



VETERANS FOR PEACE NEWS

MINNESOTA VETERANS FOR PEACE, CHAPTER 27

Veterans for Peace News is published quarterly by Minnesota Veterans for Peace, Chapter 27.

Veterans for Peace works to increase awareness of the costs of war, restrain government from intervening in the internal affairs of other nations, end the arms race, reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons, seek justice for veterans and victims of war, and abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

We pledge to use democratic and nonviolent means to achieve our purpose.

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"There won't be any trumpets blowing come the Judgement Day — on the bloody morning after, one tin soldier rides away..."
(Potter & Lambert)



Vigil celebrates 15 years of resistance to war

by Marie Braun

In the spring of 1999, in response to the U.S. bombing of Yugoslavia, members of Women Against Military Madness (WAMM), Friends for a Nonviolent World, the Twin Cities Campaign to End Sanctions (on Iraq), Veterans For Peace, and a number of local faith communities started the weekly vigil on the Lake Street/Marshall Avenue bridge spanning the Mississippi River between Minneapolis and St. Paul. At the time, we gathered in solidarity with people in Yugoslavia who were standing on their bridges in the belief that the U.S. would not intentionally kill large numbers of civilians.

WAMM and Twin Cities Peace Campaign have been committed to this vigil for these 15 years because we believe it is important to have an ongoing public witness against war. We gather every Wednesday to remind our-

selves and others that the United States is at war and that we must speak out against the atrocities that our country commits in the name of national security. It also reminds us of the plight of the people, especially children, who live with the suffering and deprivation that war brings, and it joins us together to say "War is not the answer."

While the primary focus over the years was to oppose the sanctions on Iraq and the wars on and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan, vigilers have frequently raised their voices on other issues: threats of war against Iran, North Korea, Libya, Mali, and Syria; torture; attacks on civil liberties; drone warfare; and U.S. support for the occupation of Palestine. We called on our government to focus its resources on education, housing, health care, job creation, and other human

Bridge vigil, cont'd page 2

Greetings from the President

by Dave Logsdon

*“Let us resolve: first to attain
the grace of silence;
Second to deem all fault-finding
that does no good a sin...
Third to practice the grace
and virtue of praise.”*
-Harriet Beecher Stowe

Ms. Stowe has set the bar fairly high! As your new president I, like many of you, am a work in progress. For those who don't know me, a brief introduction is in order. In a VFP chapter full of educated and talented men and women, I am a working class stiff with the gift of gab and very little formal education. I am a hustler and schmoozer, but I have a good heart. I am a combat veteran, having served in the U.S.Navy aboard the USS Anthony P. Damato off the coast of North Vietnam. Our ship holds the “distinction” of being the only sea going Navy vessel hit during the Vietnam War.

Now I serve the cause of peace! As I assume the helm of our chapter, so capably guided by Larry Johnson these last few years, I am humbled by the task and thrilled to be working with a dynamic group of men and women.

Mike Madden, our new vice-president, has already done an amazing job in a little over a month on the job. The Drone Not Drones procession was a big success. Tim Hansen continues as our treasurer. Tim has been a strong presence at our meetings and the best treasurer the chapter has ever had. Chante Wolf again will serve as secretary and is a powerful and articulate voice. Like E.F. Hutton, when Chante speaks, we listen!

We have one of the strongest Veterans For Peace chapters in the country and we just keep getting stronger. We need all hands on deck to continue this struggle to change the militaristic paradigm in this country. I promise to match your energy and enthusiasm to this end! Peace, salaam, shalom, nabad.

THE FLOODS ARE COMING!

SAVE AMERICA!

Do your civic duty

and help sell canoe raffle tickets.

This War Business: If only . . .

by Tom Dooley

About 40 years ago there was a column written as to how and why reparations should be made to Mexico for the unprovoked attack and occupation by the U.S. There was a proposal to go back to the pre-1846 border. This would mean the American citizens of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Colorado and Utah would be illegal aliens subject to stop and search and the many other harsh actions done by governments, including deportation!

The excerpt below is from a letter to *The Economist of London* written in May of 2001 regarding the flying of flags:

“Sir, The American flag is habitually burned around the world by anti-imperialists while the British flag rarely is. The U.S. flag flies over the states of California and Texas, which America took by force from Mexico fewer than 150 years ago. Numerous cities and towns have Spanish names. Many Mexicans still call these states the “occupied” territories. Unlike Britain, America has not yet decolonized and continues to act in a brutal, imperialist fashion in many parts of the world.

“But can one expect from a nation whose creation involved the genocide of one race and the subjugation of another?”

Frequently heard on U.S. media is: “What are we going to do with Iran?” I wonder if the media in Iran ask, “What are we going to do with the United States?”

Bridge vigil, from page 1

needs, not war.

We want to thank Veterans For Peace for standing with us these many years and hope you will join us in celebrating Fifteen Years of Resistance to War and the Weapons of War on Wednesday, April 30, 2014. Come to the 5 p.m. vigil and stay for the potluck dinner and a evening of sharing, music, and celebrating our steadfastness in pursuing our quest for a world without war.

The new way of war: Is there a duty to use drones?

by Mike Madden

Representing Veterans For Peace, Women Against Military Madness, and the Anti-War Committee, more than a dozen people made their presence known at the University of Minnesota Law School on February 11, 2014. They were protesting a lecture by Professor Oren Gross provocatively titled “The New Way of War: Is There a Duty to Use Drones?”

In his introduction of Professor Gross, Law School Dean David Wippman sarcastically noted the protesters’ presence, saying that it appeared some in attendance had “already made up their minds.” In spite of the government’s best efforts to maintain secrecy, enough information is available regarding the drone-strike program for any attentive person to draw a firm conclusion; it is immoral, illegal, and counter-productive. Dean Wippman should not have been surprised that the lecture, whose title implies a moral or legal obligation for the continued use of killer drones, would invoke a duty to object among people of conscience.

If there is a duty for the recipient of the Irving Younger Professor of Law Award to tackle the thorniest of legal issues, it was side-stepped by Professor Gross in his declining to address the U.S. policies of greatest legal controversy: the use of weaponized drones outside of a war zone. While the wisdom of employing a weapon as insidious as a killer drone is questionable everywhere, there is no serious disagreement that they are lawful within a recognized area of armed conflict as long as they conform to the principles of proportionality and distinction.

So why would a legal scholar deliver a lecture on a matter that is considered settled law? According to Professor Gross, drones with their precision “present the specter of humane war.” He holds the possibility that drone videos could offer “real time legal review” of military actions and that drones could also write “differentiated norms” into international law, with nations possessing the technology being held to a higher standard in the protection of civilians.

Don’t be fooled. Humane war is an oxymoron. Humanity lies more in the prevention of war than in its execution. What the world needs today is accountability for aggression, regardless of whether the aggressor wins, loses, or withdraws from the conflict.

