

Military Resistance 8A2



Kabul Dec. 30, 2009: Afghans rally to condemn the recent killings of school children by U.S. forces in Kunar province. (AP Photo/Musadeq Sadeq)

**10 Reasons The U.S. Military
Should (Officially) Use
Marijuana:
“If You Asked Any Of Us What,
Out Of Everything, Was Most
Effective In PTSD Treatment, We
Would Tell You Marijuana”**

“We Gave Big Pharma 40 Years Of Government Handouts And They Came Up With Zilch”

“It’s Time To Put Science Ahead Of Politics”

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

Of the specific medications identified as potentially useful, all but two come with black box warnings of suicide or increased risk of death. The vast majority of drugs the VA prescribes for PTSD are known to worsen depression, increase suicidal thinking or increase risk of death in enough people to warrant the warning.

The same is not true of marijuana.

December 29, 2009 By Penny Coleman, AlterNet [Excerpts]

Penny Coleman is the widow of a Vietnam veteran who took his own life after coming home. Her latest book, *Flashback: Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Suicide and the Lessons of War*, was released on Memorial Day 2006. Her Web site is *Flashback*.

“There’s a lot of things I’m passionate about, but getting a prescription for my marijuana from the VA is probably at the top of my list. I’d be like a kid waiting up for Santa if I thought he might be bringing me one of those. Haha!”

On top of a 100 percent disability rating with PTSD, “Charlie” -- who asked that his real name not be used -- came home from Afghanistan with a traumatic brain injury, a back injury and gastrointestinal problems.

The VA pulled every magic trick out of its bag to treat him.

But nothing worked.

What did work was marijuana.

Shirak-e-Mazar, the milk of Mazar, is what got Charlie through his deployment in Afghanistan.

Shirak-e-Mazar is what Afghans call the paper-thin sheets of hashish that sell for about \$1.50 an ounce. It’s a 5000-year-old recipe, perfected in the Mazar-e-Sharif region, for preparing the compressed resin glands of the marijuana plant, and unless things have

changed since Charlie left Afghanistan in 2004, it's available, well, just about everywhere.

So was alcohol, but according to Charlie, it didn't provide the same kind of relief: "You get some drinks in you, you get nice and loose; you drop your inhibitions and think you're invincible. But you haven't dealt with the stress; you've just kind of blocked it; you don't really understand the possible outcomes of what you're about to do—or you don't care.

"Smoking though ... you can appreciate the stresses and understand everything that's going on, but you're still relaxed enough to do what you have to do, and do it well."

Since he got home, he says he is "smoking about one and a half grams a day, depending on how I'm doing. I go through an ounce in three to four weeks. I'm medicating for PTSD, but also a back injury and gastrointestinal problems, so if I had to do things like shovel the walk ... I would have to smoke a little more."

Unfortunately, Charlie does not live in one of the 13 states that have authorized the use of medical marijuana.

In the rest of the states, federal law still applies, and according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) marijuana is still classified as a Schedule I drug.

Schedule I drugs are those deemed most dangerous, more so than cocaine, oxycodone and methamphetamines, all of which are Schedule II. [One more example of governmental corruption, this time at the behest of the tobacco industry, which has lived in terror for decades that marijuana might become legal and ruin the market for their deadly poison. T]

"Me and the rest of my veterans' group talk about it all the time," he says. "Most of them also medicate with marijuana.

"If you asked any of us what, out of everything, was most effective in PTSD treatment, we would tell you marijuana."

But the VA is a federal agency, so even in the 13 states where doctors are at liberty to suggest that patients try marijuana, they are prohibited from dispensing it.

The first two years after he got home, Charlie and his wife were still active duty. Marijuana was too risky, so he drank. A lot.

So much that he almost killed himself and his wife.

"Alcohol seemed to exaggerate all the negative feelings, the anger, the rage, the depression, the desperation."

Since Charlie was discharged in 2006, the VA has pulled an astonishing variety of medications [**translation: legal drugs**] out of its magic bag. Charlie's list is an

impressive one that many, perhaps most, vets who have gone to the VA for help with post-combat stress and pain issues will recognize.

“I’ve been on six different antidepressants, lorazepam for anxiety; two sleep aids, Ambien and something else; three medications for my stomach problems, including omeprazole; and Topomax and amyltriptomine for migraines.

“Even if the sleeping pills got me to sleep, I’d still wake up in the middle of the night from nightmares.

“The only difference is that WITH the pills I’d wake up dizzy and disoriented. The disorientation made for a smooth transition into flashbacks, and if you want to see a vet have a bad episode, make sure he/she is completely disoriented and wake them suddenly in the dark. (Don’t try this at home -- danger, danger!)

