

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

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

<http://tulsapeacefellowship.ning.com/forum>

Lead Story from the past month's news:



Solidarity March in OKC: Pfc. Manning, whistle blower, hailed as a hero of the people

--political fallout of the Wikileaks story, divulging information embarrassing to the Pentagon and neocon warmongers

--another march held in Quantico, VA, where Pfc. Manning is being held in the brig, prior to **show trial**

page 1

featured op/ed

What They Do in Our Name: What the latest information from Wikileaks reveals about the Afghanistan debacle

by Sheldon Richman, August 10, 2010

first sentence:

"Thanks to Wikileaks and heroic leakers inside the military, we now know the U.S. government has killed many more innocent Afghan civilians than we were aware of heretofore. We also know that American military and intelligence personnel roam Afghanistan assassinating suspected bad guys. Sometimes they kill people they later acknowledge weren't bad guys at all."

file under: civilians continue to die at the hands of U.S. occupiers:

Occupation Command Liars Deny Killing 52 Afghans In Rigi, Afghanistan

--So a BBC Reporter takes a road trip to Rigi and sees reality of war crime committed by U.S./NATO forces

quote:

"We don't know why they're killing us. The foreigners say they try to protect civilians, but they are killing us. They are supposed to have very advanced technology that can detect a

nail on the ground from the air, so why the hell could they not see a house full of women and children? No one survived the strike. They talk of humanity and civilization, where does their humanity and civilization go when they decide to kill women and children? It's all lies. They're just our enemies ..."

~ Haji Hussain, a man from Joshali village who had taken refuge in Rigi, Afghanistan.

featured op/ed

file under: bringing the war home

Military Suicides and Guilty Consciences

by Jacob G. Hornberger

quote:

"Any soldier who killed an Iraqi knew, with 100 percent certainty, that the person he was killing was entirely innocent of any actual attack or threatened attack on the United States, including 9/11."



file under: bringing the war home

Joint Chiefs boss: Many Iraq, Afghanistan Vets Find Bleak Future

--Adm Mike Mullen bemoans the fact that "hundreds of thousands" of returning veterans have symptoms of PTSD, but he will not take blame for their inability to re-integrate with mainstream civilian society, States-side.

file under: bringing the war home

Hundreds of PTSD Soldiers Likely Misdiagnosed

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

facts & figures:

According to figures provided by the Army, the service discharged about a 1,000 soldiers a year between 2005 and 2007 for having a personality disorder, defined as a "deeply ingrained maladaptive pattern of behavior."

antiwar radio:

Killing Hiroshima: The worst war crime in history was committed by America

--Scott Horton Interviews Jacob Hornberger

related group:

sidebar:

Army Report: AWOLs Up 234%

--Thank you to the **Oklahoma Center for Conscience**, for bringing this fact to our attention

file under: bringing the wars home

Fallen Marine's mother airs grief

--Liza Natkin, in the tradition of Cindy Sheehan

quote:

"There's babies like my son over there that shouldn't have to come home in a box like him."

~Liza Natkin talks her dead son, Marine Lance Cpl. Nathaniel Schultz, who was killed in Afghanistan.

page 2

file under: what?! there are rules in wartime?

U.S. Stryker soldiers allegedly plotted to kill Afghan civilians: U.S. soldiers charged with murder

--In one of the most **serious war-crimes** cases to emerge from the Afghanistan war, five soldiers from a Stryker infantry brigade based at Joint Base Lewis- McChord are now charged with murder for their alleged roles in the random killings of three Afghan civilians

file under: military justice, harumph.

Marine's defense to seek dismissal of Haditha killings case because of loss of military lawyer

--Lawyers for a Marine sergeant whose squad killed 24 Iraqi civilians on an **unjustified rampage** said they are seeking to have the case dismissed because the Marine Corps retired his military attorney.

Army artificially holds down unemployment rate: 2 percent lower than in actuality

--U.S. unemployment rate would be over 11.5 percent without federal jobs program masquerading as Army recruitment

quote:

"Having a **giant undercover military jobs program** is an insane way to keep Americans employed. It creates jobs we don't need but that we keep anyway."

~Robert Reich, Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley.

related book review:

The Military-Industrial-Congressional Complex, otherwise known as "Permanent War"

--In his latest book, *Washington Rules*, historian Andrew Bacevich calls for Americans to reject the Washington consensus to **demand instead that America "come home," as Martin Luther King called for in 1967**, and that America focus on resolving its own domestic problems, rather than always meddling abroad.

quote:

The military-industrial complex is an overlapping, interlocking mass of individuals, firms, political lobbies, and government offices with one thing in common: The livelihood of the

complex and the livelihoods of the individuals it comprises are entirely dependent upon the forcible transfer of wealth from your pockets to theirs via a perpetual regime of "war and rumor of war."

~Thomas Knapp

another review of the same book:

Can You Recruit Your Republican Friend to Oppose the Permanent War?

--Robert Naiman reviews Andrew Bacevich's latest book: *Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War*

quote:

Campaigning for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 2008, Senator Barack Obama said: "I don't want to just end the war, but I want to end the mindset that got us into war in the first place." To follow through on his campaign promise to "end the mindset that got us into war" would compel President Obama to confront the establishment.

facts & figures:

A substantial minority of Republicans -- 32%, according to a recent CBS poll -- agrees with the super-majority of Democrats who think the U.S. should establish a timetable for military withdrawal from Afghanistan.

In Tulsa, anti-war Republican Nathan Dahm won only 14% of the vote (6,955 votes), in the primary held July 27th 2010, in a race that was split six ways. (Voter turnout was low, at only 23% this year). Nonetheless, the challenge to the incumbent from an anti-war candidate within his own party was a first, for Oklahoma Congressional District 1. Dahm is Vice-Chair of the Alliance of Young Republicans within the Tulsa County Republican Party.

According to a July 23rd straw poll by the Tulsa Area Republican Assembly (TARA), one of several local GOP clubs, antiwar candidate Nathan Dahm had 67% support, compared to the incumbent's 17%.

vote results:

Antiwar factions of both Republicans & Democrats under-represented in tally

--House approves yet more funding for the unending U.S. occupation of Afghanistan

--Congressmen embrace escalation as evidence of War's Folly grows

facts & figures:

The substantial minority of Republicans who favor a timetable for withdrawal from Afghanistan is virtually unrepresented in Washington. On July 1, when the House considered the McGovern-Obey-Jones amendment which would have required the President to establish a timetable for withdrawal, it was supported by 153 Democrats and 9 Republicans -- 61% of the Democrats voting and 5% of the Republicans voting. Democratic voters who want to end the war were underrepresented, since 73% of Democratic voters support a timetable for withdrawal, as opposed to 61% of House Democrats. But Republican voters who want to end the war were far more spectacularly underrepresented, since 32% of Republican voters support a timetable for withdrawal, as opposed to 5% of House Republicans.

sidebar:

Navy, Coast Guard trade blame for midair crash

--Navy blames pilots in 'preventable' midair crash that killed 9; Coast Guard faults controllers

file under: SNAFU

file under: fog of war

In Defiance of the Constitution, 49,000 Troops Still Deployed in Iraq

--The "rebranding" of the U.S. military presence in Iraq does not make it any less risky for G.I.'s

sidebar:

Walter Reed patients, staff may have been exposed to radiation in May

--The hospital's concierge was exposed to 88 millirems in 2 days, or 14% of the officially-allowable annual dose for the average American

file under: hapless bystanders

file under: I didn't sign up for this

Veterans' group: CIA blocking lawsuit over experiments on troops

--VVA accused the Central Intelligence Agency of using 7,800 **soldiers as guinea pigs**

file under: gays in the military

Majority of Marines oppose sharing sleeping quarters with gays, commandant says

--Clinton-era policy allows gays and lesbians to serve in the military if they keep quiet about their sexual orientation but expels them if it becomes known

backpage

Germany to End Conscription, Slash Military Size

--The need to reduce military expenses leads to plan to reduce the German army down to the size of 165,000 soldiers

facts & figures:

The German government aims to save some 8.3 billion euros (\$10.7 billion) on defense by 2014. Cuts to military spending are also being considered in Britain, which aims to trim 20 percent from its defense budget.

Until the 1990s, German men were forced to serve in the army for 1 and 1/2 years from the age of eighteen. Since then, mandatory military service - no longer practiced in most European countries - has been shortened several times, with the latest reduction to just 6 months.

