

Military Resistance 17C1



**Unlike Trump, Troops Don't View
Either Immigration Across Our
Southern Border Or Mexico Itself As
Much Of A National-Security Threat:
“60% Percent Believe Immigration Either
A Small Threat Or No Threat At All”**

February 15 by: Joshua Axelrod, Navy Times [Excerpts]

Unlike President Donald Trump, troops don't seem to view either immigration across our southern border or Mexico itself as much of a national-security threat, the results of a recent Military Times poll suggest.

On Friday, Trump declared a national emergency along the U.S. border with Mexico, in order to secure funding for his long-proposed border wall, which Congress has refused to fund. The \$8 billion border wall will be partially funded by \$3.6 billion meant for military construction.

“We fight wars 6,000 miles away, many we don’t have any business being in, but we don’t fight the wars at our own border,” Trump said during a Rose Garden press conference.

An October Military Times poll of nearly 900 active-duty troops found that 60 percent believed immigration was either a small threat to U.S. national security or no threat at all.

Only 23 percent labeled the issue as a significant or very significant threat.

Likewise, 77 percent of respondents viewed Mexico as a small threat or none whatsoever, and only 9 percent described it as a significant or very significant threat.

Military Initiative: 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:
P.O Box 2604,
N.Y., N.Y. 10108

MORE

“People Need Not Be Helpless Before The Power Of Illegitimate Authority”

[Based on a statement by David Cortright, Vietnam Veteran and armed forces resistance organizer.]

In the final analysis the stationing of American forces abroad serves not the national interest but the class interest of the corporate and political elite.

The maintenance of a massive, interventionist-oriented military establishment is based on the need to protect multinational investment and preserve regimes friendly to American capital.

Imperialism is at the heart of the national-security system and is the force fundamentally responsible for the counterrevolutionary, repressive aims of U.S. policy.

Only if we confront this reality and challenge it throughout society and within the ranks can we restore democratic control of the military.

Of course nothing can be accomplished without citizen involvement and active political struggle.

During the Vietnam era enlisted servicemen created massive pressures for change, despite severe repression, and significantly altered the course of the war and subsequent military policy.

To sustain and strengthen this challenge we must continue to build political opposition to interventionism and support those within the armed services, including national guard and reserves, who defy the goals and program of Empire.

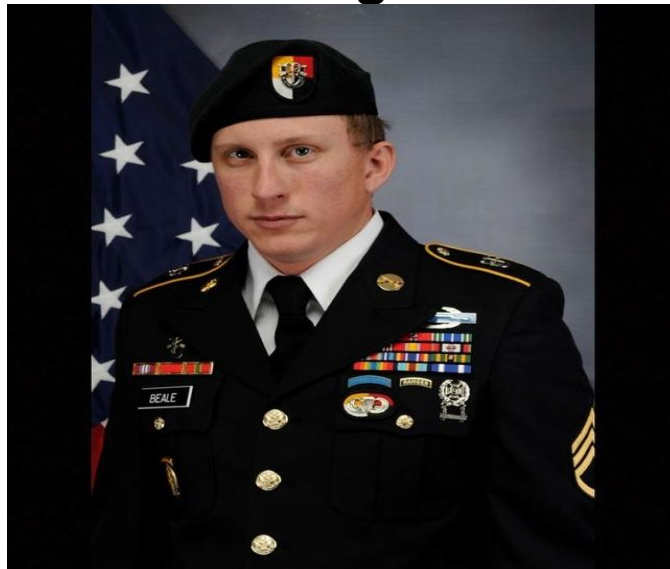
The central lesson of the GI movement is that people need not be helpless before the power of illegitimate authority, that by getting together and acting upon their convictions people can change society and, in effect, make their own history.

Military Initiative

Military Initiative
P.O Box 2604,
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AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Pentagon identifies Army Green Beret killed in Afghanistan



Green Beret Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Beale was killed in action Jan. 22, 2019, in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan. (Army)

January 23 By: Kyle Rempfe, Army Times

The Pentagon on Wednesday released the name of an Army Green Beret who was killed Tuesday during combat operations in central Afghanistan.

Special Forces Sgt. 1st Class Joshua “Zach” Beale, 32, died in Uruzgan Province after succumbing to wounds sustained from small arms fire.

He was assigned to 3rd Special Forces Group, out of Fort Bragg, North Carolina. This was Beale's fourth overseas tour, and his third tour to Afghanistan.

"Joshua was a smart, talented and dedicated member of 3rd SFG (A) and the special operations community," Col. Nathan Prussian, 3rd Group's commander, said in a statement provided to Army Times. "He will be greatly missed by everyone who had the fortunate opportunity to know him."

Beale was a native of Carrollton, Virginia, and had more than seven years of service in the Army. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from Old Dominion University in 2008 and enlisted in 2011.

He attended basic training and airborne school at Fort Benning, Georgia. Beale then graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course in 2013 and was subsequently assigned to 3rd Group.

His awards and decorations include three Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, a Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the NATO Medal, the Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Parachutist Badge and the Combat Infantry Badge.

Beale was posthumously promoted to sergeant first class.

He is survived by his wife and two children.

Beale's death comes less than a week after Sgt. Cameron Meddock, an Army Ranger, died from wounds he suffered while conducting combat operations in Afghanistan's Badghis province.

The Taliban are also currently holding peace talks with an American diplomatic team in Doha, Qatar, in order to reach a political settlement to the conflict in Afghanistan.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WAR**

**Insurgent Team Attacks Regime Base
In Helmand:**

**"The Taliban Used Afghan Military
'Rangers, Humvees, Uniforms And**

Military Equipment' To Fool The Soldiers Guarding The Base”



[Graphic: flickr.com/photos]

March 1, 2019 BY BILL ROGGIO . Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of FDD's Long War Journal [Excerpts]

A Taliban assault team penetrated security at Camp Shorabak in Helmand province and battled Afghan forces for several hours today. While Afghan and Coalition officials both claim the assault was “repelled,” the Taliban clearly entered the base and inflicted casualties on Afghan forces.

The Taliban assault team attacked Camp Shorabak in the early morning hours, according to a statement from the Ministry of Defense and the office for the governor of Helmand.

