
How strange, bittersweet and almost miraculous seeming it was that eight years after Shock and Awe, a much smaller, but faithful group was still here resisting war on Iraq, but this time graced by the presence of Iraqi people who live with the tragic consequences every day of their lives.

Be Patient! Survive! Never Give Up Hope!

by Mary Beaudoin

This is what a doctor from Najaf said that Americans can learn from Iraqis: “Be patient. Survive. Never give up hope.” Mahadi Al-Faraaon, an oral surgeon and professor of dentistry who counseled us with these words, was among eight physicians, accompanied by Intisar Ogal, a radiology technician, and Hiba Qader, a representative of the Iraq Ministry of Culture, who journeyed in late fall of 2011 from Najaf, Iraq, in a delegation to Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dr. Al-Faraaon joined the delegation which was sponsored by the Muslim Peacemaker Team in

Iraq and its supporting partner organization, the Iraq American Reconciliation Project, in order to gain exposure to what was going on in his field. He was specifically interested in ways to prevent communicable diseases transmitted by mouth. But, in addition to the medical component, the delegation was also engaged in people-to-people exchanges with Minnesotans. There was much we could learn from him and the others.

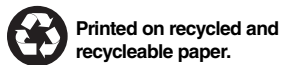
On a cold, windy day at the peace vigil steadfastly maintained weekly on the Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge spanning the Mississippi River between Minneapolis and St. Paul, Dr. Al-Faraaon and others in the Iraqi delegation met forty perennial vigilers who were holding antiwar signs. He spoke informally about how the young people of Iraq are particularly susceptible to diseases such as cholera and die within six months, if they contract them. It was humbling to try to explain that the long bridge had once been filled with protesters trying to prevent war on Iraq and that we regretted that we had been unable to. How strange, bitter-sweet and almost miraculous seeming it was that eight years after Shock and Awe, a much smaller, but faithful group was still here resisting war on Iraq, but this time graced by the presence of Iraqi people who lived with the tragic consequences every day of their lives.

It is hard to imagine and impossible to underestimate the courage and fortitude that it must have taken for members of the delegation to enter the belly of the beast, the United States, after what had been done to their country. Understandably Dr. Al-Faraaon had not had good feelings about Americans prior to his visit, but he said that he saw in our eyes how we were genuinely sorry for what had been done to Iraq and that there was a difference between the people and the government.



Motherhood. Painting by Iraqi artist Shaima Saad of Najaf.

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recycleable paper.

The statements and opinions reflected in this newsletter are the views of the author and not necessarily official positions of WAMM. We encourage a diversity of opinion to represent the range of perspectives that coexist under the banner of WAMM's mission statement.

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MINNESOTA

Be Patient! *from front cover*

During their 17-day visit, the delegation from Najaf spoke at forums and gatherings around the state and visited several medical facilities, including the Mayo Clinic, Winkley Orthotics and Prosthetics, Shriners Hospital for Children and a number of other hospitals. They said they wanted to observe and learn from healthcare professionals, medical organizations, and individuals in their Sister City of Minneapolis (Najaf, Iraq, and Minneapolis are part of the international network of Sister Cities), and throughout Minnesota. Many of the physicians were actually professors of medicine who teach students, yet they are concerned that they have been unable to keep up in their fields because of the condition of their country after years of war and sanctions. Iraq once had the most advanced healthcare system in the Middle East, but today the country does not even have adequate electricity and safe water supplies (7.6 million people lack access to safe water). In heat that reaches as high as 125 degrees at times, preserving medications and proper sterilization are just two issues.

“There is a shortage of medical equipment in all fields,” Dr. Azar Maluki, a dermatologist who was another member of the delegation, reported to a gathering at a home in south Minneapolis.

The medical situation, in general, is dire. In the first war on Iraq, 320 tons of carcinogenic depleted uranium were fired on Iraq. 2,000 tons were fired in the second Gulf War. There are many babies born with birth defects. Cancer is rampant throughout the land and even many doctors at teaching establishments have cancer, themselves. Adequate medical care is difficult or impossible to obtain for many wounded, disabled and ill people.

