

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

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

(scroll down for details about any story - links at bottom of every story)

Lead Story from the past month's news:

America's 'casualty gap' : Poor areas lose more of their young to wars

--file under: [the poverty draft, confirmed by latest study](#)

quote:

"If Americans were to learn of the casualty gap between rich and poor communities, the public would become more circumspect about future military action. However, the casualty gap is not part of our national dialogue."

facts & figures:

Why do we need alternatives to the military? [The Pentagon spends billions of dollars every year targeting low-income youth and youth of color for enlistment in the military.](#) The 'poverty draft' ensures that those with less resources and less opportunity are disproportionately represented in the military. To convince the poor to sign up, the Pentagon spends \$4.7 billion per year in advertising and other predatory recruitment campaigns. It really is a [war against the poor](#) of this nation.

related resources:

Alternatives to Killing &/or Alternatives to Enlistment

--online database of jobs and opportunities from the [Center on Conscience and War](#). It has opportunities around the country that offer [more promise for a peaceful & long life](#) than joining the US military.

page 1

file under: dangers of privatized military

U.S.-Based Mercenaries Killing U.S. Government-Issued Soldiers in Afghanistan

--military [profiteering](#) is feeding the cycle of violence, at the cost of G.I. lives

facts & figures:

It is estimated that there is 1 mercenary for every 1 G.I. soldier in Afghanistan. They each potentially serve [cross purposes](#).

Military Still Failing To Diagnose, Treat Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI)

--Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), has been called the [signature injury of the Iraq war](#), roadside bombs are the reason. The US invaded Iraq 7 years ago on the pretense of finding weapons of mass destruction. When is it over?

Reasons #3, #4 and #5, why you shouldn't join the military:

c.. You May Be Injured

d.. You May Not Receive Proper Medical Care

e.. You May Suffer Long-term Health Problems

featured op/ed

Downplaying the Mess of War

by William A. Collins

facts & figures:

The *Army Times* reports that 18 vets a day commit suicide. Every day! And those are just the ones being treated by the VA health system. Worse, these only constitute 7 percent of those who try. In addition, 11 percent of those who attempted suicide once give it another shot within nine months. Suicide rates for active-duty troops are also high, but closely held. They're generally called "accidents."

page 2

file under: bringing the war home

Depression, PTSD plague many Iraq vets

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

facts & figures:

- * Up to 31 percent of soldiers returning from combat in Iraq experience depression or PTSD
- * In extreme cases, relationship problems and stress can lead to suicide
- * The time between deployments may not be sufficient for many soldiers to recover

related story:

Research shows that killing at any distance may increase the risk of developing PTSD

file under: war is boring, and bad for your health

Sand flies infect U.S. forces with parasite that leaves them with 'Baghdad Boil'

--during the U.S. invasion of Iraq, hundreds of soldiers began to spot red bumps on their skin that swelled for weeks before rupturing into seeping wounds, leaving them permanently disfigured.

featured op/ed

Occupied, D.C.: The military-industrial complex invades the capital's subway system.

--The ads are most heavily concentrated at Pentagon City and near government offices at the Federal Center and Capitol South stations.

file under: [ubiquitous signs of militarism in Washington](#)

featured op/ed

Serving the Empire, Killing for Lies

by Sheldon Richman, of [The Future of Freedom Foundation](#)

from the archives:

What was the cost in lives of "Operation Rolling Thunder" (Vietnam bombing runs)

--After one of the longest aerial campaigns ever conducted by any nation, *Rolling Thunder* was terminated as a strategic failure in late 1968 having achieved none of its objectives.

backpage

follow up: sprawling U.S. empire of bases

Japan's prime minister steps down over base row

--Okinawa waits to be liberated from U.S. occupation, now more than 60 years long

Germany to slash armed forces by 40,000 men

--The reduction would mean 16 per cent fewer soldiers, sailors and air force personnel

U.S. report ties militancy to Pakistan school woes

--Pakistan's poor public education system helps stoke militancy, while the religious schools often cited as a cause of extremism appear not to be a major risk factor

epitaph for this edition of "Truth in Recruiting"

by John Mueller, excerpt from "Band of Brigands"

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

lead story

Poor areas lose more of their young to wars

--America's 'casualty gap': why poverty and death are linked together in the U.S. Armed Forces

by Douglas L Kriner and Francis X. Shen

May 30th 2010

we should not overlook a very real though hidden aspect of war: the socioeconomic inequality in who makes the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the nation.

Over the last six years, we have studied this inequality by collecting and analyzing data on the hometowns of more than 400,000 members of the armed forces who died in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iraq.

By integrating these records with census data, we demonstrate unambiguously that, beginning with the Korean War, disadvantaged communities have suffered a disproportionate share of the nation's wartime casualties, while richer communities have been more insulated from the costs of war.

Furthermore, the data suggest that this "casualty gap" between rich and poor communities has reached its widest proportions in the ongoing conflict in Iraq. Although the military uses the term "casualty" in reference to both killed and wounded soldiers, following the standard practice in political science our study uses the term casualty to denote deaths.