An Afghan senator said that the Taliban used Afghan military “rangers, Humvees, uniforms and military equipment” to fool the soldiers guarding the base, TOLONews reported.

Afghan officials and the spokesman for Resolute Support claimed that the attack was “repelled,” however reporting indicates otherwise.

Zabihullah (م الله حذب)

@Zabihullah_4

· 18h

Replying to @Zabihullah_4

#AlKhandaq#Breaking: Multiple martyrdom seekers have entered Shorab airbase #Helmand & begun engaging US invaders & their hirelings, heavy clashes continue as tens of enemy killed/wounded.

More details to follow as infor

One of the bombers detonated his explosives inside a dining facility, Pajhwok Afghan News noted.

Officials said that 25 Afghan soldiers and nine Taliban fighters, including three bombers, were killed during the fighting.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadi claimed that 70 US and 100 Afghan soldiers were killed during the assault, and also said it destroyed a large number of helicopters and armored personnel carries.

The Taliban routinely inflates or flat out lies about the number of Coalition and Afghan troops killed during their operations. Butler categorically denied that any US soldiers were killed or wounded.

However, there may be some merit to the Taliban's claim that it destroyed Afghan military hardware.

In a similar assault in 2012 on Camp Bastion, a Coalition base in Helmand which is now known as Camp Shorabak, the Taliban destroyed six US Marine Corps AV-8B Harriers and heavily damaged two more, rendering the squadron combat ineffective.

The Taliban has proven to be adept at penetrating security at military bases and inflicting casualties on Afghan troops.

A similar operation targeted an Afghan National Directorate of Security base in Wardak province last month, killing scores of NDS personnel. Last year was particularly hard on Afghan security forces, who are taking casualties at a very high rate.]

The Taliban trains members of the suicide assault teams used in attacks such as today's in a series of camps it claims are based in Afghanistan. The Taliban routinely touts these camps, which are used to train what it calls its "special forces" or "commando mujahidin."

Afghan Spy Agency Says It Kills "Noman" Says "Noman" Was Taliban Commander of Attack Killing 36 Regime Security Personnel And Wounding 50 Others: [No Report On Fate Of Deputy Commander "Somebody"]

January 23, 2019 By Abdul Qadir Sediqi and Jibran Ahmad, Reuters

KABUL/PESHAWAR, Pakistan (Reuters) - Afghanistan's main spy agency said on Wednesday it had killed the Taliban commander behind a deadly attack on one of its bases this week, and vowed to hunt down and kill all the rest of those involved.

The National Directorate of Security (NDS) said the Taliban commander, identified only as Noman, was killed in an air strike on Tuesday night.

The agency said Noman was the mastermind of a Monday attack on an NDS base in Maidan Wardak province, west of Kabul, in which the NDS said 36 people were killed and 58 wounded.

“Noman, along with seven others, was targeted after being identified by the NDS forces,” the security agency said in a statement.

The insurgent attack in Maidan Wardak was the latest to inflict heavy casualties on government forces and underlined the pressure they face as increasingly confident fighters step up violence, even as diplomatic efforts to end the conflict are underway.

In Monday's attack, the Taliban detonated a captured military Humvee packed with explosives.

Some government officials said the casualty toll was higher than the one given by the NDS.

A senior defense source had told Reuters 126 members of the Afghan security forces were killed. Two senior security officials in the capital, Kabul, said at least 72 men being trained by the NDS were killed with 38 severely wounded.



Afghan security forces inspect the site of a Taliban attack in Maidan Shar, capital of Maidan Wardak province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan. (AP Photo)

The Taliban said their attack killed 190 people.

Mohebulla Sharifzai, spokesman for the provincial governor said the NDS had killed six gunmen in an air strike in the provincial capital, but he was not sure if Taliban commander Noman was among them.

A second provincial official said the NDS, with support from foreign forces, conducted two raids.

“An air strike conducted by foreign forces killed three men and a boy, they were not gunmen but hunters,” said Akhtar Mohammad Taheri, head of Maidan Wardak’s provincial council.

Taheri told Reuters in the second raid, NDS forces hunting militants killed five civilians from the same family.

Taliban officials privy to the talks, which entered an unscheduled third day on Wednesday, said U.S. negotiators, led by special envoy for peace Zalmay Khalilzad, were concerned about deteriorating security and feared that a U.S. withdrawal could lead to “terrorist groups” taking control in Afghanistan.

The two sides exchanged “heated arguments and counter-arguments”, said a senior Taliban official who declined to be identified.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Raid Hotel In Mogadishu “Due To Its Popularity Among Somali Government Officials”

March 2nd, 2019 BY CALEB WEISS, Long War Journal

Yesterday, Shabaab claimed credit for a car bombing and subsequent raid into the popular Maka al Mukamara hotel in Mogadishu due to its popularity among Somali government officials.

The siege, which was ended by Somali soldiers retaking the building, only ended late on Friday.

The assault began when a car bomb detonated outside the hotel’s perimeter on Thursday. Following the blast, an attack team entered the fray shooting at both security guards and civilians. According to Somali officials, at least 30 people were killed in the strike.

Shabaab targeted the hotel due to its popularity among Somali government officials. It also claimed to have killed 10 Somali special forces soldiers during the siege, however, it is unlikely to be true.

The Somali military has reported that all attackers were killed in the hotel. However, Shabaab's military spokesman Abdulaziz Abu Musab, contradicted statements made by Somali military officials. Speaking to Reuters he said, "four of our Mujahideen were martyred, others managed to come back after the operation."

The coordinated strike is a common tactic used by Shabaab on various hard targets within Mogadishu and elsewhere in Somalia. It routinely targets governmental buildings and popular hotels with this method.

