

***Truth in Recruiting* – "Don't Believe the Hype!"**

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for June 2010
(scroll down for details about any story)

Lead Story from the past month's news:

Md. 1st to bar schools releasing tests to military

--The Maryland law was signed last month and bars schools from automatically releasing personal/private information to military recruiters



Al Goldis / AP

Toria Latnie is shown Wednesday, May 12, 2010, outside her home in Lansing, Mich. Latnie said a counselor at her son's Florida charter high school told seniors in late 2008 that a military aptitude test was a requirement for graduation. She researched the exam online and refused to allow her son to take the test.

"I was angry, very angry," said Latnie, a mother of five. "I felt lied to, deceived, like people were trying to go behind my back and give my child's private information to the military."

related story:

Father supports son's decision to ignore military recruiters

--author of *Rethinking the Good War* gives youth reasons not to join the military

quote:

"The Marines may be looking for a few good high school students, but my son is not available. Is yours?"

page 1

Pentagon targets undocumented Hispanic youth in the so-called "DREAM" act

--the **militarization** of the immigrant civil rights movement

--the vulnerable Spanish-speaking population without legal papers are being promised the world in exchange for becoming **foreign legionnaires**

quote:

"What one has to realize about the DREAM Act is that the military option wasn't attached. The military option was there at the beginning. **The Pentagon helped write the DREAM Act.** That's what people have to realize.

~Jorge Mariscal, Vietnam veteran and professor of Chicano studies at the University of California in San Diego.

facts & figures:

It is **illegal to enlist a U.S. immigrant** who does not already have a "green card." Without this green card, a Hispanic in the U.S. forces has no legal standing, and no contractual basis for defending their rights, if they agree to enlist. The promises made to illegal immigrants by military recruiters are constrained by many conditions, which is to say, the military is making no promise at all.

(DISCLAIMER: TPF makes no claim about the accuracy of this information; legal issues are subject to change at any time. If you are in need of legal representation, contact a lawyer.)

The term **"foreign legionnaires"** is a general term for troops joining a foreign army. The practice has a long imperial history, dating back at least as far as the Roman Empire, which recruited non-citizens into Auxiliary units on the promise of them receiving Roman citizenship for themselves and their descendents at the end of their service.

As of 2006: Of the more than 2,400 U.S. casualties in Iraq since 2003, 270 have been Latino, according to the Department of Defense.

Since 1980, there have been 1,606 dead soldiers of Hispanic or Latino origin involved U.S. conflicts.

(source: Congressional Research Service (CRS), report dated 26 Feb 2010. under "Active Duty Military Deaths—Race/Ethnicity Summary," as of July 25, 2009)

N.B. If you have updated figures for **Latino soldiers killed** in Iraq and/or Afghanistan, please send the information and cite your source for your figures, in an email to TPF: armywrong@cox.net

more coverage:

US Military Targets Latinos with Extensive Recruitment Campaign

--video report from Marco Amador of *Producciones Cimarrón* will be screened at the US Social Forum in Detroit in June

quote:

"The increased militarization of American schools is not happening without a fight. Anti-militarism activists are waging their own struggle."

~Marco Amador

"It seems like a setup to me. I feel like there's a setup that we are really pushing certain kinds of kids into the military, and it always impacts upon those who are the poorest and those who are the darkest, who don't see the opportunities or don't have the opportunities."

~Arlene Inouye, a teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District and the coordinator of **Coalition for Alternatives to Militarism in Our Schools**

"Who are going to be the first ones on the front lines? Like always, Operation Brown Shield—young Raza or African students who are going to be thrown into the front lines to defend American capital while living in one of the poorest parts of America."

~Ron Góchez, a community organizer and teacher at Santee High School in South Central Los Angeles and a member of the Association of Raza Educators

related story:

Troubled Latinos 'ICEd,' Booted Out of U.S. Military and Deported from the U.S.

--some 3,000 to 4,000 veterans are **awaiting deportation from the U.S.**, by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, since a 1996 law made it easier for the U.S. to boot out foreign nationals, including legal permanent residents – "green-card" holders – who served in the military

Veterans for Peace Resolve to Support **Youth Promise Act**

--Resolution in Support of YPA passed at VFP 2009 National Convention

featured op/ed

Dispatch the War Department

--Becky Akers wants an end to the **standing army**

sidebar:

Sec'y of Defense Calls U.S. Navy's 11 Carrier Groups "Overkill"

--Gates Takes Aim at Navy, Questions Carrier Fleet

quote:

"Consider the **massive over-match** the U.S. already enjoys. Do we really need eleven carrier strike groups for another 30 years when no other country has more than one?"

~Robert Gates

page 2

"The Guard is being sent overseas without authorization from Congress," says Vermont state representative Mike Fisher

--The Founding Fathers did not envision the state **"militias" being used in foreign invasions** and foreign

occupations, 7,000 miles away

--The National Guard has become virtually indistinguishable from the nation's active-duty forces in the Iraq/Afghanistan war zones

quote:

"Certainly, these deployments are not what members of the National Guard signed up for – it was not what they were advertised when they were recruited, it's not the mission of the National Guard, which should be homeland defense," insists Ben Manski, a Wisconsin attorney who serves as the executive director of the Liberty Tree and works with the **Bring the Guard Home** project.

facts & figures:

- As of April 24, 2010, some 622 members of the Guard have been **killed in the dual occupation of Afghanistan & Iraq** since 2001, although in neither case was the Guard "repelling an invasion"
- It is estimated that **more than half of veteran suicides** – 53 percent – are among National Guard members returning home from war.
- Since 1933 the law has recognized the Guard as having **"dual enlistment,"** in that soldiers serve as part of both the federal Army and the state militia. It was in 1902 that state militias became an appendage of the federal government.

sidebar:

AP tally: 1,000th US military death in Afghanistan

--More than 430 of the U.S. dead were killed in Afghanistan after Obama took office in January 2009

more facts & figures:

So far in Iraq, 4,400 Americans, 318 allied forces, and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis have died to advance the agenda originally touted by the Cheney crowd that led America into a war to depose Saddam. The goal: to turn Iraq into an American protectorate in order to make tens of billions of dollars for themselves and their corporate allies.

source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mj-rosenberg/the-coming-iran-war_b_593434.html

Veterans for Peace reminds us that the military casualty count, in Afghanistan or any other war, is miniscule in comparison to civilian casualties.

	U.S. Military Deaths	Civilian Deaths
Iraq	4,254	1,366,350
Afghanistan	1,036	32,969

source: <http://rootswire.org/content/1000-us-dead-afghanistan-how-many-more>

related story, also by Kelly Vlahos:

Killer Cocktail while "On Patrol" in U.S. Cities: PTSD and Your Local Police

-- What happens when veterans of Iraq or Afghanistan **bring the war to work** with them?

file under: bringing the war home

--follow up on lamentable condition of treatment services for PTSD

sidebar:

PTSD diagnosis could appear on Georgia driver's licenses

--Under a law recently pushed through the state legislature, post-traumatic stress disorder would be noted on the license in the same way that a person's license might indicate corrective lenses are required for vision

follow up: war atrocities in Afghanistan

U.S. soldiers face probe into Afghan civilian deaths

file under: after the party, the hangover

Digging up Chemical Weapons in the District of Colombia

--American University campus is the site of a massive U.S. military cleanup, only 100 years overdue
--a stash of leftover weapons of mass destruction, less than 5 miles from the White House

file under: increasingly aerial occupation

U.N. Official To Call For End Of CIA Drone Strikes

related story:

Operators of Drones Are Faulted in Deaths of 23 Afghan Civilians

backpage

Some 17,000 activists encircle U.S. base in Japan in peaceful protest

--largest such protest was last month, with 90,000 protesters

follow up: controversy over 33,000 U.S. troops still in Japan

American Soldier in Okinawa: 'Only a Minority Think We're Monsters'

related story:

80% of Tokunoshima residents oppose hosting U.S. base

related op/ed:

Japan can defend itself

related story

Fortress Guam resists US military buildup

--plan to move U.S. troops out of Okinawa onto this Pacific island

facts & figures:

U.S. military expansion plans on Guam involve dredging 70 acres of vibrant coral reef for a nuclear aircraft carrier berth.

epitaph for this edition of "Truth in Recruiting"

The "basic rule" of the Geneva Conventions regarding the protection of civilians

Md. 1st to bar schools releasing tests to military

By KATHLEEN MILLER, Associated Press Writer

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Annapolis, Md. (AP) --

A first-of-its-kind law bars public high schools in Maryland from automatically sending student scores on a widely used military aptitude test to recruiters, a practice that critics say was giving the armed forces backdoor access to young people without their parents' consent.

