

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

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

– scroll down for details about any story

– also see archived PDF version of this digest on our Ning website:

<http://tulsapeacefellowship.ning.com/forum/categories/truth-in-recruiting-tpf/listForCategory>

Lead story from the past month's news:

War in Libya Fought for Oil

--Wasn't there a big risk in not seeking congressional approval, thus going forward with an illegal war?

related op/ed

In a Pure Coincidence, Gaddafi Impeded U.S. Oil Interests Before the War

--Glenn Greenwald diagnoses the causes of this war

file under: defunding war

Growing Congressional Condemnation of Obama's Libya War

--Will the U.S. House under Republican control use the power of the purse to reclaim its power over the President?

file under: imperial president over-stepping his bounds

House Leadership: Bill to Defund Libya War Coming Soon

Boehner Slams Obama Claims that Libya War Doesn't Require Congressional Okay

file under: war crimes

NATO Admits the Killing of Civilians in Tripoli Attack

--Claims 'Weapons System Failure' in Attack Which **Killed Toddlers, not only Unarmed Civilians**

file under: the alternative view

Western Campaign against Libya was Launched to Prevent the Unification of Three Revolutionary Arab States - Egypt, Libya and Tunisia

--Experts Fear Israeli Design to Balkanise Arab States; U.S./NATO doing Israel's bidding in the Arab world

quote:

"The western campaign against Libya wasn't undertaken to protect human rights or foster democracy," said al-Sakhawi. Rather, it was undertaken because "Egypt, Libya and Tunisia together might pose a threat to Israeli regional dominance."

Other stories of note on other U.S. wars, being prosecuted simultaneously:

Army suicides at highest level in a year

--follow up on continuing saga of hopelessness and despair among U.S. military, veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan

statistic:

Suicide attempts among U.S. military per day: 17 (seventeen)

file under: the majority against wars of foreign intervention

U.S. Mayors Pass First Anti-War Resolution Since Vietnam

quote:

"As mayors, we recognize there is an absurdly false choice being put to Americans that we somehow have to pick between all the priorities we care deeply about but can't touch massive spending on the military."

~[U.S. Council of Mayors](#)

related petition:

Ask Congress and the President to listen to the public and our cities' mayors now.

file under: vox populi

Poll: Americans Favor Withdrawing Troops Quickly from Afghanistan

--Record numbers favor withdrawing troops from Afghanistan "as quickly as possible"

quote:

"I'm tired of seeing our young people getting killed and getting their arms and legs blown off. What do you say to the mother, father, wife of our military killed there — that we support a corrupt government in a fight we can't win?"

~Congressional Representative Walter B. Jones, R-NC, in Feb 2011

TPF Press Release: In response to President Obama's President's anemic withdrawal plan for U.S. troops stationed in Afghanistan, please see the TPF Media Advisory, 25th June 2011, under the title "**Anti-war movement in Tulsa not satisfied with Obama's timeline for Afghanistan Withdrawal**

: TPF Expected War \$\$ to Come Home under Obama"

<http://tulsapeacefellowship.ning.com/profiles/blogs/press-release-tulsa-peace>

sidebar:

Afghan President Karzai Accuses NATO of Polluting his Country's with its Weapons

--A recent spike in civilian deaths in the country has put Afghanistan's president at odds with coalition forces.

file under: negotiating, rather than firing weapons

U.S. talking to Taliban, says Afghanistan president

--Karzai's comments are the first official confirmation that U.S. is negotiating with the Taliban to end the war in Afghanistan

related news:

UK in peace talks with the Taliban

--At some point, peace is pragmatic, says UK Foreign Sec'y, Alexander Haig

file under: "Full Spectrum Absurdity"

U.S. congressional delegation sets off political IED in Iraq

--the abysmal stupidity of members of Congress, illustrated

file under: U.S. hypocrisy, or Republican blind points

[Iraq asks US congressman Dana Rohrabacker \(R-Calif\) to leave over 'repay' remark](#)

--U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher said that Iraq should partly repay the United States for money spent since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion

featured editorial

[Imperial Hypocrisy: U.S. calls Iraq 'criminal' and seeks reparations](#)

--but U.S. unwilling to let **International Criminal Court** have the jurisdiction to decide

sidebar:

[Basra Council Bars US Troops](#)

--Also demands compensation from U.S. for damages to Iraqis over the course of the war

featured video/film

["The War You Don't See" by John Pilger \(Dec 2010\)](#)

--broadcast on mainstream media in the U.K., in Jan 2011., it has never be shown to American audiences

--watch entirety of the film on YouTube, in 8 parts: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_SQk9tvHTA

see this review of the documentary (broadcast date, 19 March 2011, in the UK)

<http://www.presstv.com/Program/170877.html>

watch on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/presstvglobalnews#p/u/38/h3jtxT9wOo8>

excerpt from the film:

During World War I, 10% of all casualties were civilians.

During World War II, the number of civilian deaths rose to 50%.

During the Vietnam War, 70% of all casualties were civilians.

In the war in Iraq, civilians account for up to 90% of all deaths.

"The killing of civilians and willfully causing great suffering is a war crime."

~Fourth Geneva Convention, 1949

backpage stories:

featured song/lyrics

["War Resister" by Jon Brooks](#)

--inspired by conscientious objector in self-imposed exile in Canada

--listen online here: http://www.jonbrooks.ca/index.php/jb/album/moth_nor_rust/

quote

‘What’s freedom worth if it’s bought with a gun?’

featured editorial

[Eisenhower's worst fears came true. We invent enemies to buy the bombs](#)

--Simon Jenkins on British arms industry

quote:

"While big defence exists, glory-hungry politicians will use it. Why do we still go to war? We seem unable to stop."

file under: Milo Minderbender redux

NV man accused of selling stolen US military ammo

– A former defense contractor employee has been indicted

related editorial:

There are More Efficient Ways to Stimulate the Economy than So-Called "Military Jobs"

--Ellen Brown on the ludicrous claim that the U.S. military is other than a drain on the U.S. economy

quote:

"The military actually destroys jobs in the civilian economy."

facts & figures;

A 2007 study by Robert Pollin and Heidi Garrett-Peltier of the University of Massachusetts found that government investment in education creates twice as many jobs as investment in the military. Spending on personal consumption, health care, education, mass transit, and construction for home weatherization and infrastructure repair all were found to create more jobs per \$1 billion in expenditures than military spending does.

Okinawa row: Japan and US drop Futenma airbase deadline

--Japan and the US have agreed to drop a 2014 deadline to move a controversial US airbase on the island of Okinawa.

