

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

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

Lead Story from the past month's news:

Sen. Coburn (R-Oklahoma) Proposes Defense Cuts in Order to Save Trillions of Dollars

--Defense cuts are part of his deficit-reduction plan, "Back in Black," including eliminating an Air Wing and an Air Carrier, and three Nuke Subs

facts & figures

Under current plans, the 50-year-old USS Enterprise, **the first nuclear-powered carrier, will be decommissioned** next year. This is an opportunity for a Reduction-in-Force (RIF). Coburn also wants the Navy and Marine Corps to cancel their versions of the F-35, a fighter plane designed for the Cold War, now over for more than 20 years. He also wants to eliminate three nuclear submarines, from today's 14 to 11. Coburn also recommends reducing military personnel stationed in Europe and Asia by one-third, and simultaneously, **reducing authorized force levels** by the same number, therefore not requiring increased U.S. facilities to handle the returnees.

other related story:

The U.S. Military's Tricare among Coburn's targets

--Senator's debt reduction plan calls for some service members to pay higher fees for health care.

facts & figures

The socialized medicine program known as Tricare (second only to Medicare, in terms of expense to the federal government) is worth an estimated \$3,500 per family in health insurance coverage.

related story:

Cost of Treating Veterans Will Rise for Decades Long Past Wars' End

--Ending the current wars will not lower the costs of treating veterans; indeed, they will rise ever more steeply for decades to come as the population of veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan expands, ages and becomes more infirm, becoming more and more of a burden on the public fisc.

going deeper still:

Senator Coburn vs Vietnam Veterans: No More Agent Orange Claims

--a press release from **Vietnam Veterans of America** (an association of U.S. soldiers exposed to defoliants and herbicides used as a weapon by the U.S. military)

facts & figures:

Information on **dioxin exposures to American personnel serving overseas**, entirely unaware of the environmental hazard to which the military was subjecting them, during the Vietnam war, with information for the Agent Orange Education Campaign, a project of the VVA

page 1 stories:

House Narrowly Rejects Defunding of Libya War

--bipartisan amendment from Reps. Amash (R – MI) and Kucinich (D – OH) narrowly failed, with a vote of, 199-229

featured op/ed

Bring Our Troops Home: The Afghan War Is Over

by Jim Hightower

quote:

"At long last, America's overdue withdrawal from Afghanistan has begun."

facts & figures

1,650 U.S. troops killed in Afghanistan, more than 11,000 maimed (many horribly, their lives shattered), and almost half a trillion of our tax dollars siphoned from crucial needs here at home.

Mental problems of U.S. soldiers' kids tied to wars

--and when they return with PTSD it only gets worse for their kids

related story:

Reports multiply of family violence, abuse within military families

quote:

"The best data around shows that Army families have higher rates of spouse abuse, with negative repercussions for kids."

~Deborah Gibbs, deputy program director of the Women, Children and Families Program for Research at the research institute RTI International

file under: the militarization of everyday life

Why those yellow-ribbon campaigns are a scam

--part of a political beard worn by the Big War camp

quote:

"Why, if we the taxpayers have ponied up over a trillion dollars for our woebegone wars in Iraq and the Bananastans, should any of us pull another dollar out of our wallet to make sure our troops get a candy bar for Christmas?"

~Jeff Huber

related op/ed

Ballpark Liturgy: America's New Civic Religion of Worshipping the Military

Cheap Grace at Fenway, Benefits Accrue to the Pentagon Sponsoring Such Public Rituals at "No Cost" to the American Taxpayer

By Andrew Bacevich

--The cringing story of how Navy veteran Bridget (annual salary approximately \$22,000) throws the ceremonial first pitch to aging Red Sox veteran Tim Wakefield (annual salary

\$2,000,000).

related op/ed

The Military Industrial Complex: The Enemy from Within

quote:

"Those in uniform are being used as convenient fronts for a military industrial complex that is bilking taxpayers out of billions of dollars in questionable defense spending."

~Rev John Whitehead

file under: the militarization of civilian life

Why Do the Police Have Tanks? The Strange and Dangerous Militarization of the US Police Force

--Shockingly, paramilitary raids that mirror the tactics of US soldiers in combat are not uncommon in civilian America.

quote:

"The notion that militarization is a necessary reaction to a growth in violence against police officers is absurd, considering that **violent crime is trending downward**. The reality is that SWAT team raids actually escalate provocation, usually resulting in senseless violence in what would otherwise be a routine, nonviolent police procedure."

quote:

Soldiers are "trained to vaporize, not Mirandize."

~Lawrence Korb, a former official in the Reagan administration, commenting on the pervasive culture of militarism plaguing domestic law enforcement

file under: SNAFU

Anti-Freeze in Pilots' Blood Baffles Air Force

--F-22 pilots remain grounded indefinitely, due to apparent design flaw

sidebar:

Leaked Audit: Boeing Overcharged Army Up to 177,000% on Helicopter Spare Parts

page 2

file under: attempted fragging

AWOL US Soldier Arrested Over Fort Hood 'Plot'

A U.S. serviceman is in custody after he allegedly admitted he was planning an attack on his fellow servicemen at the U.S. Army base at Fort Hood, Texas, the same base where 13 people were killed in a 2009 terror attack.

Reservists Allege Mistreatment by Army

--Nearly 200 Reservists in Iraq have signed a complaint accusing the Army of mistreatment and discrimination during the months training

quote:

The complaint says: "Service is voluntary, and if not shown the respect and courtesy accorded their active-duty brethren, reservists will no longer be willing to make the personal, family and civilian-life sacrifices required."

file under: so much for being models of behavior

U.S. Soldier Caught Boarding Flight with Explosive

--allegedly stole a small amount of C4 from a training course

file under: military-industrial-prison complex

Navy's newest prison set to open in Chesapeake, Virginia

--built to hold as many as 400 prisoners

file under: fragging

Army Major Is Arraigned under Military Law: Faces Charges that could entail Capital Punishment

--One of the deadliest mass shootings ever to unfold at an American military base

follow up: sexual assaults committed by U.S. soldiers

Rape is the shame of the US military

--A US female soldier in Iraq is more likely to be raped by a fellow soldier than killed by an enemy.

file under: bringing the war home

Lawyer says suspect in soldier's death delusional: case in Little Rock, Arkansas

-- It's not clear whether the accused actually has links to terrorist groups or just says he does.

further developments:

Shooter in Ark. soldier killing sentenced to life in prison

--A defense psychiatrist testified that the convicted killer was delusional.

Army Corps Agrees to Settle with Whistle-Blower in Procurement Fraud Case

--Ending a six-year legal battle, the Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to pay nearly \$1 million to a former top contracting official who charged that she was demoted after she objected to a \$7 billion no-bid contract granted to a Halliburton subsidiary to repair oil fields in Iraq.

facts & figures

In the end, KBR collected about \$2.4 billion under the no-bid uncompetitive contract, according to a Congressional report. It's not known by how much the U.S. government overpaid KBR for services provided. KBR, was a subsidiary of the same company for which Vice President Cheney served as CEO. The decision to grant the contract to KBR came from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, run by VP Cheney's close friend, Donald Rumsfeld.

