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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)



Iraq Water Project update

by Art Dorland, IWP Chair Emeritus,
and Barry Riesch

Greetings from Iraq Water Project to our supportive chapter in Minnesota. While you pale Hyperboreans huddle up to your winter firesides, please know that many people in a very hot – in every sense – climate are still trying to bring help to the unfortunate victims of American policy in Iraq.

Our project is now in its 16th year and, while slowed because of the situation on the ground, it is still striking determinedly at the anvil as opportunity presents itself. New sites in Nassiriya, four clinics and schools, will soon be receiving reverse osmosis water units.

And we have importantly gotten good cooperation on revisiting old sites and making necessary repairs. As reported once before, we lost our installation team in Baghdad a couple of years ago due to death threats, but the

Nassiriya techs are working as fast as money comes in, and we have also cooperated with Life for Relief and Development in Diyala Province.

IWP appreciates all support, especially from chapters, and Ch. 27 has been among the best. The project is in process of reorganization and has a new chair, Iraq vet Mark Runge. We should have an update at iraqwaterproject.org soon, and perhaps a new format. Thanks again, and I hope we can meet your expectations.

VFPIWP always welcomes new members and of course donations of any size. A small bit of light for a country and people whose lives we (America) have made so miserable.

Please send donations to Veterans For Peace, 1404 N. Broadway, St.Louis, MO 63102 and put VFPIWP on check memo line. Or visit vfp@veteransforpeace.org

No military aid to Ukraine

by Steve McKeown

VFP Chapter 27 Vice President Mike Madden has organized meetings with Representatives Ellison and McCollum's offices regarding the past and impending U.S. involvement in Ukraine. Mike's thorough oral and written assessment of the situation gave both offices information they admitted to not knowing.

As we go to print, a number of blowhards in the Senate are going to the edge of lunacy in trying to equip Ukraine with lethal aid against Russia. NOTE: the Kellogg Briand Pact is binding on all three countries, all the while these lunatics are pontificating about International Law.

Maine VFP Chapter 1 member Bruce Gagnon, who is also the coordinator for the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, has sent out notices to chapters encouraging members to contact the Senate before the war fever becomes a disease. "The U.S. does not give a damn about the people of Ukraine," it reads. "Instead the U.S.- NATO are acting as military agents of corporate capital who want control of Ukraine for the following reasons:

- "GMO outfits want the excellent farming soil in Ukraine;
- oil corporations want to drill for fracked gas in Ukraine;
- the US-NATO want a "missile defense" base in Ukraine;
- the US-EU want to break up (Balkanize) Russia in order to have an easier time of regime change that would allow corporations to take control of Russia's "largest supply of natural gas" on the planet; as Arctic ice melts the western energy corporations want control of the Arctic Ocean, but Russia has the largest land border with that body of water. Thus Russia must be Balkanized and returned to the previous state under President Yeltsin where that 'drunken' leader handed their nation's economy over to the west."

Gagnon then goes on to write, "The crime of Putin is that he tried to reestablish Russia as a sovereign nation and refuses to turn over its vast natural resources to western corporations."

Thus, like Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Yugoslavia, and Syria, the US-NATO intend to take Russia down to its knees.

Notes from the President

by Dave Logsdon, chapter president

*"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."
(Frederick Douglas)*

The windows of opportunity seem like they never present themselves to you. When they do, you have to be ready to jump. I'm thinking about the number one rule in peace activism, which is showing up, and the value of doing just that. Just as you arrive at an event or demonstration and find a disappointing number of people there, you find that crack that lets the light get in.

As a serial networker, I see the world as one big opportunity with portals to ideas, people, and the potential that, fueled by imagination, can lead to amazing things. I don't expect anyone to be so 24/7 about VFP, but if we all keep our ears open for these "VFP moments," we can leverage our relatively small numbers and maximize our impact. One hundred people gathered on a street corner with signs on a street corner garners people's curiosity; 100 people with Vets For Peace flags is an event!

Hopefully, you all are on our e-mail list, because I intend to write weekly reminders and requests to increase our awareness level, put more boots on the ground, and to keep pushing the rock of world peace to the top of the hill. There is definitely a war weariness in this country today and all us "peaceful warriors" should be ready to meet the challenges this opportunity provides us. This goal of world peace may seem impossible, but we really don't have a lot of choice. Most of us have children and a lot of us have grandchildren. At the end of the day, I for one, want to look them in the eye and say, "Grandpa gave it his best shot."

That's all for now, see you on the streets! (And don't forget to bring your flags!)

Peace, salaam, shalom, nabad (Somalian), fred (Norwegian).

P.S. Special thanks to our Augsburg intern, Synnoeve Moe, for her hard work and teaching me the Norwegian word for peace that I'll never be able to pronounce!

Wayne Wittman and Mary McNellis will once again be our travel agents for coordinating the bus trip to Ft. Benning GA in Nov.

Placing ISIS in Context

by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer

Here are five important things to remember in order to understand the rise of the group ISIS.

First, ISIS can best be understood as an example of blowback. Chalmers Johnson defined blowback as “the unintended consequences of events (US foreign policies) that were kept secret from the American public, so that when the retaliation comes, the public has no way to put it into context.”

Second, the roots of ISIS, the most recent example of blowback, go back much farther than many of us are aware. Most Americans don't know that radical Muslims who carried out the devastating terrorist attacks on 9/11/2001 were former allies of the United States and that many had been the beneficiaries of billions of dollars in U.S. support, training, and weapons. Many of these radical Muslims (the Mujahadeen), including Osama bin Laden, later morphed into al Qaeda.

The official history of this period says that the United States began aiding the Mujahadeen in response to the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. The official story is a lie. Former CIA director Robert Gates (later President Obama's Secretary of Defense) states in his memoirs that American intelligence services began aiding the Mujahadeen six months before the Soviet invasion. Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security advisor to President Jimmy Carter, stated the U.S. intent: “We knowingly increased the probability” of a Soviet invasion. “I told the president, ‘We now have the opportunity of giving to the USSR its Vietnam War.’”

Brzezinski was asked in a 1998 interview if he regretted this policy. He responded: “Regret what? It had the effect of drawing the Russians into the Afghan trap.” The interviewer tried one more time to get Brzezinski to acknowledge what his policies had unleashed.:

Interviewer: “And neither do you regret having supported Islamic fundamentalism, having given arms and advice to future terrorists?”

