

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

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

(scroll down for details about any story)

Lead Story from the past month's news:

Chicago Cop Warns: U.S. Gang Members Coming Home from Iraq with Military Training

--American cop who served in Afghanistan and Iraq blows the whistle on Pentagon's slack recruiting standards

--police departments are now obliged to track whether gang members were in the U.S. military, a thorough condemnation of DoD recruitment practices

quote:

"The military needs to wake up."

~T.J. Leyden, a former white supremacist, now working against the movement, who warns that skinheads and street gangs are entrenched in both the regular military and the National Guard.

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antiwar radio, streaming audio on demand:

Becoming a Marine isn't so great, says "Punk Johnny Cash"

--veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and blogger discusses the similarity of the mindset of an enlisted man and a battered wife

John Kerry on the WikiLeaks Afghanistan leak

--Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry (D-MA) in response to the *New York Times* story on the leak of classified documents concerning Afghanistan and Pakistan

--US intelligence records reveal civilian killings, 'friendly fire' deaths and shadowy special forces, in Afghanistan and Pakistan

War-What Is It Good For?

Absolutely nothing, according to latest work by San Anselmo filmmaker

--recently released *Every War Has Two Losers*, a film about Stafford's objections to combat

file under: losing hearts and minds

Civilian Casualties Create New Enemies, Study Confirms

quote:

"An incident which results in 10 civilian casualties will generate about 1 additional IED attack in the following 2 months," the researchers write.

facts & figures:

The most recent United Nations quarterly study of political and security affairs in Afghanistan found that civilian casualties caused by the U.S. and its allies dropped from 33 percent to 30 percent of total civilian casualties, a dip the U.N. attributed to measures resulting from "a reiteration of the July 2009 tactical directive by the Commander of the

International Security Assistance Force limiting the use of force.” But the researchers suggest that Afghans aren’t going say, “Those Americans are OK! They only cause one out of three dead innocent Afghans!” — especially if, as the U.N. also found, civilian casualties in the escalated war are on the rise overall.

sidebar:

Failed attempt to detonate bomb in NYC came as revenge for avaricious U.S. foreign policy in Pakistan

file under: **they try to attack here, because we're occupying them over there**

sidebar:

US bombs killed or injured 50 000 in Laos, survey finds

--moral failure to take responsibility for unexploded ordinance, left over from 'Vietnam' war

from the archives:

Major Gen. Smedley D. Butler: *War is a Racket*

--in 1935 he wrote this short exposé, a trenchant condemnation of the profit motive behind warfare

quote:

“Neoconservatives are not really conservatives at all... They are supported by very large companies and government officials who benefit from perpetual war, and the billions of spending it requires.”

~Rep. John Duncan (R-Tennessee, 2nd District, Knoxville, Maryville and Athens) in a speech on the U.S. House floor, March 2010, channeling Major General Smedley's conclusion that war is a racket. source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMnj8yd8dqA>

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file under: political asylum for **conscientious objectors**

US Army War Resister Wins in Canada Appeal

--Canada's appellate court has ruled a U.S. Army deserter's beliefs must be taken into account in deciding whether to deport him back to the United States.

featured op/ed: classic dialogue written by U.S. veteran of Korean War

"Conscience on the Battlefield" by Leonard Read (1898–1983)

--a soldier contemplates the Day of Judgment for him personally, based on the record of his actions

excerpt:

"While in many respects you were an excellent person, the record shows that you killed men – and were also responsible for the death of many women and children during this military campaign. Did you kill these people as an act of self defense? No, you did not. Were they threatening your life or your family? No, they were not. Were they on your shores, about to enslave you? No, they were not."

Pfc Bradley Manning arrested for leaking "Collateral Murder" video

--the U.S. military arrested an Army intelligence analyst who allegedly leaked the video of a Baghdad massacre, which shows a war crime committed from an Apache helicopter

--the Wikileaks video not only provided the Pentagon with a black eye, but will likely be used in

evidence to hold the war criminals accountable

file under: homosexual & in the army

Legal group: Gays shouldn't answer Pentagon survey

file under: danger of **enslavement of civilians** by U.S. mercenary companies

U.S. policy a paper tiger against sex trade in war zones

--accusations of trafficking in women, but no prosecutions of war profiteering companies involved

--government contracting just a cover for **human trafficking in Iraq & Afghanistan**

backpage

from the archives:

Documents Show Senators Thought They Were Deceived Over Gulf of Tonkin

--file under: false flag operations, or the Pentagon lying its way into war

quote:

"We have a case that will discredit the military in the United States. "

~Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, in an executive session in February 1968, commenting on an attack that never occurred, but the fiction was used anyway to escalate the war in Vietnam

from the archives:

Lost Korean War battalion awaits MIA decision

--sixty years later, the fallen soldiers of the lost battalion of Unsan, Korea, were stranded anew by a decision of the Bush administration

--still Missing In Action (M.I.A.), whereabouts unknown, presumed dead

epitaph for this edition of "Truth in Recruiting"

from the movie *The Americanization of Emily*, by screenwriter Paddy Chayefsky

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

lead story

Chicago Cop Warns: U.S. Gang Members Coming Home from Iraq with Military Training

--American cop who served in Afghanistan and Iraq blows the whistle on Pentagon's slack recruiting standards

July 18, 2010

By Frank Main, *Chicago Sun-Times* Staff Reporter

Being in a street gang is forbidden for members of the U.S. armed forces. But you might not guess that if you were to visit U.S. military bases in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to soldiers who have recently

served there.

