



VETERANS FOR PEACE  
HUMBOLDT BAY  
CHAPTER 56

# THE FOGHORN

AUGUST  
2013

*"Cutting Through the Fog of War"*

In memory of the victims of the U.S. bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

## The 31st Annual Arcata Lantern Floating Ceremony

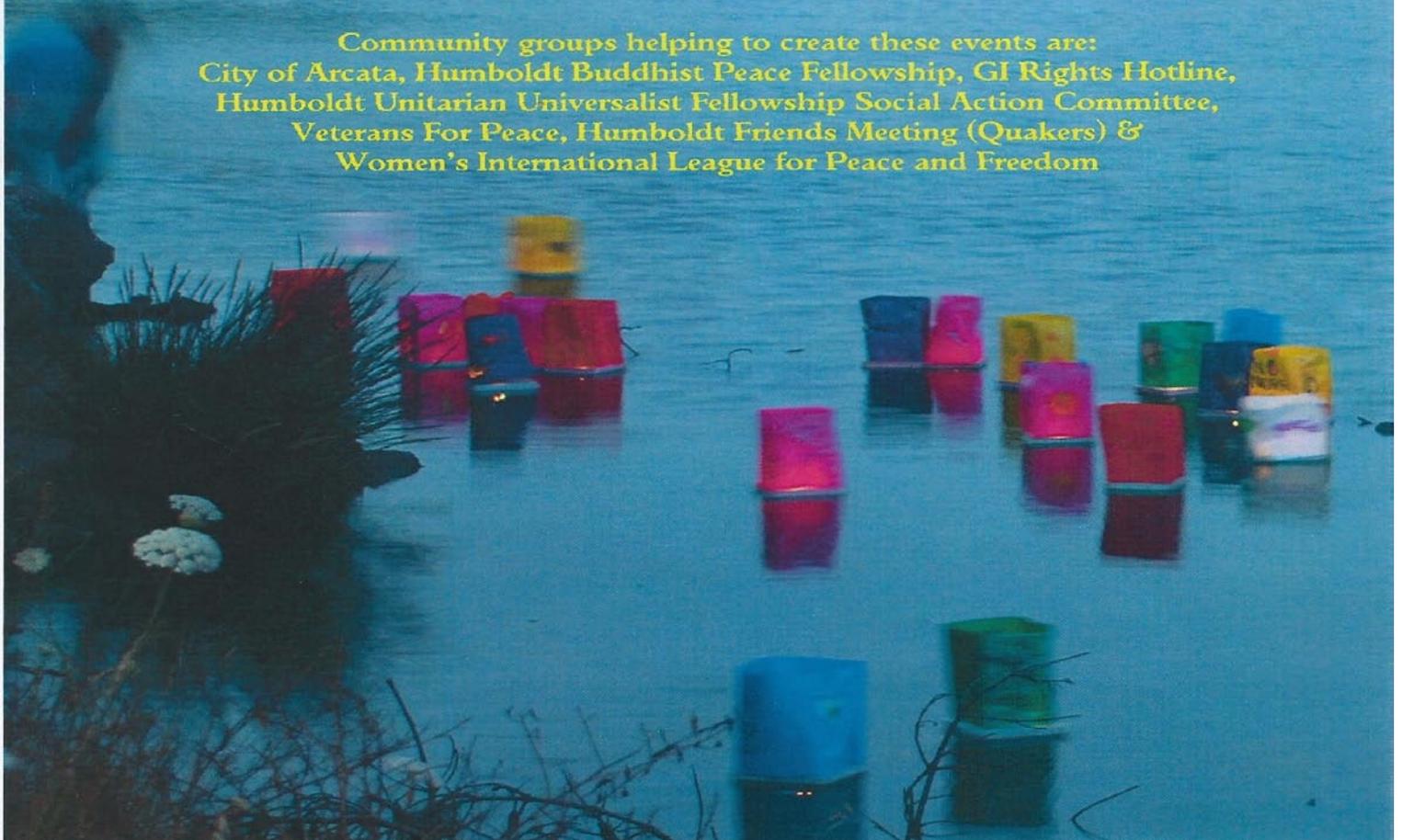
An opportunity to offer spiritual consolation for people we miss, departed loved ones, ancestors, cultures and all we hold dear.

