

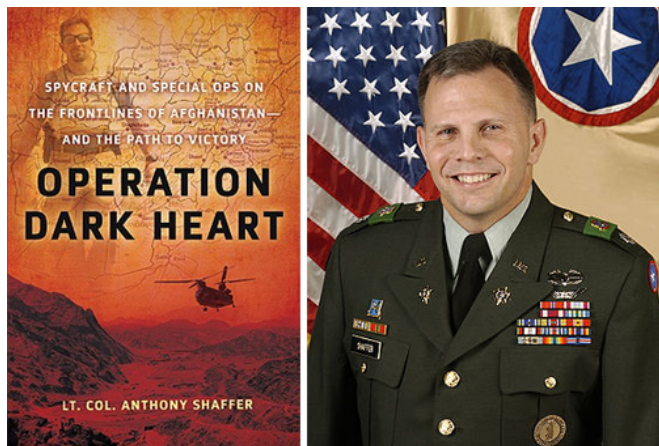
***Truth in Recruiting* – "Don't Believe the Hype!"**

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for Feb 2011

Lead Story from the past month's news:

A decorated Army reserve officer and former clandestine intelligence agent quietly sues the Pentagon

--Lt. Col. Shaffer claims the Pentagon has tried to censor his story of the U.S. **boondoggle in Afghanistan**



Here's a *Fahrenheit 451* evocation for you – men in fatigues burning (or shredding) thousands of copies of a fellow soldiers' memoirs.

quote:

"When I heard they were going to destroy copies of my book I said, 'This doesn't make sense, this is unheard of.' I have never heard of this level of incidence in terms of them going after a book."

~Lt Col. Shaffer, author of *Operation Dark Heart*

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featured op-ed

Women in Combat: Equal Opportunity Meat Grinder

--Kelley B. Vlahos addresses the dark side of the shock integration that began 10 years ago

related story: Think the Peace Corps is any better?

Peace Corps Gang Rape: Volunteer Says U.S. Agency Ignored Warnings

---ABC News Investigation Finds More Than 1,000 Rapes, Sexual Assaults Since 2000

featured song-of-the-month:

"Mrs Sullivan" by the band Caroline Spine

[YouTube - Caroline Spine-Mrs Sullivan](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zi8wMWInVFs)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zi8wMWInVFs>

facts & figures:

"We regret to inform you that the Navy will be keeping your sons away." All *five* of them.

The Sullivan brothers were on the USS Juneau (CL-52) that was sunk during the battle of Guadalcanal

sidebar:

Spike in suicides for Army National Guard, Reserve

--twice as many self-inflicted deaths last year than the year before among the Army National Guard and Reserve

file under: blown to bits by fertilizer

Number of U.S. casualties from roadside bombs in Afghanistan skyrocketed from 2009 to 2010

--The number of U.S. troops killed by roadside bombs in Afghanistan soared by 60 percent last year, while the number of those wounded almost tripled, new U.S. military statistics show.

facts & figures:

US Orders Biggest Defense Cuts Since Before 9/11

--eventually, this should result in reductions of up to 47,000 troops from the Army and Marine Corps forces - roughly 6 percent shrinkage

featured video: on the House floor

Ron Paul on the Fiscal Effects of Our Wars

-- file under: "A multitude of unintended consequences" including an insolvent country

file under: Increasingly irrelevant

Could the Marines be Disbanded?

--Sec'y Gates makes deep cuts in Marines, due to questions over its usefulness in 21st Century

facts & figures:

Gates has suggested cutting the U.S. Marines' numbers — not just their weapons. Gates wants to reduce the Corps by some 15,000 to 20,000 in the coming years.

sidebar:

Marines to train in mock city as big as San Diego

featured op/ed

I Don't Like Ike : Fifty Years of the Military-Industrial Complex

Eisenhower vastly expanded the garrison state.

By Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.

--from *The American Conservative* magazine

featured Game4Change:

Cool School - Where Peace Rules

--a conflict resolution game for ages 5 to 7, for an alternative curriculum

The game is totally free. You can [download it online](#).

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Army deploys soldiers accused of felonies

--leaving victims, judges, to wait for court date

AWOL Fort Riley soldier seeks return to U.S.

--took refuge in Argentina, rather than serve in illegal wars and endless occupation of foreign lands

follow up:

US military investigates 'death squad' accused of murdering Afghans

--Brigadier general to conduct review of 5th Stryker brigade as evidence emerges of widespread complicity in deaths

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

'Stop loss' bonuses go unpaid to 35,000 soldiers

--forced against their will to remain in the military, but never paid for the extra time

file under: Laws not Men

Former Commander of Headquarters Company at Quantico Objects to Treatment of Bradley Manning

--Quantico VA commander bringing disgrace on the Marines, torturing man presumed innocent

follow up on TBI

DOD Fails to Cover Treatments for Injured Soldiers

--Senator sends letter asking for more reliable studies into therapy options for traumatic brain injuries

file under: hopped up and strung out

Report: 35% of Soldiers Face Addiction in Wounded-Care Battalions

--On the way to becoming ex-soldiers, many abuse drugs, both prescribed and illegal

file under: the extra expense of mercenaries, and private contractors

Army Gives 4,200 Jobs to Contractors that are Meant for Federal Employees

--positions granted to private contractors should have legally gone instead to U.S. government workers, either because the duties are inherently governmental or constitute "unauthorized personal services."

facts & figures:

TPF query: Still looking for a cost breakdown explaining how much more these private contractors cost the U.S. taxpayer. Do you have the figures? Do you know whether the G.A.O. has them?

file under: those who live by the sword die by the sword

Plaintiffs against Blackwater/Xe Cannot Afford Arbitration Costs

--Blackwater Suit Tossed 7 Years After Deaths

file under: threat of friendly fire

Iraq Veteran Sentenced for Violent Threat against Fellow National Guardsmen

--An Iraq War veteran has been sentenced to three years and one month in prison for threatening over the Internet to shoot members of his Florida National Guard unit.

backpage

file under: games with guns gone bad

German soldier messing around with a gun shot and killed comrade in prank

--previously the Bundeswehr tried to pass off the death/murder as a suicide

also in German news:

Captain of German navy training ship dismissed by Defence Minister

--development on the tails of an alleged "mutiny" on board the German navy training ship Gorch Fock

file under: inquiry in U.K. into potential war of aggression waged by Prime Minister

Families reject Blair apology over Iraq dead

--former Prime Minister Tony Blair offered an emotional apology for the deaths of soldiers and civilians in Iraq, as he testified to Britain's inquiry into the war.

--Blair's administration has been repeatedly criticized for allegedly overstating the case for war.

quote:

"Your lies killed my son !"

~Rose Gentle, whose 19-year-old son Gordon Gentle was killed while serving in Basra, southern Iraq, in 2006, shouted as Blair completed about four hours of testimony.

file under: the cowardly war

Relatives of Pakistani Drone Victims to Sue CIA

--in Islamabad, Pakistan, accusations fly that the U.S. unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are creating more civilian casualties than anything

related story:

Mass Protests in North Waziristan Against US Drone Strikes

--Thousands of Tribesmen Protest Continued Killings

featured book review:

‘And No One Wants to Know’: Israeli Soldiers on the Occupation

--The publication in Jerusalem of Occupation of the Territories: Israeli Soldiers' Testimonies

2000-2010— provides unprecedented first-hand accounts by over one hundred Israeli soldiers of their experiences while serving in the IDF.

