

GI SPECIAL 5L25:



[Thanks to Nanoy S, who sent this in.]

**ORGANIZERS IN
UNIFORM:
GI RESISTANCE AGAINST WAR:
“They Are Told Their Job Is To
Defend Our American Way Of Life, To
Make The World Safe For Freedom
And Democracy. When They Realize
The Real Reasons Are Different, They
Feel Betrayed And Used”**

“The Overall Affect Of The Tactics Used By The GI Resistance Movement Was The Near Collapse Of The Military And The Eventual Pull-Out Of Ground Troops From Vietnam”

From: Shirley Young
To: GI Special
Sent: December 18, 2007
Subject: The GI Resistance movement

By Shirley H. Young, Tulane School of Social Work

I. Introduction

Dissidence and disobedience among soldiers is not new, although during the Vietnam War GI resistance reached a peak that brought the United States military to a breaking point (Cortright, 1975/2005, p.3).

This paper will explain the circumstances present in the military and in civilian society that lead to the level of resistance seen during that time.

The organizing tactics and methods used in the Vietnam War era were very effective, involving thousands of GI's around the world, even without the aid of email and the internet.

The GI resistance movement is still alive now and is growing stronger as veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq speak out against what many see as the injustices and illegal acts of our federal government (Veterans For Peace, 2007)(Iraq Veterans Against the War, 2007).

It is interesting to note that although there was public knowledge of the GI resistance movement during the 1960's, much of the collective memory has been erased on purpose by the media's portrayal of history, framing the anti-Vietnam war movement as "anti-troop" (Beamish, Molotch, & Flacks, 1995), (Zeiger, 2005).

The reframing tactic was used in the last presidential campaign to discredit John Kerry, formerly a spokesperson for the Vietnam Veterans Against the War. Kerry was a decorated war hero and a hero of the peace movement for speaking out against the war in Vietnam, until in 2004 the right wing attempted to discredit Kerry (Dobbs, 2004). We will examine the moral dilemma faced by Vietnam era GI's later on in the paper.

There are many reasons why the level of resistance against the Vietnam War was so great.

One reason was the GI's felt betrayed by the government for the lies about why the United States was involved there.

That led to the ethical dilemma; the GI's were criminals no matter what they did, resist, refuse, or obey illegal orders. It was all wrong.

At the same time in the US, racial tensions were building. During the 1960's the race riots in the streets of major cities brought the attention of American citizens to the struggles of poor people of color. In the military, de facto segregation still existed in the 1960's. Tension between the races was a problem in the military both at home and overseas. Blacks (and other non-white ethnic groups) were disproportionately represented in the infantry in the 1960's, but some were so radical and militant that by 1970, they were no longer considered reliable in combat (Cortright, 2005, p.40).

ii. Framing The Issues

Lies, Betrayal, Racial Discrimination

Military life is hard. Anyone who has watched a movie about war or military life, or who has heard family stories someone who has served in uniform is familiar with the difficulties young men and women have when they are forced to adjust to life in the military during basic training.

The purpose of the training is to create a unified fighting machine out of the group of individuals who arrive at the training camp. First, civilian clothes are put away and uniforms are issued. Hair is cut military style. We are familiar with the basic training process because we have all seen it many times on television shows, in both documentaries and comedies; we have seen cartoons and articles in the newspapers; etc. Draftees or volunteers, no matter which, are stripped of their identities and are made over to be trained killers.

They are told their job is to defend our American way of life, to make the world safe for freedom and democracy. When they realize the real reasons are different, they feel betrayed and used.

Whether in times of war or peace, draftees or volunteers have to make many sacrifices in their personal lives in order to serve their country. Even in peacetime, members of the military are often separated from their families and friends for long periods of time. It is very difficult for young men and women who have never been away from home before joining the military, to be separated from loved ones for many months.

This makes it necessary for the military to frame military life as patriotic and a worthy sacrifice.

Young men and women have to have a good reason to want to go off to war. Uniforms, weapons and vehicles are made attractive to recruits and their peers by romanticizing them through expensive advertising campaigns.

Tactics such as these may assist recruiters in their work, but they also can backfire when the soldier realizes that he has been duped, lied to and betrayed.

