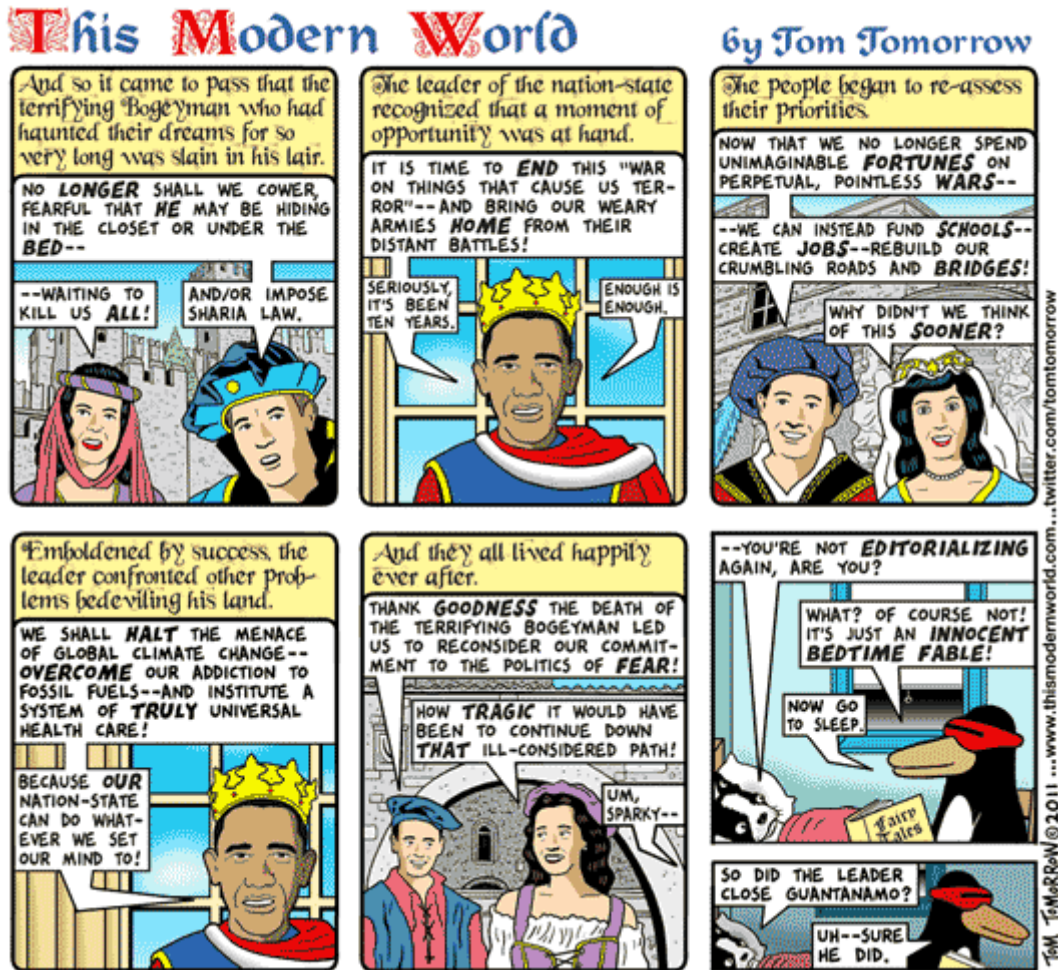


Military Resistance 9E20



“I Often Strike Up Individual Conversations With Members Of The Guard In And Out Of Uniform Who Express Concern, Anger And Outright Contempt When I Mention Afghanistan”

**“The Pentagon Must Be Shit
Worried Knowing These Soldiers
Have Minds Of Their Own And No
Fear In Expressing Their
Opinions”**

**“Having Worn That Uniform Myself
Once My Comment To The Brass In
Washington Is 'Be Afraid, Be Very
Afraid!' Of Your Soldiers General
Ass-Hole Sir”**

**“They Might Become Your Biggest
Nightmare Much Sooner Than You
Think”**

[ACTION REPORT]

From: M – Military Resistance Organization
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Observations on the ground
Date: May 22, 2011 2:57 PM

Observations here on the ground in [XXXXXX] suggest rather substantial discontent in the California National Guard, the largest Guard force in the U\$A.