Shabaab has been resurgent in Somalia since losing ground to a combined African Union (AU) and Somali offensive in 2011. The jihadist group has slowly but methodically retaken several towns and villages that it lost in both central and southern Somalia – often after AU or Somali forces withdrew. In addition, Shabaab remains a potent threat against both African Union and Somali military bases in central and southern Somalia. It also retains the ability to strike within heavily fortified areas of Mogadishu, as seen time and time again.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

An Arizona Cop Threatened To Arrest A 12-Year-Old Journalist “And Throw Her Into Jail”

**“I Don't Want To Hear About Any Of That
Freedom Of The Press Stuff”**



Hilde Lysiak of the Orange Street News (Photo11: via YouTube)

Feb. 21, 2019 Uriel J. Garcia, Arizona Republic

Hilde Lysiak was out on a reporting assignment near the Arizona-Mexico border when she was threatened by a law-enforcement officer.

The marshal for the town of Patagonia said he could have her arrested and throw her into jail.

While confrontations between reporters and law enforcement may not be unusual, Hilde herself is. She's 12, and the youngest member of the national Society of Professional Journalists.

Hilde is a reporter and publisher of Orange Street News, a Pennsylvania-based news website. She has received national attention for her reporting.

Instead of backing down from the threats, she confronted Marshal Joseph Patterson. Hilde, who was on her bicycle, recorded a video of the exchange and uploaded it to YouTube.

Now, after the minute-and-fifty-second video has gotten national attention on Twitter, Patterson has been disciplined for threatening to arrest Hilde and falsely telling the girl that it was illegal to record and spread the video online.

What was not captured on video, Hilde wrote about in a news article published on her website. She wrote that Patterson stopped her and asked for her identification, and she identified herself by name and as a reporter.

"I don't want to hear about any of that freedom of the press stuff," Patterson reportedly told her.

Hilde later went up to Patterson with her camera recording, and asked him to confirm that he threatened to arrest her and explain why. Patterson did so.

"You stopped me earlier and you said that I can be thrown in juvie. What exactly am I doing that's illegal?" Hilde asked Patterson.

Before Patterson explains, he tells her she can't use his image on the internet.

"You can tape me, OK. But what I'm going to tell you is if you put my face on the internet, it's against the law in Arizona, OK?" he says. "So I'm not giving you permission to use my picture or my face on the internet. Do you understand all that?"

He went on to tell her that he was worried about her safety and had told her not to follow the marshals because they were going into an area where people have seen mountain lions. From Patterson's perspective, Hilde had ignored a lawful order, the video shows.

Hilde wasn't satisfied.

“Yeah, how is that illegal?” Hilde asked. “I understand that you're concerned about the safety, but what exactly am I doing?”

Patterson insisted she disobeyed and also lied about where she was going. He told her she originally said she was going to her friend's house when he first stopped her, and instead she followed him, the video shows.

“You can lie to your mother, you can lie to your father, you can lie to your priest, but you can't lie to a law-enforcement officer,” Patterson told her.

Lysiak tried to explain something to him, but he cut her off. He told her he was going to get in touch with her parents before he took off in his truck.

On the town's website, officials posted a message, saying that Patterson has been disciplined. It doesn't provide any details of how.

“The town of Patagonia has received many comments concerning Marshall Patterson's interaction with a young reporter from the Orange Street News,” it says. “The matter has been carefully reviewed and we have taken action we believe to be appropriate for the situation. We do not publicly disclose personnel actions including discipline and we will have no further comment on this matter.”

A phone number for Patterson couldn't be found.

While Hilde's parents declined to comment, Hilde commented on Patterson's discipline via Twitter, saying she was “glad the town has 'taken action.'”

The video has been viewed nearly 10,000 times on Orange Street News' YouTube account as of Thursday.

On Twitter, users applauded the girl for not backing down and asked that people sign up for a \$14.99 subscription to her newspaper to support her. The paper has subscribers across the world, the website says.

In 2016, Hilde became a media sensation. At the time, she was 9, and had broke the news about a homicide in her neighborhood in Selingsgrove. The headline on that April 2, 2016, story: **EXCLUSIVE: MURDER ON NINTH STREET!**

The article attracted critical comments form social-media users, questioning if it was appropriate for a 9-year-old girl reporting on a crime scene.

But, like the most recent episode, she didn't back down. She responded to her critics with a three-minute video in which she is wearing a button on her shirt that says, “ I ♥ free speech.” She reads out some of the harsh comments from social-media users and responded to them.

“I know some of you just want me to sit down and be quiet because I'm 9,” she said. “If you want me to stop covering news, then you get off your computers and do something about the news. There, is that cute enough for you?”

Cops Say It Was A Cellphone; But The Driver Proves It Was A Hash Brown: “There Was No Cellphone Use And We Have Cellphone Records To Establish That Fact”

February 23, 2019 ABC 13

NORWALK, Connecticut -- A Connecticut man is fighting a ticket for distracted driving after he says the police officer confused his hash brown patty for a cellphone.

Jason Stiber was cited last April after he stopped at McDonald's on his way to work and says he was eating a hash brown that was mistaken by police for a cellphone.

In court on Friday, Cpl. Shawn Wong Won testified he saw Stiber holding a black cellphone with the screen illuminated and his mouth was moving.

But Stiber said he was eating and holding the hash brown by its white wrapping.

“I don't blame the cop for misinterpreting what he thought he saw, but the fact of the matter is there was no cellphone use and we have cellphone records to establish that fact,” defense attorney John Thygerson said.

So far, Stiber has spent around \$1,000 in legal fees fighting a ticket that carries a \$300 fine.

