

"Don't Believe the Hype!" –

– *Truth in Recruiting* – Now!

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for Dec 2010
(scroll down for details about any story)

Lead Story from the past month's news:

U.S. Military's Recruitment of Minors - features Pat Elder of NNOMY

summary of the relevant program segment:

"US military recruiters are so desperate for new people that their tactics are becoming a bit too personal. They're going into American High Schools to convince students to enlist and administer tests, sometimes without the parents' knowledge. Pat Elder, a DC-based counter-recruiting organizer said recruiters target schools based more on income than race."

http://rt.com/About_Us/Programmes/The_Alyona_Show/2010-10-22/605278.html

About 36 min. into The Alyona Show is an excellent segment about military recruitment of minors including the ASVAB and JROTC program. A young person and his parents talk about this decision and how he was **coerced into signing up**. Pat Elder a SC member of **NNOMY, the National Network in Opposition to the Militarization of Youth**, shares information and perspective about the network of activists across the nation joining the anti-fascist movement. Check it out.

Thank you to the following, for bring the above to the attention of the Tulsa Peace Fellowship:

Arlene Inouye

Coalition for Alternatives to Militarism in our Schools (CAMS)

www.militaryfreeschools.org

office/fax: 626-799-9118, cell: 626-483-6160

www.projectgreatfutures.org

related op/ed piece, from Tribune

Peddling War to Children

by Robert Koehler, Chicago-based journalist and nationally-syndicated author

featured video

Before You Enlist!

--The Real Deal on Joining the Military

excerpt:

"You have to be very meticulous in your method of question-asking when talking to a military recruiter. **It's like talking to the devil**. Because the devil only tells you the piece of

the truth he wants you to hear."

~Thomas Powers, U.S. Army Iraq veteran, interviewed for the above [counter-recruitment video on YouTube](#)

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U.S. Destroying Entire Villages in Afghanistan

--U.S. military destroys hundreds of civilian homes in Kandahar push, claims it's a good thing

--**Americans emulate Soviet communist wanton destruction** of Afghanistan, 1980-1989

see illustration of Afghanistan in moving images:

"Charlie Wilson's War" (2007 film, directed by Mike Nichols, 97 minutes)

--scenes from Soviet occupation of Afghanistan look disturbingly similar to scenes of present-day U.S. occupation of the same

--DVD available from the TPF lending library

--based on the the book *Charlie Wilson's War: The Extraordinary Story of the Largest Covert Operation in History* (2003), by George Crile III.

featured TV program:

'Wartorn' examines combat's emotional toll on U.S. soldiers

--how families of returning soldiers have dealt with the **largely ignored, little-understood** Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

notes in the margin:

Justin Raimondo made it back from the 2010 Antiwar.com Autumn/Winter Tour in one piece, but just barely.

--insights provided to **gung-ho students** in Connecticut

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file under: And you want to trust military recruiters with your child's future?

National Guard Recruiter Convicted in Sex Abuse Case

--story from Oregon: 12-person jury found him guilty on **six counts of sexual abuse, coercion and private indecency**

file under: our monsters in Afghanistan

Hearing set in Afghanistan 'thrill kill' case

--Army sergeant accused of leading plot to **kill for fun** faces hearing in Wash

--3 Afghan civilians dead

Army court temporarily stays **murder prosecution of soldier**

--A military appeals court has ordered Army prosecutors to halt proceedings against one of five U.S. soldiers charged with murdering unarmed Afghan civilians and staging them to appear as combat

file under: sting operation

3 Marines Accused Of Selling Weapons To Gang

--Marines met a Florencia 13 street gang member, then sold two cases of weapons for \$6,000, the ATF said.

--unknown to the **illegal arms-merchant Marines**, one of the buyers was working as an ATF informant.

file under: don't ask, don't tell

Appeals court extends life of gay military policy

--latest court decision means gay Americans who disclose their sexual orientations still can't enlist in the armed forces

--also, gays can still be **investigated and ultimately discharged** if they already are serving

Guard recruiter admits fraud in collecting bonuses

--an Army National Guard recruiter has pleaded guilty to **conspiracy to defraud the government**

backpage

'I fought for my country now the Army wants its money back'

--A former British soldier who completed two tours in Iraq has been left stunned

sidebar:

Germany May Scrap Military Intelligence, as Part of Budget Cuts

--no joke, it's known by its acronym, M.A.D.

from the archives, 2007:

Chinese sub pops up in middle of U.S. Navy exercise, leaving military chiefs red-faced

file under: uninvited guest

epitaph for this edition of "Truth in Recruiting"

`--from Howard Zinn

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

lead story

featured op/ed

Peddling War to Children

by Robert Koehler, November 19, 2010

In the gap between a boy's passionate fantasies and the smell of dead bodies in a mass grave marches... America's Army.

"He wonders if God is punishing him because before he joined the Army he thought of war as something fun and exciting."

We couldn't wage our current wars without the all-volunteer military whose recruitment goals get fed every year by idealistic young people, who continue, despite all counter-evidence bursting off the front pages, to buy into the romance and excitement of war and armed do-goodism that the recruiters, with the help of a vast "militainment" industry, peddle like so many Joe Camels.

The words quoted above are from a psychologist's PTSD evaluation of a young soldier named Brad

Gaskins, whom I wrote about several years ago; he was one of the soldiers in the first wave of our 2003 invasion of Iraq. He went AWOL after his second deployment.