“The lorazepam was prescribed for the anxiety caused by the antidepressants, but it turned me into some kind of shuffling Ozzie Osborne zombie. I didn’t have the physical energy to do anything but lay on the couch.

Topomax and amyltriptomine turned me into a sloppy, silly bedlamite, groggy like I’d had too much to drink and babbling like a face-painted Anna Nicole Smith. Oh, and the Topomax had me hurling up last year’s Christmas dinner.

“I’ve gone through pain management more times than I can count on my hands, and I’ve had over twelve series of epidermal steroid injections done to my lower back. None of them ever did anything for me.

“Except of course make my stomach problems much worse. I started smoking (marijuana) again three years ago, and it’s been the best pain management I’ve found. I can pick up my thirty-pound daughter for a while now, which might not seem like a big deal, but it is. Oh, as for helping with hypervigilance, it does, but given the current legal status of my medication of choice in this state, I am hypervigilant for the police.”

And not without cause.

Even in states where medical marijuana has been approved, conflicting state and federal laws have provided law enforcement agencies with an excuse to prosecute according to personal prejudice.

Recently, the Obama Department of Justice instructed prosecutors to leave legitimate growers of medical marijuana alone.

That is a step in the right direction, but there are at least 10 reasons why they should be encouraged to continue moving toward saner and clearer policies.

1) Until proven otherwise, marijuana is the safest thing they’ve got in their pharmacopoeia.

Marijuana has been used worldwide to treat pain, stress and any number of other ailments since the third millennium BCE.

It has been outlawed in the United States since 1937, but since 1970, with passage of the Controlled Substances Act, marijuana has been classified as a Schedule I drug, with a “high potential for abuse,” “no currently accepted medical use” and a “lack of accepted safety” for use of any kind.

The Schedule I classification has meant that for the better part of 40 years, claims could be made that marijuana would turn you into a serial psycho-killer, a spotted owl or a socialist, and nobody could prove them wrong.

Daunting layers of federal permits discouraged serious study of the substance’s efficacy, and strictly controlled access to the only legally grown supply have meant that grants were awarded only to those folks who weren’t looking for anything nice to say about pot.

Schedule I drugs can’t even be the subject of research or study.

But this November, the young guard at the American Medical Association (AMA) gleefully hip-checked the doomy, gloomy straight-laced old guard out of the way and voted to revisit marijuana’s Schedule I classification.

After reviewing all the reliable information available, their conclusion was this (PDF): “Adverse reactions observed in short-term randomized, placebo controlled trials of smoked cannabis to date are mostly mild without substantial impairment. Physicians who comply with their ethical obligations to ‘first do no harm’ and to ‘relieve pain and suffering’ should be protected in their endeavors, including advising and counseling their patients on the use of cannabis for therapeutic purposes.”

In taking that position, the AMA joined the American College of Physicians, the country’s second largest physician group, which in February 2008, had adopted a similar resolution.

As former Surgeon General Dr. Jocelyn Elders wrote in AlterNet in 2008, it’s time “to put science ahead of politics.”

2) Reduce our dependence on foreign opioids.

Chronic pain is the leading indication for medical marijuana use, accounting for 90 percent of the patients in Oregon’s medical marijuana program.

Recently, research done both in Canada and the United States has demonstrated a synergistic interaction between cannabis and opioids. Patients who smoked a little weed along with their meds found they could decrease their opioid dose by between 60-100 percent.

So consider that if the entrenched drug warriors were finally outflanked, VA doctors would be allowed to prescribe marijuana and our vets could reduce their consumption of opioids.

3) Restore the reputation of the VA among veterans.

After all the criticism of the VA for limiting access, shredding claims, misdiagnosing illnesses as a cost-saving trick and using soldiers as uninformed guinea pigs to test pharmaceutical drugs linked to suicide and other violent side effects, veterans invited by the VA to knowingly participate in a marijuana study might be inclined to allow the euphorogenic qualities associated with cannabis to blur their outrage, even to the point of forgiveness.

4) Israeli rats have less stress than American soldiers.

In an article published in the September issue of the Journal of Neuroscience, Israeli scientists revealed that injecting synthetic marijuana into the brains of rats allowed them to recover faster from trauma. In fact, it “cancelled out the symptoms of stress.”

The researchers predicted that marijuana may help patients overcome life stresses that worsen reawakened trauma and other symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

5) And then there is Sativex.

Sativex is an oromucosal spray, developed by the British firm GW Pharmaceuticals, that has been called “liquid marijuana” because it is derived from the entire botanical cannabis plant. In 2005, the Canadian government approved its use for relief of neuropathic pain and the FDA has agreed to trials in the U.S. prior to an approval application.