Nationally, in the Korean, Vietnam and Iraq wars, communities in the lowest three income groups suffered 35 percent, 36 percent and 38 percent of the casualties, respectively. Yet communities in the top three income deciles sustained significantly fewer casualties – 25 percent, 26 percent and 23 percent of the casualties, respectively.

More advanced statistical analyses, which account for a variety of other important factors, also offer

strong evidence of casualty gaps between communities with different levels of income and education.

Los Angeles, for example, citywide almost 27 percent of residents hold a college degree. By contrast, in the specific L.A. neighborhoods that have lost a young man or woman in Iraq, less than 12 percent of residents graduated from college.

Similarly, in New York City, the citywide average median family income is nearly \$42,000, while the average in neighborhoods that have experienced an Iraq war casualty is \$34,000, 19 percent lower.

Assertions of a casualty gap are not new. In the Civil War, there were cries of a “rich man’s war, poor man’s fight.” But documenting this inequality has proved difficult. Previous studies were limited in scope and produced conflicting findings. This confusion led commentators such as William F. Buckley to describe Vietnam as an “all-American effort” of shared battlefield sacrifice. Our study, however, definitively shows that the burden of war death in Vietnam, Korea and Iraq has not been shouldered equally.

What would happen if the nation openly acknowledged the casualty gap? Would citizens rethink questions of war and peace? To find out, we conducted a series of original public opinion survey experiments with nationally representative samples of Americans.

We found that citizens informed about the existence of a casualty gap were significantly more likely to oppose ongoing military operations and less willing to support future ones than were their peers who were not informed about casualty inequalities.

These experimental results suggest that if Americans were to learn of wartime inequalities, the public would become more circumspect about future military action. However, the casualty gap is not part of our national dialogue.

The reason is clear: Casualty inequalities challenge our fundamental American values. Bringing a frank and honest discussion of the casualty gap into the public sphere could significantly alter the tenor of political discourse in Washington.

We call on policymakers, military leaders and the public to acknowledge and discuss the disproportionate wartime burden borne by America’s poorest and most disadvantaged communities.

Let us remember the full human costs of military action, including the socioeconomic inequality they underscore, and weigh them carefully when crafting American military policy.

byline: Douglas L. Kriner is an assistant professor of political science at Boston University. Francis X. Shen is a fellow in the MacArthur Foundation Law & Neuroscience Project and a visiting scholar at Vanderbilt Law School. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Read more: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/2010/05/30/v-lite/1206207/americas-casualty-gap-poor-areas.html#ixzz0pcOIpnhv>

Alternatives to the Military Guides

["It's My Life"](#) (national guide to be used anywhere in the U.S.) details alternative options to military

service that still satisfy a taste for adventure and commitment to high ideals.

Created by AFSC's Great Lakes Regional Office, this alternative guide features pages and pages filled with many local and national career opportunities: peaceful jobs and careers that offer what the military promises—without giving up your rights and supporting the war machine. The booklet also includes career planning, personal growth, youth leadership and independent living. It will be updated constantly. For more information, contact the American Friends Service Committee office in Chicago office at 312-427-2533.

Specific ideas for travel, adventure jobs, youth exchange, skills training, career training and paying for college are explored in this 92-page book available for \$9.95. [Please download the order form](#) (PDF, 32 KB) for purchase by mail. You may also place an order by emailing youthmil@afsc.org or calling 215-241-7176. Bulk pricing is available.

To view an electronic version of It's My Life with the 2009 updates included in the text, click [here](#).



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

file under: dangers of privatized military

U.S.-Based Mercenaries Killing U.S. Government-Issued Soldiers in Afghanistan

--military profiteering by U.S. corporations is feeding the cycle of violence, at the cost of G.I.'s losing their lives

--accused of extorting U.S. tax dollars, private security companies resemble R.I.C.O.'s (racket-influenced and corrupt organizations)

By Dexter Filkins
Published: June 6, 2010
The New York Times

MAIDAN SHAHR, Afghanistan — Two of the biggest private security companies were banned [temporarily] from escorting NATO convoys on the highway between Kabul and Kandahar.

[The President one of the two mercenary companies] strongly denied any suggestion that his men either **colluded with insurgents or orchestrated attacks to emphasize the need for their services.**

Investigators here and in Washington, who are trying to track the tens of millions in taxpayer dollars paid to private security companies to move supplies to American and other NATO bases.

Although the investigation is not complete, the officials suspect that at least some of these security companies — many of which have ties to top Afghan officials — are using American money to bribe the Taliban. The officials suspect that the security companies may also engage in fake fighting to increase the sense of risk on the roads, and that they may sometimes stage attacks against competitors.

The suspicions raise fundamental questions about the conduct of operations here, since the convoys, and the supplies they deliver, are the lifeblood of the war effort.

“We’re funding both sides of the war,” a NATO official in Kabul said. The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the investigation was incomplete, said he believed millions of dollars were making their way to the Taliban.