"Bulldozers were used to push the bodies into mass graves," the psychologist wrote after her interview with him. "The bodies would fall apart, the smell was unforgettable. He felt badly that the bodies were treated with such disrespect. There was no effort made to identify the dead so that their families could know what happened to them. He was expected to handle many of the dead bodies which were significantly decayed and often 'oozing goop' into the ground."

As far as I'm concerned, this is the only appropriate context in which to talk about the gaming industry, which has been on my mind since I read the other day about the possible resurgence of an unpublished video game called *Six Days in Fallujah*. The video game had been promoted last year as an "interactive documentary" about the second battle of Fallujah, in November 2004, and had generated excitement in the gaming community, but was killed just before it was due to be released by the Japanese company Konami because its reality-based action made it too controversial — it crossed over a public relations line and dishonored the troops who had actually fought in Fallujah, apparently.

Of course, it also dishonored the thousands of Iraqi civilians who were slaughtered there, not to mention the ones who are now battling cancer and leukemia and other plagues of an environment polluted by the aftermath of war — and not to mention the large number of post-invasion children born with birth defects, thought to be caused, or partially caused, by the residue of depleted uranium left behind by U.S. weaponry.

But nobody in the gaming industry, or the media that covers it, evinced a concern about that, or noted that *Six Days in Fallujah* and all the other war games that children and adults play are merely sophisticated e-versions of cowboys and Indians: the dance of good and evil played out in a consequence-free context. The good guys are always "us" and the bad guys of the moment are often merely our victims.

In any case, this controversy dredged up for me some far larger issues, such as the cozy relationship between the military-industrial complex and our multitrillion-dollar entertainment industry and, beyond that, the strange and sick relationship between the Pentagon and American boyhood, as manifested by the taxpayer-sponsored website *AmericasArmy.com*, which since 2002 has been one of the Army's most effective recruiting tools. The site sanitizes and romanticizes war for kids 13 and up, with the aim of reeling them in young.

I recoil fiercely at this site. It strikes me as the very essence of America's own arrested development: We command the world's largest arsenal and throw our weight around with an adolescent swagger. ... I think about my own boyhood and the endless games of "war" the kids on my block played. We killed one another endlessly with pretend guns made out of sticks; and we died, over and over, with the highest theater possible. We jumped off one another's front porches into the bushes, doing our swan dives of death. We imagined dying by every possible grade of weapon, up to and including hydrogen bombs, whose mushroom clouds leapt from the front pages of the newspapers that arrived on our doorsteps.

We also had real fights with one another occasionally, and there was nothing pretty about them — but what is startling and fascinating to me is that real fighting bore no emotional relationship with pretend fighting and dying. The pretend stuff was part of a natural process of becoming, of growing up; it was, I am convinced, play in a spiritual sense, as we communed with heroic glory and reached for our

futures.

This has nothing to do with real war, but the adults with a self-interest in its perpetuation continue to sell it to the young as though it were. What an obscenity, it seems to me, to exploit the yearning of the young, and feign a solidarity with it, in order to perpetuate a system that will in all likelihood simply chew them up.

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<http://original.antiwar.com/robert-koehler/2010/11/18/peddling-war-to-children/>

TPF solicits your response to the above editorial; send your letters to the editor at armywrong@cox.net. Letters to the Editor will be published/circulated in next month's TPF counter-recruitment digest.

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for Dec 2010
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U.S. military destroys hundreds of civilian homes in Kandahar push, claims it's a good thing

by Rethink Afghanistan
November 12, 2010

Reports from Kandahar indicate that the U.S. military is destroying large amounts of civilian property in their push to establish a farcical “security bubble” in that province. Despite rhetoric claiming that they seek to “protect the population,” U.S. and allied forces continue to damage the lives and livelihoods of Afghans in areas where they seek to confront Taliban insurgents. This sort of destruction stokes popular anger against the U.S. and their allies, making Americans less safe.

More from GlobalPost:

(GlobalPost) The U.S. military has destroyed hundreds of Afghan civilian homes, farm houses, walls, trees and plowed through fields and buildings using explosives and bulldozers in war-torn Zhari district, a practice that has begun to anger Afghan villagers.

The much anticipated third phase of the Kandahar campaign, called Operation Dragon Strike, has U.S. troops from the 2nd brigade, 101st Airborne Division pushing into a dangerous swath of once-Taliban dominated territory from Highway 1 to the Arghandab River.

But it has come at much material cost to the Afghans, who complain that the troops are destroying their property, leaving some homeless and blocking their irrigation canals -potentially derailing the all-important counterinsurgency strategy that aims to win the hearts and minds of regular Afghans.

"You bulldozed some of my trees, they're blocking the canal, now we can't get water to the orchard," Haji Jilal, a frail, weathered Afghan farmer with a white beard said to one of the U.S. military's Afghan

interpreters on a recent patrol here.

Military officials said the majority of the buildings blown up, and fields and walls plowed through, have been either booby-trapped or used by the Taliban as hideouts and shooting positions.

They also argue the destruction is actually a positive development - it forces Zhari residents to go to their local government center for compensation. U.S. Army commanders see this as a way to kick-start progress toward the final goal of the Kandahar campaign: connect the people of Zhari district to the Afghan government.

This summer, soldiers who tried to venture even close to these areas were pinned down by Taliban ambushes and heavy machine guns.