It will be challenging to persuade patients that Sativex, which will surely cost more than what can be grown in your backyard, is the better choice. No pharmaceutical preparation, synthetic or natural, has yet proven as effective as the smoked plant. In fact, the only proven advantage of such medications is that they are legal.

Those FDA trials, by the way, were supposed to be completed by the end of 2009.

6) We gave Big Pharma 40 years of government handouts and they came up with zilch.

Instead of paying extortionist rates, imagine if the VA could say, “Sorry, Bayer, but you’re going to have to make it cheap and make it good, or they’ll just grow their own.”

It’s a piece of cake to go around Big Pharma on this one. All you need is a little sun, soil and TLC, or a grow-lamp in your basement. And the good fortune to get to your crop before the cops, the local kids or the deer.

How easy? Since 2006, entrepreneurial Americans have grown enough marijuana to displace corn as the leading cash crop in America.

7) The growing process is itself demonstrably therapeutic.

A recent study out of the Naval Postgraduate School and Stanford University predicts that as many as 35 percent of returning soldiers could have PTSD. The number of veterans who have already served in Iraq and Afghanistan has reached 1.8 million.

Another study, courtesy of the Pentagon, estimates that as many as 360,000, or 20 percent of the veterans of these current wars have suffered traumatic brain injuries.

That's a lot of new fists that will be banging on the doors of an already overwhelmed VA asking for help. How serendipitous then, that a promising treatment option being offered to traumatized veterans across the country is gardening.

8. We could fill some budget gaps.

Imagine the savings for states like Washington that are currently facing huge financial deficits. Washington announced this month that a bill to legalize marijuana altogether will be on the ballot in 2010.

The circularity is sweet; the logic hopefully irresistible. Traumatized veterans could be hired by the state to garden, which relieves their post-combat stress symptoms and also affords them an income and the self-respect that comes with employment. The crop they grow will medicate their own psychic distress and that of other veterans, while at the same time replenish the state coffers when sold in state-run liquor stores.

Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson, a Seattle Democrat who is sponsoring the legalization bill, said she expected legal sale of marijuana could bring in as much money as alcohol; more than \$300 million a year.

It will also challenge legislators in other cash-strapped municipalities to consider the billions of dollars worth of marijuana that is currently going untaxed, and whether they want to stand on principle or on solvency.

9) Suicide prevention.

The National Center for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder acknowledges that there is "disagreement whether pharmacotherapy should be considered a first-line treatment for PTSD."

As illustration, their manual, "Treatment of the Returning Iraq War Veteran," states: "We recommend SSRIs as first-line medications for PTSD pharmacotherapy in men and women with military-related PTSD."

The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry reports that 89 percent of veterans with PTSD are prescribed antidepressants and 34 percent antipsychotics by the VA.

Of the specific medications identified as potentially useful, all but two come with black box warnings of suicide or increased risk of death.

In October, VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki announced that, "(m)ore Veterans have committed suicide since 2001 than we have lost on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan—each one a tragedy."

Soldier suicides are at an all-time high and so are prescriptions for all kinds of new and dangerous drugs.

Nobody can say for sure if there is a connection between those two facts, and I would never suggest that marijuana could or should take the place of SSRIs or any other drugs proven to be effective in managing PTSD. Or that marijuana could prevent soldier suicides.

But the vast majority of drugs the VA prescribes for PTSD are known to worsen depression, increase suicidal thinking or increase risk of death in enough people to warrant the warning.

The same is not true of marijuana.

10) It would bring some coherence to our nation's drug policies.

It is just possible that Tim Leary was right when he said that "(p)sychedelic drugs cause paranoia, confusion, and total loss of reality in politicians that have never taken them."

Daniel Robelo of the Drug Policy Alliance says, "The federal government has a duty to help veterans receive the most effective treatment available for their combat-related conditions, and for PTSD and chronic pain, marijuana is often that treatment.

"All veterans (and non-veterans) who might benefit should have unfettered access to this effective medicine, which is well within the margin of safety for any drug, and in fact, much less dangerous than most drugs commonly used to treat PTSD and pain."

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**The Military Occupation By The
"Multinational Force Iraq" Is
Over!!**

**[Now It's The "U.S. Force Iraq"]
"The Main Enemy, The Ones Who
Destroyed The Country, It's The
Americans"**

“If I See A Fighter Jet Loaded With Missiles, Do I Wonder Whose It Is? No, It’s Always Been The Americans”



U.S. military personnel attend a bullshit ceremony to pretend to disband the non-existent Multinational Force Iraq and introduce the U.S. Force Iraq at Camp Victory in Baghdad January 1, 2010. The name change acknowledges that a coalition that used to have troops from 32 countries now has just one. REUTERS/Saad Shalash

31 December 2010 By Hannah Allam, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The British said cheerio back in July, around the same time the Romanians cleared out “Camp Dracula,” their compound on a U.S. base in southern Iraq. Tonga and Kazakhstan left ages ago, and no one seems to remember if any Icelandic forces ever made it to Iraq.

