

Truth in Recruiting - "Don't Believe the Hype!"

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for August 2009

lead story:

More female veterans are winding up homeless

- factors that contribute to **homelessness** include mental trauma related to their military service and difficulty transitioning into the civilian economy
- many among homeless female veterans are single parents to boot

quote:

"Plenty of rich folks wants to fight. Give them the guns."

~Woody Guthrie

from the archives:

Lyrics to the song "War Pigs," by Black Sabbath (1978)

- an anti-war anthem, it singles out the **poverty draft**
 - song was covered by The Flaming Lips, a band formed in Oklahoma City (in 1983) at a recent appearance
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pY13dE3bqm8>

page one:

file under: providing a check and a balance against the Military-Industrial-Congressional complex
Funding pulled from outdated fighter plane designed to fight 'Cold War': \$1.75 billion saved

- The F-22 fighter is on the chopping block: plans suspended to build 7 more unneeded planes
- Designed to fight the 'Cold War,' which ended 20 years ago, each plane costs \$350 million each; some still 'on order' (purchase order not yet rescinded)
- A major victory is declared for the Obama Administration against **entrenched porkbarrelling**, in on-going battle against corporate-feeding on the U.S. fisc by the so-called defense industry

quote:

"If we can't get this right, what on earth can we get right?"

~U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates, a Republican holdover from the previous administration

facts & figures:

For every hour it is airborne, the F-22 Cold War fighter plane needs at least 30 hours on the ground at special maintenance facilities to ensure it can fly again. The **F-22 is called a 'wasteful boondoggle' by military analysts.**

A total of 187 have been built or are currently on order, as per previous funding bills from earlier administrations. The warplane never saw battle, and likely never will.

In the U.S. Senate, **14 corrupt Democrats in the U.S. Senate** disregarded the recession, national budget priorities, over-taxation, and instead decided to vote against Obama, in order to defend 'jobs' in their respective states; **15 Republicans voted with Obama** to pull the plug on any further funding for the F-22, a plane now considered a throwback to the late 20th century

Remedy proposed to Pentagon's lax enforcement of its own rule against white supremacists in U.S. armed forces

--extremist tattoos such as a swastika disqualify an applicant for enlistment, identifying the applicant as a member of a **hate group**

did you know...?

Pentagon regulations prohibit racist extremism in the ranks. White supremacists need not apply.

Pakistan Calls for End to Drone Strikes After US Aerial Attack on Funeral

--can you find Waziristan on a map? I didn't think so.

--limited coverage of this latest U.S.-sponsored massacre of Pakistani civilians

related op/ed

Obama's **Undeclared War Against Pakistan Continues**

--by Jeremy Scahill

featured book review:

When in war, **why bomb the innocent?**

--Historians argue that bombing civilians is a tragic and virtually ineffective strategy

quote, from the archives:

"The goddamned bombing campaign," he screamed, "it's been worth nothing, it's done nothing, they've dropped more bombs than in all of Europe in all of World War II, and it hasn't done a (expletive deleted) thing!"

~Robert S. McNamara, former Secretary of Defense, at his last top-level meeting, going ballistic. He became unhinged when he was proven wrong about his pet theory and carpet bombing during the Vietnam War failed to accomplish any military purpose

featured op/ed column:

War Is Sin

By Chris Hedges

analysis:

The Permanent War Economy: Parasitic Spending by the Pentagon Ruins U.S. Economy

facts:

Over a period of two years, the average U.S. motorist uses about as much fuel as does a single F-16 training jet in less than an hour.

The Abrams tank uses up 3.8 gallons of fuel in order to travel a single mile.

The Pentagon's energy use in a single year could power all U.S. mass transit systems for nearly 14 years.

source: Victor W. Sidel, "The Impact of Military Preparedness and Militarism on War and the Environment," in Austin and Bruch, eds., *The Environmental Consequences of War*, Cambridge University Press, 2000, page 441.

page two:

Case of Autistic Marine Brings Recruiting Problems to the Forefront

- Faced with quotas, **recruiters are taking shortcuts** that allow those unfit for service into the military.
- The Marine Corps is investigating the recruiter's conduct.

Oklahoma Veterans Sue Halliburton, KBR

- They claim the companies exposed soldiers to toxic smoke in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Story in the *Tulsa World*

Active Member of the U.S. Military Champions The Demise Of The Feres Doctrine

- the legal doctrine precludes U.S. military service members from pursuing damages for injuries or death caused by **non-combat related medical negligence**
- once repealed, military doctors will become subject to legal suits for medical malpractice

Now 17 Veterans with Male Breast Cancer or Rare Tumors have Camp Lejeune ties

- up to 1 million people feared exposed due to Marine Corps camp, in North Carolina
- many ex-Marines still unaware of health risk they confront

fragging case:

U.S. Sgt. Could Face Death Penalty over Iraq Slaying of Two Other U.S. Sargeants

soldiers committing **murders States-side:**

Casualties of War, Part I: The Hell of War Comes Home

- follow up on Iraq veterans losing their moral compass, when among U.S. civilians
- recently demobilized American soldiers commit various felonies, including murder

from the archives:

The 1947 film noir *Crossfire* (directed by Edward Dmytryk) addressed PTSD post-WWII

- recently demobilized American soldiers experience malaise, shell shock, problems with re-entry into civilian life
- film addresses the difficulty transitioning into the civilian economy, after deployment overseas
- veterans of WWII act out, commit senseless brutality on civilians and other veterans, sometimes murder
- plot synopsis from IMDB: "A man is murdered, apparently by one of a group of soldiers just out of the army. But which one? And why?"

quote from the film:

"I used to be in the army. I copped out. I got my DD. My dishonorable discharge."



backpage:

UNEXPLODED ordnance left over from the Vietnam War has killed more than 42,000 people

--may take 100 years to clean up Vietnam at this rate

--no help forthcoming from U.S. military, no discussion of the genocide that was the U.S. intervention in Vietnam

facts & figures:

US forces used 15 million tonnes of bombs and ammunition during the Vietnam war. An estimated 800,000 tonnes of unexploded ordnance still contaminates 20 per cent of the country's area.

follow up: epidemic of suicides in the U.S. military

26 Marine suicides so far, at the halfway point, in 2009

--annual count feared to be greatest ever, by end of 2009

from the archives:

epitaph for this edition of "Truth in Recruiting"

Antiwar song for M*A*S*H blockbuster film earned \$1.5 million dollars

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for August 2009

lead story:

More female veterans are winding up homeless

VA resources strained; many are single parents

By Bryan Bender
Boston Globe / July 6, 2009

WASHINGTON - The number of female service members who have become homeless after leaving the military has jumped dramatically in recent years, according to new government estimates, presenting the Veterans Administration with a challenge as it struggles to accommodate the hundreds of thousands of returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Discuss

COMMENTS (52)

As more women serve in combat zones, the share of female veterans who end up homeless, while still relatively small at an estimated 6,500, has nearly doubled over the last decade, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

For younger veterans, it is even more pronounced: One out of every 10 homeless vets under the age of 45 is now a woman, the statistics show.

And unlike their male counterparts, many have the added burden of being single parents.

“Some of the first homeless vets that walked into our office were single moms,” said Paul Rieckhoff, executive director and founder of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. “When people think of homeless vets, they don’t think of a Hispanic mother and her kids. The new generation of veterans is made up of far more women.”

Overall, female veterans are now between two and four times more likely to end up homeless than their civilian counterparts, according to the VA, most as a result of the same factors that contribute to homelessness among male veterans: mental trauma related to their military service and difficulty transitioning into the civilian economy.

Many of them are like Angela Peacock, a former Army sergeant who was diagnosed with PTSD when she returned from Iraq in 2004 and became addicted to pain-killers.

Later evicted from her apartment in Texas, she spent more than two years “couch-hopping” between friends and family before moving in as a squatter in an empty house in St. Louis.

“They could kick me out anytime they want,” Peacock said in an interview. “I have been clean for two and a half years and am working on getting my life back, but it doesn’t happen overnight.”

http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2009/07/06/more_female_veterans_are_winding_up_homeless/

Lyrics to the song "War Pigs"

War Pigs (1970), by Black Sabbath, Ozzy Osbourne on vocals

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtqy4DTHGqg>

2,959,588 views on You Tube (check out the crowd at the end of the video clip)

Generals gathered in their masses,
just like witches at black masses.
Evil minds that plot destruction,
sorcerers of death's construction.
In the fields the bodies burning,
as the war machine keeps turning.
Death and hatred to mankind,
poisoning their brainwashed minds.
Oh lord, yeah!

Politicians hide themselves away.
They only started the war.
Why should they go out to fight?
They leave that role to the poor, yeah.

Time will tell on their power and might,
making war just for fun.
Treating people just like pawns in chess,
wait till their judgment day comes, yeah.

Now in darkness world stops turning,
ashes where the bodies burning.
No more War Pigs have the power,
Hand of God has struck the hour.
Day of judgment, God is calling,
on their knees the war pigs crawling.
Begging mercies for their sins,
Satan, laughing, spreads his wings.
Oh lord, yeah!
--Black Sabbath, War Pigs

"We killed the wrong pig."

~Winston Churchill, on the debacle that was the outcome of WWII, ushering in the Cold War

The song has been covered by the band Sacred Reich on the EP Surf Nicaragua and their live EP Alive at the Dynamo, PIG on the Prime Evil EP, and Faith No More whose cover was featured on their 1989 album The Real Thing and the Nativity in Black tribute album. Gov't Mule covered 'War Pigs' on their 1999 album, Live... With a Little Help from Our Friends. The song was also covered by Reef on their Waster single. Additionally, the alternative band Cake has been known to cover the song during live shows every now and then. A studio recorded version of the song appears on the band's website as an intro, and leads off their B-Sides and Rarities CD. It has also been covered live by bluegrass tribute

band, Hayseed Dixie.

Additional covers include the following:

* The song was covered by The Flaming Lips at multiple concerts. Images of dead bodies and politicians (namely George W. Bush, Dick Cheney and Condoleezza Rice) were displayed on a screen behind the band as they played. This version was subsequently recorded for their iTunes Originals session. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pY13dE3bqm8>

"When soldiers cannot be motivated by patriotism and the belief that they are fighting for a just cause, other basic motivating concepts must be found to replace them. Sexism, racism, and homophobia are coldly and manipulatively used to get soldiers to fight."

~authors Marjorie Cohn and Kathleen Gilberd, in *Rules of Disengagement: The Politics and Honor of Military Dissent* (Poll Point Press, Sausalito, 2009)

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page one:

Obama Wins A Battle against the Military-Industrial-Congressional Complex

by Jim Lobe, July 23, 2009

In a signal victory for President Barack Obama and Defense Secretary Robert Gates, the U.S. Senate voted Tuesday evening to end production of an advanced fighter jet that many independent military analysts have long considered a wasteful boondoggle.

The 58-40 vote to delete 1.75 billion dollars in funding to order seven more F-22 "Raptor" jet fighters as part of the 534-billion-dollar 2010 military authorization bill marked a major defeat for military contractors, particularly defense giants Lockheed Martin and Boeing, which have profited handsomely over the years from the plane's production and have spared little expense in lobbying for its continuation.

And while battle over the plane's fate is not yet over – the current version of the bill moving through the House of Representatives authorizes 369 million dollars for spare parts for 12 more planes after 2010 – a number of F-22 advocates admitted they face an uphill climb.

"I think it is a huge, huge victory for Obama and Gates and is a big step toward instituting a strategic shift within the Pentagon," wrote Max Bergmann, the deputy policy director of the National Security Network (NSN), on his blog for democracyarsenal.org.

"This vote was about whether the Pentagon would be able to institutionalize the lessons from Iraq and

Afghanistan and finally move out of the Cold War strategic mindset that still dominates," he added.