Thirty American troops from the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne have died since the unit arrived to this violent district in June - most from IED detonations. Five American troops lost their lives in the last two weeks.

So during their push into Zhari, troops from 2nd brigade have spared no expense, or explosives.

"I've never seen so many explosives being used," said 1st Sgt. Larry Breland, a 17-year veteran of the Army with two tours in Iraq under his belt.

The destruction can appear apocalyptic. A school had been reduced to flattened rubble by an air strike - American soldiers said it was a Taliban fighting position. Across the road, another pulverized building spilled its rusting rebar and concrete guts into the dirt. A kilometer south, MICLICs had torn a path along the edge of a village, where burnt trees and battered buildings hugged the edge of the cleared corridor where U.S. troops walked - very deliberately - in the tracks of a bulldozer.

...On a recent morning at the district center, a distinguished looking elderly Afghan man named Haji Ratmutullah from Mullah Omar's hometown of Sangsar, said he'd come to check on the progress of 110 compounds damaged or destroyed in the town.

He said some people were living outside because their houses had been destroyed. Others had fled to Kandahar City. He said the situation was still "very dangerous."

"The Taliban can't stand and fight face to face - so they're planting the mines and IEDs and innocent people are getting injured," he said. "But we are angry with the government too, because they haven't paid us back the cost our buildings."

"So we are unhappy from both sides - the Taliban and government," he added.

<http://www.facebook.com/notes/rethink-afghanistan/destroying-the-village-to-save-it-military-destroys-hundreds-of-civilian-homes-i/156878341022550>

Please share this note with your friends and invite them to join us at <http://facebook.com/RethinkAfghanistan>

more coverage:

US Military Destroying Hundreds of Civilian Homes in Kandahar

Military Bulldozing Houses in Oft-Occupied Zhari District

by Jason Ditz, antiwar.com

November 10, 2010

The Obama Administration made much of the Kandahar offensive's success hinging on winning hearts and minds to the side of the occupation forces. As usual this goal is falling by the wayside as the military actually arrives on the scene, as civilians in the Zhari District are up in arms at the military's actions.

The district has been seen as a key target for the offensive, but locals are complaining that the US military, having occupied the district with little resistance, has proceeded to bulldoze homes and farm fields en masse, with hundreds of homes destroyed and a large number of people rendered homeless.

Officials insist that the tactics are necessary because the homes are potentially being used as hiding places by insurgents, but the scorched earth tactics aren't making them any friends among the local population of the tiny farming district.

Indeed, these claims that the offensive is necessary to bring the district under control must ring hollow among locals, who have seen NATO forces occupy them no less than six times since 2001, each time claiming it was a major victory that amounted to a turning point in the war. But each time these offensives end, the troops leave, and the Taliban return. This time the locals may be quite grateful of that, as the Taliban are at least not demolishing their homes.

<http://news.antiwar.com/2010/11/10/us-military-destroying-hundreds-of-civilian-homes-in-kandahar/>

yet more coverage:

Pentagon blows up thousands of homes in Afghanistan

U.S. is repeating the horrors of the Vietnam War

By Brian Becker, ANSWER Coalition National Coordinator

Nov 18th 2010

Borrowing a page from its infamous "pacification" effort in South Vietnam, where peasant villages were napalmed and burned to the ground to "save them from the communists," the Obama-ordered surge in Afghanistan has been secretly blowing up thousands of homes and leveling portions of the Afghan countryside.

As tens of thousands of U.S. troops have surged into southern Afghanistan, villagers have fled. Then the Petraeus-led occupation forces have determined which homes will be destroyed.

"In Arghandab District, for instance, every one of the 40 homes in the village of Khosrow was flattened

by a salvo of 25 missiles, according to the district governor, Shah Muhammed Ahmadi, who estimated that 120 to 130 houses had been demolished in his district,” reported the New York Times, Nov. 16, 2010.

The Pentagon asserts that they must destroy the homes because some of them may have explosive devices inside.

The Pentagon’s murderous rampage and terror campaign 40 years ago against South Vietnamese villages, in areas that were considered sympathetic to the resistance forces, used much of the same kind of explanation. In fact, the New York Times in a throw back to Vietnam quotes the Arghandab District Governor, who is working with the occupation forces: “We had to destroy them to make them safe.”

That this tactic is part of a high-tech terror campaign against Afghan villages and the people who inhabit them is evident even by the descriptions and accounts of western media outlets that are supporting the war.

Again, from the New York Times, Nov. 16, 2010, which describes weapons as tools:

“American troops are using an impressive array of tools not only to demolish homes, but also to eliminate tree lines where insurgents could hide, blow up outbuildings, flatten agricultural walls, and carve new “military roads,” because existing ones are so heavily mined, according to journalists embedded in the area recently.

“One of the most fearsome tools is the Miclic, the M58 Mine-Clearing Line Charge, a chain of explosives tied to a rocket, which upon impact destroys everything in a swath 30 feet wide and 325 feet long. The Himars missile system, a pod of 13-foot rockets carrying 200-pound warheads, has also been used frequently for demolition work.

“Often, new military roads go right through farms and compounds, cutting a route that will keep soldiers safe from roadside bombs. In Zhare District alone, the 101st Airborne’s Second Brigade has lost 30 soldiers since last June, mostly to such bombs.”

