

Military Resistance 8K14



**Killing Them Softly:
“More Soldiers Than Ever Are On
Drugs That Have Been Linked To
Suicide And Violent Behavior”
“Unprecedented Suicide Rates Are
Accompanied By An Unprecedented
Rise In Psychoactive Drug Rate
Among Active Duty-Aged Troops”
“All Of The Drugs Carry A Suicide
Warning Label”**

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

Retired Col. Bart Billings, a former Army psychologist who has also testified before Congress, said, "I feel flat out that psychiatrists are directly responsible for deaths in our military, for some of these suicides," in a March Marine Times article. "I think it's criminal, what they are doing."

October 10, 2010 By Martha Rosenberg, AlterNet [Excerpts]

Martha Rosenberg frequently writes about the impact of the pharmaceutical, food and gun industries on public health. Her work has appeared in the Boston Globe, San Francisco Chronicle, Chicago Tribune and other outlets.

More soldiers than ever are on drugs that have been linked to suicide and violent behavior.

In 2009 there were 160 active duty suicides, 239 suicides within the total Army including the Reserves, 146 active duty deaths from drug overdoses and high risk behavior and 1,713 suicide attempts. In addition to suicide, other out-of-character behavior like domestic violence is known to erupt from the drugs.

More troops are dying by their own hand than in combat, according to an Army report titled "Health Promotion, Risk Reduction, Suicide Prevention."

Not only that, but 36 percent of the suicides were troops who were never deployed.

The unprecedented suicide rates are accompanied by an unprecedented rise in psychoactive drug rate among active duty-aged troops, 18 to 34, which is up 85 percent since 2003, according to the military health plan Tricare.

Since 2001, 73,103 prescriptions for Zoloft have been dispensed, 38,199 for Prozac, 17,830 for Paxil and 12,047 for Cymbalta says Tricare 2009 data, which includes family prescriptions.

All of the drugs carry a suicide warning label.

In addition to the leap in SSRI antidepressants, prescriptions for the anticonvulsants Topamax and Neurontin rose 56 percent in the same group since 2005, says Navy Times -- drugs the FDA warned last year double suicidal thinking in patients.

In fact, 4,994 troops at Fort Bragg are on antidepressants right now, says the Fayetteville Observer. Six-hundred-sixty-four are on an antipsychotics and "many soldiers take more than one type of medication."

Of course, depression itself is a risk factor for suicide, so it is not always possible to tell if the disease or the drug is at fault.

But many believe the dramatic and tandem rises in suicide rates and psychoactive drug rates are correlated. "Intuitively, it just tells you that there's a connection," Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md. told the National Journal this month.

Troops may also be taking Chantix, an antismoking drug so linked to violence and self-harm that Secretary of the VA James Peake was forced to defend its use, even in drug trials, before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs in 2008.

"If you know the drug induces suicidal thoughts," an unappealed Committee chair Bob Filner D-Ca. asked Rep. Filner, "Why don't you just stop?"

Even widely prescribed asthma drugs like Singulair and Advair are linked to suicide, says the FDA, and have been cited in young people's deaths.

And who knows what happens when the drugs are mixed with mood stabilizers, insomnia and pain pills and antianxiety and antipsychotic pills -- combinations that have never been tested for safety?

In June Marine Times reported 32 deaths on prescription drugs in Warrior Transition Units (WTUs) since 2007 and said an internal review "found the biggest risk factor may be putting a soldier on numerous drugs simultaneously, a practice known as polypharmacy."

Links between suicide and even murder-suicide and SSRI and SNRI antidepressants have been long recognized.

Of course, not everyone on SSRIs will be a suicide risk; but the danger is serious enough that the automatic and "knee-jerk" military prescribing of the drugs should be investigated.

Traci Johnson, a healthy 19-year-old with no mental problems, hanged herself during Lilly trials of Cymbalta in the drugmaker's own clinic in 2004.

Red Lake shooter Jeff Weise, who killed 10 on a Minnesota Indian reservation in 2005, had just upped his Prozac. And the Virginia Tech shooter, Cho Seung-Hui, was also on psychoactive medications, according to news reports.