Shame, as a result of doing what an individual has been trained to believe is wrong or immoral, is very damaging. Soldiers who had to kill other human beings, sometimes children and women, felt ashamed of what they did and cannot come home and talk about it.

In the early years of the Vietnam era the mainstream frame of military service was highly patriotic, expected, and necessary for the good of all. Grandfathers of Vietnam era soldiers may have been veterans of WWI and their father's war was WWII. At least two generations of men in the family went off to war to fight for their country, to keep us safe for democracy, etc.

It was difficult for the older generation to understand the reasons the younger generation gave for not wanting to fight for the glory of corporations they saw as greedy at the expense of the rest of us.

Men who had received military training in WWII wanted their children to obey orders without question at home, and when they became soldiers.

The draft for the Vietnam War caused the greatest public outrage in this country since the Civil War (Cortright, 2005, pp. 4-5). Every young man in American had to register for the draft when he reached 18 years of age. As a result of the resistance against the draft by millions of young men, there was widespread social upheaval (Cortright, 2005, p. 5). Cortright (2005) reported that in fiscal year 1971, 61,000 men registered as conscientious objectors and in the last three years of the draft there were almost 145,000 successful CO claims (p. 5). In addition to CO claims, millions of young men dodged the draft in various ways. More than 60,000 resisters and draft dodgers went to Canada to seek refuge there.

Blacks had been discriminated against in American society and did not see why they should go half way around the world to kill other people of color.

Indeed, people of other races shared that sentiment and did not see why we needed to be involved in an insurrection in a country that never harmed the US.

Vietnam Veteran Against the War member Greg Payton said he did not understand the term "gook" his sergeant used when talking about the Vietnamese people, and then he realized it meant the same as "nigger" (Zeiger, 2005).

Soldiers must believe that the cause for war is just and that they are doing the right things in order to be willing participants. Many who were in the military during the Vietnam War did not understand why the US was there or why they should die for a lie.

All the above boils down to a moral dilemma; to go to Vietnam and participate in committing acts against the Geneva Convention is to be a war criminal, to resist the draft or to desert is likewise against some law (Barry, 1971).

III. The Organizing Campaign

The Beginnings Of The Movement

In June of 1966, three soldiers publicly refused orders to go to Vietnam, claiming they could not participate in an immoral war (Cortright, 2005, p. 52). In October of 1966, Dr. Howard Levy was court-martialed for refusing to train Green Beret medics because he said, the Special Forces were guilty of committing war crimes in Vietnam and he could not in good conscience continue to contribute to the war (Cortright, 2005, p. 52)(Zeiger, 2005).

By 1967 the peace movement was gaining momentum and leaders of the movement thought that dissent among the troops could become organized into a sustained movement. Organizers recognized that the voice of the GI movement was very important to the cause and must be supported.

Methods

GI coffeehouses were opened by activists and veterans outside of military bases to provide a place for GI's to socialize and talk freely about the war and their grievances against the military (Cortright, 2005, p. 53). The coffeehouses were where protest actions were planned.

Another important organizing tool was the GI newspaper.

Cortright (2005) found 259 examples of GI papers which had been printed in the US, Europe and Japan during the Vietnam War. Thousands of copies of each paper, written and printed by active duty GI's, were distributed to servicemen and women in uniform all over the world including on ships at sea.

Knowing that there were many others in agreement with them, made it easier to speak out and take risks to do so.

The activist GI's were harassed for exercising first amendment rights, which only added fuel to the fire.

GI resistance was born of a combination of various political perspectives related to civil and human rights. In addition to believing that the war was wrong, antiwar GI's demanded First Amendment rights for military personnel, including equal rights for Black GI's, and an end to sexism in American society and the military (Tischler, 1995). The first formal GI organization of the movement was the American Servicemen's Union (ASU), formed in an attempt to organize low-ranking GI's worldwide against the military (Cortright, 2005, p. 56).

Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) was formed in 1967 after six veterans marched at the front of a peace demonstration in New York City (Vietnam Veterans Against the War, 2007). Membership quickly grew to 30,000 members.

There were even active duty GI members of the VVAW serving in Vietnam.