I often strike up individual conversations with members of the Guard in and out of uniform who express concern, anger and outright contempt when I mention Afghanistan.

These folks are damn pissed off being used in a war that serves no purpose other than to prop up the share value of some slimy fat cat arms dealers who live high off the hog at the expense of blood needlessly spilled in the name of 'god' and profit.

Amazing how many see right through the smoke and bullshit Washington spews out.

These 'kids' are very switched on and represent the new young 'Fuck The Army' generation.

I'm often surprised having such positive anti-war conversations with someone in a US military uniform. Often I simply listen quickly sensing the relief they feel being able to express their views to a supportive member of the public.

The Pentagon must be shit worried knowing these soldiers have minds of their own and no fear in expressing their opinions.

Having worn that uniform myself once my comment to the Brass in Washington is 'be afraid, be very afraid!' of your soldiers General Ass-Hole Sir.

They might become your biggest nightmare much sooner than you think.

MORE:

Americans Don't Support The War On Afghanistan: “Lopsided Majority” Says Get Out; “There Was No Major Demographic Group In Which A Majority Says The U.S. Deployment Should Be Maintained”

5/10/2011 By Susan Page, USA TODAY [Excerpts]

So with bin Laden finally gone, is it time for America's longest war to end?

Nearly six in 10 Americans think so, according to a USA TODAY/Gallup Poll taken over the weekend.

Assessments of how the decade-long war is going have improved a bit, compared with six weeks ago, and a broad swath of Americans now agrees with the statement that the United States "has accomplished its mission in Afghanistan and should bring its troops home."

When the question was asked in a one-night poll immediately after bin Laden's death was announced May 1, 45% said it was time for U.S. troops to come home.

In a larger and more reliable three-day poll at the end of the week, that number had reached a lopsided majority.

The demographic groups that gave Obama his strongest support in the 2008 presidential election now are the most supportive of bringing the troops home.

That was the view of two-thirds or more of blacks, Hispanics, liberals, women under 50, those under 35, low-income Americans and unmarried people.

The conclusion that it's time to bring U.S. troops home isn't confined to Democrats. Among independents, 62% say the mission has been accomplished in Afghanistan.

Even Republicans, traditionally the most supportive of military action, are split: 47% say important tasks remain to be done in Afghanistan; 47% say it's time for the troops to come home.

In the survey, there was no major demographic group in which a majority says the U.S. deployment should be maintained.

MORE:

**The Lying Traitor Obama's Bullshit
Reeks On:
U.S. Combat Troops Who Have All Been
Withdrawn From Iraq And Won't Be In
Iraq After December 2011, He Said, Are
Going To Iraq This Summer "For More
Than A Year"**

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

May 26 By Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — More than 800 members of the Virginia National Guard are being deployed to Iraq for more than a year.

Units based in Hampton Roads, Fredericksburg and Christiansburg will begin federal active duty June 1. They'll train for 45 to 60 days at Camp Atterbury, Ind., before heading to Iraq.

The units are part of the 116th Brigade Combat Team. While in Iraq, the National Guard says the soldiers will conduct convoy security and base defense operations. A consolidated departure ceremony for the soldiers is to be held Thursday evening in Richmond.

February 27, 2009 By PETER BAKER, New York Times [Excerpt]

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — President Obama declared the beginning of the end of one of the longest and most divisive wars in American history on Friday as he announced that

he would withdraw combat forces from Iraq by August 2010 and all remaining troops by December 2011.