Young German men can claim moral objections to military service, and opt to do civilian national service instead.

quote:

"Conscription is regarded by some as a virtuous institution in postwar Germany, with the presence of 'citizens in uniform' serving as a bulwark against the military elite that seized control during the Nazi period."

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,5909841,00.html>

UK defense chief plans cuts, major changes

British military prepares major spending cuts and a sweeping overhaul of the country's armed forces

quote:

"This needs to be the defense review that puts the Cold War to bed."

~Liam Fox, British Secretary of Defense

sidebar: You may die in an accident

2 Greek fighter jets collide in mid-air

--Rescue crews found two of the pilots, but are searching for the third

file under: "cognitively challenged generals"

U.S. Colonel Kicked Out of Afghanistan for Anti-PowerPoint Rant

--He was sick and tired of being a "Powerpoint Ranger" anyway. Publishes Parthian Shot on UPI.

sidebar:

Navy Drone Violated Washington Airspace

file under: SNAFU

epitaph for this edition of "Truth in Recruiting"

When recruiters dragooned criminals, as well as vagabonds, misfits, social failures, beggars, derelicts, drunks, the unemployable, the idle poor, and the mentally disturbed, for national armies...

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lead story

There was a one-line mention of the OKC march in solidarity with Pfc. Manning in the *Washington Post*, in this article:

Army analyst linked to WikiLeaks hailed as antiwar hero

By Michael W. Savage

Washington Post Staff Writer

Saturday, August 14, 2010; A02

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/13/AR2010081305820_pf.html

There was a two-minute story on local TV:

Supporters: Bradley Manning Is A 'Hero'

Thu Aug 12, 9:01PM PT - KOCO - Oklahoma City

Supporters of Pfc. Bradley Manning marched at the state capital on Thursday

<http://news.yahoo.com/video/oklahomacity-koco-18229979/supporters-bradley-manning-is-a-hero-21380540>

[Recommended: Try to stop/pause the video before the reporter's throw away comment at the end. Otherwise, the website will loop to the next video, automatically]

Oklahomans in Solidarity with Bradley Manning

Photo album from August 12th event, in Oklahoma City, in support of Bradley Manning

[Bradley Manning Solidarity March](#)

[picasaweb.google.com](#)

Photos by Rena, Aug 12, 2010 - Supporters of Bradley Manning in Oklahoma City, 8/12/2010

further info:

Bradley Manning Support Network

<http://www.bradleymanning.org/>

You can send letters of support to Pfc. Manning:

Contact Bradley!
Inmate: Bradley Manning
3247 Elrod Avenue
Quantico, VA 22134
USA

Brig phone: +1 (703)432-6154
Brig fax: +1 (703)784-4242

Some Oklahomans quoted in the *Wall Street Journal*, in this story, which suggests Manning was inspired by the film *Silkwood*, about his hometown, Crescent Okla:

Computer Evidence Ties Leaks to Soldier from Crescent, Oklahoma

July 30, 2010

By Julian E. Barnes, Miguel Bustillo and Christopher Rhoads

Childhood friends and acquaintances of Pfc. Manning describe him as smart, interested in current affairs, proficient with computers and not shy about sharing his opinions, which were often at odds with those around him in his hometown of Crescent, Okla. (pop. 1,281.)

Pfc. Manning believed in the theory of evolution, for example, and was intolerant of those who disputed it due to traditional religious views, associates said.

"His views were very different from everyone else's on the world and government, and maybe part of him wanted to take things into his own hands," said Chera Moore, 23, a Crescent classmate from kindergarten on.

Though he earned average grades in school, Pfc. Manning seemed more interested in national and global affairs than his peers, according to associates.

"He was probably one of the more politically aware kids at that time, and he supported the U.S.," said Mark Radford, the editor of the weekly Crescent Courier newspaper, who once chaperoned Pfc. Manning and his class on a Washington trip. Mr. Radford also said he was interviewed by investigators.

Pfc. Manning's mother and father separated before he entered high school. Pfc. Manning's mother, Susan, a native of Wales, moved with him to a small house in Crescent for about a year and then moved to Wales with her son. She couldn't be reached for comment.

After returning to Oklahoma in 2005, Pfc. Manning briefly worked for an Internet firm in Oklahoma City, then moved to Tulsa, where he held a variety of jobs, including at a pizza parlor and a guitar store, according to Mr. Davis, who had also briefly moved to Tulsa.

Pfc. Manning eventually moved to Potomac, Md., to live with an aunt, and then in 2007 enlisted in the military.

When Mr. Davis, the childhood friend, last saw Pfc. Manning about nine months ago, Mr. Davis said he could sense a change in his friend, who he said "wasn't having an easy time" in the military and "felt he wasn't being treated fairly."

Pfc. Manning was demoted from specialist to private first class while in Iraq for an incident unrelated to the leak, a defense official said.

Crescent, Okla., is perhaps best known as part of the setting for the 1983 film "Silkwood" about a whistleblower who was killed in a suspicious car accident after exposing wrongdoing at a nearby plutonium plant. Ms. Moore said her class watched the film, but didn't know if Pfc. Manning was ever inspired by it.

"If he did it, it was not to make money or be famous," Mr. Davis said. "He would only do something like this if he thought it was right."

http://online.wsj.com/article/NA_WSJ_PUB:SB10001424052748704532204575397141587756232.ht

[ml](#)

This piece in the *Huffington Post* criticizes NYTimes coverage, and accuses the so-called nation's newspaper of record of character assassination, and warns of the coming show trial:

Pvt. Bradley Manning and the New York Times: Manufacturing a Villain

Vivien Lesnik Weisman
Posted: August 12, 2010

In "Early Struggles of Soldier Charged in Leak Case," the *New York Times* published a portrait of Private Bradley Manning reminiscent of the type of character assassination J. Edgar Hoover planted in newspapers in the hey day of the communist witch hunts. The government agencies routinely planted such misinformation to discredit civil rights activists and others they considered a threat to our national security.

The NYT does not find it worthy of mention that the man who turned in Private Manning and the only named source in the article that eludes to Manning's motivation for the release of the documents is a total mess.

The cyber informant Adrian Lamo is also an avowed drug abuser.

He tells a San Francisco weekly reporter that his convulsions are a result of an amphetamine overdose he suffered the year before. He goes on to say about his drug use:

I've resisted including this in news reports because I think it would make me intolerable to the government if I was advocating both intrusion and drug use, but substances that disassociate you from your senses have played a big part in my life.

Lamo goes on to explain to Wired Magazine's Khan that after his amphetamine overdoes he now takes only depressives and dissociatives.

The dissociatives are amazing... You can look at your face in the mirror and completely not recognize it.

The court issued a restraining order against Lamo, due to a complaint in which his then-girlfriend described an ongoing pattern of harassment and abuse. She explains: "He carried a stun gun, which he used on me. He was very controlling. He wanted to know where I was constantly." There are many articles that reference the taser he carries with him, sometimes used to "hack" vending machines.

We are to believe that Adrian Lamo just happened to be chatting with the total stranger Private Manning and divulged not only what he would be doing and had done but also his motivation. Adrian Lamo is the oldest trick in the book and has the footprint of the government all over it. A homeless, drug addicted convicted felon with a suspended sentence who still owes the government over \$65,000 in fines is not exactly my idea of a credible witness, but rather your typical informant who says and

does as he is told.

Private Manning's motivation, as much as one can impute motivation, was to have an impact on public opinion and perhaps on the course of the war, in the tradition of Ellsberg. If Manning wanted to influence the course of the war and deliberately broke the law and knowingly risked prosecution, he follows in the footsteps of the greats: Rosa Parks, Dolores Huerta (arrested 22 times and counting), Dr King and Daniel Ellsberg. There is no credible evidence, only government spin repackaged by the NYT, that this is not the case.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/vivien-lesnik-weisman/pvt-bradley-manning-and_b_679075.html

Bradley Manning's guilt (sic) — and ours

The accused leaker to WikiLeaks appears to have acted out of idealism. Now that we've seen the results of our wars, can we say the same?

posted on August 13, 2010

by Will Wilkinson

The bloody events portrayed in the WikiLeaks' "Collateral Murder" video seem gratuitously malign. It is no consolation to know that the victims were riddled with bullets in accordance with military protocol. (Again, for what?) Consequently, it takes no great empathy to understand Manning's desire to expose such savage, pointless destruction of human life, or his desire to distance himself from it.