Brzezinski: “What is most important to the history of the world? The Taliban or the collapse of the Soviet Union? Some stirred-up Moslems or the liberation of Central Europe and the end of the Cold War?”

Third, ISIS itself arose as a consequence of the brutal and failed U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq. In fact ISIS and its leadership emerged in the context of years of imprisonment at Camp Bucca in Iraq.

Fourth, the hatred of the United States is widespread in the Muslim world because of U.S. policies. The Pentagon-

appointed Defense Science Board on Sep. 23, 2004, stated: “Muslims do not ‘hate our freedom,’ but rather our policies. The overwhelming majority voice their objections to what they see as one-sided support in favor of Israel and against Palestinian rights, and the longstanding, even, increasing support for what Muslims collectively see as tyrannies, most notably Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Pakistan, and the Gulf States.” It went on to say, “Thus, when American public diplomacy talks about bringing democracy to Islamic societies, this is seen as no more than self-serving hypocrisy.”

Finally, escalating U.S. military engagement against ISIS will be another tragic blunder. Any U.S. military involvement against ISIS and in the region as a whole has, will and always will backfire. Andrew Bacevich wrote recently that since 1980 the United States has invaded or occupied or bombed 14 countries in the Islamic world. “By inadvertently sowing instability,” he writes, “the United States has played directly into the hands of anti-Western radical Islamists. . .” “Want to measure what America's war for the Middle East has accomplished...? The Islamic State has to rank prominently on any list of achievements.”

WORLD BEYOND WAR

VFP members Leah Bolger, Bruce Gagnon, and Paul Chappell are among the impressive International Speakers Bureau headed up by David Swanson. Very worthy of CHECKING out and SUPPORTING.

www.worldbeyondwar.org/speakers/

Support Mayday Books

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**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.

Education, education, and more education

by Larry Johnson

I've spent my entire life as an educator/storyteller, teaching environment, love of reading and writing, critical thinking skills, and as much as possible, social justice. I'm pleased to now be mostly focused on peace and justice, so let me discuss a little "educational theory," from both my perspective and our mission.

The Best Way to Learn Something is to Teach It Yourself: When you study it hard enough so you could teach it or tell it to someone else, YOU KNOW IT. My way of doing that in public education was to teach students to write, tell their own story, or make their own video.

Two Peace Essay contests allow that possibility for us

right now. It's not too late to get in on this year's contest focused on the Kellogg-Briand Pact, but you have to go to www.faitpeace.org soon for the rules, because the first part of it must be in by April 15. This one is for all ages, but it's certainly a way to get the young people in your life to focus on peace.

Another one, for high school juniors and seniors, is being organized by Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, where I now serve on the Leadership Team. This one goes from September 1-October 15, and exact topics will be announced end of summer. Start talking to the young people in your life so they will be ready. Then send me an email at larryjvfp@gmail.com, and I'll make sure you're the first

Continued on next page

2015 begins a large commemoration of the War in Vietnam, largely rewriting history.

Tom Brokaw's bestseller on the 60s devotes pages to Les Gelb who "worked on what came to be known as the Pentagon Papers." It doesn't say what they were, and Daniel Ellsberg is never mentioned. Omission is rampant in the book and the expensive remembrance of that War. Surely, if we can't even hear the lessons of history, we will relive them.

The March 20 event features seven storytellers/musicians, mostly veterans. Dick Foley, Gerald Ganann, Catrina Huynh-Weiss, Steve McKeown, Gary Melom, George Mische, and Chante Wolf will tell the tales being ignored, as Gulf of Tonkin, Kent State, My Lai, draft card burning, Dr. King's Vietnam speech, Fulbright Hearings, impact on the Vietnamese, rape in Vietnam, homeless veterans, and the travesty of Agent Orange.

Co-sponsored by Macalester Plymouth United Church Peacemakers and Making Meaning of Vietnam, it is also endorsed by Veterans For Peace Chapter 27.

For more information or to reserve a free seat: Larry Johnson, 612-747-3904 or larryjvfp@gmail.com. Larry is past President of Veterans For Peace, and serves on Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers Leadership Team. In 2003 he helped start World Storytelling Day, with events each year in 25 or more countries, with the inherent message: **IF I HEAR YOUR STORY, IT'S HARDER TO HATE YOU.**

SEVEN STORIES I WISH THEY'D TELL ABOUT THE WAR IN VIETNAM

World Storytelling Day

7 p.m. March 20 2015

Macalester Plymouth United Church
1658 Lincoln, St Paul



collage by Josh McKeown

one in your neighborhood to get the topics and guidelines when they come out.

The Isaac Asimov Theory: The great science fiction writer once said, “If you want to teach effectively, you must start with what a child is interested in. If he or she loves baseball, start with baseball cards. You get math from computing averages, reading from the information on the card, geography from where the players come from, etc. Given the high level of sports interest in the culture, I’d suggest googling Dave Zirin. He’s maybe the only serious sports writer who covers professional sports from a peace and justice angle, e.g. Muhammed Ali’s refusal to go to Vietnam, and many things more current. I read several of his books earlier, and I now get his column each week. Any interest can apply. If it’s science and technology, there are mindless or harmful inventions and discoveries, and there are those that foster peaceful coexistence. Children who are interested can be deliberately taught one or the other.

Teachable Moment: Education tends to be constructed around prescribed curriculum, but the best learning can be when something happens that suddenly grabs everyone’s attention, like a hawk swooping down and catching a mouse in the schoolyard. It’s important to have a plan, a “curriculum,” but more important to always be ready. My grandson invited me to play a video game, and though he’s not supposed to have violence (a bit of influence from us on our “children,” the parents), this one had the players shooting at aliens. I said, “I can’t kill those guys.” He said, “Why not? They’re the bad guys.” And the discussion ensued.