Activists at the organization Afghanistan Rights Monitor described the destroyed homes. “These are all mud houses, quite humble houses.”

When Gen. David Petraeus describes his counter-insurgency strategy, he always puts in a few diplomatic words about the need of surging troops to win the “hearts and minds” of the people in Afghanistan’s poverty stricken villages. That is purely for public consumption—a message echoed endlessly by the complicit corporate-owned media and the politicians of both parties that serves as a mask for the Pentagon’s campaign of systematic terror employed to subdue an occupied people.

On Dec. 16, 2010, anti-war veterans and people of conscience will stand up in a dramatic action in opposition to the terror campaign waged from the White House and Pentagon. Join us in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 16 and be part of history.

rec'd via email from : info@answercoalition.org

featured op/ed

Dissecting the Perpetual War Machine

Review of *Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War* by Andrew J. Bacevich

by Gareth Porter

November 09, 2010

Andrew J. Bacevich emerged in the first decade of the century as this country's most widely read and widely respected critic of U.S. militarism and empire.

He has addressed this issue with an intensity that is unprecedented for an academic. With the appearance of *Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War*, he has produced six books illuminating these themes in just eight years, writing three previous books – *American Empire* (2002), *The New American Militarism* (2005), and *The Limits of Power* (2008), and editing two other volumes, *The Imperial Tense* (2003) and *The Long War* (2006).

In attracting a broad readership to his critique of U.S. militarism, Bacevich has transcended both the arid tone of most academic writing on the history of foreign and military policy and the Right-Left divide over social and political values. As a former army officer, a Catholic, and a social conservative from the Midwest, he has appealed to both conservatives and progressives unhappy with the militarized pursuit of power abroad and the encouragement of unlimited individual self-gratification at home.

He has argued that the all-volunteer army is the nexus between these twinned developments in U.S. society and global policy. As if to confirm the crucial importance of the all-voluntary army to the system of U.S. militarism, former George W. Bush speechwriter Michael Gerson has just recounted in the *Washington Post* Oct. 29 the strong negative reaction of military officers at a recent dinner to the idea of restoring the draft. The military elites believe it must have the mission of fighting terrorism “even when our attention lags or turns inward,” because “They are not like the rest of America....”

In *Washington Rules*, Bacevich offers a series of ruminations on how and why the United States has come to what he calls “a condition approximating perpetual war.”

Bacevich argues that the “socialization” of the political and intellectual elite has been so complete that U.S. citizens “have essentially forfeited any capacity to ask first-order questions about the fundamentals of national security policy.” He cites as exhibit one in his case for such vacuous discourse on the subject of national security the dismissive treatment of Dennis Kucinich (on the Left) and Ron Paul (on the Right) because of their refusal to endorse militarism during the 2008 presidential primaries.

Bacevich argues, the U.S. populace had come by the turn of this century to “accept the use of force as routine.” That was the deeper shift in attitudes that allowed the Bush administration to capitalize so easily on the 9/11 terrorist attacks to take the United States into the present situation of “permanent war.”

Bacevich cites as a “partial explanation” for the John F. Kennedy administration's obsession with Cuba the way in which domestic U.S. politics provide incentives for presidents to rely on force merely to inoculate themselves from criticism by the opposition (either from the opposing party or within the Republican Party itself) for being “weak.” That same factor obviously applies to a wide range of presidential decisions on military and foreign policy.

But Bacevich gives even more attention to the personal and institutional interests of the military and civilian national security elites in creating their own “empires.” In sketches of the roles played by CIA director Alan Dulles and commander of the Strategic Air Command Air Force Chief of Staff Curtis LeMay during the Cold War, Bacevich observes that both those pivotal figures lobbied the White House for policies (covert operations and investments in massive numbers of bombers and nuclear weapons, respectively) that benefited their institutions and conferred prestige and power on them personally.

Of LeMay, Bacevich writes that his “concern for the well-being of the United States blended seamlessly with his devotion to the well being of the institution he led.”

In making that point, Bacevich has aligned his perspective on the U.S. national security state with two seminal works on the national security state – Richard Barnett’s *Roots of War* (1971) and Morton Halperin’s *National Security Policymaking* (1975) – both of which argued that national security officials automatically conflate the interests of their national security organization with those of the nation.

That conflation of interests is the key to the problem of errant U.S. military policies, because it allows national security officials to pursue policies and programs that are sharply at odds with the interests of the U.S. public without the slightest discomfort.

In his concluding chapter, Bacevich returns to this pivotal concept of personal and institutional self-interest as a driving force in the militarization of U.S. policy but broadens it even further.

“Who benefits from the perpetuation of the Washington rules?” he asks. In answering that question, he describes a socio-political-bureaucratic system that delivers “profit, power, and privilege to a long list of beneficiaries: elected and appointed officials, corporate executives and corporate lobbyists, admirals and generals, functionaries staffing the national security apparatus, media personalities, and policy intellectuals from universities and research organizations.”

Although Bacevich does not develop this explanatory approach in detail, his emphatic statement of the thesis that a powerful and broadly-defined self-interested elite is now driving the system of “permanent war” offers hope for a U.S. political movement to curb this militarism.

(Inter Press Service)

<http://original.antiwar.com/porter/2010/11/08/dissecting-the-perpetual-war-machine/>

featured TV program:

'Wartorn' examines combat's emotional toll on U.S. soldiers

By Gary Strauss, USA TODAY

Nov 11, 2010

Had HBO's Veterans Day documentary concentrated on the fallout from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts on soldiers and Marines, it would have been a powerful statement about the emotional suffering of modern-day war.