"I don't believe in good guys versus bad guys anymore," Private Manning confessed in an instant message chat.

Manning's disillusionment may strike unfaltering patriots as the germ of his betrayal. But lazy love of country blinds us to the possibility of our country's wrongdoing. What's more, it blinds us to the possibility that Manning's softening of partiality, his recoil from slaughter, is the morally right response to what he had seen.

It is hard to sense our own complicity in injustice, especially when the victims of injustice appear remote. But Manning saw that he was an adjunct to injustice and senseless death, and was moved to risk his freedom, possibly his life, to do something about it.

Manning explained his aim: "Hopefully worldwide discussion, debates, and reforms," he wrote. "[I] want people to see the truth, regardless of who they are, because without information, you cannot make informed decisions as a public." Though he has soured on the state, Manning evidently remains an idealist animated by the possibly naïve hope that a democratic public that has seen what he has seen will feel moved, as he was moved, to do something about it.

Private Manning and WikiLeaks have also created the possibility that millions of Americans will now come face to face with the same ugly truths that led Manning to conclude that he had obligations to humanity weightier than an oath to the state. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have left Americans with blood on our hands, and on our wallets -- a truth most of us prefer to avoid. Unfiltered facts and uncensored video about what has been done on our behalf, on our dime, are "dangerous" precisely because they lead to mortifying moral clarity when it is face-saving obfuscation that we crave.

<http://theweek.com/article/index/206106/bradley-mannings-guilt-mdash-and-ours>

[editorial note: Manning is innocent until proven guilty, under U.S. law. The title of the above op/ed piece may mislead the reader. *Caveat lector.*]

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

What They Do in Our Name

What the latest information from Wikileaks reveals about the Afghanistan debacle

by Sheldon Richman, August 10, 2010

published online by *The Future of Freedom Foundation*

Thanks to Wikileaks and heroic leakers inside the military, we now know the U.S. government has killed many more innocent Afghan civilians than we were aware of heretofore. We also know that American military and intelligence personnel roam Afghanistan assassinating suspected bad guys. Sometimes they kill people they later acknowledge weren't bad guys at all.

What other atrocities are our misleaders and misrepresentatives committing in our name?

Let's get something straight: to be an enemy of American occupation, bombing, and "nation building" is not the same thing as being an enemy of America or its people. It's time Americans understood that. When you invade another country and people there object, even forcibly, they are not aggressors. You are. To understand this, imagine our being invaded by a foreign military force. Would resistance be aggression?

The U.S. government goes to appalling lengths to deny this truth.

Is the American military to be permitted to go anywhere the politicians wish and expect the people of the invaded countries meekly to accept their fate and pledge allegiance to the United States? Would we receive an invader that way?

The U.S. government and its well-paid military contractors have an agenda in the Middle East and South Central Asia that has nothing to do with the welfare or safety of average Americans. On the contrary, it is bankrupting them and has made them targets of revenge. There's a simple way to keep American military personnel safe: bring them home.

Obama has shown himself to be worse than his predecessor and the neoconservative empire enthusiasts. His promises to leave Iraq and Afghanistan are hedged so thick that we can expect the occupations to continue for many years ... all in our name. Despite Obama's words, the death and destruction at America's hands are not nearing an end.

*Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation, author of **Tethered Citizens: Time to Repeal the Welfare State**, and editor of [The Freeman](#) magazine. Visit his blog "Free Association" at www.sheldonrichman.com. Send him [email](#).*

<http://www.fff.org/comment/com1008b.asp>

Occupation Command Liars Deny Killing 52

Afghans In Rigi

So A Reporter Takes A Roadtrip To Rigi And Sees Reality:

“Why The Hell Could They Not See A House Full Of Women And Children? No One Survived The Strike”

August 9, 2010 Aziz Ahmad Shafe reported from Rigi. Jean MacKenzie reported from Boston, GlobalPost [Excerpts]

RIGI, Helmand — The issue of civilian casualties has once again assumed center stage in Afghanistan.

One such incident, say Afghans, was in Rigi, a village in the Sangin district of Helmand province.

On July 23, residents there reported that a cruise missile hit a large family compound, killing as many as 52 civilians.

NATO officials deny the strike.

A press release issued on July 26 by the press office of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), emphasized that there had been no military operations in Rigi on the specified date.

There had, in fact, been a joint ISAF-Afghan operation about 10 kilometers away, continued the press release; precision-guided missiles were used against insurgents. But ISAF insists that all missile strikes were accounted for and reached their intended targets.

Given the conflicting reports from Sangin, it was almost impossible to establish what actually occurred without first-hand information.

Aziz Ahmad Shafe, an Afghan cameraman for the BBC, traveled to the area to interview victims.

Here is his own account of the trip:

I kept getting phone calls from local people in Sangin, asking me to cover this tragedy.

First I tried to get information from the provincial authorities in Helmand, but they told me that nothing had happened.

First I searched the hospitals, but could find no evidence that any dead or wounded had been brought in from Sangin.

Finally Dr. Qayum Pukhla, the head of the Mirwais Hospital in Kandahar, told me on the telephone that, at 1 a.m. on July 24, they had received seven injured children from Sangin.

I decided to go there myself, regardless of the danger. Sangin is almost completely under Taliban control.

The Taliban commander in Sangin told me by phone that the situation was too unstable for me to come. But I persisted. I told him that I needed to cover the story and would take responsibility for my

own security.

An hour later, Taliban spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadi called me.

“The Taliban in Sangin will let you through, no problem,” he said. “Go ahead, do your work.”

I found a driver who was willing to take me, and we set off from Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital.

Up until Dorahi, where the road splits off for Kandahar, the road was paved and there was no problem. But as soon we entered Sangin district, I could feel that we had entered Taliban territory.

Suddenly bullets hit our car from all sides. I saw gunmen by the side of the road, but it was not clear whether they were Taliban, government forces or simply thieves.

When they saw we were unarmed, they came no closer.

“Go back!” one of them shouted.

We prepared to do just that when some dust-covered vehicles arrived from the direction of Hyderabad. They told the gunmen that the operation in Sangin was finished.

“It is okay, you can pass,” said one of them.

I understood that these men belonged to a local militia that was fighting the Taliban.

We had survived our first confrontation, but there were many more. We were stopped frequently by the Taliban. I was expecting to be killed at any moment, but they just looked at our car and let us go.

When we got to the district center of Sangin, I saw Afghan Army bases, which reassured me a bit, but just a kilometer outside the center we were once again in Taliban country.

The place is called Ghargarai — on one side you can see the black, red and green of the Afghan national flag, while just 300 meters away the white Taliban banner waves.

About three kilometers outside of Sangin district center I began to see NATO bases. There were heavy vehicles and tanks, driving across planted fields as if they were on a road.

We passed them, and entered Sarwan Kala, which is controlled by the Taliban.

The area is full of mines, and we did not know which way to go. The Taliban told us how to avoid the explosives. But soon we were lost and the driver wanted to turn back.

I saw a village and asked local people the way to Rigi.

“Why would you want to go there?” they asked. They told us there had been a NATO strike and civilians had been killed. They also said Taliban would kill us if we went.

But I told them that I was a journalist and wanted to give the victims a voice.

“I am going with you!” said one of the villagers. His name was Abdul Karim, a strong, healthy man with a white turban who looked about 40. He used to be with the Taliban, he said, but now he was just sitting at home.

“You cannot go by road, it’s too dangerous,” he said. “Not even a cat could make it. But I know a back way, and I will show you.”

Abdul Karim took the wheel and seemed very competent. There were Taliban checkpoints every 100 meters or so, but he managed to talk us through them easily.

Finally we got to Rigi.

The first thing we saw was a cemetery, called Faqir Baba. Residents told me they had buried 24 bodies from the strike there. I counted the graves.

>From the cemetery there was a small, thickly wooded road to the village itself. Suddenly, about a dozen armed Taliban jumped out of the trees and demanded to know where we were going.

When we explained why we wanted to get to Rigi, they said, “Okay. But if you are killed, it is your own responsibility.”

We found the compound that was hit. There was a gathering in front of it.

The compound was almost completely destroyed. All the household goods were mixed together, kitchen things with children’s toys, and wood for the stoves, all lying in heaps.

Mohammad Khan, a 15-year-old boy, told me the story.