**LIAR
TRAITOR
SOLDIER-KILLER
UNFIT FOR COMMAND
UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE:**



Obama Oct. 27, 2009. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

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BRING THE WAR HOME NOW**

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MILITARY?**

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AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Eight American Troops Killed In 2 Explosions In Afghanistan

[Previously reported as seven. T]

May 27, 2011 AP

Eight U.S. troops who died in the latest attack in southern Afghanistan were hit by two different blasts while they were on foot patrol.

The explosions in Kandahar province happened as the troops began to investigate a suspicious object they found on Thursday.

The first explosion happened immediately, wounding some of the troops. A second explosion came as others rushed to the site of the first explosion.

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Friday: Nationality Not Announced

May 27, 2011 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan today.

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

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

FUTILE EXERCISE: ALL HOME NOW!



A U.S. soldier looks at the scene of an insurgent attack in Jalalabad, Nangarhar province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, May 18, 2011. Afghan officials say at least 10 have been killed in a bomb attack on a police bus that was carrying people to a police academy in eastern Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)



U.S. soldiers at the location of an explosion in Kandahar south of Kabul, Afghanistan May 22, 2011. Two police officers suffered injuries when a motorcycle laden with explosives detonated as they tried to disarm it. (AP Photo/Allauddin Khan)

LIBYA WAR REPORTS

Bipartisan House Of Representatives Action Defies Obama On Libya: Resolution Passed That Will “Prevent Funds From Being Used To Deploy, Establish, Or Maintain A Presence Of Members Of The Armed Services Or Private Security Contractors On The Ground In Libya” “The American People Have Grown Weary Of Open-Ended Military Adventures That Place Our Troops In Harm's Way And Add Billions To Our National Debt”

As you may recall, President Obama last Friday signaled to Congress that he would welcome legislation authorizing or at least supporting military intervention in Libya.

During consideration of the Defense Authorization bill, two amendments passed related to Libya -- but they were hardly what President Obama had in mind.

May 26, 2011 ABC News Senior White House Correspondent Jake Tapper [Excerpts]

Two bipartisan actions in the House of Representatives related to Libya may bode ill for congressional support for the U.S. role in military intervention there.

As you may recall, President Obama last Friday signaled to Congress that he would welcome legislation authorizing or at least supporting military intervention in Libya.

During consideration of the Defense Authorization bill, two amendments passed related to Libya -- but they were hardly what President Obama had in mind.

One from Rep. Scott Garrett, R-NJ, asserted that “Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act shall be construed to authorize military operations in Libya.”

Yesterday it passed by voice vote -- meaning no one challenged it.

Today an amendment that would “prevent funds from being used to deploy, establish, or maintain a presence of Members of the Armed Services or private security contractors on the ground in Libya” -- offered by Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich. -- passed 416-5.

In a statement, Conyers said the “House of Representatives has clearly stated that the current stalemate in Libya will not escalate into an unaffordable occupation that would harm our country’s national security...

“I encourage my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to heed today’s vote and join our efforts to ensure that the conflict in Libya does not become another Afghanistan or Iraq. The American people have grown weary of open-ended military adventures that place our troops in harm’s way and add billions to our national debt.”

Republicans in the House suggest that the two votes are an interesting indicator of the level of support in the House for ongoing operations over there.

Likely to hit the floor next week is a privileged resolution from Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio, calling for full withdrawal from the action in accordance with the War Powers Act.

Could that pass? I asked a House GOP leadership aide.

“Honestly we don’t know,” the aide said.

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MILITARY NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



The remains of Staff Sgt. Kristofferson B. Lorenzo, Pfc. William S. Blevins and Pvt. Thomas C. Allers at Dover Air Force Base, Del., May 25, 2011. Lorenzo, of Chula Vista, Calif., Blevins, of Sardinia, Ohio, and Allers, of Plainwell, Mich., were killed by the same improvised explosive device in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Ann Heisenfelt)

**Iraq Veterans Against The War Erect
Watchtower Just Outside Fort Hood
East Gate:**

**General Campbell Jr. Refuses To Hear
Complaints About Deployment Of
Wounded Troops So “The Group Was
Putting Him On Watch”**

May. 27 2011 By Anthony Scott, Killeen Daily Herald

Out of protest against the deployment of soldiers with mental injuries to war, Iraq Veterans Against the War teamed up with Under the Hood Outreach Center and Cafe to set up a watchtower outside Fort Hood's East Gate.