VVAW focused on the needs of veterans returning from the war and set up the first peer counseling groups, called “rap groups” to deal with the symptoms of the “Vietnam syndrome” as they were known before posttraumatic stress disorder was described. Members of the VVAW also worked to expose the poor conditions and neglect of disabled vets at VA hospitals, lobbied for job programs and benefits, fought for amnesty for resisters, and struggled for many years to have the health effects of toxic chemicals recognized by the VA. Agent Orange, was used as a chemical defoliant in the jungles of Vietnam, and later caused illnesses and death in veterans and the people of Vietnam who had been exposed to it. Members of VVAW and other veterans groups have been working with Vietnamese Agent Orange victim’s rights organizations for decades now. Helping each other in the ways mentioned above was a good way to raise consciousness of the GI’s needs, and grow the organization.

Tactics

GI’s began marching in the streets in military towns where the coffeehouses were established, in major cities where other peace activists were, and where there were ports from which military supplies left the country for Vietnam.

Leaflets were distributed on military bases to inform GI’s of protest activities such as mass rallies in Washington, D.C. in 1971.

There was a mass sick-in on May 3 at Ft. Lewis. The plot was foiled by command countermeasures but did demonstrate the defiance and growing militancy of the movement (Cortright, 2005, p. 82).

The largest demonstrations occurred later, on May 15, Armed Forces Day at Ft. Lewis, Ft. Bragg, Ft. Bliss, and Ft. Hood. The demonstrations, attended by hundreds of GI’s, were called “Armed Farces Day.”

Petitions signed by a thousand or more GI’s was a tactic used to protest unfair treatment of prisoners at bases in the US and overseas. A jewelry store in Killeen, outside Ft. Hood, was the target of a GI boycott featured in the movie Sit, No Sir! The store was accused of taking advantage of the homesickness of GI’s who were about to leave for Vietnam, by high pressure sales tactics. After picketing in front of the store for a few days, and the arrest of eight GI’s, business dropped off and the store was forced to close (Cortright, 2005, p. 85)

In Vietnam, many tactics were used by GI’s to resist participation in combat operations.

There were refusals of direct orders, and avoidance techniques such as going out of range of the base and then hiding out for a few hours before returning. Upon occasion, whole squadrons or platoons refused to fight (Cortright, 2005, pp. 37-38).

Worse than mutinies, fraggings of officers reported in military records occurred over three hundred times from 1969 when records of them were first kept, through 1970.

There were 73 deaths and 500 people injured by fragging attacks (Cortright, 2005, p. 43). Cortright (2005) mentioned that the statistics did not include the use of firearms which were more readily available, thus there remains an incomplete picture of the extent of the problem; in fact, he says there may have been thousands of such attacks on commanders (p. 44).

Returning veterans mingled with recruits on bases in the US and spread dissension among them.

In Germany, soldiers protested the war, intolerable living conditions, committed acts of sabotage against buildings and equipment and used a lot of drugs (Cortright, 2005, p. 99). A group of 700 petitioners out of 1200 stationed at Wiesbaden, Germany pledged not to reenlist unless their demands were met. Cortright (2005) reported that several hundred of the group called for a mass strike at the base (p.100).

The overall effect of the tactics used by the GI resistance movement was the near collapse of the military and the eventual pull-out of ground troops from Vietnam.

The war continued for a time by increasing the use of the Air Force and Navy to attack from the air instead.

Tactics used to resist the air war were mutinies and the sabotage of missions by damaging ships and equipment (Cortright, 2005, pp. 121-124).

IV. Analysis Of The Organizing Methods

The social struggles that existed in American society in the 1960's, all seemed to reach a level of intensity that could no longer be tolerated by the masses.

African Americans could no longer tolerate institutionalized racism, and women demanded equal rights and equal pay. The draft seemed to be unfair because there were deferments for men in college and in certain professions leaving the poor more likely to be the ones to go to war. Movements are more likely to occur when broad forces of social change challenge the existing social order and power structure (Noakes & Johnson, 2005). Noakes and Johnson (2005) point out groups with more resources are more likely to mobilize (p.1). In addition, Noakes and Johnson (2005) say that during the struggles of the social movement cycle in the 1960's, participants were strongly linked with their communities (p.4).

Nearly everyone in the country was affected by the social movements in one way or another. The changing roles of women in society, including their increasing presence in the military and in colleges shifted the balance of power between the sexes. It was the oppressed groups that felt the time was ripe for change. They were tired of waiting for equal rights in and out of the military.

