

THE NOT SO GREAT PLACE

News and Views from the troops at Fort Hood, Texas

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SPECIAL SSUE: Farewell LTG Lynch

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WARNING!

This UNAUTHORIZED and UNOFFICIAL newspaper contains the TRUTH about what happens at Fort Hood. Regular readers have been known to suffer poor morale, be insubordinate to stupid ass commanders, and to ask too many questions.

“MISSION NOT ACCOMPLISHED, LTG LYNCH!!”

August 3, 2009
Staff Editorial

As we approach the departure of the “Not so great place” CG, I wanted to give a quick snapshot into LTG Rick Lynch’s accomplishments (i.e. failures).

He took command from LTG Ray Odierno on 18July2008 and since then the suicide rate doubled on FT Hood. The actual numbers are recorded as 11 from July08 to July09. Prior the numbers were recorded as 4 from July07 to July08.

I would also like to highlight that he has had an AWOL rate rise to 300% from the prior CG. And soldier mental health numbers as he reported in 2008 were over 4000 referrals for the R and R center. Currently, the “great place”, is only capable of caring for 8 soldiers at a time. As of now they have shut down Warrior Transition Battalions at a rapid rate as if the broken and lost warriors have somehow “healed” and the PTSD and TBI have just gone away!! I call BULLSHIT LTG Lynch!!! I have seen first hand the multitude of wounded warriors here at FT Hood and LTG Lynch and his wife should be ashamed of themselves for using our Heroes as a stepping stone for their reputations.



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THE NOT SO GREAT PLACE

The Not So Great Place is published by the Fort Hood Truth Collective. We are an independent collective of Fort Hood soldiers, veterans and supporters who are committed to telling the truth about the so-called "Great Place."

We are 100% pro-soldier, but 100% anti-military. We are not affiliated with the U.S. Army in any way whatsoever.

We are also not affiliated with any other group or organization, so as to maintain our radical independence. We do encourage readers to get help from GI Rights and advocacy groups, but we are independent from them.

We stand strong on the First Amendment and our right to speak out for what we believe in. We will not comply with any actions to silence us.

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Stories, commentary, comics, letters to the editor, etc. are welcomed. Anonymous contributions are completely a-ok, but please do NOT use your name when you write to us if you want to be anonymous (no one can make us reveal the name of someone, if we don't know the name)

Please send your contributions to us at:

cptjohnyossarian@gmail.com

(FYI Yossarian is the name of the main character in the classic absurdist anti-war book *Catch-22*)

COWARD

By Cameron Poe (nom de plume)

A lot can be said of today's Military. It is one of the strongest fighting forces on the planet, giving it the ability to defend our country's borders from outside aggression. It was one of the first fully integrated organizations in the United States. It provides free health care to its members, not to mention it has recently changed the Montgomery G.I. Bill, affording all those who have served the chance to get a college education.

And whether you agree or disagree with the war, the President, or anything in the news lately, the things listed above are true. But this article isn't about the Military as a whole. It's not about Corps, or Divisions, or even Companies. This article gets right down to the heart of it all: the individual. Granted, 'individual' is not a word heard very often in the Military, yet a sundry list of problems in today's Military can be stopped at the individual level; they're just not.

For example: SPC Lynch has served 4 years of a 6 year contract. He successfully completed Basic Combat Training, (BCT), and Advanced Individual Training, (AIT), and was stationed at Ft. Hood directly after. He served one full deployment to Iraq and received an award for honorable service overseas. But upon getting back, SPC Lynch's world began to change. He started seeing things drastically different. He became violent, withdrawn, and paranoid. He started hallucinating. He started to close himself off from the outside world.

Only now, SPC Lynch has orders to deploy again. He knows he can't go in this condition; and he feels that we shouldn't be there in the first place, based on the things he saw over there during his first deployment. So he turns to the one person he thinks he can trust: His supervisor; his Non-Commissioned Officer, (NCO). And what does this NCO do? This person who is supposed to be ever-watchful over the young Specialist? The one person who

should have SPC Lynch's back when no one else will? He tells him not to worry; that it isn't really a war, it's more like a change of duty station. He tells him to suck it up and 'drive on.'

That doesn't sit well with SPC Lynch in the slightest. So he tells his NCO of his problems; his nightmares and feelings of intense paranoia. He tells him that, regretfully, he can't deploy again; he won't. So, what does the NCO do?

He calls him a coward.

Is this the correct response to a problem like this? Correct or not, the problem exists...in full force. Every Service Member who decides that they can't deploy again has their own reason why they came to that conclusion. Even Service Members who just have their doubts still have reasons why. So with all these different reasons why different *individuals* feel the way they do, why is there only one response? Coming immediately from anyone within earshot of their complaints is one of the chief programmed responses in the military; almost as if it were reflex: Coward.

