Here is the link to all OMNI newsletters:  http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/  For a knowledge-based peace, justice, and ecology movement and an informed citizenry as the foundation for change.

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Support the Troops?

SUPPORT THE TROOPS? By Dick Bennett

SUPPORT ALL THE TROOPS?
Yes, support the troops.
But not those who pissed on dead Taliban fighters.
Yes, support the troops.
But not those who killed all in the Afghan wedding party.
Yes, support the troops.
But not those who tortured captives in Gitmo and Bahgram.
Yes, support the troops.
But
But

Definition Power (who controls the language controls the people)
The U. S. Constitution grants power to Congress to call out the militia to “suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions.” The Constitution declares our right of national self-
defense. But what is the "nation"? Now our leaders include in the US "nation" all its advance bases. And what is "defense of the nation"? US soil has been invaded only three times: War of 1812, Pearly Harbor 1941, and World Trade Center/Pentagon 2001. Yet now "self-defense" is defined as "national security," and our leaders go to war around the planet—over forty illegal invasions and interventions since 1945 and now "projecting force" through 900 military bases in over 100 countries all part of the US "nation" to be defended. From D. C. trace your world map westward: Homeland, Pacific, Asia, Europe, Homeland! Attack any base anywhere and you have attacked USA.

Indoctrination Power: Support the Troops

How our leaders persuaded its populace to believe such an absurd yet massively bellicose and lethal a definition is a dark reality of US history since WWII. The books I mention in this Newsletter significantly add to our understanding of that history. One consequence of the new definition—the unceasing call to "support the troops"—functions to sustain US wars for the "security" of the "nation" strung out around the globe. The slogan "support the troops" helps to explain how the new disastrous definition has been sustained. It also reveals why the slogan is losing its powerful grip over the public, as the public increasingly questions the "self-defense" claimed for the wars and the legitimacy of the new name in 1947 for the Department of War. The "support the troops" slogan, while it might be valid in defense of the homeland, has lost its persuasiveness in the defense of all of the advanced US bases scattered over land or sea in the several military jurisdictions into which the planet has been divided by the Department of War—the Department of Conquest and Empire. Consider the logic of our leaders which has undernourished the public for sixty years: The US has the right to invade and intervene in order to defend what? old conquests. Heard that before? Listen to the speeches and the boots of the Roman, British, and Nazi imperial rulers and troops.

Of course we want our loved ones and those of our friends and of our countrymen and women to return safe. But as the public learns more about the illegality, immorality, and massive waste of the US wars, the more urgently do we want our loved ones home and the less we support leaders of the wars. For several years the public majority has wanted the troops to leave Afghanistan and Iraq. And as the excuse of "self-defense" for the wars is increasingly found untrustworthy, and as evidence of the subversion of the morality of our troops by war has become more available (we should support all the troops?), even respect for the troops, the imperial instruments of conquest, and the righteousness of the troops in their killing and being killed,.has declined.

A Desperate Defense of Empire

The constant resort to the slogan, "Support the Troops," reveals its weakness and the desperation of the imperial rulers. For justifying and continuing US military expansion abroad by appeal for sympathy for the agents of empire, regardless of the brutal, terroristic behavior of some, enlists diminishing conviction. Repeated expressions of gratitude to warriors for risking their lives to preserve US "freedom" and "safety," when their risk has little to nothing to do with US freedom or safety but much to do with command of world resources, exposes the illusion of the slogan “support the troops.”

Ironical Effect: Empathy
As the validity of the “defense” rationale for war has declined the public has more keenly recognized the humanity of the “enemy” troops in Afghanistan and Iraq whose families and government similarly cry out “support the troops.” For who are the defenders, who the aggressors? Who is defending what?

ANGER AND HATRED, DESTRUCTION AND KILLING: SUPPORT THESE TROOPS?
"Afghanistan: A Gathering Menace: Traveling with U.S. Troops Gives Insights into the Recent Massacre"
http://theamericanscholar.org/a-gathering-menace
By Neil Shea, American Scholar blog, posted March 16

Afghan Villagers Were Threatened by US Troops Ahead of Massacre

Witnesses: Troops Lined Up All Men From Mokhoyan, Told Them They'd 'Pay'
by Jason Ditz, March 20, 2012

The incongruous stories surrounding the March 11 massacre on Afghan civilians in two villages took another turn today, with reports from witnesses in Mokhoyan, one of the two villages targeted, that they were threatened by US troops just days before the massacre.

The witnesses say that troops rounded up all the men from the villages after a roadside bombing, lined them up against a wall, and told them they would “pay a price” for the attack.

The witnesses put the date of the bombing at either March 7 or 8. Previous stories had massacre suspect Robert Bales supposedly “upset” about a bombing in which one of his friends lost a leg.

The military would neither confirm or deny any bombings in the area, only insisting that they would investigate anything that might be related to the shootings. They likewise gave no comments about the threats in Mokhoyan.

If confirmed, the threats would also appear to support the Afghan probe’s version of the massacre, which had an organized group of over a dozen US troops carrying out the massacre, as opposed to a lone man, as the US maintains.