Jeffrey Stoleson, a Wisconsin corrections official, returned from Iraq in January with photos of gang graffiti on armored vehicles, latrines and buildings. Stoleson, a sergeant with a National Guard unit, was there for nine months to help the Army set up a prison facility outside Baghdad.

"I saw graffiti [from gangs] out of Chicago," Stoleson said, adding that there was a lot of graffiti for Texas and California gangs, as well as Mexican drug cartels.

A Chicago Police officer -- who retired from the regular Army and was recently on a tour of Afghanistan in the Army Reserve -- said Bagram Air Base was covered with Chicago gang graffiti.

"It seems bigger now," said the officer, who previously served a tour in Iraq, where he also saw gang graffiti.

Now back in Chicago, the officer said he has arrested high-level gang members who have served in the military and kept the "Infantryman's bible" in their homes. "It's scary," he said.

In 2006, Stoleson saw similar graffiti in Iraq during another tour of duty there. That year, the *Chicago Sun-Times* reported on gangs in the military -- and published several of Stoleson's photos of gang graffiti.

Congress eventually banned members of the military from belonging to street gangs. And last November, the Defense Department added the ban to its rules.

Spokesmen for the Army and Defense Department said they could not provide figures on how many soldiers have been thrown out of the military or otherwise disciplined as a result of gang membership.

Stoleson, who stressed he was not speaking for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections or the Army, said it appears the problem is worse than ever. He warned that soldiers who return to gang life back home are especially dangerous because they know military tactics that they can use against the police and the public -- as a Marine did in 2005 when he killed a police officer and wounded three others in a California ambush.

"Gang members are coming home now with one or two tours," he said. "Some were on the field of battle."

Civilian contractors in Iraq are part of the gang problem overseas, Stoleson said. He said he was involved in destroying a large quantity of drugs confiscated from U.S. contractors in Iraq.

Stoleson, who is a member of the **International Latino Gang Investigators Association**, said some police departments in California are now tracking whether gang members were in the military.

A second Chicago Police officer, who searches homes for drugs and guns, said gang members targeted by his team are sometimes current or former members of the armed forces. That becomes part of the team's pre-raid briefings because the suspect is an increased safety risk with military training, the officer said.

"We recently arrested a guy in the reserves for crack [cocaine]," the officer said. "He was a gang-

banger."

T.J. Leyden, a former white supremacist, was one of those guys. He said he recruited fellow members of the [his gang] into the Marines when he was in the corps in the late 1980s and early 1990s and sent stolen Kevlar body armor and helmets to fellow skinheads back home.

"I wore white supremacist T-shirts, and I hung a swastika flag out of my barracks," said Leyden, who was kicked out of the Marines for drinking and fighting. "I hated America. The only reason I was a Marine was because they were the baddest of the bad."

Leyden, who lives in Utah now, said he quit the white-supremacy movement in 1996 because he was worried "my sons were becoming me."

He began working against the movement and founded **Straight Talk Consulting**, giving lectures to students and advising the FBI, the National Guard and other organizations about gangs in the military.

Leyden said his informants have told him that skinheads and street gangs are still entrenched in both the regular military and the National Guard.

"The military needs to wake up," he said.

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/24-7/2506292,CST-NWS-graffiti18.article>

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antiwar radio:

Becoming a Marine isn't so great, says veteran & blogger

Scott Horton Interviews "Punk Johnny Cash"
July 17, 2010

"Punk Johnny Cash," veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and blogger at the GonzoTimes.com, discusses movie portrayals of the marines, how basic training changes one forever, the modern epidemics of shell shocked vets and on-base violence, the similarity of the mindset of an enlisted man and a battered wife, examples of how they humiliate and break down new recruits in order to rebuild them and whether or not the U.S. needs to take over the planet Earth in the first place.

[MP3 here](#). (20:22)

<http://antiwar.com/radio/2010/07/17/punk-johnny-cash/>

John Kerry on the WikiLeaks Afghanistan leak

by Joan McCarter

Mon Jul 26, 2010

Statement By Chairman Kerry On Leaked Documents On Afghanistan And Pakistan

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry (D-MA) released the following statement this evening in response to the *New York Times* story on the leak of classified documents concerning Afghanistan and Pakistan:

"However illegally these documents came to light, they raise serious questions about the reality of America's policy toward Pakistan and Afghanistan. Those policies are at a critical stage and these documents may very well underscore the stakes and make the calibrations needed to get the policy right more urgent."

This statement is in stark contrast to the White House reaction, and coming from a Senator with the stature that Kerry has on issues of war, indicates that this could be the beginning of an important discussion about, as he puts it, "the reality of America's policy toward Pakistan and Afghanistan." The country needs and deserves a serious policy discussion on this war.

<http://www.dailykos.com/storyonly/2010/7/26/887789/-John-Kerry-on-the-WikiLeaks-Afghanistan-leak>

More coverage:

The WikiLeaks Afghanistan leak

by Joan McCarter

Mon Jul 26, 2010

A massive new leak by Wikileaks of more than 90,000 pages of classified materials covering the war in Afghanistan from 2004 to 2009 dominates the front page of the *New York Times* today, one of the outlets to receive the papers along with The Guardian and Der Spiegel.