The protesters stood their ground all day Thursday, from start to finish of the post's entire duty day. As cars went by, some passengers honked and shouted.

"We built a tower and the tower's based on putting (III Corps and Fort Hood Commander Lt. Gen. Donald Campbell Jr.) accountable to all the suicides that are happening at Fort Hood and to all the soldiers not getting the proper (mental health) treatment that they need," said Kyle Wesolowski, an Iraq war veteran who recently left the Army with a conscientious objector discharge.

Wesolowski toured Iraq from 2008-09 with the 1st Cavalry Division and is now the manager at Under The Hood Cafe, an outreach center for soldiers.

"We're going to leave him accountable for all of these things now and until the future," he said. "Now we're trying to talk to (Campbell) to sit down with him. We've given him over 600 emails to be sent to him from our supporters from IVAW members alike."

Wesolowski said one of the things that needs to be done is let soldiers heal from mental health problems before deployment.

"A lot of soldiers are falling through the cracks," he said. "They're being redeployed to Iraq with many of these mental conditions."

The protest was part of Operation Recovery, an IVAW campaign to stop the deployment of traumatized troops.

Prior to the protest, the group went on post Wednesday morning to III Corps Headquarters and asked for a meeting with Campbell, said veteran and organizer Aaron Hughes.

"We were refused again," he said. "We're tired of being ignored."

Led by Wesolowski, a group of six of the veterans went to III Corps Headquarters and asked to meet with Campbell at the reception desk. The Army did not grant the request, said organizer Scott Kimball, a veteran who recounted the experience on the IVAW website.

Kimball said because they did not make contact with Campbell the group was putting him on watch.

The next day at the watch tower, Wesolowski led the crew of protesters by listing a number of complaints, including the fact that in 2009 more than 7,000 soldiers were on antidepressant or antipsychotic medication and military suicide rates increased 150 percent from 2001 to 2009.

Fort Hood also has the highest suicide rate of any Army post at 22 cases of suicide last year, nearly twice as many cases as any other post. Increased cases of military sexual trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury were also problems, he added.

"We believe they need to get the help they need," Wesolowski said. "To heal, and not be redeployed: That to me is an Army value. To respect every service member when they're in trouble."

Bohn “Has Weathered Apathetic Care Specialists And Frustrating Incompetence From Military Physicians”

“Bohn, Severely Injured In An Ambush In Afghanistan Three Years Ago, Is Sinking Deeper Into Debt While He Waits For Veterans Affairs Officials To Process His Disability Claim”

“Twice He Was Sent To The Wrong Base While Awaiting Surgeries”

[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,557th time, the enemy is not in Iraq or Afghanistan. Their citizens and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started these wars of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn't tell the truth: U.S. Imperial wars are about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. T]

May 25, 2011 By Leo Shane, Stars and Stripes [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — Retired Spc. Steve Bohn, who was severely injured in an ambush in Afghanistan three years ago, is sinking deeper into debt every day while he waits for Veterans Affairs officials to process his disability claim.

“I get \$699 a month from my retirement pay, and my rent is \$700 a month,” the 24-year-old veteran said. “I can’t pay my electric bill. I can’t pay any of my other bills.

“I used to work as a roofer and a chef, but I can’t do either of those anymore, because of the pain. I’m struggling.”

The money problems are just the latest ordeal for Bohn, who told lawmakers Wednesday that he already has weathered multiple surgeries, apathetic care specialists and frustrating incompetence from military physicians.