But as "Wartorn 1861-2010" (tonight, 9 ET/PT) demonstrates, the military and their families have dealt with largely ignored, little-understood post-traumatic stress disorder far longer.

Co-produced and hosted by former Sopranos star James Gandolfini, Wartorn is a somber, gut-wrenching reminder — and warning — about combat-related stress that can lead to depression, violence and suicide.

Civil War-era doctors called it hysteria. In World War I, it was known as shell shock. By World War II, it was termed combat fatigue and, as in the aftermath of past conflicts, considered cowardly and left largely untreated.

"For me, the striking thing is the emotional cost these kids and their families go through," says Gandolfini/

Wartorn opens with the bravado of Angelo Crapsey, an eager 1861 Union Army volunteer. Over the course of his combat experience, letters home grow increasingly dark. By 1864, he has been mustered out, and at 21, commits suicide. "If ever a man's mental disorder was caused by hardships endured in the service of his country, this was the case with my son," father John Crapsey writes.

Later in the 75-minute documentary, Minnesotan Cheryl Softitch painfully recalls the 2006 suicide of her tormented son, Noah Pierce, 23, an Army specialist who returned home troubled by the accidental shooting of an Iraqi civilian. Pierce joined the Army out of high school in 2002.

"His goal was 20 years," Softitch tells USA TODAY. "But he started showing signs of PTSD after his first tour. When he came home, I could tell I was losing my son. His body came home, but he never did. He tried to cope with the real world. He'd reach out for help at the VA Center. They didn't know what to do with him."

Executive producer Sheila Nevins says that nearly a third of those stationed in combat areas report PTSD symptoms.

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Chiarelli, who also appears, says the military has begun ramping up treatment of those diagnosed with PTSD and has initiated 10 hours of basic-training coursework to help personnel deal with potential issues.

"It's the largest single injury we see coming out of this war," Chiarelli says in an interview. "We have to change the culture of not talking about it."

Nevins notes the film wasn't intended to retrace history, until a researcher found similarities dating back to Crapsey. "It makes a much more poignant story about the nature of war and what it does to people."

Gandolfini hopes the film raises awareness and helps expand treatment.

http://www.usatoday.com/life/television/news/2010-11-11-wartorn11_ST_N.htm

notes in the margin:

Justin Raimondo made it back from the 2010 Antiwar.com Autumn/Winter Tour in one piece, but just barely.

Nov 16, 2010

excerpt from his travel log:

Danbury, Connecticut – This event, organized by the heroic Richard S. Land and the Ridgefield Liberty Coop, was a rousing success – over 120 people, mostly non-aligned students, and garnered a bit of publicity. The event was held at Western Connecticut State University. I spoke for an hour. Controversy erupted when the student veterans' group raised a ruckus because my widely-publicized talk was scheduled one day before veterans' day! I have to admit, this was not anticipated by the organizers or myself. The vets attended, in uniform, and one young lady in fatigues got up and read a poem all about how our rights to free speech and free assembly depend on soldiers doing their duty and defending the nation against the threat of a foreign-imposed tyranny. I answered her by pointing out that the exercise of those rights is a tribute rather than an insult to those serving in uniform, and went on to elaborate that an army engaged in wars of aggression is very different from a military whose function is to defend the nation: it is the difference between a soldier in the Continental Army and a Roman centurion. In any case, a useful discussion was had after my talk, particularly with one intelligent young man in uniform who had served in Iraq and wanted to know why, if rights are universal, we don't have an obligation to defend them in Iraq. Boy, what that ever a good conversation! And we all parted friends.

<http://original.antiwar.com/justin/2010/11/16/a-sustainable-empire/>

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

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file under: And you want to trust military recruiters with your child's future?

National Guard Recruiter Convicted in Sex Abuse Case

--story from Oregon: 12-person jury found him guilty on six counts of sexual abuse, coercion and private indecency

By Alex Paul, For the Gazette-Times gazettetimes.com

November 12, 2010

Lebanon City Councilor Tim Fox sat virtually motionless in Linn County Circuit Court on Friday afternoon as a 12-person jury found him guilty on six counts of sexual abuse, coercion and private indecency.

His wife, Carrie, left Judge James C. Egan's courtroom as soon as the verdict was read, and members of Fox's family burst into tears.

Fox could face up to five years in prison on the first-degree attempted sexual abuse and coercion charges, class C felonies. He was also convicted of two counts of private indecency, third-degree sexual abuse — reduced from first-degree sexual abuse — and third-degree attempted sexual abuse. All are misdemeanors.

The jurors deliberated for about 5½ hours before breaking for the Veterans Day holiday. They resumed deliberations about 9 a.m. Friday and returned their verdict about 3:15 p.m.

Fox, an Oregon National Guard recruiter, originally faced 10 charges alleging conduct between May 2008 and March 2010.

During the trial, four young women — Rebekah Dodds, Jachee Crockett, Stephanie Gray and Brandy Santana — testified and accused Fox of various improper acts. Defense witnesses disputed some of their accounts.

Fox was charged March 30 after Rebekah Dodds of Sweet Home filed charges with the Linn County Sheriff's Office, alleging Fox assaulted her at the Lebanon Armory on March 22.