More coverage:

War Is a Racket

By Amy Goodman

quote:

"I can unequivocally state that the abuse related to contracts awarded to KBR represents the most blatant and improper contract abuse I have witnessed during the course of my professional career."

~Bunnatine "Bunny" Greenhouse, chief procurement officer, speaking to a congressional committee

file under: military is a waste of good money

Two Navy Ships That Cost \$300 Million Are Headed To The Scrapyard Without Having Seen A Day Of Service

--single-hulled ships commissioned and now decommissioned, to be scrapped for metal

file under: what the corporate media does not print

The Worst Polluter on the Globe: Seven Ways the U.S. Department of Defense Pollutes

--the Department of Defense (DoD) is the largest polluter in the world, producing more hazardous waste than the five largest US chemical companies combined

backpage

Taliban Denies Peace Talks With US

--Statement insists no talks until foreign troops leave

China says US spends too much money on military

--world's second largest military still dwarfed by U.S. overkill

facts & figures:

China spends \$95 billion on its military per year, whereas the U.S. spends \$690 billion on its military (not including related expenditures for intelligence departments and other "homeland security" spending). Ralph Nader, former presidential candidate, says the U.S. could easily reduce its military spending by 3/4ths without any compromise to national security.

file under: what?! we still have bases in Germany? 65 years after end of WWII?

German Peace Activist Sues Govt to Remove US Nuclear Warheads

--demands U.S. nuclear weapons be removed from a military base near her home

file under: demobilizing

British Army is to be cut in size by 17,000 soldiers in a radical overhaul of the armed forces

--In a separate development it is understood that RAF Leuchars, in Scotland, is to close

sidebar:

Royal Navy divers are tracking a live World War II mine which has been dredged up off the Essex coast

sidebar: life in the army

Official: Russian military beatings up sharply

--violent, sometimes-fatal hazings are common for conscripts

file under: gang of 30

Ottawa names wanted war criminals suspected to be in Canada

--there is no statute of limitations for war crimes

file under: caught in the crossfire

War Increasingly Spills Over Into Classrooms

--The most pressing global challenge to children's rights may be the increasing number of military attacks on schools in war zones.

related event:

Tulsa Peace Fellowship

presents

monthly "first Saturday" anti-war demo in Tulsa

scheduled for

Saturday Aug 6th, 2011, 12noon to 2pm,

with the theme:

"Bring the War \$\$ Home!"

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

epitaph for this edition of "Truth in Recruiting"

**It should be understood
that an army is an instrument of murder,
that the recruiting and drilling of armies
which Kings, Emperors, and Presidents carry on
with so much self-assurance are preparations for murder.**

~Leo Tolstoy, in *The Kingdom of God Is Within You*, 1893

Sen. Coburn (R-Oklahoma) Proposes Elimination of Air Wing and Aircraft Carrier, and Three Nuke Subs

By Walter Pincus
July 21st, 2011

Editor's note: Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) released a plan last week that he said would achieve \$9 trillion in deficit savings over the next decade. We review parts of the proposal.

Sen. Tom Coburn wants the Navy to cut its aircraft carriers from 11 to 10 and reduce Navy Air wings by one as part of his plan to reduce Defense Department spending on buying and operating weapons.

It's not an original idea. The Congressional Budget Office has proposed it and others have talked about it, but the Navy is not happy.

Coburn notes that this single reduction "is not equivalent to an option of permanently decommissioning every single aircraft carrier in the Navy's fleet."

He points out in his 600-page report, "Back in Black," that the Navy already plans to have only 10 aircraft carriers over the next three years. Under current plans, the 50-year-old USS Enterprise, the first nuclear-powered carrier, will be decommissioned next year while the next carrier, the USS Gerald Ford, will not be delivered before 2015.

Is that a problem? Coburn points out that during the Cold War, naval forces were needed to meet the Soviet Union in the Mediterranean, Atlantic and Pacific. But that is not the situation today. He notes that the Libyan operation has worked without a U.S. aircraft carrier, with U.S. planes flying from bases in Italy and Europe. Savings here would amount to \$700 million a year.

Bigger gains could come from Coburn's suggestions for the controversially expensive program to produce the new Joint Strike Fighter, the F-35. First, he proposes a multiyear procurement program for 602 of the planes destined for the Air Force in the next 10 years. That step would lock in a 10 percent savings on this \$70 billion purchase.

He also wants the Navy and Marine Corps to cancel their versions of the F-35 and instead pick up another CBO option and buy F/A-18 Super Hornets. According to the CBO, this would save \$18 billion over the next 10 years.

Coburn wants to reduce the nation's deployed nuclear warheads to the levels specified in the recently ratified New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and reduce the number of warheads in reserve, which is not part of the pact with Russia.

He also wants part of the reductions to be in deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles, going down to 300 from today's 450, and even below the treaty-allowable 420. He also wants to reduce the number of strategic nuclear submarines, from today's 14 to 11.

He still wants to maintain 40 strategic bombers, but to delay purchase of any new bomber until the 2020s. The changes, he said, would save up to \$8 billion a year.

The Army's Medium Extended Air Defense System, once considered a replacement for the Patriot missile system, is another Coburn target. It's a joint project with Germany and Italy, in which the United States pays half the costs. But the Army no longer thinks it meets its requirement, and neither Germany nor Italy has plans to purchase it when developed.

Some Pentagon officials and MEADS supporters in Congress argue that termination fees would be costly. Coburn's suggestion, which mirrors another CBO option, calls for terminating MEADS and investing \$3 billion in upgrading the Patriot system. Those steps would save \$13 billion over 10 years, he said.

More projected savings:

- Using a suggestion from the Simpson-Bowles National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, Coburn proposes reducing the \$40 billion a year for Defense Department purchases of support items — tactical radios, radars, night vision goggles, etc. — to \$30 billion a year starting in 2015 through 2021. The savings, he said, would amount to \$52 billion over 10 years.
- \$5.8 billion if the Army modified its plans for its new Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System. Coburn's suggestion is to use 60 of the current aerostat systems deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq and an Air Force E-3 Sentry AWACs aircraft for airborne warning and control missions and drop plans to buy the JLENS vehicles.
- Another Simpson-Bowles proposal, picked up by Coburn as supplemented by another CBO option, is to reduce military personnel stationed in Europe and Asia by one-third. It calls for reducing authorized force levels by the same number, therefore not requiring increased U.S. facilities to handle the returnees. The estimated savings would be almost \$70 billion over 10 years.

© The Washington Post Company

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/coburns-cuts-another-whack-at-defense/2011/07/21/gIQAxHOxdI_print.html

Coburn's cuts: Military's Tricare Prime health care program targeted

by Walter Pincus
for the Washington Post

Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) wants to cut taxpayer funding for non-military elements of the Defense Department, starting with making retired, uninjured service members pay more for what he described as "extremely low-cost health care for life" for themselves, their spouses and dependents under the Tricare Prime system.