U.S. commanders officially disbanded the Multinational Force Iraq, or MNF-I, and introduce the USF-I, or U.S. Force Iraq, at a ceremony Friday in Baghdad. American soldiers and officers said the transition is largely a formality because they’ve been going it alone since the summer.

Iraqis also said the change barely registers. To them, there’s never been a question that Americans were in charge for these tumultuous past six years.

“There’s no difference, even if they change the name,” said Mohammed Abdul Jabar, 40, a furniture salesman in Baghdad.

“The main enemy, the ones who destroyed the country, who disbanded our military, it’s the Americans. If I see a fighter jet loaded with missiles, do I wonder whose it is? No, it’s always been the Americans.”

For the military, the name change also brings some structural tweaks. USF-I will bring five command groups under a single headquarters, streamlining some operations and shrinking the American footprint.

That might be the easy part. Getting soldiers to use “USF-I” instead of “MNF-I” is trickier.

The U.S. military is staking its claim to the new acronym through a Twitter account and a Facebook page.

One military-affiliated group already produces a USF-I T-shirt printed with the slogan, “Return with Honor,” and it’s probably only a matter of weeks before base commissaries are stocked with souvenir USF-I battle coins and uniform patches.

Odierno Says Dismissal Of Charges Against Blackwater Murderers Is “A Lesson In The Rule Of Law”

**Iraqi Soldier Injured During The
Blackwater Shooting, Says “I Can’t
Believe I Trusted The U.S. Justice
Department When They Promised To
Protect Our Rights”**

**Wounded Civilian Says “I’ll Be Ready To
Reconcile With The Americans When
They Bring Me Back My Eye”**

Firas Fadhil Abbas, whose brother Osama was killed at Nisoor Square, said that “if someone kills a dog in America, they do not escape punishment. I don’t understand this trial.”

January 2, 2010 By Michael Hastings, Washington Post [Excerpts]

[F]or Iraqis, Friday was marked by bitter recriminations over a U.S. judge’s decision to dismiss charges against five Blackwater security guards who had been accused of killing

14 Iraqi civilians and wounding 20 others in 2007 -- a reminder that resentments toward the American occupation will linger long after U.S. troops have gone home.

“They’re letting the criminals who killed and burned people inside their cars escape? How can I forget what they did to my body with bullets, and the dear part of me that they took,” said Mahdi Abdul Khudor, 45, who lost an eye in the shooting and suffered other wounds.

“I’ll be ready to reconcile with the Americans when they bring me back my eye.”

Gen. David H. Petraeus, leader of U.S. Central Command, and Gen. Ray Odierno, commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, attended a ceremony at Camp Victory in Baghdad marking the end of Multi-National Force-Iraq, which is the technical name for the U.S.-led coalition that has waged war here.

Of the judge’s decision, Odierno said at a news conference after the ceremony: “We’re upset when we believe that people might have caused a crime and they’re not held accountable.”

But, he said, “the bottom line is, using the rule of law, if the evidence is obviously not there, or was collected illegally, or whatever the reason is, and it can’t be used, that’s always a problem.

“It’s a lesson in the rule of law.”

“The Iraqis don’t need to get lessons from others,” said Saleem Abdullah, a lawmaker for the largest Sunni party, Tawafuq.

“If we decide to accept the lessons, they shouldn’t cost us our lives.”

Wesam Raheem Flaih, an Iraqi soldier from the western province of Anbar who was injured during the Blackwater shooting, said that he “was destroyed by the news.

“I can’t believe I trusted the U.S. Justice Department when they promised to protect our rights.”

Firas Fadhil Abbas, whose brother Osama was killed at Nisoor Square, said that “if someone kills a dog in America, they do not escape punishment. I don’t understand this trial.”

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

UK Bomb Disposal Expert Killed Near Sangin

January 1, 2010 Times Online

An army bomb disposal expert has died from injuries he received in an explosion while helping to clear roadside bombs in Afghanistan on New Year's Eve.

The soldier, from 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), Royal Engineers, died from wounds suffered in the blast near Patrol Base Blenheim, near Sangin, in Helmand Province, yesterday afternoon. His family has been informed although he has not yet been named.

It is understood he was part of a patrol conducting controlled explosions to help reduce the threat from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) when the incident happened.

His death took the number of British service personnel who have died since the start of operations in Afghanistan in 2001 to 245, including 108 in 2009 – the bloodiest 12 months for British forces since the 1982 Falklands War.

NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1: PACK UP GO HOME



United States Marines from the 2nd Marines waking in the Garmsir district, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Dec. 18, 2009. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)

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

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



A United States Marine searches an Afghan citizens' house during an armed home invasion in the Garmsir district, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Dec. 17, 2009. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)

Afghani 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.

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!**

Got an opinion? 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 to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.

TROOP NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



A corporal wipes a tear from the eye of his wife as the Marines in the 3rd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, prepare to deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Fuckup in November 2009 at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. (Getty Images/Logan Mock-Bunting)

**Brass Pigs With Their Snouts In
The Trough:
“In Addition To Pensions Of Up To
\$220,000 A Year, Retired Generals
And Admirals Are Being Paid Up
To \$1,600 A Day To Be Mentors”**

“As Mentors, The Retirees Are Paid By The Military To Help Run War Games, Which Also Gives Them Access To Classified Strategies And Weapons Systems”

“That Is An Amazing Conflict Of Interest”

Dec 31, 2009 By Ken Dilanian, Tom Vanden Brook and Ray Locker - USA Today
[Excerpts]

In a marketplace awash in consulting firms that help defense companies sell to the Pentagon, the Durango Group has a unique advantage.

The Colorado-based firm has become a base of operations for retired officers who also are handsomely paid by the military for their advice.

No other defense consulting firm employs more “senior mentors” than Durango. Of the 59 former officers who work for Durango, 15 also serve as mentors, a USA Today investigation found.

As Durango associates, the retired officers are paid to help private companies win and administer Pentagon contracts.

As mentors, the retirees are paid by the military to help run war games, which also gives them access to classified strategies and weapons systems.

Durango cites these mentoring assignments on its Web site as signs of its associates’ unique connections.

Along with their work for Durango and the military, these retired officers, mostly from the Air Force, are paid advisers, consultants and corporate directors on the boards of at least 20 companies, according to public records.

Three of them work for private equity firms to help them identify, buy and then run defense contractors.

Durango’s ability to mix mentoring and consulting work illustrates how closely the private interests of some mentors overlap with their military advisory jobs. The firms’ mentors move seamlessly between roles as paid advisers to the services and paid consultants to defense companies in the same subject areas, USA Today found.

As a result, Durango and the mentors it employs draw income from multiple sources.

The firm also benefits from having its mentors serve as corporate directors or advisers for other companies.

That kind of overlap is not illegal. But some analysts say it should be.

“That is an amazing conflict of interest,” said Craig Holman, of the non-partisan watchdog group Public Citizen. “They are working for two masters. Are they pursuing the public interest, or are they pursuing the contractors’ interests? ... The conflict of interest law ought to be expanded to cover this.”

Durango is not the only consulting firm staffed by retired generals and admirals that specialize in helping companies win Pentagon contracts.

Many such firms, such as Burdeshaw Associates, the Spectrum Group, Dayton Aerospace and Cypress International, include one or more senior mentors.

In addition to pensions of up to \$220,000 a year, retired generals and admirals are being paid up to \$1,600 a day to be mentors, and many are earning far more consulting for defense firms.

About 80 percent of the 158 mentors identified through public records had financial ties with defense firms, but they’re not required to disclose those ties to the military or the public.

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**

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**

“I Agree They Must Not Go It Alone They Must Do It In An Organized Way As A Group”

[Note: The writer has two grandkids active duty; deployment Afghanistan. T]

From: Johanna P
To: Military Resistance
Sent: January 02, 2010
Subject: Re: Military Resistance 8A1: “What Would I Be Dying For?”

I agree they must not go it alone they must do it in an organized way as a group.

I see the mercenaries are growing and taking on more working with the CIA. Our SS.

I see people being so brave

Reply: T

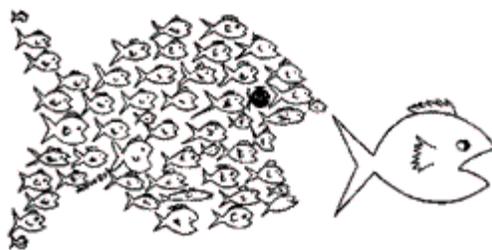
Johanna is commenting on content from a previous Military Resistance. So the reader of her comment will understand the context, here is the content again, from Military Resistance 8A1:

“Before Any Soldier Risks Going To Prison He Should Realize That His Ability To Communicate With Other Troops Will Be Limited”

“He Or She Is Immediately Gotten Rid Of, And Is Lost To Organizing”

“We Choose Our Battles And Continue To Speak Out In Our Underground Action”

If The Objective Is To Stop The Imperial Wars, You Do Not Want Anybody To Stand Up And Loudly Tell Management, “I Refuse To Participate Any Further In Your Immoral Enterprise”



ORGANIZE

[Resistance within the armed forces is not most effectively organized by soldiers first confined in military prison and subsequently thrown back into civilian life. When civilian activists sitting safely at home call on soldiers as individuals to refuse to deploy and go to prison instead, that is an exercise in shameless hypocrisy, unprincipled opportunism and political stupidity. Individualistic moralism is antithesis to and destructive of organized resistance from below. T]

Traveling Soldier March-April, 2005 - Issue 10

Once upon a time there was a chicken factory, where, let us suppose, 1000 men and women work.