Cortright (2005) cites reports of GI protest that show volunteers were more likely to protest the war than were draftees.

One possible reason for that was because the volunteers enlisted and served for a longer period of time. The government attempted to end the problems of draft resistance by ending the system of conscription and instead going to an all volunteer force in 1970. In that year the number of enlistments dropped off precipitously creating a deficit of troops (Cortright, 2005, p. 172).

Strategic framing within the military context did not need to be complex because to some degree all military personnel shared the same experiences of oppression; they were required to serve whether or not they wanted to, and they were all required to obey orders that many considered to be illegal.

African American, American Indian and Latino GI's were more likely than white soldiers and Marines to fight and die in combat. Women in the military were limited to a few support jobs, and were often subject to sexual harassment. The adoption of the "rights frame" tied all these movements together by using some of the successful frames and tactics of the civil rights movement.

The massive resistance movement of GI's helped bring the military to the point of collapse and forced many policy changes.

A major policy change allowed more women to enlist.

By the 1970's, women were legally allowed to hold 75 percent of the occupations in the military (Cortright, 2005, p. 167).

Protest activity in the military was framed as a response to the unfair conditions of military life. Young enlistees and draftees were old enough to go to war but were not allowed to vote. This inequity was the focus of protest activity and the voting age was lowered under President Richard Nixon from 21 to 18 in 1971 (Constitution of the United States of America, amendment xxvi). Even the argument against the war itself was framed as unfair to the GI because of the ethical dilemma mentioned earlier.

A more radical demand of some GI groups was to withdraw from Vietnam in a step towards self determination for all underdeveloped societies and demilitarization in America (Cortright, 2005, p. 153).

Protesting by GI's on and around military installations was very powerful strategically and empowered civilian activists to join the movement against the war.

The GI movement used the personal experience of its members who had access to information and an understanding of everything military. Speakers who are either active duty military or veterans make very credible speakers for the movement and are able to get the attention of the media.

GI's serving in the Vietnam era were able to take direct action to stop the war machine literally, by sabotaging missions and equipment.

As desperation to do something about their situation reached a level of intolerability, the GI's were empowered by doing whatever they could do to change their circumstances.

In addition, alliances formed by the anti-war GI and veteran's movement with the "traditional" peace movement remain strong to the present.

We are empowered by having inside information about what is happening in the military and in a war zone where we cannot go and see for ourselves.

The American public was moved to begin to see the war differently when atrocities were made public and when unforgettable images of war were seen on the television news and in LIFE magazine. The war was framed as inhumane.

The belief that the American soldier is good and does right by his country had to be reframed in the mind of the public to be seen as a defender of the Constitution and one who is right to disobey illegal orders.

Martin Luther King often quoted the Bible and the United States Constitution to frame his message in opposition to the status quo (Noakes & Johnston, 2005, p. 11). It is important that the frame resonates with the people the message is trying to mobilize. If it is too far from the mainstream the frame will not work.

Vietnam veterans grew their hair long and developed a style that was distinctly counter to military culture. Their appearance was a nonverbal declaration of their political views and their rejection of military law.

At the end of the draft, the military was forced to relax its hair rules.

As a military wife I gave many haircuts to airmen who wanted to push the rule to the limits. They grew their hair long on top and asked to have the bottom cut just above the collar. The men did not want to go to a military barber.

African American men could ask for permission to grow beards if they had a letter from a doctor saying that they suffered from ingrown hairs.

The popular frame for the Vietnam vet was an attempt to discredit them in the public mind by emphasizing the social problems they had and denying the causes were related to their war experiences.

They were often dismissed as trouble makers and complainers when thousands of them became sick with mysterious illnesses the GI's claimed were caused by exposure to toxins such as Agent Orange for example.

The popular music of the 1960's and 1970's was an indispensable tool for organizing and for framing the issues in terms that resonated with the target audience. Protest songs were the soundtrack of the era and set the mood for mass mobilizations. In August of 1969, the largest gathering of members of the counterculture, the Woodstock Music Festival, happened in a small farming town in New York State. Half a million people showed up, shook the establishment, and unintentionally shut down the New York State Thruway. The festival featured the biggest and best known stars of the music world singing about the condition of the world in hopes of making changes for the better. It seemed as if anything would be possible if we just would get along together.