”It was Friday when all this happened,” he said. “Down from this village, there is another one called Joshali, where I live.

“The Taliban attacked the American and Afghan forces and a short fight broke out between them. The people of Joshali decided to evacuate the village, so we came here to Rigi — women, children, old and young, all of us.

“When we got here, the people of Rigi helped us and gave us shelter,” he continued.

“They put the women and children in one big compound and the men stayed outside. It was around three in the afternoon that we saw helicopters in the air. The men fired on the helicopters from the ground with AK-47s. I ran towards the compound and told the children to go inside. Some obeyed me and some just stayed outside to see what was happening.

“Suddenly I heard a big boom and I was knocked down. There was dust everywhere. I could not hear anything. When the dust settled, I ran towards the compound. I saw human bodies scattered everywhere. I started looking for my mother, and finally found her, covered with blood and dust. I pulled her out of the ruins. I found three of my little brothers too, near my mother. They were all dead.”

Khan began to cry. “I want my mother back,” he said, and left me.

Haji Hussain, another man from Joshali village who had taken refuge in Rigi, was visibly angry as he told of his ordeal.

“We don’t know why they’re killing us,” he said, his voice rising. “The foreigners say they try to protect civilians, but they are killing us. They are supposed to have very advanced technology that can detect a nail on the ground from the air, so why the hell could they not see a house full of women and children? No one survived the strike.

“They talk of humanity and civilization, where does their humanity and civilization go when they decide to kill women and children? It’s all lies. They’re just our enemies ... ”

Hussein was unsure of the exact number of casualties; he thought it was about 45.

Haji Shah Wali, another refugee from Joshali, agreed.

“In total we took 39 bodies out of the ruins and buried 24 of them in Faqir Baba cemetery,” he said. “Some others are in Ghargarai. At least six other bodies are still under the rubble; we have not managed to get them.”

Suddenly a frightened villager came running up.

“Go go, the Americans are coming!” he shouted.

Everybody started to run. The driver and I left Rigi and went back to Lashkar Gah. We arrived at about 8 p.m.

I went straight to the governor’s office and talked to his spokesman, Dawood Ahmadi. I wanted to explain what had happened in Sangin.

He would not listen.

“Nothing happened there,” he said. “Why are you so upset?”

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/afghanistan/100806/civilian-death-toll-taliban>

featured op/ed:

Military Suicides and Guilty Consciences

by Jacob G. Hornberger

American statist and imperialists are coming up with all sorts of explanations to explain the epidemic of suicides among U.S. military personnel. The most popular explanations are war stress and stress at home.

I’ve got another possible cause: guilt, arising from the wrongful killing of other human beings.

Consider Iraq. Neither the Iraqi people nor their government ever attacked the United States or even threatened to do so. They had nothing to do with the 9/11 attacks. When U.S. soldiers invaded Iraq,

they were the aggressors. At worst, every single Iraqi killed by U.S. forces was simply defending his country against an unlawful invasion by the military forces of a foreign power.

U.S. soldiers in the initial invasion force undoubtedly convinced themselves that they were killing Iraqis under the notion of self-defense, telling themselves that they were protecting the United States from an imminent WMD attack.

At some point, however, reality set in. There were no weapons of mass destruction. Yet, countless Iraqis had already been killed by U.S. soldiers.

At that point, did the U.S. government apologize for this grave mistake? Did President Bush order an immediate withdrawal from the country?

No.

Once it was determined that Saddam Hussein had in fact destroyed his stocks of WMD, the U.S. government nonetheless decided to remain in Iraq, calling on the troops to enforce a brutal occupation, one that necessarily involved killing more Iraqis.

At that point, any semblance of the “self-defense” rationale disappeared for U.S. troops killing Iraqis. Any soldier who killed an Iraqi after that point knew, with 100 percent certainty, that the person he was killing was entirely innocent of any actual attack or threatened attack on the United States, including 9/11 and the WMDs.

The U.S. government had no right whatsoever, legal or moral, to be in Iraq, and especially not after it was conclusively determined that Bush had been wrong about the WMD threat. That means that U.S. soldiers had no right, legal or moral, to kill any Iraqi, not even Iraqis who were defending their country from an unlawful invasion.

Aggravating this entire situation is the fact that U.S. soldiers have killed people in a war that violates the U.S. Constitution, the document that soldiers took an oath to support and defend. It is undisputed that Congress never declared war on Iraq, as the Constitution requires.

Since soldiers are not permitted or encouraged to confront the reality of what they have actually done in Iraq — kill people as part of a wrongful invasion or occupation — and because they have to continue pretending that they have killed Iraqis in service of America or for the good of Iraq, suicide becomes an easy way out to escape the ongoing pain of a guilty conscience.

*Jacob Hornberger is founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation. Send him email.
<http://www.fff.org/blog/jghblog2010-08-05.asp>*

Joint Chiefs boss: Many Iraq, Afghanistan vets find bleak future

--Adm Mike Mullen bemoans the fact that "hundreds of thousands" of returning veterans have symptoms of PTSD, but he will not take blame for their inability to re-integrate with mainstream civilian society, States-side.

By Greg Gardner, *Detroit Free Press* Business Writer
Aug. 26, 2010

Navy Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, urged community leaders to hire, educate and help find resources to support tens of thousands of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans returning to the most difficult economy in decades.

Speaking today to the Detroit Economic Club, Mullen called on small business owners, hospital and college administrators to work with the Pentagon and the Veterans Administration to prevent veterans with medical and social needs from falling through the cracks.

"Hundreds of thousands, we're not sure quite frankly, are exhibiting the symptoms of and will have post-traumatic stress that all of us need to deal with," Mullen said. "We pass these precious individuals, who are the best military personnel I have ever seen, from silo to silo, and tell them to do the best you can and have a nice life."

Homeless veterans are also a major issue.

Mullen, a Vietnam War veteran, said it took nearly 10 years before Vietnam vets began showing up as a significant portion of the homeless.

Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are experiencing homelessness in greater numbers and at a faster rate. Women veterans, including those with children, are ending up homeless in larger numbers than their male counterparts, according to Mullen.

"There are those in the homeless world right now who tell me that we are generating homeless veterans at four times the rate out of these wars," Mullen said.

<http://www.freep.com/article/20100826/BUSINESS06/100826084/1001/NEWS/Joint-Chiefs-boss-Many-Iraq-Afghanistan-vets-find-bleak-future-#ixzz0xoamkcdc>

Hundreds of PTSD Soldiers Likely Misdiagnosed

Anne Flaherty, Associated Press

The report begins: "At the height of the Iraq war, the Army routinely fired hundreds of soldiers for having a personality disorder when they were more likely suffering from the traumatic stresses of war, discharge data suggests."

Under pressure from Congress and the public, the Army later acknowledged the problem and drastically cut the number of soldiers given the designation. But advocates for veterans say an unknown number of troops still unfairly bear the stigma of a personality disorder, making them ineligible for military health care and other benefits.

"We really have an obligation to go back and make sure troops weren't misdiagnosed," said Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen, a clinical psychologist whose nonprofit "Give an Hour" connects troops with volunteer

mental health professionals.

Unlike PTSD, which the Army regards as a treatable mental disability caused by the acute stresses of war, the military designation of a personality disorder can have devastating consequences for soldiers.

Defined as a "deeply ingrained maladaptive pattern of behavior," a personality disorder is considered a "pre-existing condition" that relieves the military of its duty to pay for the person's health care or combat-related disability pay.

After 2008, the annual number of personality disorder cases dropped by 75 percent. Only 260 soldiers were discharged on those grounds in 2009.

At the same time, the number of post-traumatic stress disorder cases has soared. By 2008, more than 14,000 soldiers had been diagnosed with PTSD — twice as many as two years before.

A congressional inquiry is under way to determine whether the Army is relying on a different designation — referred to as an "adjustment disorder" — to dismiss soldiers.

<http://readersupportednews.org/off-site-news-section/96-96/2684-hundreds-of-ptsd-soldiers-likely-misdiagnosed>

antiwar radio:

Killing Hiroshima: The worst war crime in history was committed by America

Scott Horton Interviews Jacob Hornberger

August 08, 2010

[Jacob Hornberger](#), founder and president of the Future of Freedom Foundation, discusses the enduring myth of nuking Hiroshima and Nagasaki to save the lives of countless U.S. soldiers, how FDR's rejection of conditional surrender prolonged the war in Europe and the Pacific, how the US empire kicked into high gear after WWII, why purposely killing civilians is a war crime unless the Air Force does it, the firebombing of Japan that inflicted more casualties than Fat Man and Little Boy combined, operation Keelhaul and the forcible repatriation of Russian soldiers to certain death back home and the illegitimacy of killing civilians to save soldiers during wartime.