Dr. Ali Rashid, a radiologist, reported that there is an acute shortage of radiation therapy and several months wait for the little, now antiquated equip-



Structure 3 by Ayad Alkad

Mixed media on Arabic newspaper on canvas

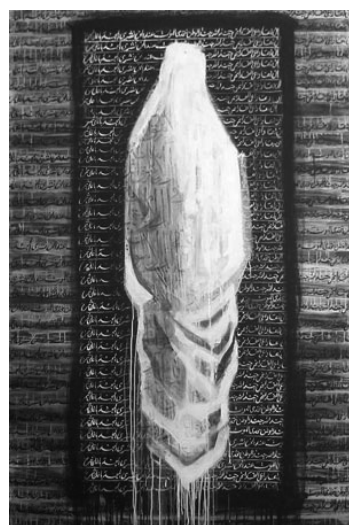
ment that exists. Children have leukemia. There is a high rate of breast cancer throughout Iraq. He said, “Iraqi doctors want to learn but we don’t have the opportunity.” While in Minnesota, he was able to visit radiology departments in several hospitals. He wanted Americans to know that Iraq needs help—but not in the form of military. There is a need to build hospitals and help educate healthcare professionals.

According to the Iraq Index of the Saban Center for Middle East Policy that has tracked numbers, there were 34,000 Iraqi physicians registered before the 2003 invasion. After the 2003 U.S. invasion, 2,000 physicians were murdered (No one seems to know by who.) and 20,000 left Iraq. A small number returned and others have since graduated from medical school in Iraq so that by 2008, there were 16,000 physicians, less than half the number there were prior to the invasion, and yet the need had become so much greater.

Dr. Al-Faraaon said that there is lots of responsibility on the Iraqi side to rebuild, and that he hoped that there was the same feeling on the American side.

While the U.S. has spent nearly \$800 billion since 2003 on war and occupation with its destruction of Iraq, very little has been done to rebuild it. But ordinary people in Minnesota, who, themselves, are now experiencing financial concerns, dug into their pockets to come up with funds to support continuing the partnership with Iraqi people. The Iraq American Reconciliation Project has been working to develop other funding sources, as well. Iraqis do not want hand-outs, but rather partnerships with individuals and civilian groups. The Najaf delegation said they want Iraq for Iraqis, but they do not want to be isolated. The Iraq American Reconciliation Project says, “U.S. military withdrawal from Iraq must be met with an increase in civilian engagement.”

The delegation visit was concluded with Hiba Qader from the Ministry of Culture presenting invitations to visit from the Governor of Najaf to



Coffin VI. From the series “Casualty Unreported” by Ayad Alkad

Mixed media on Arabic paper on canvas

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OccupationMN: We Love You!

by Polly Mann

What does it stand for? Where is its mission statement? Where did it come from? None of this matters. What does matter is that the occupiers are asking the right questions. Their signs express their dissatisfaction at the inequities existing in this country where 1% of the population owns 40% of the property; where 400 families possess the same amount of wealth among them as the entire bottom 150 million families possess among them. They are a testimony to the fact that human needs are secondary to military wants with \$3 billion allocated to the military every single day while people cannot afford basic medical care and homeless shelters are unable to meet demands.

In order to solve a problem, it has first to be enunciated. The problem is enormous and it is being addressed through the presence of the Occupy groups all across the country. These groups' method of organizing could be comparable to that of Women Against Military Madness (WAMM). When a small group of Twin Cities women began meeting thirty years ago, disturbed at the growing militarism of the United States—especially at the manufacture and stockpiling of nuclear weapons—there was no model, no organization addressing the issue. After a year of monthly meetings the women decided to act and WAMM was born. Step by step the organization grew to be the one we know today.

The Occupation movement has been born and is taking its first steps. How else could it happen but spontaneously? WAMM members have responded. Some WAMM members have been down to the site every day; mittens, caps, batteries, blankets, and bedrolls have been donated; hot food has been delivered and members have spent the night

on the Government Center lawn. At least one member has been faithfully attending the daily general assembly meetings.

The Occupation is a classless group. It includes homeless or about to be homeless people with mortgages that are being foreclosed. As a result there have been actions attempting to stop foreclosures. They are joined by college graduates faced with enormous tuition debts, as well as many others who can no longer abide the injustice of our current condition. Politicians cannot ignore this movement. It is not just a “sign”—it is an embodiment of hope.

