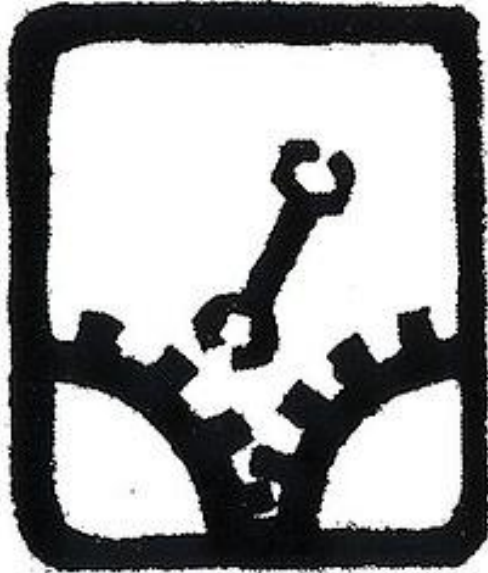


Military Resistance 1319



Military Initiatives Open Meeting

Tuesday,
October 6, 2015,
7pm

Military Initiatives Organizing Committee

“After 13 Years Of War, Troops Feel Burned Out, Lacking A Sense Of Mission” [Army Times]

Those who understand the necessity for revolutionary change to rid ourselves of the class of capitalists who afflict us every day would do well to consider what action to organize, now, to reach those who serve in the armed forces.

They are necessary allies in the class war for human liberation.

That is a “Sense Of Mission” we and our troops together can proudly take hold of.

Panel speakers for the Military Initiatives Organizing Committee

Alan Stolzer: Outreach Coordinator, Military Initiatives Organizing Committee

Claude Copeland: Army Combat Veteran, Iraq; Military Initiatives Organizing Committee and Iraq Veterans Against the War.

Thomas Barton: Publisher, Military Resistance Newsletter

Tuesday,
October 6, 2015,
7pm

Bluestockings Independent Bookstore & Cafe
172 Allen Street
New York, New York
(F train to 2nd Ave.)
212-777-6028

Military Initiatives

Organizing Committee Mission Statement:

July 4, 1776

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

1. Members of the armed forces have the right and duty to defend civilians from dictatorships and to aid civilian movements against dictatorships.

This applies whether dictatorship is imposed by force of arms or is imposed when those in command of the resources of society use their wealth for buying politicians to control the government.

The armed forces are not for use by politicians or corporations to attack movements fighting for improvement in the lives of working class citizens, or to

attack the rights and liberties of Americans written in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution

2. The armed forces are not for use in wars of Empire.

Military Initiative is for immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Members of the armed forces organizing to defeat wars of empire will receive encouragement and support.

The long term objective is to assist in eliminating wars of empire by eliminating all empires.

Nations attacked by Empires have the right to independence and to resist invasion.

3. Efforts to increase democratic rights in every society, organization, movement, and within the armed forces itself will be encouraged and supported.

This applies to the armed forces of every nation. There is no national government at this time organized by, for, and under the control of its citizens.

4. Military Initiative does not advocate individual disobedience to orders or desertion from the armed forces because members of the armed forces working together is most effective.

That said, Military Initiative will assist in the defense of troops who see individual desertion or refusal of orders as the only course of action open to them for reasons of conscience.

5. Military Initiative practices organizational democracy.

This means control of the organization by the membership, through elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels. Anyone elected is subject to recall, by majority vote of the membership.

Any coordinating bodies will report their decisions and votes to the membership, and may be overruled by a majority of the membership.

6. It is unnecessary for Military Initiative to be in complete political agreement with other organizations to work together toward a common objective.

Organizations working together on common objectives need to discuss differences about the best way forward.

7. The mission of Military Initiative is to bring together in one organization members of the armed forces and civilians who are dedicated to these objectives.

In order to be prepared to defend and extend human rights and economic justice, we will meet together to organize wherever we may be, engaging in such activities as may be necessary, reasonable and effective.