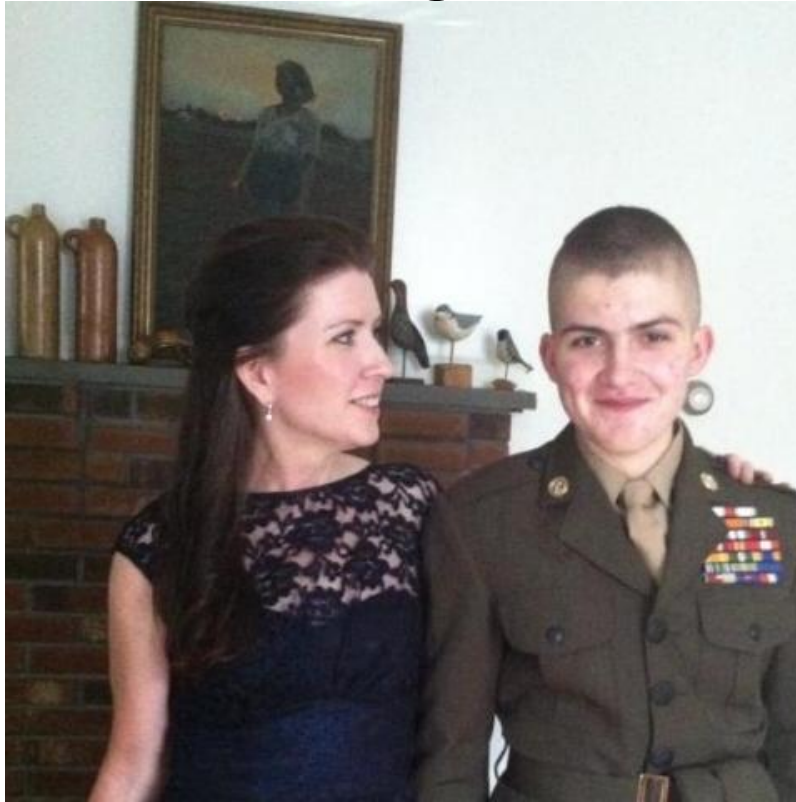
“I have had a boatload of clients who have decided to fight the hard fight because they feel a right, rather than take the path of least resistance and just pay the small fine,” Thygerson said.

In the end, no decision has been reached. The judge will now hash things out and dial up a verdict on or before April 5.

MILITARY NEWS

Marine Killed By Vicious Cruelty And Stupidity Of Commanding Officers:

He Is Refused Medical Treatment For Flesh Eating Bacteria



Lynda Kiernan with her son, W. Becket Kiernan, while he was in the Young Marines before he entered the U.S. Marines. Newsweek; COURTESY OF LYNDA KIERNAN

2/27/19 BY JAMES LAPORTA, Newsweek

The young Marine's mother rehearses the medical timeline in her mind, over and over.

"He dies every day...I'm just replaying the build-up," Lynda Kiernan, 50, told Newsweek in January. "I know exactly what happened each day, building up to February 5th, so I know what Beck was going through today, and I know what he will be going through tomorrow."

"I know how he was suffering, I know how god-awful sick he was, and how alone he was, and I know how he was still pushing and what February 1st means and what February 2nd means and 4th...and it's really hard."

One year ago this month, on February 5, 2018, Private First Class W. Becket Kiernan, a newly minted U.S. Marine training to become a field radio operator, died at Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs, California, an hour and 10-minute drive south of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms.

A Newsweek investigation over the past seven months examined detailed medical notes, obtained official Defense Department memos and letters, and interviewed both

current and former U.S. military sources stationed at the Marine base at Twentynine Palms to reconstruct the last days and hours of Becket Kiernan's life. Newsweek attempted to contact those mentioned by name in this story.

“Institutional Failures Within The Marine Corps And U.S. Navy Medicine”

And while this Marine died from a hard-to-diagnose flesh-eating bacteria disease, his story reveals institutional failures within the Marine Corps and U.S. Navy medicine, and his mother's determination not to let his death be in vain.

The reporting underscores medical privacy violations; medical facilities that are understaffed to handle the volume of U.S. service members; and a botched process of how the U.S. military informs parents about the death of a child.

W. Becket Kiernan was born and bred to be a U.S. Marine. But beyond immaculate uniforms and military bearing, the calling went deeper for him—it was one of honor and obligation to serve..

At the age of 10, Becket joined the Young Marines, a nonprofit organization founded in 1959 to promote character building and leadership for boys and girls, and reached the highest rank attainable in the organization, Young Marines Sergeant Major.

At Christmas, he would organize the Young Marines' Toys for Tots program, delivering gifts to disadvantaged children.

Becket enlisted in the Marines and shipped out for Parris Island, South Carolina, on September 5, 2017. He graduated from boot camp in November and would then undergo a condensed version of basic infantry training in North Carolina.

After graduating on January 23, 2018, Becket flew cross-country to report to the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School in California, the largest training school in the corps, located at

But just days after Becket reported for duty, he became ill and said his right hip and leg were excruciatingly painful.

Around January 30, he walked to the Adult Medical Care Clinic (AMCC), which provides primary care to active duty service members, but he was turned away.

A review of Becket's medical file shows no record of him seeking treatment at AMCC.

Becket told his mother he was turned away because Navy medical professionals believed he was malingering.

Both Marines and Navy corpsmen interviewed for this story said some service members try to embellish their symptoms to avoid physical or field training, and sometimes Marines are sent away without being medically screened during sick call visits because of those cases.

Marine leaders sometimes discourage service members from seeking medical treatment, encouraging a “suck it up” mentality.

In the Marine Corps, company-size ranges between 150 to 200 individuals, but for Company B, Becket’s unit at the Communications-Electronics School, roughly 1,500 were assigned.

“Inadequate Or Nonexistent Medical Care

Former First Sergeant Frank Becker, the senior enlisted adviser for Becket’s company who worked at the school from September 2016 till his retirement, said they had a list of issues with the inadequate or nonexistent medical care their Marines received, and because of the abundance of students—neither AMCC or Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital was equipped to provide quality care.

“We expect medical to take care of us, and 1,500 Marines is a lot,” Becker told Newsweek by phone. “(Becket) was just one kid that had issues with medical; there were a whole lot of other medical issues that did not get checked (by AMCC or Bush Naval).”

The grievances Becker outlined range from long wait times at Bush Naval Hospital to Marines with medical issues being sent away without being seen by a provider.

Among the most egregious offenses, he alleged, was the divulging of private medical details in public spaces, a violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) and other patient privacy regulations.

“I had Marine instructors go to medical and then Doc would come out and yell, something like, ‘Flores! Genital Warts, where you at?’ You know, announcing their business to everybody, so I told my CO about that crap, and that was one of the things that were brought up,” Becker explained.

For lower ranked Marines, obtaining a medical appointment was sometimes a problem.

Becker said he would have to escort his Marines back to AMCC after they had been sent away to get them an appointment.