The *Times'* initial report gives the basic overview:

A six-year archive of classified military documents made public on Sunday offers an unvarnished, ground-level picture of the war in Afghanistan that is in many respects more grim than the official portrayal....

The documents — some 92,000 reports spanning parts of two administrations from January 2004 through December 2009 — illustrate in mosaic detail why, after the United States has spent almost \$300 billion on the war in Afghanistan, the Taliban are stronger than at any time since 2001....

The reports — usually spare summaries but sometimes detailed narratives — shed light on some elements of the war that have been largely hidden from the public eye:

- The Taliban have used portable heat-seeking missiles against allied aircraft, a fact that has not been publicly disclosed by the military. This type of weapon helped the Afghan mujahedeen defeat the Soviet occupation in the 1980s.

- Secret commando units like Task Force 373 — a classified group of Army and Navy special operatives — work from a “capture/kill list” of about 70 top insurgent commanders. These missions, which have been stepped up under the Obama administration, claim notable successes, but have sometimes gone wrong, killing civilians and stoking Afghan resentment.

- The military employs more and more drone aircraft to survey the battlefield and strike targets in Afghanistan, although their performance is less impressive than officially portrayed. Some crash or collide, forcing American troops to undertake risky retrieval missions before the Taliban can claim the drone’s weaponry.

- The Central Intelligence Agency has expanded paramilitary operations inside Afghanistan. The units launch ambushes, order airstrikes and conduct night raids. From 2001 to 2008, the C.I.A. paid the budget of Afghanistan’s spy agency and ran it as a virtual subsidiary.

Over all, the documents do not contradict official accounts of the war. But in some cases the documents show that the American military made misleading public statements — attributing the downing of a helicopter to conventional weapons instead of heat-seeking missiles or giving Afghans credit for missions carried out by Special Operations commandos.

The White House has condemned the leak and in a statement from national security adviser, Gen. James Jones, vows: "These irresponsible leaks will not impact our ongoing commitment to deepen our partnerships with Afghanistan and Pakistan; to defeat our common enemies; and to support the aspirations of the Afghan and Pakistani people."

With an American public becoming increasingly impatient with the ongoing war, which has been ill-defined from its outset when the Bush administration abandoned the pursuit of bin Laden, and now the release of these documents will bring that conversation front and center. The conversation about this should not be over the leak itself, but what it reveals about this decade-long war.

The *Times* has [devoted a large section](#) of its site to the documents.

<http://www.dailykos.com/storyonly/2010/7/26/887768/-The-WikiLeaks-Afghanistan-leak>

Much more coverage

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/series/afghanistan-the-war-logs>

War-What Is It Good For?

Absolutely nothing, according to latest work by San Anselmo filmmaker

By Ronnie Cohen

July 9, 2010, Marin, CA

Published by Pacific Sun.

Born in 1914, the first year of World War I, poet William Stafford grew up hearing war horror stories along with the biblical commandment, "Thou shalt not kill." When the U.S. government drafted him into World War II, he felt he could not go and instead became a conscientious objector, one of 12,000 who lived in civilian public-service camps throughout the country.

"I belong to a small, fanatical sect," Stafford wrote in his journal. "We believe that current ways of carrying out world affairs are malignant."

San Anselmo filmmaker Haydn Reiss recently released *Every War Has Two Losers*, a film about Stafford's objections to combat. Reiss would like viewers to see the film as an invitation to reconsider their ideas about conflict. The 32-minute documentary feels more like a poem or a peace meditation than a movie. It assembles a cast of writers—including Alice Walker, Robert Bly, Maxine Hong Kingston and just-named U.S. Poet Laureate W.S. Merwin—who read Stafford's poems and journal entries and talk about how his words moved them. Marin County actor Peter Coyote provides the voice of Stafford, who died in 1993.

Last week, Walker joined Reiss and media critic Norman Solomon on stage at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center after a screening of the film. The three talked about their disgust with what they see as a warmongering, materialistic culture and brainstormed ways to change it.

"Small ways of choosing to live may be the best we can do," Solomon said.

Walker said the film prompted her to consider actions she could take to stop war. "It again reminds me that it's up to us. And leadership will always disappoint us—even though we worked hard to elect it," she said. (During the 2008 presidential election, the author of the 1983 Pulitzer Prize-winner *The Color Purple* campaigned for President Barack Obama.)

Solomon talked about being disgusted by what he called "warnography." "We're besieged by it," he said, "and it has become the wallpaper of our society."

Walker did most of the talking. She tried to rouse the San Rafael audience to organize against the Hollywood motion-picture industry. "Do we have to sit and endure bombings, car crashes?" Walker asked. "We don't have to endure it. We can actually see how to change things. From now on, these people will not insult us. We do not have to endure this. Where is the human indignation in us?"

Over the past five years, Solomon said, Marin County taxpayers sent \$1.5 billion to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Audience members gasped when they heard the figure.

Reiss, who is 56 and came of age during the Vietnam War, said he feels frightened because Americans seem numb to the wars our country is waging. "War is not divorced from concerns about the environment, health, the economy," he said.