Americans have doubled their antidepressants since 1999 so that 10 percent of the population, or 27 million, now take them. Suicides have climbed by 5 percent since 1999 and 16 percent in middle-aged adults. (The suicide rate actually doubled in Japan since SSRIs were introduced.)

In fact, the high percentage of civilian suicides on psychoactive drugs is probably the clearest indication that military life is not the only cause of the shocking troop suicides: In September alone, there were 18 civilian suicides, 11 murders, two murder suicides and other violence linked to people who were using or had used antidepressants, according to published reports.

A 54-year-old respiratory patient with a breathing tube and an oxygen tank and no previous criminal record held up a bank in Mobile. She had gone off her antidepressants.

An enraged man in Australia, also off his antidepressants, chased his mailman and threatened to cut his throat...for bringing him junk mail.

And a 58-year-old Amarillo man with no criminal history tried to abduct three people, killing an Oklahoma grandmother in the process. He had "an antidepressant in his blood," said police.

Also in the 30-day period, a 60-year-old grandmother in Seattle killed three family members and herself; a disc jockey in Bristol, UK set himself on fire; and an Exeter, UK man was determined to have stabbed himself in the heart. All were on antidepressants.

Finally, in the month of September, legal proceedings began against two mothers and a father charged with killing their own children.

Over 4,000 published reports of violent and bizarre behavior of people affected by antidepressants on the web archive ssristories.com reveal the same out-of-character violence and self harm in civilians that is currently seen in the military.

Twenty people set themselves on fire.

Ten bit their victims (including a biter who was sleepwalking and a woman, on Prozac, who bit her 87-year-old mother into critical condition).

Three men in their 70s and 80s attacked their wives with hammers.

Many stab their victims obsessively — one even stabbed furniture after killing his wife — and 14 parents drowned their children, a crime seldom heard of before the 2001 Andrea Yates case. (Yates drowned her five children while she was taking the antidepressant Effexor, which manufacturer Wyeth (now Pfizer) "issued no public warning" about, says the Associated Press.)

Then there's the North Carolina pilot on Zoloft who sang, "I'm going down for the last time," into the cockpit voice recorder before he crashed his plane in June. And the mayor of Coppell, Texas, Jayne Peters, who killed herself and her daughter in July over the grief of losing her husband.

Police found antidepressants at the home.

Why don't doctors and media outlets publicize the names of these volatile drugs?

It's a good question, said Gary Kohls, a Minnesota family practitioner, in an oped written after Iraq veteran Matthew Magdzas killed his pregnant wife, their 13-month-old daughter, their dogs and himself in Wisconsin in August.

"Nobody in the media has, to my knowledge, had the courage to report what the drugs were, nor have they interviewed the physician or his clinic to find out the rationale for prescribing drugs that have common violence-inducing effects (with black box warnings stating that in the prescribing information)," he writes.

"Therefore nothing has been learned from this important teachable moment, probably because revealing the common reality of prescription drug-induced

violence would be economically harmful for the sacred cows of Big Pharma and Big Medicine."

David Healy, a psychiatrist and professor at Cardiff University School of Medicine in Wales, has authored several books about the connections. "Prozac and other SSRIs can lead to suicide," he said in a lecture at the University of Toronto. "These drugs may have been responsible for one death for every day that Prozac has been on the market in North America."

And psychiatrist and expert witness Dr. Peter Breggin specifically called on the military to "curtail the use of these drugs and rely instead on psychotherapeutic and educational processes that have already proved effective," in a recent oped.

"There is "profound danger of prescribing drugs that cause impulsivity, hostility and suicidality to heavily armed young men and women under stress on active military duty." He also called for "additional research in the military and the VA concerning suicide and violence caused by antidepressants."

And Retired Col. Bart Billings, a former Army psychologist who has also testified before Congress, said, "I feel flat out that psychiatrists are directly responsible for deaths in our military, for some of these suicides," in a March Marine Times article. "I think it's criminal, what they are doing."

