

## ***Truth in Recruiting***

Tulsa Peace Fellowship's counter-recruitment update/digest for June 2009

lead story

### **We Shut Down the Army Experience Center: Videogame Lures Youth into Military Recruiters' Clutches**

--counter-recruitment action in a Philadelphia shopping mall

more coverage:

### **Seven Counter-Recruiters Arrested at Philadelphia Mall over **Predatory Recruiting Practices** of the U.S. Military**

--some 300 veterans, military families, religious leaders and voters decry the Army pilot program that entices teens with violent video games

related group nationwide: **Peace Action**

page one:

alternatives to violence:

### **The Youth PROMISE Act : Legislation that Serves as a Building Block for **Domestic Peace****

--bipartisan bill introduced into the U.S. House by Bobby Scott (D-VA-03) and Congressman Mike Castle (R-DE) and in the Senate by Robert Casey (D-PA) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME)

--acronym stands for: Prison Reduction through Opportunity Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education

**The Tulsa Peace Fellowship visited the Tulsa Police Department (Gilcrease Division police station) on the 8th of May, 2009, to offer to provide a community partner for the anti-gang unit, in particular to help with non-violent communication (NVC) classes**

photos online:

see Ning <http://tulsapeacefellowship.ning.com/photo/photo/slideshow>

and here: <http://tulsapeacefellowship.ning.com/xn/detail/2567841:Event:2408>

file under: antiwar grassroots pressure in Afghanistan

### **Hundreds of Afghans take to the streets to protest increasing aerial occupation: 170 civilians killed by U.S.**

--US Military only lends a deaf ear

compare data from U.S. occupation of Iraq:

According to a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine, during the Iraq war 20 percent of soldiers and Marines admit being responsible for **noncombatant deaths**.

**That's 1 in 5 soldiers that have killed an Iraqi civilian.** That sure is some kind of freedom they're giving the Iraqis.

related story:

### **US accused of illegal white phosphorus attack in Afghanistan, at Farah**

--US Military only lends a deaf ear

feature op/ed:

file under: psychotic sub-culture

**Ask your sons: the propagandistic lie of "the most moral" army**

--opinion piece appeared in an Israeli newspaper, in reaction to Israeli war crimes in Gaza

quote:

"Many of them are brainwashed, and for now are keeping mum."

**Dad wants sensible answer for soldier's training death**

--last June, a 20-year-old soldier-in-training died during an exercise near Fort Bragg, N.C.

sidebar: file under: S.N.A.F.U

**US missile data found on eBay hard drive**

page two:

file under: our monsters in Iraq

**Iraqis demand death for US soldier convicted in a Kentucky court of rape & multiple murder**

--follow up on prevalence of sexual assault in U.S. military, especially since **drop in entrance standards**

file under: **fragging** case or political murder in the field?

**Revisiting the Death of Cpl. Pat Tillman: Was it Murder?**

--Tillman's mother, in her disturbing book *Boots on the Ground by Dusk* (2008), has been shaken by the way the military has handled the death of her son.

file under: psychotic sub-culture

**U.S. service member kills 5 fellow troops of undistinguished rank, in Iraq**

--Sgt. John M. Russell. Russell has been charged with five counts of murder after opening fire at a counseling clinic in Iraq, at Baghdad's Camp Liberty (U.S. military base)

related op/ed piece:

**Fratricide at Camp Liberty**

file under: human rights

**Heatstroke soldier whose death led to landmark human rights ruling 'passed out sunbathing'**

--sounds like a headline from the satirical publication, *The Onion*

**Government Experiments on U.S. Soldiers: Shocking Claims Come to Light in New Court Case**

--think Liev Schreiber in "The Manchurian Candidate" or Mel Gibson in "Conspiracy Theory"

fact: At least 7,800 US servicemen served "as laboratory rats or guinea pigs" at Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland

backpage

file under: breaking the oath taken to defend and uphold the U.S. Constitution

**Soldiers In Afghanistan Given Bibles, Told To "Hunt People For Jesus"**

--**It is against U.S. military rules to proselytize on behalf of one's religion**

--It is a crime in Afghanistan to attempt to convert anyone from Islam to any other religion

related story:

**Major exposé of right-wing religious bias in the U.S. Military: *Harper's Magazine***

--Conversion at the point of a sword, or at the muzzle of a gun: the barbarians are at it again

<http://www.harpers.org/archive/2009/05/0082488>

file under: You may die by accident

**Three dead as US Navy helicopter crashes off California**

Reasons not to join the military:

a.. You May Be Killed, Even By Mistake

file under: You may die by accident

**MoD admits fault in Hercules' fatal crash: how the mighty have fallen**

--Court document reveals C-130 in which 10 servicemen died had a catalogue of faults, including wings in danger of metal fatigue

epigraph for this issue of "Truth in Recruiting":

**"The average and healthy individual - the man who can endure the mental and physical stresses of combat - still has such an inner and usually unrealized **resistance towards killing** a fellow man that he will not of his own volition take life if it is possible to turn away from that responsibility."**

~Gen. S.L.A. Marshall, a respected Army combat historian, in his landmark World War Two study, "Men Against Fire"

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Tulsa Peace Fellowship's counter-recruitment update/digest for June 2009

*lead story*

**We Shut Down the Army Experience Center**

Hundreds Protest the Army Experience Center, a pilot project to reach youth through free video & war games.

May 2, 2009



Saturday over 200 of us, with two sound systems, large banners and signs, marched a mile through suburban streets and into the Franklin Mills Mall in NE Philadelphia. We were loud outside, and louder inside, determined to resist the Army's recruiting of youth through video games and war simulations.

We were stopped by rows of police and security guards from entering the Army Experience Center. We read aloud a criminal complaint against the AEC and the owners of the mall, for conspiring to draw people into the commission of war crimes. I explained what war crimes are. We chanted "Shut It Down!" "War is NOT a Game!" and "What are they recruiting for? Murder, rape, torture, war!"