Afghan and NATO officials say that anecdotal evidence suggests that in order to keep their trucks moving — and to keep up their business — some companies may sometimes pay Taliban fighters not to attack, to sometimes mount attacks on competitors, or, as is suspected in the case in Maidan Shahr, to attack NATO forces.

“It would be my expectation that people might create their own demand,” said Maj. Gen. Nick Carter, the commander of NATO forces in southern Afghanistan. “It is essential that these highways move freely without extortion and racketeering.”

While at least some of the companies are believed to be bribing Taliban fighters, many have also been known to act with extreme harshness toward villagers or insurgents who have tried to interfere with their convoys.

The security companies, which appear to operate under little supervision, have sometimes wreaked havoc on Afghan civilians. Some of the private security companies have been known to attack villages on routes where convoys have come under fire, Western officials here say.

Records show there are 52 government-registered security companies, with 24,000 gunmen, most of them Afghans. But many, if not most, of the security companies are not registered at all, do not advertise themselves and do not necessarily restrain their gunmen with training or rules of engagement. Some appear to be little more than gangs with guns.

In the city of Kandahar alone, at least 23 armed groups — ostensibly security companies not registered with the government — are operating under virtually no government control, Western and Afghan officials said. On Kandahar’s chaotic streets, armed men can often be seen roaming about without any uniforms or identification.

“There are thousands of people that have been paid by both civilian and military organizations to escort their convoys, and they all pose a problem,” said Hanif Atmar, the Afghan interior minister. (Mr. Atmar resigned under pressure from President Karzai on Sunday.) “The Afghan people are not ready to accept the private companies’ providing public security.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/07/world/asia/07convoys.html>

Kucinich: 'We may be funding our own killers in Afghanistan'

By Sahil Kapur
Tuesday, June 8th, 2010

According to the *New York Times*, a "series of events last month suggested all-out collusion with the insurgents." *The Times* interviewed a NATO official in Kabul who "believed millions of dollars were making their way to the Taliban."

Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), a leading opponent of the war, asks: "**Is the U.S. paying for attacks on U.S. troops?**"

"The American people are paying to prop up a corrupt government that may be using our money to pay private companies to drum up business by paying the insurgents to attack our troops," he said. "Our troops are dying in Afghanistan, and now it turns out we may be funding their killers," Kucinich said in a statement e-mailed to Raw Story, renewing his longstanding call for a pullout.

Robert Greenwald, an ardent war critic and director of the 2009 documentary "Rethink Afghanistan," viewed the *Times* story as vindication for his message. It "confirms what we have heard numerous times from our friends, co workers and producers in Afghanistan. The United States is effectively funding both sides of the war all too often," he said.

<http://rawstory.com/rs/2010/0608/kucinich-war-critics-rebuke-usfunded-bribes-afghan-militants/>

Military Still Failing To Diagnose, Treat Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI)

T. Christian Miller and Daniel Zwerdling
June 8, 2010 for NPR

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), has been called the signature injury of the Iraq war, roadside bombs are the reason. The US invaded Iraq 7 years ago on the pretense of finding weapons of mass destruction. When is it over?