"The position I take is the reason war is never a good idea is because every war is a war against the earth, and you cannot just bomb your mother," Walker said.

Solomon said we tend to objectify the people we call our enemies and turn the people at the other end of our missiles into non-people. In the film, Stafford says, "When it's an enemy, it's not a person anymore. It's a target."

"When I lived in the South, white people didn't think we had feelings," said Walker, an African-American. "From the way we are behaving as a nation, we don't feel. We have numbed ourselves out. People are just numbed out and seduced by the mall in a big way."

Walker said an affluent white woman recently asked her if she didn't believe that economic disparities between whites and people of color were narrowing. The question incensed Walker.

"The inequity has not disappeared at all," she said. "When you see the soldiers going off to Iraq, the inequity is visible in the faces of the soldiers. They're mostly poor boys and girls. They don't have good teeth, good healthcare."

Walker recoiled at the film's most moving image—a close-up of a crying Iraqi child, her arms raised in surrender, staring into the barrel of a gun as soldiers lead her out of her home. "Generations of her family will be frightened by that moment," Walker predicted.

[T]he filmmaker, who visited German concentration camps and whose father was Jewish, said the question is whether the war path leads to greater safety. World War II, he said, gave birth to nuclear weapons. "So did we win?" he asked.

"I think William Stafford's ideas are as vital today as when he wrote them 20, 30 years ago, and his essential opinion is that war is not inevitable," Reiss said. "He's asking us to think for ourselves, question what we've been told and always see war as a tragedy."

For more information on *Every War Has Two Losers* and a schedule of screenings, go to www.everywar.com.

Contact Ronnie Cohen at ronniecohen@comcast.net.
<http://www.pdamerica.org/articles/news/2010-07-09-11-12-42-news.php>

Civilian Casualties Create New Enemies, Study Confirms

By Spencer Ackerman
July 6, 2010

Yes, we needed economists to tell us this. A new working paper published by the National Bureau of Economic Research finds “strong evidence for a revenge effect” when examining the relationship between civilian casualties caused by the U.S.-led military coalition in Afghanistan and radicalization after such incidents occur. The paper even estimates of how many insurgent attacks to expect after each civilian death. Those findings, however intuitive, might resolve an internal military debate about the counter-productivity of civilian casualties — and possibly fuel calls for withdrawal.

“When ISAF units kill civilians,” the research team finds, referring to the U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan, “this increases the number of willing combatants, leading to an increase in insurgent attacks.” According to their model, every innocent civilian killed by ISAF predicts an “additional 0.03 attacks per 1,000 population in the next 6-week period.” In a district of 83,000 people, then, the

average of two civilian casualties killed in ISAF-initiated military action leads to six additional insurgent attacks in the following six weeks.

That's not all. The researchers found that ISAF-caused civilian casualties correlate with long-term radicalization in Afghanistan. Plotting reprisal incidents of violence in areas where civilians died at coalition hands, the data showed that "that the Coalition effect is enduring, peaking 16 weeks after the event. This confirms the intuition that civilian casualties by ISAF forces predict greater violence through a long-run effect." That's consistent with intuitions that civilian casualties "are affecting future violence through increased recruitment into insurgent groups."

The team doesn't examine the effect of CIA drone strikes in neighboring Pakistan, the subject of fierce debate concerning both the level of civilian deaths the strikes generate and their radicalizing effect.

Read More <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2010/07/civilian-casualties-create-new-enemies-study-confirms/#ixzz0tP71YUV4>

sidebar: consequences of U.S. foreign policy

Failed attempt to detonate bomb in NYC came as revenge for avaricious U.S. foreign policy in Pakistan

file under: they try to attack here, because we're occupying them over there

While some recent academic research suggests that across the border in Pakistan, the CIA's drone strikes may not kill as many civilians as commonly believed — a very difficult thing to verify in any case — it's not as if the U.S. has much margin for error. At his sentencing last month, Faisal Shahzad testified that his failed attempt to detonate an SUV filled with explosives came as revenge for what he considered an avaricious U.S. foreign policy. "I am part of the answer to the U.S. terrorizing the Muslim nations and the Muslim people, and on behalf of that, I'm avenging the attacks," said Shahzad, a Pakistani-born U.S. citizen, "because only — like living in U.S., the Americans only care about their people, but they don't care about the people elsewhere in the world when they die."

Read More <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2010/07/civilian-casualties-create-new-enemies-study-confirms/#ixzz0tPKqsiUf>

sidebar: revisiting the numbers

US bombs killed or injured 50,000 in Laos

2010-07-15

City Press, South Africa

Unexploded bombs dropped on Laos by the US military during the Indochina War have killed or injured around 50 000 people since the mid-1960s, state media reported today.

Lao Deputy Prime Minister Lieutenant General Douangchay Phichit said unexploded ordnance killed or injured an estimated 50 000 people between 1964 and 2007 and at least another 480 people between

2008 and 2009, the Vientiane Times reported.

The government in 2008 launched a survey of 8 477 villages still affected by unexploded bombs, the results of which are due to be presented to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Vientiane from November 9-12.

It is estimated that around 80 million of the 270 million cluster bomblets US forces used on Laos during the Indochina War failed to explode.

Between 1964 and 1973, US warplanes dropped more than 2 million tons of ordnance on Laos, making the country the most heavily bombed per capita in history.