OKINAWA TIMELINE

1945: An estimated 100,000 Okinawan civilians die in Battle of Okinawa; Japan surrenders; US takes control of Okinawa

1972: Okinawa reverts to Japan; US bases stay

2014: Planned date for removal of US bases from Okinawa, almost 70 years later; now postponed indefinitely

epitaph for this edition of "Truth in Recruiting"

"Human beings will do anything, anything. I am convinced. That's why when all those beheadings started in Iraq, it didn't bother me. A lot of people here were horrified, "Whaaaa, beheadings! Beheadings!" What, are you fucking surprised? Just one more form of extreme human behavior. Besides, who cares about some mercenary civilian contractor from Oklahoma who gets his head cut off? Fuck 'em. Hey Jack, you don't want to get your head cut off? Stay the fuck in Oklahoma. They ain't cuttin' off heads in Oklahoma, far as I know. But I do know this: you strap on a gun and go struttin' around some other man's country, you'd better be ready for some action, Jack. People are touchy about that sort of thing. And let me ask you this... this is a moral question, not rhetorical, I'm looking for the answer: what is the moral difference between cuttin' off one guy's head, or two, or three, or five, or ten - and dropping a big bomb on a hospital and killing a whole bunch of sick kids? Has anybody in authority given you an explanation of the difference?"

—George Carlin

War in Libya Fought for Oil

John Glaser
June 11, 2011

Much of the war has actually seemed extremely odd, as if it didn't match up. There seemed to be many more reasons for the administration not to get involved. Why, Greenwald asks, in the middle of debt crises "and when polls show Americans solidly and increasingly opposed to the war — would the U.S. Government continue to spend huge sums of money to fight this war?" Wasn't there a big risk in not seeking congressional approval, thus going forward with an illegal war? Why, in an Arab Spring which makes this contradiction so obvious, would we attack Qaddafi for behaving exactly the way we pay other allies to behave? Didn't Washington see considerable risk in engaging in a third/fourth outright war in against a Muslim country? Wasn't there some concern, even if only for PR purposes, within the administration that the rebels on whose behalf we would ostensibly fight this war have direct ties to al-Qaeda? Did Obama not calculate a future political vulnerability of engaging in what he knew would be deliberate mission creep, or as Greenwald says, that the real goal of the war was "exactly the one Obama vowed would not be pursued — regime change through the use of military force"?

Last month McClatchy reported on Wikileaks cables which revealed an oil deal emerging in the last few years in Libya that U.S. officials didn't like. The Italian oil company Eni, the largest corporation in Italy and one in which the Italian government holds a 30 percent stake, was wagering a deal with the Russian oil company Gazprom, with which Vladimir Putin is connected. In the deal, Eni would have given Gazprom access to Libyan oil and helped Gazprom build a pipeline across the Black sea. The leaked cables reveal U.S. officials plotting ways to prevent such a success from a Russian oil giant. War was never mentioned in the cables, but since the start of Obama's intervention in Libya, the deal has officially been put on hold.

<http://www.antiwar.com/blog/2011/06/11/war-in-libya-fought-for-oil/>

In a pure coincidence, Gaddafi impeded U.S. oil interests before the war

By Glenn Greenwald
Jun 11, 2011

Is there anything more obvious -- as the world's oil supplies rapidly diminish -- than the fact that our prime objective is to remove Gaddafi and install a regime that is a far more reliable servant to Western oil interests, and that protecting civilians was the justifying pretext for this war, not the purpose? If (as is quite possible) the new regime turns out to be as oppressive as Gaddafi but far more subservient to Western corporations (like, say, our good Saudi friends), does anyone think we're going to care in the

slightest or (at most) do anything other than pay occasional lip service to protesting it? Does anyone think we're going to care about The Libyan People if they're being oppressed or brutalized by a reliably pro-Western successor to Gaddafi?

[T]o believe that humanitarianism (protection of Libya civilians) was why we went to war in Libya requires a blindness so willful and complete that it's genuinely difficult to describe.

[T]he point here is not that the U.S. invaded Libya in order to steal its oil. That's not the West's *modus operandi*. The point is that what distinguishes Gaddafi and made him a war target is not the claimed humanitarian rationale (he brutalized his own people) ... Instead, what distinguished Gaddafi and made him a war target was that he had become insufficiently compliant -- an unreliable and unstable servant to the West.

The very idea that the U.S. Government woke up one day and suddenly decided that it can no longer abide a leader who mistreats his own people -- and that's why we went to Libya -- is so ludicrous that it's actually painful to hear that people believe that. It so obviously confuses pretext with cause. If Gaddafi had continued to be as compliant as he had been in the past, does anyone really believe we would have invaded his country and spent months trying to kill him and replace him with another regime?

That's not to say that Gaddafi's "resource nationalism" is the only or even overriding motive for the war in Libya. Wars are typically caused by the interests of multiple factions and rarely have just one motive. As Jim Webb explained in arguing that the U.S. has no vital interest in Libya, the French and British are far more reliant on Libyan oil than the U.S. is (and this reader offers a rational dissent and alternative explanation for the war). But the U.S. has long made clear that it will not tolerate hostile or disobedient rulers in countries where it believes it has vital interests, and that's particularly true in oil rich nations (which is one reason for the American obsession with Iran). It's just hard to believe that any rational person would believe that the war in Libya is unrelated to the fact that Gaddafi has been increasingly obstructionist in allowing Western oil companies access to that nation's oil and that Libya is so rich in oil.

http://www.salon.com/news/opinion/glenn_greenwald/2011/06/11/libya/index.html

Growing Congressional Condemnation of Obama's Libya War

Defunding Vote Looms

by Jason Ditz, June 19, 2011

Though there are a handful of diehard hawks in the Senate for whom any war on any flimsy justification is to be praised, the Republican Party is seeing a major rethink on war, with the unilateral war in Libya.

[T]he House is expected to vote, potentially in a matter of days, on defunding the conflict. Such votes were being fought tooth and nail by House Republican leadership just weeks ago, but now livid at the president's claims that Congress has no oversight over the war, they are not just allowing the vote but it seems to have a strong chance of passing through the House with plenty of bipartisan support.

Congress has gone from mocking to livid, and the war has gone from controversial in the eyes of many Congressmen to an illegal challenge of Congressional authority. The president could be facing the first real Congressional backlash at unchecked warmaking power in decades, with both lawsuits and the power of the purse being brought to bear against the administration's claim Congress can't stop the U.S. from prosecuting a Libyan War.

<http://news.antiwar.com/2011/06/19/growing-congressional-condemnation-of-obamas-libya-war/>

TPF comment: The U.S. Constitution states unequivocally that the power to declare war resides with the U.S. Congress, not with the president.

file under: imperial president over-stepping his bounds

House Leadership: Bill to Defund Libya War Coming Soon

Boehner Slams Obama Claims that Libya War Doesn't Require Congressional Support
by Jason Ditz, June 16, 2011

Members of the House Republican leadership announced today their intentions to move forward with a bill to defund the war in Libya, barring a major change of perspective from the Obama Administration, which yesterday claimed the war was immune to the War Powers Act requirement for Congressional support for deploying US troops overseas.