Sue Niederer of Pennington, NJ, whose son 2nd Lt. Seth Dvorin was killed near Iskandariyah, Iraq on February 3, 2004, wore a t-shirt saying "Recruiters Lied!" She got on the bullhorn to suggest we all take a public tour of the center. The police spokesperson announced, "you're not going to be going on the tour because this center is closed down now!" Oh -- he didn't say that! We chanted "shut it down" all the louder. Before the police warning to leave, some of the peace activists went outside to have a vigil on the road. But most of us stayed, attracting shoppers, and rows of young kids holding skateboards, from the skate park next door. Some of us sat down. We weren't tired, but you've got to teach people how to sit down as resistance.

Thanks to Op Ed News who headlined an article by Elaine Brower. Editor Rob Krall called the action "very well organized." Thanks to dozens of Veterans for Peace; to Pat Elder of the National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth; Iraq Veterans Against the War; Code Pinkers and Grannies of all kinds, Peace Action, the Brandywine Peace Community, and activists from all over the east coast. Special thanks to the Activists Response Team, who did the March of the Dead, and took 7 arrests for disorderly conduct, which we will help fight.

Elaine Brower of World Can't Wait, one of the 7 pictured in white masks who were arrested at the end of the action, wrote, "It seemed to me that the recruiters were becoming a bit unnerved, and the police were becoming extremely impatient. This was a peaceful protest, as we were not only exercising our first amendment right of 'freedom of speech', but trying to get our youth de-militarized, and away from the clutches of bloody war games. Of course, since the AEC is open to the 'public' many demanded to go inside, but weren't allowed. Ret. Army Col. Ann Wright at that point was speaking directly to the kids who had gathered to witness what we were doing and told them not to 'buy the recruiters' stories' of patriotic glory."

A middle school teacher brought 4 of his students to the protest. They had already taken the tour of the AEC, and brought copies of the letters they sent to David & Melvin Simon, owners of the mall which leases to the Army.

Manny, who was about to speak to the crowd just as the arrests started, and was hustled out by his teacher (sorry Manny) wrote, in part:

"Do you believe money is worth more than human lives? You just probably said to yourself, 'No, of course not.' Well, now you are unknowingly answering 'yes' because of the space you have leased out to the Army. They have recently opened an Army Experience Center. They are supposedly not recruiting kids. They have video games set up for kids to play and have the 'army experience.' Last time I checked arcades don't ask for your social security number....

The Army does not change a single cent for this. They don't charge admission; they don't charge

you for playing either. Instead, they give you an ID card that you have to swipe in order to play. They record this in their database. They see how many times you played the Humvee simulation. They see how many times you rode in the Black Hawk Helicopter. Then they decide what field to place the child in once he/she turns 18. The recruiters will come to the child's home and ask them to take a test. The recruiters will not be regular run-of-the-mill men. They will pick strong, well built men who will try everything to convince them to take the test and join the Army. They will be sent to a war we don't even belong in. We, the U.S., are like the strong kid who thinks he can beat everyone at the playground. We pick fights for no reason. Then we walk away not caring who got hurt or who died."

[Debra Sweet](#), Director, The World Can't Wait

See [Shut Down the AEC](#) for ongoing news on the effort to shut down this project.

{Thank you Rena for bringing this story to our attention}

### **Seven Counter-Recruiters Arrested at Philadelphia Mall over Predatory Recruiting**

Some 300 veterans, military families, religious leaders and voters decry the Army pilot program that entices teens with violent video games

May 6, 2009

Philadelphia, PA — Several hundred demonstrators from a coalition of 30 national and regional veteran, youth and peace groups, including the Iraq Veterans Against the War, Veterans for Peace, BuxMont Coalition for Peace Action, Student Peace Action Network, protested what they claimed were unethical military recruitment of teenagers at Franklin Mills Mall in northeast Philadelphia.

The protesters rallied at a church, then marched one mile to the Franklin Mills mall where dozens of police blocked them from entering the "Army Experience Center" (AEC). After nearly an hour of chants of "War is no game, shut down the Army Experience Center" and speeches, Bob Smith of the Brandywine Peace Community (a member of United for Peace and Justice, a coalition of 1,300 national and local organizations) delivered a criminal complaint (4) to a Captain at the AEC and to a representative of the mall's parent company, The Simon Property Group, Inc. After two police warnings, hundreds of protesters continued to chant and listen to speeches by Col. Wright and others, until the police arrested seven conducting civil disobedience by refusing to leave. Forced out of the mall, people continued to vigil and listen to songs by the Granny Peace Brigade outside the "red" entrance to the mall.

"The Army Experience Center is an abomination. It epitomizes the turn for the worse that the military was forced to take over the last eight years. It is misleading. It targets impressionable minors, and it propagates the glorification of war. I am utterly disgusted that the Army which I loved and in which I served so long has resorted to such a deceiving recruiting strategy," said Sergeant Jesse Hamilton, who served nine years in the Army including tours in Iraq. After receiving an honorable discharge, he joined Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW).

Elaine Brower, 53, who sits on the board of Peace Action of Staten Island, was one of those taken to jail. She has been organizing against the AEC because she is the mother of a Marine who just returned from his third tour of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Col. Anne Wright, former State Department official of 16 years shouted, "We demand that our policy isn't militarism but diplomacy."

Critics of the AEC point out that it is not acceptable for alcohol, cigarette, pornography, gun manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies to market to thirteen year olds. They claim those decisions are for adults and dying for something you believe in is also an adult decision.

One of the religious leaders present, Rev. Bob Moore, the director of the Coalition for Peace Action, preached, "War is not fun and exciting; War is hell on earth. If you're not old enough to drink you are not old enough to kill. No recruiting of our children!" He organized one hundred people to attend the protest."

With American's saying they want troops home from Iraq and becoming more concerned about our troops in Afghanistan, the military is finding it more difficult to recruit youth who disagree with U.S. foreign policy. "In its desperate approach to meet recruiting numbers, the military is teaching the wrong values to teenagers. Sugarcoating combat experience with virtual war is a dishonor to those with real war experience. That's why the Student Peace Action Network (SPAN) works with young veterans, and high school and college students across the country for truth and honor in recruiting," stated Jonathan Williams, Span's coordinator.

