

Traveling Soldier

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Free To Service Men and Women

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Donations Welcome

Issue 35

Action Report: "The Pentagon Must Be Shit Worried Knowing These Soldiers Have Minds Of Their Own And No Fear In Expressing Their Opinions"

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 USA.

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.

Americans Don't Support The War On Afghanistan: "Lopsided Majority" Says Get Out

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 unmar-

ried 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.

Afghanistan: "All My Guys Are Hurt. No One Cares."

Thanks to Redvet, who sent this in.]

May 19, 2011 Posted by Mark Thompson, Time.com [Excerpts]

The Army-led seventh Mental Health Advisory Team surveyed combat soldiers and Marines (as opposed to those in support units) in both Afghanistan last summer to get an accurate picture of how they're faring, mentally, after nearly a decade of war. They surveyed 911 (a coincidence, I'm sure) and 335 Marines.

It's a pretty impressive feat; in past conflicts such studies generally were conducted among soldiers after they returned home. It's known as "MHAT-7" around the Pentagon. The Army quoted many of the soldiers it surveyed.

It certainly offers an unvarnished

look inside a war that you can't get at a Pentagon briefing or Capitol Hill hearing.

It's also more candid than reporters get when talking to troops; here, they are speaking, more or less, among themselves:

Leaving home station, we didn't have a clue what we were going to do here. Mission set has changed 6 times since in country ... be flexible, but not THAT flexible! We are mission jumping constantly.

Goals/standards are ridiculous ... you can't meet them if they keep changing. Doing the right thing here is wrong."

"There was no guidance from leadership on the goal of specific missions.

Role? I don't know if I am a platoon

sergeant, squad leader, or team leader ... I still don't know my role and we are 58 days out from coming home.

Info comes down, but we don't have a good understanding of it, but then we have to take it, try to make sense of it, and try to give it to our Joes. I know it doesn't make sense to them.

We had a large white board in the TOC (tactical operations center) for the purpose of writing down changes to the mission but the NCO wouldn't use it...instead he would keep the changes to himself.

You never get positive feedback, but you will get an -ss-chewing if you screw up ... They tell you what is not going to work.

There is no feedback at all from

"Afghanistan", cont'd

leadership.

Our platoon sergeant usually tells us that 'You guys are s--t bags for making me look bad.'

You want to throw 20 people into a 10 man tent and have us live like that for the past 9 months....RE-ALLY.

Leadership was never NOT breathing down my neck...poor planning on many issues.

They use any sign of error to belittle you...focus is on failure to make themselves look better. Cruise control once we got here... it is not a problem until it is a catastrophe.

Nobody advocates for us. They never listen to the experts...they don't listen to the people that know. But I go toe-to-toe with them. I have to serve as the advocate. I get the blame though for everything that could go wrong.

Leadership is giving us [un]enlisted] no support. They let themselves be walked all over.

They challenge us in unrealistic ways ... good idea fairy.

Leadership isn't teaching you how to fish, but instead they are just giving you a fish.

They are not engaged and have no concept about what is going on out there. They just don't get involved.

He (NCO) will send us to work while he stays back and watches TV.

They dictate methodology, don't innovate, and don't let others innovate either. Appearance means more than anything.

There is one solution and it's his solution.

It's their way or the highway.

They tell us to do it ourselves all the time...It's frustrating that when we do it ourselves they then come back and get mad at us because we didn't do it their way even though they didn't tell us how they wanted it done.

All my guys are hurt. No one cares. A guy with fractured foot is still going out on missions.

We survived a crash and all the NCO wanted to know was when we were going to be back to work.

No Thank You To Re-Enlisting

January 17, 2010

Forums,

Army Times Our country was attacked almost 10 years ago ("25K soldiers headed to Afghanistan in 2011," Army-Times.com, Dec. 22). That's about the same amount of time as World War II and Vietnam.

I have nothing against fighting for my country, because I am in the

military and understand we are always going to be at war, but there is just too much politics now and that is why I am getting out.

I would die for my country, but I question whether I would in a place we've been for 10 years, a place we should have been out of a long time

ago.

Why are we not pulling everyone out until 2014?

I am proud to serve, but in a government like this, no thank you to re-enlisting.

— mossmr



Wisconsin IVAW: "We Call-Out To The National Guard To Refuse Mobilization Against These Workers...Join Us As We Call For An End To The Wars"

[Editors' Note: This appeal to members of the Wisconsin National Guard came when the Governor of Wisconsin threatened to use the National Guard against union members and other citizens protesting an attack by the Governor on their incomes and unions rights.]

2011-03-10 Wisconsin Iraq Veterans Against the War via Iraq Veterans Against The War (www.ivaw.org/) [Excerpts]

We believe military service members are public employees. It is dishonorable to suggest that military personnel should be deployed against teachers, health care providers, firefighters, police officers, and other government employees, many of whom are serving in the National Guard.

The Wisconsin National Guard was sent in to repress workers fighting for the eight hour workday over a century ago.

It is vital that our brothers and sisters know they have a choice and can fall on the right side of history this time by standing with the working people of Wisconsin.

As veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we stand in solidarity with the hundreds of thousands of workers who have mobilized across the country to defend their rights as workers and union members.

The waves of resistance sweeping the Middle East show us that democracy is not something delivered by U.S. military intervention, but won and fought for by people in their own towns, cities, and countries.

Almost a decade of war in Afghanistan and eight years of war in Iraq have brought nothing but death and trauma to the people of those countries, as well as our brothers and sisters in the military.