House Speaker John Boehner (R – OH) slammed the claim, insisting that the suggestion does not “pass the straight face test.” Indeed, the letter and spirit of the act, passed during the Vietnam War era, make the administration's claim extremely difficult to understand.

An amendment barring spending military appropriations bill funding on the conflict already passed with strong bipartisan support.

<http://news.antiwar.com/2011/06/16/house-leadership-bill-to-defund-libya-war-coming-soon/>

NATO Admits Killing Civilians in Tripoli Attack

Claims 'Weapons System Failure' in Attack Which Killed Toddlers
by Jason Ditz, June 19, 2011

NATO has admitted a missile strike hit a civilian home in the Libyan capital of Tripoli today, killing a number of civilians including at least two toddlers. Though far from the first strike to kill civilians in the Libyan War, it is the first that NATO officials have admitted to.

US and French forces began attacking Libya on March 19, ostensibly based on a UN resolution calling for them to “protect civilians” with a no fly zone. Though officials have argued this extended to allowing the continuing air war, it will be difficult to defend the growing number of civilian killings by the NATO forces themselves.

Experts Fear Israeli Design to Balkanise Arab States

By Adam Morrow and Khaled Moussa al-Omrani

Jun 18, 2011 (IPS) - Cairo - Developments in Libya have raised fears among Egyptian analysts and political figures of the possible break-up of the North African nation into two warring halves. To support the assertion, they point to longstanding Israeli designs - supported by the western powers - to balkanise the Arab states of the region.

"Libya could be split in two, with Gaddafi staying on in the west of the country and a revolutionary government loyal to the western powers in control of the east," Mohamed al-Sakhawi, leading member of Egypt's as-yet-unlicensed Arabic Unity Party, told IPS.

For three months, Libya has suffered internationally sanctioned air-strikes by the western NATO alliance, launched with the stated aim of supporting the ongoing popular uprising against the Gaddafi regime. Revolutionary forces based in Ben Ghazi now hold most of the country's eastern half, while forces loyal to Gaddafi continue to control the country's western half from the capital Tripoli.

Yet the fact that NATO - despite its overwhelming air superiority - has so far failed to dislodge the Gaddafi regime has led many local observers to question the western alliance's intentions.

"The western campaign against Libya wasn't undertaken to protect human rights or foster democracy," said al-Sakhawi. "It was launched with the aim of breaking Libya up politically so as to prevent the unification of three revolutionary Arab states - Egypt, Libya and Tunisia - which together might pose a threat to Israeli regional dominance."

Walid Hassan, international law professor at Alexandria's Pharos University, agreed for the most part, saying that NATO - with Israeli encouragement - "hopes to replace Gaddafi with rulers loyal to the west in advance of breaking the country into small statelets, as they are doing in Iraq.

"The primary objective is to weaken the Arab states of North Africa, which, if they ever united, would represent a potential threat to Israeli and western interests," Hassan told IPS. "Libya's significant oil wealth, of course, constitutes a secondary reason for the intervention."

Al-Sakhawi pointed to the region's century-old legacy of balkanisation at the hands of foreign powers.

"The 1916 Sykes-Picot agreement between Britain and France drew artificial borders across the region and fragmented the Arab world into nation states," he said. "And in recent years, the drive to further balkanise the Arab world - by Israel and the western powers - has only accelerated."

Egyptian analysts point to several proposals written to this effect by Israeli strategists, the most well known of which is a 1982 treatise entitled "A Strategy for Israel in the 1980s." Written by Oded Yinon, then a senior advisor for Israel's foreign ministry, the essay explicitly calls for breaking up the Arab

states of the region along ethnic and sectarian lines.

"The Zionist plan to politically fragment the Arab Middle East so as to keep Arab states in a perpetual state of instability and weakness has been well known for the last three decades," Gamal Mazloun, retired Egyptian major-general and expert on defence issues, told IPS.

While the Yinon document does not devote much space to Libya, it talks in detail about the need to divide Iraq, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon into small, ineffectual statelets.

"The dissolution of Syria and Iraq later on into ethnically or religiously unique areas... is Israel's primary target on the eastern front in the long run," the author writes. For Yinon, oil-rich and ethnically-diverse Iraq - which he describes as "the greatest threat to Israel" - constitutes a chief target.

"In Iraq, a division into provinces along ethnic/religious lines... is possible," he writes. "So, three states will exist around the three major cities: Basra, Baghdad and Mosul, and Shiite areas in the south will separate from the Sunni and Kurdish north."

As for Egypt, Yinon calls for breaking the country up into "distinct geographical regions." The establishment of an independent Coptic-Christian state in Upper Egypt, he writes, "alongside a number of weak states with very localised power and without a centralised government...seems inevitable in the long run."

Yinon goes on to mention Sudan in similar terms, describing it as "the most torn-apart state in the Arab-Muslim world today...built upon four groups hostile to each other: an Arab-Muslim Sunni minority which rules over a majority of non-Arab Africans, pagans and Christians."

According to Mazloun, political manoeuvring in recent years by Israel and the western powers - both overt and covert - appears to conform to this strategy of balkanisation.

"Israel and the U.S. have both helped break up Iraq by encouraging the emergence of an independent Kurdish state and fostering Sunni-Shiite division," he said. "And in Sudan, Israel actively contributed to the war between north and south by providing the latter with weapons and military training."

Southern Sudan is set to declare independence from the northern Khartoum government next month in a move that will officially split Africa's largest country in two.

"Israel has an interest in breaking up Sudan and instigating sectarian strife in Egypt so that the latter is faced with crises on both its internal and external fronts," said Mazloun. "Israel and its western patrons are determined to keep Egypt - the most populous Arab nation by far - in a state of perpetual weakness so that it cannot aid the Arab cause in places like Palestine and Iraq."

Earlier this month, Mohamed Abbas, a leading member of Egypt's Revolutionary Coalition Council (RCC), likewise warned of an ongoing "conspiracy" aimed at breaking Egypt into three petty states. The RCC consists of several political movements that played prominent roles in Egypt's recent Tahrir Uprising.

"This conspiracy is part of a wider scheme to fragment the Arab states - as has happened in Sudan, is happening in Libya and has been attempted in Iraq - in order to render Egypt so weak that the Zionist entity will be sure to remain the dominant power in the new Middle East," Abbas was quoted as saying

by independent daily Al-Shorouk on Jun. 4. (END)

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article28367.htm>

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for July 2011
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Army suicides at highest level in a year

By Larry Shaughnessy, CNN Pentagon Producer

Washington (CNN) -- May 2011 was the worst month in a year for suicides and potential suicides in the active-duty Army, the Pentagon announced Thursday.

The Army reported 21 potential suicides among active-duty soldiers in May. One of them has been confirmed; the other 20 are under investigation. In the past, most of the cases investigated were confirmed to be suicides.

May's number was the highest for one month since June 2010, which at the time was the worst month in recent memory for Army suicides.