Polly Mann is a co-founder of Women Against Military Madness and a regular contributor and columnist for the WAMM newsletter. She is active in the organization and serves on the WAMM Newsletter Committee.



Photo: Jessica Folkner, Daily Planet

OccupationMN had called on supporters to brave the weather and pitch “99 tents for the 99%” as part of a cold weather camp-out to address homelessness, the foreclosure crisis, and free speech.

Who Profits?

War industry CEOs make tens of millions of dollars a year, putting them in the top 0.01 percent of income earners in the U.S.

- Northrop Grumman CEO Wes Bush made \$22.84 million last year.

- Lockheed Martin CEO Robert Stevens made \$21.89 million.

- Boeing CEO James McNerney: \$19.4 million.

—Brave New Foundation

WORD UP!

Cost of U.S. War on Afghanistan

- 1,805 U.S. military deaths
- More than 35,000 U.S. military and contractors wounded
- \$467 billion in direct outlays—up to \$570 billion by the end of this fiscal year

- Annual cost per deployed service member \$1 million

- In 2010 US spent nearly \$1.3 billion on construction in Helmand province, home to 80,000 people living in mud-brick compounds — \$16.25 million per person

—Compiled by Frida Berrigan, *The Catholic Worker*, Dec. 2011

RESOURCE

More on Costs of U.S. Wars:

Most people think the Pentagon war appropriations are equivalent to the wars' budgetary costs. The true numbers are twice that, and the full economic cost of the wars much larger yet. Conservatively estimated, the war bills already paid and obligated to be paid are \$3.2 trillion in constant dollars. A more reasonable estimate puts the number at nearly \$4 trillion. See report from Brown University's Watson School entitled “Costs of War” online at CostofWar.org

RESOURCE

Activists, Alliances and Anti-U.S. Base Protests

A book by Andrew Yoa.
Cambridge University Press,
2011. New York, New York

WORD UP!

Japan-South Korea jointly push for SOFA revisions

In a rare step, Japan and South Korea have begun to work together to negotiate revisions in Status of Forces Agreements (SOFA) they have signed separately with the United States. Among its many provisions, SOFA provides a framework under which U.S. military personnel operate overseas. By working in tandem, Tokyo and Seoul hope to gain leverage in separate negotiations with Washington concerning the application of domestic laws when U.S. military personnel commit crimes in their countries.

— *Yoshihiro Makino, correspondent for Asahi Shimbun/Asahi Japan Watch, November 28, 2011*

Photo: Reuters

Protesters rallied last November in Seoul to denounce crimes committed by U.S. soldiers, including the sexual assault of a Korean teenager.

PM U.S Bases in Asia — Yankee Go Home!

by Polly Mann

Of all the Twin Cities publications covering ethnic communities, the *Korean Quarterly* stands out. It is more a magazine than a newspaper in its content, colored illustrations, photographs and the use of many writers. In its Fall 2011 edition is a lengthy article, “Of Bases and Budgets,” by Christine Ahn of the Korean Policy Institute and Hyun Lee of the National Campaign to End the Korean War (originally published by *Foreign Policy in Focus*, October 6, 2011. fpif.org) which provided much of the material for this column.

The article points out that for 66 years there have been U.S. troops in South Korea. That number today is 28,500. A recent sexual assault case involving a U.S. soldier has exacerbated the growing dissent over this occupation. It began in 1992 when a U.S. soldier, Kenneth Markle, brutally murdered 27-year old Keum E. Yoon. It wasn't the first such crime. According to the National Campaign for the Eradication of Crimes by U.S. troops in Korea, U.S. soldiers have committed tens of thousands of crimes against South Koreans since the beginning of the occupation in 1945. However, these soldiers are exempt from being charged under South Korean laws because of an agreement with the United States. They are turned over instead to the U.S. military which tries them.

Some years ago WAMM was host to several women from Okinawa where the same situation exists. In addition Okinawans were disturbed by the noise and the pollution from several U.S. air bases there and were attempting to have them removed. The people of Guam are likewise resisting the presence of U.S. military bases and especially a proposed plan to transfer 8,000 U.S. marines from Okinawa to Guam. The Pentagon received an unprecedented 10,000 comments of concern in 2009 about the planned Guam build-up.