--file under: An eye-for-an-eye makes the whole world blind

update on D.P. (displaced persons) due to U.S. invasion of Iraq

Iraq refugee returns fell in 2010: UNHCR

BAGHDAD — Fewer Iraqis displaced by war returned to their homes in 2010 than in the previous year

related event: **Tulsa Peace Fellowship anti-war monthly vigil**

epitaph for this edition of "Truth in Recruiting"

“Bombing a country at the same time you are offering it aid is as morally repulsive as beating up a kid in an alley and stopping to ask for a kiss.”

~Norman Mailer, d.2007

Lt. Col Shaffer vs. the Pentagon

An interview with the embattled author of Operation Dark Heart
by Kelley B. Vlahos, January 14, 2011

While the news and debate over government secrecy has been all but dominated by WikiLeaks, a decorated Army reserve officer and former clandestine intelligence agent has quietly sued the Pentagon, claiming it has tried to censor his story of the U.S. war in Afghanistan.

As you may recall, Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer's personal accounts in Operation Dark Heart were supposed to blow the lid off what he charges were devastating mistakes and miscalculations by the Defense Intelligence Agency (he was an intelligence officer for 25 years) and the U.S. Army, before and after the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. In fact, he's said he can recall the "exact moment in time" where the war "went off the rails" and "into the ditch it's in right now."

That was before the Pentagon got involved in the eleventh hour, bought up most of the only copies of the first edition in print, destroyed them, then forced the publisher into redacting large, critical portions of the book before it could print the second edition in 2010.

In an interview with Antiwar.com, Shaffer explains how the Pentagon reacted "emotionally" to his book, and how the military has been retaliating against him. He also says he believes the military is trying desperately to control how Americans perceive the war – and using the interests of "national security" to do it.

"We can prove beyond a shadow of a doubt, that one hundred percent of the redacting was done not to create a sense of security for the American public, but to obfuscate what is really going on (in the war)," Shaffer said. But by destroying the books and announcing it to the world, it brought more attention to what Shaffer has to say than ever, he charged.

"There is a thirst for knowledge, that is what is going on."

Shaffer said that as an Army Reserve officer, he followed the rules of the Army Reserve and had his book thoroughly vetted and approved all the way up the chain of command. Furthermore his ghostwriter and researcher Jacqueline Salmon, a former Washington Post writer, combed the manuscript fully to ensure everything in it could be found in the public domain. The Army Reserve officers vetting the manuscript found no classified information in it either.

Nevertheless, the Pentagon, unable to stop the scheduled release of the first edition, spent almost \$50,000 to buy the remaining 9,500 copies in print and proceeded to destroy them.

It's clear to that there were "incendiary bombs" in the first edition that would have made the military look pretty bad. Investigative journalist Peter Lance, author of *Triple Cross*, and *Cover-up*, has an

excellent write up of the case in the [September edition of Playboy \(.pdf\)](#).

Shaffer's book rips the lid off several stories the bureaucrats wanted to suppress: the role of a program named Able Danger in yielding information that could have uncovered the 9/11 plot; Operation Dark Heart, which could have nabbed Al Qaeda's number two leader; and early indications that Pakistan's spy agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence, or ISI, actively supported the Taliban. These are the incendiary bombs the censors tried to defuse. And this is the real story of Tony Shaffer's book.

All three issues were explained in the first edition and removed [by the Pentagon's censors], said Lance.

<http://original.antiwar.com/vlahos/2011/01/13/lt-col-shaffer-vs-the-pentagon/>

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for Feb 2011
page 1

featured op-ed

Women in Combat: Equal Opportunity Meat Grinder

by Kelley B. Vlahos, January 18, 2011

When asked a question Jan. 6 about finally letting women into combat assignments in the war zone, Army Chief of Staff George W. Casey Jr. said publicly that “we’re looking at revising the policy. ... We’ve had some work going on for a while, and that’ll double back up to the secretary, I would think, in the next couple of months.”

This wasn’t just a one-off response, apparently. A week later, the Associated Press wrote that a key military panel was preparing a report that recommends women should be allowed to serve officially in combat duty.

Women now make up some 14 percent of the total Armed Forces and 255,000 of veterans who have served overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq. Truth is, without a draft, the military would not have been able to fight the Long War without them. Women have been flying combat aircraft and serving as military police, gunners, interrogators and prison guards – as close as it gets to the action.

No doubt women are missing out on valuable promotions and short changed in so many other areas. However, as the war zone has been going through a 10-year “shock integration” that they had themselves set into motion, feminists and many proponents of full combat equality for women have been rather quiet about all the bad things that have happened to women precisely because of their desire to be treated “just like men” in war.

It’s this dark side of shock integration that no one seems to want to acknowledge, and will likely get

short-shrift in the looming debate over women in combat. For example, the number of sex assaults perpetuated against female soldiers by their male counterparts go up every year. According to a 2008 study, 15 percent – one in seven – of every female vet who sought medical VA medical care, had experienced some sort of sexual trauma in-theater. These women were 59 percent more at risk of a mental disorder, the study said, but mounting evidence indicates that women are getting less adequate treatment for their psychological problems when they get home from war.

Mothers – including an estimated 1,800 single mothers overseas – are pulling more than one tour of duty, and in many cases, they risk nasty custody battles and worse, losing their children to other people, including state foster care, when they are gone. Destructive relationships, adultery and the sexual dynamic among male and female members stationed together is yet another taboo subject. Data on the number of overseas pregnancies is elusive, but it seems to be enough of a problem that one general tried to pass punitive measures last year to deter it.

Meanwhile, when female soldiers get pregnant stateside, they can be forced to deploy within four months of giving birth. They are at a greater risk of getting divorced. Then there is the institutional discrimination, which has never really been addressed as the Army has rushed into wartime roles with any warm body it could find without ensuring the male-dominated climate wouldn't recoil and put women systematically, and culturally on constant defense.

[I]f we have had nearly 10 years of “shock integration” in which women have been serving in unofficial combat, cheek-to-jowl with their male counterparts, pulling multiple tours of duty, why don't we have more comprehensive data and analysis on how it's all working out?

Probably because, as described in part above, it's not going to help anyone's political cause to know. Especially the military.

<http://original.antiwar.com/vlahos/2011/01/17/women-in-combat-equal-opportunity-meat-grinder/>

Peace Corps Gang Rape: Volunteer Says U.S. Agency Ignored Warnings

ABC News Investigation Finds More Than 1,000 Rapes, Sexual Assaults Since 2000

By Anna Schechter and Brian Ross
Jan. 12, 2011

More than 1,000 young American women have been raped or sexually assaulted in the last decade while serving as Peace Corps volunteers in foreign countries, an ABC News 20/20 investigation has found.

In some cases, victims say, the Peace Corps has ignored safety concerns and later tried to blame the women who were raped for bringing on the attacks.