For military retirees eligible for Medicare, he also wants to raise the co-payments that they are charged to be in Tricare for life, the second payer for health care after Medicare. In addition, he wants to increase low fees that Tricare beneficiaries pay for pharmaceuticals purchased at their local drugstores.

Coburn wants the fees to be much higher and more in line with private-sector health plans.

Part of his concern is fairness, first for uninjured veterans who, for example, served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan but “leave the military without serving 20 years [and] are not entitled to any of these health-care benefits.” They represent some 70 percent of those serving, according to Pentagon officials.

Another comparison he makes is to other federal government workers whose plans are not as cheap. A medical doctor, Coburn told reporters last Monday: “Nobody in the country, as a single person working 20 years for the government, should be able to get health care for \$250 a year. Nobody was ever promised that, and nobody should be able to do that.”

Instead, he wants to increase the enrollment fee for single retirees to “approximately \$2,000 per year and \$3,500 for a family.”

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/tom-coburns-cuts-militarys-tricare-prime-health-care-program-targeted/2011/07/20/gIQAtZl6WI_story.html

Cost of Treating Veterans Will Rise Long Past Wars

By James Dao

Published: July 27, 2011

WASHINGTON — Though the withdrawal of American military forces from Iraq and Afghanistan will save the nation billions of dollars a year, another cost of war is projected to continue rising for decades to come: caring for the veterans.

By one measure, the cost of health care and disability compensation for veterans from those conflicts and all previous American wars ranks among the largest for the federal government.

Ending the current wars will not lower those veterans costs; indeed, they will rise ever more steeply for decades to come as the population of veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan expands, ages and becomes more infirm. To date, more than 2.2 million troops have served in those wars.

Studies show that the peak years for government health care and disability compensation costs for veterans from past wars came 30 to 40 years after those wars ended. For Vietnam, that peak has not been reached.

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/28/us/28veterans.html?_r=1

Senator Coburn to Vietnam Veterans: No More Agent Orange Claims

by "Faces of Agent Orange"

July 20, 2011

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release from Vietnam Veterans Association

July 20, 2011

Sen. Coburn to Vietnam Veterans: "No More Agent Orange Claims"

(Washington, D.C.) – “Sooner or later, some senator or congressman was going to target benefits earned by veterans,” said John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). “It seems that Senator Tom Coburn (R-Oklahoma) is the one who has taken aim and fired.”

His amendment would require proof of a “causal relationship” rather than a “positive association” of certain illnesses to Agent Orange exposure. “If enacted, this measure will significantly restrict Agent Orange benefits and care. VVA vigorously opposes this amendment,” Rowan said.

“This measure is wrong-headed. It is out of touch with science – and with the intent of the Agent Orange Act of 1991. It attempts to undo two decades of policy. Currently, veterans are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange if they served ‘boots-on-the-ground’ in Vietnam and, in some instances, along the demilitarized zone in Korea,” Rowan said. “If they develop certain maladies that the VA Secretary has determined, on the basis of sound scientific and epidemiological research, that a positive association exists between the exposure and the occurrence of the disease, they are entitled to health-care and disability compensation.

“Congress, in part, settled on this mechanism because it was nearly impossible for Vietnam veterans to prove that their exposure to Agent Orange caused their health conditions, many of which are ultimately fatal,” Rowan said. “Requiring a causal relationship, which is well nigh impossible to demonstrate, would essentially mean that benefits due to Agent Orange exposure would be out of reach for Vietnam veterans.”

“If the senator feels that Agent Orange benefits and needed medical care ought to be stripped from Vietnam veterans and their families, then he should introduce a bill and arrange to hold a hearing,” Rowan said. “But there has been no bill, and no hearing. And if his colleagues really do care about the health of Vietnam veterans, they ought to stand with Vietnam Veterans of America, with all Vietnam veterans and our families, and with most of our colleagues in other Veterans Service Organizations. We call on a bipartisan majority of Senators to reject the ill-advised Coburn amendment out of hand.”

byline: Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is the nation’s only congressionally chartered veterans’ service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and our families. VVA’s founding principle is, “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.”

<http://www.facebook.com/notes/faces-of-agent-orange/senator-coburn-to-vietnam-veterans-no-more-agent-orange-claims/207585842621884>

TPF thanks peacearena (OKC) for bringing this story to our collective attention.

further information:

The Agent Orange Education Campaign --a project of Vietnam Veterans of America

In Vietnam, herbicides were sprayed from fixed wing and rotary aircraft, trucks, and backpack sprayers to clear vegetation around fire bases, landing zones, and along river banks. The herbicides were named for the color-coded bands on the 55-gallon drums in which they were shipped; examples included Agent Blue, Agent White, and the most extensively used herbicide, Agent Orange.

Agent Orange is a combination of two compounds, 2, 4-D and 2, 4, 5-T, technically known as **chlorinated** phenoxy acids in ester form. The most dangerous element of Agent Orange is a contaminant present in the manufacture of 2, 4, 5-T; this impurity is known chemically as 2, 3, 7, 8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin, or more commonly, **dioxin**. Levels of dioxin in Agent Orange ranged from less than 0.05 parts per million to almost 50 parts per million.

Some three million veterans served in Southeast Asia, and no one knows for sure how many of these veterans were exposed to Agent Orange. Some of these personnel were deployed in areas during and immediately after spraying operations, while others actually handled Agent Orange and did the spraying. Veterans exposed to Agent Orange and its dioxin contaminants have reported a variety of serious health problems and symptoms; these include **chloracne**, skin lesions, liver damage, loss of sex drive, changes in skin pigmentation, and sensitivity to light, numbing or tingling in the extremities, sore joints, cancers, and birth defects in their children.

Many Vietnam veterans have serious illnesses related to Agent Orange exposure. Now, their children and grandchildren have birth defects related to it. Learn more about the struggle to identify the effects of Agent Orange and find treatment for those who served, their children and their grandchildren.

Significant numbers of Vietnam veterans have children and grandchildren with birth defects related to exposure to Agent Orange. To alert legislators and the media to this ongoing legacy of the war, we are seeking real stories about real people. If you wish to share your family's health struggles that you believe are due to Agent Orange/dioxin, send an email to mporter@vva.org or call 301-585-4000, Ext. 146.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Faces-of-Agent-Orange/187669911280144?sk=info>

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

House Narrowly Rejects Defunding of Libya War

by Jason Ditz, July 07, 2011

Key House of Representative amendments related to the war in Libya, to be inserted into the Department of Defense Appropriations Act came today, and as with past votes showed a strong split in both parties on the illegal conflict.

A broader bipartisan amendment from Reps. Amash (R – MI) and Kucinich (D – OH) narrowly failed, with a vote of, 199-229. That amendment would have barred the use of any funds for the war in any capacity. This vote was overwhelmingly opposed by Democrats, but saw a split among Republicans.