In that vein, a few days before I’m writing this, I went to hear the new Director of the Nobel Peace Prize Forum. Leader types come from all over the world to this event, and I asked, “Has the forum ever directly addressed what gets called war profiteering?” She said, “I don’t think so. Most of the program is already built, but if you could get a panel and a short description to us in five days, we could put that in as a dialogue session.” I could have said, “I don’t have time,” which I didn’t, but this was a teachable hour. Just seeing the question in the Forum program educates and raises awareness. More on this after it happens, but the program will say something like **SHOULD IT BE LEGAL TO PROFIT FINANCIALLY FROM WARFARE? HOW MUCH DOES THE PROFIT MOTIVE DRIVE INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT?**

Both Sides of the Issue: Long ago, John Stuart Mill wrote, in *On Liberty*, that real truth and freedom emerge when people have a chance to hear all sides of the issue. That’s the point of our March 20 event at Macalester

Plymouth United Church. The big, coming commemoration of Vietnam at www.vietnamwar50th.com is leaving out the sides we’ll cover in **SEVEN STORIES I WISH THEY’D TELL ABOUT THE WAR IN VIETNAM**.

Tom Brokaw’s bestseller on the 60s, probably central to the commemoration, laboriously establishes his “liberal” credentials, then repetitively leaves things out. One chapter discusses Les Gelb, later a reporter, who worked on “what came to be called the Pentagon Papers.” It neglects to say what they were, and Daniel Ellsberg is not even mentioned in the book. I’m sure the information about Gelb is true, but people who have no history do not have real truth. They have, “Wow, great book, and it’s written by Tom Brokaw from NBC.” They don’t even know his annual salary was enough to pay about 300 teachers well, in public education, or in VFP-type teaching.

Open letter to the Archbishop

by Frank Fuller and Steve McKeown

After the Pope’s recent comments on war, nuclear bombs and climate change, we asked Archbishop Nienstedt for his comments and thoughts. The following is the letter we sent. We will print his response when we receive it.

Ash Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Most Reverend Archbishop Nienstedt,

We are writing to ask if you have communicated to the parishes under your care the recent pronouncements by Pope Francis regarding war, nuclear deterrence, and climate change. We are referring to his statement at the Nuclear Disarmament Conference last December where he called for an end to nuclear deterrence claiming that “it was robbing our youth’s future,” and his New Year’s Address calling for an end to war and to face up to climate change.

Veterans For Peace nationally, internationally, and locally are on the same page as Pope Francis on these matters; therefore we are also inviting you to either write an article or be interviewed for our quarterly publication. What we are looking for specifically is what challenges that this presents going forward, and any suggestions you may have to share the “Good News” of taking on these responsibilities ecumenically.

In memoriam Erwin Marquit



VFP chapter 27 member Erwin Marquit died Feb. 19 from blood cancer. As we go to Press funeral arrangements are pending. Some thoughts about the University Professor and Physicist are :

Tom Dooley: When WWII ended, Erwin was stationed in Hawaii. He and many others were languishing there with no discharge orders in sight so he helped organize the speeding up of the process. He was the founding publisher of Marxist Education Press, and throughout his life took part in many anti-war activities.

Wayne Wittman: Erwin attended conferences all over the world. Despite criticism of his being a Communist he persevered and did what he wanted to do. He was active in the AFL-CIO in helping to create the Mpls. Retiree Organization. He wanted to have his say in politics just as I do and he was very active in the DFL.

Larry Johnson: Serving in the Navy during WWII, and then getting out to be “blacklisted” for political affiliation would be a similar experience to serving as an African-American, only to come home and still not be treated equally. I was told just like everyone else in the 50s we were fighting the Communists. How can someone be the Communist you’re fighting if he just helped you fight the Nazis. Erwin was a complex thinker, and he understood the mindless complexity that tries to keep us at war. I think the quote in the *Star Tribune* says it all, or at least much of it: “We need to build a strong caucus in the Congress to defect the poverty of the wealthy.”

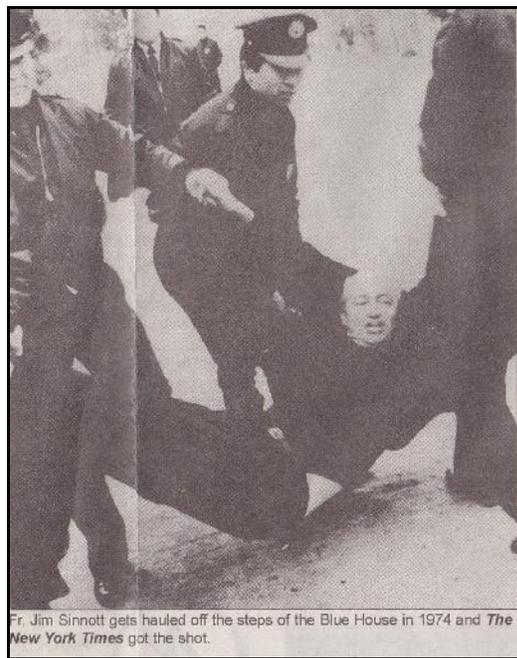
Steve McKeown: Erwin had a terrific sense of humor. At the same time he was a straight talker, and every protest that I was at with him he had a smile on his face. I think he wanted to exude cheerfulness at doing the right thing. The last time I saw him was at a drone protest by our office a year ago. It was hard for him to smile. He truly was making the “college” try, but he was too cold because of the cancer. Through his life he walked the walk just as his wife Doris who recently passed away did. They both would want their shoes to have more miles put on.

In memoriam Father Jim Sinnott

by Steve McKeown

The first time I met Father Jim Sinnott was at my Church’s Social Justice meeting in the early 80s. We told him about the apathy in our parish, and he suggested having an exorcism at the next Mass, which he did dressed completely in black. The next time I saw him was several years later at St. Joan of Arc. He had just returned from Florida after being arrested at a base that was training the right wing contras from Nicaragua. I asked him to join us at our 6 a.m. daily vigil at the front gate of the Air National Guard Base to try and stop aid that was also going to the same mercenaries. He didn’t hesitate.

Jim was there the next morning, and every morning that week. On the following Sunday, he asked me for a ride to Francis Cabrini Church, and on the way he asked me to speak during the homily, and that is where I met Pat and Jenny Downey who came out to the vigil. On Holy Innocents Day Jim conducted a Service at the gate that was



Fr. Jim Sinnott gets hauled off the steps of the Blue House in 1974 and *The New York Times* got the shot.