Saturday, August 3rd, 2013

Make a Lantern  
9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
at the Farmer's Market

Program at 7:30 p.m.  
Lantern Floating at Sunset  
Klopp Lake, Arcata Marsh

Community groups helping to create these events are:  
City of Arcata, Humboldt Buddhist Peace Fellowship, GI Rights Hotline,  
Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Social Action Committee,  
Veterans For Peace, Humboldt Friends Meeting (Quakers) &  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom



## HELP THE VFP HUNGER STRIKERS CLOSE DOWN THE US PRISON AT GUANTANAMO

*Invite Elliott Adams and Tarak Kauff to speak to your chapter via Skype*

Former VFP president Elliott Adams is now in Day 54 of his indefinite fast in solidarity with the hunger striking prisoners at the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (as of Monday, July 8). VFP Board member Tarak Kauff is in Day 32. According to CloseGitmo.net, the Guantanamo prisoners are now on Day 153.

One hundred and six prisoners are participating in the hunger strike. Forty-five are being force fed. Two are in the hospital. They are fasting for their lives, for their dignity, for their freedom. They are refusing to eat so that people will know of their desperation at being indefinitely detained, without charge, without trial, many of them for 11 years. Eighty-six of them have actually been cleared for release by all relevant U.S. agencies. Yet they continue the torture of indefinitely being separated from their families and loved ones.

Elliott and Tarak are taking in up to 300 calories a day, and taking in supplements and vitamins to keep their electrolytes balanced, their kidneys functioning, etc. They are not being tortured with feeding tubes being forced down their noses into their stomachs. They are not being systematically sleep deprived by guards banging steel doors shut hundreds of times a night, as a Guantanamo guard recently reported. But they are making a big sacrifice, and yes, they are putting their own health at risk, both short term and long term.

Is this solidarity hunger strike rather extreme? Yes, it is. But Elliott and Tarak, like Diane Willson and Brian Wilson who also fasted to shut down Guantanamo, were sickened when they learned of the desperate plight and severe mistreatment of the men who are being held by the U.S. military at Guantanamo.

“I just can’t sit and enjoy my life when my country is doing such terrible things to these people,” said Elliott Adams. “I am fasting in order to motivate others to take action. I am fasting to help build a movement that will actually succeed in shutting down Guantanamo and releasing innocent prisoners.”

Shaker Amer, a Guantanamo prisoner and a British citizen, recently said “The administration is getting ever more angry and doing everything they can to break our hunger strike. Honestly, I wish I was dead.”

“Of course under these unbearable circumstances they would rather be dead,” said Tarak Kauff. “So would I, so would you. These men are human beings with families, who once had lives, hopes and dreams. Many of them were simply turned over to U.S. forces for a bounty. Now they are suffering unimaginable tortures while the corporate media and the public remain for the most part either unforgivably ignorant or coldly indifferent. Please, do not remain silent.”

Elliott Adams and Tarak Kauff would like to talk directly to your chapter via the magic of Skype video, or even via a speaker phone. If you can you give them just five or ten minutes of your next chapter meeting, they will educate your members and motivate them to act. They would also be happy to speak to a community meeting or even a small gathering in your home. They really want to do this and soon.

You can contact them directly:

Elliott Adams, 518-441-2697 or by email at [elliottadams@juno.com](mailto:elliottadams@juno.com).

Tarak Kauff, 845-679-3299, [takauff@gmail.com](mailto:takauff@gmail.com).

Or you can make arrangements through Gerry Condon, 206-499-1220, [projectsafehaven@hotmail.com](mailto:projectsafehaven@hotmail.com).

For more information on the effort to close down Guantanamo, visit [CloseGitmo.net](http://CloseGitmo.net) and [WitnessTorture.org](http://WitnessTorture.org).



## GOLDEN RULE REPORT

TO ALL:.....