"I have two daughters now and I would never ever let them join the Peace Corps," said Adrianna Ault Nolan of New York, who was raped while serving in Haiti.

She is one of six rape and sexual assault victims who agreed to tell their stories, in hopes the Peace

Corps will do a better job of volunteer training and victim counseling. The report will be broadcast Friday night on 20/20.

In the most brutal attack, Jess Smochek, 29, of Pennsylvania was gang raped in Bangladesh in 2004 by a group of young men after she says Peace Corps officials in the country ignored her pleas to re-locate her.

"They all took turns raping me," she told ABC News. "They raped me with their bodies,. They raped me with foreign objects."

Smochek says the group began to stalk her and tried to kiss her and touch her from the very first day she arrived at the city where she was assigned.

"Every day we felt unsafe. And we reported everything, we just kept reporting," she said in an interview with five other former volunteers who also were rape or sexual assault victims.

She says the gang rape took place just hours after a Peace Corps safety official filed a report with the local police but again ignored her pleas for re-assignment.

She says the young men knew she had complained to the police.

"They slammed me against the wall and just started threatening me, they're calling me a filthy American whore," she said. "'We told you to stop going to the police. And now we have to kill you,'" she said.

"I was in so much pain that I just told them, 'Just kill me. Please. Just do it.'" Smochek was left unconscious in a back alley.

According to the figures, there is a yearly average of 22 rapes in the Peace Corps.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/peace-corps-gang-rape-volunteer-jess-smochek-us/story?id=12599341>

featured song-of-the-month:

"Mrs Sullivan" by the band Caroline Spine

[YouTube - Caroline Spine-Mrs Sullivan](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zi8wMWInVFs>

facts & figures:

"We regret to inform you that the Navy will be keeping your sons away." All *five* of them.

The Sullivan brothers were on the USS Juneau (CL-52) that was sunk during the battle of Guadalcanal

BIO: Thomas and Alleta Sullivan gave up their 5 sons in a WW2 tragedy that has never been forgotten. Sullivan, a freight conductor on the Illinois Central Railroad, and his wife were the proud parents of George-27, Francis-25, Joseph-23, Madison-22, and Albert-19, all of whom worked at Waterloo's Rath Packing Co. Only Al was married, with a son. When Pearl Harbor was bombed on 12/7/1941, and 1 of their pals died, the lads decided to enlist in the Navy.

George and Frank had already served 1 hitch. Although it was Navy policy to separate brothers, the Sullivans enlisted on 1/3/1942, with the provision that they stay together. Their deaths came during a ferocious enemy attack off the Solomon Islands during the battle for Guadalcanal on 11/13/1942. A torpedo from a Japanese sub struck the USS Juneau and the ship exploded and sank quickly. Almost 700 men aboard died in the attack. 11 survived. Witnesses later said Frank, Joe, and Matt died instantly and that Albert drowned the 2nd day. A badly wounded George was able to climb aboard a life raft and survived 4-5 days before slipping into shark-infested waters.

Lyrics:

It's not hard to reach back to the day
underneath an Iowa sun
Running to the tower of Waterloo, looking
for the Sullivan train to come
His five boys would run to the top
and salute him as he went by
First we'd wave hello
Then we'd wave goodbye

It's not hard to reach back to the days
after the attack on Pearl
Overnight my buddies turned into men,
running out of time for games and girls
The Sullivan boys were not overlooked
Uncle Sam calling each by name
The very next day they left on a mystery train

Say goodbye, bye, bye Mrs. Sullivan
Don't you cry, cry, cry
"We regret to inform you
the Navy is keeping your sons away"
All five, five, five
so keep your blue star in the window

It's not hard to reach back to her smile,
when she received their letter
The letters, they sounded generally the same
it said: "if they couldn't be home,
at least they were together on a
mighty fighting battleship,
somewhere in the South Pacific"
The letters never got much more specific

Say goodbye, bye, bye Mrs. Sullivan
And don't you cry, cry, cry
"We regret to inform you
the Navy is keeping you sons away"
All five, five, five
so keep your blue star in the window

It's not hard to reach back to the day
when the war finally came home
Uncle Sam he'll send you a telegram,
so he doesn't have to tell you over the phone
I heard she cracked up, when they found
out what the war had cost,
And all five of her boys were lost

Say goodbye Mrs. Sullivan
Go ahead and cry
"We regret to inform you that all your sons
have passed away"
All five
So change you blue star to gold

All the blue stars... change them to gold.

acoustic version: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFoVjFd_two

sidebar:

Spike in suicides for Army National Guard, Reserve

--twice as many self-inflicted deaths last year than the year before among the Army National Guard and Reserve

Military officials are attempting to downplay the significance of the massive increase in suicides amongst Army National Guard and Reserve soldiers, insisting that the near doubling of the rate at which they make their lives has nothing to do with the military as such.

<http://news.antiwar.com/2011/01/19/national-guard-reserve-suicides-soar/>

Number of U.S. casualties from roadside bombs in Afghanistan skyrocketed from 2009 to 2010

By Craig Whitlock
Washington Post Staff Writer
January 25, 2011

The number of U.S. troops killed by roadside bombs in Afghanistan soared by 60 percent last year, while the number of those wounded almost tripled, new U.S. military statistics show.

All told, 268 U.S. troops were killed by the improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, in 2010, about as

many as in the three previous years combined, according to the figures, obtained by The Washington Post. More than 3,360 troops were injured, an increase of 178 percent over the year before.

Military officials said an increase in attacks was expected, given the surge in U.S. and NATO troops, as well as the intensified combat. Even so, the spike comes despite a fresh wave of war-zone countermeasures, including mine-clearing machines, fertilizer-sniffing dogs and blimps with sophisticated spy cameras.

Afghan insurgents planted 14,661 IEDs last year, a 62 percent increase over 2009 and more than three times as many as the year before.

"The narrative has been that we're losing the IED fight in Afghanistan, and that's not accurate," said Army Col. George B. Shuplinkov, chief of counter-IED programs for U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan. "The whole idea isn't to destroy the network. That's maybe impossible. It's to disrupt them."

The bomb attacks have risen steadily since 2005, when the Taliban began copying tactics used by insurgents in Iraq.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/25/AR2011012506691_pf.html

US Orders Biggest Defense Cuts Since Before 9/11

By Thom Shanker and Christopher Drew, The New York Times

06 January 11

The White House has ordered the Pentagon to squeeze almost all growth from its spending over the next five years, which will require eventually shrinking the Army and Marine Corps and seeking controversial increases in the fees paid by for retired, working-age veterans for their health insurance, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said Thursday.

The reductions of up to 47,000 troops from the Army and Marine Corps forces - roughly 6 percent shrinkage - would be the first since the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, reversing the trend ever since. They will be made easier by the withdrawal under way from Iraq, and will only begin in 2015 - just as Afghan forces are to take over the security mission there according to agreements with NATO.