[MP3 here](#). (20:40) Transcript below.

Jacob G. Hornberger is founder and president of [The Future of Freedom Foundation](#). He is a regular writer for The Future of Freedom Foundation's publication, Freedom Daily, and is a co-editor or contributor to the eight books that have been published by the Foundation.

<http://antiwar.com/radio/2010/08/08/jacob-hornberger-14/>

sidebar:

Army Report: AWOLs Up 234%

by Aaron Glantz

Posted: August 12, 2010

Tucked into this massive Army report on suicide is an interesting fact: Since 2004, the number of soldiers going AWOL, deserting, and "missing movement" -- that is failing to deploy when they're supposed to -- has gone up a shocking 234 percent.

The Army includes this fact on page 92 of the 350 page document, in a section on misdemeanor crimes -- alongside motor vehicle violations, substance abuse, and other crimes -- which collectively have been rising at the rate of more than 5,000 a year for the last five years.

"Good order and discipline are on the decline," the report says.

Alternatively, one could say that after seven years of war in Iraq and nearly a decade in Afghanistan, American soldiers are increasingly unwilling to risk their lives for unpopular wars with an unclear path to victory.

byline: Aaron Glantz is author of: "The War Comes Home: Washington's Battle Against America's Veterans"

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/aaron-glantz/army-report-awols-up-234_b_680615.html

Fallen Marine's mother airs grief

By Justin George, Times Staff Writer

In Print: August 27, 2010

TAMPA — Liza Natkin wants people to know about the boy in the pictures: her son at the Keys, in his senior portrait, holding a rifle, flexing his muscles in the mirror, playing electric guitar.

Natkin, who is from Dover, called a press conference Thursday at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Operations Center to share memories of her son, Marine Lance Cpl. Nathaniel J.A. Schultz.

Lance Cpl. Schultz died Saturday during combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan, according to the Marine Corps. He was 19.

"Nate was very bright," Natkin said. "He was very funny. He had a sense of humor that didn't quit, and he was always active, always doing something."

Lance Cpl. Schultz was deployed to Afghanistan in June and promoted to lance corporal Aug. 1. A gung-ho, do-everything kind of kid, Schultz was into demolition and disassembling bombs, Natkin said.

"He never talked about how dangerous it was," she said.

A reporter at the Thursday press conference asked why she was choosing to share her memories with

the public.

"Because there's babies over there," Natkin said. "There's babies like my son over there that shouldn't have to come home in a box like him."

Times staff writer Demorris A. Lee contributed to this report. Justin George can be reached at (813) 226-3368 or jgeorge@sptimes.com.

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/military/fallen-m...arines-mother-airs-grief/1117688>

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

Stryker soldiers allegedly plotted to kill Afghan civilians

In one of the most serious war-crimes cases to emerge from the Afghanistan war, five soldiers from a Stryker infantry brigade based at Joint Base Lewis- McChord are now charged with murder for their alleged roles in the random killings of three Afghan civilians.

By Hal Bernton

Seattle Times staff reporter

August 24, 2010

Last December, Army Staff Sgt. Calvin Gibbs began joking with other soldiers about how easy it would be to "toss a grenade" at Afghan civilians and kill them, according to statements made by fellow platoon members to military investigators.

One soldier said it was a stupid idea. Another believed that Gibbs was "feeling out the platoon."

Others told investigators Gibbs eventually turned the talk into action, forming what one called a "kill team" to carry out random executions of Afghans.

In two of the incidents, grenades were thrown at the victims and they were shot, according to charging documents. The third victim also was shot.

The soldiers allegedly killed the three Afghans while out on patrol, and anyone who dared to report the events was threatened with violence, according to statements made to investigators.

All five soldiers are awaiting court-martial proceedings. If convicted, they face the possibility of life imprisonment or death.

The original murder charges were filed in June. At the request of The Seattle Times, Joint Base Lewis-McChord late Tuesday afternoon released additional charges that have been filed against the five soldiers. Those include conspiracy to commit murder and, for three of the soldiers, use of a controlled substance.

The joint base on Tuesday also disclosed that charges have been filed against seven other soldiers that include impeding an investigation, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, unlawfully striking another soldier and conspiracy to commit assault and battery.

Gibbs and Spc. Jeremy Morlock are the central figures in the case. They are charged in all three of the killings.

Gibbs, 25, has denied any involvement.

Morlock, a 22-year-old from Wasilla, Alaska, has played a major role in helping the Army develop the case. He has given numerous details about his involvement in the killings and also implicated others. His attorney, Michael Waddington, said he will try to have those statements withdrawn because his client spoke while under the influence of prescription drugs taken for battlefield injuries.

In interviews with Army criminal investigators, several soldiers portrayed Gibbs as a ringleader.

Gibbs, of Billings, Mont., is a veteran of two previous war-zone tours — one in Afghanistan and a second in Iraq. He allegedly boasted about "stuff" he had gotten away with in Iraq and discussed plans for killing Afghans with a small circle of soldiers, according to statements by other soldiers.

To help Morlock remain in Afghanistan, he was prescribed a cornucopia of legal prescription drugs that included anti-depressants, muscle relaxers and a sleep drug frequently used by soldiers diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, Waddington said.

There was significant use of hashish and occasional opium use in Morlock's platoon, according to Waddington.

In May, Army medical staff decided to evacuate Morlock due to his head injuries. Shortly before his departure, investigators started questioning him about the civilian killings.

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2012712859_civiliandeaths25m.html

file under: military justice

Marine's defense to seek dismissal of Haditha killings case because of loss of military lawyer

Julie Watson, AP News
Aug 26, 2010

Lawyers for a Marine sergeant whose squad killed 24 Iraqis said Thursday they are preparing a motion that will seek to have the case dismissed because the Marine Corps retired his military attorney.

Attorney Haytham Faraj, a civilian lawyer representing Staff Sgt. Frank Wuterich, told a military judge that the Camp Pendleton Marine's defense has been compromised because the retirement violated attorney-client relationship rights.

Defense lawyers are calling their filing the "Hutchins Motion" after Marine Sgt. Lawrence Hutchins III, whose murder conviction was thrown out this spring by a military appeals court that ruled he was given an unfair trial because his military defense attorney was relinquished before his 2007 court martial.

Wuterich's defense attorneys said the military in the past routinely retired military attorneys when their active duties were up, even if their cases were not finished, and no one questioned such practices. But that changed with the Hutchins' case, which the Navy is appealing.

Wuterich, 30, of Meriden, Conn., faces reduced charges of voluntary manslaughter. He is accused of leading his men on a rampage that killed two dozen civilians in Haditha, Iraq, in November 2005.

<http://wire.antiwar.com/2010/08/26/marines-defense-to-seek-dismissal-of-haditha-case-3/>

Army artificially holds unemployment rate 2 percent lower than in actuality

--U.S. unemployment rate would be over 11.5 percent without federal jobs program masquerading as Army recruitment

by Robert Reich
Wednesday, August 11, 2010

America's biggest — and only major — jobs program is the U.S. military.

If we didn't have this giant military jobs program, the U.S. unemployment rate would be over 11.5 percent today instead of 9.5 percent.

And without our military jobs program personal incomes would be dropping faster. The Commerce Department reported Monday the only major metro areas where both net earnings and personal incomes rose last year were San Antonio, Texas, Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. — because all three have high concentrations of military and federal jobs.

This isn't an argument for more military spending. Just the opposite. Having a giant undercover military jobs program is an insane way to keep Americans employed. It creates jobs we don't need but we keep anyway because there's no honest alternative. We don't have an overt jobs program based on what's really needed.

For example, when Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced Monday his plan to cut spending on military contractors by more than a quarter over three years, congressional leaders balked. Military contractors are major sources of jobs back in members' states and districts.

Gates can't even end useless weapons programs. That's because they're covert jobs programs that employ thousands.

He wants to stop production of the C-17 cargo jet he says is no longer needed. But it keeps 4,000 people working at Boeing's Long Beach assembly plant and 30,000 others at Boeing suppliers strategically located in 40 states. So despite Gates's protests the Senate has approved ten new orders.