THE WEATHER LATELY HAS BEEN EXCELLENT FOR PAINTING SO THE TRANSOM NOW HAS 7 COATS OF VARNISH. WE'LL PROBABLY ADD 5 MORE BEFORE WE'RE READY FOR THE NAME AND HOME PORT TO BE ADDED. MIKE GONZALEZ AND OLIVER CRANE APPLIED ANOTHER COAT OF BOTTOM PAINT RECENTLY AND THE TRIM INSIDE THE CABIN NOW HAS 3 COATS THANKS TO PETER ARONSON. FINE SANDING OF THE HULL IS UNDER WAY ALONG WITH A BIT OF FAIRING. A FINAL COAT OR TWO OF PRIMER AND THE HULL SHOULD BE READY FOR SOME COLOR. NEW, LONGER STEM BOLTS HAVE BEEN PUT IN PLACE TO ACCOMMODATE THE HEAVIER STEM POST. A BIT MORE TOUCH UP PAINT AND WE'LL BE READY FOR THE BOBSTAY. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF LOCATING THE HARDWARE FOR THE SPARS. ONCE ALL THE PIECES HAVE BEEN FOUND AND FITTED WE CAN PROCEED WITH PAINTING THE BOOMS AND GAFF. MIKE AND PETER WITH HELP FROM DENNIS THOMPSON HAVE REPLACED THE BOTTOM BANDS ON THE RUDDER. THE ORIGINAL BRONZE WAS CRACKED BEYOND REPAIR SO WE REPLACED THEM WITH STAINLESS STEEL AND BEDDED THEM IN EPOXY BEFORE SCREWING THEM DOWN.

THERE IS A FORGE BEING PUT TOGETHER IN THE BOAT YARD NEAR THE WORK SHOPS SO WE'LL BE ABLE TO MANUFACTURE BRONZE ITEMS MISSING FROM THE INVENTORY. A SHIP'S BELL WILL AMONG THE FIRST THINGS MADE. WE ALSO NEED 3 OR 4 BELAYING PINS AND RUDDER GUDGEONS SOMEWHAT HEAVIER THAN THE ORIGINALS. HOPEFULLY THERE WILL BE ENOUGH MONEY IN THE BANK SOON TO PURCHASE THE FIBER GLASS NEEDED FOR THE DECKS AND CABIN. I'M RESEARCHING A TYPE OF RESIN THAT WE MIGHT POSSIBLY BE ABLE TO USE INSTEAD OF EPOXY RESIN. THIS COULD SAVE US SOME 50% ON MATERIAL COSTS. THE SEARCH FOR CLEAR SPRUCE TO BUILD THE MAIN MAST HAS COME UP SHORT SO I'VE ASKED ALMQUIST TO SEE IF FIR MIGHT BE EASIER TO LOCATE. WE REQUIRE 2X8'S AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. THE MAIN IS 36 1/2 FEET LONG AND 8 INCHES IN DIAMETER.

I HAVE A LIST OF JOBS THAT CAN BE DONE RIGHT NOW BUT I'M SHORT OF VOLUNTEERS. THERE IS ALSO A LIST BEING COMPILED OF ALL MATERIALS AND ITEMS NEEDED TO FINISH THIS PROJECT ALONG WITH COSTS. THIS LIST WILL BECOME PART OF A BUDGET WE WILL WORK WITH. AT THIS POINT IT APPEARS THIS PROJECT COULD CONCEIVABLY BE FINISHED AND READY TO SAIL FOR AROUND \$30,000.00 NOT INCLUDING TAX OR LABOR AND WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS DOING MOST OF THE

WORK, LABOR WILL BE HUGE. BILL CARR AND I HAVE DECIDED NOT TO INCLUDE CREDITS FOR PICTURES ADDED TO THE SLIDE SHOW ON OUR WEB SITE BUT HAVE INSTEAD CHOSEN TO GIVE CREDIT IN THESE REPORTS. SO THANK YOU TO SISSY GOODWIN FROM WYOMING FOR THE LATEST ADDITIONS.

INFORMATION RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY CHUCK DEWITT.....

## Top Military Leader Outlines Costs, Risks on Syria

by Donna Cassata

WASHINGTON - Establishing a no-fly zone to protect Syrian rebels would require hundreds of U.S. aircraft at a cost as much as \$1 billion per month and no assurance that it would change the momentum in the 2-year-old civil war, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said Monday in a cautionary assessment of more aggressive American military action.

In a letter, Gen. Martin Dempsey outlined the risks, costs and benefits of five potential steps as the Obama administration weighs its next move to help the opposition battling the forces of President Bashar Assad. The sectarian conflict has killed an estimated 93,000 and displaced millions, prompting more calls on Capitol Hill for greater American action.

Dempsey said the decision to use force in Syria is not one to be taken lightly.