Police estimated over 200 participants while organizers claimed nearly 300 attended the rally at St. Luke's United Church of Christ, then marched with one lead 12' by 3' banner that said, "War is No Game, Close-down Army Experience Center" along Knights Road to the AEC where an enlarged version of the criminal complaint was handed over and stated, in part, "THAT: the Army Experience Center is therefore involved in the "Criminal Solicitation of Minors" – soliciting underage persons to act in a violent manner and thereby promoting and supporting criminal and corrupt behavior..."

The Pentagon is committed to establishing "Experience Centers" in malls across the country. The \$13 Million, 14,500 square foot facility at Franklin Mills Mall boasts dozens of video game computers and X-Box video game consoles with various interactive, military-style shooting games as well as Apache helicopter and Humvee simulators that allow teens to simulate the killing of Arabs and Afghans. Philadelphia Inquirer reporter Rob Watson compares the Army Experience Center to "a heavy dose of candy cigarettes." (3) 200 packs of candy cigarettes were handed out with Watson's column at the protest.

After leaving the indoor skateboard park across from the AEC, one teenager wearing a helmet and kneepads, with skateboard in tow, quipped "skateboards are the solution," after grabbing a "War Isn't Working," Peace Action, bumper sticker.

PeaceAction Montgomery, Coalition for Peace Action, Peace Action of Staten Island and BuxMont Coalition for Peace Action are all affiliates of Peace Action and helped organize the protest.

<http://www.hotindienews.com/2009/05/06/102060>

For more information: <http://shutdowntheaec.net>

Peace Action Founded in 1957, the United States' largest peace and disarmament organization, with over 100,000 paid members and nearly 100 chapters in 34 states, works to abolish nuclear weapons, promote government spending priorities that support human needs, encourage real security through international cooperation and human rights, and support nonmilitary solutions to the conflicts with Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq. <http://www.Peace-Action.org>

Peace Action Education Fund's, Student Peace Action Network (SPAN) works with students on over 100 campuses nationwide. <http://www.StudentPeaceAction.org>

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## **The Youth PROMISE Act**

The Youth PROMISE Act, introduced into the U.S. House by Bobby Scott (D-VA-03) and Congressman Mike Castle (R-DE) and in the Senate by Robert Casey (D-PA) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME), implements the best policy recommendations from crime policy makers, researchers, practitioners, analysts, and law enforcement officials from across the political spectrum concerning evidence and research-based strategies to reduce gang violence and crime. The Youth PROMISE Act is a bold plan for addressing youth violence in all sectors of society by delivering funding to programs on the ground effectively doing the work of youth violence prevention.

- The legislation calls for hundreds of millions of dollars to fund prevention programs, which could include many of the organizations we have worked with and promoted over the years, including Tariq Khamisa Foundation, Barrios Unidos, Challenge Day, our friends doing restorative justice work, NVC training and so many others.
- Under the Act, communities facing the greatest youth gang and crime challenges will each form a local council called a Promise Coordinating Council ("PCC") which will:
  - Include representatives from law enforcement, court services, schools, social service organizations, health and mental health providers and community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations.
  - Develop a comprehensive plan for implementing evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies that target young people at risk for gang involvement in addition to those who have already become a part of the cycle of violence in an effort to empower them toward productive and law-abiding alternatives.
- This legislation is the first step toward building a metrically driven culture of violence prevention and reduction. It builds local structures for decision making and oversight that must document measurable impact in the communities. Through this legislation we will finally see a set of best practices translated from the field in an institutionalized manner that will allow for effective replication around the country.
- This will save lives AND money.

### **More on The Youth PROMISE Act:**

On Friday, February 13, 2009, Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (D-VA-03) and Congressman Mike Castle (R-DE-AL) re-introduced the Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunity Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education, or Youth PROMISE Act. Companion legislation was also introduced in the US Senate by Senators Robert Casey (D-PA) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME).

The Youth PROMISE Act implements the best policy recommendations from crime policy makers, researchers, practitioners, analysts, and law enforcement officials from across the political spectrum concerning evidence- and research-based strategies to reduce gang violence and crime. Under the Youth PROMISE Act, communities facing the greatest youth gang and crime challenges will each form a local council called a Promise Coordinating Council ("PCC"). The PCC will include representatives from law enforcement, court services, schools, social service organizations, health and mental health providers and community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations. The PCC will then develop a comprehensive plan for implementing evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies. These strategies will target young people who are at risk of becoming involved, or who are already involved in, gangs or the criminal justice system to redirect them toward productive and law-abiding alternatives.

"During my more than 30 years of public service, I have learned that when it comes to crime policy, we have a choice - we can reduce crime or we can play politics," Mr. Scott said. "For far too long, Congress has chosen to play politics by enacting 'tough on crime' slogans whose impacts range from a negligible reduction in crime to an increase in crime. As a result, the United States now has the highest average incarceration rate of any nation in the world and the cost of incarceration in this



country has risen to over \$65 billion a year. All the credible research and evidence shows that a continuum of evidenced-based prevention and intervention programs for at-risk youth will greatly reduce crime and save much more than they cost. This is what the Youth PROMISE Act will do," Scott added.

The bill also provides for law enforcement support through "Youth Oriented Policing Services" (YOPS), and a victim/witness assistance program. New provisions of the Youth PROMISE Act this year provide additional grants to high intensity gang localities to reduce or alleviate the effects of gang violence, and grants to localities to fund police and community collaborative programs to provide crime prevention, research, and intervention services designed to prevent crime by at-risk youth and youth gang members.

"I have long believed that the best way to reduce violence in this country is through prevention, and the Youth PROMISE Act does just that," said Rep. Castle. "We must engage youth in positive ways through education, after school programs, sports, as well as family and community support to keep kids away from the dangers of gangs and other violent activities." The Youth PROMISE Act was supported last Congress by over 200 national and state juvenile justice, civil rights, education and religious organizations, including Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, the National Juvenile Defender Center, the Justice Policy Institute, the NAACP Washington DC Office, the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, and the Campaign for Youth Justice, among others. We expect that list to continue to grow this Congress.

Visit online: <http://www.bobbyscott.house.gov/>

**For more information** on the legislation, please check out the material provided by [the sponsor's office](#).

## Hundreds protest Afghan civilian killings

May 10, 2009 04:04pm

ABOUT 1000 students marched in the Afghan capital Sunday to protest against the alleged killing of scores of civilians in US air strikes.