Live chickens come in one end of the factory complex, and cut up chicken parts and whole chickens come out the other end.

The people who cut up the chickens make about \$3 an hour, work in cold, wet rooms, get sick a lot, and frequently lose body parts during the chicken cutting process. The

managers are cold assholes interested in profits, and don't give a shit how dangerous the equipment is. The supervisors are petty tyrants and frequently sexual predators.

If you get too sick or hurt to work, too fucking bad, you get put out the door.

This is not a desirable state of affairs.

You think maybe there should be some kind of organization of the work force to resist this shit. Maybe you can get more money, or insist that you have decent protection from being maimed or killed.

At that point you are alone, and powerless. So you have to very carefully find somebody else that agrees, and then somebody else, and all unnoticed by the assholes in command of the chicken factory, you slowly but surely build an organization.

You need meetings to talk over plans. Off company territory. You need security. You need some kind of way of communicating, maybe a newsletter, but you're careful about that too.

You can take it from there.

But it is obvious that you do not want anybody to stand up in the middle of the third shift and loudly tell management, "I refuse to participate any further in your immoral enterprise and will defy all your orders."

He or she is immediately gotten rid of, and is lost to organizing inside your chicken factory because he or she is gone.

And the management is delighted, because they've just ID'd and fired somebody who could give them trouble in the future.

So, if you're alone, organize. People who act together can have an effect.

And if somebody snaps and does an individual refusal, and gets arrested, in trouble, or whatever, your organization does not leave them behind; they've been hurt, and let no one judge them, because anybody can snap, anytime.

A soldier from the 1st ID summed up his job situation like this:

"Before any soldier risks going to prison he should realize that his ability to communicate with other troops will be limited.

"We choose our battles and continue to speak out in our underground action.

"There has to be a point when we reach a high enough number of troops in our peace effort that a unified boycott of all military action will have a desired effect."

Use Traveling Soldier to serve your organizing purposes and say what you have to say. You say how.

That's what it's for.

MORE:

[Those Who Would Tell This Soldier To Refuse Orders To Deploy, And Go To Military Prison Instead, Serve The Empire With Their Moralistic Stupidity]

“I Am Thoroughly Opposed To The Army As A Whole, And The War In The Middle East”

“I Spent 15 Months Over There For No Good Reason”

[Resistance within the armed forces is not most effectively organized by soldiers first confined in military prison and subsequently thrown back into civilian life. When civilian activists sitting safely at home call on soldiers as individuals to refuse to deploy and go to prison instead, that is an exercise in shameless hypocrisy, unprincipled opportunism and political stupidity. Individualistic moralism is antithetical and destructive of organized resistance from below. T]

Traveling Soldier, December, 2009 - Issue 26

From the editors: To protect the writer, ID has been removed from this email as published here. The Military Resistance organization, which produces Traveling Soldier, will follow up with the writer privately. We welcome other letters from members of the armed services.

Dear Traveling Soldier,

I was promoted to Sergeant less than a year ago.

Although I am thoroughly opposed to the Army as a whole, and the war in the Middle East (I spent 15 months over there for no good reason), I decided that I could take advantage of the system and become one of the few Non-commissioned Officers that refuses to buy into the Army BS.

Goodness knows we could use more of those.

I was leaning heavily on the example set before me by some of the best Sergeants I had worked with, all of whom hated the Army with a fervent passion, but got their jobs done no less effectively.

I respected them because I could relate to them, and I would have taken a bullet for them without a second thought (whereas I would have had to take a moment to think about it for all of my “hooah” super-goArmy-high-speed NCOs).

With this conviction in hand, I PCS'd to my current unit, ready to show soldiers that leaders can be normal people, that being an asshole doesn't come with the stripes.

Within a few short months of coming here, I was forced to realize that if I don't lead their way (ordering the privates around like dogs and treating them as if they had no ability to think for themselves), then they would find a way to bust me down a peg.

I had already developed common ground with my soldiers, a level of trust that most leaders who demand respect and obedience rarely ever experience. But since this was contrary to how the Army (and those so-called "leaders" who value regulations over sincere trust and respect) does things, they set out to take me down.