<http://www.citypress.co.za/International/News/US-bombs-killed-or-injured-50-000-in-Laos-survey-finds-20100715>

Further reading:

Gen. Smedley D. Butler: *War is a Racket*

Smedley Darlington Butler (July 30, 1881 – June 21, 1940) was a Major General in the U.S. Marine Corps, and at the time of his death the most decorated Marine in U.S. history. He became widely-known for his outspoken lectures against war profiteering, U.S. military adventurism, and what he viewed as **nascent fascism in the United States**. In addition to his speeches to pacifist groups, from 1935 to 1937 he served as a spokesman for the American League Against War and Fascism. In 1935 he wrote the exposé *War Is a Racket*, a trenchant condemnation of the profit motive behind warfare. His views on the subject are summarized in the following passage from a 1935 issue of the socialist magazine Common Sense:

I spent 33 years and four months in active military service and during that period I spent most of my time as a high class thug for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism. I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street. I helped purify Nicaragua for the International Banking House of Brown Brothers in 1902–1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for the American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras right for the American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went on its way unmolested. Looking back on it, I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents.

source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smedley_Butler

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8 July 2010

War Resister Fleeing US Army's Illegal Occupation Wins in Canada Appeal

Canada's appellate court has ruled a U.S. Army conscientious objector's beliefs must be taken into account in deciding whether to deport him back to the United States. A three-judge panel of the Federal Court of Appeals issued a unanimous decision Tuesday saying a Canadian immigration officer's decision to turn down Jeremy Hinzman application for permanent residency was "significantly flawed and therefore unreasonable" because the officer had not considered Hinzman's beliefs and motivations, Canwest News Service reported.

Hinzman, who served in Afghanistan in 2002 and 2003 but became an opponent of the war in Iraq, fled to Toronto in 2004. He seeks to stay in Canada on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. His case will now go back for another hearing before a different immigration officer.

Michelle Robidoux, a spokeswoman with the **War Resisters Support Campaign**, said the appellate ruling is important for other war resisters in Canada, as well. "It's time for the Harper government to stop deporting them and to let them stay in Canada," she said.

<http://www.military.com/news/article/us-army-deserter-wins-in-canada-appeal.html?col=1186032310810>

featured op/ed: classic dialogue written by U.S. veteran of Korean War

"Conscience on the Battlefield" by Leonard Read (1898–1983)

--a soldier contemplates the Day of Judgment for him personally, based on the record of his actions

excerpt, from published dialogue, 1951:

In the first place, please understand that I don't care to discuss what you call your foreign policy. It is too late for that. The judgment which now concerns you must be rendered on you as an individual – not on parties or mobs or armies or policies or processes or governments. While governments limited to keeping the peace and invoking a common justice are necessary for mortal beings, before Him it is only the quality of individuals that counts. What collective can have any validity for you from now on? In the Temple of Judgment which you are about to enter, Principles only are likely to be observed. It is almost certain that you will find there no distinction between nationalities or between races. A woman is a woman. A child is a child, with as much a right to an opportunity for Self-realization as you. To take a human life – at whatever age, or of any color – is to take a human life. You imply that you feel no personal responsibility for having killed these people. Why, then, did you personally accept the "honors"? According to your notions, no one person is responsible for the deaths of these people. Yet, they were destroyed. Seemingly, you expect collective arrangements such as "the army" or "the government" to bear your guilt. Yet you expect in Everlasting Life the bestowal of personal honors for virtues. Are you not struck with the absurdity of it all? Will you not stand before Judgment unadorned – just as a spirit, a recorded memory and conscience? Is this not all that will be dealt with there? Can there be any other trappings to consider beyond this spirit you are – once a person who lived and had the opportunity to choose between good and evil?

But, my Conscience, I had no choice. I had to do what others called my duty. Otherwise, my

friends and fellow-citizens would have dubbed me a traitor. I would have been put in jail, disgraced before man, borne the name of a coward.

You are doubtless right about what would have happened to you, and at the very hands of those whose guilt is as great as yours. In my view there can be no distinction between those who do the shooting and those who aid the act. Moreover, the guilt would appear to be even greater on the part of those who resorted to the coercive power of government to get you to sacrifice your home, your fortune, your chance of Self-realization, your life – none of which sacrifices they themselves appear willing to make. They will face Judgment, too, in but another moment. And they will be judged as you will be judged. On the surface it would seem that more courage would have been required of you to attend strictly to Principle than to do what you did – than to take a part in tearing asunder what God has created. Deeper reflection, however, will reveal that you and others took on the characteristic of a herd, and by so doing surrendered your standing as individuals. By this drifting from personal action to mass action – a move that only alert intelligence could have avoided – a dilemma was created for you and for all members of the collective: the choice of shooting others or having others shoot you for forsaking them; to do as the others demanded, or risk the collective's penalty for nonconformance.

Having any part in coercive, collectivist action is one way of insuring sin. If Conscience has any function, it must be as a guide to the avoidance of evil acts and their inevitable consequences.

I thought you were fighting for freedom. Isn't it possible that the way to advance freedom is to behave like free men rather than like regimented men? You, I fear, have been spreading the very disease you claim to be trying to destroy.