Still, the remarks of Katie Bagosy, the wife of Marine Sgt. Tom Bagosy who took his own life in May after being prescribed the medication Neurontin, might be the most persuasive of all.

In an article called "A Prescription For Tragedy" in the current National Journal, she says that her husband told her before his death that "'It all started to get worse when I got on this medication.' Looking back, that was the beginning of the end."

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action

Nov 10 (Reuters) & Nov 11 (Reuters) & Nov 12 (Reuters)

FALLUJA - A roadside bomb went off near a police checkpoint and wounded two policemen, in Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol wounded five policemen, in Baghdad's southern Saida district, an Interior Ministry source said.

A roadside bomb targeted a police patrol in Baghdad's southeastern Zaafaraniya district, wounding one policeman, an interior ministry source said.

GARMA - A roadside bomb wounded an Iraqi soldier when it exploded near an army patrol in Garma, police said.

JALAWLA - A sticky bomb wounded an Iraqi soldier

MOSUL - A roadside bomb wounded two policemen, when it exploded near a passing police patrol in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, said a source in the Nineveh provincial police operations centre.

BAGHDAD - Insurgents in a speeding car, using silenced weapons, killed an officer in the intelligence branch of the Interior Ministry in Baghdad's west-central district of Mansour on Friday, an Interior Ministry source said.

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

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

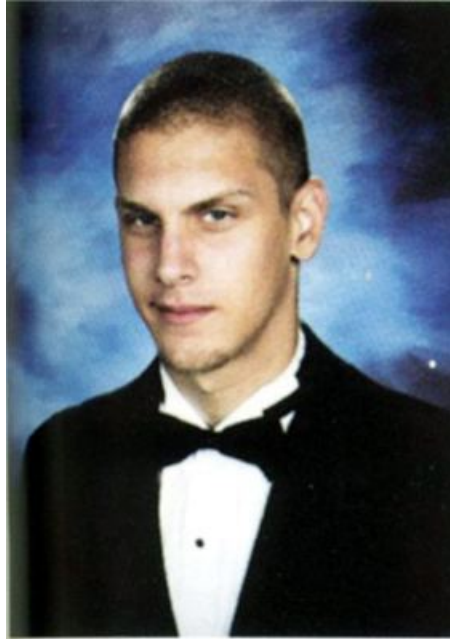
AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Three Foreign Occupation
"Servicemembers" Killed By Attack
Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan:
Nationality Not Announced**

November 13 CNN

Three foreign servicemembers died following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan Saturday.

Marine Dies After IED Blast In Afghanistan



Oct. 29, 2010 By GRETCHEN PHILLIPS, Staff writer, Southern Maryland Newspapers

U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Terry Honeycutt, 19, of Waldorf died Wednesday from injuries sustained while serving in Afghanistan.

Honeycutt was a 2009 graduate of North Point High School and his aunt, Bonnie Shipley Honeycutt of Elkridge, said he loved life, music and playing the guitar and he also loved his family and the Marines.

Honeycutt was with the 2nd Battalion 9th Regiment stationed out of Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C., according to information on his Facebook page.

"We just know he's our guardian angel," Bonnie Shipley Honeycutt said.

The Department of Defense did not release official details on his injuries and subsequent death by Thursday afternoon.

According to information his mother, Christine Honeycutt, posted on Facebook, Honeycutt was caught in the blast of an improvised explosive device Oct. 20 and suffered extensive tissue and muscle damage to his legs, both of which were amputated later on due to the extent of the injuries.

Honeycutt arrived at a hospital in Germany on Oct. 24 and died Oct. 27, according to information from his family.

Retired Lt. Col. Jonathan Brown Sr., Air Force Junior ROTC instructor at North Point, said that Honeycutt was a member of the ROTC program at the Waldorf school for four years.

Brown said the first thing he remembers Honeycutt telling him the day they met was, "I can't wait until I become a Marine."

North Point Principal Kim Hill said Honeycutt was heavily involved in the Air Force Junior ROTC program and though it was an Air Force program, Honeycutt frequently expressed his love and desire to be a Marine. Brown said Honeycutt was heavily involved in the color guard and drill programs through ROTC and was involved with many community events through the program.