Senator Tom Coburn of Oklahoma is working on legislation that would reduce overseas military personnel in Europe and Asia. He also recommends canceling the deployment to Guam from Okinawa of 8,600 U.S. Marines and their 9,000

dependents. The Sustainable Defense Task Force proposes to cut military forces in East Asia which would save billions in taxpayer dollars. Here, in Minnesota, we could initiate a campaign encouraging our U.S. representatives and senators to support these reductions.

Polly Mann is a co-founder of Women Against Military Madness and a regular contributor and columnist for the WAMM newsletter. She is active in the organization and serves on the WAMM Newsletter Committee.

Be Patient! from page 2

some U.S. citizens who live in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Najaf was selected as “the keeper of Islamic culture” for 2012. In an interesting juxtaposition, during a presentation in the basement of a Catholic church built in the 20th century in a city incorporated in 1867, she described Najaf as a thousand-year old city steeped in history and Islamic culture. She said it was a place open to everyone of every religious background and that sharing the Islamic heritage will send a message of peace to everyone in the whole world.

To this end, we will recall the counsel of Mahadi Al-Faraon the dental professor: “Be patient. Survive. Never give up hope.”

For more information on the Iraq American Reconciliation Project, as well as art, see reconciliationproject.org and aalkadhi.com

Sources for article: Country Summary-Iraq. (January 2011) Human Rights Watch; 102-page report: At a Crossroads: Human Rights in Iraq Eight Years After the US-led Invasion (February 21, 2011) Human Rights Watch; New UNICEF Iraq Ambassador Kadhum Al-Sahir highlights needs of the most deprived. UNICEF-Iraq; Iraq American Reconciliation Project; du101.org; Tracking Reconstruction and Security in Post-Sadaam Iraq Index. Brookings Institute: Saban Center for Middle East Policy (October 28, 2011); costofwar.com; and interviews and talks by Iraq Fall 2011 delegation.

Mary Beaudoin is the editor of the Women Against Military Madness (WAMM) newsletter. She was an original board member of Iraq American Reconciliation Project and is a member of Twin Cities Peace Campaign-Focus Iraq.



candlelight service flyer this page

December 2011/ January 2012 WAMM Calendar

Please note that WAMM's provision of information on other group's events is not meant to convey or endorse any action contrary to public policy that would be inconsistent with exempt purposes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) i.e., charitable purposes.

Ongoing WAMM Vigils for Peace

Vigil to End the War on Iraq:

Every Wednesday, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on the Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge spanning the Mississippi River between Minneapolis and St. Paul. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine:

Every Friday, 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. at Summit and Snelling Avenues, St. Paul. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

For information on additional peace vigils in Minnesota and Wisconsin, call the WAMM office at 612-827-5364 or visit www.worldwidewamm.org.

Ongoing WAMM Committee Meetings

Board Meeting: Third Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m. at the Sabathani Community Center, 310 East 38th Street, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

Book Club: Second Saturday of each month, 10:00 a.m. FFI and Location: Contact Suzy, 651-451-8627 or suzykoch@comcast.net.

Iraq Committee: First Monday of each month, 5:30 p.m. FFI: Call Marie, 612-522-1861.

Middle East Committee: Second Monday of each month, 9:30 a.m. at the Sabathani Community Center, 310 East 38th Street, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

Media Committee: FFI: Email the committee, wammmedia@gmail.com.

St. Joan of Arc/WAMM Peacemakers: Fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church, Parish Center, 4537 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Barbara, 612-722-4444

Tackling Torture at the Top (T3): Second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, 10:00 a.m. at Afro Deli and Coffee, 1939 5th Street South (Riverside and 20th Avenue), Minneapolis.

Ongoing Events

Committee to Stop FBI Repression.

Every other Thursday, 7:00 p.m. at Walker Church, 304 16th Ave. South, Minneapolis. Stand with the people subpoenaed in a witch hunt, defend civil liberties. Learn what you can do. All who stand up and act for justice and solidarity are welcome. FFI: See stopfbi.net and mnStopFBI.wordpress.com, or call (612) 379-3585.