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Next VFP56 meeting will be held  
on Thursday, August 1 at  
7:00 PM.  
Meeting will be held in the  
Commons Room at 550 Union  
Street in Arcata.  
Veterans and non-veterans are  
more than welcome to come and  
help us dialogue about what we to-  
gether can do to bring about peace  
in this complex world.



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“It is no less than an act of war,” he wrote. And once that decision is made, the U.S. has to be prepared for what may come next. “Deeper involvement is hard to avoid,” he said.

The United States has been providing humanitarian assistance to the opposition seeking to overthrow the Assad government. The administration has recently taken steps to arm rebels with weapons and ammunition, a step welcomed by some in Congress but troubling to other lawmakers.

Separately, members of the House intelligence committee who had balked weeks ago at the Obama administration’s first attempt to pay for lethal aid for the Syrian rebels said Monday that their concerns had largely been addressed.

“After much discussion and review, we got a consensus that we could move forward with what the administration’s plans and intentions are in Syria consistent with committee reservations,” Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich., chairman of the House panel, said in a statement.

At Dempsey’s confirmation hearing last week for another two-year term, Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., had asked the general for his unclassified view of options for using U.S. military forces in Syria. Separately, Levin and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a member of the committee, had pressed Dempsey about possible actions in Syria and risks associated with Afghanistan.

Tara Andringa, a spokeswoman for Levin, said Monday that the senators are expecting a separate response from Dempsey to their letter.

Responding to Levin, Dempsey spelled out costs, ranging from millions to billions, for options ranging from training and armed vetted rebel groups, conducting limited strikes on Syria’s air defenses, creating a no-fly zone, establishing a buffer zone and controlling Syria’s massive stockpile of chemical weapons.

The military leader said that while these steps would help the opposition and pressure Assad’s government, “we have learned from the past 10 years; however, that it is not enough to simply alter the balance of military power without careful consideration of what is necessary in order to preserve a functioning state.”

Dempsey’s reference was to the more than a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Joint Chiefs chairman said creation of a no-fly zone would neutralize Syria’s air defenses. It would require “hundreds of ground and sea-based aircraft, intelligence and electronic warfare support, and enablers for refueling and communications. Estimated costs are \$500 million initially, averaging as much as a billion dol-

lars per month over the course of a year.”

He said that while it would likely result in the “near total elimination” of Syria’s ability to bomb opposition strongholds, the risks would be the loss of U.S. aircraft. That would mean recovery efforts for American personnel.

He added that such a step “may also fail to reduce the violence or shift the momentum because the regime relies overwhelmingly on surface fires - mortars, artillery and missiles.”

Dempsey said creation of a buffer zone, most likely a geographic area across the border with Turkey or Jordan, would give opposition forces a place to organize and train. Such a move would require thousands of U.S. ground forces, even stationed outside Syria, to back up those defending the zones.

That combined with U.S. ground forces would prove costly, at more than \$1 billion per month, he said.

“We must also understand risk-not just to our forces, but to our other global responsibilities. This is especially critical as we lose readiness due to budget cuts and fiscal uncertainty. Some options may not be feasible in time or cost without compromising our security elsewhere,” Dempsey wrote.

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## **Soft Machine: A Bright Ray of Hope for Bradley Manning**

**By Chris Floyd**

Many people have worried about the fate of Bradley Manning, a lone soldier who informed the world of war crimes being committed by the War Machine that has devoured the American republic and turned its ravaging, profit-reaping fury on the world. As we all know, Manning is now in the iron grip of that Machine, facing the prospect of life in prison for his truth-telling, having already endured a long incarceration marked by episodes of relentless psychological torture. Many people quite reasonably dread what awaits Manning when the Military Court hands down its inevitable verdict against him.

But wait -- perhaps all is not lost after all. In the long dark night of our military imperium, a shaft of light, of hope, has suddenly appeared. And it comes from -- of all places -- the very pinnacle of the military justice system that is bearing down on Manning: the Court of Appeal of the Armed Forces of the United States.

For it turns out that if a military prisoner has faced the least mistreatment during incarceration, even a temporary abuse of due process, then all charges against him will be dropped and he can walk free. And since Manning has manifestly faced any number of abuses of due process and egregious mistreatment, then we can

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be supremely confident that the military Court of Appeal -- which enshrined this Solomonic principle in a recent case -- will act with perfect consistency and release Bradley Manning in good time, whatever the eventual outcome of his current trial.