There were also 21 potential suicides among active-duty soldiers in June 2010, but that month also saw 11 potential suicides among the Guard and Reserves. Last month, there were six potential suicides in the National Guard and Reserves, so June 2010 remains worse.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2011/US/06/16/army.suicides/index.html>

See Van Jones make a point of the 17 suicide attempts per day among U.S. veterans, in this speech available on streaming video :

http://www.livestream.com/freespeechtv/share?clipId=flv_10e52519-c965-4bda-96f2-618775ea0d28
(go to minute 20:00)

file under: the majority of U.S. cities are against U.S. wars of foreign intervention

U.S. Mayors Passed Their First Anti-War Resolution Since Vietnam

The U.S. Conference of Mayors has just done something it hasn't done since Vietnam, passing a resolution that supports efforts to speed up the ending of our current wars and calls on the President and Congress to "bring these war dollars home to meet vital human needs."

U.S. mayors voted in their June 20th 2011 plenary session to call on the federal government to stop funding wars, and bring the money home.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Resolution Number 59 was only a twinkle in the eye two years ago

when a coalition of citizens alarmed at endless wars and catastrophic budget shortfalls coined the slogan “Bring Our War Dollars Home” at activist Sally Breen's kitchen table in Winthrop, Maine. That state's campaign took off on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 2010, and soon spread nationally with adoption by the women-led peace group CODEPINK. Locations across Maine soon adopted war dollars home resolutions, including Deer Isle, Portland, and School Administrative District #74, followed by Northampton and Amherst, Massachusetts and, most recently, by Hartford, Connecticut.

In March CODEPINK brought on board national campaign manager C.J. Minster, who wrote the text of the mayors' resolution at another kitchen table, that of co-founder Medea Benjamin. The idea to bring a resolution to the annual conference of mayors had been proposed to co-founder Jodie Evans by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, the incoming president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The conference first convened in 1932, as big city mayors came together in Detroit to consider what could be done to pull their troubled cities out of the depths of the Great Depression. The New Deal incorporated many of their ideas, and mayors have met annually ever since.

"The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. Congress to bring these war dollars home to meet vital human needs, promote job creation, rebuild our infrastructure, aid municipal and state governments, and develop a new economy based upon renewable, sustainable energy," the resolution reads, citing the \$126 billion a year cost of U.S. wars and the deaths of more than 6,000 troops.

Kitty Piercy, Mayor of Eugene, Oregon, took the lead by introducing Resolution 59 stating: “Mayors call on our country to begin the journey of turning war dollars back into peace dollars, of bringing our loved ones home and of focusing our national resources on building security and prosperity here at home. Our children and families long for and call for a real investment in the future of America. It is past due.”

Piercy was joined in supporting the measure by mayors from Worcester, Hartford, Baltimore, and a score of other cities. States represented on the endorsement list included Virginia, Florida, Ohio, New York, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, and Wisconsin. The resolution flew through the Metro Economies Committee on the opening day of the mayors' conference, and the news was picked up by media outlets all over the world. On Sunday, June 19, Mayor Villaraigosa spoke in favor of the resolution on television current affairs program Meet The Press – and the rest is history.

As for who will enforce the non-binding resolution, that is up to the people. Grassroots pressure to end funding for wars eventually produced an end to U.S. military presence in Vietnam, presaged by the last time the mayors considered a war dollars home resolution in 1971.

Many citizens are questioning who the federal government really represents.

<http://warisacrime.org/content/mayors-tell-congress-bring-war-dollars-home>

More coverage in online media:

06/15/11

Sam Stein

The basis of the mayors' objections is not strictly the morality or strategic basis of the war, but the price tag. The resolution's first clause references the "severity of the ongoing economic crisis" and "budget shortfalls at all levels of government" as reasons to "re-examine our national spending priorities." The

second clause notes that Iraq and Afghanistan are costing the country approximately \$126 billion dollars per year. It is not until the third clause that the authors point to the wars' casualties. They conclude with a plea for Congress to "bring these war dollars home to meet vital human needs."

"As mayors, we recognize there is an absurdly false choice being put to Americans that we somehow have to pick between all the priorities we care deeply about but can't touch massive spending on the military," said Rybak.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/06/15/us-mayors-to-push-for-ani-war-resolution_n_877817.html

related petition online:

Ask Congress and the President to listen to the public and our cities' mayors now.

Comment: TPF agrees with the US Conference of Mayors which passed a resolution regarding U.S. unending military engagements and bravely called for an end to the US presence in Afghanistan. We would like to see Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett endorse this resolution.

Poll: Americans Who Favor Withdrawing Troops Quickly at All-Time High

By Sara Sorcher

Updated: June 21, 2011 | 6:30 p.m.

Americans in record numbers favor withdrawing troops from Afghanistan "as quickly as possible," according to a Pew Research Center survey.

The percentage of Americans favoring withdrawal has hit an all-time high for Pew's regular surveys on this topic. It's the first time a majority of Americans surveyed—56 percent—say that the U.S. should bring home troops in Afghanistan as soon as possible. The number is up 8 percentage points since Pew's survey last month in the days after al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden was killed; then, 49 percent favored removing troops as soon as possible. Last June, only 40 percent of Americans favored immediate withdrawal.

As Washington buzzes with speculation over the size and scope of the initial drawdown of the 100,000 U.S. troops currently in Afghanistan, a senior Pentagon official told National Journal on Tuesday that he expects the president to endorse a "phased withdrawal" to bring one combat brigade, or about 5,000 troops, home over the summer and a second to begin leaving by the end of the year. Obama will also commit to bringing home the remaining 20,000 "surge" troops by the end of 2012, the official said.

This shift is also evident in Obama's Democratic base: 67 percent of Democrats said that troops should be removed as soon as possible. This is a sharp increase of 14 points since just last month, and up 24 points since last June.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/nationalsecurity/poll-americans-who-favor-withdrawing-troops-quickly-at-all-time-high-20110621#.TgD9DyomR5E;email>

Anti-war movement in Tulsa not satisfied with Obama's timeline for Afghanistan Withdrawal

MEDIA ADVISORY from THE TULSA PEACE FELLOWSHIP
June 25, 2011

President's Withdrawal Plan Anemic: TPF Expected War \$\$ to Come Home under Obama

In response to Obama's announced troop withdrawals from the ongoing occupation of Afghanistan, the TPF Steering Committee is largely disappointed with the President's inability to bring the troops home by the end of the year. It would seem that the President is unable to rein in his gung-ho generals, or put an end to this war. After ten years of fighting, with varied justifications, none of the vaunted American military's leadership has been able to undo their blindness or see that there is no military solution in that country. Likely the presence of U.S. troops is merely aggravating domestic tensions in Afghanistan. But even worse, military occupation generates resistance because it is humiliating, disruptive, arbitrary, and terrifying to civilian non-combatants, pushing some of them to turn against the U.S./NATO forces and join the insurgency.