Still, the Cole (R – OK) Amendment, a less ambitious version, managed to pass, which prohibits any funding for equipment, training or advice related to the Libya War in the bill. The amendment was overwhelmingly supported by Republicans, but few Democrats. The vote was 225-201.

<http://news.antiwar.com/2011/07/07/house-narrowly-reject-defunding-of-libya-war/>

featured op/ed

Bring Our Troops Home: The Afghan War Is Over

11 July 2011

by: Jim Hightower, Other Words | Op-Ed

At long last, America's overdue withdrawal from Afghanistan has begun. "The tide of war is receding," President Barack Obama declared as he announced that 10,000 troops would come home this year and 23,000 more next year.

That tide has been a deadly one for our country — 1,650 of our troops killed, more than 11,000 maimed (many horribly, their lives shattered), and almost half a trillion of our tax dollars siphoned from crucial needs here at home. And what did we buy with this precious outlay? An Afghan government that is flagrantly corrupt and embarrassingly inept; a nation that remains impoverished, largely illiterate, anarchic, split into factious ethnic groupings, and roiled by an unresolved civil war that's been simmering (and occasionally boiling over) for nearly 40 years.

Chances are good that it will spiral into civil war again, no matter what we do. "We won't try to make Afghanistan a perfect place," Obama said, apparently with no irony in his voice. Yet, the withdrawal he spoke of is proceeding at an excruciatingly slow and costly pace. For more than a year, we'll continue to dump \$10 billion a month into that war — money desperately needed for nation-building in America. Even with Obama's announced reduction in our forces, 67,000 U.S. troops will still be in Afghanistan at the end of next year. And despite his pledge of a total military drawdown by 2015, it will cost taxpayers about \$8 billion a year after that to meet his commitment to recruit, train, and fund a 300,000-member Afghan army and police force. This is a classic case of throwing good money after bad.

<http://www.truth-out.org/bring-our-troops-home-afghan-war-over/1310391115>

Mental problems of U.S. soldiers' kids tied to wars

04 Jul 2011

By Alina Selyukh

Source: Reuters

WASHINGTON, July 4 (Reuters) - The longer U.S. soldiers were deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan, the more likely their children would be diagnosed with mental health problems, according to a study published on Monday.

The study, published in the *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, analyzed medical records of 307,520 children of active-duty Army personnel, aged 5 to 17 years old. It found almost 17 percent of them exhibited mental health problems.

"Children of parents who spent more time deployed between 2003 and 2006 fared worse than children whose parents were deployed for a shorter duration," the study's researchers wrote.

The lead researcher was Alyssa Mansfield, who was at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill at the time the study was conducted.

The children whose parents deployed at least once, for an average of 11 months, as part of the U.S. Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan were especially likely to suffer from adjustment, behavioral, depressive or stress disorders than those whose parents never went to war, the study found.

Boys were more likely to have mental health problems than girls, according to the report, which reviewed records for patients cared for at military medical facilities and at civilian facilities using military medical insurance.

"We used to think about deployment as a single experience [but] families have to manage the consequences," said Dr. Stephen Cozza, psychiatry professor at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

"These are consequences that aren't necessarily short-term," he said. The challenges don't necessarily end with the final return home, he said, as soldiers may bring back their own mental health issues which affect relationships with their children. (Reporting by Alina Selyukh; Editing by Paul Simao)

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/mental-problems-of-us-soldiers-kids-tied-to-wars/>

Reports of family violence, abuse within military rise

By Nancy Montgomery

Stars and Stripes

Published: July 10, 2011

The number of reports of family violence within the military, which had been in decline over several years, has been rising over the last two years, and reports of abused children and spouses increased significantly last year, a report by the Defense Department's Family Advocacy Program shows.

In fiscal year 2010, the rate of confirmed spouse abuse was 11.2 per one-thousand couples, up from 10.1 per thousand in 2009 and 9.4 per thousand in 2008. Prior to 2008, the rate had been steadily declining from 16.5 per thousand in fiscal year 2001.

The report said 16 domestic abuse deaths were reported to the Family Advocacy Program in fiscal year 2010. In 81 percent of the cases, the alleged perpetrator was an active-duty troop.

Deborah Gibbs, deputy program director of the Women, Children and Families Program for Research at the research institute RTI International, who has done studies on Army families, said the social science consensus was that spouse abuse rates are higher in the military than in civilian life. "The best data around show they have higher rates of spouse abuse, which may have negative repercussions for kids."

Also, 2010 saw an increase in the number of substantiated child maltreatment cases reported to Family Advocacy, from 4.8 incidents per one-thousand children in 2008 and 2009 to 5.7 per thousand in fiscal year 2010.

"That's a big jump," said David Finkelhor, a sociologist and family violence expert at the Crimes against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire.

Substantiated child maltreatment cases include physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect. Nearly three quarters of the cases — 72 percent — were classified as neglect or emotional abuse.

The report said 29 child deaths from abuse or neglect were reported to Family Advocacy last year. Twelve of them were under a year old.

An active-duty troop was responsible in 76 percent of the killings, and in 65 percent of them, the alleged perpetrator was male.

<http://www.stripes.com/reports-of-family-violence-abuse-within-military-rise-1.148815>

file under: Don't spend another \$1 on those yellow-ribbon stickers

Hiding Behind the Troops

7/12/11

By Jeff Huber

Some of the support-our-troops organizations you'll rub against are no doubt front groups, [just] a political beard run by Republican-affiliated public relations, media, legal, and political consultants who include former Bush White House spokesman Taylor Gross.

Many troop support groups and the people who run them [may be] quite earnest and relatively free of

Big War paw prints, but their effect is much the same as if they were simply a gaggle of propaganda goons. And I hate to say this, but even most of the love-the-troops-hate-the-war folks, however well intentioned they are, play into the pro-war propaganda scheme. In any case, it's hard to tell which pro-trooper outfits are a scam and/or a front group and which ones, however misguided they may be, are on the up-and-up. The thing to remember is that there is no reason on earth why you should pluck a single penny out of your pocket to "support" the troops. You've already sacrificed enough; the malignant likes of Dick Cheney and John Bolton and Paul Wolfowitz and Bill Kristol who brought you the Longest War Ever have hustled your country's economy to hell in a hand truck, and unless you're in pre-school right now, you'll never see a return to the fiscal halcyon days of the President Pants (aka Clinton) era.

Lamentably, the grandchildren of kids in preschool might not see the end of the Long War either, now that the folks in charge of it have established a line of succession. Ex-CIA director Leon Panetta, who just replaced Ex-CIA director Bob Gates as defense secretary, is the same brand war perpetuating bureaucratic savant as his predecessor was.

At this point, you hopefully ask yourself why, if we the taxpayers have ponied up over a trillion dollars for our woebegone wars in Iraq and the Bananastans, should any of us pull another dollar out of our wallet to make sure our troops get a candy bar for Christmas? Gee, those tens or maybe hundreds of billions we poured into Iraq and Afghanistan and Pakistan that disappeared like an old lady's favorite pen, wouldn't they alone have bought a lifetime supply of personalized Christmas chocolate bars for just about every person in the world who celebrates Christmas?