Is SPC Lynch really a coward? Let's look at the numbers, shall we? Total Service Members, active and reserve? An estimated 3 million. Total Population of the United States? 300 million. SPC Lynch joined the Military to be one of the *one percent* of persons guarding our country. ONE PERCENT. Total numbers of citizens that are available for Military service are lower, but it's still around 145 million people!

So how is SPC Lynch the coward? Or anyone else for that matter? They have served their time. They have done their bit for King and Country. If they decide they can't do it anymore; if their hearts just aren't in it, then them's the breaks. No one is going to be able to convince them otherwise. And if you do send someone back overseas who's heart isn't in it anymore, is that what's best for the Service Member? Or the Unit? Or the Military as a whole?

What happens when you send a pacifist Service Member to guard a check-point, and he lays

down his rifle just as the enemy is sighted? What happens when they bowl over him, and then lay siege to your outpost? Do you punish him? He *told* you that he would *not* take a life, even in battle. And armed with that knowledge, if he dies, it's *you* that sent him to his death, knowing he wouldn't fight back. His blood is on your hands because he wouldn't shed blood for you.

Or not even a pacifist Service Member. What about someone with a severe mental issue, brought on by a previous deployment? What happens when they have a severe mental breakdown right before the enemy approaches? Knowing about their problems, and choosing to ignore them, *you* are responsible for that Service Member's death. He told you about his problems, and *you* failed him by sending him into battle when he *told* you he couldn't handle it anymore.

So why is there this need to call someone a coward, before even trying to understand their situation or state of mind? Maybe it's because since day one of your Military service, you have bravado and masculinity drilled into your head, and if you show any sign of emotion or individualism, then you are *weak*. And if you show doubt or, God forbid, *fear*, then you are a coward! Useless to the Military! Well, if they're so useless to the Military, then why force them to stay? Why force them to do something that they're not cut out for, or that they don't want to do anymore?

Numbers.

The Military doesn't care about what state of mind you're in as long as you stay *in*. One of the hardest chapters out of the Military is a Mental Health chapter. Seriously? Shouldn't that be one of the easiest? Shouldn't the Military see a Service Member who is mentally ill and want them *out* as soon as possible, before they hurt someone else or themselves? But instead, they try to counsel the Service Member, and tell them that their illness will go away with time and medication, and then they'll be mentally fit to kill again. And if they're not, they're just faking it, and they're a coward.

Hood-ism, defined

By Grigori R.

As defined by Merriam-Webster's 11th Collegiate Dictionary:

-ism: 1. *a distinctive doctrine, cause, or theory* 2. *an oppressive and especially discriminatory attitude or belief.*

Here's a new word I propose for the dictionary:

"Hood-ism" – *subscribing to the faith or message of Ft. Hood. Messages subverted and reinforced with vigor so as to indoctrinate a sense of belonging at "The Great Place."*

From the initial drive into the gate, any of them, on the Ft. Hood Military Reservation, you will hear it. You'll find it touted in many speeches, from change of command, to welcome home ceremonies, the words echo: "The Great Place."

Yet, although the phrase is met with chagrin from every rank, it is still reinforced time and time again, like a subliminal message. It creeps into your brain, finds itself locked in, and, unfortunately, eventually, repeated from your lips. "Welcome to the Great Place!"

It is hard to imagine that these small words would affect morale, but, in a nation where advertising locked in consumers with "Where's the beef?" twenty years ago, we still underestimate the impact of constant reinforcement. It seems as if the message is one of affirmation, motivation, and betterment of coming out of the cesspool of Killeen.

However, at any time, you can guarantee that the same Soldier that is being greeted with this saying at the gate is also greeted with disrespect and derision from their Chain of Command from their unit. Like the very first day one joins the

Army, the same feeling of apprehension—of not knowing what you're headed into until it's too late— is replayed upon your psyche with every entrance into "The Great Place." There is no end to the assault it seems. Whether returning from a military funeral, a brief leave time, or your first entrance, the words are there. Even as the gate guards stand in the Texas heat parroting them with forced enthusiasm you can catch a knowing glance; they can see as well as anyone how empty the phrase really is.

How easy is it to be the best of the worst living conditions? How is it that the most deployed post in the Army is the 'greatest'? You are pretty much guaranteed a year or more away from your family, your country, and your life, that's truly a 'great' place. You are more than welcome to leave your loved one's back home as you face the dangers of mutilating and life-taking bombs across seas. Not to mention that as you leave those loved ones you can put the sexual assault statistics at the back of your mind. I mean, that'll never happen, right?