Does Professor Gross imagine his “real time legal



review” would be conducted independently, or would it remain the purview of lawyers within the Pentagon? When Reuters requested an investigation into the July 12, 2007, Apache helicopter attack that killed two of its journalists, the Pentagon told them that the crew had acted within the rules of engagement and that the video of the attack no longer existed. It is only thanks to Pvt. Chelsea Manning and the leak of the Collateral Murder video that we now

know just how wanton that attack was. We also learned that the crew subsequently killed a wounded man along with two rescuers in flagrant violation of the Geneva

Conventions. What the world needs today is the ability to subpoena military video for international review when a war crime is suspected. Internal Pentagon review has not, and never will, serve justice.

The idea of “differentiated norms” might make sense in a world where there is accountability under the existing body of law. As it is, we have impunity for the powerful, and accountability is reserved for the vanquished. As the Bush Administration’s torture regime became widely known in 2005, instead of demanding prosecution, Senator John McCain reacted by introducing yet another redundant prohibition of the illegal practice in a defense spending bill. Such action weakens the rule of law. In a similar distraction, Professor Gross calls for greater complexity in the law after the Obama Administration’s feeble attempt (the DOJ White Paper) to justify a patently illegal drone strike assassination program.

Following his presentation, Professor Gross was asked about drone assassination outside of Afghanistan. He replied that he would not dodge the question and said “there

*Humane war is an oxymoron.
Humanity lies more in the prevention of war
than in its execution.*

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When more than 10 deployments become normal

by Chante Wolf

When I returned from Desert Storm in 1991, the first thing I really wanted to do was kiss the tarmac, thankful for my blessings of living through a war (and other sports). Somehow I pulled the lucky number to leave as soon as I did, because they extended my other bunkmates 73 more days. I felt horrible, guilty and really weird about leaving, but my battle buddies pushed me out the tent door anyway. I was to go home and tell our story so we didn't go to war again.

However, once I was home, people got tired of hearing our story and began telling me to 'shut the f*&K up,' 'move on,' 'get over it,' 'it really wasn't a real war,' and 'what is wrong with you anyway?' These type of statements are very effective psychological tools of control in the military, and in extended circumstances, in the civilian population as well. 'Suck it up,' 'Don't whine,' 'Don't be a sissy,' 'What a coward,' are phrases that are very powerful and troops will do a lot to prove to superiors, peers and family that they are not any of those things.

The down side is that they will bring their moral, mental, or physical wounds home to fester instead of sharing, due to the dismissing aspect of those statements. What is vitally important for Americans to hear are the stories veterans want to tell. It is imperative that younger generations hear the truth about the costs of war, that soldiers' families understand their pain and wounds of war, and that Americans understand the long-term costs of war, past, present and future.

These important knowledgeable facts are what moves a civilization forward and heals the past. Of course as far as Veterans For Peace is concerned, we want war to be totally abolished, period.

Another important aspect of this need for truths and shared stories is to hold those in positions of power who call the shots of war accountable: for war crimes, fraud, waste, abuse, negligence and incompetence. This was what I took away from my military experience, that our country was ti NEVER turn into Nazi Germany and attempt to take over the world based on manufactured lies, overt instigations and directly agitating other countries into attacking us (or us faking such an attack) only to justify our military aggression.

By the end of Desert Storm, I had never heard of no more than three deployments to a war zone. However, over the past 12 years I have watched our troops deploy beyond six tours and tossed aside when they couldn't stomach war



Sergeant First Class Cory Rensburg, Injured on his 10th combat deployment, was a guest at this year's State of the Union address.

anymore, including a historical peak of 22 suicides a day. As each year passes, more deployments add up. Without any comment, criticism or objections, the troops seem to robotically accept their fate. Some want to go back because that has become their reality and others became addicted to the excitement of war. A few go back simply because they were sociopaths to begin with.

With the military salute at the State of the Union and Super Bowl events, I believe the military and political leaders raised the stakes by setting up ten or more deployments as the norm. Troops are expected to accept this without complaining.

Actually it has been happening already as amputees stay in and re-deploy, with the apparent message being: "Look at their courage, strength and resilience! What are you complaining about, you still have all your arms and legs!"

This was my reaction, anyway, to President Obama's introduction of 30-year-old Sergeant First Class Cory Rensburg.

"Cory is here tonight. And like the Army he loves, like the America he serves, Sergeant First Class Cory Rensburg never gives up, and he does not quit. (Cheers, applause.) Cory. (Extended cheers and applause.) My fellow Americans, my fellow Americans, men and women like Cory remind us that America has never come easy. Our freedom, our democracy, has never been easy."

In the meantime, the Air Force had F-16s patrolling the skies over the New Jersey MetLife Stadium for the Super Bowl. The game was opened by an Army flyover of heli-

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10 deployments, from previous page

copters, (Black Hawks, Apache and Chinook), a military color guard, and a 32-member armed forces chorus to accompany opera star Renee Fleming to sing the National Anthem.

The budget for the flyover alone was about \$100,000, which the Army said, “will foot the bill.” Why mention this? Because the military needs to replace the soldiers turned into multi-deployment war rag-dogs without calling a draft.

“This is the Super Bowl,” Colonel Steve Warren said. “It’s an event of national prominence. We believe it benefits the U.S. military to provide this flyover. . . . This is the type of audience we want to connect with.”

More factually, that is the crowd they want to recruit and excite into support for our continued wars of aggression for years to come. Ten or more tours? Don’t be a baby, soldier!

Drones, from page 3

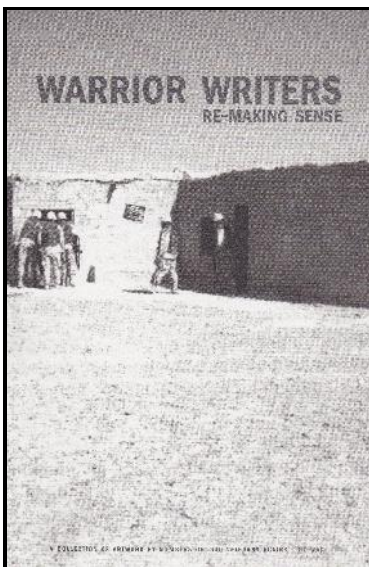
is much to be opposed in the CIA use of drones in Pakistan.” That sort of equivocation is not befitting a legal scholar. Outside of a war zone, everyone is a civilian and peace time rules apply. Hellfire missiles are impermissible law enforcement tools and, absent an imminent threat to another person’s life, everyone is entitled to due process. Until he acknowledges that such strikes violate the well-established body of international law, primarily the U.N. Charter, he is dodging the question. One can only conclude that Professor Gross has less interest in human rights and the rule of law than he does in normalizing the despicable and recruiting malleable candidates for the Judge Advocate General Corps.

Iraq war vets book available at VFP office

We have a number of copies of *Warrior Writers Remaking Sense*, a collection of artwork published by Iraq Veterans Against The War. If you are interested in a copy, please let us know.