Chanting "Death to America", "Death to the biggest terrorist" and "long live Islam," they held banners reading "The blood of the Farah martyrs will never dry" and "USA is the world's biggest terrorist".

Another banner demanded that "the murderers of more than 180 martyrs of Farah" go on trial, said the photographer, who estimated crowd numbered up to 1,000.

The toll from air strikes and ground fighting with Taliban in Farah province's Bala Buluk district nearly a week ago is disputed.

President Hamid Karzai has said that 125-130 civilians, including children and women, were killed in the strikes alone. Other Afghan officials have issued differing tolls, one as high as 167.

The Afghan tolls would make the Farah incident one of the deadliest for civilians in foreign military strikes since the US-led led the 2001 invasion that ousted the hardline Taliban regime.

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,25456850-5005961,00.html>

## US accused of illegal white phosphorus attack in Afghanistan

By Stephen C. Webster

Published: May 10, 2009

United States forces in Afghanistan are accused of illegally deploying white phosphorus against civilians following a firefight with Taliban militants, according to published reports.



White phosphorus is legal to use on a battlefield but illegal to deploy for any reason other than illumination. The chemical ignites on contact with the air. Human rights groups said using the substance in populated, civilian areas is a war crime, but the United States is not a signatory to any treaty which entirely bans its use.

“The American military denied using the incendiary in the battle in Farah province — which President Hamid Karzai has said killed 125 to 130 civilians.

Marc Garlasco, senior military analyst at Human Rights Watch and a former senior Pentagon intelligence analyst, said "there has been widespread and regular use of white phosphorus by US and NATO forces in Afghanistan," reported the *Mail Online*.

Dr Mohammad Aref Jalali, the head of an internationally funded burns hospital in Herat, said villagers taken to hospital after the incident had ‘highly unusual burns’ on their hands and feet that he had not seen before,” reported The Guardian. “We cannot be 100% sure what type of chemical it was and we do not have the equipment here to find out. One of the women who came here told us that 22 members of her family were totally burned. She said a bomb distributed white power that caught fire and then set people’s clothes alight.”

“The stories that are emerging are quite frankly horrifying,” a United Nations official told the Guardian.

“Local villagers went to the mosque to pray for peace. Shortly after evening prayers the air strikes were called in, and they continued for a couple of hours whilst the villagers were frantically calling the local governor to get him to call off the air strikes.”

Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai demanded the United States call a halt to its air strikes, cautioning that the attacks were turning civilians against Western forces.

U.S. General James L. Jones told ABC’s “This Week” that he refused to “tie the hands of our commanders."

<http://rawstory.com/08/news/2009/05/10/us-accused-of-illegal-white-phosphorus-attack-in-afghanistan/>

feature op/ed: in an Israeli newspaper

## **Ask your sons**

By Gideon Levy

May 10th 2009

Tags: UN, Gaza, Operation Cast Lead

It is behavior well known to every police investigator: First the suspect denies everything, then attacks his interrogators, then admits to a small portion of the accusations (saying he merely did what everyone does), and finally breaks down and confesses.

The Israel Defense Forces returned from Operation Cast Lead and, of course, denied everything. The people applauded it for its bogus victory and no one paid much attention to the awful price paid by the Palestinians. But after the smoke (in this case, white phosphorus) cleared a bit, the blood began crying out from the ground. Foreign journalists and human rights groups investigated and reported their findings. The United Nations said the IDF intentionally targeted its facilities, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International accused the army of illegally using phosphorous bombs, the International Red Cross reported on the injured being denied medical attention and strikes on medical crews, officers at a premilitary course spoke of civilians killed, and Amira Hass wrote for Haaretz about the killing of people flying white flags, the use of flechette shells and the annihilation of entire families.

The ground began trembling beneath Israel's feet when it started attacking the emissaries of these organizations. The country's gates were closed to the UN fact-finding mission headed by Jewish South African Richard Goldstone, as if it were Zimbabwe or North Korea, as if it had much to hide. The president brusquely rebuked the UN's Ban Ki-moon and suggested he visits Auschwitz, until eventually the secretary general was forced to shrink from supporting his organization's damning report.

Anyone who dared investigate and report was branded anti-Semitic. Little has changed since the early-1970s report by a group of American lawyers on the Shin Bet security service's alleged torture methods. These attorneys were immediately labeled anti-Semites. We deny, repress, lie, attack and compare ourselves to others, and our conscience remains clear. Even when the IDF admits to killing 300 civilians - 90 of them children, 50 women and 160 whose identities the army says is unclear - our story remains the same: the most moral army in the world. Not the third most, not the second - the most. After all, Yedioth Ahronoth gave that view its seal of approval in a special propaganda supplement entitled "The most moral in the world."

But let's assume Amnesty is lying, Human Rights Watch is fabricating, B'Tselem is embellishing, the UN is anti-Israel and the media is full of hatred against us - isn't there enough in the IDF's own figures to shake us to the core? Three hundred civilians killed, including 90 children - isn't that enough to expose the propagandistic lie of "the most moral" army? How many innocent people must be killed for that to happen?

[T]he truth cries out even from the collapsed and perforated rubble of what was once a home: The soldiers who were in Gaza know, as do their friends, that something terrible happened there - just as those who served in the West Bank know. Ask your sons; they know the truth - the truth is sitting in your own home. And ask the friends of your sons, and the sons of your friends - they know. Many of them are brainwashed, and for now are keeping mum. Israel is holding back the tide of reports and investigations, and putting its head in the sand of propaganda and victimization, but in the end the truth will emerge.

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1084418.html>

## **Dad wants sensible answer for soldier's training death**

By Erin Sullivan, *St. Petersburg Times* Staff Writer

Sunday, May 24, 2009

Last June, a 20-year-old soldier training to be a Green Beret died during an exercise near Fort Bragg, N.C.

The Army said Norman "Ehren" Murburg III was bitten by a 39-inch water moccasin on his left hand.

He died alone, 400 yards from his next checkpoint. His body was found the next day.