In summation, my biggest problem with this -ism isn't necessarily the proclamation of it being "The Great Place," but more of the blatant denial of the truth, that being the greatest out of the worst isn't necessarily so great. Let's not blind our eyes to the real reasons we joined, it wasn't to perpetuate a lie, it wasn't to fight an illegal war, it was to defend freedom. Freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of expression, those are truly great ideals. Let us not subvert those ideals with a false sense of well-being, it would bring only shame upon those who have fought and do fight to defend them.

"Never forget that everything

Hitler did in Germany was legal."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Reflections of an Army town Stripper

By Anonymous

I've heard things in the darkness. Words that haunt me over static music, bubbling over broken speakers into the ears of the mourners, drop from the lips of young men. They stumble and stagger night after night, bellies full of cheap booze, wallets empty, shame-filled and broken. The memories are far more vivid, the images fading in and out of the fingerprinted mirrors. They are easily startled and even more confused, disillusioned and afraid, reaching out for comfort, affection, a warm ear or shoulder, a sympathetic touch. These are my customers, my clients, my patients, at best. Far from the dimmed, red lights, the smoky haze that lines the walls, the delicate flesh exposed with each song, are the desires for sex and entertainment. Ladies and Gentlemen, I am a stripper, an exotic

dancer, if you will, but whatever the words you wished define me with, I am most importantly a substitute counselor, a listener, and a friend.

For the past nine months, I have served as a companion, a fantasy, an ear, and above all, an amateur shrink. This is the first installment of many that looks at the role between sex workers and soldiers, but more importantly, the trauma, discrimination, and experiences of soldiers returning from illegal occupations. This trails the disruptive lives of the innocent, the accused, the pawns, the addicts, and the criminals. We will journey together through layers of hell so intense, not even the stoic can survive. Some bottle their feelings up, cover it with liquor, drugs, promiscuity, and even spending. They suffer in silence and society does little to accommodate and treat the suffering—the Army least of all.

Taken from Mark Shapiro, MilitaryProject.org



Tell your friends about our website: www.notsogreatplace.com

Press Release: SOLDIER OF CONSCIENCE TO BE COURT-MARTIALED
SPC VICTOR AGOSTO REFUSES DEPLOYMENT AND FACES INCARCERATION FROM ARMY

This press release was received shortly before we went to press. Check our next issue for an in-depth account of the Agosto trial.

SPC Victor Agosto, a Soldier stationed with 57th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 69th Air Defense Artillery, Rear Detachment, is scheduled for court-martial on Aug.. 5 at Ft. Hood, TX. A victim of the highly unpopular stop/loss policy, SPC Agosto, whose contract was over at the end of June, was told that his next assignment would be deployment to Afghanistan. At the end of April, with support of local residents, Agosto went public with his intent to refuse the orders to Afghanistan, on the basis of the occupation being "immoral and unjust."



Instead of going 'underground' and trying to escape punishment from the Army, Agosto chose to remain at Ft. Hood as a tangible symbol of GI resistance. Refusing all orders that directly support the war, he has found himself in an overwhelming struggle to maintain his honor and position. His court-martial will culminate with the sentencing portion of the trial, at which, it is believed that the Army will enforce the highest form of sentencing it can impose.

SPC Agosto's attempt to raise awareness and support has not fallen on deaf ears, even in a military community; he has found supporters and friends who are willing to help. As the unit serves overseas, he continues to voice his dissent for an "unjust" war. There will be demonstrators present the day of his arraignment, located off-post due to military regulations concerning demonstrations on military posts.

Wednesday, August 5, 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Demonstration for awareness and outreach to Soldiers at Ft. Hood, East gate

To read more about Victor Agosto go to

http://www.underthehoodcafe.org/victor_agosto_links.html

Free Speech in the military?

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This article is an unauthorized reprint of a leaflet originally published by the Military Law Task Force. The original can be found online at:*

http://www.nlgmltf.org/leaflets/GI_Rights_legal_demonstration.html

It was written during the Bush Administration so substitute "Obama" for "Bush" and "Gates" for "Rumsfeld." But otherwise the article is pretty up to date.

IF YOU'RE IN THE MILITARY, IS IT LEGAL TO GO TO A DEMONSTRATION? TO TALK TO A REPORTER, TO WRITE YOUR CONGRESS-WOMAN? WHAT RIGHTS DO YOU HAVE?

Members of the military have rights under the U.S. Constitution and under the military's own regulations. The military doesn't like this very much--so they don't tell you much about your rights and often limit your rights. If you want to attend a peace or other demonstration, or want to speak out, then you want to know about your rights.