Hill said that at 8:15 a.m. Thursday morning staff at North Point read a prepared statement announcing Honeycutt's death. Hill said this was the most personal way to inform a school of 2,200 students without having to announce it over the loud speaker.

Hill said counselors were on site to talk with anyone in need and the school would continue to assist students and staff during this time.

Hill also said Honeycutt usually always had a smile on his face.

"He was all about energy, enthusiasm and all about passion," she said.

Honeycutt's family and friends have filled his Facebook page with messages of love and support. A memory page was created on Facebook in Honeycutt's honor, which is filled with kind words, memories, photos and condolences from those who knew him and those who did not.

Brown said Thursday that it was Honeycutt's dream to be a Marine. "I really truly believe that Terry Honeycutt was living his dream in the Marine Corps."

Taliban Attack Airport, Military Base In East Afghanistan: European Leaders "Are Feeling Increasing Pressure At Home Amid Sagging Support For The Drawn-Out War"

Nov 13 2010 Reuters & DPA

Taliban insurgents attacked the main airport and a foreign military base in Afghanistan's east on Saturday, one of three incidents in 24 hours that marked a sudden upswing in violence.

In an apparent demonstration that the insurgency has not been weakened despite foreign forces saying they have made gains, insurgents mounted attacks in Jalalabad in the east and northern Kunduz on Saturday, as well as in the capital Kabul on Friday.

During the Jalalabad attacks on the airport and foreign military base, Obaidullah Talwar, the provincial police chief said that four of the attackers were wearing police uniforms as a disguise.

In Kunduz, two pro-government militiamen were killed.

The spike in violence could not come at a worse time for European NATO leaders, who are feeling increasing pressure at home amid sagging support for the drawn-out war.

Saturday's attacks in Jalalabad and Kunduz also came on the day that marked the ninth anniversary of the Taliban being overthrown in Kabul by U.S. forces

Fuel Tankers For Afghan Occupation Troops Blown Up Still, Yet, Again



Burning fuel tankers attacked in Chaman, in Pakistan's Balochistan province, along the Afghan border November 13, 2010. Militants set off explosives destroying three oil tankers carrying fuel supplies for foreign forces in Afghanistan. No casualty was reported. REUTERS/Saeed Ali Achakzai

Australian Special Forces Brigadier Says “Taliban Have ‘Overwhelmed’ Foreign Troops And Cannot Be Defeated By Military Means”

“He Describes The Taliban As A ‘Very Capable Adversary’ Who Are Winning The Propaganda War And Whose Tactics Had ‘Overwhelmed The Coalition’”

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War & Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

October 17, 2010 Tom Hyland, Fairfax Media [Excerpts]

THE Taliban have “overwhelmed” foreign troops and cannot be defeated by military means, one of Australia’s top combat soldiers has warned.

Brigadier Mark Smethurst says securing Afghanistan could take decades, but success is uncertain without a fundamental change in strategy.

His critical assessment comes in a report that contrasts sharply with federal government claims of progress in Afghanistan.

While the key role of Australian troops is mentoring local forces, he says the Afghan army cannot operate independently, despite seven years of training, and the police are even worse.

The Afghan government is ineffective and has failed to deal with corruption, human rights abuses and a non-existent justice system. Aid distribution, he says, has been “wasteful, ineffective and insufficient”.

While successive governments have stated we are in Afghanistan to deny al-Qaeda terrorists a base, the brigadier says the key reason is to maintain the US alliance.

“Compared with other counterinsurgency campaigns, the chance of a solution in the short term appears remote,” he says.

Brigadier Smethurst is a highly regarded special forces officer, with service in East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan in a 28-year career. At present deputy commander of Special Operations Command, he is tipped for a key coalition post in Afghanistan.

He describes the Taliban as a “very capable adversary” who are winning the propaganda war and whose tactics had “overwhelmed the coalition”.