During that incident, he reportedly repeatedly asked her to expose her breasts while she was filling out paperwork.

http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/article_8bddc36c-eefa-11df-9708-001cc4c002e0.html

Hearing set in Afghanistan 'thrill kill' case

Army sergeant accused of leading plot to kill 3 Afghan civilians for fun faces hearing in Wash

by Gene Johnson, AP News

Nov 08, 2010

The soldiers who reported to Staff Sgt. Calvin Gibbs paint a monstrous picture: He killed Afghan civilians for sport, they say, and encouraged others to do the same. He collected fingers of the dead, plotted against his own men and found it amusing to slaughter animals with his assault rifle.

Gibbs will get a chance to contest that portrait Tuesday during a military hearing at Joint Base Lewis-McChord south of Seattle on charges that include murder, dereliction of duty and trying to impede an investigation.

The Article 32 hearing is similar to a civilian grand jury proceeding, with a military judge looking into charges to see if there is enough evidence to send the case to a court martial.

The 25-year-old from Billings, Mont., is the highest-ranking of five soldiers charged in the murders of three civilians during patrols in Kandahar Province this year in what has emerged as one of the most gruesome cases of the Afghan war.

"He liked to kill," said Spc. Adam Winfield, who said he tried to blow the whistle on the alleged murder plot before taking part in the final killing. "He manipulated a lot of us into doing what he wanted us to do."

Gibbs arrived in the platoon late last year and soon began telling his subordinates how easy it would be to kill civilians, some soldiers told investigators in statements reviewed by the AP.

Gibbs reportedly spoke of getting away with killing a family when he served in Iraq — a claim investigators are still looking into.

He devised scenarios under which he could kill Afghan civilians, the soldiers said, suggesting in one case that if he and his men came across someone in a village flagged as Taliban-influenced, they could toss a grenade and claim they had been responding to a threat.

Gibbs also illicitly collected weapons — including an AK-47 and a rocket-propelled grenade — which he could plant on the bodies of dead civilians to make them appear to be combatants, the soldiers said.

The probe of the killings started after a witness in a drug investigation, Pvt. 1st Class Justin Stoner, reported being badly beaten by a group of soldiers led by Gibbs.

Stoner said Gibbs and the other central figure in the case, Spc. Jeremy Morlock, of Wasilla, Alaska, later returned to his room, where Gibbs laid a set of severed fingers on the floor as Morlock warned him not to rat.

"I believe he has no regard for any life in general," Stoner said of Gibbs. "I have watched him slaughter animals with his M-4 and finding it amusing is just completely wrong."

Gibbs is also accused of killing a civilian in February, a week after Winfield's father made the calls, and dropping an AK-47 by the victim's body to make it appear he was armed. Spc. Michael Wagnon is also accused of participating in that killing, but denies involvement.

In the third killing, in May, Gibbs is accused of tossing a grenade at a civilian as Morlock and Winfield shot. They told investigators the victim posed no threat; Winfield, who said he felt pressured by Gibbs, called it "the worst thing I've ever done in my life."

Morlock claimed to be deathly afraid of Gibbs even as he participated in killings: "He's crazy. There's something wrong with that guy," he told investigators in a videotaped interrogation.

Source: AP News

<http://wire.antiwar.com/2010/11/08/hearing-set-in-afghanistan-thrill-kill-case/>

Army court stays murder prosecution of soldier

By Laura L. Myers

Sat Nov 20, 2010

SEATTLE (Reuters) - A military appeals court has ordered Army prosecutors to halt proceedings

against one of five U.S. soldiers charged with murdering unarmed Afghan civilians and staging them to appear as combat

casualties.

Lawyers for Private Andrew Holmes had petitioned the Army Court of Criminal Appeals asking that sealed photographic evidence, which they acknowledge may be inflammatory but say will exonerate their client, be opened to public scrutiny.

They also asked the court to stay the so-called Article 32 investigative proceedings against Holmes, 20, from Boise Idaho, until a decision on the photos is reached.

The appeals court granted the stay Friday and gave the government 20 days to answer the pleadings from Holmes' legal team. Defense lawyers, who received notice of the court's order Saturday, would have 14 days after that to reply.

Holmes is the youngest of five soldiers charged with murder in the investigation of what military prosecutors describe as a rogue infantry platoon run amok earlier this year in the Afghan province of Kandahar.

The most potentially explosive elements of the case are dozens of ghoulish photos Holmes and others are accused of having taken of Afghan war dead, some said to be showing U.S. troops posing with the bodies.

The inflammatory nature of the images has drawn comparisons with pictures of Iraqi prisoners taken by U.S. military personnel at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq in 2004, which caused worldwide outrage.

Holmes' civilian lawyers argue that the military's decision to seal the photos, barring them from being shown in open court, effectively denies Holmes his constitutional right to a public trial because defense attorneys cannot cross-examine military investigators about the pictures.

The most serious charge against Holmes, which could result in life in prison, is premeditated murder in connection with the death of an Afghan villager investigators say was killed in January by a grenade blast and machine-gun fire.

That marked the first of three unjustified slayings that soldiers in Holmes' platoon allegedly staged to look like legitimate war casualties from January through May.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6AJ1I620101120?feedType=RSS&feedName=domesticNews&rpc=76>

Law

3 Marines Accused Of Selling Weapons To Gang

November 9, 2010
The Associated Press

radio coverage on npr.org

Two former and one active-duty Marines met with a postal service supervisor, a Florencia 13 street gang member and two other men, then sold them two cases of weapons for \$6,000, the ATF said Tuesday. Unbeknown to them, one of the men was working as an ATF informant.