The preceding scenario portrays an artfully crafted scam with a witting or unwitting accomplice on the scene to guilt trip you into going along with it. It's a parable that illustrates the principle behind the most cynical and perhaps the most effective pro-war propaganda campaign that has been operating since Dick Cheney first convened his White House Information Group to gull the American public and its legislature into rolling over for the invasion of Iraq, the crown jewel in the **grand neoconservative strategy for invading and occupying the world**.

The Pentarchy exhorts us to honor our war dead and wounded by adding to their number in pursuit of self-defeating, self-perpetuating wars whose sole purpose is to create bases of operations from which we can launch more self-defeating, self-perpetuating wars in the name of American global leadership.

The way you can support our troops is to apply constant pressure on your elected federal officials to bring them home and to keep their tea bagger toadying mitts off the troops' pay and benefits. Anything else is just helping the warmongery use our troops as a human shield.

Whatever you do, don't plunk down good money to have send them a Peanut Butter Cup. Our troops are getting plenty to eat, trust me.

byline: Commander Jeff Huber, U.S. Navy (Retired) is author of the critically lauded novel Bathtub Admirals, a lampoon on America's rise to global dominance.

<http://zenhuber.blogspot.com/2011/07/real-human-shield-our-troops.html>

related op/ed

The Military Industrial Complex: The Enemy from Within

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

By Rev. John W. Whitehead

If there is any absolute maxim by which the federal government seems to operate, it is that the American taxpayer always gets ripped off, and Americans would do well to keep that in mind as Congress and the White House debate whether or not to raise the debt ceiling from its current high of \$14.3 trillion.

For one thing, the grandstanding by both parties over health care costs and Social Security is nothing more than a convenient distraction from the glaring economic truth that at the end of the day, it's not the sick, the elderly or the poor who are stealing us blind and pushing America towards bankruptcy. It's the military industrial complex (the illicit merger of the armaments industry and the Pentagon) that President Dwight D. Eisenhower warned us against more than 50 years ago and which has come to represent perhaps the greatest threat to the nation's fragile infrastructure today.

Having been co-opted by greedy defense contractors, corrupt politicians and incompetent government officials, America's expanding military empire is bleeding the country dry at a rate of more than \$15 billion a month (or \$20 million an hour)—and that's just what the government spends on foreign wars.

Yet what most Americans fail to recognize is that these ongoing wars have little to do with keeping the country safe and everything to do with enriching the military industrial complex at taxpayer expense. War—or the art of killing—has unfortunately become a huge money-making venture.

Unfortunately, Americans have been inculcated with a false, misplaced sense of patriotism about the military that equates devotion to one's country with supporting the war machine so that any mention of cutting back on the massive defense budget is immediately met with outrage. Yet they might be surprised to learn that little of the money being spent on so-called defense is actually being used for national defense, meanwhile **those in uniform are being used as convenient fronts for a military industrial complex that is bilking taxpayers out of billions of dollars in questionable defense spending.**

<http://njtoday.net/2011/07/12/the-military-industrial-complex-the-enemy-from-within/>

file under: the militarization of civilian life

Why Do the Police Have Tanks? The Strange and Dangerous Militarization of the US Police Force

AlterNet / By Rania Khalek

July 5th, 2011

The federal government has supplied local police departments with military uniforms, weaponry, vehicles, and training.

According to an investigation carried out by the Huffington Post's Radley Balko, America has seen a disturbing militarization of its civilian law enforcement over the last 30 years, along with a dramatic and unsettling rise in the use of paramilitary police units for routine police work. In fact, the most common use of SWAT teams today is to serve narcotics warrants, usually with forced, unannounced entry into the home.

Some 40,000 of these raids take place every year, and are needlessly subjecting nonviolent drug offenders, bystanders and wrongly targeted civilians to the terror of having their homes invaded while they're sleeping, usually by teams of heavily armed paramilitary units dressed not as police officers but as soldiers.

How did we allow our law enforcement apparatus to descend into militaristic chaos? Traditionally, the role of civilian police has been to maintain the peace and safety of the community while upholding the civil liberties of residents in their respective jurisdiction. In stark contrast, the military soldier is an agent of war, trained to kill the enemy.

Clearly, the mission of the police officer is incompatible with that of a soldier, so why is it that local police departments are looking more and more like paramilitary units in a combat zone? The line between military and civilian law enforcement has been drawn for good reason, but following the drug war and more recently, the war on terror, that line is inconspicuously eroding, a trend that appears to be worsening by the decade.

http://www.alternet.org/world/151528/why_do_the_police_have_tanks_the_strange_and_dangerous_militarization_of_the_us_police_force

Anti-Freeze in Pilots' Blood Baffles Air Force

Adam Clark Estes

Jul 27, 2011

A few months ago, Air Force leaders noticed some very strange behavior from pilots in the cockpit of F-22 Raptor fighters. Some pilots sounded like they were drunk on the radio; others couldn't even remember how to use the radio during flights. Lab tests revealed not alcohol in the pilots' blood, but a host of toxic chemicals including oil fumes, anti-freeze and even propane. The Air Force grounded the entire stealthy F-22 fleet on May 3rd and launched an investigation.

The symptoms that the pilots were displaying resemble those of hypoxia, a condition due to a lack of oxygen. Captain Jeff Haney exhibited the similar symptoms just before he crashed and died in Alaska in November of 2010.

Expensive and problematic has become a trope for all things F-22-related. "The oxygen system issue is just the latest fiasco in this program," according to folks at the Project on Government Oversight (POGO). "Given the extraordinary cost of this aircraft and the myriad problems in maintaining it (you can't use a plane if it's grounded), is the F-22 too expensive and too difficult to use?" [asked](#) POGO's Director of Investigations Nick Schwellenbach earlier this month. Schwellenbach links to a

[Washington Post article from 2009](#) that reports an F-22 requires "more than 30 hours of maintenance for every hour in the skies, pushing its hourly cost of flying to more than \$44,000." The government has so far sunk billions into the F-22 fleet.

<http://www.theatlanticwire.com/national/2011/07/anti-freeze-pilots-blood-baffles-air-force/40480/>

sidebar

Leaked Audit: Boeing Overcharged Army Up to 177,000 Percent on Helicopter Spare Parts

Project on Government Oversight
June 28, 2011

\$644.75 for a small gear smaller than a dime that sells for \$12.51: more than a 5,100 percent increase in price. \$1,678.61 for another tiny part, also smaller than a dime, that could have been bought within DoD for \$7.71: a 21,000 percent increase. \$71.01 for a straight, thin metal pin that DoD had on hand, unused by the tens of thousands, for 4 cents: an increase of over 177,000 percent.

Taxpayers were massively overcharged in dozens of transactions between the Army and Boeing for helicopter spare parts, according to a full, unredacted Department of Defense Office of Inspector General (DoD OIG) audit that POGO is making public for the first time. The overcharges range from 33.3 percent to 177,475 percent for mundane parts, resulting in millions of dollars in overspending.