Twice he was sent to the wrong base while awaiting surgeries. For the last seven months, his pleas to speed up the claims process have been ignored.

“Stories like Spc. Bohn’s are unacceptable, but we’re making progress,” VA patient care chief Deborah Amdur told the panel. “But we also know that clearly we still have a long way to go.”

But Jim Lorraine, executive director of the Central Savannah Wounded Warrior Care Project, said he still sees massive communications problems between the military and VA, and says no one from either agency is making sure wounded troops are getting the information or services they need.

Lorraine also said that too often, the burden of figuring out the systems falls to the wounded troops themselves.

Bohn said his family couldn’t afford to fly down to Walter Reed from Massachusetts for his surgeries, and no military officials informed him of outside groups that might have helped.

When he came out of the operations, it was hours before anyone called his parents to let them know he survived, and only after he requested they do so.

Bohn said he received a call just days before Wednesday’s hearing, informing him that his claim has been sped up.

That prompted several senators to joke that any veteran frustrated with the system should be put on the committee’s witness list, to get them extra attention.

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



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

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

“The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy”

-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt

**THE SUCCESSFUL ANTI-WAR
REBELLION OF THE ARMED
FORCES IN VIETNAM:
“Sedition – Coupled With Disaffection
Within The Ranks, And Externally
Fomented With An Audacity And
Intensity Previously Inconceivable –
Infests The Armed Services”**



**Vietnam: They Stopped An Imperial War:
Honor And Respect To Them All**

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

Excerpts from an article by Col. Robert D. Heinl, Jr., North American Newspaper Alliance, Armed Forces Journal, 7 June, 1971

THE MORALE, DISCIPLINE and battleworthiness of the U.S. Armed Forces are, with a few salient exceptions, lower and worse than at anytime in this century and possibly in the history of the United States.

By every conceivable indicator, our army that now remains in Vietnam is in a state approaching collapse, with individual units avoiding or having refused combat,

murdering their officers and non commissioned officers, drug-ridden, and dispirited where not near mutinous.

Elsewhere than Vietnam, the situation is nearly as serious.

To understand the military consequences of what is happening to the U.S. Armed Forces, Vietnam is a good place to start.

It is in Vietnam that the rearguard of a 500,000 man army, in its day and in the observation of the writer the best army the United States ever put into the field, is numbly extricating itself from a nightmare war the Armed Forces feel they had foisted on them by bright civilians who are now back on campus writing books about the folly of it all.

“They have set up separate companies,” writes an American soldier from Cu Chi, quoted in the New York Times, “for men who refuse to go into the field. Is no big thing to refuse to go. If a man is ordered to go to such and such a place he no longer goes through the hassle of refusing; he just packs his shirt and goes to visit some buddies at another base camp.

Operations have become incredibly ragtag. Many guys don’t even put on their uniforms any more... The American garrison on the larger bases are virtually disarmed. The lifers have taken our weapons from us and put them under lock and key...There have also been quite a few frag incidents in the battalion.”

“Frag incidents” or just “fragging” is current soldier slang in Vietnam for the murder or attempted murder of strict, unpopular, or just aggressive officers and NCOs. With extreme reluctance (after a young West Pointer from Senator Mike Mansfield’s Montana was fragged in his sleep) the Pentagon has now disclosed that fraggings in 1970(109) have more than doubled those of the previous year (96).

Word of the deaths of officers will bring cheers at troop movies or in bivouacs of certain units.

In one such division -- the morale plagued Americal -- fraggings during 1971 have been authoritatively estimated to be running about one a week.

Yet fraggings, though hard to document, form part of the ugly lore of every war. The first such verified incident known to have taken place occurred 190 years ago when Pennsylvania soldiers in the Continental Army killed one of their captains during the night of 1 January 1781.

Bounties, raised by common subscription in amounts running anywhere from \$50 to \$1,000, have been widely reported put on the heads of leaders whom the privates and Sp4s want to rub out.