Here is some basic information about your rights regarding demonstrations, protests, dissent, and plain old saying what's on your mind. Once you've read this, it would help to read the regulations (counseling services have them and there are various routes to them on the Internet). You can get more information by talking to a lawyer or counselor experienced in military law--he or she can help interpret the law and regulations and give you legal backup. The regs give you important ways to protest what's going on in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Philippines, and elsewhere.

But the regulations also impose important limitations you need to know about; we'll talk about those. These limitations say people in the military don't have as much constitutional right to express themselves as civilians do. Courts have

upheld a good many of the limitations; some of them haven't been to court yet, when they do they might be held unconstitutional (we think they should be).

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ATTEND PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS OFF BASE

This right is explained in Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 1325.6, "Guidelines for Handling Dissident and Protest Activities Among Members of the Armed Forces." It tells commanders to preserve service members' "right of expression . . . to the maximum extent possible, consistent with good order and discipline and the national security."

Of course it puts limits on the right. The demonstration must be off base and in the U.S. You must be off duty and not in uniform. Also your activities must not "constitute a breach of law and order," and you can't do it "when violence is likely to result."

That last part is pretty vague, so vague that we think you'd have a constitutional defense unless you were really rowdy or knew things were going to get violent. Prosecutions under these vague regulations have so far been uncommon but it would be a huge hassle or worse if you did have to fight disciplinary action or prosecution and maybe lose and get fined or confined. They seem to think having vague rules intimidates you. We think they know they're on shaky constitutional ground if they try to use them against peaceful protest activity.

Be careful about organizing groups of GI's to do things about the conditions of service. There's a statute, 10 U.S.C 976, to prevent labor unions in the military (they want you to work together in combat but not to make things better for yourselves). This law hasn't been used much so it's hard to tell how far they might try to stretch it. Talk to a lawyer or counselor if you think you might be getting close to it.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7***Free Speech Rights in the Military*****YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO PETITION A MEMBER OF CONGRESS AND THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, OR TO FILE A COMPLAINT UNDER ARTICLE 138 OF THE UCMJ (THE REDRESS OF GRIEVANCE ARTICLE.)**

DoD Directive 1325.6 affirms these rights and there's how-to-do-it in DoD Directive 7050.6.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY (MOSTLY) WHAT YOU THINK, ORALLY AND IN WRITING.

But there are some limits here, too. You can't say things that encourage violence or urge others to violate the regulations, you can't communicate with "the enemy" by writing letters to Iraqi officials or soldiers, and you can't call the President, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, or a few other high government officials what article 88 of the UCMJ calls "contemptuous words." Service people have gotten into trouble for using "fascist," "thief," "murderer," "tyrant," "fool," and "gangster" in relation to such people (but officers didn't get in trouble for saying things like that about President Clinton). Article 88 says it only applies to an officer but if they really want to go after an enlisted person for saying these things they'd probably try to use the catchall, art. 134's "to the prejudice of good order and discipline in the armed forces, or conduct of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces."

Art. 117 of the UCMJ outlaws saying ugly things about people, but that's so broad it's probably unconstitutional unless used against really super awful statements. You're in more substantial danger if you say things that could make GI's desert, disobey lawful orders, or refuse to do their jobs.

You can, subject to all of these limitations, write, publish, and distribute things like newspapers, leaflets, and web pages. You can write letters to the editor as long as they're not part of an organized letter campaign for a political candidate or party (the Army deals with electoral political ac-

tivity in its Regulation 600-20 Appendix B). It all has to be while you're off duty and without using military paper, ink, computers, phones, or other supplies or equipment.

You can put a bumper sticker on your car. Yard signs off base are governed by the same rules as other writings (unless it's displayed by a civilian resident and so gets the benefit of civilian free speech rules); in base housing they're iffy, subject to local orders, and probably with more leeway for those on issues ("No War") than for politicians (Vote for Bush").

And, of course, you can't say or imply that you are speaking on behalf of the military. Civilian spouses and children are just that-civilians. Off base, they aren't governed by the military's limitations. For on base activity, the command can issue orders that take away their right of expression almost the same as service members.

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO READ AND KEEP THIS MEMO, OTHER KNOW-YOUR-RIGHTS FLYERS, OR ANTI-WAR MATERIAL.

DoD Dir. 1325.6 allows it and then specifies the limitations. One of them is you are not allowed to distribute such literature on base. If the command finds that you have more than one copy of anything, they may claim that you intend to distribute it.

And you should remember other general rules about communicating, mostly the same as described in the part about what you can say. You don't want to have literature that calls for the violent overthrow of anything, assassination of anybody, or blowing up anything but the military's targets. You don't want to have material that violates sexual harassment regulations, and you don't want to have racist literature. Civilians have the right to have all of these things.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO TALK WITH AND GET HELP FROM A CIVILIAN ATTORNEY.