School districts around the country have the choice of whether to administer the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery exam, and ones that offer it typically pass the scores and students' contact information directly to the military.

The Maryland law was signed last month and bars schools from automatically releasing the information to military recruiters. Instead, students, and their parents if they are under 18, will have to decide whether to give the information to the military. The law takes effect in July. One other state, Hawaii, has a similar policy for its schools, but not a law.

Roughly 650,000 U.S. high school students took the exam in the 2008-2009 school year, and the Department of Defense says scores for 92 percent of them were automatically sent to military recruiters.

Defense Department spokeswoman Eileen Lainez said in an e-mail that "parents and other influencers are in the best position to help advise students of various career opportunities, and the pros and cons associated with each of the choices."

Members of the **Maryland Coalition to Protect Student Privacy**, which pushed for the legislation, argued the military isn't upfront about the test's real purpose. Coalition member and high school teacher Pat Elder said he became involved in the issue after volunteering on a phone hot line for troubled soldiers. Many told him they hadn't considered the military until a recruiter who'd seen their scores contacted them.

"I've spoken to 'C' or 'D' students who are called by a recruiter and told 'Dude, you're really good at this kind of stuff,' and that's what it takes for them to join," said Elder, who teaches at the Muslim Community School in Potomac, Md. "There is an insidious, psychological element to these tests."

While Maryland is the first state to pass a law prohibiting the automatic release of scores to military recruiters, some individual school districts elsewhere, including the Los Angeles school system, have policies to the same effect. Hawaii's Department of Education implemented its statewide policy last year. Four Maryland counties — Howard, Frederick, Montgomery and Prince George's — also blocked the direct release of scores to recruiters before the state law was passed.

Maryland state senator Jamie Raskin, D-Montgomery, said he sponsored the bill partly because

school districts' approaches varied. He said constituents also told him they didn't think local school districts knew their options.

"They thought they had to turn over information to recruiters," Raskin said.

Read more: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2010/05/12/national/a100838D22.DTL>

More info: National Coalition to Protect Student Privacy: www.asvabtest.org

related story:

Military recruitment pamphlets and brochures belie the facts

U.S. Military involved in foreign wars of illegal invasion and occupation, not so-called "defense"

by Laurence M. Vance

May 7, 2010

The theme of defense shows up on all four pages of the recruiting brochure plus the two reply cards. But **how much of what the U.S. military does is actually related to defense?** What do the following practices of the military have to do with the defense of the United States?

- * Nation building in foreign countries
- * Launching preemptive strikes in foreign countries
- * Fighting wars in foreign countries
- * Establishing democracy in foreign countries
- * Changing regimes in foreign countries
- * Assassinating people in foreign countries
- * Stationing troops in foreign countries
- * Maintaining bases in foreign countries
- * Training armies in foreign countries
- * Opening markets in foreign countries
- * Enforcing no-fly zones in foreign countries
- * Rebuilding infrastructure in foreign countries
- * Reviving public services in foreign countries
- * Promoting good governance in foreign countries
- * Invading foreign countries
- * Occupying foreign countries
- * Unleashing civil unrest in foreign countries

All the while, of course, perpetuating the myth that the military is defending our freedoms. The Department of Defense couldn't even defend its own headquarters on September 11th. It was too busy occupying, defending, and building golf courses in other countries.

Although World War II ended in 1945, the United States still has tens of thousands of soldiers stationed in Germany, Italy, and Japan. I recently documented that the U.S. military has over 700 foreign military bases with troops stationed in 148 countries and 11 territories in every corner of the globe.

The U.S. military should be engaged exclusively in defending the United States, not defending other countries, and certainly not attacking, invading, or occupying them. Using the military for any other purpose than the actual defense of the United States perverts the purpose of the military.

The Marines may be looking for a few good high school students, but my son is not available. Is yours? Do you want your son to be a bomber pilot for Obama? Aside from the military's lack of actually providing defense services, I have given other reasons for people not to join the military.

By the way, my son will not be sending in the reply card this time either.

byline: Laurence M. Vance writes from Pensacola, FL. He is the author of *Christianity and War and Other Essays Against the Warfare State* and *The Revolution that Wasn't*. His newest book is *Rethinking the Good War*.

<http://www.lewrockwell.com/vance/vance202.html>

More by the same author:

<http://www.lewrockwell.com/vance/vance163.html>

<http://www.lewrockwell.com/vance/vance125.html>

<http://www.lewrockwell.com/vance/vance124.html>

<http://www.lewrockwell.com/vance/vance102.html>

<http://www.lewrockwell.com/vance/vance21.html>

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for June 2010
page 1

Pentagon targets undocumented Hispanic youth in the so-called "DREAM" act

--the vulnerable Spanish-speaking population without legal papers are being promised the world in exchange for becoming foreign legionnaires

"On the DREAM Act: An Open Letter to Latino and Latina students and all leaders of immigrant rights organizations"

By Fernando Suárez Del Solar

In the wake of the failed immigration reform, passionate discussions have arisen among various organizations both for and against the DREAM Act.

It give me great joy to see students taking non-violent action to find a solution to the immigration question. Many of them came to the United States as children and have finished their high school education. Now, because they lack legal documents, they face an uncertain future that may deny them the opportunity to attend college or find a decent job. The DREAM Act offers them a light at the end of an otherwise dark and uncertain road.

I see students on fasts, in marches, lobbying elected officials, all in the name of the DREAM Act's passage. But BEWARE. Be very careful. Because our honorable youth with their dreams and wishes to

serve their new country are being tricked and manipulated in an immoral and criminal way. Why do I say this? Simply put, the DREAM Act proposes two years of college as a pathway to permanent residency but it also includes a second option linked to the so-called war on terror-"two years of military service." Our young people may not see that this is a covert draft in which thousands of youth from Latino families will be sent to Iraq or some other war torn nation where they will have to surrender their moral values and become a war criminal or perhaps return home in black bags on their way to a tomb drenched with their parents' tears.

How many of our youth can afford college? How many will be able to take the educational option? Unfortunately very few because the existing system locks out the children of working families with high tuition and inflated admissions criteria. Most will be forced to take the military option to get their green card. But what good is a green card to a dead person? What good is a green card to a young person severely wounded in mind and body?

I ask our undocumented youth to read the following passages regarding the plans of the Pentagon and the Bush administration:

In his testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee on July 10, 2006, Under Secretary of Defense David Chu said: "According to an April 2006 study from the National Immigration Law Center, there are an estimated 50,000 to 65,000 undocumented alien young adults who entered the U.S. at an early age and graduate from high school each year, many of whom are bright, energetic and potentially interested in military service...Provisions of S. 2611, such ! as the DREAM Act, would provide these young people the opportunity of serving the United States in uniform."

More recently, Lt. Col. Margaret Stock of the U.S. Army Reserve and a faculty member at West Point told a reporter that the DREAM Act could help recruiters meet their goals by providing a "highly qualified cohort of young people" without the unknown personal details that would accompany foreign recruits. "They are already going to come vetted by Homeland Security. They will already have graduated from high school," she said. "They are prime candidates."

(Citations from research by Prof. Jorge Mariscal, UC San Diego)

As you can see, our undocumented youth are being targeted by military recruiters. And equally important is something that few people have mentioned-there is no such thing as a two year military contract. Every enlistment is a total of eight years.

Given these facts, I invite all young people who are filled with hope and dreams and energy to fight for human rights and for a fair pathway to legalization. But they must also demand that the military option of the DREAM Act be replaced by a community service option (as appeared in earlier drafts of the legislation) so that community service or college become the two pathways to permanent residency. Only then will they avoid becoming victimized by a criminal war as my son Jesús Alberto did when he died on March 27, 2003 after stepping on an illegal U.S. cluster bomb. Through education or community service our undocumented youth can contribute to their communities and their future will be filled with peace and justice.