<http://www.thefreemanonline.org/fee-timely-classic/conscience-on-the-battlefield/#>

Pfc Bradley Manning arrested for leaking "Collateral Murder" video

By Courage to Resist. June 23, 2010.

“From what I’ve heard so far of (Wikileaks co-founder Julian) Assange and (Army Pfc Bradley) Manning,... they are two new heroes of mine.”

~Daniel Ellsberg, famous whistle-blower of the Pentagon Papers

In April, Wikileaks.org released a notorious video depicting a U.S. helicopter attack resulting in the killing of 11 unarmed Iraqi civilians, including two Reuters employees. The video, titled “Collateral Murder” was widely posted and reported on. Last week, the U.S. military arrested 22-year-old Pfc Bradley Manning, an Army intelligence analyst who allegedly took credit for leaking the video. Lawyers for Wikileaks have not yet been allowed access to Bradley, who is currently being held in pretrial confinement in Kuwait. Courage to Resist's primary concern is that Bradley has access to civilian legal representation to fight what are expected to be very serious charges at court martial. We expect to collaborate with many concerned organizations and individuals in order to best support Bradley legally and politically.



Wired reports that Bradley claimed to have been rummaging through classified military and government networks for more than a year and said that the networks contained “incredible things, awful things ... that belonged in the public domain, and not on some server stored in a dark room in Washington DC.”

News reports about this case include:

- ["The strange and consequential case of Bradley Manning, Adrian Lamo and WikiLeaks"](#)
By Glenn Greenwald, Salon.com. June 18, 2010
- [Democracy Now!](#)
With Amy Goodman. June 17, 2010
- ["Wikileaks Commissions Lawyers to Defend Alleged Army Source"](#)
By Kevin Poulsen and Kim Zetter, Wired.com. June 11, 2010

More from Wired.com that, if true, underscores Bradley courage to expose the truth:

Manning had already been sifting through the classified networks for months when he discovered the Iraq video in late 2009, he said. The video, later released by Wikileaks under the title “Collateral Murder,” shows a 2007 Army helicopter attack on a group of men, some of whom were armed, that the soldiers believed were insurgents. The attack killed two Reuters employees and an unarmed Baghdad man who stumbled on the scene afterward and tried to rescue one of the wounded by pulling him into his van. The man’s two children were in the van and suffered serious injuries in the hail of gunfire...

“At first glance it was just a bunch of guys getting shot up by a helicopter,” Manning wrote of the video. “No big deal ... about two dozen more where that came from, right? But something struck me as odd with the van thing, and also the fact it was being stored in a JAG officer’s directory. So I looked into it...”

“He would message me, Are people talking about it?... Are the media saying anything?” Tyler Watkins, a close civilian friend in Boston, said. “That was one of his major concerns, that once he had done this, was it really going to make a difference?... He didn’t want to do this just to cause a stir.... He wanted people held accountable and wanted to see this didn’t happen again.”

<http://www.couragetoresist.org/x/content/view/846/1/>

Legal group: Gays shouldn’t answer Pentagon survey

The Associated Press
July 8th, 2010

An advocacy group for gays in the military is warning them not to answer a Pentagon survey seeking opinions on repeal of the policy that bans homosexuals from serving openly.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network said Thursday that troops could be accidentally exposed by answering the survey and that the Defense Department has not agreed to grant immunity should that happen.

The survey was e-mailed to 400,000 service members as part of a wider review by a special working group that is studying how repeal of the policy might be implemented and how it could affect the

military.

<http://rawstory.com/rs/2010/0708/legal-group-gays-answer-pentagon-survey/>

U.S. policy a paper tiger against sex trade in war zones

By Nick Schwellenbach and Carol Leonnig

Sunday, July 18, 2010; *The Washington Post*, page A04

An eight-year-old policy that forbids government contractors and employees to engage in sex trafficking in war zones has proved almost impossible to enforce amid indications that such activities are occurring in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Agencies say the cases are difficult to pursue because of limited investigative resources and jurisdictional questions. But some experts and lawmakers believe that authorities are turning a blind eye to evidence of such crimes.

"Zero prosecutions," said Martina Vandenberg, a lawyer and former Human Rights Watch investigator, "suggests zero effort to enforce the law."

The State Department reported recently that allegations of contractors' employees procuring commercial sex acts were "well publicized" but that no contractors have been prosecuted and no contracts terminated.

Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.), author of a 2000 U.S. anti-trafficking law, questions whether agencies vigorously pursue allegations. He suggested that if authorities really cared about the women being exploited, they would not look away "when those we are paying to do jobs for us are exploiting them."

Nearly a decade after Dyncorp International employees were accused of buying and selling women from throughout Eastern Europe -- and were not prosecuted -- the State Department alerted the U.S. Army to allegations made by a freelance journalist. The journalist said she had interviewed women held in Iraq as involuntary servants in debt slavery.

The February report, posted online as part of an Army PowerPoint presentation, alleged that supervisors of an Army subcontractor in Iraq had sexually assaulted some of the women.

"The women were recruited from their home nations with promises of well-paying beautician jobs in Dubai," said an Army summary, "but were instead forced to surrender their passports, transported against their will to Iraq, and told they could only leave by paying a termination fee of \$1,100."

The subcontractors work for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, which runs restaurants and other commercial operations on military bases.