After all, that's what the Court has done for poor Lawrence Hutchins III, the good Marine who has been persecuted for years merely for carrying out his duty during America's "extraordinary achievement" -- as Barack Obama so aptly termed it -- in ousting the dictator Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq. (It seems there were some other reasons adduced for the invasion back in the day -- something sort of dubious? even spurious? -- but thankfully, these have long been forgotten as America has put aside the petty squabbles of the past and returned once more to implacable sense of righteousness that wraps the nation's every action in a golden, godly glow.)

All Sgt. Hutchins did was lead his team on a night raid against a private home in the Iraqi town of Hamdania. All he and his team did was break into the house, grab an innocent retired policeman named Hashim Ibrahim Awad, drag him down the road to the site of a IED attack, tie him up, shoot him dead in cold blood, then dump his body in the IED hole, remove the plastic restraints, and leave a stolen AK-47 rifle next to the corpse to pretend Awad was a terrorist who had been killed in a firefight. That's all Hutchins did. Oh yes, that, and have his men shoot Awad repeatedly in the face, in the hope of obliterating his identity. But family members recognized the body and demanded justice from their American military occupiers.

Then came the real crime, the misdeed that would later lead the Court of Appeals of the Armed Forces of the United States to carry out its humanitarian intervention and set Hutchins free. As AP reports, Hutchins was arrested by the military brass and held "in solitary confinement without access to a lawyer for seven days during his 2006 interrogation in Iraq." Thus Hutchins -- who was facing a term of 11 whole years for kidnapping an innocent man, shooting him in the face then covering up the crime -- was released from custody last month by the Court of Appeals, which cited the six-day spell in solitary as the basis for overturning his conviction.

Who knew that the American military justice system was so fiercely adherent to due process that it would even let a killer go free on a "technicality," like a bunch of wimpy ACLU lawyers? Who knew they would act with such exemplary exactitude in applying letter of the law down to the last jot and tittle? Yet this is the principle they have firmly established with their ruling on Hutchins: the failure to safeguard a military prisoner's full panoply of legal rights in every respect must result in the overturning of any subsequent verdict against that prisoner, and his release from captivity.

I think we can all rest easier knowing that this principle will now be guiding the decisions of the U.S. military justice system from now on. For surely it will be applied universally, not only to Bradley Manning but also to, say, the captives in Guantanamo Bay, who are subject to the same military justice system. Surely, it cannot be that this strict adherence to the legal niceties will only be applied

in cases where an American soldier has brutally murdered some worthless towelhead in some piece-of-sh\*t foreign hellhole we had to invade for some reason or another a long time ago, so who cares anyway.

No, surely, that cannot be. For as our recent history clearly shows, the operators of our War Machine always adhere strictly and consistently to the highest and most noble principles, applying them to all equally, the great and the low, without fear or favor, or the slightest hypocrisy.

So Bradley Manning has nothing to worry about!

Right?

**Chris Floyd is an American journalist. His work has appeared in print and online in venues all over the world, including The Nation, Counterpunch, Columbia Journalism Review, the Christian Science Monitor, Il Manifesto, the Moscow Times and many (more...)**

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## THE TOP FIVE LIES ABOUT THE AFGHANISTAN WAR

Produced by the Anti-War Committee of Students in  
Solidarity at the University of Pittsburgh

How many people do you know who claim to be skeptical, who pride themselves on their distrust for authority, who like to pretend that they're wise to the ways of the world -- and then, every time there's a war, they swallow the lies of the government with all the gullibility of a three-year-old child in the lap of a department store Santa Claus? Don't fall into that trap yourself! Learn to identify and refute official misinformation when you see it. Let's count down some of the common misconceptions about this war:

Lie #5: "We're not at war with the Afghan people -- look, we're bringing them food!" Reality: Afghanistan is in the midst of a severe drought which threatens literally millions of people with starvation. Even before the threat of U.S. bombing, the World Food Program (WFP) said that nearly 6 million people were in need of immediate food assistance. When the threat of war caused massive movements of refugees and internally displaced people, the WFP raised that number to 7.5 million. UN agencies were keeping huge numbers of people alive, but the war danger -- as well as the U.S. demand that Pakistan seal its border with Afghanistan -- caused the

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WFP to suspend deliveries of wheat flour to the country. We have no idea how many people have already died as a result. Meanwhile, the U.S. dropped 37,000 individually-wrapped packages of food from the sky. You do the math. That's enough to feed about 37,000 people for one day, in a country where seven and a half million are in danger of starvation. Additionally, the spokesman for an international charity active in Afghanistan told the London Independent that "Random food drops are the worst possible way of delivering food aid. They cause more problems than they solve." Not the least of which is the fact that Afghanistan has the highest number of unexploded land mines in the world. There are already 10 or 15 mine incidents every day, and with people scrambling into mine-ridden areas to pick up random packages of food dropped from U.S. planes, that number is only going to go up.

