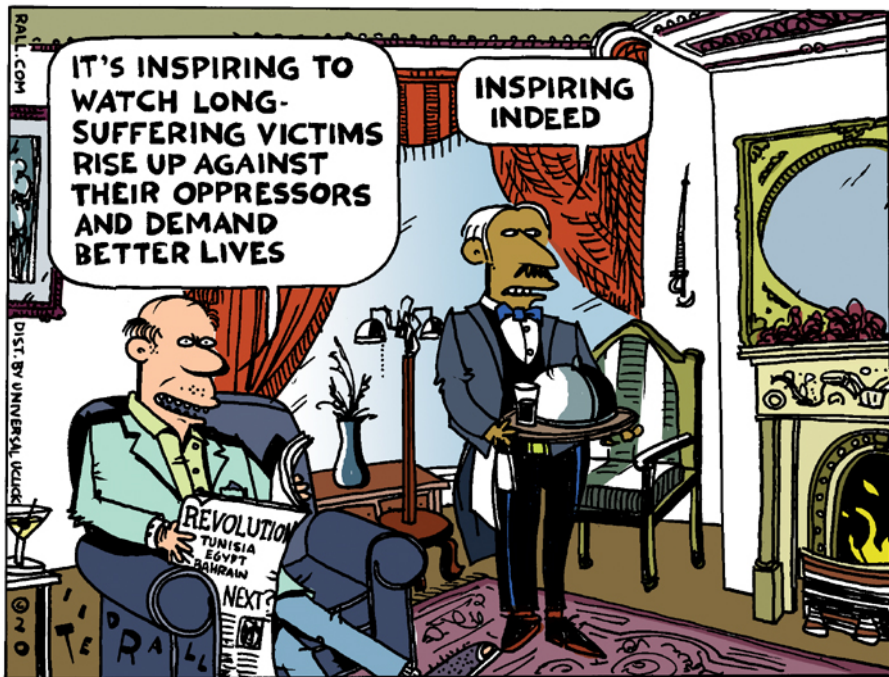
GOT AN OPINION?

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 to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



Djiboutians Rally To Oust President: Thousands Demonstrating In East African Nation To Demand Ismail Omar Guelleh Step Down



Anti-government demonstrators in Djibouti demand that the regime in power 34 years go out. [AFP]



18 Feb 2011 Aljazeera

Thousands of demonstrators have rallied in the East African nation of Djibouti to demand that president Ismail Omar Guelleh resign, the latest in a series of demonstrations spurred on by political protests across Africa and the Middle East.

Amid a tight police deployment, the demonstrators gathered at a stadium on Friday with the intention of staying there until their demands were met.

But the demonstration escalated into clashes after dusk, as authorities used batons and tear gas against stone-throwing protesters.

Guelleh has served two terms and faces an election in April, but critics are concerned by changes he made to the constitution last year that scrapped a two-term limit.

Officials from the Union for Democratic Change, an umbrella group of three opposition parties, gave speeches at Friday's demonstration calling for Guelleh to step down.

The group's leader, Ismael Guedi Hared, told the AFP news agency before the demonstration that Guelleh should leave power and called for a sustained protest movement.

"For the moment, our goal is to remove Ismael Omar Guelleh from power," he said.

Guelleh ran without opposition in 2005. One potential challenger this year, Abdourahman Boreh, is supporting the anti-Guelleh demonstrations but currently lives in the UK. Boreh, 51, said that if he returned to Djibouti he would be put in prison and could be tortured.

"In the wake of events like Tunisia and Egypt the president's instinct will almost certainly lead him to violence to counter the rising confidence of the demonstrators," Boreh told the Associated Press news agency.

"What we really want is a peaceful demonstration where the people can express their feelings for freedom, their feelings for a democratic transition of the government, because this government has been in power for the last 34 years. The people want change."

Djibouti's first political rally broke out after the Muslim country's Friday prayers on January 28. Democracy International estimated that 2,000 to 3,000 people attended.

More demonstrations happened in early February, and police used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse a demonstration on February 5, according to Human Rights Watch.

Then, the president of the Djiboutian League of Human Rights, was arrested on February 9 after reporting on the arrests of students and members of opposition political parties following the demonstrations, according to Human Rights Watch.

Yemen Edges Closer To Civil War: “Both Sides Fired Pistols And Assault Rifles - The First Reported Use Of Firearms By Demonstrators” “Dozens Of Men Used Their Cars In The Town Of Karish To Block The Main Road Between Taiz And The Southern Port City Of Aden, Shouting For ‘The Fall Of The Regime’”

19 Feb 2011 Al Jazeera and agencies

Several anti-government protesters have been injured in clashes with supporters of Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a day after five people died in protests against his 32-year rule.

It included one protester who was shot in the neck, witnesses said. Doctors at the hospital where he was taken said he was in a stable condition.

At one stage both sides fired pistols and assault rifles - the first reported use of firearms by demonstrators, the Reuters news agency reported.

Four other Saleh opponents were wounded by gunfire, two of them seriously, and three were wounded when demonstrators threw stones at each other outside the university.

Around 1,000 anti-Saleh demonstrators chanted "Leave! Leave!" and "The people want the fall of the regime!" Between 200 and 300 Saleh supporters called for dialogue.

Saturday was the 10th straight day of protests in Yemen inspired by uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia. Demonstrators are calling for the ouster of Saleh - a key US ally in fighting al-Qaeda.

In south Yemen, where resentment of rule from Sanaa runs high, dozens of men used their cars in the town of Karish to block the main road between Taiz and the southern port city of Aden, shouting for “the fall of the regime”, residents said.

In Aden as many as 400 protesters staged a peaceful sit-in, holding banners saying: "No to oppression. No to corruption".

The local council of Sheikh Othman, a directorate in Aden, said in a statement it resigned in protest at the use of live bullets by security forces against protesters which led to deaths and injuries in the city on Friday.

In Sanaa, the editor of the defence ministry newspaper was wounded when he was beaten and stabbed by anti-government protesters, a government official told Reuters.

On Friday, security forces and pro-government loyalists clashed in several cities with crowds demanding Saleh step down.

Doctors said four people died from gunfire in Aden and one was killed by a grenade in Taiz, Yemen's second city.

"Although the crowds are smaller in number compared to what happens in different countries, the hostile and fearful mood setting over the last 48 hours may spark more violence," Hashem Ahelbarra, Al Jazeera's correspondent in Sanaa, said on Friday.

"The fear here is that if events reach a tipping point, armed tribes may raid the capital and this is why people are worried about bloody confrontations."

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