TROOPS WITH EARS?

LETTER IN ADG FROM AUSTIN STEWART of Judsonia 7-11-11

“I saw men wearing American military uniforms who had collected strings of what they said were human ears and toes as combat souvenirs. They kept Them with pride and some even laughed as they told how a human being reacted as his ear was being hacked off. There are many members of law enforcement and the military who truly quality as heroes, but tor the
term ‘hero’ to be applied by…to the aforementioned is the equivalent of spitting in the face of our Founding Fathers.”

PSYCHOPATHY IN THE MILITARY: A Sample of Studies

1. Careerism and Psychopathy in the US Military leadership « Fabius ...
   fabiusmaximus.wordpress.com/2011/05/02/27207/ - Cached
   You +1'd this publicly. Undo
   May 2, 2011 – Careerism and Psychopathy in the US Military leadership ... John Boyd of the U.S. Air Force. The careerist's singular aspiration is “the ... 

2. what's happening: The U.S. military: homicidal psychopaths
   whats-happening-humboldt.blogspot.com/.../us-military-homicidal- ...
   - Cached Similar
   You +1'd this publicly. Undo
   Apr 22, 2007 – The U.S. military: homicidal psychopaths. From Counterpunch.org: ... all the while claiming legitimacy as "the world's police force" because of our so-called ..... U.S. Air Force brutally murders another 40 Afghan . ....
   Get more discussion results

3. Lovefraud.com > How to verify military service
   www.lovefraud.com › Check them out - Cached Similar
   You +1'd this publicly. Undo
   How to verify military claims. When a sociopath wants you to believe that he's honorable, ... The U.S. Army Center of Military History lists all Congressional Medal of Honor ... Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross and Air Force Cross. ... sociopath, psychopath, con artist, con man, fraud, con game, sociopathy, ...
   Get more discussion results

4. Souless Psychopaths: Toward a Psycho-Civilized Society
   soulesspsychopaths.blogspot.com/.../toward-psycho-civilized-societ...
   - Cached
   You +1'd this publicly. Undo
   Mar 14, 2009 – By 1953 the CIA, U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army Chemical Corps were ..... (former microwave scientist and specialist, Kirkland Air Force base). ...
   1. Anti-Life Psychopaths | No Compromise when you're Right!
      nocompromisemedia.com/tag/anti-life-psychopaths/ - Cached
      You +1'd this publicly. Undo
      Representatives from the all branches of the U.S. Military – – Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force Armed forces – – promised American citizenship to every ...
      ▶
      2. Violence and Crimes of a Soldier
         You +1'd this publicly. Undo
         Jun 24, 2011 – Violence is defined as “is the use of force to kill, injures, or abuses
others, ... The five branches of the **U.S. Armed Forces** – Army, Navy, Air Force, ... Not surprisingly, many **psychopaths** are criminals, but many other ...

3. FBI and NSA **PSYCHOPATHS** are conducting these NON-CONSENSUAL SECRET...

www.electronictorture.com/synthetic_telepathy_and_psycho_electro... - Cached
You +1'd this publicly. **Undo**

Jul 26, 2002 – The top secret technologies available to the **U.S. military** is usually thirty .... In 1996, the **US Air Force** Scientific Advisory Board published a ...

Translating the words 'experience set' from military jargon into plain ...

4. **E&S reading - AGGRESSION - killers in the army**
https://notes.utk.edu/Bio/.../bd7eed04567bfe2b85256e3b002f29c1?... - Cached

You +1'd this publicly. **Undo**

The term **psychopath** conjures up images of movies such as Psycho or Silence of the ...

Such people who enter the military are not monsters waiting to be released. ..... During World War II, 40 percent of the **US Army Air Forces’ air-to-air** ...

1. Petras - Obama's Animal Farm

www.rense.com/general85/petras.htm - Cached
You +1'd this publicly. **Undo**

You have to be a certified **psychopath** to; join the Delta Force", a US Army colonel from ...

(SOT) is that they do not distinguish between civilian and military oppositions, ...

Afghanistan and Pakistan through commando raids and air strikes. ... **Special Forces General** from the Bush-Cheney era to head the military ...

2. **Criminology Research Project Inc. » FBI NOTIFICATION/INFORMATION**
criminologylexicon.org/blog/category/fbi-notificationinformation/ - Cached
You +1'd this publicly. **Undo**

It's difficult for us to understand because we aren't psychopaths. ..... Edgar Hoover recognized that the **Air Force**—then part of the U.S. Army—clearly had ...

3. I support the troops - Thoroughbred Horse Racing and Breeding ...

forum.thoroughbredvillage.com.au › ... › Joffs All Sports Bar - Cached
You +1'd this publicly. **Undo**

30 posts - 13 authors - Last post: May 31
I should have seen it when the **U.S. military’s** sadistic ...... homicidal psychopaths of the United States Air Force, Navy, Army and Marines. ...