At least it appears that President Obama has come to realize that drawing down the troops, rather than escalating hostilities, is part and parcel of pacifying the situation in Afghanistan. The slow pace of drawing down troops, however, means that rather than arriving home in one piece, some will come home in a box. We had hoped the President would bring the boys home sooner, rather than later.

Mark Manley, one of our TPF grassroots members, and a former candidate for office here in Tulsa, says in response to Obama's speech:

“With our original reason for entering Afghanistan dead, Obama is bringing 1/10th of our troops home by the end of the year and at the end of 2012 there will still be 67 thousand troops there. We need to bring the troops home now!”

TPF continues to insist that U.S. troops stop occupying that country, return states-side to home base, and demobilize.

However, the TPF Steering Committee is also in part gratified, because we now have what we asked for, namely, a timeline for withdrawal of U.S. forces and a commitment from the Commander-in-Chief to finally leave the country completely by 2014. This change in policy may itself save lives, as it provides a clear signal that the U.S. is not interested in occupying Afghanistan indefinitely.

The TPF Steering Committee is saddened and disturbed by the increasingly frequent civilian deaths at the hands of NATO and/or U.S. troops. After 10 years a military occupation, it is time U.S./NATO forces gave way to a combination of peacekeeping forces and humanitarian agencies to lead the reconstruction efforts needed there, and to help the people of Afghanistan recuperate from the U.S. occupation. In particular, funds should be made available to help internally displaced persons (IDP), i.e. homeless Afghans in need of being resettled, people who are forced at present to live in tent communities because of the hostilities.

TPF's demand for immediate de-mobilization is of a piece with many other peace-related groups across America:

- TPF agrees with Veterans for Rethinking Afghanistan who argue that President Obama's announced draw-down of troops from Afghanistan is a token withdrawal, completely out of step

with the American people. The President's plan to bring home only 10,000 (out of the 100,000 troops stationed in Afghanistan) is unnecessarily timid.

- TPF agrees with the US Conference of Mayors which passed a resolution regarding U.S. unending military engagements and bravely called for an end to the US presence in Afghanistan. We would like to see Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett endorse this resolution.
- TPF agrees with Congresswoman Barbara Lee who argues that Obama's withdrawal timetable falls far short of the significant and sizeable reduction that our war-weary nation expected. She stated:

“A troop reduction of 10,000 by the end of this year is anything but significant, as it does not even get us back to pre-escalation levels. A more significant and reasonable goal would have been the swift withdrawal of 50,000 combat troops, half of the roughly 100,000 U.S. troops currently on the ground. The American people are sick and tired of this war, the longest war in U.S. history, and there is no military solution in Afghanistan.”

She delivered over 120,000 petition signatures to President Obama urging him to make the July withdrawal significant. We would like to see Tulsa Congressman Jim Sullivan work together with Lee to bring the troops home now.

- TPF agrees with Derrick Crowe and Robert Greenwald from the Brave New Foundation that it is unacceptable to continue to spend around \$2 billion per week on this war for the next two to three years. There is no national security issue, nor any geopolitical interest, that can justify spending that kind of money in a country whose GDP is only \$1.4 billion a year.
- TPF agrees with Norman Solomon and Roots Action that Obama cannot keep so many troops in Afghanistan if Congress will stand up, use its power of the purse, and refuse to pay for it. The Republican-controlled House should use the 2012 "Defense Appropriations" bill to strip the U.S. executive branch of the over \$100 billion per year that Obama's various wars are costing the American taxpayer.
- TPF agrees with Credo Action that this plan for withdrawal is a token gesture that signifies years more of the large-scale military occupation of Afghanistan — not a real robust effort to end the war. The President should rightly be held to account by the voters, come the 2012 election, for his inability to end the war. It is ludicrous that a President who ran on a ticket of ending war, and who even received a Nobel Prize in expectation of this end to warmongering by the U.S., will instead, at the end of his first term, be a candidate-for-President with twice as many troops in Afghanistan as when he came into office.
- TPF agrees with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) that the U.S. should declare a cease fire. We are encouraged to hear that both the U.K and U.S. components of NATO forces in the country have opened up dialogue with the Taliban opposition. As part of a transition plan, the U.S. ought to abandon the unworkable plan of creating a standing army in Afghanistan. In sum, the U.S. should stop meddling; instead, it should announce its willingness to take part in a broad and transparent peace process.
- TPF also agrees with the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) that the course for stability and peace will be through rapid military deescalation, broad regional reconciliation efforts and more a sustainable U.S. diplomatic presence.
- TPF agrees with the American people, a majority of which (now 56%, according to latest Pew poll) says that U.S. troops should be brought home as soon as possible. The proportion favoring a quick withdrawal of U.S. forces has increased by eight points since last month (from 48%).

<http://tulsapeacefellowship.ning.com/profiles/blogs/press-release-tulsa-peace>

Karzai Lashes Out Against Coalition Forces

Afghan president targets NATO in comments on state television.

By Ben Johnson

June 18, 2011 "Slate" -- Afghan President Hamid Karzai lashed out against coalition forces Saturday, suggesting they were in Afghanistan for "their own purposes" and accusing NATO of polluting his country's environment with its weapons.

The BBC reports that Taliban attacks and NATO military action will likely ramp up in anticipation of peace talks, with both sides wanting to go to the negotiating table with more leverage.

A recent spike in civilian deaths in the country has put Afghanistan's president at odds with coalition forces.

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article28364.htm>

U.S. talking to Taliban, says Afghanistan president

Karzai's comments are the first official confirmation that U.S. is negotiating with the Taliban to end the war in Afghanistan.

By Reuters

18.06.11

The United States and other foreign powers are engaged in preliminary negotiations with the Taliban about a possible settlement to the near decade-long war in Afghanistan, Afghan President Hamid Karzai said on Saturday.

"Peace talks are going on with the Taliban. The foreign military and especially the United States itself is going ahead with these negotiations," Karzai told a news conference in the Afghan capital.

Diplomats have already said there have been months of preliminary talks between the two sides, and Karzai, who is a strong advocate of peace talks, has long said Afghans are in contact with insurgent groups.

But Saturday's comments are the first official confirmation of U.S. involvement in talks.

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul declined immediate comment.

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/international/u-s-talking-to-taliban-says-afghanistan-president-1.368359>

follow up:

US Confirms 'Very Preliminary' Talks With

Taliban

Gates: No Progress Likely Until at Least Winter
by Jason Ditz, June 19, 2011

According to Gates, the talks have been going on for "a few weeks, maybe," and had not accomplished anything.

Several other rounds of talks between the US and "Taliban" have taken place over the past few years, with some ending in the revelation that they were negotiating with former Taliban with no contacts to the current group, and a particularly embarrassing November incident ending with the revelation that the "Taliban" leader was just a scam artist who bilked NATO out of a large sum of money.