Ever wonder why military equipment is one of America's biggest exports? It's our giant military jobs program in action.

Gates has also been trying to stop production of a duplicate engine for the F-25 joint Strike Fighter jet. He says it isn't needed and doesn't justify the \$2.9 billion slated merely to develop it.

But the unnecessary duplicate engine would bring thousands of jobs to Indiana and Ohio. Cunningly, its potential manufacturers Rolls-Royce and General Electric created a media blitz (mostly aimed at Washington, D.C. where lawmakers would see it) featuring an engine worker wearing a "Support Our Troops" T-shirt and arguing the duplicate engine will create 4,000 American jobs. Presto. Despite a veto threat from the White House, a House panel has just approved funding the duplicate.

By the way, Gates isn't trying to cut the overall Pentagon budget. He just wants to trim certain programs to make room for more military spending with a higher priority.

The Pentagon's budget — and its giant undercover jobs program — keeps expanding. The President has asked Congress to hike total defense spending next year 2.2 percent, to \$708 billion. That's 6.1 percent higher than peak defense spending during the Bush administration.

That's a major chunk of the entire federal budget. But most deficit hawks don't dare cut it.

This is nuts.

Wouldn't it be better to have a jobs program that created things we really need — like light-rail trains, better school facilities, public parks, water and sewer systems, and non-carbon energy sources — than things we don't, like obsolete weapons systems?

<http://robertreich.org/post/938938180/americas-biggest-jobs-program-the-u-s-military>

The Permanent War System Rolls On

America's Political Elite is in Serial Denial on Iraq and Afghanistan

by Gareth Porter, August 11, 2010

In his latest book, *Washington Rules*, historian Andrew Bacevich points to this largely un-discussed aspect of recent U.S. wars. The "Washington rules" to which the title refers are the basic principles of U.S. global policy that have been required beliefs for entrance into the U.S. political elite ever since the United States became a superpower. The three rules are U.S. global military presence, global projection of U.S. military power and the use of that power in one conflict after another.

Bacevich suggests that personal and institutional interests bind the U.S. political elite and national security bureaucrats to that system of global military dominance. The politicians and bureaucrats will continue to insist on those principles, he writes, because they "deliver profit, power and privilege to a long list of beneficiaries: elected and appointed officials, corporate executives and corporate lobbyists, admirals and generals, functionaries staffing the national security apparatus, media personalities and policy intellectuals from universities and research organizations."

That description of the problem provides a key to understanding the otherwise puzzling serial denial by the political elite on Iraq and Afghanistan. It won't do much good for antiwar people to demand an end to the war in Afghanistan unless they are also demanding an end to the underlying system that has now produced quasi-permanent American war.

Bacevich's new book is a call for Americans to reject the Washington consensus for permanent war, global counterinsurgency, and global military power projection, and to demand instead that America "come home," as Martin Luther King called for in 1967, and focus on resolving its own domestic problems rather than act as a self-appointed global police and occupation force.

<http://original.antiwar.com/porter/2010/08/10/the-permanent-war-system-rolls-on/>

vote tally:

House Approves More Afghan War Funding

Congressmen Embrace Escalation as Evidence of War's Folly Grows

by Jason Ditz, July 27, 2010

Though one would have expected that the massive release of some 92,000 classified documents underscoring just how poorly the war is going would have changed some minds, the Obama Administration has gotten its way once again, with the House of Representatives approving the \$59 billion emergency funding bill to keep the war going by a 308-114 vote. Some \$33 billion of the bill was directly to pay for the Obama Administration's December escalation of the Afghan War.

The 308-114 vote saw a majority from both parties supporting the war, with only 12 Republican and 102 Democrats opposing the conflict. A secondary vote calling for US troops to withdraw from Pakistan was voted down 38-372.

The House was forced into the direct vote last week after the Senate rejected a number of domestic spending amendments attached to the bill in a procedural effort by the House early in the month.

The vote was a surprisingly major win for the Obama Administration, following evidence that a large number of Congressmen were already bristling at the expense of the war, and the dramatic release of the WikiLeaks War Logs just two days before the vote.

But pro-war Congressmen were quick to disregard the logs, insisting that the 92,000 documents detailing the war's enormous shortcomings and massive civilian toll were "outdated" because they were from late 2009 and before. Though all of the evidence is that the situation has only worsened in the last seven months, it seems officials were able to shrug off the embarrassment with relatively little effort, and secure the funds to continue their ill-conceived conflict.

<http://news.antiwar.com/2010/07/27/house-approves-more-afghan-war-funding/>

official count of the war votes, for funds labeled euphemistically "for other purposes" as part of HR 4899:

<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2010/roll474.xml>

more coverage:

The congressional debate on Pakistan was prompted by an unlikely alliance of Reps. Dennis Kucinich

(D., Ohio) and Ron Paul (R., Texas), two impassioned lawmakers at different ends of the political spectrum who have run quixotic campaigns for their parties' presidential nominations. The two congressmen offered a resolution ordering President Barack Obama to withdraw U.S. military personnel from Pakistan, saying their presence violates the War Powers Act since it was not approved by Congress.

The resolution failed by a wide 38-372 margin, as several lawmakers argued that the War Powers Act only covers troops engaged in hostilities, not those engaged in training. (Voting for the amendment were 32 Democrats and six Republicans.)

But the debate provided a rare venue for lawmakers to voice impassioned views on the war in Afghanistan, and it highlighted divisions within the Democratic Party over the wisdom of a war prosecuted by a president of their own party.

The debate also sounded echoes of the Vietnam era. Some compared the secretive operations in Pakistan to those in Southeast Asia in the 1960s, which they said led to an unpopular and unsuccessful war.

Paul said Congress has been abdicating its responsibility to oversee military activities. "We just capitulate and give them the money and do whatever," he said. "The American people don't know about it until we get deep into these quagmires."

<http://freedom syndicate.com/fair0000/ws0001.html>

Can You Recruit Your Republican Friend to Oppose the Permanent War?

by Robert Naiman

Campaigning for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 2008, Senator Barack Obama said: "I don't want to just end the war, but I want to end the mindset that got us into war in the first place."

But as Andrew Bacevich notes in his new book, *Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War*, as President, Barack Obama has done the opposite: he has promoted and acted on behalf of the mindset that leads to war.

Most prominently, President Obama has so far missed every major exit ramp for starting to get out of Afghanistan, instead escalating militarily and "doubling down" on "counterinsurgency" in Afghanistan -- Vietnam 2.0 -- even as the war has become increasingly unpopular in the United States -- as it has been in Afghanistan and in the rest of the world. The majority of Americans, three-quarters of Democrats, and three-fifths of House Democrats want President Obama to establish a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. forces. But the White House so far refuses to even publicly discuss such a move, even as it claims to support "Afghan-led reconciliation" with leaders of the Afghan Taliban, which, if real, almost certainly would require a timetable for the withdrawal of foreign forces, a key demand of Afghan insurgents.

This is all the more striking as the Administration celebrates the drawdown of U.S. forces from Iraq,

because the centerpiece of the present relationship between the U.S. government and the Iraqi government is an agreement stipulating the total withdrawal of U.S. forces from the country by the end of 2011. That which is now the centerpiece of U.S. relations with Iraq is still mostly taboo for discussion among the "national security elite" regarding Afghanistan: a timetable for the withdrawal of foreign forces.

Bacevich puts President Obama's stunning reversal in historical context: since Presidents Truman and Eisenhower, there has been a "Washington consensus" among the national security and foreign policy establishment for a policy of permanent war and for "power projection" around the globe to prepare for aggressive war. To follow through on his campaign promise to "end the mindset that got us into war" would compel President Obama to confront this establishment, something he obviously was not prepared to do. Instead, President Obama signaled to the national security establishment that they should ignore his campaign rhetoric, and that he would act instead on the broad imperial commitments of every President since Truman and Eisenhower, not only doubling down in Afghanistan but trying to declare the military budget off limits for cuts, escalating military attacks in Pakistan that have never been authorized by Congress, establishing political ground for a future war against Iran by pretending that Iran's enrichment of uranium constitutes a threat to the personal security of Americans, helping to bring down the Japanese Prime Minister rather than submit to the popular Japanese demand to withdraw U.S. marines from Okinawa, supporting in deed if not initially in word the military coup in Honduras, establishing a new military basing agreement with Colombia, and replacing President Bush's European "missile defense" with "missile defense lite," just to name a few examples.