Fernando Suarez del Solar

Proyecto Guerrero Azteca por la Paz

www.guerreroazteca.org

http://aztecapp.netrootz.com/web_pages/view_web_page.asp?group=104&page=277

TPF comment: The underhanded military recruitment provisions should be stripped from the bill, before it is brought up for a vote. Hispanics are being targeted by the Pentagon in this proposed legislation, only due to enlistment shortfalls. The military recruitment provisions of the act only make things worse for undocumented Hispanics; Spanish-speaking youth do not "dream" of being killed or of committing atrocities in far off Afghanistan or Iraq. Putting their lives at risk in the military, only for the conditional promise of citizenship, is unconscionable. Would these already vulnerable youth really

be worse off returning to their country of birth, compared to risking their lives in a hostile country like Iraq or Afghanistan? Can they really ever get out of the U.S. military, if they agree to be foreign legionnaires? They would have absolutely no rights, if they agreed to enlist. What kind of bargain is that?

more coverage:

US Military Targets Latinos with Extensive Recruitment Campaign

--Do the youth that are involved in the DREAM movement fully understand the implications of accepting the militarization of the immigrant rights movement?

May 18, 2010

excerpt from the interview of Marco Amador by Amy Goodman on *Democracy Now!*

For us, the DREAM Act became part of the film as we started looking into the military recruitment of the Latino community and how the Pentagon was spending millions and millions of dollars into studying this community and seeing how they can bring them more into the military life. We saw that, along that, one of those issues was the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act was introduced back in 2001. Senator Durbin was—is one of the main vocal supporters of this. But what people don't understand is that there's also West Point intellectuals that have been involved in the creation of the DREAM Act.

Now, within the military ranks, within these intellectuals, as it says in our films, they have a quite a bit of an understanding of the socioeconomic background that the Latinos come from. They understand that they come from poor, working-class communities, and they see that the DREAM Act is a way to bring in more of these undocumented citizens that are here in this country, to bring them into the ranks. They understand that college is an expensive alternative for a lot of these folks, so they're offering the military. And they say it very blatantly. They say, you know, "Well, we'll give them a job, we'll put them in the ranks, unfortunately, because they're not citizens. We can—the only places they can work at within the military is, you know, infantry, its transportation." So again, we have this channeling of a new population into the most dangerous positions within the military. And that's where we see the contradictions of the DREAM Act.

Now, we're not, you know, focusing or saying that the students, you know, the youth that are involved in the DREAM movement are at fault here. What we'd like to understand is, do the organizations fully understand the implications of accepting the militarization of the immigrant rights movement?

video link and transcript available online:

http://www.democracynow.org/2010/5/18/yo_soy_el_army_us_military

related story:

Troubled Latinos 'ICEd,' Booted Out of U.S. Military and Deported from U.S.

May 26, 2010

Military.com, by Bryant Jordan

A former Marine and Gulf War veteran may soon be boarding a flight to Jamaica -- the ticket cost picked up by the U.S. government.

But Rohan Coombs, who came to the U.S. from Jamaica as a child, is not looking forward to the return trip. He's being deported.

Coombs is not alone. By some estimates, 3,000 to 4,000 veterans are awaiting deportation, and the deportations have been going on since a 1996 law made it easier for the U.S. to boot out foreign nationals, including legal permanent residents -- "green-card" holders -- who served in the military if they commit crimes. Collectively, they've been dubbed "Banished Veterans" by those who say that vets deserve better than to be booted from the country they served.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the agency responsible for deporting illegals, says:

"ICE respects the service all provide to our country. However, anyone not here legally or those who have [legal permanent residence] status and commit a criminal act can be subject to removal proceedings from the U.S.," Brandon Alvarez-Montgomery, a spokesman for the agency, told Military.com in an e-mail. "ICE understands the hardship some may face, and we prioritize our cases on criminal acts. Each case is individual. As a law enforcement agency, ICE enforces the laws as they are written, not [arbitrarily]."

Craig Shagin, a Pennsylvania attorney who is representing Coombs, agrees that wearing a military uniform "doesn't give [vets] the right to violate anything. They should be punished the same as you or me."

Coombs, who arrived in the U.S. at age 9, slipped into some bad ways after he was discharged from the Marine Corps in 1994, says his fiancée, Robyn Sword of Stanton, Calif. In March 2008, she said, Coombs was arrested for selling marijuana. Shagin said the charge is considered trafficking, one of the offenses ICE may use to begin deportation proceedings.

In many of the cases, veterans say they believed their service made them U.S. citizens, or the fact they arrived in the U.S. as children.

The Banished Veterans site includes stories of veterans dating back to the Vietnam War era who have been deported already or are facing deportation because of certain crimes, many of them related to drug use after they left the military.

<http://www.military.com/news/article/troubled-vets-iced-booted-from-us-.html>

from the archives (story from 2006)

Military Considers Recruiting Foreigners

By Bryan Bender

The Boston Globe

Tuesday 26 December 2006

Washington - The armed forces, already struggling to meet recruiting goals, are considering expanding the number of noncitizens in the ranks

Foreign citizens serving in the US military is a highly charged issue, which could expose the Pentagon to criticism that it is essentially using mercenaries to defend the country. Other analysts voice concern that a large contingent of noncitizens under arms could jeopardize national security or reflect badly on Americans' willingness to serve in uniform.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the number of immigrants in uniform who have become US citizens has increased from 750 in 2001 to almost 4,600 last year, according to military statistics.

Currently, Pentagon policy stipulates that only immigrants legally residing in the United States are eligible to enlist. There are currently about 30,000 noncitizens who serve in the US armed forces, making up about 2 percent of the active-duty force, according to statistics from the military and the Council on Foreign Relations. About 100 noncitizens have died in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Still, to some military officials and civil rights groups, relying on large number of foreigners to serve in the military is offensive.

The Hispanic rights advocacy group National Council of La Raza has said the plan sends the wrong message that Americans themselves are not willing to sacrifice to defend their country. Officials have also raised concerns that immigrants would be disproportionately sent to the front lines as "cannon fodder" in any conflict.

The reasons Latinos are drawn to the military vary.

Carlos Montes, an organizer with **Latinos Against the War** in Los Angeles, cites a variety of reasons: aggressive recruiters who prey on youth; the enticement of skipping the usual five years that legal permanent residents must wait before applying for citizenship; the immigrant's desire to assimilate.

"When you're young and naive you see a guy show up on campus, all dressed up, promising things you don't have," Montes said. "That kind of influence, especially in the *barrio*, can be greater than even a parent's words."

Fernando Suarez del Solar, whose son, Marine Lance Cpl. Jesus Suarez, was killed in Iraq in 2003, said he felt a reluctance to discuss the casualty risk with his son, who had been a citizen since he was 15.

Suarez said Jesus enlisted only after a recruiter told him a year's commitment in the Marines would lead to a job as a Drug Enforcement Administration agent. Since his son's death, Suarez has become a counter-recruitment activist and recently participated in the immigration protests in Los Angeles. The combination of the rising Latino death toll, Suarez said, and the recent proposed immigration legislation has only stirred more contentious feelings within him.

"I feel it twice," Suarez said. "First it's: 'My son served this country in the military and died,' and now: 'They're attacking the parents with this legislation.' On one end of the school campus, they want our sons to enlist. On the other, they want us out of the country."