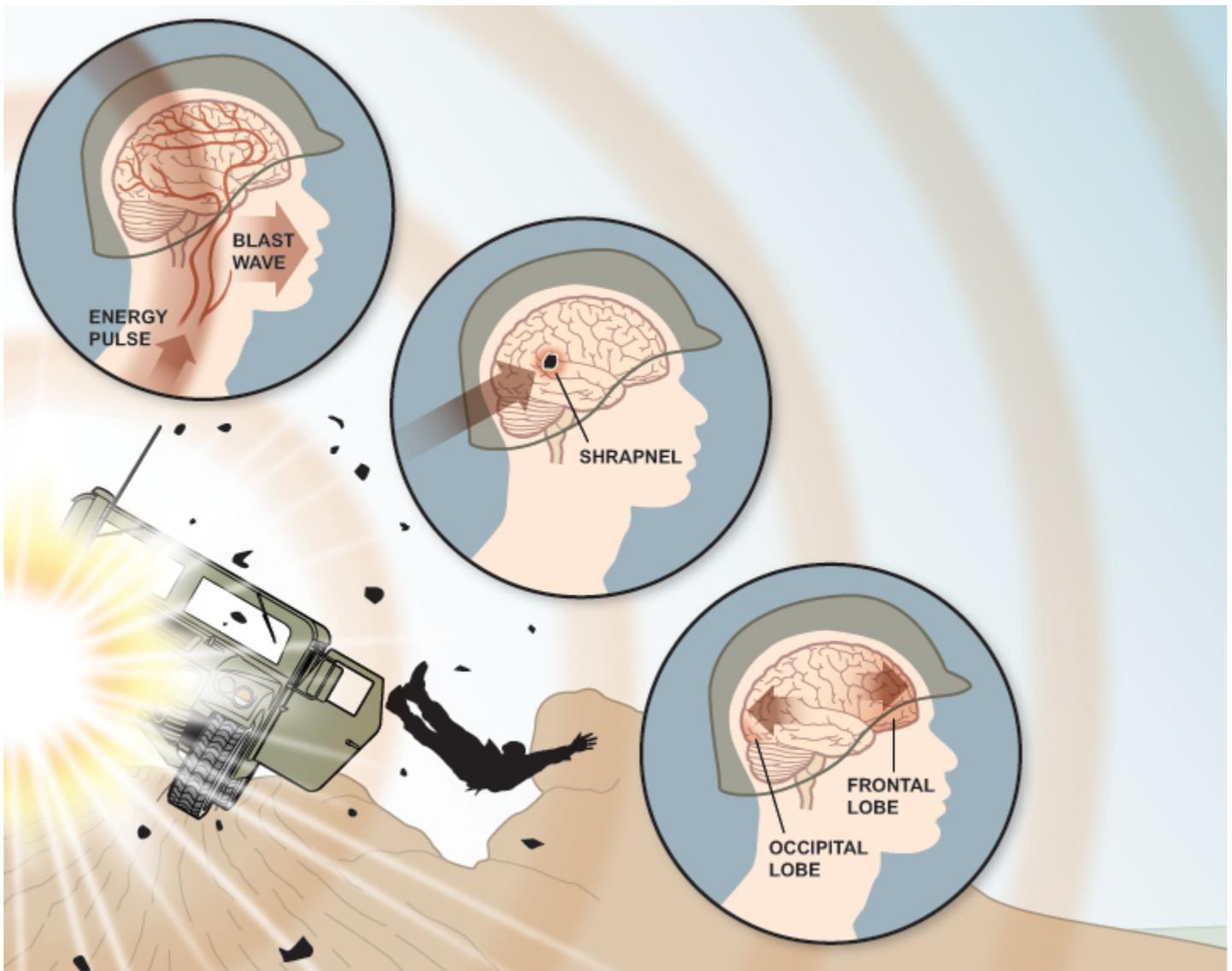


image source: <http://www.propublica.org/special/tbi-in-combat>

PRIMARY BLAST INJURY

An explosion generates a blast wave traveling faster than sound and creating a surge of high pressure immediately followed by a vacuum. Studies show that the blast wave shoots through armor and soldiers' skulls and brains, even if it doesn't draw blood. While the exact mechanisms by which it damages the brain's cells and circuits are still being studied, the blast wave's pressure has been shown to compress the torso, impacting blood vessels, which then send damaging energy pulses into the brain. The pressure can also be transferred partially through the skull, interacting with the brain.

SECONDARY BLAST INJURY

Shrapnel and debris propelled by the blast can strike a soldier's head, causing either a closed-head injury through blunt force or a penetrating head injury that damages brain tissue.

TERTIARY BLAST INJURY

The kinetic energy generated and released by an explosion can accelerate a soldier's body through the air and into the ground or nearby solid object. Once the body stops, the brain continues to move in the direction of the force, hitting the interior of the skull and then bouncing back into the opposite side, causing a [coup-contrecoup injury](#).

The military medical system is failing to diagnose brain injuries in troops who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, many of whom receive little or no treatment for lingering health problems, an investigation by NPR and ProPublica has found. ProPublica is a nonprofit investigative news organization.

Based on dozens of interviews and access to previously unreleased military studies, documents and e-mails, NPR and ProPublica have found that from the battlefield to the homefront the military's doctors and screening systems routinely miss brain trauma in soldiers. As a result, soldiers haven't been getting treatment.

In 2007, under enormous public pressure, military leaders pledged to fix problems in diagnosing and treating brain injuries. Yet despite the hundreds of millions of dollars pumped into the effort since then, critical parts of this promise remain unfulfilled.

>From the battlefield to the homefront, the military's doctors and screening systems routinely miss brain trauma in soldiers. One of the military tests fails to catch as many as 40 percent of concussions, a recent unpublished study concluded. A second exam, on which the Pentagon has spent millions, yields results that top medical officials call about as reliable as a coin flip.

<http://readersupportednews.org/off-site-news-section/96-96/2152-audio-military-failing-to-diagnose-treat-brain-injuries>

featured op/ed

Downplaying the Mess of War

by William A. Collins, June 22, 2010

Now just suppose, say, that high school kids received full knowledge of the hideous nature of war. Or the number of female soldiers who get raped. How many do you think would sign up? Well, sure, some still would, many of them because they need jobs or citizenship. But plenty who today respond to the Pentagon's snazzy \$4 billion recruiting budget might sign up for community college instead. Then how would we be able to invade Iran?

Probably by using still more civilians. That's another secret. We've heard generally about the shady defense contractors who rip us off while supporting our armies abroad. Thanks to these mercenaries, we don't need so many troops. But how many are there altogether? That's classified. The estimate is one civilian per GI. And many are foreign laborers who work for dirt and are treated about the same.