<http://news.antiwar.com/2011/06/19/us-confirms-very-preliminary-talks-with-taliban/>

related news:

UK in peace talks with the Taliban

From Tom Newton-Dunn, Political Editor
The Sun (UK daily newspaper)
in Kabul with the Foreign Secretary

BRITAIN is in talks with the Taliban aimed at striking a peace deal in Afghanistan, Foreign Secretary William Hague revealed last night.

He and PM David Cameron persuaded Washington that negotiations were the right way forward, Mr Hague said.

he believes the "realistic and practical" people of Britain will accept an end to the bloodshed is the best way to safeguard our national security.

Speaking to *The Sun* while on an Afghan visit, Mr Hague became the first Government minister to confirm Britain is in talks

He said: "Talks do happen with the Taliban, let me put it that way. We are connected to what happens - we will assist where we can and we are strongly supportive of it."

Mr Hague believes the British public WILL accept a peace deal for the greater good.

He said: "British people have a good, strong sense about that. They want to see as much of a lasting settlement as possible. I think they would understand that, they are a realistic and practical people." Mr Hague spoke as US President Barack Obama last night announced the end of his military surge to the Afghan badlands - and fired the starting gun for America's long withdrawal after ten bloody years.

He added: "There's been more progress in the last ten months than in the last ten years. The work of our troops, diplomats, and development workers is absolutely outstanding."

Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, former British ambassador to Afghanistan and author of *Cables from Kabul*,

backed talks.

He said: "The best way of honouring our heroes in Afghanistan is to harvest their success by negotiating peace."

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/3653650/UK-in-peace-talks-with-the-Taliban.html>

file under: "Full Spectrum Absurdity"

U.S. congressional delegation sets off political IED in Iraq

--the abysmal stupidity of members of Congress, illustrated
June 11, 2011

By Roy Gutman | McClatchy Newspapers

BAGHDAD — The U.S. Embassy sought Saturday to distance itself from a highly contentious "fact-finding mission" to Baghdad led by Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., that led Iraq to demand the entire congressional delegation leave the country.

During an hour and 40 minute meeting Friday with Prime Minister Nouri al Maliki, Rohrabacher informed the Iraqi leader that his House subcommittee was investigating the killing by Iraqi troops of 35 Iranian dissidents on Iraqi soil in April.

After Rohrabacher later announced his investigation to the media, Maliki, who's currently acting minister of defense as well as commander-in-chief, apparently hit the roof.

The Orange County conservative, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on oversight and investigations, later told reporters that the "massacre" was probably a crime against humanity. The charge, which often refers to a massive crime against civilians, was first leveled against accused Nazi war criminals during the Nuremburg Tribunal after World War II.

Rohrabacher also asked Iraq to consider at a later stage repaying some of the costs of the 2003 U.S. invasion and the occupation that followed. Iraq's government spokesman publicly responded that Iraq would pay not "a cent."

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2011/06/11/115645/us-congressional-delegation-sets.html>

file under: U.S. hypocrisy, or Republican blind points

Iraq asks US congressman Dana Rohrabacker (R-Calif) to leave over 'repay' remark

--U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher said that Iraq should partly repay the United States for money spent since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion

Jun 11, 2011

BAGHDAD (AFP) – Iraqi authorities have asked for a US congressman to leave the country after he called for Baghdad to repay part of the money spent by Washington since the 2003 invasion, a spokesman said on Saturday.

Republican representative Dana Rohrabacher's remarks at a news conference in Baghdad stood in stark contrast to those by senior American officials, who have pressed Iraqi officials to decide soon whether they want US troops to stay beyond a year-end withdrawal deadline.

"We called the US embassy yesterday and we told them to ask the congressmen to leave Iraq," government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh told AFP. "We don't want them here. What they said was inappropriate."

Rohrabacher was leading a bipartisan US congressional delegation on a visit to Iraq, primarily to look into a raid by Iraqi security forces in April on the Ashraf camp housing thousands of exiled Iranians in which at least 35 camp residents died. Iraq banned Rohrabacher's trip to Camp Ashraf.

Around 45,000 American troops are still in Iraq, mostly tasked with training and equipping their Iraqi counterparts.

All US troops must withdraw from the country by the end of the year, under the terms of a security pact.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20110611/pl_afp/iraquspoliticsdiplomacyfinance
<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2011/06/11/saturday-38-iraqis-killed-53-wounded/>

featured editorial

Imperial Hypocrisy: U.S. calls Iraq criminal and seeks reparations

John Glaser

June 12, 2011

This perfectly exemplifies the intensity of American nationalism, which makes U.S. officials incapable of recognizing the principle of universality. Hypocrite is a much simpler term: focus on the crimes of others, ignore your own.

So as we invade, overthrow and occupy Iraq, ravaging the country with careless savagery in countless instances and kill – by conservative estimates – well over one hundred thousand people, the Iraqi troops (trained, funded and equipped by us) are the ones who have committed a crime against humanity on 35 Iranians and additionally need to pay reparations to their dominating military occupiers. What a world...

One comment posted in reply to the above:

"Here's a thought, Nouri al-Maliki goes to the ICC see and, well, files a war crimes

complaint with Luis Moreno-Ocampo against G. Bush et al. You know, for that idiotic Iraq War II and let the war crimes charges fall where they fall. I'm not holding my breath though. Least of all, that Moreno-Ocampo would get up off his servile keester and actually uphold international law. I mean, Moreno-Ocampo seems to be from that same school of lickspittle jurisprudence as Eric Holder."

~skulz fontaine, June 12th, 2011

<http://www.antiwar.com/blog/2011/06/12/imperial-hypocrisy-u-s-calls-iraq-criminals-and-seeks-reparations/>

sidebar:

Basra Council Bars US Troops

Also demands US compensation for damages done in war in Iraq
24 June 2011

Basra Provincial Council has barred all American troops from entering the province, and demanded that they vacate the Basra International Airport.

The US has a military base at the airport and also controls all traffic on the civilian side of the airport. The latest controversy came after US attack helicopters launched strikes against "suspects" in the city, with reports of several civilian casualties.

The resolution passed in a 26-9 vote in the council, with strong support from the Sadrist Trend. The resolution also demanded that the US compensate citizens for damages suffered during military operations in the oil rich province.

<http://news.antiwar.com/2011/06/24/basra-council-bars-us-troops-from-province/>

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

featured song/lyrics

"War Resister" by Jon Brooks

--performed in concert in Tulsa at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Restoration, 25th June 2011

--see other performance archived online: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkUYrNKylgY>

--listen online here: http://www.jonbrooks.ca/index.php/jb/album/moth_nor_rust/

Lyrics

Was born, Jeremy Hinzman, Rapid City.
South Dakota, I still miss you.
I bought war cards as a kid.
I never knew mom or why she did what she did.
I went to Fort Bragg, Benning, too -

yeah, we don't know why we do what we do –
it's just: 'breathe, trigger, squeeze.'