Federal agents have arrested three retired Marines suspected of selling illegal assault weapons to a notorious Los Angeles street gang, The Associated Press has learned.

The suspected ringleader, Adam Gitschlag, who served in Iraq and was once based at Camp Pendleton, was arrested at his Orange County, Calif., home Nov. 2 as part of an operation carried out by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, as well as military investigators and local police.

The arrests were announced a week after a Navy SEAL in San Diego and two others were charged with smuggling machine guns from Iraq for sale on the black market.

Investigative documents obtained by the AP state that Gitschlag oversaw the sale of two cases containing firearms, including an AK-47, two Russian and Romanian variants of the weapon and two other semiautomatic rifles.

Under California law, it is illegal to own or sell unregistered assault weapons.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=131201379>

Appeals court extends life of discriminatory policy against gays in the military

--latest court decision means gay Americans who disclose their sexual orientations still can't enlist in the armed forces

--also, gays can still be investigated and ultimately discharged if they already are serving

By Lisa Leff, Associated Press – Nov 1, 2010

SAN FRANCISCO – A federal appeals court on Monday indefinitely extended its freeze on a judge's order halting enforcement of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, heightening pressure on the Obama administration to persuade the U.S. Senate to repeal the law before a new Congress is sworn in.

A divided three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted the U.S. government's request for a stay while it challenges the trial court's ruling that the ban on openly gay service members is unconstitutional.

The same panel, composed of two judges appointed by President Ronald Reagan and one appointed by President Bill Clinton, on Oct. 20 imposed a temporary hold keeping "don't ask, don't tell" in place.

"We continue to warn service members that it is unsafe to come out as long as this law remains on the books," said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

In an eight-page order, two judges said they were persuaded by the Department of Justice's argument that U.S. District Court Judge Virginia Phillips' worldwide injunction against the policy "will seriously disrupt ongoing and determined efforts by the Administration to devise an orderly change."

"The public interest in enduring orderly change of this magnitude in the military — if that is what is to happen — strongly militates in favor of a stay," Judges Diarmuid F. O'Scannlain and Stephen S. Trott wrote in their majority order. "Furthermore, if the administration is successful in persuading Congress to eliminate (the policy), this case and controversy will become moot."

Another reason they gave for imposing the freeze was decisions by four other federal appeals courts that cast doubt on whether Phillips exceeded her authority and ignored existing legal precedents when she concluded gays could not serve in the military without having their First Amendment rights breached.

Judge William Fletcher entered a partial dissent, saying he would have preferred the panel had heard oral arguments before granting the stay. Fletcher said he thinks "don't tell, don't tell" should not be used to discharge any existing service members while the case was on appeal.

"Defendants would not be required during the pendency of the appeal to change their recruiting practices, to change their personnel manuals, or, subject only to the requirement that they not actually discharge anyone, otherwise to change their practices," Fletcher said.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/us_gays_in_military

Guard recruiter admits fraud in collecting bonuses

November 6, 2010

HOLLAND, Mich. -- An Army National Guard recruiter has pleaded guilty to conspiracy for collecting a share of recruiting bonuses he was ineligible for.

The Grand Rapids Press reports Staff Sgt. Sergio Reyes of Fennsville pleaded guilty Friday to conspiracy to defraud the government. U.S. District Judge Robert Holmes Bell signaled Reyes might facing prison time, telling him to get his affairs in order before his Feb. 10 sentencing.

Reyes told Bell that he referred recruits through other National Guard members eligible for bonuses and received a share of \$21,000 in bonuses.

As part of a plea agreement, 21 wire fraud charges will be dismissed.

Court records show a second recruiter, Staff Sgt. Mark Hagan, is scheduled to enter a plea next week. He and Reyes worked in the Holland recruiting office.

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for Jan 2010
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‘I fought for my country now the Army wants its money back’

6th November 2010

* By Matthew Hobbs »

A FORMER soldier who completed two tours in Iraq has been left stunned by Army demands to return overpaid wages more than a year after his service ended.

Gareth Bebb, age 24, of Norris Street, Orford, spent five years with the Army driving and operating guns on tanks.

His career included two spells in Iraq before he left in March 2008.

However, a year later he received a letter from the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency that said, because of internal problems with payroll transactions, Gareth had been overpaid £1,351 in operational allowance.

Despite the agency admitting to the error and apologising, it also requested that a cheque to clear the sum be sent immediately, or a plan for monthly instalments be set up.

He said: “I worked hard for the Army and did everything I could for them in a job where you risk your life.

“Now I’m being treated like a nobody after they’ve admitted this is their mistake.”

Gareth says he did not notice the overpayment because at the time he was in hospital for three weeks due to an infection from a parasitic sand fly picked up on duty. He assumed the cash had stacked up because he had not spent any money during that time.

Now working for British Gas, Gareth recently bought a house with girlfriend Claire and says all their money has gone into planning a wedding for 2011.

The couple say they cannot afford the payment, but after 12 months of silence a letter received last Tuesday threatened legal action from the Army, unless the money is repaid by Friday.

Claire, aged 24, said: "The first letter was just heartbreaking.