It's a right you should exercise. And it's also perfectly legal to talk with and get help from a military counselor--a non-attorney who can give in-

formation about discharges, administrative complaints, and many of your rights.

SO WHAT'S THE DOWN SIDE?

With the rights talked about here, we've also mentioned the main limitations on the rights--limitations the military uses to make it more difficult for folks to speak out about their opinions and to protest unjust policies and unjust wars. Unfortunately, as you know, the military can restrict things you do off base as well as on, and can punish you for violating the UCMJ (which, in effect, requires you to obey most civilian laws) even out in town. It's important to know how far the regulations protect you, and not assume the protection is perfect.

Another limitation is that courts have allowed the military to require its members to submit some things for approval before mailing or publishing them. For example look at the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Glines*, 444 U.S. 348 (1980). In civilian life this would absolutely violate the first amendment of the Constitution; it's called "prior restraint."

The U.S. Supreme Court, in cases where GI's were seeking rights similar to those of civilians, has said, "the military is, by necessity, a specialized society separate from civilian society. We have also recognized that the military has, again by necessity, developed laws and traditions of its own during its long history. The differences between the military and civilian communities result from the fact that it is the primary business of armies and navies to fight or ready to fight wars should the occasion arise. . . . An army is not a deliberative body. It is the executive arm. Its law is that of obedience." (We think armies and navies would most effectively fight for democracy if the soldiers and sailors had democratic rights themselves but the courts don't agree and, in any event, many believe it's been a long time since the U.S. military has done much fighting for democracy.)

The Court was writing in the context of the battlefield and preparing for it, but military commanders, given this inch, try to take it a mile.

When they do so they can come up against the fact that both the Supreme Court and the Court of Military Appeals have said the law of blind obedience "does not reach all disagreement with, or objection to, a policy of the Government." According to the courts, that allows GI's a good bit of free speech off duty, off base, and out of uniform.

The main regulation carries this forward by saying "The Service members' right of expression should be preserved to the maximum extent possible, consistent with good order and discipline and the national security." But then it leaves figuring that out to "the calm and prudent judgment of the responsible commander."

Yeah, sure.

You don't have to be in the military long to find out that commands sometimes ignore the rules and retaliate against whistleblowers and troublemakers and protesters. Sometimes innocent and completely legal actions can lead to retaliation--poor performance evaluations, bad recommendations, and bogus disciplinary charges. Sometimes folks are labeled as troublemakers and face informal harassment from co-workers and superiors (but sometimes this backfires--it produces admiration from co-workers).

There are several ways to challenge this sort of thing. Getting some legal assistance is the first step--you can talk with a military counselor and/or an attorney who's familiar with military law. They can give you information about ways to challenge illegal retaliation--sometimes through Article 138 complaints, which commands really hate, sometimes through the Military Whistleblower Protection Act and sometimes through other legal channels. And an attorney or counselor can help you put together a complaint or can communicate with your command about the problem. In fighting back against harassment like this, it helps to be able to show that you don't deserve the bad marks and, if possible, to show that your protest activities were the real reason the command developed an attitude and took action against you.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9***Free Speech Rights in the Military***

Since the war in Iraq started, lots of soldiers have talked to the media, both in Iraq and in the states, saying they want to come home and the war is wrong. Some have talked and written to members of Congress to oppose the war. Many have marched in demonstrations. So far, the military hasn't done much to stop this, because the dissent is strong and because many Americans support soldiers who want to come home now. But some commands have threatened soldiers and sailors, even for actions like these that are completely legal. And experience teaches us that retaliation and false charges can be serious. The best way to protect yourself is to be prepared in advance-before you use your rights, read the regulations for yourself. Talk with an attorney or counselor and try to arrange in advance for legal backup in case your command develops an attitude.

It's also important to think about whether you are vulnerable-whether there is anything in your record or any action pending against you that might be a problem if your command wants to cause you trouble. Here, too, an attorney or counselor can help you to be sure you have as much protection as possible against harassment or retaliation.

And remember, if officials ask you questions about subjects that could get you in trouble, even if you believe you were in the right, you don't have to answer. But you can't lie. Saying "I don't know" when you do know is a lie.

USE IT OR LOSE IT

If we don't speak out, we deny our rights all by ourselves. If we don't use the regulations that let us protest a bad war, the regulations just sit there. But if we don't protect ourselves while we protest, then the protections in the regulations end up being useless. Some advance preparation is the best way to use these rights; knowledge is power. And using your rights is important for you, for others caught in a bad war, for democracy, and for all of us.