"I've never see a White House lobby like they've lobbied on this issue," noted **Sen. Saxby Chambliss**, whose home state of Georgia hosts Lockheed's main F-22 manufacturing plant and who had led the effort to retain the order for more planes in the funding bill.

While the price tag for the seven planes was relatively small compared to other weapons systems, such as a fleet of new VH-71 helicopters, several defense program, a new Navy destroyer, the Virginia class submarine, that the administration wants to curb or eliminate altogether, the F-22 is perhaps the most important symbol of the kind of changes Gates, in particular, has argued are necessary to deal with the full range of challenges the U.S. military is likely to face in the coming years.

Gates and independent military specialists contend that far too much of the defense budget – which makes up nearly half of total global military spending – is devoted to hi-tech weapons systems designed for warfare against major global and technologically advanced adversaries which currently do not exist. Too little, by contrast, has gone to more mundane weapons and equipment useful in unconventional conflicts, such as those in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As Gates said in a speech recently, Washington should no longer "design and buy – as we have the last 60 years – only the most technologically advanced versions of weapons to keep up with or stay ahead of another superpower adversary, especially one that imploded nearly a generation ago."

"We must break the old habit of adding layer upon layer of cost, complexity, and delay to systems that are so expensive and so elaborate that only a small number can be built, and that are then usable only in a narrow range of low-probability scenarios."

"It is time to draw the line on doing defense business as usual," he told the Economic Club of Chicago Thursday, adding that "the more they buy of stuff we don't need, the less we have available for the stuff we do. It's just as simple as that. It ain't a complicated problem."

Developed in the latter part of the 1980's, the stealth F-22 – each of which costs 350 million dollars — is the world's most-advanced fighter jet, designed for high-altitude combat of the kind that was contemplated in the event of war with the former Soviet Union. A total of 187 have been built or are currently on order.

In its 20-plus year history, however, it has never seen actual combat. Worse, it has suffered from a host of technical problems, not least of which is the fact that for every hour it is airborne, it needs at least 30 hours on the ground at special maintenance facilities to ensure it can fly again.

Yet Congress, almost without debate, has continued to order new F-22s, primarily because the Air Force and Lockheed spread production of the plane – and the 25,000 direct and up to 70,000 indirect jobs dependent on it — across 44 of the 50 states, including Congressional districts whose representatives, including Democrats, hold key positions on the committees that authorize and appropriate money for the Pentagon.

As a result, the F-22 vote, like many votes affecting the interests of what former President Dwight Eisenhower denounced as the "military-industrial complex", was decided more by the plane's role in providing jobs than in defending the country against actual threats.

That point was made effectively by none other than Obama's Republican rival, Sen. John McCain, who has long opposed the F-22.

"The fact that the F-22 program is no longer... wanted by the most senior civilian and uniformed officials in the Pentagon — exercising their best professional judgment — and that it is simply no longer affordable cannot be disputed," he said during the debate that preceded the vote.

McCain was one of 15 Republicans who backed Obama on the vote, while 14 Democrats, including veteran doves, such as California Sens. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, and Washington State Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell voted against him. Lockheed and Boeing employ more people in California and Washington, respectively.

If the House retains its authorization for F-22 spare parts, it will have to be reconciled with the Senate version, so significant battles over the plane's fate — including its possible resurrection through appropriations legislation — still loom. But Obama's victory gives him the momentum.

(Inter Press Service)

<http://original.antiwar.com/lobe/2009/07/22/obama-wins-big-victory-on-defense/>

Gates vows to fight Congress on defense budget

Thu Jul 16, 10:22 pm ET

CHICAGO (AFP) – US Defense Secretary Robert Gates said he would fight lawmakers to ensure cuts to the F-22 fighter program, saying it was a test of efforts to reform entrenched military spending.

"It is time to draw the line on doing defense business as usual," Gates said in a speech, adding that President Barack Obama would make good on a threat to veto any defense budget that includes money for new F-22 Raptors.

"The president has drawn that line. And that red line with regard to a veto is real."

Speaking to the Economic Club of Chicago, Gates portrayed the issue as a crucial test of whether military spending could be reformed and the defense establishment weaned away from habits formed during the Cold War.

"If we can't get this right, what on earth can we get right?"

The Obama administration has proposed capping production of the F-22 at 187 jets, meaning only four more would be built, but the Senate Armed Services Committee has drafted legislation funding seven more F-22s at a cost of 1.75 billion dollars.

The F-22 Raptors, equipped with radar-evading technology and built by Lockheed Martin and Boeing, cost about 350 million dollars each and have been in development since the Cold War.

The US Air Force had proposed building nearly 400 F-22s, which were designed to fight other sophisticated enemy fighter jets, but Gates vetoed further expansion as wasteful and unnecessary,

especially given the slow development of rival fighter jets by potential adversaries such as China.

The military budget "adds up to about what the entire rest of the world combined -- friend and foe alike -- spends on defense," Gates said.

Gates blasted what he called "requirements creep" in defense spending, where weapons programs were overloaded with unnecessary features "to the point of absurdity."

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090717/wl_afp/usmilitarybudgetaircraft

More coverage:

Reaction from the U.S. House Representative, Ron Paul (R-TX):

Ron Paul said that President Obama's decision to cancel the F-22 fighter jet program was "a first very very minor step ... and I applaud Obama for that. But we don't need just one [defense project] removed, we need to change our foreign policy, then we could afford the health care that is necessary."

And to finance health reform, Paul would like to see the US end its overseas military engagements. "I would cut from overseas spending, I would cut from these trillions and trillions of dollars that we have spent over the years and bring our troops home so that we can finance it [health care]."

<http://rawstory.com/08/news/2009/07/22/ron-paul-cut-overseas-spending-to-pay-for-health-care/>

Remedy proposed to Pentagon's lax enforcement of rule against white supremacists in U.S. armed forces

quote:

"Military personnel must reject participation in organizations that espouse supremacist causes. Active participation, such as publicly demonstrating or rallying, fund raising, recruiting and training members, organizing or leading such organizations, or otherwise engaging in activities in relation to such organizations ... that are viewed by command to be detrimental to the good order, discipline, or mission accomplishment of the unit, is incompatible with Military Service, and is, therefore, prohibited."