"When my son told me he wanted to join, I said, 'No, no, no!'"

http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2006/12/26/military_considers_recruiting_for_eigners/

with additional material from <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?>

<p>Proyecto Guerrero Azteca por la Paz NUESTRA MISIÓN</p>	<p>Guerrero Azteca Peace Project OUR MISSION</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ayudar a Familiares que sufran la perdida de un miembro dentro de las Fuerzas armadas en cualquier conflicto armada. (Económica). 2. Ayudar a familiares con pláticas profesionales para soportar la incertidumbre en tiempos de guerra y la perdida de algún familiar. (Ayuda Sicológica.) 3. Promover la paz en el mundo. 4. Buscar apoyos para crear otras oportunidades de estudio fuera de las fuerzas armadas de USA. 5. Dar pláticas, seminarios, conferencias con el apoyo de profesionistas y activistas hispanos y no hispanos en bienestar de los jóvenes latinos. 6. Impulsar el orgullo de ser hispano y el respeto por sus raíces. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Help families by offering moral support and possibly economical support who lose a loved one in the military service or any other armed conflict and offer moral support and resources for military families and individuals actively serving in the military. 2. Help families cope with the loss of a family member who died in war. 3. Promote peace in the world. 4. Find resource and alternatiave opportunities other than the military service including but not limited to scholarships for students. 5. Give talks, presenations and conferences with the help of professionals and Latino activists to help our youth consider peace and higher education as their goals. 6. Instill pride and respect for Latino communities and for their cultural heritage

http://aztecapp.netrootz.com/web_pages/view_web_page.asp?group=104&page=181

Veterans for Peace Resolve to Support **Youth Promise Act**

At the recent Veterans for Peace convention in College Park, Maryland, Jim Ramelis introduced a resolution for VFP to support the Youth PROMISE act - and it was approved! The below text is from the VFP website:

YOUTH PROMISE ACT

Whereas Veterans for Peace affirms its responsibility to serve the cause of world peace in its "Statement of Purpose", and

Whereas a bill known as "The Youth Promise Act " has been introduced in the legislature as House of Representatives Bill 1064 and Senate Bill 435 that proposes to reduce violence among our youth in targeted neighborhoods and areas. Violence will be reduced through prevention in positive ways such

as after school programs, sports and community activities, by implementing 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, and

Whereas many of the neighborhoods where violence is rampant are the same neighborhoods that have Junior R.O.T.C. programs in the schools and are heavily targeted by recruiters, and

Whereas many at-risk youth turn to military service because they have limited options for productive citizenship, and

Whereas the Youth Promise Act seeks to provide at-risk youth with alternative life skills,

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans for Peace hereby endorses the Youth Promise Act and strongly encourages chapters and individual members to lobby Congress to request co-sponsor the Youth Promise act (currently H.R.1064 and S.435 in the 111th Congress)"

Approved at the 2009 VFP national convention

TPF comment: Our very own Vice President, and VFP member, participated in a civic action this month, on May 7th, to empower youth toward a culture of peace, by supporting the Youth PROMISE Act (YPA). The TPF Steering Committee heartily encourages legislators to pass this bill, and we will continue our educational efforts on its behalf, until it is passed. Please contact the Tulsa Peace Fellowship if you are interested in grassroots activism in support of a YPA State Resolution, at the State Legislature in Oklahoma City.

featured op/ed

Dispatch the War Department

Becky Akers wants an end to the **standing army**

Thursday, 06 May 2010

excerpts only:

Questioning the military's necessity puts us in good company, specifically that of the Founders. Many of them vehemently opposed a "standing" army (i.e. one that is professionally, permanently established and remains intact rather than disbanding after beating off an attack.)

So Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts articulated popular wisdom when he damned standing armies as "the bane of liberty" during Congressional debate in 1789. The heroic Patrick Henry, too, denounced bellicose professionals because they "execute the execrable commands of tyranny."

Even James Madison, among the most Federalistic of the Founders, listed the horrors that "proceed" from armies: "debts and taxes; ... [which] are the known instruments for bringing the many under the domination of the few." At the Constitutional Convention, he cautioned, "A standing military force, with an overgrown Executive, will not long be safe companions to liberty. The means of defence against foreign danger have been always the instruments of tyranny at home. Among the Romans it was a standing maxim to excite a war, whenever a revolt was apprehended. Throughout all Europe, the

armies kept up under the pretext of defending, have enslaved, the people.”

Despite these warnings, the Constitution assumes that the Feds will maintain not only an Army but a Navy, too. Why? Perhaps partly because of a debate then ongoing — and one that still rages among historians and military buffs: could the militia, which simply means armed citizens as opposed to professional soldiers, have prevailed against the British Army by itself? After all, Patriot militia won several battles, including the essential one at Saratoga. Or was the United States’ victory in the Revolution impossible without the professional, full-time Continental Army?

Then, too, during the years that a Convention debated and states ratified the Constitution, Americans fretted about the precarious peace the Treaty of Paris brought in 1783. England refused to withdraw its troops from the Northwest Territory (modern Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin) despite the Treaty’s stipulations to do so — to say nothing of Britain’s vast beachhead, Canada. And France might demand more than mere amity for the money and soldiers it had lent the Continental Congress for the rebellion.

Were these Americans correct? If Britain and France — or today’s terrorists — were truly as threatening as feared, was a professional army under politicians’ control the safest and most efficient way to counter them?

Government is inherently incompetent, as it obligingly demonstrates every day in everything it does. Why, then, would we entrust to it a life-and-death matter like defense?

Indeed, Leviathan’s ineptitude in matters military is sweeping, legendary, and very, very expensive. American wars always abound in bungling and inefficiency, graft and corruption.

But those aren’t a standing army’s worst evils. Rather, it installs the “tyranny at home” that Madison deplored. Politicians understand far better than their conned constituents that an army and its concomitant “military-industrial complex” exponentially increase their power. They also know that they must keep soldiers on the public payroll — busy lest voters ask why they’re paying \$663.8 billion in FY2010 alone — which doesn’t include such allied costs as veterans’ benefits — for 1,368,471 “active” forces and 848,056 “selected reserves” to twiddle their thumbs. And then there’s that irresistible urge to rule not just Americans but the world.

In contrast to their officials, the American people despise imperialism — or did until recently. They wanted nothing to do with conquering other countries. And so the Feds euphemized their evil, changing the War Department’s name in 1949.

But the Department of Defense has yet to fight a defensive war. America has suffered mighty few actual invasions; just as the Founders predicted, her geographic distance from the Old World and its quarrels protected her. Indeed, we might argue that the last invasion to which politicians responded legitimately was the War of 1812.

So, without much to do in the way of defense, our rulers post their troops worldwide — 57,000 in Germany, 26,000 in South Korea, 33,000 in Japan, 419 in Qatar, 2200 in Djibouti, to name just a few examples. Predictably, murder and mayhem follow. And even if soldiers swaggering among civilians whose language they don’t speak behaved themselves impeccably at all times, their “duties” would sow resentment. Imagine your fury should Iraq’s army establish checkpoints at the interstate ramp nearest your home and search your car each time you entered or left the highway, as Americans do to Iraqi

citizens. And how many of us would take kindly to Afghani soldiers marching through our neighborhoods? Yet Americans in combat gear stride through theirs.

None of this could occur without a standing army.

Militias, i.e., armed citizens, don't go adventuring. They don't fight phantoms either, no matter how many "wars" politicians declare on drugs or terror. Instead, they defend their homes and neighborhoods from attack — genuine, physical assault — then return to earning a living.

<http://www.thenewamerican.com/index.php/opinion/becky-akers/3484-dispatch-the-war-department>

sidebar:

Sec'y of Defense Calls U.S. Navy's 11 Carrier Groups "Overkill"

--Gates Takes Aim at Navy, Questions Carrier Fleet

* By Nathan Hodge

* May 3, 2010

In a speech today at the Navy League symposium, Gates said the service needed to take another look at plans to keep 11 carrier strike groups for the next three decades. "In terms of size and striking power, no other country has even one comparable ship," Gates noted.

A Ford-class carrier with a full complement of aircraft, Gates noted, "would represent potentially \$15 to \$20 billion worth of hardware at risk."

And that's overkill when it comes to many kinds of maritime threats the Navy now faces. "In particular, the Navy will need numbers, speed, and the ability to operate in shallow water, especially as the nature of war in the 21st century pushes us toward smaller, more diffuse weapons and units that increasingly rely on a series of networks to wage war," he said. "As we learned last year, you don't necessarily need a billion-dollar guided missile destroyer to chase down and deal with a bunch of teenage pirates wielding AK-47s and RPGs."

<http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2010/05/gates-takes-aim-at-navy-questions-carrier-fleet/#ixzz0nRpmFoMN>

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for June 2010
page 2

End the unlawful overseas deployment of our National Guard

Slogan of National movement of state campaigns : **"Bring the Guard Home. It's the Law."**
by Kelly Vlahos, for antiwar.com

May 3, 2010

Today's National Guard has become virtually indistinguishable from the nation's active-duty forces in the war zone. The majority of these so-called part-time soldiers have served combat duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, with many— if not most — deployed more than once.