Overall, the DoD OIG found that the Army should have only paid \$10 million instead of the nearly \$23 million it paid to Boeing for these parts—overall, taxpayers were overpaying 131.5 percent above “fair and reasonable” prices. The audit says Boeing needs to refund approximately \$13 million Boeing overcharged.

Link to full unredacted report here: <http://www.pogo.org/pogo-files/alerts/national-security/ns-sp-20110623-2.html>

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

file under: attempted fragging

AWOL US Soldier Arrested Over Fort Hood 'Plot'

July 27th 2011

A U.S. serviceman is in custody after he allegedly admitted he was planning an attack on his fellow

servicemen at the U.S. Army base at Fort Hood, Texas, the same base where 13 people were killed in a 2009 terror attack.

U.S. officials told ABC News an AWOL soldier, identified by the FBI as a Private First Class Naser Jason Abdo, was arrested Wednesday after making a purchase at Guns Galore in Killeen, Texas, the same ammunition store where Maj. Nidal Hasan purchased the weapons he allegedly used to gun down 13 people and wound 32 others on Nov. 5, 2009.

Abdo, 21, allegedly told law enforcement he wanted to "get even" and was targeting Ft. Hood because of the previous attack there, according to law enforcement documents obtained by ABC News.

Abdo was raised in Texas. In 2010 he told ABC News he should not have to participate in what he called an "unjust war" in the Middle East.

Abdo said in 2010 he originally joined the military because he believed he would be fighting a "just" war that would help protect the freedoms of Muslims in Iraq and Afghanistan. Months later, however, Abdo said he realized he "wasn't supposed to be here." "Any Muslim who knows his religion or maybe takes into account what his religion says can find out very clearly why he should not participate in the U.S. military," Abdo said.

Abdo's former lawyer, James M. Branum, declined to comment for this report except to say he hasn't spoken with his client "in a long time." Abdo now faces federal charges in connection with the alleged plot.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/fort-hood-plot-awol-us-serviceman-arrested/story?id=14179096>

Reservists allege mistreatment by Army

--Nearly 200 Reservists in Iraq have signed a complaint accusing the Army of mistreatment and discrimination during the months training

The soldiers say their movements and freedoms were severely restricted during a four-month training before deployment, describing it as virtually a "lockdown" confinement to base.

The complaint was written by Capt. Brad Docimo, an operations officer with the battalion, stationed at Camp Taji in Iraq. Home on leave, he declined to comment.

The charges echo an age-old grievance by reservists and National Guard troops that when called to war, they are treated differently than full-time Army soldiers.

More than 635,000 National Guard and Reserve troops have been sent overseas since Sept. 11, 2001, most of them to Iraq and Afghanistan. Nearly 57,000 are currently mobilized.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/military/2011-07-13-army-reservists-claim-mistreatment_n.htm

U.S. soldier caught boarding flight with explosive

--allegedly stole a small amount of C4 from a training course

PHOENIX (Reuters) — Police in Arizona have arrested a U.S. soldier after he attempted to board a flight to Los Angeles with a small amount of high-velocity plastic explosive in his baggage, authorities said on Thursday.

United States Army Private First Class Christopher Eric Wey, 19, was arrested after he tried to board a United Airlines flight to Los Angeles from Yuma, Ariz., on Wednesday, the U.S. Attorney's office for Arizona said.

Transportation Security Administration officers detected explosives in his baggage during security screening at Yuma International Airport. A subsequent search found a half ounce of C4 explosive hidden in a tobacco can inside one of the bags. Wey was detained for investigation and interviewed by FBI agents.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/43759903/ns/travel-news>

file under: military-industrial-prison complex

Navy's newest prison set to open in Chesapeake

By Bill Bartel

The Virginian-Pilot

© July 16, 2011

CHESAPEAKE -- Among the new residents moving to this suburban city in the coming weeks will be hundreds of service members who won't be able to enjoy any of Hampton Roads' amenities.

Theirs will be a grim existence, in vault-like 8-by-10 rooms with stone beds and foam mattresses. There's no radio or Internet, and only limited TV. No smoking will be allowed - ever. They can't hang up photos of their spouses and kids. The only part of Chesapeake they'll see is sky and, maybe, the tops of trees visible from narrow windows.

Welcome to the Navy's newest prison - the United States Naval Consolidated Brig - built for \$64 million off Ballahack Road in rural southern Chesapeake.

The lockup, which is to replace brigs at Norfolk Naval Station and Quantico and Camp Lejeune, N.C., Marine Corps bases, will house prisoners of all service branches who are awaiting trial or serving sentences of five years or less.

The 209,000-square-foot facility, surrounded by security fences and topped with spirals of barbed and razor wire, was built to hold as many as 400 prisoners in single cells.

<http://hamptonroads.com/2011/07/navys-newest-prison-set-open-chesapeake>

file under: fragging

Army Major Is Arraigned under Military Law

--one of the deadliest mass shootings ever to unfold at an American military base

By Manny Fernandez

Published: July 20, 2011

FORT HOOD, Tex. — Wearing a camouflage Army uniform and sitting upright in a wheelchair, the military psychiatrist accused of killing 13 people in a shooting rampage here appeared in court on Wednesday at his arraignment, without the civilian lawyer who had been his lead defense attorney.

It was the first time Major Hasan had appeared in court since a pretrial hearing that spanned several weeks concluded in November. That hearing, known as an Article 32 hearing, is roughly equivalent to a civilian grand jury proceeding. At its conclusion, two Army colonels recommended that Major Hasan stand trial and face the death penalty, and the commanding general of Fort Hood, Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell Jr., agreed.

It was unclear why Major Hasan changed his defense team. The civilian defense lawyer, John P. Galligan, is a retired Army colonel and military judge. In an interview last week, Mr. Galligan said he did not believe that his client could get a fair trial at the base.

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/21/us/21hood.html?_r=1

follow up: sexual assaults in Army

Rape is the shame of the US military

A US female soldier in Iraq is more likely to be raped by a fellow soldier than killed by an enemy.

According to military reporter Adam Weinstein, a US servicewoman is twice as likely to be the victim of rape as her civilian counterpart.

Last week, Jamie Leigh Jones lost a civil lawsuit against her former employer, the private military contracting firm KBR. Jones had accused several of her colleagues of violent gang rape.

Nancy Gibbs, a journalist for Time magazine, moots numerous explanations for the lack of attention given to sexual assault cases in the military: an overly macho culture; the fact that those in charge are solely focused upon winning the war; the well-trodden ground of victim-blaming. Whatever the reason, the outcome for Jones makes the prospect of reporting assault even more intimidating for US servicewomen.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/the-womens-blog-with-jane-martinson/2011/jul/21/rape-shame-us-military>

file under: bringing the war home

Lawyer says suspect in soldier's death delusional: case in Little Rock, Arkansas

By Jeannie Nuss, Associated Press
July 20, 2011

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A man accused of killing a soldier outside an Arkansas recruiting center became delusional after seeing a video he believed showed atrocities American soldiers committed against other Muslims and drove through three states looking for someone to attack, his defense attorney told jurors Wednesday. At a recruiting center in Little Rock, on the city's west side, the accused shot two recruiters while they were on a cigarette break outside, killing one and wounding the other.