~a Defense Department directive issued in 1996

Last month, Rep. Alcee Hastings, D-Fla., attached an amendment to the 2010 defense authorization bill that would expressly ban the "recruitment, enlistment or retention" of anyone tied to an extremist group.

"The problem is that in many instances, recruiters and commanding officers are looking the other way," Hastings said in a statement. "The United States Government should not be providing the highest quality of military training in the world to individuals who hope to use that training in a 'race war' or in an effort to overthrow the United States Government."

Speaking to the House and Senate committees overseeing the armed forces, July 2009, Morris Dees said: "In the wake of several high-profile murders by extremists of the radical right, we urge your committees to investigate the threat posed by racial extremists who may be serving in the military to ensure that our armed forces are not inadvertently training future domestic terrorists." Dees is SPLC co-founder and chief trial counsel for the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#), the Montgomery, Ala.-based watchdog group that tracks extremist hate groups.

In 2006, the SPLC released a report asserting that "thousands" of active-duty troops in the U.S. Armed Forces could have hate group affiliations. The law center said that some military officers conceded that recruitment and retention pressures forced them to look the other way when presented with overwhelming evidence of hate group membership.

Later, the FBI said it suspected hundreds of servicemembers had been recruited into extremist groups.

Last November, the SPLC, feeling its warnings to former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had been ignored, urged the current secretary, Robert Gates, to revisit the issue.

"Since we issued our 2006 report, the problem may have worsened," SPLC President Richard Cohen wrote to Gates.

By this spring, a Department of Homeland Security report said law enforcement groups should beware of extremists coming out of military duty or groups trying to recruit susceptible veterans for their combat skills.

sources:

<http://www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=63650>

Pakistan Calls for End to Drone Strikes After US Attack on Funeral

"These Drone Attacks Are Counterproductive," Foreign Office Insists
Jason Ditz, June 25, 2009

Tuesday's strike reportedly was aimed at Tehreek-e Taliban Pakistan leader Baitullah Mehsud, though he was not present at the time of the attack. The strike killed at least 80 people however, and sources involved in the rescue say that at least 35 of those slain were civilians. No militant commanders were reported killed in the strike, the deadliest single US attack on Pakistani soil.

Pakistani Prime Minister Yousef Raza Gilani also criticized the attack, saying the incessant US strikes were undermining the nation's attempts at isolating the TTP leadership from the various tribes in the effected area.

US officials have seemingly gone out of their way not to comment on the killings.

<http://news.antiwar.com/2009/06/25/pakistan-expresses-concern-after-us-drone-attack-on-funeral/>

Obama's Undeclared War Against Pakistan Continues

by Jeremy Scahill, June 25, 2009

Three days after his inauguration, on January 23, 2009, President Barack Obama ordered US predator drones to attack sites inside of Pakistan, reportedly killing 15 people. It was the first documented attack ordered by the new US Commander in Chief inside of Pakistan. Since that first Obama-authorized attack, the US has regularly bombed Pakistan, killing scores of civilians. The New York Times reported that the attacks were clear evidence Obama "is continuing, and in some cases extending, Bush administration policy." In the first 99 days of 2009, more than 150 people were reportedly killed in these drone attacks. The most recent documented attack was Tuesday in Waziristan. Since 2006, the US drone strikes have killed 687 people (as of April). That amounts to about 38 deaths a month just from drone attacks.

The only difference between using these attack drones and using actual US soldiers on the ground is that the soldiers are living beings. These drones sanitize war and reduce the US death toll while still unleashing military hell disproportionately on civilians. The bottom line is that the use of drones inside the borders of Pakistan amounts to the same violation of sovereignty that would result from sending US soldiers inside the country.

Moreover, US special forces are already operating inside of Pakistan, along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Baluchistan.

It is clear — and has been for a long time — that the Obama administration is radically expanding the US war in Afghanistan deeply into Pakistan. Whether it is through US military trainers (that's what they were called in Vietnam too), drone attacks or commando raids inside the country, the US is militarily entrenched in Pakistan. It makes Obama's comment that "[W]e have no intention of sending US troops into Pakistan" simply unbelievable.

For a sense of how significant US operations are and will continue to be for years and years to come, just look at the US plan to build an almost \$1 billion massive US "embassy" in Islamabad.

<http://original.antiwar.com/scahill/2009/06/24/obamas-undeclared-war-against-pakistan-continues/>

featured book review:

When in war, why bomb the innocent?

Historians argue that bombing civilians is a tragic and virtually ineffective strategy

Sunday, June 28, 2009

By Jeff Kingston

BOMBING CIVILIANS: A Twentieth Century History. Edited by Yuki Tanaka and Marilyn Young. New York: The New Press, 2009, 291 pp. \$30 (cloth)

How one feels about what one is reading can differ depending on where and when. Reading these

essays while boarding a flight from Tokyo, transiting Hanoi and then arriving in Laos — all places that have been subjected to extensive U.S. bombing — is to feel the long arm of history tug at one's conscience.

Some monks I met in Luang Prabang (Laos) recounted a recent journey to the Plain of Jars, a World Heritage sight. They said there are carefully marked paths with signs warning not to wander off because of unexploded ordnance in the area — cluster bombs dropped by the United States on a neutral country in a secret war that never happened. Estimates suggest that this insidious legacy of the bombings, which ended in the 1970s, has resulted in more than 20,000 Laotian casualties including many maimed children.

Rather than accusing, seeking vengeance or accountability, the monks calmly praised the very limited mine clearing efforts of U.S. veterans. They said they don't feel anger; it was all a long time ago and would be of little importance if not for the continuing dangers.

This unsought absolution stirs a sense of incredulity about why the U.S. government has done so little to help a desperately poor country that it dragged into the maelstrom of the Vietnam War. This malign neglect also extends to Vietnam, where people continue to suffer from the dioxin residue left behind by extensive spraying of Agent Orange during the war

Mark Selden argues that the U.S. has much to answer for in the indiscriminate bombing of civilians in Japan. We learn that Japan crossed that bridge itself in 1932 with the bombing of Shanghai, and Tetsuo Maeda details Japan's bombing campaign against Congquing's civilians from 1938.