That's the way many soldiers and veterans feel too. Plenty with post-traumatic stress disorder find themselves discharged for behavioral problems, thus relieving the Pentagon of having to care for them. Others finish their enlistment and then flood the VA seeking help. Thus begins their next war: fighting for adequate appropriations to treat the suffering from preferably forgotten old wars.

All presidents are much more eager to “move forward” into exciting new wars, which someone else will later have to clean up.

<http://original.antiwar.com/collins/2010/06/21/downplaying-the-mess-of-war/>

sidebar: funding peace rather than war

Afghanistan Peace and Reconciliation Program

Richard Holbrooke, US special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, told reporters Monday that the US, Japan, Britain and other countries have “committed” roughly “200 million dollars” to fund peace efforts in Afghanistan, *Agence-France Presse* reports. The Afghanistan Peace and Reconciliation Program aims to reintegrate Taliban fighters who have renounced violence into Afghan society.

<http://rawstory.com/rs/2010/0608/kucinich-war-critics-rebuke-usfunded-bribes-afghan-militants/>

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

file under: bringing the war home

Depression, PTSD plague many Iraq vets

By Amanda Gardner, Health.com
June 7, 2010

Up to 31 percent of soldiers returning from combat in Iraq experience depression or post-traumatic stress disorder that affects their jobs, relationships, or home life, according to a new study by Army researchers.

For as many as 14 percent of these veterans, depression and PTSD cause severe problems in their daily life. These problems are often accompanied by alcohol misuse and aggressive behavior, the study found.

"These things begin to snowball," says Robert Bossarte, Ph.D., an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Rochester Medical Center, in Rochester, New York. "Your work performance suffers; you experience job loss and economic strain."

In extreme cases, the resulting relationship problems and stress can lead to suicide, adds Bossarte, who was not involved in the new study.

The researchers analyzed mental health surveys from more than 13,000 Army and National Guard infantrymen who fought in Iraq. The soldiers completed the surveys between 2004 and 2007, three and 12 months after returning to the U.S.

Between 9 percent and 14 percent of the soldiers were diagnosed with PTSD or depression resulting in serious impairment, while 23 percent to 31 percent were deemed to have some impairment. (The rates

varied depending on the diagnostic criteria the researchers used.)

The risk of mental health problems may be more persistent among National Guard soldiers, the study suggests. A greater proportion of men and women in the National Guard than in the Army were diagnosed with PTSD and depression one year after their return.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/HEALTH/06/07/iraq.vets.ptsd/>

related story:

Research shows that killing at any distance may increase the risk of developing PTSD

A recent study in the Journal of Traumatic Stress found that Iraq war veterans who had killed, or believe they had, were at greater risk for mental health issues including PTSD, depression, anger, alcohol abuse and relationship strife.

Of nearly 2,800 soldiers surveyed for the study, 40 percent reported having killed or being responsible for somebody's death in Iraq, and about 22 percent showed symptoms of PTSD. Killing was "a significant predictor of psychosocial functioning, including anger and relationship difficulties," wrote Shira Maguen, the study's chief investigator.

Even now, the word "kill" is rarely used during basic training. Rather, troops are taught to "attrit the enemy," "engage a target" or "neutralize the threat," said Grossman. But conditioning troops to kill, without preparing them mentally for what it looks and feels like and ultimately means, can have unintended and disturbing results.

"I can trick your body to kill," he said, "But if your mind is not ready to live with it, then who is the next victim?"

To fully prepare troops and preserve their mental health, Grossman argued, killing must be readily acknowledged as a part of war, not cloaked in euphemism.

Some servicemembers have difficulty forgiving themselves, and the ones who are haunted have often witnessed, or taken part in, killing noncombatants.

<http://www.stripes.com/an-instant-to-pull-the-trigger-and-a-lifetime-to-live-with-it-1.107668>

file under : war is boring, and bad for your health

Sand flies infect U.S. forces with parasite that leaves them with 'Baghdad Boil'

By Eric Athas

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

The Washington Post, page HE01

Mason Alsaleh was sound asleep when he was attacked at a U.S. Army outpost in northwest Iraq.

What happened that August night last year left the 48-year-old interpreter disfigured and unable to sleep, his mind muddled with paranoia, his temper short.

But Alsaleh's injuries -- including what look today like third-degree burns on his neck and arm -- weren't caused by gunfire or an explosion. His enemy that night was a tiny insect that injected a flesh-eating parasite into his skin.

Alsaleh, a Jordanian-born military contractor who works for Falls Church-based Global Linguist Solutions, is a victim of leishmaniasis, a disease carried by sand flies that is sometimes called Baghdad Boil. He remembers that when he first got to his mattress in an old building on a contingency base, it was covered in sand flies. He brushed them away.

"It looked like a bug bite," Alsaleh said of the lesions he got on his neck and elbow while the brigade he was working with was based northwest of Mosul. "And it grew and grew and grew, and then started to ooze. Then it gets bigger and starts to ooze again."

The disease, which the World Health Organization says affects 12 million people worldwide, received considerable media and political attention in 2003 during the U.S. invasion of Iraq, when hundreds of soldiers began to spot red bumps on their skin that swelled for weeks before rupturing into seeping wounds.