Father Sinnott photographed in 1974

aired on the national McNeil-Lehrer Program. He became very active with us, and we with him ...with him coming to the many speaking engagements we had then. and we at his.

Father Jim had a way of finding hot spots. He was kicked out of

Continued on next page

In memoriam Clayton Ratliss



Clayton Ratliss (3/10/1918-9/5/2014) served in the Army during WWII in the 3rd Infantry, 1940-1941. He also served in the Civilian Conservation Corp from 1939-1940. Clayton was vehemently anti-war and attended several demonstrations as a Veterans For Peace, Chapter 27 member. His daughter, Linda Hartman often accompanied her father as the two of them also protested during the Vietnam war. He was laid to rest without the 21-Gun Salute. May the bells of peace ring your way with love on the other side.

es, which got the attention of national media. In 1975 eight innocent men were tortured and executed, and Sinnott was deported because of his activities opposing the execution and his support of the men's surviving family members.

In 2007 all eight defendants were posthumously acquitted and he was invited back to Korea. He went and stayed. He died this last December at the age of 85. We wrote to each other yearly, and the last words he wrote was that he got to tell Pope Francis on his recent Korea visit that "We Love You." Jim also said "I Love you Vets For Peace," which he was a member of. I am mindful that I can only touch upon a little of what he did, and what he meant to many.

In memoriam Reverend Charles Butler

by Pat and Jennie Downey

Rev. Chuck Butler, a United Methodist Missionary in Panama, witnessed first-hand the pain and suffering of Central American people, being aware that his own country was responsible for the Central American suffering. "My own government valued its military and commercial interests in the Americans more highly than it valued the lives of the common people desperately struggling to survive," he once said.

The School of the Americas was started in Panama in 1946. The U.S. government feared a Communist take-over in Latin American countries. This fear became a pretext for establishing and operating a military school to train Latin American soldiers.

In 1978, when Panama and the U.S. were negotiating the return of the canal to Panama, Panama called the S.O.A. a negative and disruptive force. The U.S. government terminated the school in Panama in compliance with Panama Canal Treaty and reopened it at Ft. Benning, Georgia in 1984. They used a training manual printed in Spanish that gave specific instructions how to "best" torture captives in order to obtain information from them.

In April, 1997, Chuck joined 50 people gathered on the Washington, D.C., capital steps. Father Roy Bourgeois spoke of the military graduates trained at the S.O.A. who tortured, raped and murdered their own people. Chuck said, "It became apparent to me that I, a U.S. citizen, must assume responsibility for my own country's disastrous foreign policy. I like to think a deep response to God's Spirit was welling up within me that morning."

On November 14, 1997, we met Chuck in Rochester, boarding the bus for our 24-hour trip to SOA protests at Ft. Benning.

Father Roy spoke to mind and heart that year. "You are called to be the voices for voiceless." Of the 2000 protesters that year, 601 trespassed onto the Ft. Benning base declaring that we were present with these martyrs. We were saying by our actions that each human life has value in the eyes of God and in due time justice would prevail. I was walking and waiting with Chuck to be arrested and processed, photographed and fingerprinted, but instead, we were admonished not to return during the next five years; a second arrest would result in trial and imprisonment. We

Butler, Continued on next page

Butler, from previous page

had said a genuine “yes” to God.

In 1999 Chuck responded to his ban and bar letter by saying that in November he would cross. Chuck had a very lame foot and friends asked many questions when he decided to be arrested. “Charles, do you realize that being in prison would keep you and your wife separated for as much as six months.” “Yes, I do,” he answered.

“And do you understand that you could get very sick and would not have available the medical attention which you are accustomed to having?” “Yes, I am aware of this.” “And you might even die in prison?” “Yes, I recognize all this is possible.” “And you are still convinced that you must go to prison?” “Yes, I am. I believe that this is what God wants me to do.”

At the departure for the second trip to Ft. Benning, we tried to talk him out of being arrested a second time. But Chuck said trial and imprisonment did not frighten him. “No doubt about it” he said, “God was at work.”

His Christ United Methodist Church assured him on behalf of the suffering ones of Central America. “It dawned on me that I would not be acting alone. I had thought through the consequences of going to prison at age 73.”

There were 7,000 protesters that Sunday, 5,000 more than the year before. The 2,300 who trespassed were more than what the Fort Benning authorities had anticipated. We were ordered off the bus and base to walk back through the city.

Chuck certainly had doubts. He began to fear that his lame foot could suffer painful consequences. He also considered the possibility of not trespassing.

“Suffering for the unity of love?” he wrote “Suffering for a cause – is that Biblical? Indeed it is. Paul says, ‘I rejoice in my suffering for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking. I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls, I endure everything for the sake of the elect.’ God spoke to me through that reading. God had taken the fear out of my heart and the worry out of my mind. As we remained immobile, flat on the ground, as though dead, I thought about the thousands in Central America who had suffered and died in mass killings, the towns whose total populace had been slaughtered. I felt connected with their suffering. My dying was a pretense, while theirs had been real.”

Chuck served his three months at Waseca.

VFP speaks to Augsburg Peace Studies class

The first week of February found two VFP members, Steve McKeown and Dave Logsdon, speaking to a Peace Studies class at Augsburg College. Besides giving insights on the great peace movement following the Armistice after World War I, they talked about the Veterans for Peace Statement of Purpose and some of the activities in which we are involved.

We were introduced to a young woman from Norway, Synnoeve Moe, a social work major who agreed to spend 40 hours interning at the chapter! Since that meeting, chapter president Logsdon has been finding her things to do like our “Little Free Library” project and our outreach packet that we sent out to twenty churches, mosques, and synagogues. The chapter approved an allocation of \$300 (at our December meeting) for the purchase of a variety of progressive books from Mayday Books to be labeled with a VFP statement of Purpose and membership placed on the inside jackets. The books will be distributed to the many “Little Free Libraries” in the Twin Cities. This is an ongoing project so if you have books collecting dust around the house, bring them on down to the office!

The outreach packet contains a chronicle describing all the events our chapter was involved with in 2014 and a letter asking them to work with us to host and/or promote events that raise the awareness of the costs of war.