V. Lessons Learned and Implications

The success of the GI resistance movement caused the military to abandon the use of the draft, perhaps permanently.

Shortfalls in enlistment are made up now by using civilian contractors in support roles formerly filled by military personnel. The military claims that using contractors to cook and clean costs less than using soldiers to do those jobs, however there is a loss of security on military bases overseas when foreign nationals are employed.

In addition, there are now claims that some of the “contractors” are really victims of human trafficking who were hired under false pretenses and are essentially kept in captivity as they work for very low wages. The volunteer system uses expensive methods to encourage prospective subjects to enlist.

Large enlistment and reenlistment bonuses are offered along with promises to repay student loans and to pay tuition. Unfortunately for the recruit, the military often tries to save money by finding reasons to avoid fulfilling their side of the enlistment contract.

The new generations of antiwar veterans work with Vietnam veterans to counter recruitment tactics by the military through community education actions and events. Much of the focus now is on community education about the illegality of the occupation of Iraq and some of the techniques used against the “insurgents.” The new GI movement is comparing Vietnam and Iraq in the framing of their message.

The way the media are allowed to cover the news has also changed drastically. In the 1960's the war in Vietnam and the protests in the United States were covered in living color on the news each night. Dead bodies and burning villages were seen. The sight screaming children running from a village that had been napalmed by American forces was burned into the public consciousness and shocked many into an antiwar stance.

Such sights will not be seen again in the corporate media in America.

However, with the use of the latest technology, active duty military personnel can send pictures and written information directly from the war zone to allies at home. Pictures on a soldier's laptop helped to break the story about the abuse of prisoners in Abu Ghraib.

The antiwar movement as it is today will have a very hard time convincing the public in the mainstream to stop trying to win the war on terror and make peace with the world. Instead, the issues can be framed in financial terms. As the infrastructure in our own country erodes through neglect, the movement must continue to point out that spending half the federal budget on military expenses is foolish. Furthermore, it would be wise to join forces with non-traditional allies in an effort to reach a larger audience. Now we struggle for existence on the planet as the effects of global warming become unavoidably noticeable and the nuclear threat increases.

For this reason, I suggest that the GI and veteran peace movement reach out to other groups who are working on social justice and human rights issues here and globally.

Here on the Gulf Coast post-Katrina there are many opportunities to connect the lack of money to address environmental issues, rebuilding the wetlands to protect against coastal erosion, rebuilding and revitalizing the cities and their economies, and issues of race, housing and poverty, with the amount of money spent by our government on weapons and war.

There is enough money to fulfill the human rights needs of our citizens if we budget for them.

Our greatest task may be to work on countering the fear tactics used by the right to control their followers. I think we have a lot more to lose by not taking care of our infrastructure and our citizen's well-being than we do by terrorist's attacks.

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DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE?

Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on 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 the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT;
COME HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers with Cobra Company 1-3 Infantry in the neighbourhood of Arab Jabour in southern Baghdad October 18, 2007. REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Kentucky Soldier Recovering From Bomb Attack In Afghanistan

Dec 28, 2007 The Associated Press

WOODBURN, Ky. — A soldier from south-central Kentucky suffered severe burns when the Humvee he was riding in rolled over a bomb in Afghanistan, his father said.

Army Spc. Brian Gorham, 23, of Woodburn suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns on his face, legs, and arms, said his father, Toney Gorham.

He was serving with the 173rd Airborne Brigade based in Vicenza, Italy, his father said. He had been in Afghanistan for six months before the Dec. 13 incident.

The soldier is being treated in an intensive care unit in San Antonio, Texas, his father said.

Brian Gorham recently had his first set of skin grafts on his arms and legs and looks better, but "he's still got a long way to go," Toney Gorham said.

Residents of Woodburn, a close-knit community of just more than 300 people in southern Warren County, were saddened by the news but were keeping a positive outlook.

"Knowing Brian and his mind if he can get it set, he'll come through this and won't think anything about it," said Frances McKinney, a neighbor. "Everybody's been real sad because most everybody knows him because he pretty much grew up here."