Although it's not commonly found in the United States, leishmaniasis is considered endemic in 88 countries and is most prevalent in Afghanistan, Brazil, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sudan, Bolivia, Peru, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

When an infected sand fly bites a human, it injects the parasite under the skin, explains Col. Glenn Wortmann, chief of the Infectious Diseases Service at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Ironically, the parasite stays alive by hiding inside the human body's center of immunity: white blood cells.

"They multiply, they burst out of that macrophage [white blood cell], infect other macrophages, and there's a progressive infection, eventually causing an ulcer in the skin," said Wortmann.

But Alsaleh discovered that the treatment he began in March was almost as traumatizing as the disease itself. The medication that is commonly recommended by doctors is Pentostam, which is administered in 20-injection doses and is "associated with a tremendous number of side effects," said Wortmann.

And the most terrifying form -- mucocutaneous, caused by leishmania braziliensis -- gnaws away at the faces of the infected.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/21/AR2010062104103_pf.html

featured op/ed

Occupied, D.C.: The military-industrial complex invades the capital's subway system.

--The ads are most heavily concentrated at Pentagon City and near government offices at the Federal

Center and Capitol South stations.

file under: [ubiquitous signs of militarism in Washington](#)

May 28, 2010

By Stephanie Westbrook

As a visitor to our nation's capital, it's disconcerting to step off a Metro train and find yourself face-to-face with an F-35 fighter jet. Washington D.C.'s subway system, the second busiest in the country, hosts full-color backlit billboards for some of the most deadly—and expensive—weapons systems ever produced.

The ads for ["defense" company's name suppressed ~TPF editor] (the world's largest arms merchant), ["defense" companies' names suppressed] adorn Metro stations throughout the D.C. metropolitan area. But not surprisingly, the ads are most heavily concentrated at Pentagon City and near government offices at the Federal Center and Capitol South stations. The ads clearly aim to influence key decision-makers, but they also sell to the public the concept that only superior military prowess can protect us from a hostile world.

The billboards range from explicit ads for attack helicopters and combat vehicles to more subtle ads for companies like little-known ["defense" company's name suppressed], owned by Italian weapons maker ["defense" company's name suppressed] and ranked 26 among the top 100 Pentagon contractors. Some are for ["defense" company's name suppressed], which sells “rugged” computers designed to meet Defense Department specifications for military use.

[One such "defense" company's] marketing approach in the Capitol South Metro station, the closest to Congress, is an all-out assault on the visual senses. The station is festooned by the country's third-largest military contractor. Apparently the usual ad space along tracks proved insufficient, so ["defense" company's name suppressed] placed ads on all four sides of special ad-space columns installed near the turnstiles, on banners strung up along the railings upstairs, and on the floor just before the escalators. CBS Outdoor, which manages the ad space in D.C. Metro stations, claims on its website that “Capitol Hill Station Domination is an impactful way to get your message in front of the Congress and decision-makers in D.C.”

An estimated 17,000 Capitol South Metro passengers are confronted daily with ["defense" company's name suppressed] Global Hawks and X-47 Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles—they boast a 4,500-pound weapons bay—E-2D Advanced Hawkeyes, Viper Strike-armed Fire Scout unmanned helicopters and E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar Systems (STARS), all designed “for an unsafe world.” But [according to the Brookings Institute, 90 percent of drone casualties in “targeted” strikes in Pakistan have been innocent civilians.](#)

The most startling of all the Capitol South billboards is the ominous scene of a bombed-out apartment building above this slogan: “By the time you find the threat, we've already taken it out of the picture.” ([“defense” company's name suppressed] fails to detail what happened to the people living in those apartments.)

The defense contractor presence on the D.C. Metro is just one example of the ubiquitous signs of militarism in Washington. Reminding us that we are a “nation at war,” military personnel dressed in camouflage can be seen everywhere from shopping mall food courts to lines at the bank. Following

9/11, combat fatigues were ordered everyday wear for all service members, including those with desk jobs.

I ask camouflaged service members the reason for wearing combat uniforms and am told it is to support “troops in the field.” One woman tells me, “That’s a good question. You feel kind of funny wearing this.” Looking down at her desert boots, she says, “It’s not exactly office wear.”

Signs calling for support of the troops can be found on everything from restaurant walls to dump trucks. At a gas station on Columbia Pike in Arlington, directly above the gas pumps is a red, white and blue sign that reads “Support Our Troops.” (... “and Keep the Oil Flowing”—is that the implicit message?)

This phenomenon is not limited to the nation’s capital. The militarization of our society has been progressing for decades, permeating our schools, research and development programs and law enforcement agencies.

http://www.inthesetimes.com/article/6009/occupied_d.c

featured op/ed

Serving the Empire, Killing for Lies

by Sheldon Richman, June 3, 2010

Some questions should be obvious: how exactly are the armed forces today serving us or the country? And what are those men and women of the military doing “around the world”? Why didn’t Obama mention the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, Afghans, and Pakistanis killed by American forces in the latest operations?