A former staff noncommissioned officer told Newsweek that a staff sergeant they knew had a hard time getting care for a foot injury, despite his elevated rank this past January.

Marines needing mental health treatment had to be transported to Naval Medical Center San Diego, which is more than a four-hour drive from Twentynine Palms, said Becker.

“There’s a laundry list of daggone problems (with medical services) that my commanders, my company, my instructors and even myself and CO have seen,” Becker said.

Company B leadership told Lieutenant Colonel Barian A. Woodward, former commander of Communication Training Battalion who is now a fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace,

and Colonel Dom D. Ford, head of the Communications-Electronics School, about their Marines not receiving the medical care they needed.

Three days before February 5, Becket was removed from classroom training by ambulance and taken to Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital at Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital at Twentynine Palms, because his skin was turning blue and he had severe pain in his hip and leg.

Becket was displaying “flu-like symptoms,” with a fever of 101.2.

A flu test came back negative, but he was “tachycardic,” the medical term for having a rapid heart rate.

He was given fluids and Tylenol that “seemed to help him,” according to medical notes. Becket was discharged from the hospital with Motrin, and a flu diagnosis, despite the negative flu test.

He was placed on two days of SIQ, a military acronym for “sick in quarters,” a status used by medical professionals to prescribe bed rest to service members when the medical condition or injury is not severe enough to warrant inpatient care.

Under the rules of SIQ, Becket was confined to his barracks room, and dependent on others for care.

Over the next two days, Becket lay in agony in his room.

Neither the Marines on duty in the barracks nor leadership from his chain of command checked in on him during this time.

The responsibility was left to Becket’s roommates—Kiernan believes the task should have fallen to Marine leaders.

The Marine Corps said Becket’s instructors told his roommates to look after him over the weekend while he was SIQ. Kiernan told Newsweek that the naval hospital told Becket to have his roommates look after him.

In a memorandum obtained by Newsweek issued three months after Becket died, Major O’Shea, at the time a captain, made it company policy that any Marine on SIQ could not go more than three or four hours without a wellness check—a practice seen in other units and training commands around the corps and years before February 2018.

Before February 2 and after, Becket would give his roommates money to purchase Tylenol, Gatorade, and a bit of food from the base exchange because it was too painful for him to walk, and now on SIQ, he was not allowed to leave his room.

One day while on bed rest, Becket had run out of on-hand cash to give to his roommates, and because he was on SIQ, he was not allowed to leave his room. Becket’s roommate said he would pay for the items Becket wanted and would pick up more of the requested items, but when he returned to the barracks, the Marine was empty handed and said, “Sorry buddy, I forgot,” according to Kiernan.

“My Son Spent The Last Two Days Of His Life Alone While He Was Dying In His Barracks Room Without Food Or Even Gatorade Or Tylenol,”

“My son spent the last two days of his life alone while he was dying in his barracks room without food or even Gatorade or Tylenol,” said Kiernan.

On February 4, 2018, three hours before Becket would arrive at Bush Naval Hospital; he called his mother. It was 8:30 a.m. for her in Massachusetts—5:30 a.m. for him in California.

Becket told her about his lack of sleep and the excruciating pain in his right hip and leg as he lay in his barracks room while his roommates blared punk music and Call of Duty.

Becket agreed to go to Bush Naval Hospital on advice from his mother. Kiernan was relieved, believing he would now get the care he needed.

The Marine Corps said Becket’s roommates urged him to go to Bush Naval Hospital, and that he was driven there by the Communications Training Battalion Assistant Officer of the Day and his roommate, but per policy at the time, a Marine was not required to stay with him.

Becket’s heart rate was racing, and his calves were numb when he arrived at Bush Naval Hospital. A rash had developed on his forehead, and he could hear ringing in his ears.

Naval doctors were discussing options with orthopedic surgeons on how to treat the young Marine. He wasn’t responding to fluids or Tylenol anymore, and doctors hadn’t a clue as to why he was in such excruciating pain.

“I feel like it’s in my muscles,” said Becket.

Bush Naval Hospital determined that Becket needed an intensive care unit and contacted Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs, an hour and 10-minute drive south of Twentynine Palms.

There were no Marines from Becket’s chain of command at Bush Naval Hospital or when he was transferred to Desert Regional. He was alone.

Captain Joshua Pena, a Marine spokesman, said Becket’s company command first went to Bush Naval Hospital on February 5, 2018, around 7 a.m., thinking he was there but learned he had been transferred to Desert Regional.

A spokesman for Bush Naval Hospital told Newsweek in an email that because of HIPAA and patient privacy regulations, they could not discuss any details about the patient, including what time the hospital had informed Becket’s leaders that he had been transferred to Desert Regional Medical Center, or if he had been transferred at all.

Colonel Ford, the commanding officer at Becket’s school, said the battalion executive officer and the assistant officer of the day was aware that Becket had been transferred to

Desert Regional and was receiving updates; however, he did not know why Becket's company leadership had not been informed.

Later that evening, just as the day ticked over to February 5, Kiernan received two phone calls from Desert Regional. She was told about Becket's severe infection and was advised to book a flight immediately. Kiernan headed for Logan International Airport in Boston. It was 5:30 a.m. on February 5, 2018, when her plane took off.

Becket was rushed into the operating room for a fasciotomy, a surgical procedure in which the outer layer of skin is cut to relieve tension in a specific area of tissue. Surgeons discovered Becket had necrotizing fasciitis, a rare, dangerous flesh-eating bacterial infection that destroys tissue beneath the surface of the outer skin.

Kiernan's plane landed at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago for a layover. It's 10 a.m. for her, 8 a.m. for Becket.

Rushing off the plane, she called Desert Regional and pleaded for information. Someone finally told her the diagnosis.

Kiernan recalled the doctor's words: "Anyone who loves this boy needs to be here right now."

"I was panicked, begging them to tell Becket that I was coming, but I still had to take another four-hour flight."

Over the next two-hours, Becket's condition became unstable as his blood pressure dropped—he died. It was 10:30 a.m.