The snakebite story never made sense to his father, Mike Murburg. His son grew up outdoors on their rambling 5 acres in Darby, a rural area in northern Pasco County. He hunted, fished. He knew all about snakes.

But the Army said snakebite, and, back then, Mike trusted the Army.

Then, just a few weeks ago, an officer from Special Forces and an investigator came to Mike's home.

They said maybe the cause of death wasn't a snakebite after all. But they didn't know what it was.

"Excuse me," Mike said, "but I think my son should be present for this discussion."

He walked to his bedroom and returned with an urn of ashes — some of Ehren's remains.

Mike, a bear of a man at 6 feet 5 inches, placed the urn on the coffee table in front of the men sitting on his sofa.

He sat back down.

"Continue."

remainder of article: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/military/article1003728.ece>

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## **Iraqis demand death for US soldier convicted of rape-murder**

May 09, 2009

IRAQIS have called for the execution of former US soldier Steven Dale Green, who faces the death penalty after being convicted of raping an Iraqi teenager and executing the girl and her family.

Relatives and residents in Mahmudiyah, a small agricultural community south of Baghdad where five US soldiers committed one of the most chilling crimes of the war involving American troops, said the jury should condemn Green to death.

"We are now waiting for the American judiciary to carry out what is its humanitarian responsibility -- to do the right thing by giving the strongest punishment to this criminal," said Um Mohammad al-

Janabi, a relative of the family.

Green was found guilty on Thursday on all 17 charges - including rape, premeditated murder and obstruction of justice - by a federal jury in a Kentucky civilian court.

Three other soldiers who also took part in the March 2006 atrocity in Babil province's Mahmudiyah were given life sentences by a military court.

A fourth, who acted as lookout, was jailed for 27 months.

Green was accused of being the leader of the gang rape of a 14-year-old Iraqi girl in the town of about 50,000, and of killing her, her father, mother and six-year-old sister.

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,25452024-5005961,00.html>

follow up:

**Civilian jury spares ex-soldier death penalty for Iraq murders, rape; sentence will be life**

05-21-2009 6:09 PM

By Brett Barrouquere, Associated Press Writer

PADUCAH, Ky. (Associated Press) -- An ex-soldier convicted of raping and killing an Iraqi teen and murdering her family was spared the death penalty Thursday and will serve a life sentence after jurors couldn't agree unanimously on a punishment.

Former Pfc. Steven Dale Green of Midland, Texas, will be formally sentenced Sept. 4 by U.S. District Judge Thomas B. Russell. Jurors who convicted Green on May 7 told Russell they couldn't agree on the appropriate sentence after deliberating more than 10 hours over two days.

In a March 2006 attack in Mahmoudiya, about 20 miles south of Baghdad, Green and three other soldiers went to the home of 14-year-old Abeer Qassim al-Janabi. Green shot and killed the teen's mother, father and sister, then became the third soldier to rape the girl before killing her.

Green's attorneys never denied Green's involvement in the attack. Instead, they focused on trying to build a case that Green didn't deserve the death penalty.

Associated Press Writer Kristin M. Hall contributed to this report.

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[http://tulsa.cox.net/cci/newsnational/national?  
\\_mode=view&\\_state=maximized&view=article&id=D98ATUBG0&\\_action=validatearticle](http://tulsa.cox.net/cci/newsnational/national?_mode=view&_state=maximized&view=article&id=D98ATUBG0&_action=validatearticle)

## **Revisiting the Death of Cpl. Pat Tillman: Was it Murder?**

by Jim Fetzer, former Marine Corps commissioned officer; McKnight Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota, Duluth; Founder, Scholars for 9/11 Truth

[www.opednews.com](http://www.opednews.com)

April 12, 2009

There are typical signs that something is wrong in the case of deaths that have political ramifications. These include obfuscation about the cause of the event, especially by creating a false “first impression”, which tends to stick in the minds of most Americans. In the Wellstone case, it was that the cause had been the weather. In the case of Pat Tillman, it was that he had been killed in a fire-fight in Afghanistan. Although I shall not discuss it with the same degree of detail, the Tillman death appears to bear the signs that this, too, was an assassination. An article on Tillman in Wikipedia, exclusively based upon public sources, provides ample indications of the blatancy with which political killings can take place and then be covered up, especially by assassins who were themselves members of the military. (To insure its availability, I have archived it here under “Assassination”:  
<http://assassinationscience.com/> )

An NFL star who enlisted in the Army in May 2002, he apparently became disenchanted with the conduct of the war. He not only did not support President Bush for reelection, but encouraged others to vote for John Kerry. According to his mother, a friend of his had arranged for him to meet with Noam Chomsky, professor emeritus from MIT and one of our nation’s most respected public intellectuals, who, no doubt, could have launched him into prominent orbit as an outspoken opponent of the war. In my opinion, the prospect of having a macho, NFL-complement to Cindy Sheehan—one who might inspire the nation to reconsider our involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan—would have been a powerful incentive for removing him from the public arena in the minds of Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, and Karl Rove. The use of these special operations military serving as an 'assassination ring' in this situation may very well have been irresistible.

According to Wikipedia’s entry about him, Tillman was redeployed to Afghanistan and, on April 22, 2004, he was killed. The Army initially claimed that he and his unit were hit by an ambush on a road outside a village not far from the Pakistan border. The Army Special Operations Command initially claimed that there was an exchange with hostile forces, but an investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Defense concluded that his death was due to friendly fire “aggravated by the intensity of the firefight”. Another, more thorough investigation, concluded that hostile forces had not been involved in the firefight and that two allied groups fired on each other in confusion after a nearby explosive device was detonated. But it also makes these points:

- \* No evidence of enemy fire at the scene has ever been produced;
- \* The lieutenant general who withheld details of Tillman's death from his parents for months told investigators "he had a bad memory, and could not recall details of his actions" on more than 70 occasions;
- \* According to The Washington Post, on May 4, 2005, the Army’s own investigators were aware that Tillman had been killed by being shot three times in the head;
- \* Senior Army commanders, including Gen. John Abizaid, knew of this fact within days of the shooting but nevertheless approved him for the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and a posthumous promotion;
- \* Army doctors told the investigators that these wounds suggested murder and urged them to launch a criminal investigation, which would not be pursued; and
- \* Army attorneys congratulated each other in emails for impeding criminal investigation as they

concluded that Tillman's death was the result of friendly fire, and that only administrative, or non-criminal, punishment was indicated.