As of April 24, 622 members of the Guard have been killed [.pdf] in the two-front war since 2001. Forget the whole bit about “weekend warriors” — reservists have become indispensable to the ongoing overseas operations since Bush himself launched the country into war nine years ago.

But activists in several states are saying that the founding fathers did not envision the state “militias” being used in foreign invasions and occupations, especially those against enemies that do not pose an imminent threat to the continental United States. Plus, the constant redeployment of the Guard has left local first-responders such as fire and police departments struggling to fill staff, families under mental and financial strain, and domestic emergency response capability increasingly at risk.

This is not to mention the psychological toll on the soldiers themselves. It has been estimated that more than half of veteran suicides — 53 percent — are among National Guard members returning home from war.

That's why citizens are demanding — more than ever — “Bring ‘em home!”

“Certainly, these deployments are not what members of the National Guard signed up for — it was not what they were advertising in recruiting [these soldiers], it's not the mission of the National Guard, which should be homeland defense,” insists Ben Manski, a Wisconsin attorney who serves as the executive director of the Liberty Tree and works with the Bring the Guard Home project.

Activists in states such as Wisconsin, Vermont, Oregon, Idaho, Maryland, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and New Mexico have been pushing legislation telling their governors to review — and stop — the orders sending the National Guard into Iraq. While the language varies, the proposals all suggest that the mission in Iraq no longer corresponds to the initial 2002 congressional Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) [.pdf] against now-dead Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, and therefore the continued use of the Guard is inappropriate and perhaps even unconstitutional.

“The Guard is being sent overseas without an authorization from Congress,” says Vermont state representative Mike Fisher, who managed to get 77 of his fellow legislators — more than half of the House membership — on board for a bill that would require the state attorney general to review and explain the state's plan to deploy — or not deploy — its National Guard in light of what the bill [.pdf] calls a lack of federal authority to do so.

As of three years ago, 417,000, or about 80 percent, of the nation's National Guard members had already been overseas to Iraq or Afghanistan. About 20 percent of those had already been more than once. At the time those statistics were culled, there was much talk about active-duty and reserve forces being severely strained, if not at a breaking point. Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, in an appearance on Meet the Press last year, said more than 85 percent of his Guard had been overseas, some three or four times, and that they were “wasted” as a result.

The number of Guard and reserves as a percentage of the total force in Iraq and Afghanistan has fluctuated over the years. Official estimates in 2005 were at 28 percent; it was about 7 percent in Iraq

and 15 percent in Afghanistan at the end of 2008. Manski estimates it's closer to one-third today. And new deployments are announced seemingly every day.

For the so-called part-time warriors, this has been an incredible strain on their personal and professional lives.

"They are not able to plan for the future. They had careers, maybe they were in school. Then it got interrupted," says Manski of the younger soldiers on repeat deployments.

"It's proven very disruptive to have the Pentagon use the National Guard in this way, where they are so dependent on the Guard for the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan."

But it is illegal? Depends on whom you ask.

While the U.S. Constitution (Article 1, Section 8) says Congress has the power to call up the state "militia" (the progenitor of today's Guard) to "execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions," the role of the militia has been further defined and guided by numerous laws and amendments over the last 100 years. The modern National Guard was born with the Dick Act in 1903, and a later amendment allowed the president to send Guard units overseas for duty.

In a series of acts from 1916 to 1933, the National Guard eventually became a regular component of the Army that would be under the control of the state and the federal government, which retained the authority to federalize the Guard in times of emergency. In 1952, the Armed Forces Reserve Act allowed for the call-up of the Guard, including overseas training, without an emergency, but not without the consent of the governors impacted by the order. In 1986, the Montgomery Amendment partially rescinded the consent requirement, charging that governors could not object to the federal deployment of their Guard troops over the "location, purpose, type, or schedule of [federal] duty." The Supreme Court affirmed this in *Perpich v. Department of Defense*, saying in that case that governors cannot object to the *training* of troops overseas under federal orders. [emphasis added]

Attorney Benson Scotch, in a legal memo for the Wisconsin backers of proposed state legislation questioning the continued use of National Guard soldiers for federal duty in Iraq, claims that, based on the orders that federalized the reserves in the first place, "there is no authority under the Constitution or the laws of the United States for the continued presence of National Guard members in Iraq, and indeed no authority for the use of force at all in Iraq."

That 2002 AUMF is now moot, argues Scotch, because Saddam is dead and the search for the so-called weapons of mass destruction that were the basis of the UN resolutions has long been aborted. These facts form the basis the state's legal argument.

Fisher says there is a similar case to be made against the Guard's involvement in Afghanistan, too, noting that the 2001 AUMF against the 9/11 terrorists is too broad, and must be examined for its legitimacy as well.

<http://original.antiwar.com/vlahos/2010/05/03/state-activists-want-their-national-guard-back/>

TPF editorial comment: State campaigns are active in Alaska, California, Florida, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Vermont,

Virginia, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Washington D.C., Washington, Wisconsin, **but not yet Oklahoma. WassamatterwifOklahoma?**

further info: <http://www.bringtheguardhome.org/>

More coverage:

Vermont Representative Fisher speaks to Wisconsin Legislature about Bringing the Guard Home

March 9, 2010

By Daniel Barlow
Vermont Press Bureau

MONTPELIER – Rep. Michael Fisher has spent the last four years talking about what he sees as the illegal use of the Vermont National Guard in overseas conflicts, with little luck in moving a bill that could challenge the practice.

He's now hoping lawmakers in Wisconsin might be more understanding.

Fisher, a Lincoln Democrat, is scheduled to testify today before the Wisconsin State Legislature's Veterans and Military Affairs Committee on their version of his bill, which would require a sitting governor to confirm war orders calling for the use of state's National Guard units.

"This is not about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan," Fisher said during a phone call in route to Wisconsin on Monday. "This is about ensuring that the law now in place is followed."

Fisher and other members of the national Bring the Guard Home movement say the 2002 congressional declaration that launched the Iraq War that following spring focused on a specific mission: Remove Saddam Hussein from power.

That mission has clearly been accomplished, Fisher said, but the U.S. government continues to use state's National Guard units to supplement military deployments. The bill under consideration in Vermont, Wisconsin and dozens of other states would require the governors to certify that the law was followed.

"I'm not talking about anything revolutionary here," Fisher said. "This is in the Constitution."

Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, is the chief sponsor of the Wisconsin bill.

Like the Vermont bill, Wisconsin's bill orders the state governor to review all orders mobilizing the state National Guard for overseas duty. If that order is not lawful, Black said, the governor would have to block the deployment.

http://www.bringtheguardhome.org/news/vt_times_argus_rep_says_bring_vt_guard_home

sidebar:

AP tally: 1,000th US military death in Afghanistan

The U.S. military suffered its 1,000th death of the Afghan war Friday, according to an Associated Press count, when NATO reported a service member was killed by a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan.

<http://wire.antiwar.com/2010/05/27/ap-tally-1000th-us-military-death-in-afghanistan/>

related story:

Killer Cocktail: PTSD and Your Local Police

by Kelley B. Vlahos, April 27, 2010

The moment that Austin police officer Wayne Williamson began unloading his pistol in a filled parking lot was probably the first time he realized he hadn't left Iraq too far behind.

Williamson never hit his target – a fleeing, "possibly armed" suspect – but only one of the bullets he discharged in the parking lot was ever found. It was lodged in the back seat of a car in which two children, a 14-year-old girl and a four-month-old baby, had been sitting (miraculously, neither was injured). There were no excuses or cover-ups, however – Williamson was subsequently terminated from his nine-year career as a police officer.

Williamson is one of thousands of veterans who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), though he had not been treated for it before the aforementioned incident on March 14, 2007. A National Guardsman who left his job at the Austin Police Department (APD) to go to war in 2005, Williamson saw heavy combat in Tikrit before coming home and going back on patrol.

Members of the Army National Guard and Reserves have been rotating in and out of the two-front war with such regularity it's become difficult to tell the difference between the "part timers" and the active-duty force – with one major distinction. Guardsmen and reservists go back to civilian jobs in between their multiple tours. Many are police officers. In fact, police departments across the country are actively recruiting part-time soldiers and veterans because their acquired "skill set" apparently makes them a desired fit for this line of work.