First Sergeant Becker was in the middle of driving to Desert Regional to check on Becket when he received the news that he had coded shortly after 10:30 a.m. The Marine Corps said he was traveling to the airport.

On the four-hour flight from Chicago to California, Kiernan was unaware of the news to come.

The aircraft touched down at Palm Springs International Airport. Kiernan received a text message from O'Shea: "Ma'am, we're here."

It's 12:30 p.m. and two hours too late.

O'Shea, Becker and a Navy chaplain led Kiernan into a storage room at the airport and broke the news. Not one of the three men was wearing a uniform—a breach of Defense Department regulations and tradition, which treats a casualty notification as a solemn event.

The Marine Corps told Newsweek via email that when command representatives departed Twentynine Palms to meet up with Kiernan at the airport, they were dressed in appropriate civilian attire to escort her in public because the uniform of the day—the woodland camouflage uniform—was not authorized for wear off the base.

However, base policies and Marine Corps orders reviewed by Newsweek indicate Marines were authorized to wear either the bravo or charlie service uniforms off-base.

Once Becket had died, the men obtained a copy of Marine Corps Order 3040.4, the regulations that outline the casualty assistance program, “to ensure adherence to Marine Corps Policy for notification of next of kin,” according to the Marines.

Under the order, “Personal notification will be conducted in the Service Alpha uniform. If extenuating circumstances require the wear of the Dress Blue uniform, permission must be requested through the MFPC [casualty section at Headquarters, Marine Corps] prior to the execution of the notification. The uniform for commander-requested very seriously ill or injured (VSI) condolence calls or assistance visits is the Service Charlie or Bravo uniform.”

“It shows a lack of respect and a lack of adherence to Marine Corps values,” said Kiernan.

“The Detail Most Prevalent In Kiernan’s Mind Was That Becket Had Been Alone”

Colonel Ford told Newsweek that Becket’s leaders did not expect him to die so suddenly and they believed if they had gone and changed into their uniforms, they would have missed Kiernan’s arrival at the airport. Ford added that it was now policy to wear a service uniform off base when in doubt.

Kiernan’s next memory was at Desert Regional. She’s in a big room with Becket’s medical team.

Kiernan was in hysterics, rambling on about the days and hours that led up to his death.

The detail most prevalent in Kiernan’s mind was that Becket had been alone. The command representatives en route to the hospital to be by Becket’s bedside were blocked from seeing him once they arrived because he had already died, said Kiernan. The Marine Corps said Becket died while they were there.

Doctors said Kiernan could go in and see Becket. She sat with her son for about two hours, crying too hard to speak.

She remembered his eyelashes being long and his hair being soft like when he was a baby. The hospital had cut the tubes that had attempted to save his life and changed the sheets, tucking him in with clean blankets, “They tried to make him look as nice as possible,” Kiernan said.

The fluids that had been pumped into Becket’s body made his neck and face appear swollen Kiernan remembered, but at this moment, Becket was a baby again as she stroked his face and hair.

On February 4, 2019, a day before the first anniversary of Becket’s death, Kiernan received a text from one of Becket’s doctors at Desert Regional. The doctor said the

medical team all talk about and remember Becket. They knew within minutes how polite, kind and smart he was and they loved him.

Major O'Shea also texted Kiernan and said the whole schoolhouse was thinking about Becket, his sisters and her. O'Shea said they had dedicated a mass in honor of him and that he would be mentioning Becket at company formation.

Three months after Becket's death, O'Shea instituted a new medical care policy for Company B. The document obtained by Newsweek outlined procedures for Marines on SIQ or needing treatment and transportation to AMCC, Bush Naval Hospital or any facility off base.

In anticipation of Newsweek's publication, all staff noncommissioned officers and officers assigned to the Communications-Electronics School were ordered to undergo Casualty Assistance Calls Officer training.

Three months after Becket's death, Kiernan wrote multiple letters to senior Pentagon leaders and her state representatives. She wrote to then-Defense Secretary James Mattis and General Robert Neller, the commandant of the Marines Corps.

She talked about Becket and his lifelong pursuit to become a Marine, and how her "soul is screaming every day from the horror of it all."

Kiernan outlined changes she would like to see made across the Marine Corps and called for an investigation into the "negligent, careless and dismissive medical 'treatment' provided by AMCC and Bush Naval Hospital."

Colonel Ford ordered a command investigation into Becket's death on February 15, 2018, per protocol, and found his death fell into the "line of duty" and that there was no misconduct on the part of the Marines. The investigation did not look into medical malpractice.

Mattis ordered the Marine's inspector general to look into Kiernan's allegations. In July 2018, Carl Shelton Jr., the deputy inspector general of the Marine Corps, wrote to Kiernan and said her inquiry had been forwarded to the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED).

"They are currently gathering information necessary to provide you a substance response to address your inquiry," Shelton wrote.

Lieutenant Colonel Woodward and Kiernan's casualty assistance officer attempted to get her updates on the medical investigation, but they were blocked.

By August 2018, Kiernan would learn that she would not receive answers as to what BUMED's investigation found. Major General David A. Ottignon wrote Kiernan and said a law protects the medical quality assurance records from being released and participants in the investigation are granted immunity.

What Ottignon did say was that BUMED's review was extensive and evaluated all medical care provided to Becket and examined the role of health care providers, facilities and support systems. BUMED identified steps that should be taken to improve its health

care services, and that they were evaluating to see if improvements needed to be made across the Navy and Marines Corps.

But Kiernan is determined not to let her son's death be in vain; she wants future Navy corpsman to learn the lessons of his tragic story, and so she was able to get a letter to Vice Admiral C. Forrest Faison III, the surgeon general and chief of Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

Kiernan asked for help at getting answers from the BUMED investigation, but she also talked about wanting Becket's story to be incorporated into the training curriculum at the Navy's hospital corpsman 'A' school at the Medical Education and Training Campus, located at Joint Base San Antonio, Fort Sam Houston in Texas.

In October 2018, Faison indicated that there was an opportunity to honor the memory of Becket by using his tragic death to teach future hospital corpsman.

A day before the Marine corpman's birthday in November, Kiernan was able to get a letter to General Neller. She again asked for help in finding out the results of the BUMED investigation.