Selden and colleagues are not out to exonerate the Japanese or privilege their suffering over what they inflicted on others. He is reminding us, though, that the U.S. systematically firebombed and gutted 66 Japanese cities in 1945 under flimsy excuses that these were primarily military targets.

The intention, however, was not solely a matter of zapping Japan's factories and infrastructure. This aerial terror amounted to vengeance, payback for Pearl Harbor and mistreatment of prisoners of war, and was intended to inflict as much suffering on the civilian populace as possible.

However much this campaign of "terror bombing" disrupted life and demoralized the people, Japan's military leaders were undaunted as they persisted in gambling on a decisive battle. For this, there was a price to be paid and, as in most modern conflicts, civilians paid the highest price. The firebombing of Tokyo alone killed an estimated 100,000 people. The total firebombing tally is roughly 300,000 plus 400,000 wounded (these figures exclude Hiroshima and Nagasaki).

Selden reminds us that the comforting dominant narrative of the Good War (aka World War II) averts our eyes from the grim realities of these crimes against humanity and the ongoing evasion of accountability.

Selden believes the failure to hold the victors accountable for crimes is crucial to understanding why "Mass murder of civilians has been central to all subsequent U.S. wars." He concludes that "the pre-eminence of strategic bombing as quintessential to the American way of war" persists even though it has not been effective.

Marilyn Young's essay explores the fallacy that bombing of civilians is effective, a mistaken assumption that has led to horrific humanitarian consequences for little strategic gain.

Yuki Tanaka traces the early history of aerial bombing of civilians from World War I. In the aftermath, the battered British found such bombing an economical way to maintain imperial interests. The first campaign was against Afghanistan in 1919 followed by Somaliland and then far more extensively in Iraq during the 1920s and 1930s.

In Iraq, civilian casualties were high and intentional as part of a campaign to demoralize the population. The British, and subsequently the Italians in Ethiopia, were explicitly racist in justifying indiscriminate bombing of those they viewed as "uncivilized," while this is implicit among contemporary avatars. The efficacy of this strategy remained unquestioned even though the results were decidedly mixed.

Tsuyoshi Hasegawa asks whether the atomic bombings were justified and were the key to Japan's surrender; he gives an unequivocal no on both counts. He argues that Truman used the atomic bomb in an effort to secure Japan's surrender before Stalin could enter the war and impose a joint occupation.

In his view, the decision to surrender was not due mainly to the atomic bombings, but rather to the Soviet entry into the war as well as concerns about preservation of the monarchy.

How can the international community hold any country accountable if the worst perpetrators get immunity?

byline: Jeff Kingston is Director of Asian Studies at Temple University, Japan campus.

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/fb20090628a1.html>

featured op/ed column

War Is Sin

Posted on Jun 1, 2009

By Chris Hedges

The crisis faced by combat veterans returning from war is not simply a profound struggle with trauma and alienation. It is often, for those who can slice through the suffering to self-awareness, an existential crisis. War exposes the lies we tell ourselves about ourselves. It rips open the hypocrisy of our religions and secular institutions. Those who return from war have learned something which is often incomprehensible to those who have stayed home. We are not a virtuous nation. God and fate have not blessed us above others. Victory is not assured. War is neither glorious nor noble. And we carry within us the capacity for evil we ascribe to those we fight.

Those who return to speak this truth, such as members of Iraq Veterans Against the War, are our contemporary prophets. But like all prophets they are condemned and ignored for their courage. They struggle, in a culture awash in lies, to tell what few have the fortitude to digest. They know that what we are taught in school, in worship, by the press, through the entertainment industry and at home, that the melding of the state's rhetoric with the rhetoric of religion, is empty and false.

The words these prophets speak are painful. We, as a nation, prefer to listen to those who speak from the patriotic script. We prefer to hear ourselves exalted. If veterans speak of terrible wounds visible and invisible, of lies told to make them kill, of evil committed in our name, we fill our ears with wax. Not

our boys, we say, not them, bred in our homes, endowed with goodness and decency. For if it is easy for them to murder, what about us? And so it is simpler and more comfortable not to hear. We do not listen to the angry words that cascade forth from their lips, wishing only that they would calm down, be reasonable, get some help, and go away. We, the deformed, brand our prophets as madmen. We cast them into the desert. And this is why so many veterans are estranged and enraged. This is why so many succumb to suicide or addictions.

War comes wrapped in patriotic slogans, calls for sacrifice, honor and heroism and promises of glory. It comes wrapped in the claims of divine providence. It is what a grateful nation asks of its children. It is what is right and just. It is waged to make the nation and the world a better place, to cleanse evil. War is touted as the ultimate test of manhood, where the young can find out what they are made of. War, from a distance, seems noble. It gives us comrades and power and a chance to play a small bit in the great drama of history. It promises to give us an identity as a warrior, a patriot, as long as we go along with the myth, the one the war-makers need to wage wars and the defense contractors need to increase their profits.

But up close war is a soulless void. War is about barbarity, perversion and pain, an unchecked orgy of death. Human decency and tenderness are crushed. Those who make war work overtime to reduce love to smut, and all human beings become objects, pawns to use or kill. The noise, the stench, the fear, the scenes of eviscerated bodies and bloated corpses, the cries of the wounded, all combine to spin those in combat into another universe. In this moral void, naively blessed by secular and religious institutions at home, the hypocrisy of our social conventions, our strict adherence to moral precepts, come unglued. War, for all its horror, has the power to strip away the trivial and the banal, the empty chatter and foolish obsessions that fill our days. It lets us see, although the cost is tremendous.

The Rev. William P. Mahedy, who was a Catholic chaplain in Vietnam, tells of a soldier, a former altar boy, in his book "Out of the Night: The Spiritual Journey of Vietnam Vets," who says to him: "Hey, Chaplain ... how come it's a sin to hop into bed with a mama-san but it's okay to blow away gooks out in the bush?"