The book is a compilation of poems, essays, photographs and drawings. Many of the pieces are from workshops that are designed to aid participants in “unburying experiences and connecting with each other on a personal and artistic level.

The poem at right is from the book.



Eulogy

by PFC B. Miller

It happens on a Monday, at 11:20 A.M.,
 as tower guards eat sandwiches
 and seagulls drift by on the Tigris River.
 Prisoners tilt their heads to the west
 though burlaps sacks and duct tape blind them.
 The sound reverberates down concertina coils
 the way piano wire thrums when given slack.
 And it happens like this, on a blue day of sun,
 when Private Miller pulls the trigger
 to take brass and fire into his mouth:
 the sound lifts the birds up off the water,
 a mongoose pauses under the orange trees,
 and nothing can stop it now, no matter what
 blur of motion surrounds him, no matter what voices
 crackle over the radio in static confusion,
 because if only for this moment the earth is stilled,
 and Private Miller has found what low hush there is
 down in the eucalyptus shade, there by the river.

Soldiers: Know Your Rights

To Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan: You took an oath to uphold the Constitution, not to support policies that are illegal. The GI Hotline phone number is:

1-800-394-9544

Re-emerging "R2P" Propaganda for U.S. Military Intervention in Syria

by Coleen Rowley

The propaganda that continues to flourish for war on Syria shows that many Americans fail to understand the problems posed by American Empire-building and believe our empire is an altruistic force that topples other governments and starts wars for the good of all mankind. Two recent articles in the New York Times — “Use Force To Save Starving Syrians” and “U.S. Scolds Russia as It Weighs Options on Syrian War” — are typical of the concerted efforts underway to ramp up American military intervention despite overwhelming opposition voiced by Congress and the American public, which thwarted Obama’s plan to bomb Syria, announced in late August last year.

The “U.S. Weighs Options” article is easier to expose since it employs an obviously twisted and one-sided reporting lens that puts the primary blame on Russia for the violent conflict in Syria. It was apparently fed to Michael R. Gordon and his Times colleagues by anonymous Administration officials as well as the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, the neocon think tank founded by the Israeli American Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) to deceptively appear to be independent of its parent, the foreign-based lobbying group. AIPAC has been revealed by scholars as the most powerful force in recent decades on American foreign policy, repeatedly pushing the U.S. into wars for Israel. It should be recalled that Gordon himself is the same reporter who gave a big assist in 2002 to Judith Miller by notoriously collaborating with Scooter Libby and other neoconservatives to gin up war on Iraq by writing false front page stories about Saddam’s WMD. Unfortunately Gordon was never held accountable, while Miller was eventually forced out of the Times and also did jail time for covering for Libby’s other illegal leaks. It’s therefore not surprising that Gordon and others continue to carry water and blatantly skew the facts for AIPAC and the neocons.

The other push for increased military intervention in Syria, however, could be categorized as “neo-lib.” The “Use Force” op-ed by long-time advocates of **Right to Protect (R2P)** and Syrian regime change, Danny Postel and

Nader Hashemi, current heads of the Korbel School in Denver, is even more insidious. As their colleague, Professor Rob Prince explained in an insightful counterpoint on the website of the think tank Foreign Policy In Focus:

“In calling for military intervention in Syria — something not even the U.S. military itself is particularly enthusiastic about — Hashemi and Postel cozy up, as they have before on Iran in 2009 and Libya in 2011, with the likes of AIPAC, along with this country’s band of intrepid and misdirected neoconservatives.

These are the same elements that pushed this country into invading Iraq and continue to push the Obama Administration to intervene militarily in Syria.”

It is a mistake to see the United States as an omnipotent global savior or policeman. We ought to bear this principle in mind in contemplating policy about problems anywhere on the globe. It certainly should be borne in mind with the Middle East, where there is a still fairly recent history of forceful U.S. action doing more harm than good.

Close examination of the facts is indeed required because R2P is based on a

form of ends-justify-the means utilitarianism: Orwellian-type propositions that killing can save lives and that war can bring human rights, democracy and peace. It’s not different from the commonly accepted arguments that torture can be justified because it saves lives or that we must destroy the village to save it. These arguments prey on people’s emotions instead of facilitating critical thinking based on actual facts or research.

These two writers urging U.S. military force admit “political interests” typically lie behind R2P interventions. But they fail to recognize how their own long-standing political interest in toppling the current Syrian government undercuts their own moral arguments. It also casts doubt on their suggestion that such force and aerial bombardment would be used evenhandedly against both Syrian regime forces and/or rebel militias, depending upon whichever side blocks the delivery of food and humanitarian supplies.

Any humanitarian proposal coming from Obama and Kerry, who similarly announced “Assad must go” from early on, would naturally face equal skepticism. Russia and China certainly remember how they were deliberately misled in U.N. Security Council discussions to not veto what

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then U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice sold as a limited “no fly zone” humanitarian mission to protect Libyans in Benghazi but which morphed within days of that vote into thousands of NATO bombing sorties over six months to take out Qaddafi and force regime change upon Libya. In the case of Libya, a right to protect became the right to destroy. That probably explains why Postel-Hashemi do not point to Libya as their precedent for R2P success but, rather bizarrely, to Somalia and the “Black Hawk Down” events.

It’s long been observed that “truth is the first casualty of war.” So fact-checking is needed when these R2P-regime change proponents point to the “humanitarian nightmare in Syria — replete with refugee flows, sarin gas, barrel bombs, and ‘industrial-scale’ killings and torture, (which have) horrified the world.” Facts are inherently scarce in the fog of war enveloping Syrian atrocities. Eventually truth will emerge.

But for starters, very little solid evidence exists as to who was responsible for the Sarin attack on Ghouta on August 21. Despite John Kerry’s initial bold claims that the U.S. possessed “undeniable” evidence that Assad’s forces were responsible “beyond any reasonable doubt,” Seymour Hersh in the London Review of Books and investigative journalists with McClatchy newspapers have reported that our intelligence was never conclusive. Evidence does exist of a few hundred Syrians dying in the August chemical attack but the overly precise figure the U.S. cited of 1429 victims is now widely viewed as exaggerated since it stemmed from a sloppy, rushed counting of shrouded images in various videos by our intelligence agencies.

The U.N. has also already backtracked on several of its original key findings about this Sarin attack. Whatever bits of intelligence the U.S. does possess remain classified and secret to this day, so it’s hard to assess but, at very least, the trajectory “vector analysis”(referred to by our U.N. Ambassador Samantha Powers and relied upon by the Times and Human Rights Watch) has been significantly discredited. The Times even had to print a retraction of its initial map showing trajectories of sarin-loaded missiles traveling nine kilometers after it was determined the range of the actual missiles used was no more than 2.5 kilometers.