Don’t say that American forces are protecting us. Those troops may be serving the government and the “private” component of the military-industrial complex, but that has nothing to do with average Americans, who would be far safer — not to mention richer — if the trillion dollars spent every year on military-related matters were simply left in the taxpayers’ pockets.

It is way past time that the American people started seeing through the nonsense. That isn’t rocket science. Consider recent events:

Fact 1: The U.S. government is using robot Predator planes to shoot Hellfire missiles into Pakistan (and Afghanistan). Innocent men, women, and children are being killed or maimed regularly.

Fact 2: A Pakistani-American tries to blow up a car in Times Square.

How much effort does it take to connect those two dots? Can we really comfort ourselves by thinking that Faisal Shahzad was just a fanatical Muslim — counseled and trained by bad guys “over there” — bent on killing innocent Americans because he hates our way of life?

You have to be a damned fool to keep believing such balderdash.

Presidents and secretaries of State want us to believe that the U.S. government (which they conflate

with “the country”) did nothing to provoke the crimes known as “terrorism.” (Strangely, Predator attacks don’t meet the official definition of “terrorism.”) But the facts refuting that ridiculous claim are readily available. Any curious American can easily find out just how much U.S. regimes have done to create hostility and a desire for revenge in the hearts of Muslims.

The apologists for U.S. policy will say it was all done for peace, democracy, and prosperity. Then why does it always bring war, death, broken bodies, torture, misery, starvation, and disease? The war planners are not stupid. They see the results. They know what they are doing. Then they dupe others — too willing to be duped — into following orders and rationalizing their acts as necessary to national security.

Maybe this deadly con will never cease, but if it does it will be because we finally refused to pay respect to those who lead and fight the wars. We will have stopped believing that dying and killing for the empire is noble.

<http://www.fff.org/comment/com1006b.asp>

from the archives:

Vietnam-era U.S.-led "Rolling Thunder" bombing campaign against North Vietnam from 1965 to 1968

	U.S. dead	“collateral damage” (U.S. military's euphemism for dead civilians)
"Rolling Thunder" bombing campaign	~835 pilots/bombers killed, captured, or missing*	estimated 72,000 civilian casualties
Vietnam War, called "the American War" by the Vietnamese	58,000 dead Americans	between 1,000,000 and 10,000,000 dead Vietnamese millions dead in neighboring Laos and Cambodia scorched earth in Vietnam, a country still suffering today from the effects of Agent Orange

It was “collateral damage,” an estimated 72,000 civilian casualties during the U.S.-led “Rolling Thunder” bombing campaign against North Vietnam from 1965 to 1968, that helped to tarnish the U.S. military’s reputation.

*source for number of U.S. pilot/bomber casualties: Wikipedia
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Rolling_Thunder

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for July 2010
backpage

follow up: Okinawa

Japan's prime minister steps down over base row

By Mari Yamaguchi, Associated Press Writer – 1 June 2010

TOKYO – Embattled Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama said Wednesday he was resigning over his broken campaign promise to move a U.S. Marine base off the southern island of Okinawa.

The prime minister had faced growing pressure from within his own party to resign ahead of July's upper house elections. His approval ratings had plummeted over his bungled handling of the relocation of the Marine Air Station Futenma, reinforcing his public image as an indecisive leader.

Last week he said he would go along with the 2006 agreement to move the base to a northern part of the island, infuriating residents who want it off Okinawa entirely.

Okinawa alone houses more than half of the 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan, stationed under a bilateral security alliance.

His three-way coalition was cut to two members over the weekend when a junior partner, the Social Democrats, withdrew after the prime minister expelled its leader Mizuho Fukushima, who rejected the Futenma decision, from the Cabinet.

Fukushima's dismissal enhanced her public standing as a politician who stood up for her convictions and reinforced perceptions of Hatoyama's wishy-washiness.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/as_japan_politics

Germany to slash armed forces by 40,000 men

Jun 7, 2010
Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Berlin - Germany is to reduce its armed forces by 40,000 people, Chancellor Angela Merkel said in Berlin on Monday.

The forces currently have 250,000 personnel. The reduction would mean 16 per cent fewer soldiers, sailors and air force personnel.

Merkel said there would be 'major structural reform' in defence but she did not say if Germany would abolish military service. Berlin recently reduced the period of service to six months.

Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, leader of the Free Democratic Party, has pressed in the past for a timetable to be drawn up to pull German troops out of Afghanistan.

http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/europe/news/article_1561361.php/Germany-to-slash-armed-forces-by-40-000-men

U.S. report ties militancy to Pakistan school

WOES

Sue Fleming

Mon Jun 21, 2010

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Pakistan's poor public education system helps stoke militancy, while the religious schools often cited as a cause of extremism appear not to be a major risk factor, says a report by a Washington think tank.

The report, set to be released by the Brookings Institution on Wednesday, said low enrollment rates were a risk factor for violence and demand for education inside Pakistan far exceeded the government's ability to provide it.