Bacevich's story is compelling in part because of his personal history. As he recounts in the introduction, he was a "late bloomer" in his understanding and critique of the American empire. Bacevich was an officer for many years in the U.S. Army, and has described himself as a "Catholic conservative."

This is important, because an important buttress in support of the permanent war and global military power projection policy of the Washington consensus is the current near-monolithic support for permanent war and global military power projection in the dominant institutions of the Republican Party.

<http://mrzine.monthlyreview.org/2010/naiman100810.html>

sidebar:

Navy, Coast Guard trade blame for midair crash

Navy blames pilots in 'preventable' midair crash that killed 9; Coast Guard faults controllers

Elliot Spagat, AP News,
Aug 24, 2010

The Coast Guard said Tuesday that a failure by the Navy to follow standard air traffic control procedures contributed to a midair collision that killed seven Coast Guard members and two Marines

last year, while the Navy insisted the pilots were responsible.

A Navy report on the crash faulted the Coast Guard and Marine crews for failing to watch out for each other, saying it was their responsibility to avoid each other while flying even though a Navy controller was aware of their presence.

Under "see-and-avoid" rules that govern airspace off the Southern California coast, pilots are on their own to watch for others in the area. The collision occurred about 50 miles off the coast.

The Navy acknowledged that a controller at Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado, near San Diego, failed to alert the pilots.

The Marine helicopter that crashed had not turned on its anti-collision light and transponder.

The collision occurred in a so-called military warning area — airspace that is not controlled by the Federal Aviation Administration. It has ignited a debate within the military branches about how to best police the sky in the giant military training area, which spans 1 million square miles off the Southern California coast.

<http://wire.antiwar.com/2010/08/24/navy-coast-guard-trade-blame-for-midair-crash/>

In Defiance of the Constitution, 49,000 Troops Still Deployed in Iraq

Written by Joe Wolverton, II
Tuesday, 24 August 2010

Many of the nearly 50,000 combat troops waking up in the same Iraqi bivouacs would be surprised to learn that the “final combat brigade” has left Iraq and that Operation Iraqi Freedom has ended.

As the 4th Brigade boards military transport aircraft for the flight to Germany and then home, many of their comrades are moving into the barracks they quickly abandoned in their zeal to leave behind the less-than-friendly confines of their desert camp.

The Army’s 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, a unit in the 25th Infantry Division based in Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, will assume the 4th’s duties, albeit under the less martial designation of “Advise and Assist Brigade.” All the military units remaining in Iraq will undergo similar rebranding.

The men and women of the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team are a small part of the 49,000 service personnel still occupying Iraq. There are various heavy and light infantry brigades, as well as two combat aviation brigades. All of these units form the core of the Advise and Assist Brigades. The regular army troops are joined in their mission to advise and assist by two National Guard infantry brigades.

Kate Brannen, staff writer for the *Army Times*, cites evidence of the force's intent to “retain their inherent capability to conduct offensive and defensive operations.” The more things change, the more things stay the same. The change in name, therefore, indicates nothing more than the predetermined

rebranding of our military force in Iraq without any corresponding alteration in the scope of their mission.

A truly new day in America will dawn on the day our elected officials refuse to fund the largest government program ever — the protracted, undeclared foreign “wars” that continue to sap our nation’s economic might and demand the lives of so many young Americans.

It is essential to recognize that the Constitution grants no power of preemptive war or of advising and assisting other nations in the securing of their streets and borders. Sovereign nations by definition must assume the responsibility for providing those crucial services to their citizens. It is not only that our national government deploys troops into the combat zones of the world; rather, it is that these theatres of military operations are created by the presence of our troops landing in the role of occupiers. We have the right and obligation to defend our own borders, but we are without justification for imposing our sensibilities of good government (or permitting the imposition of a native minority’s notion of such) on the nations of the world.

<http://www.thenewamerican.com/index.php/usnews/constitution/4395-in-defiance-of-the-constitution-49000-troops-still-deployed-in-iraq>

sidebar:

Walter Reed patients, staff may have been exposed to radiation in May

--The hospital's concierge was exposed to 88 millirems in 2 days, or 14% of the officially-allowable annual dose for the average American
file under: hapless bystanders

By Christian Davenport
Washington Post Staff Writer
August 26, 2010; page B04

Two packages of radioactive material sat under a counter in the main lobby of Walter Reed Army Medical Center for 44 hours, possibly exposing patients and staff to elevated radiation, according to an investigation by federal regulators.

The packages were delivered May 1 to the hospital's concierge, who stored them under the counter, according to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The intended recipient, the hospital's administrative officer, didn't locate the package until the next Monday, two days later. An NRC spokesman said that the agency is not aware of anyone being harmed.

The administrative officer noticed that the medical center had not received the expected delivery and unsuccessfully tried to find it, according to an NRC spokesman. On May 3, the next workday, hospital officials continued their search and found the package at the concierge desk.

Walter Reed officials determined that radiation levels at the concierge desk were 2 millirems an hour, which exceeds allowable limits. The average American is exposed to 620 millirems a year, said Neil Sheehan, an NRC spokesman.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/25/AR2010082505823_pf.html

Veterans' group: CIA blocking lawsuit over experiments on troops

By Daniel Tencer
Friday, August 27th, 2010

An advocacy group working on behalf of Vietnam veterans has asked a federal judge in California to sanction the CIA, saying the spy agency has been blocking efforts to uncover its role in alleged experiments on US soldiers from the 1950s to 1970s.

The Vietnam Veterans of America filed a lawsuit on behalf of six Vietnam War veterans in January, 2009, claiming that the CIA had used an estimated 7,800 US service members as "guinea pigs" in experiments involving "at least 250, but as many as 400 chemical and biological agents," according to Courthouse News.

Among the chemicals the lawsuit alleges were used on the soldiers were LSD, sarin and phosgene nerve gases, cyanide, PCP and even THC, the active ingredient in marijuana.

The lawsuit described it as a "vast program of human experimentation" that was "shrouded in secrecy" and carried out without the informed consent of the experiment subjects.

A 2003 report (PDF) from the Department of Veterans Affairs states that "between 1950 and 1975, about 6,720 soldiers took part in experiments involving exposures to 254 different chemicals, conducted at US Army Laboratories at Edgewood Arsenal, MD. Congressional hearings into these experiments in 1974 and 1975 resulted in disclosures, notification of subjects as to the nature of their chemical exposures, and ultimately to compensation for a few families of subjects who had died during the experiments."

As the defendant in the suit, the CIA is obliged, by judge's orders, to hand over data relevant to the lawsuit. But the VVA has asked a judge to sanction the CIA, saying the agency has ignored or blocked its requests for information, and has released only a small portion of the relevant documents.

The motion asks that the judge, in addition to sanctioning the CIA, also order the CIA to pay the VVA's costs associated with its attempts to obtain CIA information.

Judge James Larson of the US District Court in northern California will begin hearing arguments in the case on Sept. 29.

The VVA describes itself as "the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families."

<http://www.rawstory.com/rs/2010/0827/veterans-group-sanction-cia-experiments>

Majority of Marines oppose sharing sleeping quarters with gays, commandant says

By Phil Stewart and Sue Fleming
Washington Post Staff Writers
August 26, 2010; page B03

The overwhelming majority of Marines oppose sharing sleeping quarters with openly serving gays and lesbians, an obstacle if Congress lifts the ban on gays in the military, the top Marine said Tuesday.

Gen. James Conway, the Marine Corps commandant and a vocal opponent of ending the military's 17-year-old ban on openly serving gays, said of the standing policy: "We'd just as soon not see it change. But we will follow the law, whatever the law prescribes," Conway said.

The Clinton-era policy allows gays and lesbians to serve in the military if they keep quiet about their sexual orientation but expels them if it becomes known.

"We sometimes ask Marines what is their preference, and I can tell you that an overwhelming majority would like not to be roomed with a person that is openly homosexual," Conway, who is retiring in the fall, told Pentagon reporters.

He said there was not enough funding to create single rooms for all Marines.

source: Reuters

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/25/AR2010082506784_pf.html#

[TPF editorial note: Before you click on the link, be aware the *Washington Post* has started using an annoying pop-up. Be sure to "opt out" of their service, if you don't like the intrusiveness.]