The accused has claimed ties to al-Qaida and told The Associated Press and the judge overseeing his case that he shot the soldiers to avenge U.S. wars in the Middle East.

He had hoped for a high-profile federal or military trial, but local prosecutors took the case believing they have a better chance of winning an execution, which is rarely carried out in federal cases. Prosecutors even rejected a plea bargain, since doing so would take the death penalty off the table.

Twelve jurors, plus two alternates, are hearing evidence in the case.

http://old.news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110720/ap_on_re_us/us_recruiters_shot

further developments:

Shooter in Ark. soldier killing sentenced to life

By Jeannie Nuss, Associated Press — Mon Jul 25, 2011

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A man who killed one Arkansas soldier and wounded another — an act he called retribution for the deaths of Muslims abroad — took an unexpected plea deal Monday that abruptly ended his murder trial and spared him the death penalty.

Abdulkhakim Muhammad had repeatedly proclaimed that he drove up to a Little Rock, Ark., recruiting station, drew an assault rifle and fired on the two soldiers. On Monday, Muhammad stood before Pulaski County Judge Herbert Wright and once more admitted to committing the crime.

Wright then sentenced Muhammad to life in prison without parole for capital murder, with 11 more life sentences on the remaining charges and an additional 180 years in prison.

http://old.news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110725/ap_on_re_us/us_recruiters_shot

Army Corps Agrees to Pay Whistle-Blower In Iraq Case of Procurement Fraud

By Erik Eckholm
July 28, 2011

Ending a six-year legal battle, the Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to pay nearly \$1 million to a former top contracting official who charged that she was demoted after she objected to a \$7 billion no-bid contract granted to a Halliburton subsidiary to repair oil fields in Iraq.

In a settlement agreement signed this month and made final by a federal judge this week, the Army Corps of Engineers agreed to pay the former official, Bunnatine H. Greenhouse, \$970,000 to cover lost wages, legal fees and compensatory damages, including for harm to her reputation and her mental health. Legal fees make up about 40 percent of the total, said Michael D. Kohn, a lawyer for Ms. Greenhouse. While the Pentagon made no admission of wrongdoing, the payment for damages is unusually large for a lawsuit by a federal employee, Mr. Kohn said. He said it validated Ms. Greenhouse's charges.

In early 2003, the Army, in secret and without competitive bidding, put KBR, then a subsidiary of Halliburton, in charge of restoring Iraqi oil production, in a contract potentially worth \$7 billion over five years.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/29/world/middleeast/29reconstruct.html>

file under: military is a waste of good money

Two Navy Ships That Cost \$300 Million Are Headed To The Scrapyard Without Having Seen A Day Of Service

Robert Johnson | Jul. 15, 2011



Two U.S. Navy ships are finally headed to the scrap heap without ever having sailed and despite the

fact that they're almost completely finished.

According to Hampton Roads, the USNS Benjamin Isherwood and the USNS Henry Eckford were commissioned in 1985 at the Pennsylvania Shipbuilding Co. to carry fuel to the Navy's fleet around the globe.

Because they're single-hulled ships, not the double-hulls required of today's tankers, Able UK passed and instead took \$10 million to scrap them along with two other ghost ships.

This week both vessels are being towed to International Shipbreaking Limited in Brownsville, TX to be cut up, their innards pulled out and their steel and other metals sold for recycling. No money will be returned to the U.S. treasury.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/two-navy-ships-henry-eckford-benjamin-isherwood-scrapyard-2011-7>

WHAT THE

CORPORATE MEDIA

DOES NOT PRINT

U.S. Department of Defense: Seven Ways it is the World's Worst Polluter

As it stands, the Department of Defense is the largest polluter in the world, producing more hazardous waste than the five largest US chemical companies combined. Depleted uranium, petroleum, oil, pesticides, defoliant agents such as Agent Orange, and lead, along with vast amounts of radiation from weaponry produced, tested, and used, are just some of the pollutants with which the US military is contaminating the environment. Key examples:

1. Depleted uranium: Tens of thousands of pounds of microparticles of radioactive and highly toxic waste contaminate the Middle East, Central Asia, Latin America, and the Balkans.
2. US-made land mines and cluster bombs spread over wide areas of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East continue to spread death and destruction even after wars have ceased.
3. Thirty-five years after the Vietnam War, dioxin contamination is three hundred to four hundred times higher than "safe" levels, resulting in severe birth defects and cancers into the third generation of those affected.
4. US military policies and wars in Iraq have created severe desertification of 90% of the land, changing Iraq from a food exporter into a country that imports 80% of its food.
5. In the US, military bases top the Superfund list of the most polluted places, as perchlorate and trichloroethylene seep into the drinking water, aquifers, and soil.

6. Nuclear weapons testing in the American Southwest and the South Pacific Islands has contaminated millions of acres of land and water with radiation, while uranium tailing defile Navajo reservations.

7. Rusting barrels of chemicals and solvents and millions of rounds of ammunition are criminally abandoned by the Pentagon in bases around the world.

And we wonder why we are attacked!

Excerpted from: *Censored 2011*. US Department of Defense is the worst polluter on the planet. p. 18.

TPF thanks Frank Belcastro for bringing the above to our collective attention.

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

Taliban Denies Peace Talks With US

Statement insists no talks until foreign troops leave

by Jason Ditz, July 06, 2011

The Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan has issued a statement today formally denying any negotiations are taking place with the United States, and adding that no such talks would take place until the foreign troops withdraw from the nation.

The statement comes just two weeks after US officials began “confirming” that such talks were taking place, though they were also quick to insist that the talks were “very preliminary” and hadn’t accomplished anything.

<http://news.antiwar.com/2011/07/06/taliban-denies-peace-talks-with-us/>

China says US spends too much money on its military

By Alexa Olesen - Associated Press | AP – Mon, Jul 11, 2011

BEIJING (AP) — The United States is spending too much on its military in light of its recent economic troubles, China's top general said . The chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army, Chen Bingde, told reporters he thought the U.S. should cut back on defense spending for the sake of its taxpayers.

"I know the U.S. is still recovering from the financial crisis," Chen said. "Under such circumstances, it is still spending a lot of money on its military and isn't that placing too much pressure on the taxpayers?"

"If the U.S. could reduce its military spending a bit and spend more on improving the livelihood of the American people ... wouldn't that be a better scenario?" he said.

China's military budget of \$95 billion this year is the world's second-highest after Washington's planned \$650 billion in defense spending.

Chen said China is more than two decades behind the U.S. in terms of military technology.

Chen criticized the U.S. for its recent military exercises with the Philippines and Vietnam, saying they should have been put off due to the heightened regional tensions.