Shortly after the costly assault on Hamburger Hill in mid-1969, the GI underground newspaper in Vietnam, “G.I. Says”, publicly offered a \$10,000 bounty on Lt. Col. Weldon Honeycutt, the officer who ordered (and led) the attack. Despite several attempts, however, Honeycutt managed to live out his tour and return Stateside.

“Another Hamburger Hill,” (i.e., toughly contested assault), conceded a veteran major, is definitely out.”

The issue of “combat refusal”, and official euphemism for disobedience of orders to fight -- the soldier’s gravest crime – has only recently been again precipitated on the frontier of Laos by Troop B, 1st Cavalry’s mass refusal to recapture their captain’s command vehicle containing communication gear, codes and other secret operation orders.

As early as mid-1969, however, an entire company of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade publicly sat down on the battlefield. Later that year, another rifle company, from the famed 1st Air Cavalry Division, flatly refused -- on CBS-TV -- to advance down a dangerous trail.

While denying further unit refusals the Air Cav has admitted some 35 individual refusals in 1970 alone. By comparison, only two years earlier in 1968, the entire number of officially recorded refusals for our whole army in Vietnam -- from over seven divisions - was 68.

“Search and evade” (meaning tacit avoidance of combat by units in the field) is now virtually a principle of war, vividly expressed by the GI phrase, “CYA (cover your ass) and get home!”

That “search-and-evade” has not gone unnoticed by the enemy is underscored by the Viet Cong delegation’s recent statement at the Paris Peace Talks that communist units in Indochina have been ordered not to engage American units which do not molest them. The same statement boasted - not without foundation in fact - that American defectors are in the VC ranks.

Symbolic anti-war fasts (such as the one at Pleiku where an entire medical unit, led by its officers, refused Thanksgiving turkey), peace symbols, “V”-signs not for victory but for peace, booing and cursing of officers and even of hapless entertainers such as Bob Hope, are unhappily commonplace.

Only last year an Air Force major and command pilot for Ambassador Bunker was apprehended at Ton Son Nhut air base outside Saigon with \$8 million worth of heroin in his aircraft.

The major is now in Leavenworth.

Early this year, an Air force regular colonel was court-martialed and cashiered for leading his squadron in pot parties, while, at Cam Ranh Air Force Base, 43 members of the base security police squadron were recently swept up in dragnet narcotics raids.

All the foregoing facts – and mean more dire indicators of the worse kind of military trouble – point to widespread conditions among American forces in Vietnam that have only been exceeded in this century by the French Army’s Nivelle mutinies of 1917 and the collapse of the Tsarist armies in 1916 and 1917.

Sedition – coupled with disaffection within the ranks, and externally fomented with an audacity and intensity previously inconceivable – infests the Armed Services:

At best count, there appear to be some 144 underground newspapers published on or aimed at U.S. military bases in this country and overseas. Since 1970 the number of such sheets has increased 40% (up from 103 last fall).

These journals are not mere gripe-sheets that poke soldier fun in the “Beetle Bailey” tradition, at the brass and the sergeants.

“In Vietnam,” writes the Ft Lewis-McChord Free Press, “the Lifers, the Brass, are the true Enemy, not the enemy.” Another West Coast sheet advises readers: “Don’t desert. Go to Vietnam and kill your commanding officer.”

At least 14 GI dissent organizations (including two made up exclusively of officers) now operate more or less openly. Ancillary to these are at least six antiwar veterans’ groups which strive to influence GIs.

Three well-established lawyer groups specialize in support of GI dissent. Two (GI Civil Liberties Defense Committee and new York Draft and Military Law Panel) operate in the open. A third is a semi-underground network of lawyers who can only be contacted through the GI Alliance, a Washington, D.C., group which tries to coordinate seditious antimilitary activities throughout the country.