People of Faith Peacemakers

Breakfast: Second and fourth Wednesdays, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at new location: African Development Center, Riverside and 20th Avenues. A resource and support group for those concerned about peace with justice from a faith perspective. FFI: www.justview-point.org or call 763-784-5177

Grandmothers for Peace:

First Wednesday 12:45 p.m. at Edina Public Library, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina. Program around justice issue that helps us to understand our role in changing unjust systems. FFI: 952-929-1566

Tea Time Conversational Salons:

Most Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Mad Hatter's Teahouse, 943 West Seventh St., St. Paul. Salons are open to all. Suggested donations \$3-\$5 include tea, treats. FFI: 651-227-2511 or 651-227-3228.

Third Thursday Global Issues

Forum: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church, Groveland at Lyndale Ave., Minneapolis. FFI: globalsolutionsmn.org

Middle East Peace Now:

Usually 2nd or 3rd Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Refreshments, 10:00 a.m. Program. Location may vary. FFI: Call 651-696-1642 or see www.mepn.org

MN 9/11 Truth: Second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Rondo Community Outreach Library, 461 North Dale Street, St. Paul. Meets to educate and discuss the events of 9/11/2001. FFI: Visit www.mn911truth.org.

Active Nonviolence Training:

Interactive session (non-lecture and non-reading) in social change analysis, community-building and project planning to strengthen our group for action. FFI and to register, visit www.creatingacultureofpeace.org

Special Events

WAMM at Occupy Minnesota.

Every Friday, 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Join the WAMM presence at Hennepin County Government Center (the People's Plaza) at 300 South Sixth St., Minneapolis. Donate healthy and vegetarian prepared food and beverages. Staff table shared with Veterans for Peace at any time. Give out "Jobs, Not War" stickers and antiwar information. FFI: WAMM office, 612-827-5364

Grand Jury Indictment Emergency

Action: If the Federal Grand Jury indicts Sarah Martin, Ahn Pham or Tracy Molm, or if other activists are re-subpoenaed, there will be an emergency action held at 4:30 p.m. at the U.S. Federal Building, 4th St & 4th Ave, Downtown Minneapolis. Watch for action alerts. FFI: See stopfbi.net and mnStopFBI.wordpress.com, or call (612) 379-3585.

Candlelight Service for the Children of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan and Other Child Victims of War:

"Out of the Darkness; Into the Light" Wednesday, December 28, 6:30 p.m. St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis. Join with others in a candlelight service to remember the children, who are always the first victims of war. Organized by: the Twin Cities Peace Campaign-Focus on Iraq (TCPC). Co-Sponsored by: WAMM. FFI: Call Marie, 612-522-1861.

Rally and March: Solidarity with

Victims of Torture Friday, January 9, Time and starting location: TBD. Join others as they march in orange "Gitmo" jumpsuits to St. Thomas Law School on January 9, 2012, which marks the 10 year anniversary of Robert Delahunty's and John Yoo's memo that advised George Bush that he did not have to follow the Geneva Conventions with regard to those labeled as "terrorists," Taliban and other "non-state actors." Bush used

these legal memos to sign directives establishing indefinite detention at Guantanamo and the legalization of torture. Sponsored by: the WAMM Tackling Torture at the Top (T3) Committee. FFI: Visit www.worldwidewamm.org or call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

Rally and March: Close Guantanamo!

Sunday, January 11. Washington, D.C. The WAMM Tackling Torture at the Top (T3) Committee is gathering Minnesotans interested in traveling as a group to Washington DC to participate in a national march to close Guantanamo. This upcoming national event marks a decade of extra-legal procedures and indefinite detentions of those accused by U.S. authorities of "terrorism." FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

Additional upcoming events are listed at www.worldwidewamm.org, or you may call the WAMM office for more information: 612-827-5364. Other peace and justice events can be found on Minnesota Alliance for Peacemakers at www.mapm.org.

WAMM Holiday Hours:

The WAMM office will close at Noon on Friday, December 23, 2011 and reopen at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Not a Nursing Home

Sheridan House provides 24-hour care for five elderly in a home setting. Private rooms, loveable dog, fellowship and community. Licensed. Operated by WAMM member Sally Kunderdt. Dementia and general care. County funds or private. 612-866-4637.

Marla Kennedy, M.A., L.M.F.T.