EDUCATE YOURSELF**REGULATIONS**

DoD Directive 1325.6. Guidelines for Handling Dissident and Protest Activities Among Members of the Armed Forces. Also has a provision that tries to prevent racial, gender, religious, or ethnic hatred. The individual branches have their own regulations which implement this Directive. AF Instruction 51-903, AR 600-20 Appendix B (having to do with partisan politics); MCO 5370.4B, and OPNAVINST 1620.1B. These regulations also deal with racial, gender, religious, or ethnic hatred. There are also often local directives.

DoD Dir. 1334.1. Wearing of the Uniform. Prohibits wearing uniform at certain events, including demonstrations.

DoD Directive 1354.1. DoD Policy on Organizations the Seek to Represent or Organize Members of the Armed Forces in Negotiating or Collective Bargaining. Prohibits members of the military from joining a union, attempting to enroll other members in a union, or striking.

DoD Directive 7050.6. Military Whistleblower Protection.

STATUTES

10 U.S.C. § 976. Makes it illegal for members of the military to unionize.

10 U.S.C. § 774. Establishes limited right to wear conservative items of religious apparel while in uniform (For details on implementation, see DoD Directive 1300.17).

10 U.S.C. § 1034. The Military Whistleblower Act - Protects right to complain to Congress and the Inspector General, and protects members from retaliation for filing complaints.

UCMJ Art. 138. Establishes the right to complain to a higher officer when wronged by your commanding officer.

ORGANIZATIONS THAT CAN HELP

Editor's Note: This portion of the article is out –of-date, so please instead consult the Resources on page 14, or contact the MLTF.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/ (official site for DoD Directives) <http://www.objector.org/helpingout/military-sites.html> (lists official regulation websites for all branches (contains link to CCCO website, which has other useful links)

The preceding article was first published by the

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Lies by Lynch

By Anonymous

LTG Lynch has quite a history of propagandizing and cheerleading for the illegal and immoral American invasions and occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq.

The following items were found in the press. They are worth reading to understand the context of LTG Lynch's current hunky-dory statements about Fort Hood.

From: http://eternalhope.blog-city.com/the_truth_in_wartime_act.htm

Reporters Without Borders today called for immediate sanctions against the US soldiers who fired on a Reuters TV crew after US army spokesman Gen. Rick Lynch, while insisting they acted appropriately, yesterday acknowledged that US troops did indeed fire the shots that killed soundman Waleed Khaled and slightly injured cameraman Haider Kadhem on 28 August.

Claiming that the US soldiers "took appropriate measures," Gen. Lynch said: "What our soldiers on the scene saw was a car travelling forward at a high rate of speed. [It] looked like cars that we have seen in the past used as suicide bombs... and there were two local nationals inside."

Wow! General Lynch actually defends shooting at reporter's cars. One has to wonder if this has to do with the fact that these reporters were unembedded journalists who aren't subject to US military censorship.

From: DoD News Briefing with Maj. Gen. Lynch from Iraq, July 6,2007, <http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/transcript.aspx?transcriptid=4007>

GEN. LYNCH: You know, people ask me all the time why I have so much confidence. I've got great confidence because I got

Nothing will end war
unless the people
themselves refuse to
go to war.

~Albert Einstein

great soldiers. And they're here fighting because they want to fight terrorists here so they don't have to fight terrorists back home. That sounds like a bumper sticker, but that's what they believe. They believe that if they don't do what our forefathers did, our children and their children won't enjoy the freedoms that we enjoyed coming up. So they're continuing to fight the good fight.

And candidly, if we don't fight the good fight here, I believe we're going to have to fight the fight back home, and none of us want that to happen. None of us want to experience 9/11 again. None of us want to have attacks on the American soil. So we got to fight the fight here.

And we need these surge forces. They came in for a reason. They're being used for the reason they came in. It's going to take some time to mature the situation. Over time we can turn the area over to Iraqi security forces, and then we'll be ready to do something that looks like a withdrawal. But that's not going to happen any time soon.

Interesting though that the Iraqis hadn't ever attacked us, yet Lynch thinks we have to get them before they get us.

From: <http://archive.newsmax.com/archives/ic/2005/12/3/104654.shtml>

The American media is up in arms over reports that the Pentagon hired a public relations firm to write positive news stories about the Iraq war and get them printed in the Iraqi press.

But Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, spokesman for U.S. forces in Baghdad, isn't letting journalists get away with their phony display of outrage.

After the New York Times front-paged the "fake news" story Thursday under the headline: "U.S. Is Said to Pay to Plant Articles in

Iraq Papers," Gen. Lynch defended the practice.

"We don't lie. We don't need to lie," he told reporters in Baghdad. "We do empower our operational commanders with the ability to inform the Iraqi public, but everything we do is based on fact, not based on fiction."

"We don't lie." That's funny. I guess Lynch is a comedian too.