The Pentagon's proposed operating budget for 2012 is expected to be about \$553 billion, which will still reflect real growth, even though it is \$13 billion less than expected. But then the Pentagon budget will begin a decline in the rate of growth for two years, and then will stay flat - even with inflation - for fiscal years 2015 and 2016. Over five years the reductions would amount to \$78 billion. (The Pentagon operating budget is separate from a contingency fund that pays for the military's combat and stability efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq.)

The Army's current active-duty end strength is 569,600, and the Marine Corps, which like the Army has grown in numbers since 2001, has just over 202,000 in its active component.

A battle over increasing Tricare fees will pit the efforts of the Pentagon to contain the exploding cost of health care for eligible retirees against the pain and emotions of those who say they have already "paid up front" with service in uniform. Congress has been reluctant to raise those fees.

Total health care costs for the Pentagon, which is the nation's single largest employer, top \$50 billion a year, a tenth of its budget and about the same amount that it is spending this year on the war in Iraq. Ten years ago, health care cost the Pentagon \$19 billion; five years from now it is projected to cost \$65 billion.

But Tricare fees have not increased since 1995. Mr. Gates was expected to press for increasing the cost of health insurance premiums and spot fees for retirees and their families, not for those on active duty or military retirees 65 and older.

<http://www.readersupportednews.org/news-section2/323-95/4514-us-orders-biggest-defense-cuts-since-before-911>

January 25, 2011

The Marine Corps is at a crossroads

by Tom Bowman, NPR

The "Soldiers of the Sea" have been fighting on land for a decade in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Corps' amphibious troop carrier has just been canceled; its new fighter jet was postponed.

And the Marine Corps itself is finishing up its own review, asking this basic question: What should the Marine Corps look like in the 21st Century?

Gates stopped the Marines from going ahead with their Joint Strike Fighter, a stealthy warplane. And he canceled the Marines' amphibious troop carrier, known as the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle or EFV.

"The EFV, originally conceived during the Reagan administration, has already consumed more than \$3 billion to develop, and will cost another \$12 billion to build, all for a fleet with the capacity to put 4,000 troops ashore," he said.

That's a lot of money to get a few thousand Marines on the beach. So the Marines will update their decades-old amphibious troop carrier instead.

The cuts and delays to the Marine Corps' budget are symbolic of a larger debate about the role of the Marine Corps in future warfare. Many potential adversaries have sophisticated long-range missiles that could strike the Marines in their landing craft long before they reach the shores.

So Gates already has said it's unlikely the Marines will be hitting the beaches like they did at Iwo Jima.

And defense analyst Loren Thompson says that raises questions about the relevance of the Marines.

"If the Marine Corps is no longer going to do opposed landing on enemy beaches in the face of hostile fire, then its role will be significantly diminished in the future," he says.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/01/25/133209312/marine-corps-to-defense-secretary-were-relevant>

sidebar:

Marines to train in mock city as big as San Diego

AP

Jan 25, 2011

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. (AP) -- A 1,560-building mock city that's roughly the size of San Diego has risen in the Southern California desert.

The \$170 million Marine Corps urban training center at the Twentynine Palms military base is some 130 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

[http://ap.stripes.com/dynamic/stories/U/US_LARGE MOCK_CITY?
SITE=DCSAS&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2011-01-25-11-39-28](http://ap.stripes.com/dynamic/stories/U/US_LARGE MOCK_CITY?SITE=DCSAS&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2011-01-25-11-39-28)

featured op/ed

I Don't Like Ike

He vastly expanded the garrison state.

By Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.

--from *The American Conservative* magazine

[T]he entire Cold War ideology was invented by Harry Truman and his advisers in 1948 as: 1.) a political trick to keep from losing more congressional backing, 2.) a way to circumvent political pressure for postwar disarmament, and 3.) a method to maintain U.S. industrial dependence on government spending, particularly with regard to American corporations operating overseas.

It was an unprecedented form of peacetime socialism, designed to appeal to big business, and Eisenhower became its spokesman. Savvy libertarians knew exactly what was going on and supported Cold War opponent Robert Taft for the Republican nomination in 1952. But the nomination was effectively stolen by Eisenhower, with massive establishment backing. He repaid his backers with his support and expansion of Truman's program.

It's true that his farewell speech warned against "unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex," and this is the part that people remember. But Eisenhower himself entrenched this very machinery in American life, virtually inventing the peacetime armaments industry and imposing military regimentation on the country. His approach was fundamentally un-American; or, another way to put it, he redefined what it meant to be an American. Instead of a free people, he forged a program for the permanent militarization of the country.

The evidence for this militarization begins with massive increases in military spending. As a percent of total budget outlays, military spending went from 30 percent in 1950 to 70 percent in 1957. This was the largest peacetime buildup in American history. During a dramatic economic expansion, the

president worked to maintain a high military spending level as a percentage of the rising GDP—establishing the modern precedent that military socialism is integral to the economic life of the country. Spending rose in absolute terms every year he was president, from \$358 billion in 1952 to \$585 billion in the last budget for which he bore responsibility in 1962, a whopping 63.4 percent increase during the Eisenhower years.

<http://www.amconmag.com/blog/ikes-last-stand/i-dont-like-ike/>

featured G4C (game for change):

Cool School - Where Peace Rules

Human Development Scientists and Computer Game Developers design a Video Game That Teaches Conflict Resolution To Kids

a game review, from *Science Daily*

December 1, 2008 — Human development scientists and computer game developers designed a video game that teaches kids how to resolve conflicts peacefully amongst themselves. Inanimate objects, such as pencils and erasers, come to life to lead players through a series of common scenarios in which arguments are about to occur. The player is prompted for the non-violent solution and is rewarded for choosing correctly.

Amid growing concern surrounding the effects violent video games have on children, a new computer game could be the alternative parents have been waiting for.

Kids who play together also argue together. Fights over games, toys and friendships are common, but when arguments heat up, it's time to solve them before things get out of hand. A new computer game teaches kids how to solve playground and classroom quarrels that kids face every day in a positive way -- without fists and fights.

"It helps them resolve conflicts by giving them a chance to think about what happens in the course of an actual conflict episode," said Melanie Killen, Ph.D., a human development expert at the University of Maryland in College Park, Md.

The game, called "Cool School: Where Peace Rules" -- designed by a team of human development scientists, teachers, government mediators, computer game developers and animators -- helps kids solve school violence and bullying while still having fun.

"You're learning things, but at the same time it's having fun with it," said student Ellen Yaffe.

Animated objects come to life and depict common conflicts. Kids experiment on how to settle each argument. Players have the option of threatening the peer, telling the teacher, forgetting about it or talking things through.

Players are rewarded for choosing positive solutions to resolve conflicts with letters they collect to win.

"What this game is doing is it's empowering children to make choices and decisions and to see what unfolds based on their own decisions," Dr. Killen said.

Parents and teachers praise the new game, and kids love it for their own reasons.

"I think they make it very realistic with like the names and how the school looks," student Jacob Tycko told Ivanhoe.

The best part is the game is totally free. You can download it online by visiting <http://www.curriki.com> and searching for "cool school."