Jeju Island Raided

On January 31, the S. Korean police, with direction from the Pentagon, raided and tore down the permanent protest camp and tower that are a symbol of the Gangjeong villagers refusal to give even more precious land for the Navy base under construction. This base will eventually host U.S. ships outfitted with “missile defense” interceptors to be aimed at China and Russia.

See space4peace.blogspot.com for info.

In a speech on March 3rd to the U.S. Congress Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to mention that Israel is a nuclear rogue state that refuses to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty (Iran is a signatory) and has an estimated arsenal of 80 nuclear warheads and the ballistic missiles to deliver them.

How many bases does the US have worldwide?

by Steve McKeown

Every once in awhile I am asked, "How many military bases do we have around the world?" I usually give the answer of around 1000, but I don't really know, so I posed the question to Senators Klobuchar and Franken, and also to Congressman Ellison's office.

I received a 105-page document from the Department of Defense through Franken to answer my simple question. The Report is called *Base Structure Report-Fiscal Year 2014 Baseline . . . A Summary of the Real Property Inventory*.

The report also included a breakdown of where military personnel were assigned by service, which, given the reality of being treated like property in the military I found fitting.

The report doesn't say what a base is or how many total there are. What is used is the term "installation," which includes bases and sites. I wasn't able to identify where an installation was located, but there are 523 of them.

I quote from page two: "The DOD manages a global real property portfolio consisting of more than 562,000 facilities (buildings, structures, and linear structures), located on more than 4,800 sites worldwide, and covering over 24.7 million acres."

I wonder what unreal property is. Perhaps it is something the enemy has or place we lay to waste.

The portfolio makeup is one of both outright ownership, leasing or a combination thereof between different entities, which are sometimes simply referred to as "Other."

Homeless veterans can get a good night's sleep since

there are 76 buildings occupying 376,076 sq. ft. in Bulgaria, for example. But the report does not take into account in this real estate "portfolio" such things as aircraft carriers, subs, and ships at sea, which are bases themselves. Nor does it mention any of the Defense Industry inspection areas that are reserved for the inspection of manufactured and prototype items. I wasn't able to tell where recruiting offices fit into this or for that matter anything about ROTC and Junior ROTC.

Nevertheless, the EMPIRE's military arm is outlined, although just in shadows, in this document.

American Sniper: Truth or Fiction?

by Barry Riesch

For all the millions of folks who have seen the film *American Sniper* and who think they are getting a good dose of reality, I suggest they consider the following facts:

Iraq had nothing to do with 9/11. There was no al Qaeda in Iraq until we (USA) invaded. Thus we are the enemy, not vice versa.

Americans have killed thousands of civilians in Iraq and almost none have been held accountable. American Marines invaded and laid waste the town of Fallujah; it was not "evacuated," as was stated.

Finally, this is not Chris Kyle's story. It is screenwriter Jason Hall's story, and Bradley Cooper is not Chris Kyle. Mix all this with some Clint Eastwood cinematic drama and you have the makings of a great war fiction.

Hall (and Eastwood, presumably) claims his film is a character study, yet he shamelessly butchered the author Marc Lee's real story (and part of Kyle's) to promote his moral fantasy world and thus deny legitimacy to veterans critical of the war.

As we approach the 15th anniversary of our the U.S. invasion into Iraq, we would do well to have some real discussion and presentation of real facts on just what the US has accomplished. VFP will be hosting a discussion of *American Sniper* at May Day Bookstore (watch for details) and will be participating in demonstrations both locally and nationally on the war's anniversary.

Addresses for Rice, Walli and Boertje-Obed

Those who wish to write to Greg Boertje-Obed, Mike Walli or Sr. Megan Rice, who are serving sentences for entering the Y12 Nuclear Complex, can write them at the following addresses: Gregory Boertje-Obed #08052-016, USP Leavenworth, P.O.Box 1000, Leavenworth KS 66048; Michael Walli #92108-020, FCI McKean, P.O. Box 8000, Bradford PA, 16701; Megan Rice, #88101-020, MDC Brooklyn, P.O. Box 329002, Brooklyn NY 11232.

Chapter 27 participates in anti-drone concert

by Dave Logsdon

On Friday night, January 30th, the Cedar Cultural Center, down the block from our West Bank office, staged a 28-hour concert called DroneNotDrones. Over 50 local musicians and bands took the stage for this unique event. The music never stopped! Concert goers were invited to bring their sleeping bags and spend the night and many did!

Chapter 27 was invited to table in the lobby and we displayed the Drone Quilt Project that we had flown in from Oregon (thank you Leah Bolger). We only had room for one Quilt and large placards explaining how the individual squares represent civilians (mostly children and women) who have died as a result of our drone attacks around the world. While we decided not to sleep over, we were able to have a presence for 18 hours of the event, including Bruce Berry's huge Know Drones



*Top: the drone quilt.
Bottom: DronesNotDrones protest.*

banner that graced the front of the stage!

On Saturday, we partnered with WAMM's Tackling Torture at the Top rally and marched around the West Bank neighborhood with our no drones signs and VFP flags flying. Kudos for this weekend to Lucia Smith and Colleen Rowley from WAMM and our own intrepid Bruce Berry! Bruce had a long weekend as he organized and put more time and energy than anyone to make this happen. Thanks also to Craig Wood, Mike Madden, Ron Staff, Barry Riesch, and Steve McKeown for putting in time tabling at the concert.

Since we had the quilts and placards for the whole month, Bruce was able to display it at St. Mark's Episcopal and St. Luke's Presbyterian, with plans later this year to bring the quilts back or make our own!

US to expand drone sales

by Craig Wood

The Obama administration plans to increase the sale of armed drones to allied nations on a military reviewed case-by-case basis.

Although there are no shortage of skeptics in Congress or among anti-war and human rights groups, the White House is insisting that guidelines for proper usage have been established. Foreign governments will need to agree not to use drones for surveillance or unlawful force against their own domestic populations; other stipulations are expected to be released this month.

The global market for drones now exceeds \$6 billion. By most accounts, Israel is the largest exporter of drones and drone accessories in the world and demand is expected to quadruple in the next ten years.

Detractors argue that selling sophisticated weapons even to allies is risky because of their history of falling into the hands of opposing forces.