When we consider the alternatives of accident or assassination in this case, we have to compare their likelihoods in relation to the available evidence. If Tillman had been killed accidentally, even by “friendly fire”, then what is the probability that no evidence of friendly fire would be produced, that the Lt. General would suffer 70 “memory lapses”, that the corporal would have been shot three times in the head, that honors would be bestowed upon him, that the doctors would have suspected he was murdered, and that Army attorneys would impede criminal investigations? You don’t have to be a rocket scientist to conclude that something is very wrong here. The probability of these effects appears to be very high if he was deliberately taken out and very low if his death was accidental, friendly fire or not.

And there is more. On July 26, 2007, for example, the AP received official documents stating that the doctors who performed the autopsy suspected that Tillman was murdered. High ranking officers knew better at least four days before his nationally televised memorial service during which he “was lauded as a war hero for dying while engaging the enemy”. Members of Tillman's unit burned his body armor and uniform. Tillman's diary was never returned to his family, and its whereabouts are not publicly known. As a former Marine Corps commissioned officer, I affirm that this treatment of the personal property of a deceased is not proper procedure. The missing diary is especially striking, since diaries are legally admissible as evidence in courts of law and would have attested to his state of mind.

Some prominent news personalities have figured out that something seems to be wrong. On July 26, 2007, for example, Chris Matthews reported that Tillman's death might have been a case of fragging (of the deliberate killing of a soldier by his comrades at arms) because the bullet holes were tight and neat, suggesting that he was shot at close range. Matthews based his speculation on a report from the doctors who investigated Tillman's body. The following day the AP reported that a doctor who examined Tillman's body after his death wrote, “The medical evidence did not match up with the, with the scenario as described,” also noting that the wound entrances appeared as though he had been shot with an M16 rifle from less than 10 yards (9 m) away.” Even his mother, in her disturbing book, *BOOTS ON THE GROUND BY DUSK* (2008), has been shaken by the way the military has handled the death of her son.

<http://www.opednews.com/articles/2/Has-Cheney-been-Murdering-by-Jim-Fetzer-090408-987.html>

## **U.S. service member kills 4 or 5 fellow troops in Iraq**

BAGHDAD - A U.S. service member opened fire on fellow members of the military, killing four and wounding several others, at the main U.S. base in Baghdad, officials told NBC News on Monday.

The toll was the highest for U.S. personnel in a single attack since April 10, when a suicide truck driver killed five American soldiers with a blast near a police headquarters in the northern city of Mosul.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/30678715/>

More coverage:

## **U.S.-IRAQ: Fragging Massacre Puts War Trauma Under the Spotlight**

By Aaron Glantz

More than 230 active soldiers, airmen and marines committed suicide last year - the highest military suicide statistic in nearly 30 years. In January, more U.S. soldiers killed themselves than died in Iraq and Afghanistan combined.

In November 2006, a New York National Guardsman was arraigned in a military court on charges of murdering two officers in an explosion at one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces.

The series of incidents leaves some observers to recall the military's internal meltdown during the Vietnam War.

"In December of 1972, the Defence Department acknowledged that somewhere between 800 and 1,000 officers had actually been blown up by their subordinates," explained Vietnam war widow Penny Coleman, author of the book 'Flashback: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: Suicide and the Lessons of War'.

After eight years of war in Afghanistan and six years of war in Iraq, the Pentagon reports nearly 800,000 U.S. soldiers have served more than one tour in the war zone. According to the non-partisan Rand Corporation, approximately 300,000 Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder or major depression, while another 320,000 have sustained a traumatic brain injury, physical brain damage often caused by roadside bombs and mortars.

"The first impulse is to be angry at a service member for taking lives, that's the first inclination," Montalvan added, "but then you can't help but ask: 'What caused this person to be this upset, this angry?' And the likely conclusion is that this person could not get help."

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=46803>

TPF comment: "Fragging" is a misnomer, in the above headline. Friendly-fire would seem to be the euphemism most accurate for this tragic and unnecessary massacre. But as the commentary below suggests, "fratricide" may also apply.

op/ed piece:

## **Fratricide at Camp Liberty**

Wednesday 20 May 2009

by: Camillo "Mac" Bica, t r u t h o u t | Perspective

Sergeant Russell's behavior in killing other than the enemy is not an aberration if one includes the 20 percent who admit to killing noncombatants. While apologists search for answers in issues of



professionalism, family, relationships, finances, etc., there is a far more reasonable explanation of the conditions that led to these murders - one that is straightforward and foundational. Military training - creating soldiers who will kill - reinforced by combat, the "growth experience" that General Casey referred to, and impacted by multiple tours with inadequate dwell time, traumatized and dehumanized Sergeant Russell and the others turning them into murderers capable of such atrocity. This is why war is an outrage and unnecessary war sacrilege. This is why we cannot accept the military programming our young people to kill. This is why we cannot support the architects of war, no matter their political party. This is why we cannot not tolerate the Army Experience Center, a multi-million-dollar recruitment video-game arcade in Philadelphia, where children as young as thirteen are manipulated into believing that war is a game. This is why we cannot sit back and be patient while war and occupation continue. This is why we must reject the "Obama is doing his best with the wars he inherited" excuse and be out there in the streets yelling and screaming for peace.

Think for a moment how you would feel should an Army representative show up at your front door and tell you that your son or daughter will be coming home piecemeal in a box. Would you still think patience was a virtue? Or would you forever regret accepting that continued violence was necessary and ending war takes time?

Think for a moment how you would feel should your child be killed by an occupier's bomb and then hear her murderers render her death insignificant as collateral damage. Would you still welcome the invaders as liberators? Or would you strap dynamite to your chest to avenge your child's slaughter?

RAVE TO THE GRAVE! Demand an end to war and occupation. Now, not later. Someone's child is dying while we wait. You copy?