"He was doing what he loved. He loved being a soldier," said Stephanie McKinney, 19, who described Brian Gorham as "like a big brother" to her.

Toney Gorham said his son could be in the hospital for a year to treat burns that covered 51 percent of his body. He said his son suffered third-degree burns on his legs, arms and hands. He also suffered burns on his face and head.

Even so, Gorham said the doctors and his son are keeping a positive attitude and that his son is expected to walk out of the hospital.

TROOP NEWS

Ft. Hood: **"So Many Military People, Families, Dependents Are Sick Of This Presidency And The Wars," He Said**

December 22, 2007 By DAVID TARRANT, The Dallas Morning News [Excerpts]

Look anywhere in Killeen, home to the sprawling Fort Hood army base, and there are patriotic signs like the giant banner that greets shoppers entering the local Wal-Mart: "Fort Hood Texas, Home of America's Hammer!"

But beneath the bravado and bluster you find a more volatile mix of emotions – frustration, anxiety and anger – among military families after five years of war in Iraq.

The current Times/Bloomberg poll also found that nearly 70 percent of military households with a veteran of the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan said that troops in Iraq should either come home right away or within the next year.

That's how Maija Rojas feels.

A former Marine with a husband on his second tour in Iraq, Ms. Rojas, 25, says she'll vote for the candidate "who can get them home the fastest."

Multiple rotations and longer tours have caused problems and "a lot more divorces" among military families, said Ms. Rojas, a mother of two preschoolers.

Clint Douglas, a former staff sergeant who fought in Afghanistan, said he identifies as a Democrat and sees an opportunity for the party to pick up disenchanted military voters.

"So many military people, families, dependents are sick of this presidency and the wars," he said.

Perhaps no one knows the predicament facing military families better than Leslae Stewart, who lives in Killeen.

A soldier for eight years before leaving in 2003, Ms. Stewart said her son is getting ready to enlist in the Army and may soon be heading to Iraq.

"I'm tired of this war – enough is enough," she said. But she also supports her son. "It's what he wants to do."

Troops Invited:

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

**Christian Religious Fanatics Helping
Kill U.S. Troops;
Intelligence Officials Told Him "The
Fundamentalist Christian Agenda**

Surfacing In The U.S. Military Could Lead To Greater Attacks Against Our Soldiers”



Soldiers at Fort Jackson Army Base pose with their rifles and Bibles: Truthout

December 28, 2007 Reza Aslan, CNN Contributor [Excerpts]

The e-mail left me speechless. It was a posting from military.com forwarded to me by the good folks at the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (militaryreligiousfreedom.org). There were two photos side by side.

On the left: a photo of a Hamas suicide bomber in the familiar pose of a rifle in one hand and a Quran in the other.

On the right: a photo from Fort Jackson, showing basic trainees at Campus Crusade for Christ’s “God’s Basic Training” Bible studies. The soldiers wielded rifles in one hand and Bibles in the other.

The caption reads, “Notice any similarities?”

The photo of the Fort Jackson Army trainees originally appeared on a Campus Crusade website, along with photos of basic training battalion commander, Lt. Col. David Snodgrass, battalion chaplain, Maj. Scott Bullock-both posing in uniform-and Campus Crusade’s military director, Frank Bussey.

When I asked Mikey Weinstein, the head of the MRFF, about the photos he told me that religious endorsements by military personnel in uniform violate military regulations. But that’s just the tip of the iceberg.

He showed me two Campus Crusade for Christ promotional videos -- one filmed at the U.S. Air Force Academy and another at Texas A&M. In the first one Scott Blom, the

Academy's Campus Crusade director at the time, openly states, "Our purpose for Campus Crusade for Christ at the Air Force Academy is to make Jesus Christ the issue at the Air Force Academy and around the world... (the cadets) are government paid missionaries when they leave here."

The second video, "God and the Military," filmed in 1997, has been re-released for distribution by Campus Crusade. In it, Pastor Tommy Nelson, speaking before an audience of Texas A&M cadets and military officers, opens his presentation with this anecdote:

"I, a number of years ago, was speaking at the University of North Texas - it happens to be my alma mater, up in Denton, Texas - and I was speaking to an ROTC group up there, and when I stepped in I said, 'It's good to be speaking to all you men and women who are in the ministry,' and they all kind of looked at me, and I think they wondered if maybe I had found the wrong room, or if they were in the wrong room, and I assured them that I was speaking to men and women in the ministry, these that were going to be future officers."