Hezbollah and ISIS are experimenting with unmanned aircraft and Iran is now in business manufacturing sophisticated drones after making a template from a US Sentinel stealth drone captured three years ago.

While the US and Israel currently have the most modern drone technologies, the market is heating up with growing competition coming from Pakistan, India and Russia. The U.S. currently has 7,000 aerial drones.

As we go to Press, five Ch. 27 members are at the Creech Air Force Base in Nevada, where pilots direct killer Reaper and Predator drones around the world, for a national protest. Craig Woods was thrown to the ground and arrested for holding a sign.

Twenty Five Years of Bullying and Bombing Iraq

by Chante Wolf

For over 25 years the U.S. government and military has been manipulating the governmental policies of Iraq.

Back in 1987, General Norman Schwarzkopf was assigned to CENTCOM and by 1989 he had written a War Plan that focused on Iraq, putting it clearly in the cross-hairs of U.S. foreign policy. As early as January 1990 "a computer exercise called Internal Look" was one of four war games pitting the U.S. military against an already war-beleaguered Iraqi military. "After the Iran-Iraq War ended, Kuwait was used again by the United States to embark on a campaign of what CSIS (Center for Strategic and International Studies) director, Henry M. Schuler described as 'economic warfare' against Iraq."

To make matter worse for Iraq, by using the new U.S. technology of slant-drilling, Kuwait sucked oil out of the Rumaila Oil Fields of Iraq. In doing so, "Kuwait drastically increased oil production which sent the oil prices plummeting," reducing the revenues of Iraq and Iran, which were desperately needed to help rebuild their countries after their eight-year war.

After attempting diplomatic resolutions with Kuwait, Saddam Hussein amassed Iraq's exhausted military around Kuwait, and then "publicly accused Kuwait and the United States of conspiring to destroy Iraq's economy."

In reality, the U.S. had been looking for justification to take over Iraq's oil resources as early as the 1970s. "The United States was manipulating Iraq into action that would enable the United States to intervene by simultaneously painting Saddam Hussein as a monster and subtly coaxing him into the invasion of Kuwait."

Five months later, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait gave the United States the green light to use its military might, and on January 17th, 1990, Desert Shield turned to Desert Storm. The U.S. military proceeded to wage a relentless bombing campaign against Iraq that, for 42 weeks, dropped bombs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It was equivalent to a bomb landing every 30 seconds; the total tonnage was equal to seven Hiroshima nuclear bombs. "Over 80 million pounds of bombs were dropped on Iraqi military placements." Our bombing cut off water, food, medical and reinforcement supplies just like General Colin Powell told us; "our strategy in going after this army is very simple. First we are going to cut it off and then we're gonna kill it".

Kill it we did and have been doing ever since. The type

of ordinance we have used against them ranged from Daisy Cutters (used to clear landing fields in Vietnam), Tomahawk cruise missiles, white phosphorous, napalm, numerous types of fuel-air explosives (which spreads a type of gasoline mist before it detonates sucking your lungs out of your body as it simultaneously blows you into pieces), cluster bombs, sound bombs, laser and stunning technologies and a plethora of depleted uranium munitions.

As tens of thousands of Iraqi troops deserted or attempted to surrender, U.S. troops were ordered to shoot anyway since they were not prepared to house, feed and treat such large numbers of enemy troops. At my camp, King Fahd alone, we received over 200 EPOW's, most all of whom were dressed in ragged military uniforms, barefoot, starving, dehydrated and bleeding from their ears due to the concussion pounding our bombs did to them.

In PBS's Frontline DVD, *The Gulf War*, pilots bragged about "shooting fish in a barrel," and a colonel went into great detail of how they "buried alive thousands of Iraqi troops." Both are war crimes under the Geneva Convention.

After it all was said and done back in 1991, and U.S. troops flew home to ticker tape Welcome Home parades, the U.S. government began what would last for over 12 years: sanctions and monthly bombings plus another butt-kicking in 1998 from the Clinton administration.

All of this destruction was done in efforts to secure Iraqi oil and other resources, certainly preparing for the cakewalk that President George W. Bush boasted about prior to the 2003 re-invasion and occupation of Iraq.

But why stop there? We are only trying to 'Free Kuwait,' 'Liberate Iraq' and shove the illusion of democracy down the throats of middle eastern 'darkies' or 'sand niggers' as we called them in the Gulf War. We are the good guys in the white hats, and the emerging ISIS are the bad guys in black masks. Simple, right? War does work, eventually. But pay no attention to the man behind the curtain or your curtailed liberties and loss of constitutional freedoms or the cost to our military members, their families and our shared communities. War stays over there so we are protected over here, right?

In reality, the U.S. had been looking for justification to take over Iraq's oil resources as early as the 1970s.

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 Thank you

"We murdered some folks" in Guantanamo

reviewed by David Swanson

Murder at Camp Delta (Simon and Schuster, \$28) is a new book by Joseph Hickman, a former guard at Guantanamo. It's neither fiction nor speculation. When President Obama says "We tortured some folks," Hickman provides at least three cases – in addition to many others we know about from secret sites around the world – in which the statement needs to be modified to "We murdered some folks." By torture.

This is a book of, by, and for true believers in patriotism and militarism. The first line of the book is: "I am a patriotic American." The author never retracts it. Following a riot at Guantanamo, which he led the suppression of, he observes:

"As much as I blamed the inmates for the riot, I respected how hard they'd fought. They were ready to fight nearly to the death. If we had been running a good detention facility, I would have thought they were motivated by strong religious or political ideals. The sad truth was that they probably fought so hard because our poor facilities and shabby treatment had pushed them beyond normal human limits. Their motivation might not have been radical Islam at all but the simple fact that they had nothing to live for and nothing left to lose."

As far as I know, Hickman has not yet applied the same logic to debunking the absurd pretense that people fight back in Afghanistan or Iraq because their religion is murderous or because they hate us for our freedoms. Hickman will be a guest on Talk Nation Radio soon, so perhaps I'll ask him. But first I'll thank him. And not for his "service." For his book.