<http://www.truthout.org/052009K?n>

byline:

Camillo "Mac" Bica, Ph.D., is a professor of philosophy at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. His focus is in ethics, particularly as it applies to war and warriors. As a veteran recovering from his experiences as a United States Marine Corps Officer during the Vietnam War, he founded, and coordinated for five years, the Veterans Self-Help Initiative, a therapeutic community of veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. He is a long-time activist for peace and justice, a member of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and the coordinator of the Long Island Chapter of Veterans for Peace.

file under: You may die by accident

## **Heatstroke soldier whose death led to landmark human rights ruling 'passed out sunbathing'**

By Patricia Kane  
24th May 2009

A soldier whose death from heatstroke in Iraq led to a landmark legal ruling on human rights for troops passed out sunbathing hours before he died, it has been claimed.

Territorial Army private Jason Smith, 32, died in Iraq after his body temperature rose to 41C (106F).

But he had been sunbathing at camp after returning from patrol and lapsed into unconsciousness when he fell asleep in heat of more than 50C (122F), say former colleagues.

His family believed the Army failed to safeguard him and last week the High Court ruled the MoD had a duty to protect soldiers' human rights by providing suitable equipment and medical care.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1186958/Heatstroke-soldier-death-led-landmark-human-rights-ruling-passed-sunbathing.html>

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*sidebar*

file under: S.N.A.F.U

## **US missile data found on eBay hard drive**

By Gareth Llewellyn, Press Association

Thursday, 7 May 2009

The launch procedures for a US military missile air defence system were found on a second-hand hard drive bought on eBay, researchers revealed today.

More than 300 hard disks were studied and researchers uncovered other sensitive information including bank account details, medical records, confidential business plans, financial company data, personal id numbers, and job descriptions. The drives were bought from the UK, America, Germany, France and Australia through computer auctions, computer fairs and eBay.

The exercise was carried out by BT's Security Research Centre in collaboration with the University of Glamorgan in Wales, Edith Cowan University in Australia and Longwood University in the US.

A disk bought on eBay revealed details of test launch procedures for the THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defence) ground to air missile defence system, used to shoot down Scud missiles in Iraq. The disk also contained security policies, blueprints of facilities and personal information on employees including social security numbers, belonging to technology company Lockheed Martin - who designed and built the system.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-missile-data-found-on-ebay-hard-drive-1680529.html>

## **Government Experiments on U.S. Soldiers: Shocking Claims Come to Light in New Court Case**

By Bruce Falconer, Mother Jones

Posted on May 23, 2009, Printed on May 26, 2009

<http://www.alternet.org/story/140206/>

Gordon Erspamer—San Francisco lawyer—has filed suit against the CIA and the US Army on behalf

of the Vietnam Veterans of America and six former American soldiers who claim they are survivors of classified government tests conducted at the Army's Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland between 1950 and 1975.

That government scientists conducted human experiments at Edgewood is not in question. "The program involved testing of nerve agents, nerve agent antidotes, psychochemicals, and irritants," according to a 1994 General Accounting Office (now the Government Accountability Office) report (PDF). At least 7,800 US servicemen served "as laboratory rats or guinea pigs" at Edgewood, alleges Erspamer's complaint, filed in January in a federal district court in California. The Department of Veterans Affairs has reported that military scientists tested hundreds of chemical and biological substances on them, including VX, tabun, soman, sarin, cyanide, LSD, PCP, and World War I-era blister agents like phosgene and mustard. The full scope of the tests, however, may never be known. As a CIA official explained to the GAO, referring to the agency's infamous MKULTRA mind-control experiments, "The names of those involved in the tests are not available because names were not recorded or the records were subsequently destroyed." Besides, said the official, some of the tests involving LSD and other psychochemical drugs "were administered to an undetermined number of people without their knowledge."

<http://www.alternet.org/module/printversion/140206>

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Tulsa Peace Fellowship's counter-recruitment update/digest for June 2009  
*backpage*

## **Soldiers In Afghanistan Given Bibles, Told To "Hunt People For Jesus" (video)**

May 4th 2009

A U.S. church raised money to send Bibles, printed in the Pashtu and Dari languages, to American soldiers stationed in Afghanistan, a report on *Al Jazeera* documented.

It is against military rules to proselytize -- a regulation one of the soldiers filmed by the network readily acknowledged. "You cannot proselytize, but you can give gifts," says the soldier. It is a crime in Afghanistan to attempt to convert anyone from Islam to any other religion. "I also want to praise God because my church collected some money to get Bibles for Afghanistan. They came and sent the money out." The footage is said to be roughly a year old.

The *Al Jazeera* report also shows a military preacher urging army parishioners to "hunt people for Jesus."

"The Special Forces guys, they hunt men. Basically, we do the same things as Christians. We hunt people for Jesus. We do, we hunt them down. Get the hound of heaven after them, so we get them into the Kingdom. That's what we do, that's our business," he says.

A military spokesman did tell Reuters, however, that none of the Bibles were, as far as she knew, ever actually distributed.

"That specific case involved a soldier who brought in a donation of translated Bibles that were sent to his personal address by his home church. He showed them to the group and the chaplain explained that

he cannot distribute them," said Major Jennifer Willis.

"The translated Bibles were never distributed as far as we know, because the soldier understood that if he distributed them he would be in violation of general order 1, and he would be subject to punishment."

President Bush created an international uproar when he referred to the "war on terror" as a "crusade."

videolink: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/05/04/soldiers-in-afghanistan-g\\_n\\_195674.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/05/04/soldiers-in-afghanistan-g_n_195674.html)

file under: The barbarians are at it again, claiming to be civilized

### **Major exposé of right-wing religious bias in the U.S. Military: *Harper's Magazine***

--Conversion at the point of a sword, or at the muzzle of a gun

"The crusade for a Christian military"

<http://www.harpers.org/archive/2009/05/0082488>

--available online but only to Harper's subscribers--

file under: You may die by accident

### **Three dead as US Navy helicopter crashes off California**

Article from: Agence France-Presse

May 21, 2009 01:50am

THREE people were killed and two were missing after a US Navy helicopter crashed into the Pacific Ocean south of San Diego, the US Coast Guard said Wednesday. The HH60 Seahawk helicopter crashed 21km south of San Diego, near the Coronado Islands, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Henry Dunphy.