"Consider the question that he and I were forced to confront on that day in a jungle clearing," Mahedy writes. "How is it that a Christian can, with a clear conscience, spend a year in a war zone killing people and yet place his soul in jeopardy by spending a few minutes with a prostitute? If the New Testament prohibitions of sexual misconduct are to be stringently interpreted, why, then, are Jesus' injunctions against violence not binding in the same way? In other words, what does the commandment 'Thou shalt not kill' really mean?"

Military chaplains, a majority of whom are evangelical Christians, defend the life of the unborn, tout America as a Christian nation and eagerly bless the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as holy crusades. The hollowness of their morality, the staggering disconnect between the values they claim to promote, is ripped open in war.

There is a difference between killing someone who is trying to kill you and taking the life of someone who does not have the power to harm you. The first is killing. The second is murder. But in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, where the enemy is elusive and rarely seen, murder occurs far more often than killing. Families are massacred in airstrikes. Children are gunned down in blistering suppressing fire laid down in neighborhoods after an improvised explosive device goes off near a convoy. Artillery shells obliterate homes. And no one stops to look. The dead and maimed are left behind.

The utter failure of nearly all our religious institutions—whose texts are unequivocal about murder—to address the essence of war has rendered them useless. These institutions have little or nothing to say in wartime because the god they worship is a false god, one that promises victory to those who obey the law and believe in the manifest destiny of the nation.

We all have the capacity to commit evil. It takes little to unleash it. For those of us who have been to war this is the awful knowledge that is hardest to digest, the knowledge that the line between the victims and the victimizers is razor-thin, that human beings find a perverse delight in destruction and death, and that few can resist the pull. At best, most of us become silent accomplices.

Wars may have to be fought to ensure survival, but they are always tragic. They always bring to the surface the worst elements of any society, those who have a penchant for violence and a lust for absolute power. They turn the moral order upside down. It was the criminal class that first organized the defense of Sarajevo. When these goons were not manning roadblocks to hold off the besieging Bosnian Serb army they were looting, raping and killing the Serb residents in the city. And those politicians who speak of war as an instrument of power, those who wage war but do not know its reality, those powerful statesmen—the Henry Kissingers, Robert McNamaras, Donald Rumsfelds, the Dick Cheneys—those who treat war as part of the great game of nations, are as amoral as the religious stooges who assist them. And when the wars are over what they have to say to us in their thick memoirs about war is also hollow, vacant and useless.

“In theological terms, war is sin,” writes Mahedy. “This has nothing to do with whether a particular war is justified or whether isolated incidents in a soldier’s war were right or wrong. The point is that war as a human enterprise is a matter of sin. It is a form of hatred for one’s fellow human beings. It produces alienation from others and nihilism, and it ultimately represents a turning away from God.”

The young soldiers and Marines do not plan or organize the war. They do not seek to justify it or explain its causes. They are taught to believe. The symbols of the nation and religion are interwoven. The will of God becomes the will of the nation. This trust is forever shattered for many in war. Soldiers in combat see the myth used to send them to war implode. They see that war is not clean or neat or noble, but venal and frightening. They see into war’s essence, which is death.

War is always about betrayal. It is about betrayal of the young by the old, of cynics by idealists, and of soldiers and Marines by politicians. Society’s institutions, including our religious institutions, which mold us into compliant citizens, are unmasked. This betrayal is so deep that many never find their way back to faith in the nation or in any god. They nurse a self-destructive anger and resentment, understandable and justified, but also crippling. Ask a combat veteran struggling to piece his or her life together about God and watch the raw vitriol and pain pour out. They have seen into the corrupt heart of America, into the emptiness of its most sacred institutions, into our staggering hypocrisy, and those of us who refuse to heed their words become complicit in the evil they denounce.

http://www.truthdig.com/report/page2/20090601_war_is_sin/

page two:

Case of autistic Marine brings recruiting problems to the forefront

Faced with quotas, a few recruiters are taking shortcuts that allow those unfit for service into the military.

By Tony Perry

July 6, 2009

Reporting from San Diego -- A few days after he arrived at boot camp here, Joshua Fry no longer wanted to be a Marine.

He was confused by the orders drill instructors shouted at him. He was caught stealing peanut butter from the chow hall. He urinated in his canteen. He talked back to the drill instructors. He refused to shave.

Finally, he set out toward the main gate as if to head home. He was blocked, but now he had the chance to tell his superiors a secret: He was autistic. Fry figured this admission would persuade the Marines to let him return to the group home in Irvine for disturbed young adults where he was living when he enlisted.

Instead, he was sent back to Platoon 1021, Company B. The drill instructors became more helpful, and in April 2008 he finished the grueling 11-week regimen and was sent to Camp Pendleton for infantry training.

Within weeks he was under arrest for desertion and possession of child pornography.

Documents in Fry's court-martial case detail a troubled upbringing and a Marine career that was both improbable and misbegotten.

But far from being a routine instance of a young man unable to adjust to military life, the Fry case has exposed an awkward issue for the Marines and other military services: Recruiters sometimes take ethical shortcuts to make their quotas at a time when Americans have tired of the nation's wars and finding recruits is difficult.

According to court documents, Fry's recruiter knew he was autistic. The Marine Corps is investigating the recruiter's conduct.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-marine-autism6-2009jul06,0,7706948.story>

Oklahoma veterans sue Halliburton, KBR

They claim the companies exposed soldiers to toxic smoke in Iraq and Afghanistan.

By DAVID HARPER World Staff Writer

Published: 7/18/2009

Two Oklahoma veterans of the war in Iraq are suing Halliburton Co. and KBR Inc., saying the companies "callously exposed and continue to expose soldiers and others to toxic smoke, ash and fumes" in Iraq and Afghanistan.

David Green of Miami, Okla., and Nick Daniel Heisler of Lawton say in the lawsuit, filed in federal court in Tulsa, that they are seeking "redress for American soldiers and others deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan who were poisoned" by the companies.