Licensed marriage and family therapist, parent educator, speaker on parenting for peace and justice. Call 651-645-3303

The Marines Have Landed— in the Toy Box

by Mary Beaudoin



Official poster of
Toys for Tots

Every year, all across the country from small towns to big cities, Toys for Tots drop boxes are ubiquitous. Civic and religious organizations, businesses like retail stores and restaurants, corporations, banks, television and radio stations, and even hospitals, have partnered with the U.S. Marines and toy manufacturers to give toys at holiday time

to children variously described as “less fortunate,” “needy,” “underprivileged” and “poor.” The program is promoted by everyone from mayors and city councils to Hollywood celebrities, famous musicians, First Ladies, CEOs, boyscout troops, Catholic schoolgirls, Nascar drivers and sports teams (the NFL is conducted a 2011 Touchdown for Tots Campaign at home games, in conjunction with Toys R Us). Nationwide PODs storage and UPS are helping facilitate collection and delivery. Toys for Tots campaigns have gone electronic, as well, with Paypal, Facebook, Twitter, LivingSocial and EBay. Civil society is marching in step with the military to ensure that millions of children receive toys.

The tally isn't in yet for 2011, but in 2010, Toys for Tots distributed gifts to 7.2 million children in over 700 communities nationwide. The program has expanded a great deal since its origination after WWII with a Marine reservist whose civilian job was as a public relations director for Warner Brothers Studio. He was able to garner celebrity support, but the program truly burgeoned in 1995 with the Secretary of Defense designating it an official mission of the Marine Corps Reserve. Standard Operating Procedures of the U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters at Quantico, Virginia, states that Toys for Tots “was created by, is owned by and is directed by the U.S. Marine Corps” and that the actual direction and management of the program is the responsibility of the Commander of the Marine Corps Reserve.

Who else but the Marines has the organizational ability and capacity to conduct such an enormous humanitarian undertaking as seeing that millions of children in the country receive millions of toys at holiday time? Reinforcing this concept, Sony Pictures Animation and Toys for Tots have partnered around a specially created animated movie, “Albert's Christmas” in which Santa's workshop is depicted as being manned by thousands of elves, outfitted in military uniforms, working in a secret, high-tech underground facility at the North Pole.

Who but Scrooge or the Grinch who stole Christmas could object to getting toys into the hands of poor children at holiday time? One in five children in the United States lives in poverty. One in four, or 17 million, are living with some “food insecurity,” as Toys for Tots promoters, themselves, are quick to point out. Poor children are sometimes hungry, but wouldn't “bringing hope” to them, as Toys for Tots says it does, be a good thing?

While misty-eyed TV announcers and public relations professionals sing praises for the program, it would be worth deconstructing. For starters, among other forms of economic injustice, if the country didn't spend so much on the military and its weapons and wars, there would be money to provide for children's needs. Parents would be able to ensure that their children had adequate food, clothing and shelter, as well as some toys. But that's not the objective of the Marine Reserve. The Corps has other agendas tied to its seemingly unlikely philanthropic mission of playing Santa Claus.

Aside from “helping less fortunate children throughout the United States experience the joy of Christmas,” Marines Toys for Tots lists as its stated objective, “to play an active role in the development of one of one of our nation's most valuable resources—our children.” So we are just supposed to accept that the Few and the Proud have a role to play in developing our children—our children which they regard as a “valuable resource?” Valuable resource for what? For the Marine Corps, of course. Given a few years, these “less fortunate” children that the Marines are focused on will be a good demographic from which to draw recruits. They may not even have to wait for very long for some children. Toys for Tots often puts out calls for toys for teenagers, which they say they have a difficult time getting enough of. In New York City, Toys for Tots was distributed from a seven-ton military supply truck near the Armed Forces recruiting kiosk in Times Square by Marines wearing battle fatigues. Kids will know where to come when it's time.

Toys for Tots can involve even more impressive staged events that make a sleigh and reindeer seem like archaic relics of Christmas past. In November of 2011, a C130J Lockheed Martin transport plane that is used as support for the Blue Angels demonstration team fleet flew into New Orleans and Birmingham, Alabama, to deliver \$20,000 worth of toys, collected by Lockheed Martin employees at its Marietta, Georgia location. Lorraine Martin, Vice President of Lockheed's C-130 Programs, took to a podium decked with a banner

continued on page 9

The Lowdown

In Minnesota, less than 80 percent of students graduate with a high school diploma. The rate is even lower for students living in poverty, special education, Hispanic, Black and American Indian students.