Three bodies were recovered during the night while two other crew members of the chopper remained missing, Mr Dunphy said. The helicopter had taken off from the carrier Nimitz on a training exercise.

It was the second military helicopter crash in the region this month. Two Marine pilots were killed on May 5 when their Super Cobra chopper crashed over rugged terrain in Southern California.

The two pilots were based at Marine Corps Air Station at Miramar in San Diego.

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,25515590-5005961,00.html>

### **MoD admits Hercules in fatal crash was unsafe**

Court document reveals C-130 in which 10 servicemen died had a catalogue of faults, including wings in danger of metal fatigue

By Jonathan Owen

24 May 2009

An RAF Hercules aircraft that crashed in Iraq killing 10 servicemen was "unfit" for its role and should not have been flying, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has admitted. The plane was flying with unsafe wings, had faulty anti-missile defences and was flying without suppressant foam to protect its vulnerable fuel tanks from exploding.

The catalogue of faults is admitted in documents revealed in a legal battle between families of four of the crew members who were killed in the 2005 crash shortly after the aircraft left Baghdad airport.

An inquest last year heard the likeliest cause of the crash was the plane being hit by ground fire which caused the fuel tanks to explode. It ruled the men were unlawfully killed and criticised the MoD's decision not to fit the fuel tank foam despite years of repeated warnings.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/mod-admits-hercules-in-fatal-crash-was-unsafe-1690143.html>

one reader comments, 24 May 2009 at 11:55 am (UTC):

The crash happened *four years ago* for petesake. Blanket denial and obfuscation until those who still remember the event start dying of old age is the modus operandi of the "free" West. They'll tell you, "See, we have full disclosure and transparency, we revealed all," but four years is an eternity; it's ancient history in an age of 24/7 information overload. Meanwhile, the culprits in high places get away with murder, that of their own soldiers, in this case.

epigraph for this issue of "Truth in Recruiting":

**"The average and healthy individual - the man who can endure the mental and physical stresses of combat - still has such an inner and usually unrealized **resistance towards killing a fellow man** that he will not of his own volition take life if it is possible to turn away from that responsibility."**

~Gen. S.L.A. Marshall, a respected Army combat historian, in his landmark World War Two study, "Men Against Fire"

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Tulsa Peace Fellowship's counter-recruitment update/digest for June 2009  
*masthead*

who we are:

The website for the **Tulsa Peace Fellowship** is:  
[www.tulsapeacefellowship.org](http://www.tulsapeacefellowship.org)

TPF meets monthly @ **Peace House in Tulsa**  
inside the Unitarian Universalist church at 1314 N. Greenwood Ave, in Tulsa, close to corner of Pine & Greenwood  
just north of the OSU-Tulsa campus

If you have not already done so, please join the **new social networking tool for TPF on Ning**, *in lieu* of TPFtalks on yahoogroups, which has fallen into disuse Thank you! You can check out our new tool here: <http://tulsapeacefellowship.ning.com> (new for 2009) Also still going strong: our announcement list on yahoo! [tulsapeace@yahoogroups.com](mailto:tulsapeace@yahoogroups.com) (since 2002) Go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/> and search for "tulsapeace"

Through its counter-recruitment task force, TPF is a member of the  
**National Network in Opposition to the Militarization of Youth (NNOMY)**

On the web: [http://www.nnomy.org/joomla/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=216&Itemid=91](http://www.nnomy.org/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=216&Itemid=91)

Tulsa Peace Fellowship is non-partisan, and is open to 3rd parties, progressive Dems, libertarians, etc. TPF is the activist wing of the peace movement in Eastern Oklahoma **"Waging Peace One Person at a Time"**.

**Peace House-Tulsa** is an incubator for peace and justice. The Peace House building can host a wide range of activities: classes, discussion groups, meditation, music-making, social gatherings, retreats, etc. While some activities may be limited by the size and amenities of this building, our imaginations need not be limited!

If you enjoyed this news digest and/or found this update useful, please consider making a donation of time, money, or effort to the Tulsa Peace Fellowship. Details on tax status available.

info for TPF counter-recruitment-- contact by phone 918 906 0828

**The next regular meeting of the Fellowship will be held  
on Thursday, June 11 2009, 6:15 PM – 7:30 PM**

--including members from other local non-partisan groups such as the Tulsa chapter of "Season for Non-Violence," the Tulsa University chapter of Amnesty International, ImpeachOK1.org, TulsaTruth.org, the Center for Racial Justice in Tulsa, and the Tulsa Interfaith Alliance.  
--including a meeting of the counter-recruitment campaign activists

Come join us! Especially parents, guardians, and students in the Tulsa Public Schools system who are interested in countering the presence of military recruiters on school grounds.

An archive of TPF counter-recruitment updates and other related TPF material is available to members online:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tulsapeace/>

You must sign in to yahoo! groups to see the archived "message history"

TPF messages have been archived online since 2002

TPF was founded some 30 years ago.

Current membership online: 701 subscribers

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*further information*

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**JROTC: Out of Our Schools**  
**Schools as Military-Free Zones**  
**Alternatives to War: Department of Peace & cabinet-level Secretary of Peace**

[dopcampaign\\_tulsaconnection@cox.net](mailto:dopcampaign_tulsaconnection@cox.net)  
[armywrong@cox.net](mailto:armywrong@cox.net)

## **THE 10 REASONS**

Ten excellent reasons not to join the military:

- a.. You May Be Killed, Even by Mistake
- b.. You May Kill Others Who Do Not Deserve to Die
- c.. You May Be Injured
- d.. You May Not Receive Proper Medical Care
- e.. You May Suffer Long-term Health Problems
- f.. You May Be Lied To, and Experimented Upon Without Your Knowledge
- g.. You May Face Discrimination
- h.. You May Be Asked to Do Things Against Your Beliefs
- i.. You May Find It Difficult to Leave the Military
- j.. You Have Other Choices, including the Choice to Learn a Marketable Skill

for more info:

<http://www.10reasonsbook.com/medcare.htm>