The insurgents “cannot be crushed by a conventional military campaign”, he says. As public support for the nine-year-old war in the West wanes, foreign efforts have made limited progress.

He calls for a co-ordinated military and political strategy aimed at providing security, building Afghan forces and creating a functioning Afghan government. Yet all three aims face massive obstacles, he writes.

The number of troops in Oruzgan, where Australians are based, is less than half the number recommended.

If Australia fails to reach its 2012 target, “any further commitment should be questioned, as Australia could be drawn into a greater security dilemma as the Taliban and al-Qaeda networks expand their control further into Pakistan and the region”.

While Australian and Dutch troops in Oruzgan had made substantial achievements, creating “ink spots” of security, “there is little real security beyond the areas of operations”. The lack of security means Australian aid workers and police trainers have had limited impact and “struggle to maintain a presence”.

Epitaph For A Lost War



Graffiti dating back to a British deployment marks the walls at Musa Qala district center, now used by U.S. Marines, in southern Afghanistan’s Helmand province, November 13, 2010. REUTERS/Finbarr O’Reilly

58% Of Adult Americans Now Oppose The War In Afghanistan: [If This Were A Democracy, And Not An Imperial Financial Dictatorship, That Might Produce Change Now]

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War & Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

October 15, 2010 By Shaun Tandon (AFP) [Excerpts]

In a Gallup poll released in August, a record 43 percent of Americans said the United States made the wrong decision in sending troops to Afghanistan after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks by Al-Qaeda.

A CNN poll out Thursday found that 58 percent of adult Americans opposed the war.

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW



A U.S. Marine from 8th Marines shouts orders while under fire from Taliban insurgents during battle in the town of Nabuk in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, November 1, 2010. REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly



Spent cartridges eject from the weapon of a U.S. Marine from 8th Marines firing at Taliban insurgents in the town of Nabuk in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, November 1, 2010. REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly



A U.S. Marine from 8th Marines holds position in a compound during battle in the town of Nabuk in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, November 1, 2010. REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly



A concussed Marine shields his eyes in a compound offering cover while another Marine is examined for injury after a rocket propelled grenade exploded near their position during a battle against Taliban insurgents in the town of Nabuk in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, November 1, 2010. REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly



U.S. Marines carry an Afghan Army soldier wounded in an IED blast on to a Medevac helicopter in southern Afghanistan's Helmand Province November 3, 2010. REUTERS/Peter Andrews



A U.S. Marine from Eighth Marines opens fire during a battle against Taliban insurgents in Musa Qala district in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, November 7, 2010. REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly



U.S. Marines from Eighth Marines run between positions during a battle against Taliban insurgents in Musa Qala district in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province November 7, 2010. REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly



A U.S. Marine from 5th Marines returns fire during a patrol Nov. 7, 2010 in Sangin, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)

MILITARY NEWS

Canadian Dictator Says He Will Defy Parliament And Citizens Wishes And Keep Canadian Soldiers Dying In Afghanistan Past 2011 Deadline

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

12 November 2010 BBC [Excerpts]

Canada's parliament will not be asked to vote on whether to extend a military mission in Afghanistan, which is scheduled to end next year, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said.

Canada's combat troops are mandated by parliament to return home in 2011.

After several days of not discussing the matter, Mr Harper confirmed on Thursday that some Canadian troops would remain in Afghanistan past the 2011 withdrawal date, saying he had made the decision reluctantly.

Restrepo: Film Review

“What Are We Doing Here?”

“He Might As Well Have Been Asking The Wind”



From 'Restrepo,' the documentary about U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan.

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance Organization & Phil G, who sent this in.]

November 12, 2010 By BOB HERBERT, The New York Times [Excerpts]

In the spring of 2007, American soldiers in the Second Platoon of Battle Company, part of a regiment in the 173rd Airborne Brigade, began a 15-month deployment in the Korengal Valley in eastern Afghanistan.

It was one of the most dangerous places in the country.

A feature-length film called “Restrepo” documents the soldiers’ experiences and captures the almost primeval elements — the living, breathing, killing and dying — of a combat tour with a close-up intensity that is, frankly, chilling.