From: Killeen Daily Herald, July 5, 2009
"Central Texans celebrate Independence Day", <http://kdhnews.com/news/story.aspx?s=34375>

(On July 4, 2009, LTG Lynch told a crowd at the Bell County Courthouse in Belton, TX), "We can focus on the fight because you focus on the family at home. A lot of people have almost forgotten about the events of Sept. 11, 2001, when 3,000 people died on American soil, but it's why we're in Iraq and Afghanistan, so we can fight them there and not here. And we'll be there at least 10 more years."

So the next time, you hear our wonderful CG open his mouth, remember these two quotes on the nature of propaganda....

"See, in my line of work you got to keep repeating things over and over and over again for the truth to sink in, to kind of catapult the propaganda."— George W. Bush (President of the United States, 2001-2009)

"If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State." - Joseph Goebbels (Reich Minister of Propaganda in Nazi Germany, 1933-1945)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1—"MISSION NOT ACCOMPLISHED, LTG LYNCH!!!"

For the second time since the Vietnam War (the first was in 2007), soldier suicides are expected to exceed the civilian suicide rate. That being said, one needs to look not just at active duty Army suicide rates in general, but at combat veteran suicide rates in particular. Over three quarters of our soldiers have been deployed to a combat zone. Once a soldier has served in Iraq or Afghanistan, the chances of committing suicide increase 400 percent!!!!

VA Secretary Peake testified before Congress in May 2008. Young male OIF/OEF veterans (18 - 35) are three times as likely to commit suicide as their civilian counterparts and young female OIF/OEF veterans are four times as likely to commit suicide.

Suicides are the unspoken truth to the problems of the Army now. The Army does not put enough emphasis on our warrior's mental health and well-being as it does on their physical fitness. Yet after waging eight years of illegal warfare in Afghanistan and six years of illegal warfare in Iraq, one would think that the military would realize that service member psychological stability is ESSENTIAL to unit readiness and troop morale—not to mention public safety, but as we know the real reason is numbers for readiness and MONEY!!!!

The Army says that it appreciates the importance of mental health but as an advocate I have seen unit after unit choose to punish a post-combat soldier for misconduct rather than help that soldier get evaluated and treated for PTSD (as well as traumatic brain injuries). This is a choice that Commanders make and it is a choice that completely undermines the Department of the Army's own messaging on the importance of good mental health. Nonetheless, this is happening at Army bases all over the country.

If we are going to continue to engage in these prolonged military conflicts overseas, then mental health care has to be made a priority. It has to be generously funded by Congress and aggressively utilized by the Department of Defense.

So LTG Lynch and Mrs. Lynch, we all here at FT Hood would like to thank you for nothing as you have done nothing for our soldiers! We also would like to wish you lots of luck and success at your new job managing buildings around the Army. Hopefully, you can manage that and not fuck it up!!!!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3—COWARD

Even the mentally ill can't catch a break from the C-word.

So this article is not an editorial; it is an education. Watch what you say to Service Members. Whether or not you agree with their system of beliefs. Whether or not they've deployed before. If someone tells you they can't or won't deploy, think before you speak. Because if you force that Service Member to deploy, right next to you on the battlefield, and he runs? Don't get upset. He told you. Wouldn't you rather have had someone next to you that truly wanted to serve the Military? Instead you brought along someone who told you they wouldn't kill, and you tried to make them kill anyway. And now you're holding a position on the battlefield; alone. See who's the coward then.

For national news on the bullshit wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, read ...

GI Special www.militaryproject.org
*This is how Obama brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



*GI Special is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org*

RESOURCES

We are not affiliated with these groups and websites, but recommend them to you as groups that can help keep you from being FUCKED over by the "Not So Great Place"

Iraq Veterans Against the War

Founded in 2004, Iraq Veterans Against the War is an organization of veterans and servicemembers who have served since September 11th and who oppose the wars and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan and demand reparations for the Iraqi and Afghan people and full veterans benefits and support. If you have served in the military since September 11th and oppose the current direction that we have taken in regards to the Global War on Terror, contact your local IVAW chapter today.

215-241-7123 • www.ivaw.org



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(254) 449-8811

Open 5-10 p.m.
7 days a week

MILITARY LAW TASK FORCE OF THE NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD WWW.NLGMLTF.ORG

The MLTF provides legal support to soldiers who engage in free speech actions.

Courage to Resist

Courage to Resist supports the troops who refuse to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan by counseling them on their options, helping individuals coordinate legal defense and raise money, and helping resisters get their stories out to the public, if that is something they want to do. All calls are confidential. • courage@riseup.net

510-488-3559 • www.couragetoresist.org



GI Rights Hotline

This organization has trained GI rights counselors who can help you sort out your options, learn about your rights as a GI, and get the medical care you need.