So what happens when they bring the war to work with them?

Williamson never denied the gravity of what happened in the parking lot that day. When speaking before the police disciplinary review board on the matter, he said, "That day, I posed a threat to other people ... innocent civilians. If I'm a greater danger to the people than the guy that I'm chasing, then there's ... something definitely wrong there, sir."

Soldiers are trained to kill; police are trained to "keep the peace." Soldiers shoot first and ask questions later. Cops read Miranda rights. They are supposed to abide by the Constitution. In a hyper-criminalized society in which police are already criticized for being too aggressive and the gulf between cop and "civilian" is ever widening, this could be lighter fluid poured on a fire for departments and communities across the country.

<http://original.antiwar.com/vlahos/2010/04/26/killer-cocktail/>

sidebar:

PTSD diagnosis could appear on Georgia driver's licenses

Stars and Stripes online edition, Monday, May 10, 2010

Current and former servicemembers living in Georgia could soon add a new piece of information to their driver's license: a PTSD diagnosis.

Under a law recently pushed through the state legislature, post-traumatic stress disorder would be noted on the license in the same way that a person's license might indicate corrective lenses are required for vision, according to a report in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Adding the information would be voluntary and require a sworn statement from a doctor. If signed by the governor, the bill would become law on July 1.

Sen. Ron Ramsey, the bill's sponsor, told the paper that the bill came at the suggestion of a former servicemember with post-traumatic stress disorder, who told him he feared a violent encounter with police officers.

But the bill's detractors question whether someone would put such personal information on their driver's license.

"Why would I want to put out there on my license – hey, I'm a nut job," said Marvin Myers, president of the Georgia Vietnam Veterans Alliance Inc.

<http://www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=69899>

follow up: war atrocities in Afghanistan

U.S. soldiers face probe into Afghan civilian deaths

By Dion Nissenbaum | McClatchy Newspapers

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. military is investigating allegations that a small group of American soldiers deliberately killed three Afghan civilians in a series of shootings earlier this year, Western officials familiar with the case said Friday.

Military officials have detained one soldier with the Army's 5th Stryker Brigade based in Afghanistan's Kandahar province.

If the allegations prove to be true, they could undermine the U.S. military's already shaky credibility in southern Afghanistan.

The allegations center on as many as nine soldiers from the 5th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Battalion, at Forward Operating Base Ramrod, a remote outpost west of Kandahar city. The brigade is part of the 2nd Infantry Division, based at Fort Lewis, Wash.

The soldiers initially were under investigation for drug charges.

Read more: <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2010/05/21/94639/us-soldiers-face-probe-into-afghan.html#ixzz0ofBzUnz0>

Digging up chemical weapons in D.C.

After World War I, munitions including shells of poisonous liquid mustard were buried in a then-rural area. The cleanup has forced evacuations at American University and prompted concerns about illness.

By Bob Drogin, Los Angeles Times

May 9, 2010

Reporting from Washington -- Greg Nielson pushed a joystick, and a video camera zoomed in on three men in moon suits and gas masks as they prepared to blow up a weapon of mass destruction less than five miles from the White House.

Later, the crew slid the rusting World War I artillery shell into a small steel vault and sealed the door. They detonated a shaped explosive charge to cut the projectile open, and pumped in reagent to neutralize its contents: liquid mustard, an infamous chemical warfare agent.

The destruction of five poison-filled shells and 20 other suspect items ended last week. But the strange saga of America's most unusual hazardous waste site is far from over.

Since 1993, the Army Corps of Engineers has removed 84 chemical-filled shells and more than 1,000 conventional munitions, plus at least 44,000 tons of contaminated dirt and debris, from the verdant campus of American University and the manicured lawns of Spring Valley, one of Washington's most prestigious neighborhoods.

The toxic trash dates from 1917 and 1918, when the military leased the then-rural campus and nearby farms to test gruesome gases. After the war, soldiers and scientists buried lethal leftovers in unmarked pits, calling the area Death Valley. A developer renamed it Spring Valley, and mansions sprouted.

The Pentagon says 5,000 old arsenals and other former defense sites may hold hazardous waste. But the bomb hunt here "is the No. 1 priority," said Col. David Anderson, the Army Corps district commander. "This is the nation's capital."

The Army has spent \$180 million and expects to spend \$15 million more to finish the job, Anderson said.

So far, government agencies and independent studies have not found adverse health effects on American University students or the 4,000 or so residents of Spring Valley.

Activists acknowledge that few residents share their suspicion that the Army Corps has downplayed dangers and concealed data, a charge the Army denies.

"They're deliberately misleading people," said Nan Wells, who represents part of Spring Valley in local government. "They just want to leave."

Tom Smith, another Army Corps critic, said many residents have become complacent. "We've grown a little too accustomed to having the Army in our backyards, literally in our backyards, for the last 17 years," he said.

The yard that causes the most concern is between the official residence of South Korea's ambassador, Han Duk-soo, and the white-columned house of American University's president, Cornelius Kerwin. Previous digs unearthed more than 300 munitions and chemical weapons debris on the South Korean property and toxic chemicals beside the AU house.

A high fence with barbed wire guards the current excavation, known as Pit 3. A two-story, tent-like structure covers the hole to prevent leaks. It also hides the men in hazmat suits and breathing apparatus on a winding street of stately homes and purple azaleas.

Engineers believed the digging was almost finished until they uncovered more than 500 pounds of jugs, beakers and other laboratory glassware this spring. On March 29, a broken bottle spewed smoke inside the containment tent.

Tests show the fumes came from arsenic trichloride, which is poisonous by inhalation, skin contact or ingestion. Known as "arsenic butter," the compound was used to boost the lethality of mustard, a blister agent that reportedly caused more than 1 million casualties in World War I, and to produce lewisite, dubbed the "dew of death," and other chemical warfare agents.

The find was deemed so perilous that work has been halted until Army engineers can determine how to safely proceed.

"The concern is they may find a lot more, and there's a real question whether the air pollution controls are adequate," said Paul Chrostowski, an environmental scientist who monitors the cleanup for the university.

Kerwin, the university president, was forced to abandon his home for two years when his yard was dug up. He and his wife moved back last fall after tests showed the hazard was gone.

"We may have to change our analysis now," Chrostowski said. "He may have to move again."

The long-forgotten ordnance first made news in 1993 when workers digging a utility line unearthed an arsenal. Two years later, after removing 141 munitions, the Army Corps declared the danger over.

But local historians and amateur sleuths found old photos, logbooks and other records that suggested hazardous waste and explosives were scattered over 661 acres. Excavations, evacuations and lawsuits have ebbed and flowed ever since.

Crews have dug up arsenic-laced lawns and spread clean soil at about 140 homes so far, and more are

planned. They recently began searching for debris by the reservoir that supplies drinking water to Washington after rusting artillery and mortar shells were found in the weeds.

"It's taken years to understand the magnitude and scope" of the pollution, said Steve Hirsh, the Spring Valley project manager at the Environmental Protection Agency. "This is really a unique problem."

The long cleanup has put the university in an uncomfortable spotlight. School officials must balance public safety with public relations, taking pains not to spark undue alarm among the 11,000 students and their parents, as well as prospective students.

In 2001, the university evacuated its campus day-care center and closed nearby athletic fields after dangerous levels of arsenic were found in the soil.

Not far away, a backhoe clawed at the soil behind a former fraternity house. Now used by campus police, the building overlooks a ravine that was once a dump. The Army will drill under the building this summer to look for more pollution.

The work draws little apparent interest among students. Only a dozen people showed up when six experts gathered recently to give presentations on the cleanup. A senior, Michael Ginsberg, had organized the panel as part of his honors project.

"Most students don't even know there were chemical weapons here," Ginsberg, 21, said in frustration.

Kent Slowinski, a landscaper, leads informal tours of waste sites on campus and in Spring Valley. He starts at the school's McKinley Building, where a plaque by the door reads "Birthplace of Army Chemical Corps."

"You'll notice it doesn't say anything about developing or testing chemical weapons on dogs, goats and other animals," he said grimly.