The maps used by the Times and HRW were further undercut by the fact that no Sarin was found at the site of the supposed missile landing in Moadamiya, south of Damascus. The only rocket tested and found to be carrying Sarin was the one that landed in Zalmalka/Ein Tarma, east of Damascus. (HRW’s errors and, even worse, their failure to admit these errors when they knew their map was being relied upon to justify U.S. bombing of Syria, also calls their agenda into question. HRW’s hypocrisy using human rights as a pretext for military intervention and its directors’ con-

flicts of interests is documented at upsidedownworld.org.)

In late January, 2014, two weapons experts challenged the ballistic data based on MIT report “Possible Implications of Faulty US Technical Intelligence in the Damascus Nerve Agent Attack of August 21, 2013” casting significant doubt upon Syria’s responsibility for the massacre.

War crimes should of course always be brought to light and prosecuted. But the recent “smoking gun” report accusing Assad and conveniently made public just when the Geneva II peace negotiations were getting underway is suspicious on many levels. Reportedly commissioned and funded by Qatar, a country arming and funding Syria’s rebels, the report lacks independent, unbiased sources and omits evidence of war crimes being committed by rebel factions in Syria. (Also see “Is Syrian peace conference laying the foundation for war?” at Truthout.org.)

It’s no secret that the U.S. has a long history of toppling governments that it doesn’t like, even democratically elected ones. And Syria is not the only place right now where the official goal is regime change. The coup orchestration department is working overtime these days with reports of U.S. attempts to topple governments in Venezuela and Ukraine (the latter recently confirmed through interceptions of Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, formerly Dick Cheney’s principal deputy foreign policy advisor and married to neocon Robert Kagan, co-founder of the Project for the New American Century).

The use (abuse) of human rights law as justification for orchestrating such regime changes in Syria and around the world exemplifies a dangerous form of hypocrisy as it serves to deprive these international principles of legitimacy.

As retired CIA analyst Paul Pillar recently wrote in Consortiumnews.com, it is a mistake to see “the United States as an omnipotent global savior or policeman. We ought to bear this principle in mind in contemplating policy about problems anywhere on the globe. It certainly should be borne in mind with the Middle East, where there is a still fairly recent history of forceful U.S. action doing more harm than good...”

The War Crimes Times

*Read what “THEY”
don’t want you to read.
Know what “THEY”
don’t want you to know.*

www.warcrimestimes.org

Tools to help tell our VFPeace story in the schools

by Larry Johnson

There have always been times when a teacher who cares asked a member of VFP to share their experience in the classroom, but thanks to John Sherman, we began an organized effort in this area a few years back. Now that I'm no longer president, I'm making my main Veterans For Peace work be that of strengthening our presence in schools, because it's important. Education and the "scientific method" is supposed to be about asking questions and exploring all sides of an issue to reach a better truth, but too often, especially in areas of questioning the way we conduct warfare, it has no relationship to that. Young people have the need and right to hear and consider the truth as we in VFP see it.

Even if you don't have time to join our organized effort, you likely have some connection to young people. You're a teacher or youth group leader, a parent or grandparent, or you have friends who have children or grandchildren. The army recruiting manual (USAREC Pamphlet 350-13) says, under Purpose: **"To ensure an army presence in all secondary schools. School ownership is the goal."**

The pressure to recruit sometimes leads to egregious problems, like the recent revelation of even high school guidance counselors getting large kickbacks for referring students. However, even if it's just recruiters legitimately and aggressively pursuing that purpose, young people deserve to hear the parts of the story recruiters and propagandists won't tell. Here are some tools to help:

NNOMY, The National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth (www.nnomy.org) NNOMY allows you to access the kinds of resources we use when we are formally involved in a school career fair or talking in a classroom. You can also use them on your own with the young people in your circle.

FREE DOWNLOAD OF PEACE CURRICULUM (www.cecilram.com) Cecil Ramnaraine is an associate member who was a Minneapolis social studies teacher for many years. He developed an elementary and secondary curriculum to teach peacemaking skills, based on the lives of great peacemakers like Jeannette Rankin, Martin Luther King, Gandhi, Helen Keller, and others. Member and business person, Harold Nielsen, funded it for distribution on paper, but now any teacher, or individual who wishes to teach, can download the material and use it as needed. Just

offer to go in as a guest and tell your story and the story of one favorite peacemaker in a school you're connected to. If it's a Christian church school, tell the true story of Jesus, refusing to lead a violent revolution, choosing instead to build an "army" of nonviolent resisters dedicated to teaching the world to love one another.

2014 KELLOGG-BRIAND PEACE ESSAY CONTEST (www.faitpeace.org) This year's deadline, April 15, is coming up, so act fast, but each year the West Suburban Faith-Based Peace Coalition sponsors a contest with \$1,000 reward for a "best essay" on practical ideas for obeying the 1928 Kellogg-Briand Law outlawing war.

To get started, adults, or young people in schools, can send a Peace Essay Request email to frankgoetz@comcast.net with name, mail and email address, phone number, and age, if under 19. This gets you a judging number and details needed.

FREE DOWNLOAD OF PETER YARROW'S BULLYING CURRICULUM (www.operationrespect.org) There have always been bullies, but as the violence of the culture has been promoted heavily thru the media, it's ramped up in schools, and teachers have to deal with it. Veterans For Peace recently endorsed a stop bullying resolution introduced by member Wes Davey, and we'd be glad to send it to you if you email me at larryjvfp@gmail.com. As a veteran, you might be able to address the issue in your child's school. Bullies are often enamored with the macho version of military operations as portrayed in the media and can be enormously caught off guard by someone acting "tough" for a different reason. I tend to have a low-key style, in general, but as a teacher I learned to raise my voice, look a bully in the eye and say, "Don't you ever do that again to another person, ever." I have no documentation about how effective that is long term, but I know it worked at the time.

ARMISTICE DAY Thanks to the leadership of Steve McKeown, we've celebrated November 11, for years, in the spirit of the original 1918 Armistice, when the world came together and said, "This war was so horrendous, we must find a way to not ever do it again." We have a ceremony at the Capitol, committing to work for peace, and ringing bells 11 times, as they did back then, at the 11th hour of the 11th

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day and 11th month, when the armistice was signed. You can ask us to send someone to facilitate a similar ceremony at your school, or, if you're a veteran, we can provide resources for you to do it yourself at your child's school. Know that some countries still do this, and that in 1929, for example, the President of the United States could make a speech saying, "We're gathered here to honor those who have served us in war, and there is no greater honor we could give than to do everything possible to stop such war from happening again." The only thing that has changed today is that there's even more financial profit for some in keeping war going.

GO TO SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS Ask for true, balanced education. We've been told by teachers, "I'd like to have you speak in my class, but I'm afraid if I do, they'll use it to get rid of me." In the late 50s, my wife had a teacher who was a veteran of World War II. They had scintillating discussions in class, and it was clear that he believed the current party line that we needed to drop the atomic bomb to save lives and end the war. She wrote a final paper, arguing that it was wrong to drop the bomb, and his comments on her paper were, "I disagree with everything you've said, but you've written well, and supported your arguments strongly. I'm giving you an A plus." I believe that's real education, and we need more of it, especially in this area. People say the first casualty of war is the truth. Truth, or important parts of the whole story, shouldn't be AWOL in education.