He describes a hideous death camp in which guards were trained to view the prisoners as sub-human. Chaos was the norm, and physical abuse of the prisoners was standard. Col. Mike Bumgarner made it a top priority that everyone stand in formation when he entered his office in the morning to the sounds of "Beethoven's Fifth" or "Bad Boys." Hickman relates that certain vans were permitted to drive in and out of the camp uninspected, making a mockery of elaborate attempts at security. He didn't know the reasoning behind this until he happened to discover a secret camp not included on any maps, a place he called Camp No but the CIA called Penny Lane.

To make things worse at Guantanamo would require a particular sort of idiocy that apparently Admiral Harry Harris possessed. He began blasting the "Star Spangled

Banner" into the prisoners' cages, which predictably resulted in the guards abusing prisoners who did not stand and pretend to worship the U.S. flag. Tensions and violence rose. When Hickman was called on to lead an assault on prisoners who would not allow their Korans to be searched, he proposed that a Muslim interpreter do the searching. Bumgarner and gang had never thought of that, and it worked like a charm. But the aforementioned riot took place in another part of the prison where Harris rejected the interpreter idea; and the lies that the military told the media about the riot had an impact on Hickman's view of things. So did the media's willingness to lap up absurd and unsubstantiated lies: "Half the reporters covering the military should have just enlisted; they seemed even more eager to believe the things our commanders said than we did."

After the riot, some of the prisoners went on hunger strike. On June 9, 2006, during the hunger strike, Hickman was in charge of guards on watch from towers, etc., overseeing the camp that night. He and every other guard observed that, just as the Navy Criminal Investigative Service report on the matter would later say, some prisoners were taken out of their cells. In fact, the van that took prisoners to Penny Lane took three prisoners, on three trips, out of their camp. A friend later informed him that three bodies were brought in with socks or rags stuffed down their throats.

Bumgarner gathered staff together and told them three prisoners had committed suicide by stuffing rags down their own throats in their cells, but that the media would report it a different way. Everyone was strictly forbidden to say a word. The next morning the media reported, as instructed, that the three men had hung themselves in their cells. The military called these "suicides" a "coordinated protest" and an act of "asymmetrical warfare."

Three months after Hickman returned to the U.S. he heard on the news of another very similar "suicide" at Guantanamo. Who could Hickman turn to with what he knew? He found a law professor named Mark Denbeaux at the Seton Hall University Law School's Center for Policy and Research. With his, and his colleagues', help Hickman tried reporting the matter through proper channels. Obama's Justice Department, NBC, ABC, and *60 Minutes* all expressed interest, were told the facts, and refused to do a thing about it. But Scott Horton wrote it up in *Harpers*, which Keith Olbermann reported on but the rest of the corporate media ignored.

Hickman and Seton Hall researchers found out that the

Continued next page



VFP members join Black Lives Matter on Martin Luther King Day

CIA had been administering huge doses of a drug called mefloquine to prisoners, including the three killed, which an army doctor told Hickman would induce terror and amounted to “psychological waterboarding.” Over at Truthout.org Jason Leopold and Jeffrey Kaye reported that every new arrival at Guantanamo was given mefloquine, supposedly for malaria, but it was only given to every prisoner, never to a single guard or to any third-country staff people from countries with high risk of malaria, and never to the Haitian refugees housed at Guantanamo in 1991 and 1992. Hickman had begun his “service” at Guantanamo believing the prisoners were “the worst of the worst,” but had since learned that at least most of them were nothing of the sort, having been picked up for bounties with little knowledge of what they’d done. Why, he wondered, “were men of little or no value kept under these conditions, and even repeatedly interrogated, months or years after they’d been taken into custody? Even if they’d had any intelligence when they came in, what relevance would it have years later? . . . One answer seemed to lie in the description that Major Generals [Michael] Dunlavey and [Geoffrey] Miller both applied to Gitmo. They called it ‘America’s battle lab.’”

This review was reprinted with author’s permission from the author’s website davidswanson.org.

Movie night

Chapter 27 began showing documentary features last March on a large flat screen in the common space of our office at 1806 Riverside Ave., # 3A, in Minneapolis.

These movies are scheduled every Wednesday following Chapter 27’s general meeting on the second Sunday of each month.

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

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/Marshal Ave. Bridge vigil. Special observances: April 22 (Earth Day) we will focus on the connections between the military and the environment; May 6, (Wednesday before Mother's Day) we will focus on Mothers - bring your mother to the bridge vigil or honor your mother by coming to the vigil.

OTHER EVENTS

March 18-21, SPRING RISING: an Anti-War Intervention in Washington, D.C. FFI: SpringRising.org

March 20, 7 p.m. "SEVEN STORIES I WISH THEY'D TELL ABOUT THE WAR IN VIETNAM: A World Storytelling Event," Macalester Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln, St Paul FFI: Larry at 612-747-3904 or larryvp@gmail.co

April 13, 1 p.m., Target Field, Minnesota Twins Home Opener. Help VFP distribute invitations to film *Beyond the Divide*. FFI: Barry at 651 641 1087 or Steve at 612 869 2040

April 22-25, SOA Watch, SPRING DAYS OF ACTION, FFI: arturo@soaw.org (202) 234 3440

April 30 7 p.m., *Beyond the Divide*, Parkway Theater, 48th & Chicago, Mpls. FFI: Barry or Steve (above)

May 3, 12: 30 p.m., MayDay Parade Gather at 26th and Cedar, S. Mpls.

May 25 9:30 a.m., VFP Memorial Day Observance, Vietnam Memorial, State Capitol. Public welcome

July 11, 13th annual Peacestock at Hobgoblin Barn, Red Wing. More info in summer newsletter

Aug 5-9, VFP National Convention, San Diego, CA

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

Crossing the Divide on the 50th Anniversary of the War in Vietnam

by Barry Riesch

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the landing of U.S. Marines in Da Nang, Vietnam, in March of 1965. Many consider this to be the beginning of the "American War" in Vietnam. To mark the anniversary of the war the Pentagon is undertaking a ten-year, \$65 million campaign to rewrite and whitewash the history of the war in Southeast Asia.