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation has been uncovering these kinds of blatant constitutional violations in the military for years.

Weinstein told me that senior Bush administration intelligence officials who track Islamic websites and message boards told him that the fundamentalist Christian agenda surfacing in the U.S. military could lead to greater attacks against our soldiers. (Weinstein would not identify the intelligence officials he spoke with because they contacted him with the understanding they would not be named).

According to Weinstein, "The bottom line here is that the constitutionally mandated wall separating church and state in the technologically most lethal organization ever created by humankind, our U.S. Armed forces, is nothing but smoke and debris.

"This represents nothing short of a monumental internal national security threat to our country."

We should all be asking ourselves whether we want to send soldiers or "government paid missionaries" to Iraq and Afghanistan.

MORE:

Welcome To Ft. Riley

"We Should Invade Their Countries, Kill Their Leaders, And Convert Them To Christianity"

12/21/07 by Josh Harkinson, Mother Jones [Excerpts]

If you are a soldier in Iraq, is it alright to wish people a merry Christmas, or would “happy holidays” be better? Like, whatever dude.

As Ann Coulter says on a poster hanging on the door of the military police office in Fort Riley, Kansas: “We should invade their countries, kill their leaders, and convert them to Christianity.”

It’s Jesus time!

That, at least, appears to be the way the military is heading according to a bevy of findings released by the of Military Religious Freedom Foundation this week, just in time for the holidays.

MRFF founder Mikey Weinstein (see our recent profile) believes the military has been colonized at all levels by evangelical Christians bent on converting it into an army of God. The group’s recent findings certainly support the idea:

At Fort Riley, the post exchange store, run by the base, sells the Politically Incorrect Guide to Islam, which photos show on display right next to The Soldiers Bible.

The Malmstrom Air Force Base, in Montana, houses a store called “Enabled By Christ: A Store for the Christian Man.”

A segment of a 2003 video filmed at the U.S. Air Force Academy by the Campus Crusade for Christ proclaims that the group wants to create “government-paid missionaries.” Several cadets appear in the video in uniform.

A DVD distributed in 2005 by the Campus Crusade for Christ’s Military Ministry features Tommy Nelson, a pastor from Denton, Texas, telling a group of uniformed Texas A&M cadets:

“I, a number of years ago, was speaking at the University of North Texas -- it happens to be my alma mater, up in Denton, Texas -- and I was speaking to an ROTC group up there, and when I stepped in I said, ‘It’s good to be speaking to all you men and women who are in the ministry,’ and they all kind of looked at me, and I think they wondered if maybe I had found the wrong room, or if they were in the wrong room, and I assured them that I was speaking to men and women in the ministry, these that were going to be future officers.”

The first question in the study guide that accompanies the video is: “If you are in the military, then you are also in the m_____.”

Finally, see the recent Mother Jones story on Eric Horner Ministries, which performs mandatory “motivational” concerts for U.S. troops that seem to motivate people to find Christ.

What has been the response to MRFF’s findings?

Weinstein, when I called him just now, told me: “I got a phone call today that said somebody is going to stick a shotgun up my wife’s cunt and blow her clitoris through her head.”

So it goes during the holidays, I guess.

And then it's back to singing jingle bells.

'Heavily Depleted' National Guard Not Available To Guard Nation

December 28, 2007 Washington Times

A majority of states are reporting a significant depletion of their National Guard forces to respond to local man-made and natural disasters, according to a survey by the National Governors Association.

Less than 40 percent said they have at least half their Guard forces on hand.

The gap has prompted nearly every state to initiate mutual aid agreements to share National Guard resources, including equipment and personnel, to deal with emergencies.

Idaho Cops Told To Go Out And "Cause" PTSD

Dec 28, 2007 The Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Idaho law enforcement leaders say they were "mortified" when a group of state police academy graduates chose a slogan that many felt was just too gung-ho.

The slogan, "Don't suffer from PTSD, go out and cause it," was emblazoned on the Dec. 14 graduation programs for 43 officers who completed the Idaho Police Officer Standards and Training Academy's latest course.