ABOUT THE GAME: "Cool School: Where Peace Rules" came about when the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service asked a Human Development professor to help them design a videogame to help five to seven year old children deal with conflicts in a peaceful manner. The project relied on animators to create the visual environments, and for the professor to create scenarios that will help kids learn to resolve problems without resorting to violence. The game uses a wide variety of charactersýfrom erasers to desks to books and basketballsýto lead players through 52 different scenarios. To learn more about the game or to play it go to (http://www.rtassoc.com/gm_coolschool.html).

TIPS ON STOPPING BULLIES: This list is adapted from material on the website of the United States Health Resources and Services Administration. <http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/>

DO:

- * Tell an adult
- * Join clubs and groups where you will meet other kids
- * Support someone else who is being bullied

DO NOT:

- * Think it's your fault.
- * Fight back or bully a person back.
- * Reply to online bullying

The American Sociological Association contributed to the information contained in the TV portion of this report.

<http://www.opednews.com/populum/linkframe.php?linkid=103004>

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for Feb 2011
page 2

Army deploys soldiers accused of felonies, leaving victims, judges, to wait for court date

January 08, 2011

Dave Philipps, The Colorado Springs Gazette

A Gazette investigation uncovered four Fort Carson soldiers who, like Duncan, deployed in the past year despite pending felony cases. The Gazette also learned of other cases of soldiers accused of felonies who had deployed as far back as 2006. One soldier was accused of breaking a man's jaw. Another allegedly pulled a gun on his 21-year-old neighbor. A third soldier is charged with attempted rape. All went to war instead of court.

Seth Rippee had his jaw broken in two places when, he says, he was assaulted by Fort Carson staff sergeant Michael Cardenaz. Rippee sought to have the sergeant pay \$15,000 in medical bills, but never got his day in court because Cardenaz deployed and was killed serving in Afghanistan.

The practice is not limited to Fort Carson. Prosecutors near Army posts across the nation report the same. In Junction City, Kan., just outside Fort Riley, a legal assistant for the district attorney said it happens "all the time." In Killeen, Texas, near Fort Hood, the problem grew bad enough a few years ago that local judges and prosecutors rewrote bond agreements to bar deployment.

Deploying troops accused of felonies is one in a growing list of accommodations, ranging from airport body scans to uncharged detainees at Guantanamo Bay, that the United States has made in the past decade to fight terrorism. And it is one with an ironic twist: The effort to impose civil order abroad is eroding the civil rights of some at home.

The Army says it always gets civilian consent when it deploys a soldier who has been arrested in a felony, but interviews suggest that is not the case. None of the soldiers identified by The Gazette deployed with the court's consent. The practice diminishes a basic civil right — the right to a fair and speedy trial.

[T]hough commanders face no legal penalty for deploying troops against local objection, soldiers can face contempt charges when they return.

So it is legal for the Army, but illegal for the soldier in question.

<http://www.gazette.com/articles/felonies-110786-court-soldiers.html>

AWOL Fort Riley soldier seeks return to U.S.

The Associated Press

Posted : Friday Jan 7, 2011

TOPEKA, Kan. — A Fort Riley soldier who has been absent without leave for more than two years in Argentina says he's ready to come home.

Joseph Daniel Rios says he left the Army and the United States to cope with mental illness brought on by deployment to Iraq and other personal challenges.

The 22-year-old contacted the Associated Press through e-mail from South America to tell his story.

Rios has sought assistance of the U.S. embassy in Argentina to arrange a flight back to the United States. The State Department confirmed it is helping the Perth Amboy, N.J., native, but declined to give specifics.

<http://www.armytimes.com/news/2011/01/ap-awol-fort-riley-soldier-seeks-to-return-to-us-010711/>

file under: what?! you mean there are rules in warfare?!

US military investigates 'death squad' accused of murdering Afghans

Brigadier general to conduct review of 5th Stryker brigade as evidence emerges of widespread complicity in murders

A brigadier general is conducting a "top to bottom" review of the 5th Stryker brigade after five of its soldiers were committed for trial early next year charged with involvement in the murders of three Afghans and other alleged crimes including mutilating their bodies, and collecting fingers and skulls from corpses as trophies.

Among the issues under investigation is the failure of commanders to intervene when the alleged crimes were apparently widely spoken about among soldiers.

Staff Sergeant Calvin Gibbs, the alleged leader of what prosecutors have characterised as a death squad based in Kandahar province in southern Afghanistan, is accused of planning the alleged murders in which civilians were killed with hand grenades and guns and their deaths made to appear to be legitimate battlefield casualties. Gibbs, 26, has denied three charges of murder and other crimes.

Four other soldiers are charged with involvement in at least one of the three murders over a five-month period.

<http://www.readersupportednews.org/off-site-news-section/46-46/4452-us-military-investigates-death-squad-accused-of-murdering-afghans>

'Stop loss' bonuses go unpaid to 35,000 soldiers

The Army wants to find soldiers owed bonuses. Many of them fought in Afghanistan or Iraq.

By Gregg Zoroya, USA TODAY

Jan 2011

The Army is struggling to find about 35,000 soldiers, most of them veterans now, who are owed bonuses because they were **forced to remain in the military** beyond their normal enlistment.

The government authorized the "special pay" in 2009 following criticism from some troops and Congress who said the "stop loss" policy that extended enlistments amounted to a "back door draft." Most of the troops fought in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Veterans groups have faulted the Pentagon for not being able to locate the troops.

The Army has yet to pay up to \$160 million to 57,000 current or former soldiers, or to families of those who have died or were killed while on stop-loss. That includes 22,000 requests that are currently under review and about 35,000 people the Army cannot yet locate.

The Army used stop-loss extensively to maintain troop levels as fighting in Iraq ramped up. Other services also used the program, but less frequently.

There are about 15,000 unpaid cases among other services, the Pentagon says.

The military has ended the practice of stop-loss.

The law requires servicemembers to apply for the special pay. Congress has extended a deadline for people to apply for bonuses to March 4. The Pentagon urges anyone owed money to get more information at www.defense.gov/stoploss.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/military/2011-01-17-1Abonuses17_ST_N.htm

* Civil Rights / Liberties

Former Commander of Headquarters Company at Quantico Objects to Treatment of Bradley Manning

posted by davidswanson on Thu, 2011-01-20 01:47

from: David C. MacMichael

to: General James F. Amos
Commandant of the Marine Corps
3000 Marine Corps Pentagon
Washington DC 20350-3000

Dear General Amos:

As a former regular Marine Corps captain, a Korean War combat veteran, now retired on Veterans Administration disability due to wounds suffered during that conflict, I write you to protest and express concern about the confinement in the Quantico Marine Corps Base brig of US Army Pfc. Bradley Manning.

Manning, if the information I have is correct, is charged with having violated provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice by providing to unauthorized persons, among them specifically one Julian Assange and his organization Wikileaks, classified information relating to US military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and State Department communications. This seems straightforward enough and sufficient to have Manning court-martialed and if found guilty sentenced in accordance with the

UCMJ.