Lie #4: "Oil? Who said anything about oil?" Reality: The Caspian Sea region has potentially the world's largest oil reserves, likely making Central Asia the next Middle East. The problem is piping it out. Afghanistan occupies a strategic position between the Caspian and the markets of the Indian subcontinent and east Asia. It's prime territory for building pipelines, which is why the oil company Unocal -- as well as the U.S. government -- welcomed the Taliban's rise to power in 1996 as a promising source of "stability." That turned out to be a pipe dream (so to speak), but people like our Commander-in-Chief and the oil men around him have never given up on the tremendous profit possibilities that Central Asia offers. And if you don't think such considerations are crossing their minds at this time of crisis, may we suggest a refresher course in The Facts of Life?

Lie #3: "The U.S. is trying to liberate the people of Afghanistan from Taliban tyranny." Reality: The U.S., Russia, and Iran have been aiding a rough coalition of armed groups called the Northern Alliance. The Northern Alliance's fighters are drawn mainly from ethnic minority groups in Afghanistan who have been persecuted by the Taliban. But their record is also a bloody one. Groups like the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA), which have been fighting against fundamentalism and for democracy in Afghanistan for years, have publicly stated that the fundamentalist gangsters of the Northern Alliance are not an acceptable alternative to the fundamentalist gangsters of the Taliban.

No wonder: Human Rights Watch implicates the Northern Alliance in "indiscriminate aerial bombardment and shelling, direct attacks on civilians, summary executions, rape, persecution on the basis of religion or ethnicity, the recruitment and use of children as soldiers, and the use of anti-personnel landmines." By now everyone knows that Osama bin Laden was among the mujihadin recruited by the CIA to fight the Soviets in Afghanistan. Meet the next generation.

Lie #2: "America is coming together." Reality: Tens of thousands of people have been laid off in the airline industry alone. The government quickly responded to the airline industry crisis with a multi-billion-dollar bailout package for the companies in order to keep afloat the profits of shareholders and the salaries of CEOs, but when it came to aiding the thousands of workers laid off, Congressman Dick Armey said that that would be contrary to "the American spirit." Maybe it is. Maybe it's the "American spirit" to make common working people pay for a crisis and to bear the burdens of an expensive war. But it certainly doesn't have anything to do with "togetherness."

And the biggest lie of them all . . .

Lie #1: "It's possible to win a 'war against terrorism.'" Reality: Terrorism is a tactic, not a political or social force in and of itself. Anyone can use it, and the idea that you can wage a "war" against it is as dishonest as the idea behind the "War on Drugs." The use of food as a political weapon, indiscriminate aerial bombardment, and the arming of gangsterish groups of religious fanatics all count as "terrorism" by any reasonable definition of the word, and the United States has long employed all of them -- and more. This war is really about sordid material interests and power (see especially Lies numbers 2 and 4, above), and in defense of these interests the U.S. is prepared to shift the label "terrorist" as it sees fit, to apply to all manner of dissident political movements and not just marginal bands of fanatics like bin Laden's al-Qa'ida. Conversely, it's willing to call its own terrorists "freedom fighters" (see Lie number 3 above). Maybe some of them will get transformed into "terrorists" again in a few years. It's a sick game and a charade, and the government is manipulating the very real grief and anger of the people of the United States after the September 11 atrocities to get us all to fall for it again. Don't believe them for a second.



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# Syria War News: Arming Rebels is a Fool's Move By Obama

By Sal Bommarito

The Syrian civil war has the potential to become much more widespread and far deadlier. The response of President Obama to the current situation will go a long way towards deciding how the Syrian conflict will ultimately play out. The possibilities are grim at best.