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Please let us know if you want to receive our newsletter by email.
Contact: chantewolf7@gmail.com

Changing Address?

If you are moving please let us know, so you can receive your newsletter. Even if you leave a forwarding address with the post office, it still may cost us an additional \$ 1.10 each time so please let us know. Thank you

Kellogg Briand update

by Steve McKeown

As we go to print, there have been some developments related to our promoting the Kellogg Briand Pact, which outlaws war, and as most of you know is named after the only person from Minnesota ever to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, former U.S. Secretary of State Frank Kellogg.

Someone from the large annual Festival of Nations that is being held in May at the River Centre on Kellogg Boulevard in downtown St Paul (named after Frank Kellogg) researched the Pact, and VFP's involvement came up. This person contacted Larry Johnson, and asked if we could table for the entire four days. On one day alone, 20,000 teachers and students typically attend. The Festival Director also wants the Kellogg Pact made into banners. Last year we donated banners to the Minnesota Historical Society, the Kellogg House, and the Saint Paul City Council, to name a few. Wayne Wittman and I will be speaking to four classes at Como Park High School in St Paul in March, and we will present the banner to them. In addition to the gathering commemorating the making of Armistice Bells at Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis, they too will be given a banner. There are other schools we speak at in the spring that we will do likewise.

It is written on the top of the banner in Frank Kellogg's handwriting: "I WILL NOT be satisfied until every home, school, office, factory, church, and public building has a framed copy. Your desire expressed will be LAW and Gospel to millions. Speak out...Hold not your peace."

We also hand out copies of the same single page document on paper. We are making inroads to the millions that the Nobel Prize winner wanted to reach with the same identical statement which is LAW and is in VFP's Statement of Purpose: "To abolish war as an instrument of National policy." This is in direct opposition to the lawbreaking crackpot idealists who promote, prepare, and manipulate for war.

After WMD lies led to invasion, US now re-arms Iraq

by Chante Wolf

In late 2001, Americans were told repeatedly by their leaders, military and academic intellectuals that a military invasion of Iraq (already blown back to the stone age in 1991 and suffering from 12 years of monthly bombing and strict sanctions) was necessary due to its possession of WMD that posed a threat not only to our national security, but a great risk around the world.

A memo written by then Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, dated November 27, 2001, questioned how to start the war and offered a list of suggestions: "Saddam moves against Kurds in north? U.S. discovers Saddam connection to Sept. 11 attacks or to Anthrax attacks? Dispute over WMD inspections? Start now thinking about inspection demands."

The Iraq War Resolution was signed in October of 2002 and listed 12 statements for the justification for our invasion, among them was the charge of WMDs. Afterwards numerous intelligence agencies including the CIA and DIA discredited those accusations. But they cling to busy American and soldiers' minds to this day as truth.

Even though there were some potential WMD found around Iraq, they were of an aging grade and potency and not a risk at all to the magnitude that was argued as rationale for invasion. Even President Bush had to admit that some of the arguments in favor of the invasion turned out to be based on faulty intelligence.

What is known about the terrorists who attacked the United States on September 11, 2001, is that 15 of the 19 hijackers were from Saudi Arabia. Why then in 2008 did the U.S. sell weapons to not only the United Arab Emirates, but also Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, just to name a few, making the U.S. the top weapons seller for 2007-08 alone?

Now, the U.S. is defending the sale of over \$11 billion dollars worth of weapons to Iraq. This list of items include Boeing Apache helicopters, more than 500 Lockheed Martin Hellfire missiles, 10 new Boeing Scan Eagle UAV's



An AH-64D Apache Longbow Block III, the newest variant of the Apache helicopter. The US wants to send Apache attack helicopters to Iraq, along with hundreds more Lockheed Martin-made Hellfire missiles and more than 50 new surveillance drone aircraft. (Photo courtesy of PEO Aviation)

and 48 AeroVironment Raven UAV drones.

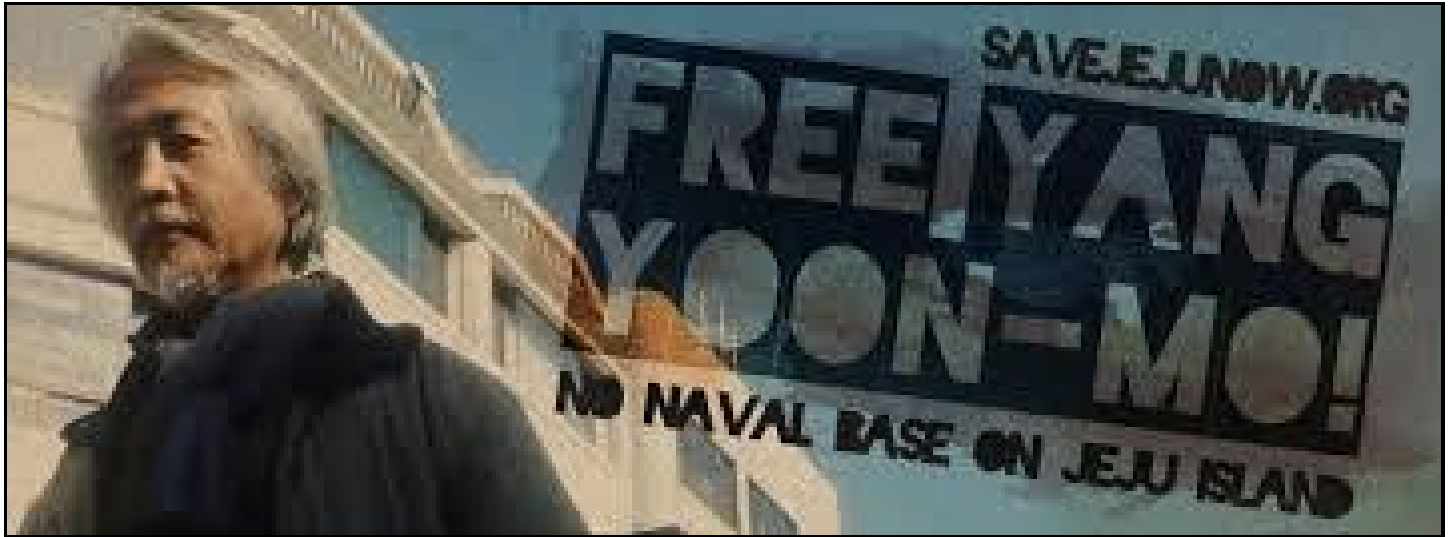
These weapons are a list of infantry carries, ground-to-air rockets: "681 Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and 40 truck mounted launchers, Sentinel radars, and three Hawk anti-aircraft batteries with 216 Hawk missiles." This also consisted of "50 Stryker infantry carriers, 12 helicopters and hundreds of millions of dollars worth of maintenance and logistical support for Iraq's thousands of American-made military vehicles that have been languishing under the breakdown of the Iraqi logistics system" when American troops began to move out in 2011.