What concerns me here, and I hasten to admit that I respect Manning's motives, is the manner in which the legal action against him is being conducted. I wonder, in the first place, why an Army enlisted man is being held in a Marine Corps installation. Second, I question the length of confinement prior to conduct of court-martial. The sixth amendment to the US Constitution, guaranteeing to the accused in all criminal prosecutions the right to a speedy and public trial, extends to those being prosecuted in the military justice system. Third, I seriously doubt that the conditions of his confinement—solitary confinement, sleep interruption, denial of all but minimal physical exercise, etc.—are necessary, customary, or in accordance with law, US or international.

Indeed, I have to wonder why the Marine Corps has put itself, or allowed itself to be put, in this invidious and ambiguous situation. I can appreciate that the decision to place Manning in a Marine Corps facility may not have been one over which you had control. However, the conditions of his confinement in the Quantico brig are very clearly under your purview, and, if I may say so, these bring little credit either to you or your subordinates at the Marine Corps Base who impose these conditions.

It would be inappropriate, I think, to use this letter, in which I urge you to use your authority to make the conditions of Pfc. Manning's confinement less extreme, to review my Marine Corps career except to note that my last duty prior to resigning my captain's commission in 1959 was commanding the headquarters company at Quantico. More relevantly, during the 1980s, following a stint as a senior estimates officer in the CIA, I played a very public role as a "whistleblower" in the Iran-contra affair. At that time, I wondered why Lt.Col. Oliver North, who very clearly violated the UCMJ—and, in my opinion, disgraced our service—was not court-martialed.

When I asked the Navy's Judge-Advocate General's office why neither North nor Admiral Poindexter were charged under the UCMJ, the JAG informed me that when officers were assigned to duties in the White House, NSC, or similar offices they were somehow not legally in the armed forces. To my question why, if that were the case, they continued to draw their military pay and benefits, increase their seniority, be promoted while so serving, and, spectacularly in North's case, appear in uniform while testifying regarding violations of US law before Congress, I could get no answer beyond, "That's our policy."

This is not to equate North's case with Manning. It is only to suggest that equal treatment under the law is one of those American principles that the Marine Corps exists to protect. This is something you might consider.

Sincerely,

David C. MacMichael

<http://warisacrime.org/content/former-commander-headquarters-company-quantico-objects-treatment-bradley-manning>

DOD Fails to Cover Treatments for Injured Soldiers

Senator sends letter inquiring about contract and asking for more reliable studies into therapy options

for traumatic brain injuries (TBI)

January 21, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight, is questioning the Department of Defense over about their continued failure to cover certain treatments for service members recovering from traumatic brain injuries and has opened an investigation into contracts that may have contributed to the Pentagon's decision to deny coverage.

In a letter to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, McCaskill requested information about contracts awarded by TRICARE, the Defense Department's medical insurance program for service members, to ECRI Institute, a health research organization, to study the effectiveness of cognitive rehabilitation therapy. A 2009 ECRI Institute study commissioned by TRICARE found insufficient evidence that this therapy was effective, but recent media reports by Pro Publica and National Public Radio have called into question the validity of the study. The reports have characterized the study as 'deeply flawed' and noted that it is in conflict with other similar studies on the effectiveness of cognitive rehabilitation therapy.

"If true, these reports raise significant questions regarding the Department's award and management of the contract with ECRI Institute, and may have profound implications for hundreds of thousands of injured service members and their families," McCaskill wrote. "We owe it to our brave service members to find the truth."

Pro Publica and NPR reported that experts also questioned the methodology of the ECRI study, including the decision to exclude important research. Additionally, the same reports suggested the DOD may have awarded the \$21,000 contract to ECRI Institute with the expectation they would reach the same conclusion as a 2007 ECRI review, which also concluded that there was limited effectiveness of this therapy.

http://mccaskill.senate.gov/?p=press_release&id=1175

Report: 35% of Wounded-Care Battalion Soldiers Face Addiction

By Gregg Zoroya, USA TODAY

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Medical officials estimate that 25% to 35% of about 10,000 ailing soldiers assigned to special wounded-care companies or battalions are addicted or dependent on drugs — particularly prescription narcotic pain relievers, according to an Army inspector general's report made public Tuesday.

The report also found that these formations known as "Warrior Transition Units" — created after the Walter Reed Army Hospital scandal in 2007 as a means of improving care for wounded troops — have become costly way stations where ill, injured or wounded soldiers wait more than a year to receive a medical discharge. About three out of four soldiers in the units either leave the Army or active duty.

"This report shows that there continue to be soldiers falling through the cracks of the Army's efforts to

care for their wounded, ill, and injured," says Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., a senior member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee who was briefed on the report because of her work to improve health care for troops. "It illustrates that too many soldiers are abusing drugs as they struggle to recover both mentally and physically."

Most case managers and nurses interviewed by investigators said 25% to 35% of soldiers in warrior units "are over-medicated, abuse prescriptions and have access to illegal drugs."

They said most soldiers arrive in the units with narcotics provided by battlefield doctors or military bases. They also said a few soldiers under their care are buying narcotics out of pocket and may be mixing legal and illegal drugs.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/military/2011-01-25-wounded-care_N.htm

Army Gives 4,200 Jobs to Contractors that were Meant for Federal Employees

January 21, 2011

Noel Brinkerhoff

An audit of military contracts for 24 of its 26 commands and headquarters has turned up more than 4,200 full-time jobs assigned by the U.S. Army that legally should belong to federal employees, but instead are being handled by contractors.

These positions, according to federal guidelines, are only intended for U.S. government workers, either because the duties are inherently governmental or constitute "unauthorized personal services."

The Government Accountability Office identified 2,357 contractor employees performing inherently governmental functions, which include awarding and administering contracts, determining budget priorities, and hiring or firing federal employees.

Another 1,800 or so contractors have been handling unauthorized personal services that federal employees should be performing.

In FY 2009, the Army paid for 262,282 full-time contract employees and the entire Department of Defense reported 766,732 contract employees.

http://www.allgov.com/Controversies/ViewNews/Army_Gives_4200_Jobs_to_Contractors_that_are_Meant_for_Federal_Employees_110121

Blackwater Suit Tossed 7 Years After Deaths

January 25, 2011

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. - A federal judge has tossed a lawsuit that blamed the security company formerly

known as Blackwater for the deaths of four contractors killed in a grisly 2004 ambush on the restive streets of Iraq.

U.S. District Judge James C. Fox said court-ordered arbitration fell apart because neither side was paying the costs of that process, so he decided to shut the case nearly seven years after the killings. Katy Helvenston, the mother of contractor Scott Helvenston, said Tuesday the families couldn't afford the costs, and she fears the case is over. The lawsuit was filed about a year after the men's deaths.

"It's pretty much destroyed my life," Helvenston said. "I haven't known one moment of joy since Scotty was slaughtered. I think the worst party is the betrayal from my country. I feel so betrayed."

Insurgents killed the four contractors, then mutilated the bodies, dragged the charred remains through the streets and hung two of the corpses from a bridge.

Survivors of the contractors contend Blackwater failed to prepare the men for their mission and didn't provide them with appropriate equipment, such as a map.

<http://www.military.com/news/article/blackwater-suit-tossed-7-years-after-deaths.html>

Ex-Fla. National Guardsman sentenced for threat

The Associated Press
Thursday, 01.27.11

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- An Iraq War veteran has been sentenced to three years and one month in prison for threatening over the Internet to shoot members of his Florida National Guard unit.