All calls are confidential. • girights@girightshotline.org

877-447-4487 • www.girightshotline.org



Fort Hood Deaths in Iraq during LTG Lynch's command

Bregg, Lucas M. 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Non-hostile Baghdad 7/8/2009

David, Timothy A. 2nd BN, 5th Cavalry Reg, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Hostile - hostile fire - IED attack Baghdad (Sadr City) 6/28/2009

Lo, Edmond L. 797th Ordnance Company, 79th Ordnance Battalion Hostile - hostile fire - IED attack Samarra 6/4/2009

Kurth, Christopher M. 3rd BN, 82nd Field Artillery Reg, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Hostile - hostile fire - grenade Kirkuk 5/29/2009

Lee, Thomas E. 3rd BN, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Hostile - hostile fire - grenade Mosul (near) 5/7/2009

Sykes, Shawn D. 215th Brigade Support BN, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Non-hostile - accident Landstuhl Reg. Med. Ctr. 5/2/2009

Velloza, Jake R. 1st BN, 12th Cavalry Reg, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Hostile - hostile fire - small arms fire Mosul (south of) 5/2/2009

McCleery, Jeremiah P. 1st BN, 12th Cavalry Reg, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Hostile - hostile fire - small arms fire Mosul (south of) 4/25/2009

Webster, Leroy O. 3rd BN, 82nd Field Artillery Reg, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Hostile - hostile fire - small arms fire Kirkuk (near) 3/3/2009

Sarandrea, Jessica Y. 3rd Brigade Special Troops BN, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Hostile - hostile fire - indirect fire Mosul 3/2/2009

Reed, Jeffrey A. 411th Military Police Company, 720th Military Police BN, 89th Military Police Brigade Hostile - hostile fire - grenade Taji 2/14/2009

Thompson, Stephen S. 1st BN, 22nd Infantry Reg, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division Non-hostile - gunshot wound Baghdad 2/9/2009

Jex, Albert R. 3rd BN, 8th Cavalry Reg, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Hostile - hostile fire - IED attack Mosul 2/9/2009

Derby, Garnet R. 3rd BN, 8th Cavalry Reg, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Hostile - hostile fire - IED attack Mosul 2/9/2009

Ward, Joshua A. 3rd BN, 8th Cavalry Reg, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Hostile - hostile fire - IED attack Mosul 2/9/2009

Roberge, Jonathan R. 3rd BN, 8th Cavalry Reg, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Hostile - hostile fire - IED attack Mosul 2/8/2009

Continued- Fort Hood Deaths in Iraq during LTG Lynch's command

Dorsey, James M. 1st BN, 66th Armor Reg, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division Non-hostile Baghdad 1/18/2009

Andrade Jr., Roberto 1st BN, 66th Armor, First Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division Hostile-hostile fire-IED attack Baghdad (eastern part) 11/21/2008

Wilson, Miguel A. 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment Non-hostile - during rescue attempt Mosul 11/20/2008

Barnett, Charles Yi 2nd BN, 12th Cavalry Reg, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Non-hostile Tallil 11/12/2008

Shea, Corey M. 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment Hostile - hostile fire - small arms fire Mosul 11/12/2008

Regalado, Jose 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment Hostile - hostile fire - small arms fire Mosul 11/6/2008

Hobbs, Theron V. 572nd Engineer Company, 20th Engineer BN, 36th Engineer Brigade Non-hostile - vehicle accident Kirkuk 10/12/2008

Johnson, Geoffrey G. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Division Special Troops BN, 4th Infantry Division Non-hostile Baghdad 10/11/2008

Fernandez III, Reuben M. 2nd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Reg, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Hostile - hostile fire - IED attack Majar Al Kabir (Amara) 10/3/2008

Setzler, Tavarus D. 2nd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Reg, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Hostile -hostile fire-IED attack Majar al-Kabir 9/24/2008

Medders, Michael J. 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment Hostile - hostile fire - suicide bomber Jisr Naft 9/4/2008

Mayne, Kenneth W. 1st BN, 66th Armor Reg, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division Hostile - hostile fire - IED attack Baghdad (eastern part) 9/4/2008

Thomas, Bryan R. 1st BN, 66th Armor Reg, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division Hostile - hostile fire - IED attack Baghdad (eastern part) 8/28/2008

Nieve, Jorge L. Feliz 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment Non-hostile - vehicle accident Mosul 8/27/2008

Cooper, David K. 4th BN, 42nd Field Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division Hostile - hostile fire - small arms fire Qadasiyah 7/31/2008

Mitchell, Andre Darnell 2nd BN, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment Non-hostile - vehicle rollover Mosul

REMEMBER THE DEAD AND FIGHT LIKE HELL FOR THE LIVING