One antimilitary legal effort operates right in the theater of war. A three-man law office, backed by the Lawyers’ Military Defense Committee, of Cambridge, Mass., was set up last fall in Saigon to provide free civilian legal services for dissident soldiers being court-martialed in Vietnam.

Besides these lawyers’ fronts, the Pacific Counseling Service (an umbrella organization with Unitarian backing for a profusion of antimilitary activities) provides legal help and incitement to dissident GIs through not one but seven branches (Tacoma, Oakland, Los Angeles, San Diego, Monterey, Tokyo, and Okinawa).

Another of Pacific Counseling’s activities is to air-drop planeloads of sedition literature into Oakland’s sprawling Army Base, our major West Coast staging point for Vietnam

On the religious front, a community of turbulent priests and clergymen, some unfrocked, calls itself the Order of Maximilian.

Maximilian is a saint said to have been martyred by the Romans for refusing military service as un-Christian. Maximilian’s present-day followers visit military posts, infiltrate brigades and stockades in the guise of spiritual counseling, work to recruit military chaplains, and hold services of “consecrations” of post chapels in the name of their saintly draft-dodger.

By present count at least 11 (some go as high as 26) off-base antiwar “coffee houses” ply GIs with rock music, lukewarm coffee, antiwar literature, how-to-do-it tips on desertion, and similar disruptive counsels. Among the best-known coffee houses are:

The Shelter Half (Ft Lewis, Wash.); The Home Front (Ft Carson, Colo.); and The Oleo Strut (Ft Hood, Tex.).

Virtually all the coffee houses are or have been supported by the U.S. Serviceman's Fund, whose offices are in new York City's Bronx.

While refusing to divulge names, IRS sources say that the serviceman's Fund has been largely bankrolled by well-to-do liberals.

One example of this kind of liberal support for sedition which did surface identifiably last year was the \$8,500 nut channeled from the Philip Stern Family Foundation to underwrite Seaman Roger Priest's underground paper OM, which, among other writings, ran do-it-yourself advice for desertion to Canada and advocated assassination of President Nixon.

“Entertainment Industry for Peace and Justice,” the antiwar show-biz front organized by Jane Fonda, Dick Gregory, and Dalton Trumbo, now claims over 800 film, TV, and music names. This organization is backing Miss Fonda's antimilitary road-show that opened outside the gates of Ft. Bragg, N.C., in mid-March.

Describing her performances (scripted by Jules Pfeiffer) as the soldiers' alternative to Bob Hope, Miss Fonda says her case will repeat the Ft Bragg show at or outside 19 more major bases.

Freshman Representative Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif.) runs a somewhat different kind of antimilitary production.

As a Congressman, Dellums cannot be barred from military posts and has been taking full advantage of the fact. At Ft Meade, Md., last month, Dellums led a soldier audience as they booed and cursed their commanding officer who was present on-stage in the post theater which the Army had to make available.

THE SUCCESSFUL ANTI-WAR REBELLION OF THE ARMED FORCES IN VIETNAM [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. Heintz, 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.

"Kyle Wesolowski"

From: Dennis Serdel [Vietnam Veteran]
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: May 24, 2011
Subject: Kyle Wesolowski

Very Good writing.

Writing is Therapy.

Dennis

Reply: T

Yes.

Here's the poem by Wesolowski again.

Followed by one by Dennis Serdel.