U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle sentenced 30-year-old Jeremy Daniel Snipes, of Perry, on Thursday in Tallahassee.

Snipes pleaded guilty in November to making a threat through interstate communication. He could have received up to five years.

His lawyer urged Hinkle to sentence Snipes to time served - about 11 months - arguing he made the threats because he suffers from post-traumatic distress disorder resulting from his tour in Iraq.

Snipes had threatened to shoot members of the 146th Signal Battalion at an armory in Jacksonville.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/01/27/2038171/ex-fla-national-guardsman-sentenced.html>

German soldier messing around with a gun shot and killed comrade in prank

20 Jan 2011

A German soldier messing around with a gun may have accidentally shot dead a comrade in Afghanistan, a parliamentary committee has heard, amid suggestions of a military cover-up.

Parliamentary liaison to the Bundeswehr, Hellmut Königshaus, reported to the armed services committee that up to 10 soldiers were involved in an apparent game at an outpost near the German base of Kunduz late last year, news magazine *Der Spiegel* reported on Thursday.

A 21-year-old soldier from the Bischofswiesen district of Bavaria was shot in the head and killed. Previously, the Bundeswehr had announced that the young soldier was discovered with the gunshot wound and subsequently died during an emergency operation – the implication being that he had committed suicide or accidentally shot himself while cleaning his weapon.

The young soldier was a corporal with the second company of mountain infantry battalion 232.

Der Spiegel reported that state prosecutors were investigating the incident as a possible case of negligent death.

<http://www.thelocal.de/national/20110120-32551.html>

follow up story:

23 Jan 2011

German Defence Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg has called for a comprehensive investigation into potential breaches of Bundeswehr protocol in the armed forces, according to a Sunday news report.

Online: <http://www.thelocal.de/national/20110123-32607.html>

also in German news:

Captain of German navy training ship dismissed by Defence Minister

22 Jan 2011

Following reports of an alleged "mutiny" on board the German navy training ship Gorch Fock, German Defence Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg has dismissed the ship's commander, a ministry spokesman confirmed.

Guttenberg has ordered the Gorch Fock to return to Germany immediately. "I have instructed the navy

chief of staff to relieve the ship's commander as leader of the ship," the defence minister told daily Bild am Sonntag.

Ahead of publication of the newspaper's report on Saturday, a spokesman for the defence ministry confirmed Captain Norbert Schatz was dismissed.

The crew of the Gorch Fock rebelled after one of their comrades, 25-year-old Sarah S., fell 27 metres to her death during a climbing exercise last November.

According to the report by Königshaus, four officer cadets were accused of mutiny after members of the crew – still mourning the death of their colleague – refused to follow orders to climb the ship's rigging.

Pending further notice, the ship will not leave the harbour in Kiel once it returns to Germany.

The Gorch Fock will be out of commission "until a commission is appointed, in cooperation with representatives of the German Bundestag, to decide the extent to which the Gorch Fock has a future as a training ship and ambassador for Germany on the world's oceans," Guttenberg told Bild.

According to broadcaster ARD, the ship's captain was informed of his dismissal in a phone call. The Gorch Fock, which is currently moored in Ushuaia in Tierra del Fuego Province, Argentina, is expected to set sail for Kiel on February 4.

Online: <http://www.thelocal.de/national/20110122-32591.html>

Families reject Blair apology over Iraq dead

AP

By David Stringer, Associated Press

Fri Jan 21, 2011

LONDON – Former Prime Minister Tony Blair offered an emotional apology for the deaths of soldiers and civilians in Iraq, as he testified Friday to Britain's inquiry into the war.

The 57-year-old Blair was making a second appearance before the panel to clarify evidence he gave to the same panel a year ago.

Critics of the war hope the inquiry will conclude Blair had been determined to back the U.S. invasion, whether or not it was supported by the public, Parliament or legal opinion.

Following his initial hearing, Blair was sharply criticized for suggesting he had no regrets over the decision to join the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

"That was taken as my meaning that I had no regrets about the loss of life," Blair said Friday, his voice faltering with apparent emotion.

"I want to make it clear that of course I regret deeply and profoundly the loss of life, whether from our own armed forces, those of other nations, the civilians who helped people in Iraq or the Iraqis

themselves," he said.

Some bereaved relatives heckled the former prime minister as he expressed his remorse.

Members of the audience shouted: "Too late, too late," while two women turned their backs on Blair, and then walked out. An official brought tissues into the hearing for another woman who burst into tears.

"Your lies killed my son, I hope you can live with yourself," Rose Gentle, whose 19-year-old son Gordon Gentle was killed while serving in Basra, southern Iraq, in 2006, shouted as Blair completed about four hours of testimony.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110121/ap_on_re_eu/eu_britain_iraq_inquiry

Relatives of Pakistani Drone Victims to Sue CIA

By Hasnain Kazim in Islamabad

Almost every day, people in the Pakistani region of Waziristan are killed or seriously injured by drone attacks carried out by the CIA. Now a group of victims' relatives is standing up to Washington -- by suing the US government.

An eye and both legs: That was the price that 17-year-old Sadaullah Wazir paid for living in a part of the world that is deemed a "terrorist haven" and that has been a target for US drones over the past few years. Since Barack Obama became US president, these attacks have become increasingly frequent. The Pakistani newspapers now report daily on those killed and injured in the tribal areas in the west of the country.

Sadaullah Wazir certainly ended up in hell, despite never having sought out a war, nor having fought in a single battle. The war came to him on Sept. 7, 2009, as he was sitting in front of his family home in the village of Machikhel, in northern Waziristan.

On that day, a drone flew over the village. Wazir was used to the sound; he had spotted the aircraft every few days in the sky. It was an evening during the fasting month of Ramadan, and most of the members of his family had gathered inside the house for prayers. After the prayers, they were to break the fast together.

Wazir was enjoying the last rays of sunshine and stayed outside. Suddenly there was a whoosh and a drone fired a rocket that hit Wazir's house. The young man jumped up in an attempt to help his family when the building collapsed. Wazir was just at the entrance. A wall collapsed on him and severed his legs, and a splinter tore into his eye. Two uncles and a cousin died in the inferno.

Wazir has now come together with 12 other victims to defend himself. He has joined a lawsuit initiated by Karim Khan, a 43-year-old who lost his son and brother four months after Wazir was injured during another attack on the same village. Ten other residents of Waziristan are supporting Khan, all people who have lost relatives in the attacks. They include 14-year-old Fahim Qureshi, who on Jan. 23, 2009, lost his left eye, suffered a fractured skull and was hit by several shards in the stomach.

The seven people who died were ordinary people, relatives of the young Qureshi.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,740638,00.html>

related development:

Mass Protests in North Waziristan Against US Drone Strikes

--Thousands of Tribesmen Protest Continued Killings

There was a general strike in the town of Miramshah in North Waziristan Agency today, as thousands of protesting tribesmen took to the streets to protest the continued US drone strikes against the region.