A month later, Ottignon sent another letter expressing his condolences for the loss of Becket and the barriers of federal law.

Spouses Have More Problems, Less Support During Deployments, Survey Finds:

“When It Comes To Deployments, These Spouses Are The Canaries In The Coal Mine”

2.22.19 By: Karen Jowers, Military Times

Some disturbing trends related to deployments have emerged from the most recent survey of military spouses, according to military family advocates.

Just 19 percent of spouses indicated they had excellent or very good military support during their service member's most recent deployment, lower than what spouses reported in 2015. The incidence of problems that spouses experienced during that most recent deployment were significantly higher in 2017 than in 2015, and 23 percent indicated difficult readjustments to their service member's return from deployment, also higher than 2015.

“What that tells me is that something’s going on in a bad way with the level of support offered families during deployments,” said Joyce Raezer, executive director of the National Military Family Association.

“When it comes to deployments, these spouses are the canaries in the coal mine,” she said. “We need to put deployment support back in the vocabulary.”

Navy Command Hiding Damning Internal Report On Fitzgerald Collision That Killed 7 Sailors: “Brutal Operational Tempo, Officers Who Didn’t Trust Each Other, Radars That Didn’t Work And Sailors Who Didn’t Know How To Operate Them; “Sailors Plagued By Low Morale”



USS Fitzgerald: The Yomiuri Shimbun Photo

February 15 By: Geoff Ziezulewicz, Navy Times [excerpts]

SAN DIEGO – The Navy’s top officer Friday defended the decision to keep from the public eye a damning internal report on the 2017 warship Fitzgerald collision that killed seven sailors.

Speaking to reporters after his appearance at the U.S. Naval Institute’s West 2019 conference here, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson said much of the report overlapped with what the service publicly released.

But much of the probe overseen by Rear Adm. Brian Fort portrayed a far grimmer picture of what the crew of the guided-missile destroyer faced. It also prompted hard questions about the actions taken by the Fitz’s squadron and Navy officials back in the United States.

First revealed by Navy Times, the Fort report chronicled details that Richardson, other Navy leaders and their public reports never mentioned, such as specifics about the destroyer’s brutal operational tempo, officers who didn’t trust each other, radars that didn’t work and sailors who didn’t know how to operate them.

The investigators also portrayed the warship’s chiefs mess as ineffective and their sailors plagued by low morale in the months leading up to the June 17, 2017, collision.

Reporting by ProPublica this month offered further insight into the Fitzgerald tragedy, renewing debate about the decisions made in the highest ranks of the Navy, including those by Richardson both before and after the collision.

Richardson stood by his decision to keep details from the public, insisting that the Fort report’s status as a dual-purpose investigation meant it was “locked up in other litigation.”

“Unsafe And Sometimes Scandalous Conditions Of Base Housing Units, Which Have Sparked Waves Of Complaints From Military Families, Can Largely Be Blamed On Leadership Failures”

28 Feb 2019 By Tom Philpott, Military.com [Excerpts]

Three-star personnel chiefs and senior non-commissioned officers of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps testified Wednesday that unsafe and sometimes scandalous conditions of base housing units, which have sparked waves of complaints from military families, can largely be blamed on leadership failures.

Commands across the military had not been attentive enough to the performance of housing contractors who, under a 1997 Military Housing Privatization Initiative, became responsible for construction of new housing and refurbishing legacy units on base.

Under long-term contracts, companies profit from maintaining, managing and renting to military tenants, who in turn forfeit their monthly Basic Allowance for Housing and sometimes even pay a little more.

Increasingly dissatisfied military families say maintenance problems and health hazards from leaky roofs or pipes, dangerous mold, problem-plagued heating or air conditioning systems, high radon readings or infestations of bugs and rodents have gone unaddressed or resulted in only temporary fixes to await new renters.

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

Marxists know that democracy does *not* abolish class oppression.

It only makes the class struggle more direct, wider, more open and pronounced, and that is what we need.

The fuller the freedom of divorce, the clearer will women see that the source of their “domestic slavery” is capitalism, not lack of rights.

The more democratic the system of government, the clearer will the workers see that the root evil is capitalism, not lack of rights.

The fuller national equality (and it is *not* complete without freedom of secession), the clearer will the workers of the oppressed nations see that the cause of their oppression is capitalism, not lack of rights, etc.

-- V. I. Lenin, Collected Works, 4th English Edition; Vol. 23

The development of civilization and of industry in general has ever shown itself so active in the destruction of forests, that everything done by it for their preservation, compared to its destructive effect, appears infinitesimal.

-- Karl Marx; Capital: A Critique Of Political Economy; Volume II; The Process Of The Circulation Of Capital

Uruguay: Central Union Will Strike If US Invades Venezuela



Credito: Lared21

23/02/2019 La Radio del Sur [Translated by Portside]

The press, propaganda and national relations secretary of the PIT-CNT (the main and only Uruguayan trade union center), Gabriel Molina, told Radio Uruguay that “faced with the real possibility that on Saturday, February 23, there will be a direct US military invasion of Venezuela, the workers' center will immediately carry out a strike mobilization.” He stressed that it would be, in effect, “a call for peace.”

On Thursday, February 21, the Representative Board of the trade union center met to analyze the situation in Venezuela. Essentially, the PIT-CNT rejected the “interventionist” policy of the United States and its allies.

The workers' center demanded that the “interventionist” governments end their plans of military aggression, and questioned the “illegally self-proclaimed president in charge of Venezuela, Juan Guaidó.”

At the same time, The workers' center endorsed the “Montevideo Mechanism” (a multinational call for dialogue) as a way out of the “critical” situation in Venezuela. Molina stressed the need for “immediate dialogue. The generation of conditions for direct contact between the actors, is prioritized - the negotiation and presentation of results, and the international enrollment, implementation and materialization of the accords.”

The workers' center expresses that: “military intervention, which has been considered viable by the president of the United States, Donald Trump, by the secretary general of the Organization of American States, Luis Almagro, and by Guaidó, would imply serious consequences for all the peoples of the region, including the Uruguayan.”