The eyebrow raiser to this is the list also comprised of "50 General Dynamics-made nuclear, biological and chemical Stryker reconnaissance vehicles worth about \$900 million" including a five-year logistics contract worth \$750 million dollars to service the vehicles. These are "BAE Systems' M88A1 recovery vehicle, the M88A2 Hercules, M113 infantry carrier, Howitzers, and AM General-produced Humvees." This juicy list also contains 36 F-16's waiting on back order.

Not bad for business, yes? And what the heck, when things cool down there are always other reasons to make up for re-bombing Iraq! Meanwhile the corporations making this money have the best lawyers to find loopholes to cut their taxes. Here in the US of A, where our government needed to cut the budget that funds Food Stamps, left the poor Pentagon to cut retirements. And while more than 10 deployments have become the norm, 22 soldiers a day kill themselves, which saves money dished out by the VA. Ah, the fruits of manipulated capitalism and the military industrial complex.

What is to be done? Follow the money and cut it off at the pass! Get laws passed that makes those who do profit, pay 90 percent in taxes or make it illegal to profit off of war in the first place. Lastly, create a way that makes peace and diplomacy more profitable.

Jeju Island Protest Update



Professor Yang Yoon-Mo

by Joan Johnson

Since my article in the last VFP newsletter, Regis Tremblay has provided regular updates about the ongoing protest at Jeju Island, where Korean and U.S. governments are constructing an enormous naval base to serve as the U.S. pivot to Asia. In his Feb. 13th update, Regis said, “With their backs to the wall, the people continue to sing, dance, pray and decorate everything with signs, banners and knittings (knitted art work), as they protest peacefully every day against seemingly insurmountable odds. Meanwhile, Prof. Yang Yoon-Mo, the Korean film critic, has been in jail for 13 months of an 18-month sentence. He is the lone activist still in jail, serving his fourth imprisonment for protesting the naval base.”

More recently, “there were people from the base taking measurements close to the community dining room, reportedly for the construction of another entrance to the base. Eventually much of the surrounding property will be taken over to make room for housing to accommodate 8,000 marines, and Ganjeong Village will be transformed into bars, brothels and shops to serve the needs and wants of the Americans who will be stationed there. The least we can do is amplify the voices of the people of Ganjeong Village. These protesters represent the voices of all of us who are on the front lines against war, militarism, the desecration of the planet and the violation of human rights.”

Regis also mentioned a letter-writing campaign to Pope Francis, asking that he visit Jeju Island when he travels to Korea in August 2014. His film “The Ghosts of Jeju” was recently made an official selection of the “Peace on Earth Film Festival,” held in Chicago in March of this year. You

can hear video updates and learn about related events and actions on “Vimeo.” If you would like to join their daily protests, they provide accommodations (food, housing, etc.) for everyone who comes.

The talk cited above in this article is at <https://vimeo.com/86734794>. For more info on the film, visit theghostsofjeju.net.

Peacestock moves to Red Wing

The 12th annual Peacestock will move to a new location at Colvill Park in Red Wing this year and it will be held Saturday, July 12. While the beauty of the Schaefer Wind Beam Farm (and the goats and cat) will be missed, the new venue is on the banks of the Mississippi River and will be held indoors with air conditioning!

Red Wing VFP Chapter 115 will be partnering with Chapter 27 to make this year’s event even more successful, with a wider audience and impact. This partnership has come full circle, since early Peacestock was a joint project between Chapters 27 and 115.

National and local speakers are being sought out. New catering options and other benefits of the new location are being investigated as well.

If you’d like to help, contact one of the chapters. Peacestock planning is fun and satisfying when it all comes together in July to affirm our commitment to peace. If you can’t help, come and check out the new digs in July!

Judge sentences three plowshares activists to prison

According to information received from Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA), Greg Boertje-Obed, Sister Megan Rice and Michael Walli were sentenced on Tues., Feb. 18, in federal court in Knoxville, Tennessee. They were convicted last May on charges of depredation of property and sabotage for their nonviolent action called “Transform Now Plowshares” at a nuclear weapons complex in Oak Ridge, TN.



On July 28, 2012, the three entered Y12 early in the morning. They cut four fences and traversed a lethal-force authorized zone, arriving at the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility (HEUMF), the nation’s warehouse of weapons-grade, highly enriched uranium. They poured blood on the walls of HEUMF and spray-painted “Plowshares Please Isaiah,” and “The Fruit of Justice is Peace.” They also chipped a corner of the concrete wall with a small hammer, a symbolic act reflecting the Old Testament prophecy of Isaiah who said, “They shall beat their swords into plowshares.”

At the hearing, each of the Plowshares resisters spoke, reminding the court of the central purpose of their action: to call attention to the ongoing violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty at the Y12 plant. This facility was chosen for this action because of plans for a multi-billion dollar bomb plant to be built there: the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF), the sole purpose of which is to produce ther-

monuclear cores for warheads and bombs. Currently, Y12 workers are performing Life Extension Upgrades on the W76 warhead. In testimony at hearings leading up to the trial, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark called the production of nuclear weapons components at the Y12 facility “unlawful,” and the work there “a criminal enterprise.”

Both Michael and Greg received sentences of 62 months on each count, to be served concurrently, followed by three years of supervised release. Megan received a sentence of 35 months on each count, to be served concurrently, followed by three years of supervised probation.

Ralph Hutchison, coordinator of OREPA, said, “Though their bodies remain in prison, their voices are free, reminding us that the central issue of this action and trial has not been resolved. As long as the government continues to produce thermonuclear weapons of mass destruction in Oak Ridge or anywhere, people are required to resist.” Supporters outside the courtroom had a lot to say about the U.S. silencing dissenters and the courageous sacrifice of Megan, Michael and Greg, who, whether they are in prison or are free, “will continue to pray and work to save the life of the planet.”

This article was compiled by Joan Johnson from Paul Magno’s Feb. 18th news brief (OREPA)

From Sister Megan Rice’s sentencing statement

We are all grateful that the details of the goings-on at Y-12 were revealed by the witnesses for the government, details kept mostly secret, over nigh to 70 years – the specific warheads being “enhanced” and “modernized” – the enormous quantities of highly enriched uranium material (HEUM) produced and stored there, in the very building we were able, almost unknowingly, to reach, to touch, and to label with statements and symbols of truth.

Many who were here on Jan. 28th had attended plowshares trials around the country. In many of these earlier trials, even the words, nuclear weapons, have been called “classified” and denied to be alluded to.

I am grateful also for what Daniel Berrigan called in a

letter to me in Danbury Prison in 1998, “my time under federal scholarship.” We have tried to make the most of it. We are activated by the people who suffer under disempowering conditions of detention. Activated to invite U.S. prison reform, which calls for transformation of minds and hearts from violence. Violence of profiteering from the “fall out” of constant, unending war-making, by a military industrial complex.