And I was trained to kill – "Kill we will,
in the 82nd Airborne we exceed the
standard!" (of soldiering) -
and my hands they'd shake with adrenaline.
We'd shoot at the circles until they grew legs,
6 weeks later we'd be shooting at men –
just: 'breathe, trigger, squeeze.'
Yeah, I could shoot 36 out of 40.
O but I'm not studying war no more,
no, I'm not going back to Rapid City.

We left Anzio Base Housing
with the dishes in the sink, Nga, and Liam.
I'm a bike courier in Toronto now,
I got a secret that I can't tell.
My conscience is making me a criminal.
And my hands, they shake with the Peridol.
I asked Allah and I asked God's Son:
'What's freedom worth if it's bought with a gun?'
And: 'breathe, trigger, squeeze,'
a voice inside of me
said, 'I'm not studying war no more
no, I'm not going back to Rapid City.'

Was born, Jeremy Hinzman, Rapid City.
South Dakota, I still miss you.

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featured editorial

Eisenhower's worst fears came true. We invent enemies to buy our bombs.

--Simon Jenkins on British arms industry
guardian.co.uk
Thursday 16 June 2011

We find any excuse for this post-imperial fidget and yet we keep getting trapped. Germans do not do it, or Spanish or Swedes. Britain's borders and British people have not been under serious threat for a generation. Yet time and again our leaders crave battle. Why?

Last week we got a glimpse of an answer and it was not nice. The outgoing US defence secretary,

Robert Gates, berated Europe's "failure of political will" in not maintaining defence spending. He said Nato had declined into a "two-tier alliance" between those willing to wage war and those "who specialise in 'soft' humanitarian, development, peacekeeping and talking tasks".

The navy has used so many of its £500,000 Tomahawk missiles trying to hit Colonel Gaddafi (and missing) over the past month that it needs money for more. In a clearly co-ordinated lobby, the head of the RAF also demanded "a significant uplift in spending after 2015, if the service is to meet its commitments". It, of course, defines its commitments itself.

Libya has cost Britain £100m so far, and rising. But Iraq and the Afghan war are costing America \$3bn a week, and there is scarcely an industry, or a state, in the country that does not see some of this money. These wars show no signs of being ended, let alone won. But to the defence lobby what matters is the money. It sustains combat by constantly promising success and inducing politicians and journalists to see "more enemy dead", "a glimmer of hope" and "a corner about to be turned".

On Wednesday the Russian ambassador to Nato warned that Britain and France were "being dragged more and more into the eventuality of a land-based operation in Libya". This is what the defence lobby wants, even if it may appal the generals. In the 1980s Russia watched the same process in Afghanistan, where it took a dictator, Mikhail Gorbachev, to face down the Red Army and demand withdrawal.

It is not democracy that keeps western nations at war, but armies and the interests now massed behind them. The greatest speech about modern defence was made in 1961 by the US president Eisenhower. He was no leftwinger, but a former general and conservative Republican. Looking back over his time in office, his farewell message to America was a simple warning against the "disastrous rise of misplaced power" of a military-industrial complex with "unwarranted influence on government". A burgeoning defence establishment, backed by large corporate interests, would one day employ so many people as to corrupt the political system. (His original draft even referred to a "military-industrial-congressional complex".) This lobby, said Eisenhower, could become so huge as to "endanger our liberties and democratic processes".

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jun/16/eisenhower-fears-invent-enemies-buy-bombs?commentpage=2>

Nevada man accused of selling stolen US military ammo

By Martin Griffith, Associated Press – Jun 10, 2011

RENO, Nev. – A former defense contractor employee has been indicted on charges that he conspired with others to steal U.S. military ammunition in Iraq and then sold it back to Iraqis and U.S. forces.

Chad Eric O'Kelley was released on his own recognizance after being arrested at his Carson City home and making an initial appearance Thursday. He faces federal charges of conspiracy to defraud the U.S. government and money laundering.

The indictment alleges O'Kelley was a manager in Baghdad with Minden-based defense contractor Security Operations Consulting in 2007 when he conspired with others to sell the ammo and send cash

to the U.S. via Federal Express or couriers.

The 40-year-old man was ordered to appear in federal court in Texas, where he used to live in El Paso.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110610/ap_on_re_us/us_ex_defense_contractor_indicted_iraq

featured editorial:

The Military as a "Jobs Program": There Are More Efficient Ways to Stimulate an Economy

Posted: 06/23/11

Huffington Post

When veterans' benefits and other past military costs are factored in, the military now devours [half the U.S. budget](#). If military spending is such a cost-effective stimulus, why have the trillions poured into it in the last decade left the economy reeling? The military is the nation's largest and most firmly entrenched entitlement program, one that takes half of every tax dollar. Even if "national security" is considered our number one priority (a dubious choice when the real unemployment rate is over 16%), estimates are that the military budget [could be cut in half or more](#) and we would still have the most powerful military machine in the world.

Military spending is the very essence of "built-in obsolescence": it turns out products that are designed to blow up. The military is not subject to ordinary market principles but works on a "cost-plus" basis, with producers reimbursed for whatever they have spent plus a guaranteed profit. Gone are the usual competitive restraints that keep capitalist corporations "lean and mean." Private contractors hired by the government on no-bid contracts can be as wasteful and inefficient as they like and still make a tidy profit. Yet legislators looking to slash wasteful "entitlements" persist in overlooking this obvious elephant in the room.

The reason massive military spending is considered the most "obvious" way to produce a fiscal stimulus is simply that it is the only form of direct government spending that gets a pass from the deficit hawks. The economy is desperate to get money flowing through it, and today only the government is in a position to turn on the spigots; but there is a tourniquet on government spending. That is true for everything but the military, the only program on which the government is allowed to spend seemingly without limit, often even without oversight.

Chalmers Johnson estimated in 2004 that as much as 40% of the Pentagon budget is "black," meaning hidden from public scrutiny. The black budget is so top secret that Congress itself is not allowed to peer in and haggle over the price. Democratic control of the military has broken down. The military is being used for purposes that even Congress is not allowed to know, much less vote on.

Why is the military's half of the pie sacrosanct? Wasteful and unnecessary military programs get a pass from legislators because the military is also our largest and most secure jobs program, one that has penetrated into the nooks and crannies of Every Town U.S.A.

That explains why the country seems to be permanently at war. If we had peace, the war machine

would be out of a job. Every year since World War II, the U.S. has been [at war somewhere](#). It has been said that if we didn't have a war to fight, we would have to create one just to keep the war business going. We have a military empire of over 800 bases around the world. What is to become of them when the lion lies down with the lamb and peace reigns everywhere?