I was mentioned by name in a unit anonymous survey for a charge that could have legal consequences if it were even remotely true. Although this accusation is minor, being anonymous and lacking evidence as it was, the message was all too clear to me: "Continue treating your subordinates like real people, and you will soon be one of them."

I refuse to conform to this.

I firmly believe that, as a leader, if you want to develop the trust necessary to survive in a combat zone, it requires you being a member of the team in garrison.

You can't bark orders and turn your back one day, and then expect a soldier to take a bullet for you the next.

That's not how it works.

For all of you Privates out there reading this, know that there are Sergeants who hate the Army just as much as you do.

Sergeants who would rather be at your side when the shit hits the fan than standing over you expecting you to handle it alone.

There are Sergeants who would rather lose their rank than conform to the Army's expectations of dictatorship in leaders.

Your leader and friend,
SGT A

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

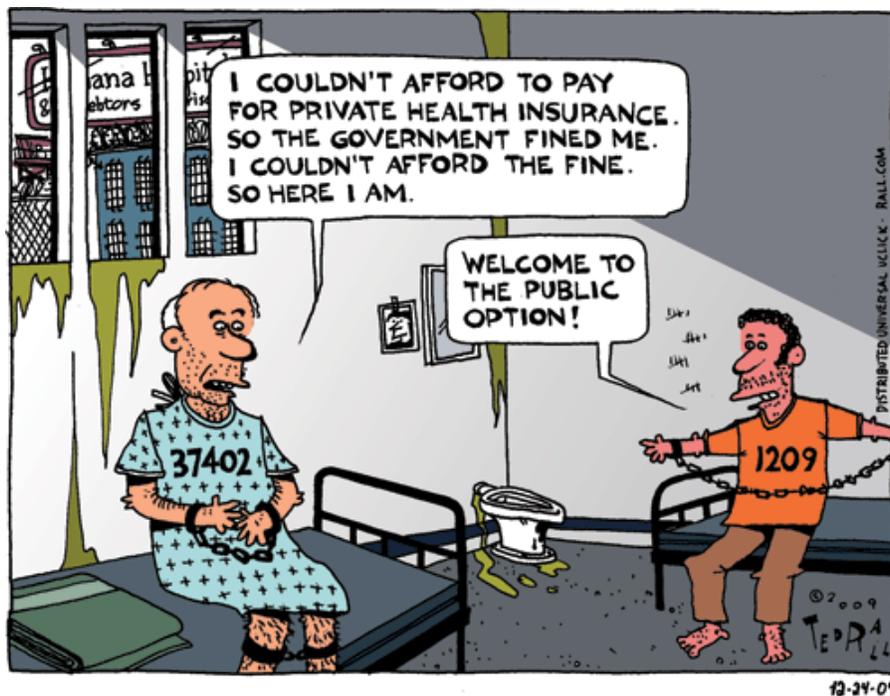
Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

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/)

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward Military Resistance 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 wars, inside the armed

services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to:
The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-
5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

CLASS WAR REPORTS



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. Phone: 888.711.2550

Cities, Counties Taking Back Corporate Tax Breaks:

Residents “Have Grown Increasingly Angry At The Thought Of Anything That Hints Of Corporate Welfare”

1.2.10 By DON BABWIN, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

CHICAGO – Cash-strapped communities have a message for corporations that promised jobs in return for tax breaks: A deal’s a deal.

As the economy sputters along, municipalities struggling to fix roads, fund schools and pay bills increasingly are rescinding tax abatements to companies that don’t hire enough workers, that lay them off or that close up shop.

At the same time, they’re sharpening new incentive deals, leaving no doubt what is expected of companies and what will happen if they don’t deliver.

“We will roll out the red carpet as much as we can (but) they are going to honor the contract,” said Brendon Gallagher, an alderman in DeKalb, Ill., where Target Corp. got abatements from the city, county, school district and other taxing bodies after promising at least 500 jobs at a local distribution center.

So when the company came up 66 workers short in 2009, Target got word its next tax bill would be jumping almost \$600,000 — more than half of which goes to the local school district, where teachers and programs have been cut as coffers dried up.

The newfound boldness comes from communities and states that have long bent over backward to lure companies and jobs by offering abatements and other incentives — to the tune of an estimated \$60 billion a year in the United States, according to the Washington-based economic development watchdog group Good Jobs First.

The willingness to write — and enforce — the “clawback” provisions comes even as companies across the country struggle and against a broader backdrop of governments getting tough on business practices.

What’s more, the poor economy has communities thinking about how the tax breaks they dole out will play with residents who have grown increasingly angry at the thought of anything that hints of corporate welfare.