We are energized to call for life-enhancing alternative projects: like disarmament, depleting radioactive isotopes and toxins, and those which meet real needs – social, cultural, spiritual and environmental: restoration, healing, harmony, balance and peace in non-violence.

FBI documents for raids on anti-war activists unsealed

by The Anti-War Committee

On Feb. 26, the application and affidavit used to obtain the search warrants for the 2010 raids on homes of local anti-war activists and the Anti-War Committee (AWC) were unsealed, revealing lies and attacks on the constitutionally-protected rights to speak out and organize. The unsealing of these documents came as a result of legal action taken by Jess Sundin and Mick Kelly.

The timeline in the documents show what we have always stated. Shortly before the huge protest at the Republican National Convention in 2008, an undercover police agent going by the name of Karen Sullivan joined the AWC and became active in the efforts to organize the demonstration. She later joined Freedom Road Socialist Organization.

The documents demonstrate a callous disregard for free speech and the right to associate. They in effect criminalize those of us who oppose U.S. wars, and stand in solidarity with the oppressed. From Palestine to Colombia, people want to be free from the domination of Washington. We have said this publicly on thousands of occasions and will continue to do so.

This investigation is an attempt to sever ties of understanding and support between the people of the United States and oppressed people globally. We work in solidarity with people suffering from the results of U.S. imperialism, and the government is distressed by this collaboration. People should have the freedom to meet with anyone they wish around the world. It should not be against the law; indeed, it should be our right, and is our duty, to reach out to other human beings across political borders to extend what we have to offer, be it eyes to witness the truth of their situation and voices to educate others about that truth, hands to work side by side with our brothers and sisters, or money to help communities fund projects which they know best how to manage.

This investigation is an attempt to intimidate. It is part of an effort to make people afraid to speak out against government policy. The initial infiltration began during the planning phase of the 2008 RNC protests. We were being spied on at a time when our biggest work was being done to hammer out the details of obtaining legal permits. Despite the insinuations of the affidavit, we were doing legitimate

activism and fundraising throughout the time of the infiltration.

This investigation is an attempt to alienate us from each other. In the affidavit, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, with whom we share many members, is hounded for their philosophy. One of the most precious organizing tools that came out of those initial RNC protest meetings was the community-wide dedication to the St. Paul Principles, a set of guidelines for working together toward a common organizing goal regardless of our ideological affiliation. This diversity of individuals working together has long been a mainstay of the Anti-War Committee. Our core members have included Muslims, Buddhists, Christians and atheists; believers in pacifism, and in just war; communists, greens, anarchists and democrats. We are all these things, but most importantly we are organizers who

work to make sure that our tax dollars and our government is not harming others in our name. We will not be divided by the government's attempts to demonize one group of us!

We thank Veterans For Peace for their support. We call on all our supporters to recognize the truth of who the Anti-War Committee has always been, to know that your contributions are being used for legitimate activism, to stand in unity with activists in a common struggle regardless of particular ideology, and to continue the important work of organizing for peace and justice throughout the world. Hands off the Peace Movement!

If you wish to make a contribution to The Anti-War Committee, you may do so online at antiwarcommittee.org or by sending a check to the Anti-War Committee, 4200 Cedar Ave. #4, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

The documents demonstrate a callous disregard for free speech and the right to associate. They in effect criminalize those of us who oppose U.S. wars, and stand in solidarity with the oppressed.

Stopping the harassment of these protesters is long overdue. What should instead be investigated and acted on is a 2014 report by Amnesty International where the top ten recipients of U.S. aid in this year's budget proposal have all been implicated in the use of torture. First is Israel with \$3.1 billion and 10th is Uganda with \$456 million. The countries in order that fall between those two figures are Afghanistan, Egypt, Pakistan, Nigeria, Jordan, Iraq, Kenya, Tanzania.

EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING EVENTS

Second Sunday each month, 5:30--7:30 pm:
VFP Chapter 27 general meeting,
1806 Riverside Ave., #3A.
Executive meeting at 5 p.m.
FFI: Dave Logsdon at 612-203-9768.

4:30-5:30 pm Weds. Lake Street/Marshall Ave. Bridge vigil.

OTHER EVENTS

Mar. 16-April 6. Regional premiere of *Lonely Soldiers: Women at War in Iraq* at History Theatre. Play follows the experiences of eight female soldiers who were on the front lines in the early years of America's recent war, told in their own words. Special offer for veterans: 2 for 1 tickets to any performance. Use promo code "Veterans Day." 30 E. 10th Street, St. Paul. 651-292-4323. See article on page 16.

Mar. 15-Apr. 6: *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien Adapted for stage by Jim Stowell, History Theater, 30 East 10th Street, St. Paul, MN 55101. In rep with *Lonely Soldiers*.

Mar. 20, 6 p.m. Bells Ringing Peace Around the World Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis, MN, Guild Hall

Mar. 30-April 3: SOA Watch. Spring Days of Action. Converge on Washington, DC

April 30. 15th anniversary of vigil at the Lake Street Bridge. Help celebrate 15 years of resistance to war. We hope that Veterans For Peace and others who have come to the Lake Street Bridge over the years will join us for this special event.

May 4, Sunday, 1 p.m. 40th MayDay Parade. Meet at Cedar Field (25th and Cedar) near Holy Rosary about 12:30 We will walk with our VFP flags throughout the parade route to Powderhorn Park.

May 26, Memorial Day. Gather in St. Paul, near Vietnam Memorial. FFI call 612-821-9141.

July 12. Peacestock. Colvill Park in Red Wing. See article on page 11.

July 23-27. VFP 2014 Annual Convention at U. of NC at Asheville. Hosted by VFP Ch. 99 in Asheville. This year's theme: "Peace or Perish Abolish War on Planet and Poor"

For information on vigils, go to the VFP website at vfpchapter27.org or call 612-827-5364 or visit www.worldwidewamm.org

The U.S. manipulation of international law

by Steve McKeown

As soon as Russian troops went into Ukraine, Wikipedia listed the action on its website as an example of the Kellogg Briand Pact (KBP) not working because it had no means of enforcement. Interestingly the U.S. invasion of Iraq was not listed. The KBP intentionally did not call for enforcement as this would negate settling disputes by pacific means only which is what the Law requires. So Wikipedia levels a false criticism. In this articulation of the KBP effectiveness there was no mention of the U.S. role in the not so peaceful means of bankrolling much of the Nazi-like sweethearts who overthrew the Ukraine government.

Ironically, Secretary of State John Kerry and President Obama are falling all over themselves and everyone else claiming Russia violated International Law. The KBP is the genesis of what they are holding Russia to while exempting themselves. One can only wonder if Kerry was able to attend the weekly Tuesday White House "Drone Kill List" meeting before he went to Kiev. The KBP is there to honor, not to manipulate. If our leaders were so high minded to want to honor the Law they are shrieking about, then our country should sign onto being held accountable to the International Criminal Court instead of using gunboat diplomacy and being an economic hit man for the global corporate state.