O'Neil said Friday that about 20 deaths have resulted from the defendants' actions.

He declined to estimate the number of people who have been sickened or injured, saying that total should become more clear during the discovery process.

A motion to certify the cases as a class-action lawsuit eventually will be filed, O'Neil said.

The majority of the cases involve smoke-related injuries from burn pits.

O'Neil said motions have been made to transfer the cases to one federal court district — either in Maryland or Florida — for consolidated pretrial discovery.

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20090718_14_A1_TwoOk1510860

Active Member of the U.S. Military Champions The Demise Of The Feres Doctrine

Posted by Bret Hanna

June 25, 2009

The "Feres Doctrine" was created by a 1950 U.S. Supreme Court decision that, for the most part, precludes U.S. military service members from pursuing damages for injuries or death caused by non-combat related medical negligence. Unfortunately, this doctrine hits too close to home for one Utahn.

Col. Adele Connell, 57, of Stansbury Park, has been an active member of the military for more than 30 years. She is speaking out now because she does not want other service members to go through what she has for the last eight months. Last November, Connell was diagnosed with cancer in her left breast. The treatment plan included removal of both breasts as well as one lymph node suspected to be

involved. A surgeon at Walter Reed Army Medical Center did remove a lymph node on the cancerous left breast but although no cancer was found on the healthy right breast, the surgeon went ahead and erroneously removed 17 additional glands. The result is that Connell is afflicted with lymphedema and she has a compromised immune system.

There is a movement afoot to address what many characterize as an injustice against military service members who do not enjoy the same rights to address acts of medical negligence that the general public and even prison inmates enjoy. The U.S. House Judiciary Committee is considering the Carmelo Rodriguez Military Medical Accountability Act named for a 28 year old Marine whose developing skin cancer was repeatedly misdiagnosed as a wart. Sgt. Rodriguez died last year.

If passed in its current form, the bill will be retroactive to 1997 which will potentially benefit another Utah family. Alexis Witt is the widow of Sgt. Dean Witt. In 2003, Sgt. Witt was 25 when he developed severe abdominal pains. He was diagnosed with appendicitis and he had his appendix removed in 2003. He was then left in the care of a student nurse and two hospital interns who failed to recognize signs of trouble. His family claims that when problems were identified, the medical staff used improper breathing equipment to help him breathe and that he ended up in a vegetative state. Sgt. Witt died three months later.

Basic notions of fairness dictate that the Feres Doctrine disappear into the annals of military history.

<http://saltlakecity.injuryboard.com/medical-malpractice/utahn-champions-the-demise-of-the-feres-doctrine.aspx?googleid=265638>

Now 17 veterans with rare cancer or tumors with Camp Lejeune ties

By William R. Levesque, *St Petersburg Times* Staff Writer
In Print: Saturday, July 4, 2009

Scientists studying drinking water contamination at Camp Lejeune were startled when 11 men with breast cancer and ties to the North Carolina base were identified over the last two years.

Six more have been found in one week.

Five additional men with breast cancer and a sixth who had a double mastectomy after doctors found precancerous tumors contacted the St. Petersburg Times last week after reading a story about the 11 men with the rare disease.

"This male breast cancer cluster is a smoking gun," breast cancer survivor Mike Partain said on Friday. "You just can't ignore it. You don't need science to tell you something is wrong. It's common sense. It begs to be studied."

Partain, 41, of Tallahassee, was born at the Marine Corps base and diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007. He has worked for two years to find other men with breast cancer who lived at Camp Lejeune.

He found the first nine men before the Times profiled his search in a story on June 28, a story that

noted the newspaper had found another man not on Partain's list.

In the days after that story, other male breast cancer survivors called or e-mailed the Times.

Camp Lejeune's drinking water was contaminated for 30 years ending in 1987 with high levels of industrial degreasers called trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE). Clapp said both have been linked to other suspicious male breast cancer clusters elsewhere.

Congress has ordered the Marines last year to notify those who might have been exposed. Some estimates put the number at up to 1 million people.

Many Marines, however, are still unaware.

Were you at Camp Lejeune?

If you or a family member lived at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and have been diagnosed with male breast cancer, the St. Petersburg Times is interested in talking to you. Please call reporter William R. Levesque at (813) 269-5306 or toll-free at 1-800-333-7505, ext. 5306.

Anyone who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune in 1987 or before can register with the Marine Corps for a health survey. To register or to get more information, visit <https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater/> or call (877) 261-9782.

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/military/veterans/article1015699.ece>

Soldier could face death penalty over Iraq slaying of peers

Soldier to be tried in court martial over Iraq slayings at Ga. base; could face death penalty

Russ Bynum, AP News
Jul 07, 2009

The Army says a sergeant charged with slaying two U.S. soldiers in Iraq will be tried by a general court-martial and could face a death sentence if he's convicted.

The commander of Ft. Stewart in Georgia, Maj. Gen. Anthony Cucolo, ordered the military's highest level of court-martial on Tuesday for Sgt. Joseph Bozicevich (BOZ-eh-vich).

Army prosecutors say 39-year-old Bozicevich of Minneapolis shot Staff Sgt. Darris Dawson and Sgt. Wesley Durbin last fall at a joint U.S.-Iraqi patrol base south of Baghdad. Witnesses at a preliminary hearing in April said Bozicevich opened fire on the soldiers after they tried to counsel him for poor performance.

His defense attorney has said Bozicevich was trying to defend himself.

No trial date has been set.

Source: AP News

<http://wire.antiwar.com/2009/07/07/soldier-could-face-death-penalty-over-iraq-slaying/>

Casualties of War, Part I:

The hell of war comes home

July 26, 2009

DAVE PHILIPPS

THE GAZETTE

Before the murders started, Anthony Marquez's mom dialed his sergeant at Fort Carson to warn that her son was poised to kill.

It was February 2006, and the 21-year-old soldier had not been the same since being wounded and coming home from Iraq eight months before. He had violent outbursts and thrashing nightmares. He was devouring pain pills and drinking too much. He always packed a gun.