In another allegation, a former guard with the Blackwater security firm, now known as Xe Services, said he saw colleagues and U.S. soldiers paying Iraqi girls for sex acts. The allegations surfaced in a federal lawsuit filed last summer in the Eastern District of Virginia that alleged wrongful death and abuse on behalf of families of Iraqi victims. But the anonymous statement detailing the allegations was withdrawn by the Iraqi families, who agreed to a settlement in January.

The former guard, who asked that his name not be used out of concern for his safety, said that in 2005, he watched older boys collect dollar bills while Iraqi girls, some as young as 12 or 13, performed sex acts. The former guard said that he reported what he saw to his Blackwater superiors but that no action was taken. "It sickens me to talk about it even now," he said.

The former Blackwater guard also said he provided the information to a grand jury, but the Justice Department would not confirm or deny the existence of an investigation.

In Afghanistan, evidence of trafficking came to light when 90 Chinese women were freed after brothel raids in 2006 and 2007. The women told the International Organization on Migration that they had been taken to Afghanistan for sexual exploitation, according to a 2008 report.

Nigina Mamadjonova, head of IOM's counter-human trafficking unit in Afghanistan, said the women alleged in interviews that their clients were mostly Western men.

In late 2007, officials at ArmorGroup (parent company: Wackenhut Services), which provides U.S. Embassy security in Kabul, learned that some employees frequented brothels that were disguised as Chinese restaurants and that the employees might be engaged in sex trafficking. A company whistleblower has alleged in an ongoing lawsuit that the firm withheld the information from the U.S. government.

James Gordon, then an ArmorGroup supervisor, alleged that a manager "boasted openly about owning prostitutes in Kabul" and that a company trainee boasted that he hoped to make some "real money" in brothels and planned to buy a woman for \$20,000.

Gordon said he warned his bosses and also alerted Heidi McMichael, a State Department contracting officer.

Months later, Gordon said, he asked McMichael why no action had been taken, and she told him that the matter had been referred to the FBI. She declined to comment, as did the bureau.

The FBI has 35 to 40 agents in war zones, but they are focused on investigating fraud and corruption. The military's law enforcement agencies have about 150 agents in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait handling all types of felony-level crimes.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/17/AR2010071701401_pf.html

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for Aug 2010
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from the archives:

Documents Show Senators Thought They Were Deceived Over Gulf of Tonkin

--file under: false flag operations, or the Pentagon lying its way into war

Records Show Doubts on '64 Vietnam Crisis

By Elisabeth Bumiller

Published: July 14, 2010

WASHINGTON — In an echo of the debates over the discredited intelligence that helped make the case for the war in Iraq, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday released more than 1,100 pages of previously classified Vietnam-era transcripts that show senators of the time sharply questioning whether they had been deceived by the White House and the Pentagon over the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin incident.

"If this country has been misled, if this committee, this Congress, has been misled by pretext into a war in which thousands of young men have died, and many more thousands have been crippled for life, and out of which their country has lost prestige, moral position in the world, the consequences are very

great,” Senator Albert Gore Sr. of Tennessee, the father of the future vice president, said in March 1968 in a closed session of the Foreign Relations Committee.

The documents are Volume 20 in a regular series of releases of historical transcripts from the committee, which conducted most of its business in executive session during the 1960s, before the Senate required committee meetings to be public. The documents were edited by Donald Ritchie, the Senate historian, and cover 1968, when members of the committee were anguished over Vietnam and in a deteriorating relationship with the Johnson White House over the war.

Even at the time, there was widespread skepticism about the Gulf of Tonkin incident, in which the North Vietnamese were said to have attacked American destroyers on Aug. 4, 1964, two days after an earlier clash.

President Lyndon B. Johnson cited the attacks to persuade Congress to authorize broad military action in Vietnam, but historians in recent years have concluded that the Aug. 4 attack never happened.

Still, the transcripts show the outrage the senators were expressing behind closed doors. “In a democracy you cannot expect the people, whose sons are being killed and who will be killed, to exercise their judgment if the truth is concealed from them,” Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, said in an executive session in February 1968.

In the end, however, the senators did not further pursue their doubts. As Mr. Church said in one session that was focused on the staff report into the episode, if the committee came up with proof that an attack never occurred, “we have a case that will discredit the military in the United States, and discredit and quite possibly destroy the president.”

Robert J. Hanyok, a National Security Agency historian, said Wednesday in an interview that N.S.A. officers had deliberately falsified intercepted communications in the incident to make it look like the attack on Aug. 4, 1964, had occurred, although he said they acted not out of political motives but to cover up earlier errors.

Historians note that a few days after the supposed attack he told George W. Ball, the under secretary of state, “Hell, those dumb, stupid sailors were just shooting at flying fish!”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/15/world/asia/15vietnam.html?emc=eta1>

from the archives: Sixty years later, the fallen soldiers of the lost battalion of Unsan, Korea, were stranded anew by a decision of the Bush administration.

Lost Korean War battalion awaits MIA decision

By Charles J. Hanley - The Associated Press
Jul 18, 2010

SEOUL, South Korea — Trapped by two Chinese divisions, troops of the 8th U.S. Cavalry Regiment were left to die in far northern Korea, abandoned by the U.S. command in a Korean War episode viewed as one of the most troubling in American military history.