Molina warns that this will “present a major offensive to end hard-won rights and apply neoliberal policies that have caused so many miseries.”

The United States has threatened the use of force against Venezuela to force the entry of alleged humanitarian aid. The Venezuelan government says that this aid is a “show”, by means of which it intends to militarily intervene in the country.

The government of President Nicolás Maduro also points out that by international law, the regular channels to process any humanitarian technical assistance are the United Nations (UN).

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Military Resistance Newsletter, P.O Box 2604, N.Y., N.Y. 10108 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

RECEIVED FROM READERS

Trump Era Over: Legalienate's Editors Proclaim Themselves “Rightful Democratic Rulers” Of U.S.

FEBRUARY 23, 2019 by Frank Scott and Michael Smith, Legalienate

Inspired by Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó, who proclaimed himself president of Venezuela a month ago, Legalienate editors Frank Scott and Michael Smith have announced that they are the legitimate leaders of the United States and have begun performing executive functions to “restore democracy” and bring the era of “capitalist usurpation” to an end.

At a press conference in a bus terminal in Richmond, California, the two men took turns swearing each other in, after which they denied that their action constituted a coup d'etat.

“The people are with us,” said Scott. “We represent the majority: Those that refuse to vote, plus those who back candidates opposed to the fake democracy. We are deeply humbled to be the first truly popular government in U.S. history.”

“In spite of unique and massive advantages, the country is in disastrous shape, and has been for some time,” added Smith. “That alone justifies regime change - check with Thomas Jefferson.”

After a brief power struggle, Scott emerged as foreign policy czar and Smith democratic emperor of domestic affairs, although experts warn that further self-proclamations in the near future may alter this state of affairs.

“This is a democracy,” said Smith. “Everything belongs to the head of state.”

“That's us,” observed Scott.

The two men immediately began forming their cabinet, giving appointments to friends and family members with long records of public service undermining capitalism and imperialism.

“My cousin Vinnie punctured both his eardrums to avoid the mass slaughter in Korea,” said Scott. “He has trouble listening to advice, or listening to anything, but at least he knows war is our enemy,” said Scott.

“He'll have peace in a week,” added Smith.

An urgent text message from Kim Jong Un quickly lent credibility to the prediction: "I'll scuttle the nukes for season tickets to the NBA!!!!" Reached for comment, newly appointed ambassador to Pyongyang Dennis Rodman said, "I think that can be arranged."

In order to bring an end to the "pointless wars" Donald Trump promised to terminate but never did, Smith has frozen U.S. government bank accounts around the world. Newly sworn in Defense Secretary Tulsı Gabbard, ordered by Scott to "cut the crap" about Putin, Assad, and other stand-ins for Satan, announced that the Pentagon will be converted to peaceful production, principally hash pipes and male birth control.

"Make love, not war," said Gabbard, who served in Iraq in 2005 and saw the worst of it.

In a spiteful move, Donald Trump has refused to leave the White House, citing his "democratic" election in November 2016 as justification. But those elections are widely regarded as fraudulent.

"Trump got 46% of the vote in an election that had 58% turnout," said Scott, "which means he won less than 27% of the electorate. That's lower than Nicolas Maduro in Venezuela, who got 31.7% of the electorate there."

"And just look at the mass demonstrations against Trump," added Smith. "Overwhelming numbers of women, ethnic minorities, youth, and gay and transgender people openly dispute his right to rule."

"That's why we have to take over," said Scott, who called upon the armed forces to cooperate with the transition to people power, and "do the right thing" with ex-president Trump.

"With that hair of his he actually looks good in an orange jumpsuit," said Smith.

Smith and Scott face accusations that their calls for international "humanitarian aid" to help Americans dying of opioide addiction, poisoned drinking water, and lack of access to medical care, are a Trojan Horse to allow foreign interests to take over the country.

"They're a front for Vladimir Putin," declared Rachel Mad Dog, a popular television talk show host. "Just because we can't give people clean water, medical care, a decent wage, or relief from constant despair, doesn't mean Russian troll farms aren't our biggest problem."

Black Mold Replaces Black Knights As Official Army Mascot

February 19, 2019 By Bull Winkle, Duffle Blog

WEST POINT, N.Y. – The United States Military Academy at West Point announced today that all academy sports teams, previously known as the "Black Knights," are re-

named the “Black Mold” in solidarity with Army families suffering from the deadly spores in military quarters.

The re-naming is a reaction to recent Congressional inquiries into the deteriorating state of living quarters throughout the Department of Defense. Multiple service members and their families report being plagued by persistent black mold as well as mice, rats, and other disease-inducing conditions. The plight of quarters residents invoked outrage in Congress and support from West Point.



“We sympathize with Army personnel and families suffering from black mold, said USMA historian Allison Wright, “and we understand the value of tradition. Believe it or not, we’ve never been certain how that ‘Black Knight’ nickname started, but black mold is actually a deep-rooted Army tradition.”

“Throughout our history, American soldiers have encountered black mold in other places that are equally as comfortable as current Army quarters, like Valley Forge, Andersonville Prison, and World War I trenches just to name a few,” Wright continued.

“And since black mold is a tenacious adversary, it reflects the resiliency of Army personnel. As a deadly substance it sends a badass message to young cadets.”

The re-naming is part of a larger effort. The USMA will begin teaching cadets the rich history of black mold. West Point will also update its etiquette guide so new lieutenants and their spouses know how to tactfully and politely inform Congress about living in slum-like living conditions.

Recognizing the need for updated symbology for the new name, USMA leaders are consulting with the Army Heraldry Institute, the Army Center of Military History, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“We want new imagery that is inspiring, historically accurate, and serves as a bio-hazard warning,” said Wright. USMA is reportedly receiving several symbology suggestions from the Army Chemical Corps.

“This finally gives all the chemical officers out there real jobs beyond battalion unit status reporting and voting officers,” she said.

Possibly echoing the Army move, the DOD is encouraging families to adopt household rodents as pets while Congress develops solutions to the situation.

Reports that “Golden Spores” is replacing “Golden Knights” as the name for the Army parachute demonstration team could not be confirmed.



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