Membership Requirements:

8. Civilian member participate in organized action to reach out to and work with active duty armed forces.

9. Military Initiative or individual members may choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Afghanistan and Iraq, but do not support candidates opposed to immediate, unconditional withdrawal.

10. Members may not be active duty or drilling reserve commissioned officers, or employed in any capacity by any police or intelligence agency, local, state, or national.

11. I understand and am in agreement with this mission.

I oppose bigotry against people because of their race, religion, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation.

I pledge to defend my brothers and sisters, and the democratic rights of the citizens of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

-----**(Signed**

(Date)

----- **(Application taken by)**

**Military Initiative: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2576 Broadway,
New York, N.Y. 10025-5657**

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

Therefore, in order for the proletariat’s political strike, once transformed into demonstration by the entire people, to become the starting point for a victorious revolution, a sympathetic attitude must be widespread throughout the army.

-- Leon Trotsky, “Up To The Ninth Of January,” 1905

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to injustices, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

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VIETNAM GI: REPRINTS AVAILABLE

Vietnam GI

January, 1969

Free to Servicemen

"... he threw his rifle at his Commanding Officer.."



WHEN HAWKS RETIRE

All of us who've had our "free" trips to South Vietnam and Korea shouldn't feel guilty about accepting such "gifts" from the Government. Lots of hawk politicians are taking Government trips too. Of course, their trips are a little bit different.

Take Senator Edward V. Long (D-Mo.), the Senate Judiciary Committee highest ranked member in January who was awarded a trip to Paris. The good Senator decided that as a last sacrifice to his country he would give himself TDY to Europe. The crates say to "get forward information on forest and military assistance programs." Doubtless, that's why he took his wife along.

Of special interest was his visit to

As we go to press we learn that the government has finally agreed on the shape of the table and seating arrangements for the Paris talks. How that everyone is seated and comfortable, maybe we can escape further "harrowing throughs."

The great fact is that while the government hawks are living in Paris, thousands of our buddies are still dying in Nam. In fact, since they began talking last May 7,000 GIs have been killed in action.

Talks or no talks, the only solution is to get the hell out of Nam, immediately. Stop talking and start bringing us home.

The next issue of VGI will discuss the Paris talks in greater detail. By that

Switzerland, which neither gets US aid nor wants any. It doesn't really make any difference, since as soon as Senator Long returned from his "harrowing mission" he returned from the Senate, charging our Congress with all his "facts" (mostly on airplanes and nice hotels).

Going to and from Europe Long traveled on Senate funds, but while on TDY there, he economized by using US military aircraft, cars and chauffeurs to get around. The Pentagon ordered the red carpet rolled out around the world. Nothing too good for a retiring hawk politician. As the saying goes, in America we're all equal... only some are more equal than others!

Below is an interview with a Marine who didn't like the war and figured out why. This guy is a Platoon SGT with the years in the Green Machine, and over a year in Nam, mostly in long range recon with Charlie Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, VGI speaks to him while he was on leave visiting his second Nam tour. Since he doesn't ETS until 1973 we've left out his name.

VGI: How did you feel about the war when you went over there. Did your feelings change?

A: When I first went over there, I thought it would be a great thing to go to, and a great new experience of being in war. I really thought it was going to be something different. But then I got put on some of those patrols and I got to see the people and got to talk to the people. This was the big thing that finally changed me. I finally saw that it wasn't worth while, and that they actually don't want our help because it actually isn't help.

VGI: Did you have any contact with the Vietnamese, with the people?

A: There was a place called Ben Son and for a while I was assigned down at the bridge there. This is where I lived, ate, slept, drank, everything. There were houses right next to my bunker, we had an officers' mess and we gave everybody else addresses. We explained to the people what the addresses were and they got all shook up about the whole thing, "well, they got addresses too."

VGI: What was it like, living there?