Post-traumatic stress disorder typically afflicts people who have endured military combat, civilian violence and other extremely dislocating experiences.

OCCUPATION REPORT

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR;

RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



A foreign occupation soldier from the U.S. guards an Iraqi citizen forced to kneel on the floor of his own house during a night home invasion in the village of Walush in Diyala province, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of Baghdad, Dec. 9, 2007. (AP Photo/Marko Drobnjakovic)

Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

You go room to room, knocking the people down, zip tying them, keeping them restrained, and then once you secure the house you start looking for weapons.

Sometimes we were very diligent and complete in these searches.

Sometimes we would shred up floors, couches and beds. We'd take all the women, children and old men (that was mostly who was in these houses—women, children and old men), we'd take them outside and throw them into the grass and we'd start yelling at them as to where weapons are, where the men are.

Sometimes, all that we needed was a knife or a gun. It could be something as small as a pistol, to justify taking away all the men in the house.

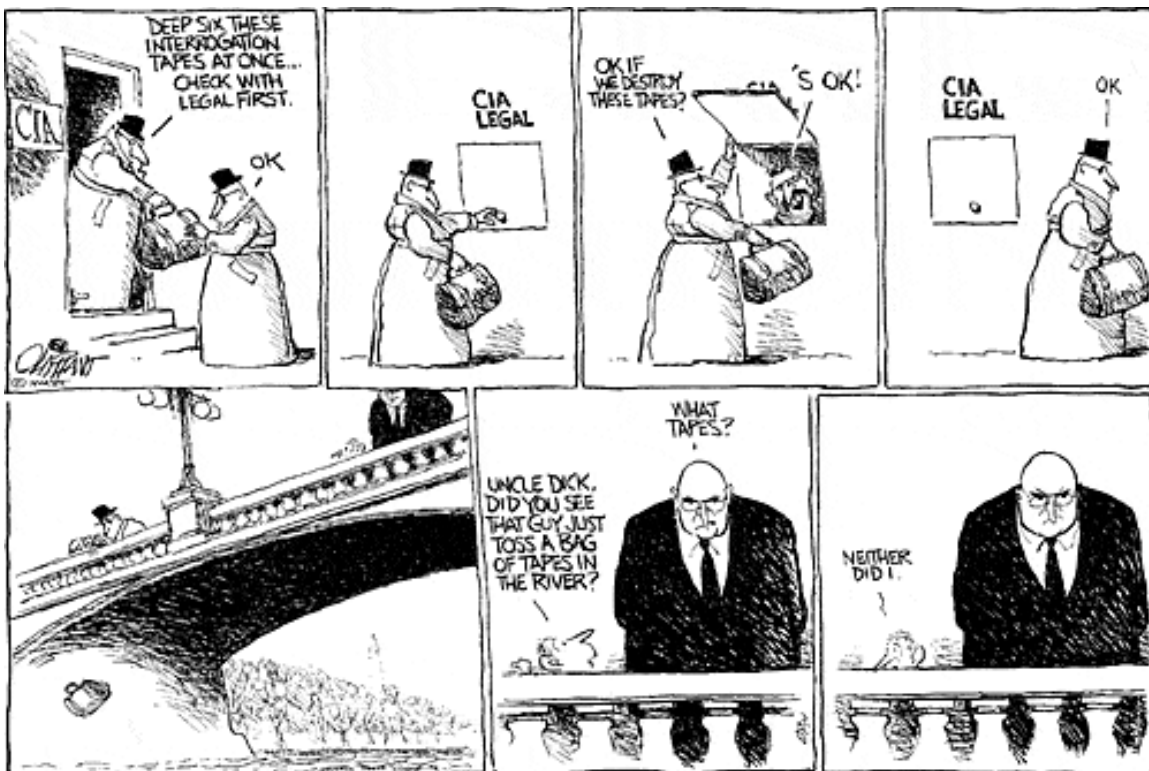
Mark Wilkerson, Iraq Veterans Against The War

“In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit,” said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay’s Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday’s raid. “Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead.”

**OCCUPATION ISN’T LIBERATION
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

**IF YOU DON’T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets

of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)



GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2007/index.html>; <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=6&l=e>; http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;
<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

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