When the guys, many of them unbearably young, show up in the grim, mountainous, sparsely populated landscape, they react with what seems like a combination of awe and dread.

One said his mind told him he would die there.

Another wondered, "What are we doing here?"

The film, which won the grand jury prize for an American documentary at the Sundance Film Festival this year, was made by Sebastian Junger, an author who wrote the "The Perfect Storm" in the 1990s, and Tim Hetherington, a British photographer. Junger also wrote a book about the Second Platoon's tour called "War."

What stands out in both the film and the book, besides the mind-boggling dangers of combat, are the horrendous conditions these troops were forced to endure and the maddening ambiguities of their mission.

They lived in filth, isolation and constant fear, which they almost always had to mask.

And there was no coherent answer for the soldier who asked what they were doing there.

He might as well have been asking the wind.

Here, for example, is Capt. Dan Kearney of Battle Company, speaking in the film to a group of bearded elders from a nearby village:

"You know, 5 or 10 years from now, the Korengal Valley will have a road going through it that's paved and we can make more money, make you guys richer, make you guys more powerful. What I need, though, is I need you to join with the government, you know, provide us with that security — or help us provide you guys with that security — and I'll flood this whole place with money and with projects and with health care and with everything."

Was that ever really going to happen?

Was that kind of nation-building the ultimate goal of the incursion into the valley? And, if so, did it have any real connection to the attacks by Al Qaeda on Sept. 11, 2001?

You both feel for and admire the troops cast into this pit of ambiguity.

We watch them function in unison and with remarkable courage and poise when under enemy fire, and we watch them weep for comrades wounded and lost. We also see them fight without anger among themselves to help fill long, nerve-racking hours of boredom, and we watch them dance wildly to a favorite song.

Restrepo is the name of a shabby outpost that the men built and then named for their friend, Pfc. Juan Restrepo, a 20-year-old medic and aspiring doctor who was shot and killed soon after they arrived in the valley.

An environment in which the primary goals are to kill and to avoid being killed takes a psychological toll that is greater than most civilians realize.

A soldier named Anderson told Junger, "I've only been here four months, and I can't believe how messed up I already am. I went to the counselor and he asked if I smoked cigarettes and I told him no and he said, 'Well, you may want to think about starting.' "

Misha Pemble-Belkin, who was called Peanut Butter by his fellow soldiers, and then simply Butters, talked softly about trying to save a badly wounded colleague.

"You could see it in his face that he's slowly dying," he said. "He was turning really ghost-looking. His eyes started sinking in his head, and he started to get real brown around his eyes. And he kept saying, 'I'm getting really dizzy. I want to go to sleep.' "

Pemble-Belkin used an expletive as he tried to explain how rough it was to watch one of his best friends die, essentially in his arms.

At one point in the film, he described his reluctance to tell his family about his experiences: "When Restrepo got killed, it was a few days before my mom's birthday, so I had to suck it up when I called my mom on her birthday and act like everything was O.K. and say, 'Hey, Mom, happy birthday. Yeah, I'm doing real good out here. Everything's fine.' "

The film closes with the printed words, onscreen: "In late 2009, the U.S. military began withdrawing from the Korengal Valley."

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.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

**I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace**

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”
-- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787**

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004**

**The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”
-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done**

A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.
-- Leon Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution

“The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy”
-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt

It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it.
-- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers

“I Don’t Want To See The Tea Partiers In Power. But I’m Not Going To Support One Faction Of Murderers And Plunderers Just To Keep Out Another Faction Of Murderers And Plunderers”

“For A System Sunk So Deeply In Evil, There Is No ‘Lesser’ Evil To Choose”

“The Militarist Kleptocracy Itself Is Evil, And Every Political Faction That Does Not Denounce It And Seek To Dismantle It Is Complicit In This Evil”

“Would You Support One Murderer -- Who Likes To Break Into Children’s Bedrooms And Blow Their Brains Out -- In Order To Stop Another Murderer, Who Would Do The Same Thing?”