Get more discussion results

4. [PDF]

1 2 4 5

You +1'd this publicly. **Undo**

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - **Quick View**
Jun 23, 2011 – agency of the United States Government, while such officers and one of the branches of the United States Military, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, ...... ABDUL-LATIF said that he was looking for a “psychopath. ... 

5. Reflections of a Thoughtful Marine | HPUB - Huffington Post

huffingtonpostunionofbloggers.org/.../reflections-of-a-thoughtful-m... - Cached

You +1'd this publicly. Undo

May 5, 2011 – Careerism and Psychopathy in the US Military. By G. I. WILSON, USMC Ret. ... John Boyd of the U.S. Air Force. ...

Pissing on the Dead Enemy the Outrage?

Sebastian Junger. “We're All Guilty of Dehumanizing the Enemy”


Junger writes: "As a society, we may be disgusted by seeing U.S. Marines urinating on dead Taliban fighters, but we remain oddly unfazed by the fact that, presumably, those same Marines just put .30 caliber rounds through the fighters' chests. American troops are not blind to this irony."

READ MORE http://www.readersupportednews.org/opinion2/268-35/9430-were-all-guilty-of-dehumanizing-the-enemy

This essay is very like Marlantes’ book, What Is It Like to Go to War?

THE KILLING AND THE PULPIT

“They Died in Vain; Deal With It “

Posted by: "Dave" mplsstreetrwy@earthlink.net  mplsstreetrwy

Fri Aug 19, 2011 10:55 am (PDT)

However well meaning their intentions, the preachers’ negligence and timidity in confronting basic war issues merely help to perpetuate unnecessary killing. It is high time to hold preachers accountable.


Many of those preaching at American church services Sunday (August 7) extolled as "heroes" the 30 American and 8 Afghan troops killed Saturday west of Kabul, when a helicopter on a night mission crashed, apparently after taking fire from Taliban forces. This week, the
Fawning Corporate Media (FCM) can be expected to beat a steady drumbeat of "they shall not have died in vain."

But they did. I know it is a hard truth, but they did die in vain. As in the past, churches across the country will keep praising the fallen troops for protecting "our way of life," and few can demur, given the tragic circumstances. But, sadly, such accolades are, at best, misguided — at worst, dishonest. Most preachers do not have a clue as to what U.S. forces are doing in Afghanistan and why. Many prefer not to think about it. There are some who do know better, but virtually all in that category eventually opt to punt.

More... http://evergreenedigest.org/they-died-vain-deal-it

IGNORANT TROOPS?
"...in 2006, half of all Americans, according to a Harris poll, still believed Saddam had WMD when the invasion began, and 85 percent of American troops stationed in Iraq, according to a Zogby poll, believed the U.S. mission there was mainly ‘to retaliate for Saddam’s role in the 9-11 attacks.’"
Source

SUPPORT THE TROOPS BY EDUCATING YOUTH ABOUT THE CAUSES AND THE CONSEQUENCES AND THE ALTERNATIVES TO US WARS

-- Nicolas Davies. Blood on Our Hands: The American Invasion and Destruction of Iraq. Nimble, 2010. US leaders’ deceptions that led the nation to mass killing and
maiming, and the book on US violations of International law during our “humanitarian” invasion and occupation of Iraq.
--Hochschild, Adam. *To End All Wars: A Story of Loyalty and Rebellion, 1914-1918.* WWI remade our world for the worse. Gives major attention to mainly English opponents of the war.
--Lily, Robert. *Taken by Force: Rape and American GIs in Europe during WWII.* 2077. (Refused publication by publisher in 2001 because of 9-11.)
--Mickey Z. *There Is No Good War.*
--Sheehan, Cindy. *Myth America: 20 Greatest Myths of the Robber Class and the Case for Revolution.* 2010, For free PDF: [https://mail.google.com/mail/?hl=en&shva=1#inbox/12dc08e2c3af5fa7; CINDY@CINDYSHEEHANSSOAPBOX.COM](https://mail.google.com/mail/?hl=en&shva=1#inbox/12dc08e2c3af5fa7; CINDY@CINDYSHEEHANSSOAPBOX.COM)
--(John Rule. ) David Swanson. *War Is a Lie.* 2010. Fourteen myths that leaders have used to herd the public
into war.

BOOKS  (older, 1992-2006, all also powerful truthtellers valid today)
--Blum, William. Two books: *Killing Hope* and *Rogue State.* Together catalog all US illegal invasions and interventions since WWII.

ARTICLE
“How the Power of Myth Keeps Us Trapped in War”  
By Ira Chernus, TomDispatch.com, posted January 20  
http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175344

PATRIOTISM

Woehrle, Lynne, et al. Contesting Patriotism: Culture, Power, and Strategy in the Peace Movement. Roman & Littlefield, 2009. Rev. Fellowship (Spring 2010). A deep grounding of the peace movement is its effort to reclaim the attribution of “patriotic” for criticism of the nation-state when it wages war. The book traces the many ways “in which major groups in the peace movement have advanced this cause in their publications over the past 20 years.”