In addition, Pakistan's public school system was highly corrupt with positions handed out for political favors and teachers paid whether they turned up for class or not.

The curriculum and teaching methods in public schools helped create intolerant views and also did little to prepare students for the labor market, frustrating youngsters and increasing the pool of militant recruits, the report said.

Education statistics in Pakistan are "sobering", they said -- just 54 percent of the population is able to read and 6.8 million children between the ages of 5 and 9 are not in school.

Less than a quarter of girls complete elementary school and only one-third of Pakistani children get a secondary education, with many dropping out.

"The data shows that lack of access to schooling is a risk factor for conflict or militancy. We know that Pakistan has extremely limited access (to education)," said Graff.

The Obama administration has promised to put more money into improving education in Pakistan and has made it a focus of the \$1.5 billion in nonmilitary aid allocated annually by Congress for Pakistan over the next five years.

"Improvements in education are critical to reducing violence," said Rajiv Shah, who heads the U.S. Agency for International Development, in an email response to questions.

USAID's total education budget in Pakistan for fiscal year 2010 is \$335 million -- with \$265 million for basic education and the remainder for higher education. Since 2002, USAID has invested \$682 million for education projects in Pakistan.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE65K5ZQ20100621>

related upcoming event

epitaph for this edition of "Truth in Recruiting"

The recent wars in the former Yugoslavia illustrate the mercenary principle. The violence erupting there in the early 1990s didn't derive from a paroxysm of societal angst or from a frenzy of nationalism, whether ancient or newly aroused. Instead, it derived principally from the actions of newly empowered and unpoliced thugs. Politicians may have started the wars, and they may have whipped up a fair amount of hatred, but the killing wasn't done by hordes of ordinary citizens released from their ethnic repression and incited to commit violence against their neighbors.

Even the Serbian (or Yugoslav) army substantially disintegrated early in the hostilities. After years of supposedly influential media propaganda and centuries of allegedly pent-up ethnic and societal antagonism, ordinary Serb soldiers were finally given an opportunity to express these proclivities through government-sanctioned violence. They responded to the opportunity by pointedly declining to embrace it. Observing that they did not know why they were fighting, they often mutinied or deserted *en masse*—a turn of events vividly illustrated in the experience of General Slavko Lisica. The general attempted to shame Serb conscripts in Croatia by declaring that all those who were not prepared to “defend the glory of the Serbian nation” should lay down their arms and take off their uniforms. To his astonishment, “They all did, including their commanding officer.” Furious, the general shouted at them “to remove everything including their underpants, and, with the exception of one man, they all removed their military-issue underpants and marched off completely naked.” Later, he said, the recruits commandeered a cannon and used it to shell his headquarters.

~ John Mueller, Professor of Political Science at Ohio State University, from an article entitled "Band of Brigands" in *Lapham's Quarterly*, May 2010.

Mueller is the author of numerous books, including *The Remnants of War* and, most recently, *Overblown*.

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for July 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@yahogroups.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.

The next monthly anti-war demo in Tulsa is scheduled for **Saturday July 3rd 2010, 12noon to 2pm, with the theme: "U.S. Out of Afghanistan Now!"** Details online: <http://tulsapeacefellowship.ning.com/events/>

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Fellowship will be held on **Thursday, July 8th 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)

[TPF gear now available | TPF store created through Ning and CafePress](#)

Posted on [June 30, 2010](#) by [tulsapeace](#)

A message to all members of Tulsa Peace Fellowship

Dear Fellowship,

TPF t-shirts, etc., are now available for purchase through an online store.

Wear your TPF T-shirt with pride

Help raise the profile of the peace movement in Tulsa and in the surrounding area.

As additional bonus, as part of the introduction of this new service provided by CafePress, there is the possibility of earning our non-profit a year of Ning services for free. If we can sell just 4 of our t-shirts in July, then CafePress, our supplier, will kick in a one-year Ning subscription, saving the Tulsa Peace Fellowship the cost.

On Ning, you can find the tab for “TPF T-shirts, etc.” under the “Members” tab. Just click on the tab to see the t-shirt designs and other goods with the TPF logo imprinted on them, now available for sale. A modest portion of the purchase cost of every T-shirt or other TPF gear that you purchase will come back to us, as part of the proceeds of the sale.



Women's T-Shirt

\$22.00

This is an experiment in trying to use our website/network to generate revenue. If you order a T-shirt, please let us know if you're happy with the product. Please see CafePress for their policy on returns.

These TPF t-shirts, hoodies, and baseball jerseys will be useful for the planned TPF entry in the MLK annual parade, in Tulsa, planned for January 2011. You could wear them to all TPF-sponsored events.

FOR THE FUTURE:

We can develop alternative designs for TPF gear. If you'd like to create a different design for TPF promotional material, please submit your design as a 2000 x 2000 pixel PNG file. Depending on interest expressed, we could add other designs to those presently available through the online store.

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship is a registered non-profit in Oklahoma.

Queremos Paz,

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

~TPF Steering Committee

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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

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