In response, Veterans For Peace (on a National Level) has announced the Vietnam War Full Disclosure project to offer a more truthful history of the war (see article on page 15). On a local level one of the actions we are undertaking is to invite all the veterans' (primarily Vietnam vets') organizations who would be seen as our adversaries to come and view the documentary *Beyond the Divide*. Produced by local film maker Jan Selby, *Beyond the Divide* is a documentary about war and peace and the courage to find common ground. Through the courageous acts of a Vietnam veteran and a peace advocate, this movie illuminates a path to healing old wounds and demonstrates authentic peace building by reaching beyond polarization in search of what unites us instead of dividing, which is what we hope to accomplish by inviting other Veterans groups to join us.

A discussion will take place after the film that will hopefully lead us to some real work for peace and help in counteracting our government's actions to rewrite the history of our involvement in Vietnam.

All are invited to the viewing which will take place on April 30, 2015 at Pepito's Parkway Theater, 4814 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls. A good will offering will be collected at the theater to help cover expenses. It is no accident that April 30th is the 40th anniversary of the fall of Saigon.

FFI Barry Riesch: 651-641-1087 or VFP office 612-821-9141 or TheParkwayTheater.com

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

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

National plans for Memorial Day Vietnam commemoration

The National VFP is planning a series of Memorial Day events in Washington, D.C., centered on people sending a letter sharing memories of the war, whether they are veterans or not, describing the impact on themselves or loved ones or friends as well as any concerns over future wars. Direct your words to all those who died in the American War on Vietnam, Americans and Asians alike.

These letters will be gathered and used to counter the sanitized version of the Vietnam War advocated by the Pentagon. At noon on Memorial Day, May 25, 2015, the VFP will place these letters to the foot of the Wall in Washington, D.C., as a form of remembrance. If you wish to submit a letter, please send it by email to vncom50@gmail.com (with the subject line: Memorial Day 2015) or by snail mail to Attn: Full Disclosure, Veterans For Peace, 409 Ferguson Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27516, by May 1. Full details will be posted on the website www.vietnam-fulldisclosure.org.

In order to bring as many of your voices into this dialogue, please send us your letter and then please send this

request to ten of your friends and ask them to write their letters. And then ask them to send the request to ten of their friends. And ten more.

The National VFP is also helping to organize teach-ins on the war and its impact, beginning in March. If you are interested in helping with the teach-ins wherever you live, email vncom50@gmail.com. There may be people near where you reside working on the teach-ins. Or they may be able to supply materials and even speakers if you would like.

We also would like it if you would sign on to our Take The Pledge campaign on our web site (again <http://www.vietnamfulldisclosure.org/>). You can see it on the right of our home screen (and on other screens as well; just scroll down if you don't see it right away. It simply says "I'm with Full Disclosure. I oppose the Pentagon campaign to rewrite the history of the Vietnam war." We know you've already signed our Open Letter and many other things, but signing this will help update our contact list. And we can make use of this list in our ongoing work.

Vietnam: Some Real History

Condensed from an article by Andy Piascik in Counterpunch.org

By the time of the Gulf of Tonkin fabrication in 1964, tens of thousands of Vietnamese were already dead at U.S. hands. In 1945, the United States refused to recognize the new government established by Vietnamese independence forces that had defeated Japan there. Then in 1945, French colonialists invaded Vietnam with U.S. backing.

In 1954, the Vietnamese had again seemingly achieved independence. But the U.S. destroyed that possibility by undermining elections that Washington knew Ho Chi Minh would win in a landslide.

So the U.S. flew Ngo Dinh Diem in from New Jersey and installed him as dictator but had him assassinated in the 60s. But not before Kennedy began ongoing saturation bombing of South Vietnam, ordered the use of napalm and other chemical weapons of mass destruction, introduced ground troops and organized strategic hamlets.

Then the Gulf of Tonkin incident in August 1964 extended the invasion and the bombing to the whole of Vietnam.

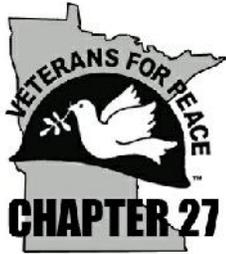
The results? It is impossible to calculate with precision

the Vietnamese toll.

But: Three million Vietnamese deaths is a popular figure but undoubtedly far too low. Completely ignored here is the continuing devastation of Vietnamese children (many now adults) by Agent Orange. There is also Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, which is still ignored. Take the terrible suffering of U.S. soldiers and multiply their numbers ten thousand fold or more for a sense of the damage to the Vietnamese.

Additionally, Vietnam and the rest of Indochina are full of unexploded ordinances that regularly cause death and injuries to this day. There are also the starvation deaths of hundreds of thousands throughout Indochina immediately after the war.

The U.S. is on a global rampage and falsifying history has paved the way to the U.S.-caused deaths of three million Iraqis since the first invasion in 1991, to cite just one of many recent examples. We remain in the grips of people who worship wealth and are in love with death so any truth and reckoning about Vietnam and the role we play in the world will have to come from us.



Veterans For Peace, Inc., Chapter 27
1806 Riverside Ave., #3A.
Minneapolis, MN 55454

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Spring 2015 Newsletter

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SUPPORT THE TROOPS! BRING THEM HOME ALIVE NOW!

As of Feb. 20, 2015:

At least 6,845 dead in Iraq and Afghanistan;
over one million injured veterans (see below).

An estimated 22 veterans commit suicide each day,
amounting to over 24,090 over the past three years.

VA has treated one million from Iraq and Afghanistan wars

According to the *International Business Times*, the US has reached a milestone in the war on terror, but it's a milestone the government seems to want to keep secret.

Last fall, the *IBT* reported that the U.S. had, by the end of 2013, treated over 900,000 veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in the VA system. It added that the VA was seeing about 10,000 new patients from those wars were being seen each month.

That adds up to about one million injuries over the 13 years of those two wars.

Those reports were used by a variety of organizations and agencies, including Congress when it determines the VA budget.

But now the government has said it will not release these figures anymore for "security" rea-

sons.

The *IBT* wrote: "VA stopped preparing and releasing these reports on health care use and disability claims involving the 2.6 million U.S. service members who have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan without warning, claiming unspecified 'security' reasons. A statement buried on an unpublicized VA web page reads, 'VA and the Department of Defense are currently enhancing their existing security arrangements for the delivery of the data VA uses for these reports. At this time, it is unknown when the next reports will be released.'"

The most recent report released was last March. Since then, nothing has been released and both Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill have criticized the VA for this action.