“The public is a lot more aware of tax abatements and there’s a climate of skepticism about what can be perceived as corporate handouts,” said Geoff McKimm, a member of the Monroe County Council in Indiana.

And businesses increasingly are being forced to hold up their end of the bargain.

In Texas, where companies can get money from the Texas Enterprise Fund if they promise to create a specific number of jobs, the number of clawbacks rose to nine in

2008, compared to a total of seven for the previous three years combined, the governor's office said.

In Illinois, the number of companies from which the state sought to "recapture" incentive money has steadily climbed, from six in 2005 to a total of 37 by 2008.

Meanwhile, more communities are contemplating similar action.

In St. Louis County, officials have told Pfizer Inc. that if it cuts 600 jobs, as planned, they'll rethink the \$7 million in tax breaks they promised to give the drugmaker for the next 10 years.

And in Detroit, while the state was approving expanded tax credits in exchange for General Motors Co.'s promise not to move its headquarters, the city council was talking about cracking down on tax breaks for GM and other major employers.

"We know that there are more clawbacks getting triggered because more deals are falling short," said Greg LeRoy, executive director of Good Jobs First, who has written extensively on clawbacks.

"We were told that we were going to ruin Topeka's ability to attract businesses; we'd give Topeka a black eye," said James Crowl, assistant county counselor in Shawnee County, where last year officials approved a settlement that calls for Target to pay \$200,000 a year for 10 years after failing to create as many jobs as it had agreed to.

So what happened?

"Last year we opened a Home Depot distribution center right next door," said County Counselor Rich Eckert.

In DeKalb, some officials were concerned about sending a bad message to other businesses considering locating there, said Gallagher, the alderman. But he didn't buy it.

"We are 65 miles from Chicago (and) if someone wants to locate 120 miles from Chicago, I can't stop them," he said.

Besides, he said, \$600,000 means less to Target than to a struggling community, where he said the city alone is facing a \$2 million revenue shortfall.

And don't expect communities to back down soon, officials said.

"There is much more (language) tied to jobs now because of economy," said Lee Garrity, city manager in Winston-Salem, N.C., which along with the surrounding county is sharing more than \$26 million that computer giant Dell Inc. paid after announcing it will close its assembly plant next year.

Garrity said officials are thinking about provisions that are even more specific.

"We are discussing whether we need to require the jobs of the company go to people who live in the city," he said.

RECEIVED #1:

“Take All The Rasmussen Reports Polls With A Grain Of Salt”

From: Michael N
To: Military Resistance
Sent: December 29, 2009
Subject: Re: Military Resistance 7L19: Wrong As Usual

Take all the Rasmussen Reports polls with a grain of salt. They are designed for and by the republican right wing.

Would that more of the left were more willing to take on Obama and the war machine from the left, as you do.

Reply: T

The numbers of those willing to take on the Empire are increasing at warp speed. The problem is that the obvious is not yet clear enough to act accordingly:

<p>POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS</p>
--

But more and more are understanding what is to be done. See the following letter.

Respect,
T

RECEIVED #2:

“Intuition Tells Me Resistance To, From, And Within Military Is Key To Turning This Ship Around”

From: Lisa S
To: Military Resistance
Sent: January 02, 2010 12:28 PM
Subject: Re: Military Resistance

[Excerpts]

Intuition tells me resistance to, from, and within military is key to turning this ship around.

An AFSC counter recruitment person I have worked with for years told me at our Gaza solidarity rally: "Let's get the Shminism to come and talk to students in Maine high schools!"

I am always looking for vets to come and talk to my students.

RECEIVED #3:

“Do You Know Andy At Www.Cammo.Org? Cool Site And Guy”

From: Sharon T
To: Military Resistance
Sent: January 02, 2010
Subject: Youth Outreach using soldier's poem's

[Excerpts]

Hello,

I found out about [Military Resistance] on Facebook!

I've been involved in recruitment awareness , www.oc-rap.org. Unfortunately, we were affected by the post Obama false sense of relief, and so our site hasn't been properly updated.

I have the privilege to have worked a little with Arlington West Films (outreach) as well as participate (not enough!) with Arlington West Huntington Beach, CA.

I am glad to have more resources, inspiration and contacts for networking.

(do you know andy at www.cammo.org? Cool site and guy. Just like You. Thanks again!)

Best and blessed in '10!

Sharon T.

Reply: T

There are a whole lot of people who make the Military Resistance newsletter possible, so they get the credit for the work. No individual can do much alone, but acting together

people can amaze the world. The illusions about Obama are fading fast in the face of material reality, especially among the troops.



Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

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

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/index-2009.html>; news@uruknet.info;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.