Fortunately, there is a way to solve these problems without maintaining a perpetual state of war: keep the jobs but convert them to civilian use. [Military conversion](#) is a well thought-out program that could provide real economic stimulus and national security for people here and abroad. Existing military bases, laboratories, and production facilities can be converted to civilian uses. Bases can become industrial parks, schools, airports, hospitals, recreation facilities, and so forth. Converted factories can produce consumer and capital goods: machine tools, electric locomotives, farm machinery, oil field equipment, construction machinery for modernizing infrastructure.

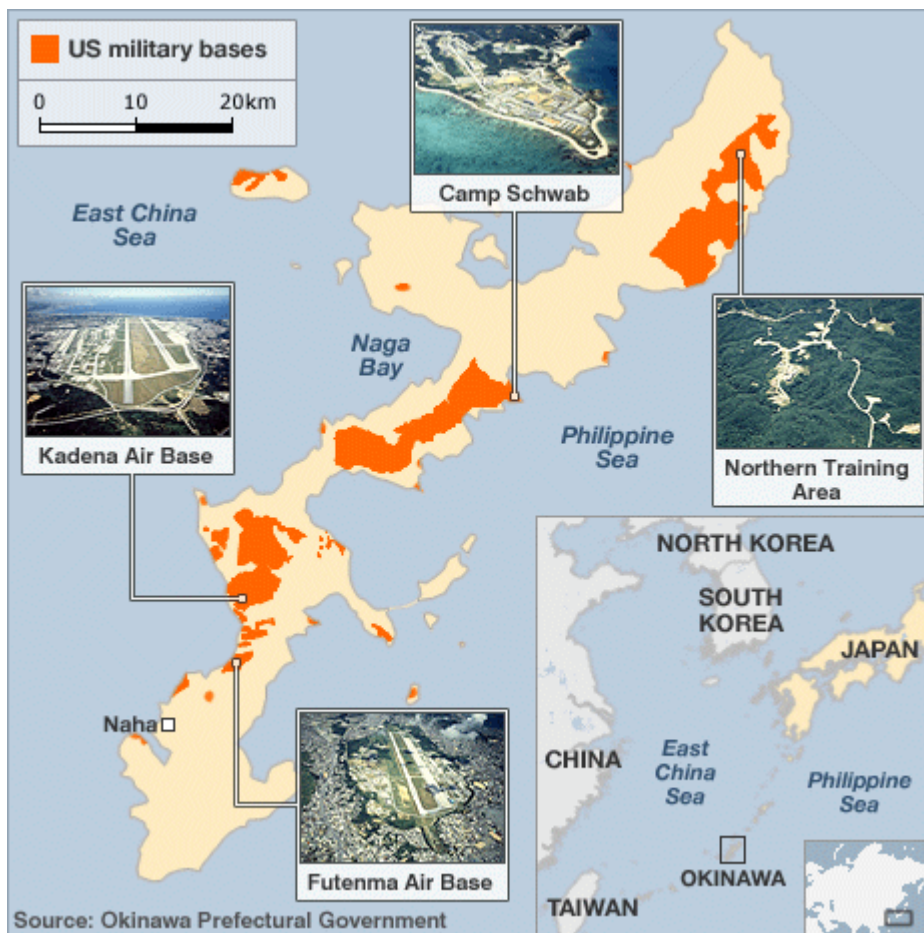
It has been done before. At the end of World War II.

A carefully designed conversion program could create more jobs than the war machine sustains now. The military actually destroys jobs in the civilian economy. The higher profits from cost-plus military manufacturing cause manufacturers to abandon more competitive civilian endeavors; and the permanent war economy takes engineers, capital and resources away from civilian production.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ellen-brown/the-military-as-a-jobs-pr_b_880542.html?ref=fb&src=sp#sb=16920,b=facebook

Okinawa row: Japan and US drop Futenna airbase deadline

-- A plan to replace Futenma with a new airbase in northern Okinawa has strained US-Japan ties
21 June 2011



Japan and the US have agreed to drop a 2014 deadline to move a controversial US airbase on the island of Okinawa.

Officials from both nations said the Futenma airbase, near the provincial capital of Naha, would be moved "at the earliest possible date after 2014".

But they did not specify a date for the relocation.

Many locals supported a plan by former Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama to move the base off Okinawa entirely.

But Mr Hatoyama was forced to resign last year after he admitted he could not keep his promise to move the base off the island.

History of protests: Many Okinawans feel that they shoulder too much of the burden of the 50-year-old US-Japan defence alliance.

In 2006, the US agreed to move some 8,000 Marines and 9,000 of their dependents from Okinawa to the island of Guam.

Protests over the issue have erupted sporadically over the years.

One came in 1972, when reversion from US to Japanese rule did not result in base closures. Another came in 1995 after a 12-year-old girl was raped by three US troops.

Many of the island's politicians are also vociferously opposed to the US bases. The US has more than 30 different military bases within Okinawa prefecture.

Okinawa, which currently hosts 74% of all US bases in Japan.

Failure to fulfil a promise to move it to another part of Japan or even out of the country altogether helped bring down a previous prime minister, Yukio Hatoyama.

For many Okinawa residents, the US bases have brought pollution, noise, accidents and higher rates of crime.

The US and Japan have agreed that drills involving some Okinawa-based F-15 fighters will be relocated to Guam, as part of efforts to reduce the US military footprint in Okinawa.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-13865346>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-12696031>

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

Tulsa Peace Fellowship

who we are:

***The Tulsa Peace Fellowship** is the activist wing of the peace movement in Eastern Oklahoma, and part of the nationwide Peace, Justice & the Environment (PJ&E) movement. 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, Green Party members, 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 2011). Also still going strong: our announcement list on yahoo! tulsapeace@yahoogroups.com (since 2002). Go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/> and search for "tulsapeace".

If you enjoyed this news digest and/or found this update useful, please consider making a donation of time, money, or effort to the Tulsa Peace Fellowship. An archive of previous editions of "Truth in Recruiting" going back to January 2009 is available online on our Ning website discussion forum: <http://tulsapeacefellowship.ning.com/forum/categories/truth-in-recruiting-tpf/listForCategory>

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. Details on tax status available

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Fellowship will be held
Thursday, July 7th 2011, 6:15 PM – 8:00 PM @ the UU Church of the Restoration, in Tulsa, just north of downtown

--including members from other local non-partisan groups such as Veterans for Peace, 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.

The next monthly anti-war demo in Tulsa

is scheduled for **Saturday August 6th, 2011, 12noon to 2pm, with the theme: "U.S. Out of Afghanistan Now!"**

Details online: <http://tulsapeacefellowship.ning.com/>

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

THE 10 REASONS

Ten excellent reasons not to join the military:

- a.. You July Be Killed, Even By Mistake
- b.. You July Kill Others Who Do Not Deserve to Die
- c.. You July Be Injured
- d.. You July Not Receive Proper Medical Care
- e.. You July Suffer Long-term Health Problems
- f.. You July Be Lied To
- g.. You July Face Discrimination
- h.. You July Be Asked to Do Things Against Your Beliefs
- i.. You July 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>