Meanwhile, we have seen the erosion of public goods such as education, veterans benefits, and health-care and an all-out political attack on the very workers who make our society function.

Scott Walker and the Republican caucus of the Wisconsin state legislature have gone behind the backs of the people of Wisconsin to erase

collective bargaining rights for public workers.

Under the guise of budget crisis, these and other politicians throughout the country are attempting to undo the hard-won union rights of the American people.

Yet, these same politicians continue to reach deep into the pockets of working people to finance the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan while sending our sons and daughters, our brothers and sisters, off to fight them.

It is time for us to start connecting the dots between endless war abroad and the erosion of our rights and public goods here at home.

We call on veterans organizations and the anti-war movement to join us as we stand in solidarity with working people in Wisconsin and call-out to the National Guard to refuse mobilization against these workers.

--Wisconsin Iraq Veterans Against the War

Troops Invited To Write In
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 Traveling Soldier at contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Phone #: 888.711.2550

TRAVELING SOLDIER

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. Contact us at

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

Traveling Soldier Editorial Board

P. Binh; F. Bouthillette (USNR, Veteran, Iraq Theatre); A. Winslow; T. Barton
Traveling Soldier is brought to you by the Military Resistance Organization

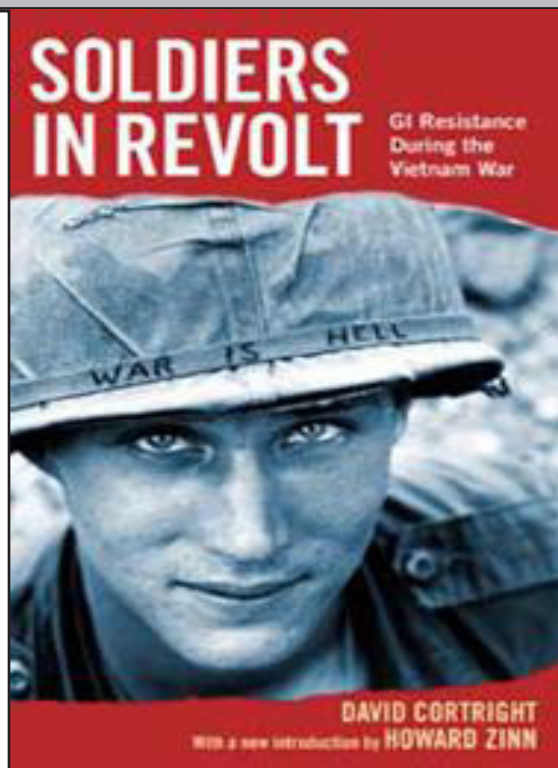
A Vietnam Soldier Wrote The Book All About How An Armed Forces Rebellion Stopped An Imperial War

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Military Resistance Ten Points

Mission Statement

1. The mission of Military Resistance is to bring together in one organization members of the armed forces and civilians in order to give aid and comfort to members of the armed forces who are organizing to end the wars of empire in Afghanistan and Iraq. The long term objective is to assist in eliminating all wars of empire by eliminating all empires.

2. Military Resistance does not advocate individual disobedience to orders or desertion from the armed forces. The most effective resistance is organized by members of the armed forces working together.

However, Military Resistance respects and will assist in the defense of troops who see individual desertion or refusal of orders as the only course of action open to them for reasons of conscience.

3. Military Resistance stands for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. and other occupation troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Occupied nations have the right to independence and the right to resist Imperial invasion and occupation by force of arms.

4. Efforts to increase democratic rights in every society, organization, movement, and within the armed forces itself will receive encouragement and support.

Members of the armed forces, whether those of the United States or any other nation, have the right and duty to act against dictatorships commanding their services, and to assist civilian movements against dictatorship.

This applies whether a political dictatorship is imposed by force of arms or a political dictatorship is imposed by those in command of the resources of society using their wealth to purchase the political leadership.

5. Military Resistance uses organizational democracy.

This means control of the organization by the membership, through elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels.

Any member may run for any job in the organization. All persons elected are subject to immediate recall, by majority vote of the membership.

Coordinating bodies report their actions, decisions and votes to the membership who elected them, and may be overruled by a majority of the membership.

6. It is not necessary for Military Resistance to be in political agreement with other organizations in order to work together towards specific common objectives.

It is productive for organizations working together on common projects to discuss differences about the best way forward for the movement. Debate is necessary to arrive at the best course of action.

Membership Requirements:

7. It is a condition of membership that each member prioritize and participate in organized action to reach out to active duty armed forces, Reserve and/or National Guard units.

8. Military Resistance or individual members may choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan, but do not support a candidate opposed to immediate, unconditional withdrawal.

9. Members may not be active duty or drilling reserve commissioned officers, or employed in any capacity by any police or intelligence agency, local, state, or national.

10. I understand and am in agreement with the above statement. I pledge to defend my brothers and sisters, and the democratic rights of the citizens of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Signature

Date

Application Taken/Received By

MILITARY RESISTANCE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (please print): _____

Armed Forces? (Branch) _____

Veteran? _____ Years: _____

Union: _____

Occupation: _____

Mailing address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone (Landline): _____

Phone (Cell): _____

\$ dues paid and receipt given by _____

(See next: Calendar year basis)

Armed Forces Members	@	Dues waived
Civilians	@ \$25	
Students/Unemployed	@	\$10
Civilian/Military Prisoners	@	Dues Waived

Comments:

NOTE: Civilian applicants will be interviewed, in person if possible, or by phone.