The 8th Cavalry's abandonment at Unsan became an infamous chapter in Army annals — "one of the most shameful and little-known incidents in U.S. military history," wrote Korean War historian Jack J. Gifford.

Some 600 of the 3rd Battalion's 800 men were lost, about half believed killed and half captured, many of whom died in Chinese-run prison camps.

The U.S. and North Korea established the MIA search in 1996 after lengthy negotiations. Over nine years, working across North Korea, the joint teams recovered 229 sets of remains believed to be those of Americans, including 14 subsequently identified as 3rd Battalion men.

But an estimated 260 U.S. dead are still unaccounted for at Unsan, among almost 4,600 U.S. MIAs in North Korea.

North Korea is offering fresh clues to their remains. American teams are ready to re-enter the North to dig for them.

"We are prepared to resume operations in (North Korea) and will request access to the Unsan area," the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command in Hawaii, home to the field teams, said in its latest annual report.

Its forensic experts, meanwhile, continue the laborious work of DNA identification of remains returned years ago, such as those of Master Sgt. Roy Earl Head of the 7th Infantry Division, finally identified, brought home and buried June 5 in a family cemetery in Grit Hill, Va.

"It's remarkable, after 59 years," said brother David Head, 71, of Kingsport, Tenn.

http://www.navytimes.com/news/2010/07/ap_korea_mia_071710/

++++++epitaph for this edition of "Truth in Recruiting"++++++

In the movie *The Americanization of Emily*, screenwriter Paddy Chayefsky has his protagonist say:

"We shall never end wars by blaming it on ministers and generals or warmongering imperialists or all the other banal bogies. It's the rest of us who build statues to those generals and name boulevards after those ministers, the rest of us who make heroes of our dead and shrines of our battlefields. We wear our widows' weeds like nuns and perpetuate war by exalting its sacrifices. It may well be ministers and generals who blunder us into wars, but the least the rest of us can do is to resist honoring the institution."

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

who we are:

***The Tulsa Peace Fellowship** is the activist wing of the peace movement in Eastern Oklahoma. TPF offers citizens and community groups tools and resources to participate personally in our democracy, to help shape federal budget and policy priorities, and to promote peace, social and economic justice, and human rights. TPF is a registered non-profit organization and a non-partisan civic-sector organization, loosely affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Restoration, north side of Tulsa.*

"Waging Peace One Person at a Time".

Through its counter-recruitment task force, TPF is a member of the **National Network in Opposition to the Militarization of Youth (NNOMY)** representing some 188 counter-recruitment groups in cities and towns across the country. On the web: http://www.nnomy.org/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=216&Itemid=91

Tulsa Peace Fellowship is open to members of third parties, progressives, Democrats, Republicans, libertarians, etc. If you have not already done so, please join the **new social networking tool for TPF on Ning**, in lieu of TPFtalks on yahoogroups, which has fallen into disuse. Thank you! You can check out our new tool here: <http://tulsapeacefellowship.ning.com> (new for 2009). Also still going strong: our announcement list on yahoo! tulsapeace@yahoogroups.com (since 2002). Go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/> and search for "tulsapeace".

If you enjoyed this news digest and/or found this update useful, please consider making a donation of time, money, or effort to the Tulsa Peace Fellowship. Details on tax status available.

The next monthly anti-war demo in Tulsa

is scheduled for **Saturday Aug 7th 2010, 12noon to 2pm, with the theme: "U.S. Out of Afghanistan Now!"**

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

The next regularly scheduled **business meeting of the Fellowship** will be held on **Thursday, Aug 12th 2010, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM @ the UU Church of the Restoration, in Tulsa, just north of downtown** --including members from other local non-partisan groups such as the Tulsa chapter of "Season for Non-Violence," the Tulsa University chapter of Amnesty International, ImpeachOK1.org, TulsaTruth.org, the Center for Racial Justice in Tulsa, the Tulsa Interfaith Alliance, Pax Christi, and the Quakers.

Come join us! Especially parents, guardians, and students in the Tulsa Public Schools system who are interested in countering the presence of military recruiters on school grounds.

An archive of TPF counter-recruitment updates and other related TPF material is available to members online:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tulsapeace/>

You must sign in to yahoo! groups to see the archived "message history"

TPF messages have been archived online since 2002

TPF was founded some 30 years ago.

Current membership online: 755 (including 685 subscribers through Yahoogroups, and 70 subscribers through Ning, our preferred network since 2009)

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Strength Through Peace: Out of Iraq & Afghanistan

Accountability: Indict & Imprison Bush & Cheney for War Crimes

JROTC: Out of Our Schools

Schools as Military-Free Zones

Alternatives to War: Department of Peace & cabinet-level Secretary of Peace

THE 10 REASONS why you should NOT enlist

Ten excellent reasons not to join the military:

- a.. You May Be Killed, Even By Mistake
- b.. You May Kill Others Who Do Not Deserve to Die
- c.. You May Be Injured
- d.. You May Not Receive Proper Medical Care
- e.. You May Suffer Long-term Health Problems
- f.. You May Be Lied To
- g.. You May Face Discrimination
- h.. You May Be Asked to Do Things Against Your Beliefs
- i.. You May Find It Difficult to Leave the Military
- j.. You Have Other Choices, including the Choice to Learn a Marketable Skill

for more info: <http://www.10reasonsbook.com/medcare.htm>

further information

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