A: We lived with them, we stayed out there with them. They used to really go for the little treats in the cation packs, the gum and the cation cigarettes and everything, and in fact they'd bring back bananas. There was this one girl, her name was—I can't think of her name now—I had her picture but I lost it. This one girl, she really stands out in my mind because she used to come over and bring us beer every day and in turn, all she expected from us was the empty boxes of cations, that's all she wanted, the empty boxes. But then we started putting little things in the empty boxes and told her we wanted her to have them.

VGI: What would she want to do with the empty boxes?

A: I don't know, the Vietnamese people, they could take an empty box of nothing and make something out of it. She made me a soaplet which she had made out of a cation tin. She had powdered it out with a nail and a hammer. It had a little badtha on it and I wore it all the time. I actually got to feel naked after I lost it.

But yet, later on, during the Tet holidays, the Viet Cong came in and burned out half of the village, and the women naturally went in panic. In order to keep them, the VC took this girl and they cut off her breasts. She was brought up to the hospital and soon she died.

VGI: Did the brass give you any stank about living with the Vietnamese?

A: The accident when I almost got into trouble was, there was a convoy of about 12 to 14 trucks. I think it was we had a whole bunch of plywood on it and we took this plywood over to a village chief in Ben Son. He was one of

the stinks. We dropped off something like 14 sheets of plywood. Naturally, when we got back, there was one truckload of plywood missing, and they asked where it was. They later found out that I had given it to this village chief, not for my own good relations with him, but because there was a house when we didn't get muzzled at our observation point, and they brought us food. So we gave them something else in return.

interview

VGI: What are some of the things you saw and did that led you into doubting in the middle of Nam not to fight anymore?

A: Well, I saw times when COL Bill Fisher, when he would tell his men to dismantle those personal-carrying flame-throwers, take them out on a company deep and put them back together once they got out. He went into a village and told them, "Are there any Viet Cong here?" The village chief naturally said "No" because he knew that if he said yes, he didn't know what'd happen to him. Then COL Fisher said, "Well, if there is any Viet Cong in this village, we'll show you what's going to happen." He got one of his flame throwers up to the house, he didn't check to see if there was anybody in it or not. Later we found out there was a woman in there who was real sick, she couldn't move or anything. She was burned to death. It was terrible. And seeing guys being carried in on ponies. A full-grown man weighed about two pounds after he was brought in as a sack of raw flesh or something like that.

VGI: Did you see any other accidents like this?

A: There was this little village just out of Ben Son where we brought out rice and got our rice. It's not pretty, it's really true. It was just this small village, maybe 16 or 17 houses. It was a "gray to white" village, all and on there'd be Viet Cong waiting the area. No hospitals at all, they'd just go in there to be resupplied. Yet one day, they found out that VC were coming into that village and they called "Pull". "Pull" came over and loaded the whole village down. I think maybe three people lived out of the whole thing. One was a little baby about two years old whose mother and father was gone.

One of the guys out of school this kid, this little two year old. He took this kid real close. When we went to R and R we brought him back toys and trucks and things like that. It was really something because they don't get too many trucks over there. We'd round up a few damn trucks and stuff like that from Hong Kong. They were really surprised to see the new toys. I mean, the toys they play with, old cation cans and stuff like that are their toys. They're a fortunate people. It was just here on opportunity to see them, to get to know them. They're really great.

VGI: How do you think they feel about us?

A: This one incident—I know of the letter one north Vietnamese who was down south wrote to his brother in the north who was intent on coming down

Continued on page 8

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command.

The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

Military Resistance has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.

Free on request to active duty members of the armed forces.

Cost for others: \$15 if picked up in New York City. For mailing inside USA add \$5 for bubble bag and postage. For outside USA, include extra for mailing 2.5 pounds to wherever you are.

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All proceeds are used for projects giving aid and comfort to members of the armed forces organizing to resist today's Imperial wars.

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*This is how Obama brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



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