"The worst thing is he has gone to fight for his country and risked his life and he just gets a kick in the teeth."

However, in the letter dated March 2009, a spokesman for the debt management team said the money can be reclaimed according to Government accounting regulations.

He said: "Good faith alone is not sufficient defence.

"Proceedings to recover overpayments can be instituted within six years of discovery of the mistake."

http://www.thisischeshire.co.uk/news/8619987._I_fought_for_my_country_now_the_Army_wants_its_money_back_/

sidebar:

Germany May Scrap Military Intelligence, Handelsblatt Reports

November 01, 2010

By Patrick Donahue

Nov. 1 (Bloomberg) -- German lawmakers are considering scrapping the country's military-intelligence service as part of defense budget cuts, Handelsblatt said, citing a parliamentary proposal.

Combining the intelligence organization, known as MAD, with another espionage service could save the government 70 million euros, the newspaper cited the proposal as saying. MAD, which employs 1,300 people, could be merged with the larger BND foreign-intelligence service or the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, Germany's counterintelligence, it said.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-11-01/germany-may-scrap-military-intelligence-handelsblatt-reports.html>

from the archives

file under: uninvited guest:

Chinese sub pops up in middle of U.S. Navy exercise, leaving military chiefs red-faced

By Matthew Hickley

10 November 2007

American military chiefs have been left dumbstruck by an undetected Chinese submarine popping up at

the heart of a recent Pacific exercise and close to the vast U.S.S. Kitty Hawk - a 1,000ft supercarrier with 4,500 personnel on board.

By the time it surfaced the 160ft Song Class diesel-electric attack submarine is understood to have sailed within viable range for launching torpedoes or missiles at the carrier.

According to senior Nato officials the incident caused consternation in the U.S. Navy.

The Americans had no idea China's fast-growing submarine fleet had reached such a level of sophistication, or that it posed such a threat.

One Nato figure said the effect was "as big a shock as the Russians launching Sputnik" - a reference to the Soviet Union's first orbiting satellite in 1957 which marked the start of the space age.

The incident, which took place in the ocean between southern Japan and Taiwan, is a major embarrassment for the Pentagon.

The lone Chinese vessel slipped past at least a dozen other American warships which were supposed to protect the carrier from hostile aircraft or submarines.

And the rest of the costly defensive screen, which usually includes at least two U.S. submarines, was also apparently unable to detect it.

According to the Nato source, the encounter has forced a serious re-think of American and Nato naval strategy as commanders reconsider the level of threat from potentially hostile Chinese submarines.

It also led to tense diplomatic exchanges, with shaken American diplomats demanding to know why the submarine was "shadowing" the U.S. fleet while Beijing pleaded ignorance and dismissed the affair as coincidence.

Analysts believe Beijing was sending a message to America and the West demonstrating its rapidly-growing military capability to threaten foreign powers which try to interfere in its "backyard".

The People's Liberation Army Navy's submarine fleet includes at least two nuclear-missile launching vessels.

Its 13 Song Class submarines are extremely quiet and difficult to detect when running on electric motors.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-492804/The-uninvited-guest-Chinese-sub-pops-middle-U-S-Navy-exercise-leaving-military-chiefs-red-faced.html#ixzz14vxJo8vS>

epitaph, for this edition of "Truth in Recruiting."

“I remember distinctly seeing the bombs explode in the town, flaring like matches struck in the fog. I was

completely unaware of the human chaos below.”

~Howard Zinn, d.2010.

Taken from his last book, finished one month before his death, entitled, *The Bomb*. Once again he was wrestling with his experience as a B-17 bombardier during World War II, especially his last mission in 1945 on a raid to take out German garrisons in the French town of Royan. For the first time the Eighth Air Force used napalm, which burst into liquid fire on the ground, killing hundreds of civilians. Twenty years later he returned to Royan to study the effects of the raid and concluded there had been no military necessity for the bombing; everyone knew the war was almost over (it ended three weeks later) and this attack did nothing to affect the outcome. His grief over having been a cog in a deadly machine confirmed his belief in small acts of rebellion.

<http://www.truth-out.org/bill-moyers-money-fights-hard-and-it-fights-dirty64766>

related upcoming event, in Tulsa:

Tulsa Peace Fellowship

**The next monthly anti-war demo in Tulsa is scheduled for
Saturday Dec 4th, 2010, 12noon to 2pm, with the theme:**

"U.S. Out of Afghanistan Now!"

corner of 41st & Yale (since 2002, ongoing)

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

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

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.

TPF needs your support.

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

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

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

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

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

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



who we are:

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

"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>

Also still going strong: our announcement list on yahoo! tulsapeace@yahoogroups.com (since 2002). Go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/> and search for "tulsapeace"

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Fellowship will be held **on Thursday, December 16th 2010, 6:15 PM – 7:30 PM @ the UU Church of the Restoration, in Tulsa, just north of downtown**

--including members from other local non-partisan groups such as the Tulsa chapter of "Season for Non-Violence," the Tulsa University chapter of Amnesty International, ImpeachOK1.org, TulsaTruth.org, the Center for Racial Justice in Tulsa, the Tulsa Interfaith Alliance, Pax Christi, and the Quakers

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

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

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

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

TPF messages have been archived online since 2002

TPF was founded some 30 years ago.

Current membership online: 692 subscribers

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further information

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

THE 10 REASONS NOT to 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>