Five chemical rounds have been rendered harmless since April 16. All were destroyed on a patch of federal property behind Sibley Memorial Hospital, about a mile from campus. Three held the poisonous gas arsine, one had liquid mustard and one carried lewisite. Another 60 to 80 conventional munitions will be turned to scrap this summer.

<http://freedomsyndicate.com/fair0000/latimes0018C.html>

file under: increasingly aerial occupation

U.N. Official To Call For End Of CIA Drone Strikes

May 28, 2010

A soon-to-be-released United Nations report will call into question the use of unmanned aircraft for targeted killings in Afghanistan and Pakistan by U.S. intelligence agencies.

The report, to be released next week by the U.N. special rapporteur on extrajudicial executions, will

call on the United States to stop allowing the Central Intelligence Agency to carry out drone attacks on suspected militants.

The special rapporteur, New York University law professor Philip Alston, told The New York Times that the CIA does not have the public accountability that's required of the U.S. military. Alston says the use of the drones and their firepower should be restricted to the armed forces.

Alston told The Associated Press that the C.I.A. doesn't comply with "any of the requirements as to transparency and accountability which are central to international humanitarian law."

Alston, an Australian, is expected to deliver his report on the subject to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva on Thursday.

Some legal experts have said the pilots who operate the aircraft for the CIA could be liable for criminal prosecution.

David Glazier, a professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, says he agrees that the drone strikes are not war crimes. But he says that the CIA pilots who fly the drones could be regarded as common criminals. "They have no legal authority to be killing anyone," Glazier says. "They have committed the crime of murder under Pakistan's law."

A civilian CIA pilot — might be prosecuted for murder, Glazier says.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=127238920>

related story:

Operators of Drones Are Faulted in Deaths of 23 Afghan Civilians

NYTimes.com
28 May 2010

KABUL, Afghanistan — The American military released a scathing report on Saturday on the deaths of 23 Afghan civilians, saying that "inaccurate and unprofessional" reporting by a team of Predator drone operators helped lead to an inadvertent airstrike this year on a group of innocent men, women and children.

The report said that four American officers, including a brigade and battalion commander, had been reprimanded, and that two junior officers had also been disciplined.

General McHale blamed the "inaccurate and unprofessional reporting of the Predator crew operating out of Creech A.F.B., Nevada, which deprived the ground force commander of vital information."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/30/world/asia/30drone.html?ref=global-home>

backpage

17,000 Japanese circle US base in peaceful protest

17,000 Japanese link hands, surround Marine base to protest US military presence in Okinawa

JAY ALABASTER

AP News

May 16, 2010 08:27 EDT

Thousands of Japanese linked hands and encircled a Marine Corps base in Okinawa on Sunday to protest its presence on the island, putting more pressure on Tokyo to resolve an impasse over the base's future.

About 17,000 residents surrounded the Futenma air base early in the afternoon, chanting slogans and completing a human chain twice for several minutes each time, city official Hitoshi Nakou said. The base covers about 1.9 square miles (4.92 sq. kilometers), and sits in the middle of Ginowan, a city of about 93,000.

Locals from Japan's southern Okinawa Island are growing increasingly vocal against the presence of the U.S. military. Residents have long said they must deal with constant noise created by military aircraft and increased crime from U.S. troops in the area.

An agreement to move the base to a less populated part of the island was made in 1996, but Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama said he wanted to rework that deal when he came to power last year. Despite campaign pledges to relocate the base, he has repeatedly extended his deadline to present a solution and faces heavy criticism on the issue both at home and abroad.

Hatoyama visited Okinawa earlier this month, apologizing to locals for the "nuisance" caused by the base.

On Sunday, protesters, many dressed in ponchos against the rainy weather, lined up along the barbed-wire fences and city streets on the base perimeter, raising their linked arms and shouting slogans, including "We are against moving the base inside our prefecture (state)."

The demonstration was timed to coincide with the Saturday anniversary of Okinawa's return from U.S. to Japanese administration in 1972.

The biggest anti-base protest yet gathered 90,000 Okinawans last month.

Futenma is home to only about 2,000 U.S. Marines but has long been a symbol of the U.S. presence on Okinawa. The island hosts more than half of the 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan.

In the 1996 agreement, made after the brutal rape of a 12-year-old schoolgirl by two Marines and a sailor, the U.S. also agreed to move about 8,600 Marines from other Okinawa units to the tiny Pacific territory of Guam by 2014.

<http://wire.antiwar.com/2010/05/16/17000-japanese-circle-us-base-in-peaceful-protest/>

American Soldier in Okinawa: 'Only a Minority Think We're Monsters'

Following Japan's defeat and the end of the Second World War, the United States and Japan signed a security agreement stating that the Americans could keep their military bases on Japanese soil on the condition that they acted as the country's security force. Today, Japan has its own army, but the "Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan", revised in 1960, is still in existence.

According to the website ClosetheBase.org, Okinawa Island's residents account for just 1% of the Japanese population, yet the island hosts 74% of American soldiers based in the country. The website cites "33 facilities exclusively for the US military, 29 water areas for military training and security, and 20 air force facilities". The infamous Futenma base is situated in the middle of the city of Ginowan.

Dan (not his real name) is a member of the US Marine Corps. He's based in Camp Foster, a military base near to Futenma, on Okinawa Island. :

"Closing bases here would mean moving 30,000 to 40,000 people; it's a big task; not something you can do overnight. But it's true we don't do much here. We do daily training exercises and often go off to train in Australia, Thailand etc., My work is mainly a computer job.

I went along to the demonstration and spoke to some of the locals. They told me that what bothers them most is the noise of the fighter planes taking off and landing. Another big issue, which I do understand, is that the base takes up a massive amount of space, leaving the town overcrowded.

It's true that a few of us have done some stupid things [Close the Base has a list of accidents and criminals cases on its website]. There are some who think we're all drunks who go around stabbing taxi drivers."

<http://observers.france24.com/en/content/20100506-american-soldier-japan-only-minority-think-we-monsters-okinawa-futenma>

related story:

80% of Tokunoshima residents oppose hosting U.S. base

Thursday, May 6, 2010

TOKUNOSHIMA, Kagoshima Pref. (Kyodo) A group rallying against the idea of relocating some of the U.S. Marines stationed in Okinawa to Tokunoshima Island, Kagoshima Prefecture, said Wednesday it has collected the signatures of about 20,000 residents of the island, about 80 percent of its population, who oppose such a transfer.

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20100506a2.html>

related op/ed

Japan Can Defend Itself

by Doug Bandow

05.12.2010

World War II ended 65 years ago. The Cold War disappeared 21 years ago. Yet America's military deployments have little changed. Nowhere is that more evident than on the Japanese island of Okinawa.

Okinawans are tired of the heavy U.S. military presence. Some 90,000—nearly 10 percent of the island's population—gathered in protest at the end of April. It is time for Washington to lighten Okinawa's burden.

After Tokyo's surrender, Washington filled the main prefecture island with bases and didn't return it to Japan until 1972. America's military presence has only been modestly reduced since.

The facilities grew out of the mutual defense treaty between America and Japan, by which the former promised to defend the latter, which was disarmed after its defeat.

Whatever the justifications of this arrangement during the Cold War, the necessity of both U.S. ground forces in Japan and the larger mutual defense treaty between the two nations has disappeared.

So long as Tokyo requests American military protection, it cannot easily reject Washington's request for bases. Thus, Okinawan residents must do more than demand fairness. They must advocate defense independence.

Who should protect Japan? Japan. Tokyo's neighbors remain uneasy in varying degrees about the prospect of a more active Japan, but World War II is over. A revived Japanese empire is about as likely as a revived Mongol empire. Japan could play a much larger role in preserving regional security.

If the Japanese people want a minimal (or no) military, that is their right. But they should not expect other nations to fill the defense gap.

Moreover, with an expected \$1.6 trillion deficit this year alone, the United States can no longer afford to protect countries which are able to protect themselves.

Making fewer promises to intervene would allow the United States to reduce the number of military personnel and overseas bases. A good place to start in cutting international installations would be Okinawa.

Washington is risking the lives and wasting the money of the American people to defend other populous and prosperous states.

Washington should close Futenma—as a start to refashioning the alliance with Japan. Rather than a unilateral promise by the United States to defend Japan, the relationship should become one of equals working together on issues of mutual interest. Responsibility for protecting Japan should become that

of Japan.