18 October 2010 By Chris Floyd, Chris-floyd.com [Excerpts]

Friends, it's very simple: if you support Barack Obama and the Democrats -- even if reluctantly, even if you're just being all sophisticatedly super-savvy and blogospherically strategic about it, playing the "long game" or eleven-dimensional chess or what have you -- you are supporting the outright murder of innocent people who have never done anything against you or yours.

You have walked into a house, battered down the bedroom door, put the barrel of a gun against the temple of a sleeping child, and pulled the trigger.

That is what you are supporting, that is what you are complicit in, that is what you yourself are doing.

And what is the "evidence" used by the Administration militarists as they draw up their target lists for the defenseless villages in Pakistan?

What is the "intelligence" produced by the \$75 billion lavished on our 200,000 security apparatchiks every year? On what basis is Barack Obama killing people in Pakistan?

[Johann] Hari reports:

“..(The) press releases uncritically repeated by the press after a bombing always brag about ‘senior al-Qa’ida commanders’ killed – but some people within the CIA admit how arbitrary their choice of targets is.

“One of their senior figures told The New Yorker: ‘Sometimes you’re dealing with tribal chiefs. Often they say an enemy of theirs is al-Qa’ida because they want to get rid of somebody, or they made crap up because they wanted to prove they were valuable so they could make money.’”

That’s right: Barack Obama is killing hundreds of innocent civilians in Pakistan on the basis of crap made up for money.

Made-up crap.

For money.

That’s why a child who is just as precious as your child is to a parent who is just as real a person as you are was killed this week, by Barack Obama and the

Democratic Party and the entire bipartisan foreign policy establishment of the United States of America: crap made up for money.

And of course, it's not just tribal chiefs making up crap for blood money: the entire aforementioned bipartisan foreign policy establishment is now and has for years been making up crap "so they could make money" -- for themselves, for their corporate patrons, for their government agencies, for their defense and "security" stockholdings, for the perpetuation of their bloated, belligerent, pig-ignorant domination of world affairs and American society -- by killing innocent people all over the world.

I don't want to see the Tea Partiers in power. But I'm not going to support one faction of murderers and plunderers just to keep out another faction of murderers and plunderers.

Similarly, I say: would you support one murderer -- who likes to break into children's bedrooms and blow their brains out -- in order to stop another murderer, who would do the same thing, from taking over a vicious gang of murderers?

What would be the basis, the reason for your support? That the first murderer wears nicer suits? Digs cooler music? Throws better street parties? Leaves a pretty little flower next to the blown-out brains?

For a system sunk so deeply in evil, there is no "lesser" evil to choose.

The militarist kleptocracy itself is evil, and every political faction that does not denounce it and seek to dismantle it is complicit in this evil.

I'm not going to spend my brief time here on earth standing with blood-soaked killers, no matter what factional name they give themselves, or what loyalties they might claim on our myth-clouded memories of the past.

I'm not going to teach my children that all we can do is to grovel before one child-murdering maniac or another, to keep quiet, to never speak the truth, to sell their votes, their dignity and their souls to murderers who would pervert every good instinct -- and every bad instinct -- every worthy hope and every nasty fear, to keep themselves in power.

Dead children.

Made-up crap.

For money.

That's what our leading "dissidents" want us to support.

There is much that could be said about the utterly puerile arguments being offered for this murder-abetting stance; but in the interests of brevity, and civility -- and my own sanity -- I will forbear, and simply say: no thanks.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

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CLASS WAR REPORTS

**“The Police Forces At Its Disposal
Are Simply Not Sufficient Given
The Scale Of The Protests Now
Gripping Germany”**

**Report On “The Failure Of The
Biggest Ever Police Operation In The
Woods Of Lower Saxony To Tame
Women, Elderly People And School
Children Protesting The
Government’s Nuclear Policy”**

**“How Long Can Germany Be Governed
By A Semi Authoritarian Regime Using
Brute Force When The Force At Its
Disposal Is So Small?”**



The police officers were exhausted after shifts of 24 hours or more, often without any food or just a cappuccino and snack bar, and they had nothing to look forward to but more of the same drudgery after a night spent four to a room in a Youth Hostel.