Shopkeepers closed their stores, tribesmen and religious leaders rallied with students, and speakers condemned the attacks, noting that they are killing large numbers of innocent civilians.

Protesters also expressed frustration that the Pakistani government wasn't going anything to prevent the US attacks, and urged the Supreme Court to take official action.

(story includes map, to locate Waziristan, a province of Pakistan)

<http://news.antiwar.com/2011/01/21/mass-protests-in-north-waziristan-against-us-drone-strikes/>

featured book review:

‘And No One Wants to Know’: Israeli Soldiers on the Occupation

David Shulman
January 9, 2011

file under: An eye-for-an-eye makes the whole world blind

The publication in Jerusalem of *Occupation of the Territories: Israeli Soldiers' Testimonies 2000-2010* — provides unprecedented first-hand accounts by over one hundred Israeli soldiers of their experiences while serving in the IDF.

The men and women whose accounts are gathered in its 431 pages have served in the territories over the past decade and have had the courage to come forward and report on what they saw and heard and did there. The testimonies, which are anonymous, take the form of careful interviews that often focus on particular incidents in which the soldier was involved. The book is being published in Hebrew and English (the English edition, also published in Jerusalem, will be available later this month; a nearly final electronic version can be found online) by Breaking the Silence, a group of Israeli ex-soldiers with an established record of gathering first-person accounts of IDF operations.

The information was meticulously checked and re-checked for accuracy; there is no mistaking the ring

of truth in the reports, which reveal consistent patterns, and thus have a powerful cumulative force. To read them is to see the profound moral corruption of the occupation in all its starkness. They show us ordinary, decent young soldiers, caught up in an impossible situation, sometimes trying desperately to make sense of that situation, but mostly following their orders without question. In a number of cases, those interviewed have clearly been psychologically and spiritually scarred by their participation in horrific events of which they had little understanding at the time.

Some of the testimonies date from the second Intifada (2000–2005). Among the worst is the report of the cold-blooded revenge killing of four (possibly more) innocent Palestinian policemen at a checkpoint near Ramallah in 2001:

All of a sudden our team commander comes ... and says, “listen, this is the briefing.... we are doing ... the operation is a revenge operation. We are going to eliminate six Palestinian policemen from some checkpoint in revenge for the six they took from us.” ... there are like four transfer posts ... those who are responsible for them are Palestinian police, and everyone from those posts they sent us ... to just eliminate all the police that are there. Right? It was defined to us like, revenge, and when I even hesitated at the moment, like I asked ... “What did they do? Who are they?” they said to me, “... There is a suspicion that the terrorist who killed the six went through that checkpoint.” There is a suspicion, like, but they don’t know for certain. And it could be that it’s one of those, but they said to me, “it doesn’t matter, they took six of ours, we are going to take six back.”

Were they armed?

They didn’t fire back at us. They didn’t fire back. No, they didn’t.... We gave a fire strike from afar, we didn’t hit anything..we hit one and he ran, I took him down with another bullet. Another one ran into the thing, it was, like, burning, and we chased after another.... Now, the guy who I killed, who I took down, I shot a bullet at him, he was lying on the ground, we only saw ... like we only saw ... something was hiding him, and we were four or three people who just put ... we just kept shooting at the body.

To verify the killing?

Not to verify the killing, from the hysteria of the excitement ... and then I got to him and he was, like, hacked to pieces ... And I tried, and I turned him over, like ... it was a 55-year-old, if not 60 year-old guy, very old, and he didn’t have a weapon.

Were they in uniform?

They were in Palestinian police uniforms. They were in Palestinian police uniforms without weapons.

But apart from atrocities like that one, what most shocks the reader of these testimonies is the routine, daily terror and humiliation inflicted on an innocent civilian population. [...] Throughout the territories, young soldiers interviewed in the book often find themselves protecting rampaging settlers and covering up their violence.

So it goes, for 431 painful pages. Most painful of all is the inescapable realization that the events reported by the soldiers—in straightforward, unpretentious, searing language—are in no sense unusual. They describe the rule and the norm, the very stuff of the occupation, now forty-three-and-a-half years

old and going strong. No one involved in maintaining it gets away unscathed in heart or soul, including the ordinary soldiers who do what they're told, although only a small number are capable of the kind of articulate reflection on their experience that we find in this book.

But it is not only the soldiers and the policemen and the judges and the bureaucrats who pay a personal price, along with their Palestinian victims. As the Israeli philosopher Yeshayahu Leibowitz predicted forty-three years ago, the occupation has brutalized Israeli society as a whole and eroded the moral foundation of our very existence. If there is still hope for Israel, it lies with those remnants of the peace camp that remain active and, in particular, with groups such as Breaking the Silence, who offer a taste of the bitter, but perhaps ultimately healing, truth.

<http://www.nybooks.com/blogs/nyrblog/2011/jan/09/no-one-wants-to-know-israeli-soldiers-occupation/>

update on D.P. (displaced persons) due to U.S. invasion of Iraq

Iraq refugee returns fell in 2010: UNHCR

By Jacques Clement (AFP)
Jan 28, 2011

BAGHDAD — Fewer Iraqis displaced inside and outside the country returned to their homes in 2010 than in the previous year, largely as a result of Iraq's prolonged political deadlock, the UNHCR said on Friday.

The UN refugee agency said in its December 2010 statistical update that a total of 118,890 Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons returned to their country and homes, a 40 percent drop compared with 2009.

"It was a year on hold," Daniel Endres, Iraq representative for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, told AFP by telephone.

"People wanted to wait and see a bit -- before you take such an important decision, you want to be sure" that the situation in the country is stable, he added.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hjA6XbiJKx2XKgt dg_Hn0A59sorA?docId=CNG.1b324d261b1d70e46050b731e6c7d0f3.6f1

related upcoming event, in Tulsa:

Tulsa Peace Fellowship

Our next civic action is Saturday Feb 5th 2011, 12 noon, @ corner of 41st & Yale, in Tulsa.

Signs in keeping with "U.S. Out of Afghanistan" or "Support Bradley Manning" are welcome.

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for Feb 2011
masthead

TPF needs your support.

You can donate online via PINC (pull down menu for US\$ donations)

<http://www.pincgiving.com/donate/organization/1202854>

Or, please mail a check or money order made out to the "Tulsa Peace Fellowship" to :

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship
c/o UU Church of the Restoration,
1314 N. Greenwood Ave, Tulsa Oklahoma. 74106-4854

Find on a map: [Google Maps link](#)

Contributions to TPF are not tax deductible at the present time.

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.*

You can find a list of our board members and advisors here:

<http://tulsapeacefellowship.ning.com/forum/topics/the-membership-of-the-tpf>

"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 unaffiliated voters, members of third parties, Progressives, Libertarians, Green Party members, Democrats, Republicans, 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> Also new is the TPF blog on wordpress:

<http://tulsapeace.wordpress.com> Also still going strong: our announcement list on yahoo! tulsapeace@yahooogroups.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 regularly scheduled business meeting of the Fellowship will be held
on Thursday, February 10th 2011, 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 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: 692 subscribers

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further information

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THE 10 REASONS you should give up your plans to become a 'professional killer'

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>