<http://www.nationalinterest.org/Article.aspx?id=23390>

Fortress Guam resists US military buildup

Opponents of the build-up have emphasized the negative impact of the US military on Guam, manifested in poor health, radiation exposure, contaminated and toxic sites, curbing of traditional practices such as fishing, and major land takings.

By LisaLinda Natividad and Gwyn Kirk

Asia Times Online

May 14, 2010

Guam is the southern-most island in the Northern Mariana chain that also includes Rota, Tinian and Saipan. It is the homeland of indigenous Chamorro people whose ancestors first came to the islands nearly 4,000 years ago. Formed from two volcanoes, Guam's rocky core now constitutes an "unsinkable aircraft carrier" for the United States military in the words of Brigadier General Douglas H Owens, a former commanding officer of Guam's Andersen air force base.

Despite their economic dependence on the US military, which occupies one-third of the island's landmass and dominates the island's economy, people in Guam have expressed strong opposition to the proposed enormous increase in the US military presence on economic, environmental, and cultural grounds. Due to Guam's status as an unincorporated US territory, however, local communities are highly constrained in their ability to influence the political process.

Indeed, they were not even consulted when the expansion plans were developed. Jon Blas of the coalition We Are Guahan stated, "We have not been able to say yes or no to this. Hawaii said no. California said no. But we were never given the opportunity."

Following the release of the Department of Defense's (DoD's) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in November 2009, which for the first time revealed details of the proposed military build-up, community members started to question the enormous sacrifices they are being ordered to make in the name of "national security". Guam's congressional representative, Madeleine Bordallo, who fervently supported the military build-up as the primary way to boost Guam's weak economy, has moderated her position with a range of stipulations as a result of the outpouring of public testimony at town hall meetings, public hearings, community events, and in media reports. When the military held environmental impact meetings in Guam, Saipan, and Tinian in April, 2007, some 800 people attended and over 900 comments were received.

The Organic Act of Guam passed by the US Congress in 1950 made Guam an unincorporated territory of the United States with limited self-governing authority. The Organic Act placed Guam under the administrative control of the Department of the Interior. With a current population of approximately 173,456, Guam is one of 16 non-self-governing territories listed by the United Nations, and represented by one non-voting delegate in the US Congress. Residents are US citizens but not entitled to vote in presidential elections. Federal-territorial policies are decided in Washington, 7,938 miles (12,774 kilometers) away.

Following World War II, the military took a large portion of arable land to build bases and other

installations, equivalent to nearly 50% of the island's landmass, including some of the most fertile land near popular fishing grounds. Since then, some lands have been returned following civic protest, with the US presently occupying nearly one-third of the island.

In January 2008, congresswoman Donna Christensen from the Virgin Islands convened US congressional hearings on Guam, on an invitation-only basis. Protests resulted in the inclusion of public testimony as an "addendum" to the official proceedings. A year later, the Joint Guam Program Office (JGPO) held public meetings.

Organizers created educational spaces as a way to get information to the public, including "Beyond the Fence" a one-hour weekly public radio show. Faculty members at the University of Guam organized public forums for community education and discussion regarding the proposed build-up, including talks by professor Catherine Lutz, editor of *Bases of Empire*; former US Army Colonel Ann Wright; and activists from Okinawa, mainland Japan, and Hawaii.

In September 2009, the university hosted presentations by participants of the 7th International Network of Women Against Militarism conference, women who live with the effects of US bases and military operations in their home communities.

At the international level, the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization is another venue for speaking out about the military proposals. Attending its October 2008 meeting, several Chamorro speakers expressed concern over the planned military expansion, arguing that this "hyper-militarization" poses grave threats to the Chamorro people's right to self-determination.

The incidence of cancer in Guam is high and Chamorros have significantly higher rates than other ethnic groups. Cancer mortality rates for 2003-2007 showed that Chamorro incidence rates from cancer of the mouth and pharynx, nasopharynx, lung and bronchus, cervix, uterus, and liver were all higher than US rates. Chamorros living on Guam also have the highest incidence of diabetes compared to other ethnic groups, and this is about five times the overall US rate.

The entire island was affected by toxic contamination following the "Bravo" hydrogen bomb test in the Marshall Islands in 1954. Up to 20 years later, from 1968 to 1974, Guam had higher yearly rainfall measures of strontium 90 compared to Majuro (Marshall Islands). In the 1970s, Guam's Cocos Island lagoon was used to wash down ships contaminated with radiation that had been in the Marshall Islands as part of an attempt to clean up the islands. Guam's representative, Madeleine Bordallo, introduced a bill in Congress in March 2009, to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) to include the territory of Guam in the list of affected "downwinder" areas with respect to atmospheric nuclear testing in Micronesia (HR 1630).

In April 2010, Senator Tom Udall introduced an amendment to RECA with the inclusion of Guam for downwinders' compensation. While these initiatives have been the priority of the Pacific Association for Radiation Survivors for over five years now, people on Guam have yet to receive compensation for their suffering. The territory currently qualifies for RECA compensation in the "onsite-participants" category but not for downwind exposure.

<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Japan/LE14Dh01.html>

Epitaph

for this edition of "Truth in Recruiting"

Article 48 of the Geneva Conventions speaks to the "basic rule" regarding the protection of civilians:

"In order to ensure respect for and protection of the civilian population and civilian objects, the Parties to the conflict shall at all times distinguish between the civilian population and combatants and between civilian objects and military objectives and accordingly shall direct their operations only against military objectives."

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for Jan 2010
masthead

who we are:

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship is the activist wing of the peace movement in Eastern Oklahoma. TPF offers citizens and community groups tools and resources to participate personally in our democracy, to help shape federal budget and policy priorities, and to promote peace, social and economic justice, and human rights. TPF is a registered non-profit organization and a non-partisan civic-sector organization, loosely affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Restoration, north side of Tulsa.

"Waging Peace One Person at a Time".

Through its counter-recruitment task force, TPF is a member of the **National Network in Opposition to the Militarization of Youth (NNOMY)** representing some 188 counter-recruitment groups in cities and towns across the country. On the web: http://www.nnomy.org/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=216&Itemid=91

Tulsa Peace Fellowship is open to members of third parties, progressives, Democrats, Republicans, libertarians, etc. 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"

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 monthly anti-war demo in Tulsa is scheduled for **Saturday June 5th 2010, 12noon to 2pm, with the theme: "U.S. Out of Afghanistan Now!"**
Details online: <http://tulsapeacefellowship.ning.com/events/out-of-afghanistan-1>

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Fellowship will be held
on Thursday, June 10th 2010, 6:15 PM – 7:30 PM @ the UU Church of the Restoration, in Tulsa, just north of downtown

--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, the Tulsa Interfaith Alliance, Pax Christi, and the Quakers

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: 753 (including 687 subscribers through Yahoogroups, 64 subscribers through Ning, our preferred network since 2009)

The information provided in this digest/update herein is for non-profit use only, according to "fair use" doctrine. Copyright and all commercial exploitation rights remain with the various authors/publishers cited above. The Tulsa Peace Fellowship does not necessarily endorse the views expressed in the articles appearing herein.

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 why you should NOT enlist

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>

further information

IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 17 U.S.C. SECTION 107, THIS MATERIAL IS DISTRIBUTED WITHOUT PROFIT TO THOSE WHO HAVE EXPRESSED A PRIOR INTEREST IN RECEIVING THE INCLUDED INFORMATION FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES. The Tulsa Peace Fellowship IS NOT ENDORSED OR SPONSORED BY THE ORIGINATORS OF THE ARTICLES HEREIN.

SOURCE ARTICLE LINKS ARE PROVIDED AS A CONVENIENCE TO OUR READERS AND ALLOW FOR VERIFICATION OF AUTHENTICITY. HOWEVER, AS ORIGINATING PAGES ARE OFTEN UPDATED BY THEIR ORIGINATING HOST SITES, THE VERSIONS POSTED MAY NOT MATCH THE VERSIONS OUR READERS VIEW WHEN CLICKING THE SOURCE ARTICLE LINKS, OR INDEED, THE WEBPAGES MAY NO LONGER EVEN EXIST.