Therapy



By Kyle Wesolowski, May 17 2011, Iraq Veterans Against The War (www.ivaw.org/)

*In this town therapy is secondary
To the needs of our cities' health and humanity
The powers that decide our livelihood make another primary priority
Deciding to fill up our bathroom cabinets instead of giving us therapy
Its all good
They like to prescribe medication to GIs
Its easier to control them when they've made them dependent on a drug forming
habit
Forget about fixing combat stress
Just hop us up on benzodizipines
So we forget the past
dulling our painful reality
Of what war does to our mentality
For some of us we may not have scars or limbs lost
Its taboo in this town
We all know war effects every solider not just physically*

*For the pill popping solider
Fort Hood makes it easier for us who suffer from over medication
A normality in our health care society
Don't worry about it
If you get the shakes there's a new expressway lane for your quick fix
It just open up for business*

*Roll up in your ride to Thomas Moore clinic
10 mikes later you got your fill of dependency
All thats left to do is grab a bottle of water to swallow down handicapped half-
assed therapy
So quick so easy, you'll make it back in time to your motor pool duties*

*The military clearly would rather find their own quick fix to the mental health
epidemic
Where did the battle buddy system go?
Anyone can be your battle buddy even General Campbell.
It doesn't exist anymore
A soldier is no better then an Afghan or Iraqi
Put their problems to the side and worry about it years later after they forgot
about us
Pills have there place but without therapy the veterans can't live this way forever
For many the help won't come
Suicides happen in regularity
If they're lucky they will at least see the pearly gates
The gates that big book we all know talks about.*

Love, Dad

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: March 03, 2009
Subject: Love, Dad

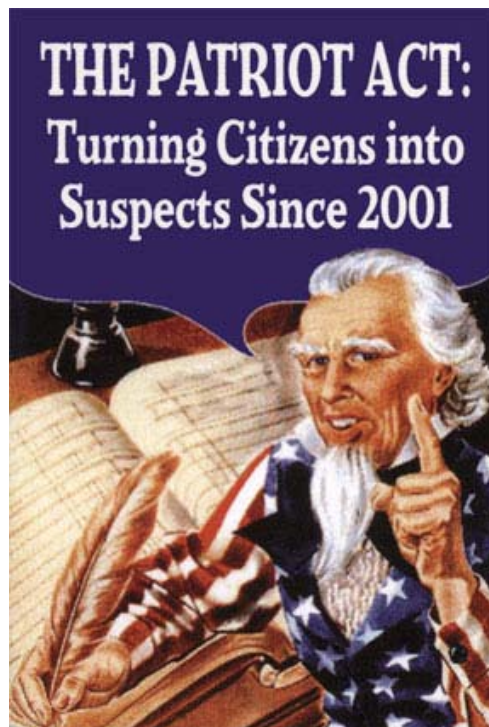
By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree.

Love, Dad

**Son, we can't send you
any packages
like we have sent you before
because the shop
that I worked for for 27 years
has just went bankrupt
my pension money is gone
didn't get severance pay
after all those years
and I would have to pay
Cobra for health care but
I don't have money for that
they didn't even give me
my vacation pay
they gave me nothing
nothing at all
I took our savings and paid off
our home but now all I get is
unemployment checks
and food stamps
that will stop in months
I don't know what I will do then,
I'm old and nobody will hire me
but even the young
can't find any jobs
Soon they will take our car
turn off electricity
and turn off the heat
Son, I know you have troubles
of your own in Iraq
but I think you are fighting
the wrong enemy over there
I think all of you should come home
fight the government
the corporations
and defend us from
the bill collectors**

kill the white shirt bank criminals
the oil company criminals
kill all the Madoof's
that have taken over our country
because nothing works
over here anymore.
Love, Dad

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**The Imperial Congress Almost Votes
To Kill Somewhat Fewer U.S. Troops
In Afghanistan For The Next Several
Years:
Vague Proposal For “A Quicker Exit”
Gets 204 Votes**

May 26, 2011 By Catalina Camia, USA TODAY [Excerpts]

A coalition of House Republicans and Democrats voiced its frustration at President Obama's policy in Afghanistan, amassing more than 200 votes on a plan to speed up the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

The move for a quicker exit from Afghanistan was narrowly defeated on a 204-215 vote. In all, 178 Democrats and 26 Republicans voted for the plan by Reps. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., and Walter Jones, R-N.C. Similar legislation last year got 138 votes, with far less GOP support.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



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/)



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