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

Report: Germany to End Conscription, Slash Military Size

Plan to Reduce Army to 165,000 Volunteer Force to Be Presented This Month
by Jason Ditz, August 13, 2010

A number of media outlets are citing German officials as saying that Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg is poised to present a plan that would radically rethink Germany's military forces, including slashing the size of the army and eliminating all conscription.

The move appears to be aimed primarily at reducing military expenditures, a particularly key issue during the current economic crisis.

Though it was briefly abandoned at the end of World War 2, Germany has had compulsory military service more or less since the early 19th century [under the Kaiser].

Officials say that the move would not remove the option of conscription from the German Constitution but would effectively end its use.

<http://news.antiwar.com/2010/08/13/report-germany-to-end-conscription-slash-military-size/>

related coverage:

Modern Germany is wary of any hint of the idolatry of the army that was typical in the Nazi period, and so shrinks from attempts to honor soldiers who are wounded or killed in battle. In 2008, a soldiers' organization proposed reinstating the Iron Cross, once a coveted medal of honor and bravery; the idea was rejected because the medal is so closely identified with Germany's history of militarism. Eventually, a compromise was reached: the golden Cross of Honor resembles, but is intentionally not, its predecessor. More recently, Reinhold Robbe, a former Bundeswehr commissioner (a liaison between the army and parliament) launched a campaign to create a German Veterans' Day — but got only a lukewarm response. "We don't have to follow the Americans and create some kind of hero worship," said Rainer Arnold, a defense expert and MP for the opposition Social Democrats. "A Veterans' Day does not reflect the way our culture deals with the Bundeswehr."

On April 9, Chancellor Angela Merkel attended the memorial service for Hartert and his comrades (among the 43 Germans killed in Afghanistan): it was the first time she had publicly paid her respects to soldiers killed in combat. Such displays are rare in a country that does not even have a formal military cemetery.

Read more: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2009872-2,00.html#ixzz0whrmNEYI>

UK defense chief plans cuts, major changes

Britain's Defense Secretary : Cuts in number of top military posts likely as military moves to cut costs

DAVID STRINGER
AP News

Aug 13, 2010 09:04 EDT

Britain's defense secretary Liam Fox said Friday that senior military posts could be axed as he prepares major spending cuts and a sweeping overhaul of the country's armed forces.

Analysts predict about 30,000 of Britain's 175,000 armed forces personnel are likely to be cut — probably 20,000 from the army, and about 5,000 each from the air force and navy.

Fox said a review due to be completed by October would likely recommend radical reforms to both

military and administrative structures. "This needs to be the defense review that puts the Cold War to bed. This needs to be the defense review that changes the way Britain looks at the world around it," he said.

He confirmed that ministers will consider trimming the number of personnel in senior ranks under the cost-saving measures. "We cannot demand efficiency from the lower ranks while exempting those at the top," he said.

Britain's military is carrying out the first major review of its capabilities and priorities since 1998, and attempting to find savings of up to 9 billion (\$14 billion) to its annual budget of about 36 billion pounds (\$56 billion).

Fox acknowledged that tricky negotiations are continuing with Britain's Treasury over who will pay for a 20 billion pounds (\$32 billion) upgrade to the country's nuclear weapons system.

Treasury chief George Osborne has said the defense ministry would likely need to pay for the program entirely from its own budget.

<http://wire.antiwar.com/2010/08/13/uk-defense-chief-plans-cuts-major-changes-4/>

sidebar:

2 Greek fighter jets collide in mid-air

AP News

Aug 26, 2010

Two Greek fighter jets with a total of three crew members on board crashed in mid-air during a training exercise south of the island of Crete on Thursday, the air force said.

Rescue crews found two of the pilots, who were not believed to have been seriously injured, but were being transported to a nearby military hospital for checks, the air force said. Crews were searching for the third.

The F-16 planes — one a single-seater and one a double-seater — had been part of a formation of four planes on a training mission when they collided over the sea off the southern coast of Crete in the early afternoon, the air force said.

<http://wire.antiwar.com/2010/08/26/2-greek-fighter-jets-collide-in-mid-air-2/>

file under: "cognitively challenged generals"

U.S. Colonel Kicked Out of Afghanistan for Anti-PowerPoint Rant

By Spencer Ackerman

August 27, 2010

Consider it a new version of death by PowerPoint. The NATO command in Afghanistan has fired a staff officer who [publicly criticized its interminable briefings](#), its over-reliance on slide-show programs, and what he considered its crushing bureaucracy.

Army Col. Lawrence Sellin, a 61-year old reservist from New Jersey who served in Afghanistan and Iraq prior to this deployment, got the sack Thursday from his job as a staff officer at the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command in Kabul. The hammer fell barely 48 hours after [United Press International ran a passionate op-ed he wrote](#) to lament that “little of substance is really done here.” Or, as Sellin put it, “endless tinkering with PowerPoint slides to conform with the idiosyncrasies of cognitively challenged generals in order to spoon-feed them information.”

Sellin says he tried to send constructive criticism up the chain before he typed out his UPI piece. He gave his superiors a briefing on “proven organizational methodologies” to streamline IJC, but it went nowhere. “It was only my rant that everyone read,” he says. “My hope is that after they stop being angry at me, maybe they will take a serious look at how they operate.” The irony? His briefing was a five-slide PowerPoint.

Sellin gauges that lieutenant colonels and lower-ranked officers support him, as do a few colonels.

Meanwhile, enlisted men and officers are freer to speak their minds in front of embedded reporters than they are while serving on headquarters staff. Additionally troops are basically free to provide their opinions on a blog — as long as it doesn’t violate operational security, and as long as they don’t claim to be speaking for the Defense Department officially. Had Sellin blogged or tweeted his critique rather than published it through a wire service, maybe he’d still have his job.

Read More <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2010/08/anti-powerpoint-rant-gets-colonel-kicked-out-of-afghanistan/#ixzz0xvIEznw1>

sidebar:

file under: SNAFU

Navy Drone Violated Washington Airspace

By Elisabeth Bumiller

Published: August 25, 2010

WASHINGTON — The skies over the nation’s capital are crowded with presidential aircraft, military flyovers and the Delta shuttle, but this month a strange new bird was briefly among them: a United States Navy drone that wandered into the restricted airspace around Washington before operators could stop it.

Navy spokesmen could not say Wednesday if anyone on the ground was alarmed by the drone — officially an MQ-8B Fire Scout Vertical Takeoff and Landing unmanned aerial vehicle — which looks like a small windowless helicopter and was flying at 2,000 feet. The Navy did say that the drone got within 40 miles of Washington before operators were able to re-establish communication and guide it back to its base in southern Maryland.

Still, the Aug. 2 incident resulted in the grounding of all six of the Navy’s Fire Scouts as well as an inquiry into what went wrong. The Navy is calling the problem a “software issue” that foiled the drone’s operators.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/26/us/26drone.html?hpw>

epitaph for this edition of "Truth in Recruiting"

Europe at one time was probably the most warlike place in the world, and the recruitment process for national armies was singularly unselective: about all that the military normally required of recruiters was that they enlist boots on the ground. Frequently, it was possible for potential conscripts to buy (or bribe) their way out of service or to furnish substitutes in a process which guaranteed that the ranks of the soldiery would be manned disproportionately by criminals, as well as by vagabonds, misfits, social failures, beggars, derelicts, drunks, the unemployable, the idle poor, and the mentally disturbed. Taverns and brothels proved fertile recruiting grounds. So did jails. They housed men awaiting trial or sentencing, very often for capital offenses, for whom even the worst form of soldiering would have been an improvement. Their enlistment was especially attractive to recruiters dragooning participants into foreign armies because many of their fellow townspeople saw a welcome opportunity to banish criminals and other undesirables from the community quite likely forever. Some of the armies in the Hundred Years' War consisted of 2 to 12 percent convicted criminals, many of them murderers seeking royal pardons for their services.

~ 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 Sep 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". Finally, we have also recently started using Facebook, so you can "friend" us there.

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 Sep 4th 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, Sep 9th 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: 822 (including 688 subscribers through Yahoogroups, 60 subscribers through Facebook, and 74 subscribers through Ning, our preferred network since 2009)

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Strength Through Peace: Out of Iraq & Afghanistan
Accountability: Indict & Imprison Bush & Cheney for War Crimes
JROTC: Out of Our Schools
Schools as Military-Free Zones

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

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