November 8, 2010 By Jane Burgermeister, Alethonews.wordpress.com [Excerpts]

Like the Roman legions vanquished in the Teutoburger Wald in Lower Saxony in 9 AD, the 17,000 police officers that marched into the woods around the nuclear storage facility in Gorleben in northern Germany on Sunday morning looked invincible.

Police personnel from France, Croatia and Poland had joined in the biggest security operation ever mounted against protestors against the train carrying nuclear waste to a depot in an isolated part of Lower Saxony's countryside.

Helicopters, water canons and police vehicles, including an armoured surveillance truck, accompanied an endless column of anti-riot police mounted on horses and also marching down the railway tracks into the dense woods. Tens of thousands of anti riot police clattered along the tracks, their helmets and visors gleaming in the morning sun, and wearing body armour, leg guards and carrying batons.

But by Sunday night, those same police officers were begging the protestors for a respite.

Trapped in black, icy woods without supplies or reinforcements able to reach them because of blockades by a mobile fleet of farmer's tractors, the exhausted and hungry police officers requested negotiations with the protestors.

A water cannon truck was blocked by tractors, and yet the police still had to clear 5000 people lying on the railway track at Harlingen in pitch darkness.

The largest ever police operation had descended into chaos and confusion in the autumn woods of Lower Saxony, defeated by the courage and determination of peaceful protestors who marched for miles through woods to find places to lie down on the tracks and to scoop out gravel to delay the progress of the “the train from hell.”

The police union head Reiner Wendt gave vent to the general frustration when he issued a press statement via the DPA news agency last night saying the police had reached exhaustion point and needed a break.

Behind the scenes, a battle seemed to be raging between the police chiefs, tucked up in their warm headquarters urging more action, and the exhausted officers on the ground.

The police on the ground won out.

The Castor train – called a “Chernobyl on wheels” because it has been carrying 133 tonnes of highly radioactive waste to an unsafe depot – was stopped in the middle of the countryside and NATO barbed wire was placed around it.

Lit by floodlights and guarded by a handful of police, the most dangerous train on the planet was forced to a halt after a 63 hour journey across France and Germany.

The defeat of the legions at Teutoburg marked the end of the attempt by the Roman empire to conquer Germania magna.

And the failure of the biggest ever police operation two thousand years later in the woods of Lower Saxony to tame women, elderly people and school children protesting the government’s nuclear policy, could well also go down as a turning point.

The Berlin government can no longer rely on the discredited mainstream media to control the way people see issues.

Too many people recognise it to be a tool of propaganda.

The government now needs to resort to brute force to bludgeon through decisions that enrich corporations and banks and impoverish everyone else.

But the police forces at its disposal are simply not sufficient given the scale of the protests now gripping Germany.

Only 1,500 police reinforcements could be mustered on Morning from the entire territory to deal with road blockades by thousands of protestors aiming to delay the transport of the nuclear waste on the final leg of its journey.

A leading figure in a German police union Bernard Witthaut today even lashed out at the government for trying to drive through unpopular policies using the police.

“Whether in Stuttgart or in Wendland today my colleagues are simply not getting out of their anti riot gear because of the wrong decisions by the government,” he said.

Many police officers also expressed sympathy with the protestors' aims.

The question now is: how long can the use of police to bludgeon protestors continue when the protests are reaching this scale?

How long can Germany be governed by a semi authoritarian regime using brute force when the force at its disposal is so small?

The German army cannot be deployed on this kind of mission without sparking even more outrage.

A false flag terrorist operation will hardly wash when the people are so fed up with the government lies and the media lies. EU soldiers will find it hard to deal with the Germans. The German and EU secret police cannot infiltrate all of the protestor's organizations when there are simply so many.

The German people as a whole are on the march.

"Citizens in rebellion," shouted a TAZ headline.

"Civil war in Wendtand," fumed Bild.

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters 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 to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

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Telling the truth - about the occupations 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 to Imperial wars 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 Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)



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