Again, the KBP is there for everyone to honor. The leaders of the world would do well to heed Shakespeare's words: "The fault dear Brutus is not in our stars, but in ourselves." In outlawing war this Pact was the brightest star, perhaps of all human endeavors. In service of manipulation the KBP may well follow from Shakespeare again: "Out, out brief candle! Life's but a walking shadow; a poor player that frets his hour upon the stage and then is heard no more."

BUT THE STORY CONTINUES in another direction i.e., that challenges our very being: "It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." The millions that worked for the KBP in the 1920's in the the greatest Peace Movement the world has ever seen were not idiots. For their work to continue and bear fruit requires a stage call where the price of admittance is adherence to a Law that is better than the dark side of our individual selves, clans, or nations. The KBP, like the laws against capital punishment, is just that.

Two videos show what your metadata says about you

by Frank Fuller

Two graduate students at MIT have developed a tool that allows gmail users to see exactly what the NSA can learn about them through email metadata. Their tool takes the information in the “from,” “to,” “CC,” and “time stamp” fields, analyzes it and presents it graphically and over time. The result is a picture that describes individuals better than the contents of those emails ever would.

At <https://immersion.media.mit.edu/> you can sign in and use this tool to see how the NSA might view you. Who you email, how often you email them, and when you email them all reveal a great deal about you, your interests and your friends. Even if you stop emailing someone, it says something. This data reveals all your social circles as well as the social circles of everyone you email. What comes across is that this is not neutral data. It is tinted with your likes and dislikes, your attitudes and outlooks, even your politics. It is there waiting for someone to put some meaning to it. Or for something like an NSA computer to flag it.

That’s just one example of how metadata can be used and abused by the government. Another video, (at <https://www.aclu.org/meet-jack-or-what-government-could-do-all-location-data>) put together by the ACLU, shows how license plate trackers, which are being used more and more extensively even in the Twin Cities, can be used to create a personal story and even lead to possible arrests, without police seeing you do anything.

In this video, they follow a fictitious character through

license plate trackers and determine that his girlfriend has another lover and that he just left a party and is probably driving drunk. So he might be stopped and arrested, simply because of metadata taken from license plate trackers he passes on the road. License plate trackers also determine that another person at the party might have some sort of criminal intent as he drives home.

Metadata is not neutral, even though supporters of the NSA say it is. President Obama has assured us several times that the NSA’s collection of metadata harms no one except terrorists and those who have something to fear.

But these two projects demonstrate that is not true. Other experts say the same thing, that metadata collection is very intrusive and is very revealing. Everything about our lives is in our metadata, and agencies are collecting it indiscriminately from our Internet use, our phone records, our credit card use and our reliance on social media. Security cameras record us as we walk or drive by, and overhead drones might be following us.

There are too many opportunities for abuse, and our history with programs like COINTELPRO should convince everyone of that. There are examples of some of this data finding its way into simple criminal prosecutions illegally. There are possibilities it might be used to smear or blackmail people. The huge amounts of data being collected all point in that direction.

And it all starts just with the sweeping up of everyone’s metadata.

Support Mayday Books

Find a wide range of books and periodicals at 15% off cover price. All the time!

301 Cedar Ave., West Bank
(downstairs under the bike shop)

Mayday Books has been a consistent and significant supporter of Chapter 27 for many years. The volunteer staff has provided help with mailings and has donated books for the use of our group. It is also a great place to drop in and have a cup of coffee and talk with whomever happens to be there and find that book you have been looking for.

Hours: M-F noon to 7 p.m, Sat. noon to 6 p.m.

According to the nuclear watchdog group Ploughshare Fund, the refurbished nuclear bombs for the B-61 bomber literally cost more than twice their weight in gold. Also, the 10-year estimated costs for our nuclear weaponry is 660 billion. Fools gold is what it really is.

“It’s really not a number I’m terribly interested in.”

Colin Powell responding to a question about the number of Iraqis who were slaughtered by Americans in 1991



Veterans for Peace, Inc., Chapter 27
1806 Riverside Ave., #3A.
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SUPPORT THE TROOPS! BRING THEM HOME ALIVE NOW!

As of Dec. 6, 2013:
4,486 dead in Iraq and
2,315 combat deaths in Afghanistan.

An estimated 18-22 veterans commit suicide each day,
amounting to 35,770 over the past five years.

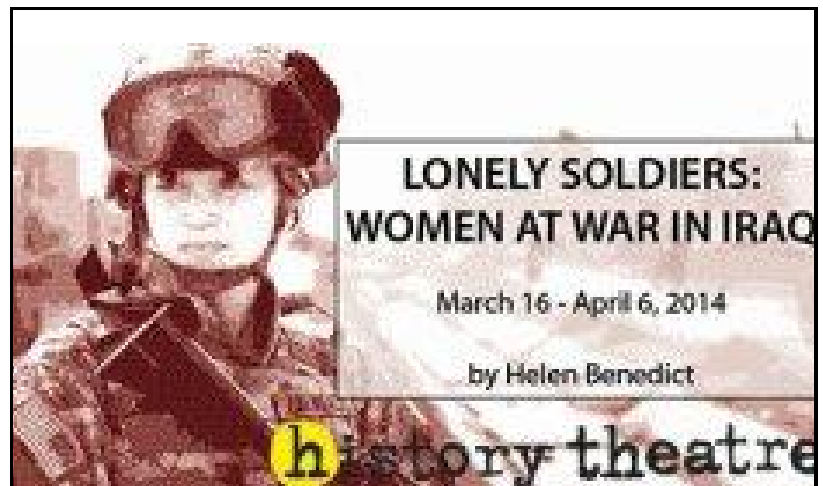
Theater discounts for vets through MNTheater Alliance

Discounts at a number of theaters in the Twin Cities are available to vets and active duty personnel, as part of a program through Minnesota Theater Alliance.

A current play that would be of interest to veterans is *Lonely Soldiers: Women at War in Iraq* at The History Theatre in St. Paul.

The stories of soldiers on the front lines of America's most recent wars are unlike any that came before, especially for women in uniform. This provocative and timely play by award-winning author Helen Benedict is based on interviews with soldiers stationed on the front lines in Iraq; these are the real words of eight battle-tested women warriors recounting their traumatic experiences on battlefield and in the barracks, and their personal journeys toward recovery and justice. Honest, heartfelt, and current, this play opens the door for conversations about war, gender, and the challenges facing the next generation of American soldiers. Show runs March 16 - April 6.

The discount for this show is two tickets for \$40 at any



7 or 8 p.m. show. Call the History Theatre Box Office at 651-292-4323 and mention "Minnesota Theater Alliance."

For other shows offering discounts as part of this program, go to <http://mntheateralliance.org/discounts/vets>.