<http://news.yahoo.com/china-says-us-spends-too-much-money-military-100904169.html>

German Peace Activist Sues Govt to Remove US Nuclear Warheads

--demands U.S. nuclear weapons be removed from a military base near her home

14 Jul 2011

BERLIN, July 14 (Reuters) - A peace activist is suing the German government demanding U.S. nuclear weapons be removed from a military base near her home, although their presence has never been confirmed, a court spokesman said on Thursday.

Some 20 U.S. nuclear warheads are thought to be stationed at a military base in the western town of Buechel, according to unofficial estimates.

In the suit, activist Elke Koller said the nuclear weapons are in violation of Germany's constitutional "peace" commandment and she feels threatened by them, the Cologne administrative court said.

Koller also argued the nuclear weapons violated humanitarian law laid out by the International Court of Justice and Germany's obligation to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle has also been an outspoken opponent of the U.S. nuclear arsenal on German soil, calling them "relics of the Cold War".

The coalition agreement between Westerwelle's Free Democrats and Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives calls for the "remaining U.S. nuclear weapons to be removed."

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/german-sues-govt-to-remove-us-nuclear-warheads/>

file under: demobilizing

Defence shake-up means smallest British Army since the Boer War

The Army is to be cut in size by 17,000 soldiers in a radical overhaul of the armed forces to be announced on Monday.

By Sean Rayment, Defence Correspondent for the Daily Telegraph (UK)

16 Jul 2011

It is understood that by 2020 the Army will be reduced from its present strength of 101,000 regulars, to 84,000. The number of territorials will be maintained at 36,000.

In a separate development it is understood that RAF Leuchars is to close, leaving only one RAF airbase in Scotland. The site will become an Army barracks.

Approximately 7,000 soldiers will be cut from the Army by 2015, following the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, through a mixture of voluntary and compulsory redundancies and natural wastage. The remaining reduction of 10,000 will take place by 2020.

The review being announced tomorrow into the future structure and role of the reserve forces took nine months. It was led by General Sir Nicholas Houghton, the vice-chief of the defence staff, Julian Brazier, an MP and former TA officer, and Lt Gen Graeme Lamb, a highly decorated former SAS commander. It is understood that all of their findings will be endorsed by Dr Liam Fox, the Defence Secretary, in a Commons statement.

The closure of RAF Leuchars will leave Scotland with just one functioning RAF base at Lossiemouth, currently home to a Tornado GR4 Squadron. The new barracks at the Leuchars site will house thousands of soldiers due to be withdrawn from Germany in the next few years.

The decision to transfer the two typhoon squadrons currently based at Leuchars to RAF Lossiemouth was only finalised last Friday, although rumours of the move had been circulating for months.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/onthefrontline/8642576/Defence-shake-up-means-our-smallest-Army-since-the-Boer-War.html>

sidebar:

Royal Navy tracking WWII mine off Essex coast

16 July 2011

The 2,000lb (900kg) live German parachute mine was dredged up from the sea bed eight miles off Clacton by the vessel Congo River on Friday morning.

It was due to be detonated at 1100 BST on Saturday but became detached from its markers in 90ft (27m) of water.

The Royal Navy said the mine had come adrift from its markers but was being tracked and monitored.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-14172966>

file under: life in the army

Official: Russian military beatings up sharply

July 21, 2011

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia's chief military prosecutor says assaults on soldiers by their superiors have risen sharply this year. Conditions for conscripts in the Russian military are notoriously harsh. Violent, sometimes-fatal hazings are common.

Chief Military Prosecutor Sergei Fridinsky on Thursday gave figures indicating the culture of brutality could be intensifying.

In remarks reported by Russian news agencies, Fridinsky says that in the first half of the year, assault cases have been brought against 75 lieutenants and more than 170 sergeants. He says that amounts to a 15-percent increase in beatings compared to the previous year.

<http://www.thestate.com/2011/07/21/1906199/official-russian-military-beatings.html>

file under: prosecuting war criminals, no statute of limitations

Ottawa provides 'wanted list' of war criminals suspected to be in Canada

reporting by Rebecca Lindell

Global News

July 21, 2011

The federal government is asking Canadians to help police find 30 people accused of war crimes or crimes against humanity who are hiding out in Canada illegally.

Announcing the names of suspects publicly is rare, but Public Safety Minister Vic Toews took the step on Thursday in the hopes it will help locate these individuals.

“In releasing the names of individuals, who are residing illegally in Canada and who are complicity in committing war crimes and crimes against humanity, it is our hope that new information will help our law-enforcement officials track them down and remove them from Canada,” he said, while revealing the list at a press conference in Mississauga, Ontario.

Most of the suspects are believed to be living in the Greater Toronto Area and all have deportation orders against them.

<http://www.globalsaskatoon.com/Ottawa+names+wanted+criminals+Canada/5138116/story.html>

War Increasingly Spills Over Into Classrooms

by Portia Crowe,
July 21, 2011

UNITED NATIONS — The most pressing global challenge to children's rights may be the increasing number of military attacks on schools in war zones, according to a Human Rights Watch report released Wednesday.

"It's an issue that we now want to get more attention to internationally, so that we can sort of stigmatize the issue, and try and protect the schools and those who go to schools," Bede Sheppard, a senior researcher in Human Rights Watch's Children's Rights Division, told IPS. "It's much more than just a destroyed building," Sheppard told IPS. "It's also an attack on children's right to education."

Other impacts, according to Sheppard, include increased dropout rates, decreased chances of students graduating to higher grades, and frequent relocations to new sites that may be further away and less easily accessible.

The report recommends that all countries criminalize intentional attacks on educational facilities and that they consider enacting legislation to prohibit the use of schools as army bases. It also recommends including school protection in military training materials and ensuring that all violators of international protections are appropriately disciplined or prosecuted.

"It's also important that the government takes responsibility after an attack to rebuild that school quickly, to try to minimize the disruptions," Sheppard added.

<http://original.antiwar.com/pcrowe/2011/07/20/war-increasingly-spills-over-into-classrooms/>

upcoming event, in Tulsa:

Tulsa Peace Fellowship

presents

monthly "first Saturday" anti-war demo in Tulsa

scheduled for

Saturday Aug 6th, 2011, 12noon to 2pm,

with the theme:

"Bring the War \$\$ Home!"

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

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

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 & 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.

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
on Thursday, Aug 11th 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 the Tulsa University chapter of Amnesty International, 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.

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

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

further information

IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 17 U.S.C. SECTION 107, THIS MATERIAL IS DISTRIBUTED WITHOUT PROFIT TO THOSE WHO HAVE EXPRESSED A PRIOR INTEREST IN RECEIVING THE INCLUDED INFORMATION FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES. Tulsa Peace Fellowship HAS NO AFFILIATION WHATSOEVER WITH THE ORIGINATOR OF THESE ARTICLES NOR IS Tulsa Peace Fellowship ENDORSED OR SPONSORED BY THE ORIGINATORS.

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

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 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>