"It was a dangerous combination. I told them he was a walking time bomb," said his mother, Teresa Hernandez.

His sergeant told her there was nothing he could do. Then, she said, he started taunting her son, saying things like, "Your mommy called. She says you are going crazy."

Eight months later, the time bomb exploded when her son used a stun gun to repeatedly shock a small-time drug dealer in Widefield over an ounce of marijuana, then shot him through the heart.

Marquez was the first infantry soldier in his brigade to murder someone after returning from Iraq. But he wasn't the last.

Back home, 10 of its infantrymen have been arrested and accused of murder, attempted murder or manslaughter since 2006. Others have committed suicide, or tried to.

Soldiers say the torture and killing of Iraqi civilians lurked in the ranks. And when these soldiers came home to Colorado Springs suffering the emotional wounds of combat, soldiers say, some were ignored, some were neglected, some were thrown away and some were punished.

Some kept killing — this time in Colorado Springs.

Many of those soldiers are now behind bars.

This month, Fort Carson released a 126-page report by a task force of behavioral-health and Army professionals who looked for common threads in the soldiers' crimes.

Marquez, who was arrested before the latest programs were created, said he would never have pulled the trigger if he had not gone to Iraq.

“If I was just a guy off the street, I might have hesitated to shoot,” Marquez said this spring as he sat in the Bent County Correctional Facility, where he is serving 30 years. “But after Iraq, it was just natural.”

More killing by more soldiers followed.

In August 2007, Louis Bressler, 24, robbed and shot a soldier he picked up on a street in Colorado Springs.

In December 2007, Bressler and fellow soldiers Bruce Bastien Jr., 21, and Kenneth Eastridge, 24, left the bullet-riddled body of a soldier from their unit on a west-side street.

In May and June 2008, police say Rudolfo Torres-Gandarilla, 20, and Jomar Falu-Vives, 23, drove around with an assault rifle, randomly shooting people.

In September 2008, police say John Needham, 25, beat a former girlfriend to death.

Most of the killers were from a single 500-soldier unit within the brigade called the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment.

Soldiers from other units at Fort Carson have committed crimes after deployments — military bookings at the El Paso County jail have tripled since the start of the Iraq war — but no other unit has a record as bad as the soldiers of the 4th Brigade.

In a one-year period from the fall of 2007 to the fall of 2008, the murder rate for the 500 Lethal Warriors was 114 times the rate for Colorado Springs.

The killings are only the headline-grabbing tip of a much broader pyramid of crime. Since 2005, the brigade’s returning soldiers have been involved in brawls, beatings, rapes, DUIs, drug deals, domestic violence, shootings, stabbings, kidnapping and suicides.

<http://www.gazette.com/articles/iframe-59065-eastridge-audio.html>

backpage

Leftover firearms killed 42,000 civilians since end of Vietnam War

June 29, 2009

HANOI - UNEXPLODED ordnance left over from the Vietnam War has killed more than 42,000 people in the country since the conflict ended more than three decades ago, and deadly accidents continue daily, a senior military official said on Monday.

US forces used 15 million tonnes of bombs and ammunition during the war and an estimated 800,000 tonnes of unexploded ordnance still contaminates 20 per cent of the country's area, Vice Defence Minister Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Huy Hieu wrote in the state-run People's Army newspaper.

He said it may take more than 100 years to clear the contaminated area.

In addition to the deaths, some 62,000 people have been injured since the end of the war in 1975, and tens of thousands of them are permanently disabled, he said, adding that the ordnance has also caused big economic losses to Vietnam.

Mr Hieu said the government, helped with funds from international organisations and countries including the United States, has cleared more than 3 per cent of the contaminated area. It may cost tens of billions of dollars to finish the job, he said.

Mr Hieu's figures apparently did not include casualties in neighbouring Laos and Cambodia, which were also heavily bombed by the United States during the conflict and where thousands of people have also died in ordnance accidents since 1975.

http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory_396850.html

26 Marine suicides so far in 2009

By Dan Lamothe - Staff writer

Tuesday Jul 28, 2009

The Corps recorded 26 suspected or confirmed suicides in the first half of 2009 despite broad-based efforts introduced to reduce the number of Marines taking their own life, officials said.

The 26 dead Marines put the Corps on pace for 52 in 2009, which would be the most since the beginning of the Iraq war in 2003.

Last year, the Corps lost 42 Marines to confirmed or suspected suicides, up from 25 in 2006 and 33 in 2007. The recent numbers have alarmed Marine leadership, prompting additional “all-hands” prevention training in March that included videos made by commanders, a slideshow outlining recent statistics and an overview of warning signs shown by Marines at risk of killing themselves.

“Peer groups have to recognize the signs at ankle level, not chest level,” said Sgt. Maj. Michael Timmerman, the senior enlisted adviser with the Personal and Family Readiness Division at Marine Corps headquarters.

Kent said he wants NCOs to feel empowered to report that a Marine in turmoil may be considering suicide, but he believes senior enlisted leadership and officers also need to be actively involved.

http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/2009/07/marine_suicide_072709w/

epitaph for this addition of "Truth in Recruiting"

sidebar:

M*A*S*H, the movie (Robert Altman, USA, 1970), featured the song "Suicide Is Painless"

music by Johnny Mandel and lyrics by Mike Altman, the director's 14-year-old son.

"A brave man once requested me
to answer questions that are key
is it to be or not to be
and I replied 'oh why ask me?'"

Ten years after the film's release, the song reached number one in the UK charts. The television show used an instrumental version of the song as its theme music.

Complete lyrics and audio track available online

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4gO7uemm6Yo>

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

masthead

The website for the **Tulsa Peace Fellowship** is:

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 (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

Tulsa Peace Fellowship is non-partisan, and is open to 3rd parties, progressives, 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, August 6 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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Strength Through Peace: Out of Iraq & Afghanistan
Accountability: Indict & Imprison Bush & Cheney for War Crimes
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
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
- 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>