The stakes are huge because three superpowers, the U.S., China, and Russia, are engaged to varying degrees; Syria and its rebels are being bolstered militarily by the aforementioned superpowers along with several neighboring nations; and the Shi'a-Sunni 1,000 year old religious war will make a peaceful settlement very difficult to negotiate.

For the U.S., the several issues must be considered before any political decisions are made. Americans are not amenable to yet another Middle East conflict that will surely cost many more lives and a great amount of money. Obama's response to the conflict until now has been tepid. The president's tactic of relative non-engagement is effectively decreasing his influence. America's reticence is definitely a weakness in the eyes of the other players.

In a New York Times op-ed piece, Wesley Clark, former NATO supreme allied commander for Europe, offered his take on the current events in Syria and the U.S.'s ability to end the conflict diplomatically. Although I dare to disagree with the majority of General Clark's assessments, he provides many important observations and comparisons to the Kosovo conflict.

Syria is not really compatible to Kosovo. Clark refers to it on numerous occasions in his piece, as he opines about U.S. options. Kosovo is not a strategic location, unlike Syria. It does not have highly-sought-after resources. Ethnic feuds, not religion, were the primary reasons for genocide during the conflict. The neighboring countries, excluding Russia, were not actively involved in the actual fighting.

True, Russian is a common denominator in both conflicts. But, the Russia of 2013 is much more confident, stronger, and confrontational than it was in the 1990s.

Clark provides a tidy formula for diplomacy in Syria based upon a strong American response to the hostilities. It consists of: a cease-fire agreement; a United Nations presence; departure of foreign fighters; international supervision of Syria's military; a peaceful exit for al-Assad (and his family and supporters); a transitional government; and plans for a new Syria. This is the same idealistic rigmarole that our generals sold to Congress and the president before the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan began; we should remember how successful those operations have been.

Let's consider Clark's formula in more detail. A "cease-fire" would not be a deal between two warring factions. It would have to include three superpowers, Shi'a Iran and Hezbollah; Sunni Saudi Arabia and Qatar; the rebels, including Al-Qaeda elements; Assad's forces; and the U.S. The motivations of each in this lineup are all over the lot and include religious domination, acquisition of natural resources, ideology, and regional assertion of power. This "cease-fire" will be a diplomatic nightmare.

A United Nations force would consist of neutral third parties such as whom? What government would agree to send troops into this rat's nest?

Departure of foreign forces includes insurgents from every neighboring state that are intent on fomenting unrest and terrorist violence. They will not depart willingly.

Disarmament of Syria's military would be particularly challenging because the country would then be vulnerable to coups, civil war, and assaults on its sovereignty.

A peaceful exit for al-Assad is not going to happen. Too many want him dead or at least prosecuted for crimes against humanity.

A transitional government and plans for a new Syria is code for "nation building." The U.S. is not competent to perform this gargantuan task, based upon recent history. And why, pray tell, would the other countries involved cede this responsibility to America?

One final thought relates to the concept of becoming more aggressive while trying to make peace. This is a dangerous and oft-times unsuccessful strategy. Be skeptical that the impact of threats against the interested parties will have any traction. Frankly, no one believes that the Obama administration has the balls to pull off such a gambit.

On the reverse side, 90,000 Syrians have been slaughtered. The potential escalation of violence between the superpowers is troublesome. The rebels include Al-Qaeda fighters. Syria has used chemical weapons against its own people. Ergo, there are many reasons to hope for peace in Syria.

The only way to proceed in Syria is through cooperation between the superpowers. They must formulate a diplomatic plan to decrease the tension. If each of them provides more weapons, the chances that violence will subside decreases exponentially.





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# LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

If you would like to submit an article, opinion, comment or response to anything you have read which might interest the members of VFP-56, please e-mail it to [turtldncer@aol.com](mailto:turtldncer@aol.com), in word format, or mail to Jim Sorter at 1762 Buttermilk Lane, Arcata, CA 95521. Submissions will be included on a first come basis until the newsletter is full. Late arriving submissions will be archived for future issues.

## To Veterans Peace Members:

Leroy Zerlang and the Golden Rule Committee will host a Madaket Cruise for all Chapter 56 and 22 members, and GRC members and stakeholders.

**WHERE:** foot of 'C' Street, Eureka Old Town

**WHEN:** Sunday July 28th at 3:45 p.m.

This should be FUN! Hope to see you there.

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