—Minnesota Department of Education

<http://education.state.mn.us/md/index.html#support>

Troops to Teach

Under this program, the Secretary of Education transfers funds to the Department of Defense for the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) to provide assistance, including stipends of up to \$5,000, to eligible members of the armed forces so that they can obtain certification or licensing as elementary school teachers, secondary school teachers, or vocational/technical teachers . . . DANTES may pay \$10,000 bonuses to participants who agree to teach in high-poverty schools. www.dantes.doded.mil

WAMM THANKS

- Deb and Dick Bancroft in memory of Joth Lindeke.
- Margaret Turngren in memory of Don Johnson.
- Martha Roberts in memory of Kathleen McCarthy.
- Marianne Hamilton in memory of Kathleen McCarthy.
- Mary Sausen, Jean Enloe and Ann Baptie McKasy in memory of Kathleen McCarthy.
- Marian and Bob Wright in memory of Kathleen McCarthy.
- Mary Kohls in memory of Kathleen McCarthy.

Photo: Associated Press

Sending in the Marines. Two Corps members stand at attention to collect toys for tots outside a toy store in Augusta, Georgia.



• which read, "Tis the season" and remarking on the
• generosity of Lockheed employees, announced
• that she was "delighted to be part, of not only our
• Lockheed family, but our extended war fighter
• and customer community..." There was a video
• of this on the Toys for Tots Foundation web site,
• accompanied by the cheery sound of jingle bells—
• altogether a rather amazing display of the military-
• industrial underpinnings of the endeavor.

• The military has become ever more adept at inte-
• grating itself into the fabric of civilian society so
• that it is enmeshed, in an effort to ensure support
• for itself and its future. It attempts to win "hearts
• and minds" within the country in the same way
• that we hear it attempting to do in foreign coun-
• tries. In case there is any doubt about this, it's
• worth taking a look at the handbook, "Marine
• Corps Public Affairs, 33.3" part of the "Marine
• Corps Warfighting Publication." It describes the
• Marine Corps' "doctrine on public affairs." The
• forward states:

• The two most important things the Marine
• Corps does for the Nation are to make
• Marines and to win battles. Public affairs
• has become an integral part of warfighting
• and heightens an existing, indispensable
• bond between the Marine Corps and the
• American public.

• And it goes on to read:

• The functions of public affairs apply during
• peace as well as war. Whether the Marine
• Corps is involved in a humanitarian effort, a
• peacekeeping operation, a major regional
• contingency, or collecting toys for tots,
• public affairs plays a critical role in the
• military information environment.

• The Marine Corps may state that it's involved in
• "humanitarian efforts," but anything it does is in
• eventual preparation for and under the umbrella
• of "warfighting" and within the context of "mak-
• ing Marines" and "winning battles." Toys for Tots

is another vehicle to help accomplish these ulti-
mate goals.

Local communities throughout the country
around military bases are key for the overall sup-
port of the Marine Corps and Marine Corps
Reserve. According to the "Marine Corps Public
Affairs" handbook, "Well-conducted community
relations enhance readiness by fostering home-
town support..." In other words, Marines inte-
grate into local communities through community
activities to garner acceptability and support,
setting the stage for when they are called up to go
on missions somewhere in the world. Taken by
surprise, unaccustomed to the idea of military
personnel among them, people could offer resis-
tance to the idea of their deployment in foreign
lands. But if people are accustomed to interacting
with uniformed military and the military have
become an integral part of the established formal
or informal institutions of the community, they
develop positive associations with them and are
more likely to trust that they know what the mili-
tary are doing when they answer Uncle Sam's call
and not question it.

And, as for positive association for very young
people, can there be anything more positive than
Santa Claus? The handbook further states that
good community relations:

also help reinforce the idea that the Marine
Corps is a meaningful and rewarding career
choice for America's youth. Close, positive
relations with neighboring communities
inspire patriotism, and that patriotism
translates into recruitment and retention
opportunities.

While most individuals and even individual
Marines may not have a cynical attitude and actu-
ally do believe that they are doing good by partici-
pating in Toys for Tots, it's disturbing to think that
poor children and people's feelings of generosity
can be so exploited. And it's really disturbing to
think that our country and our culture is so mili-
tary-ized. You have to wonder could peace on earth
be any more inverted?

If people really want to do something for poor
children, there are other charities to give to while
we work on eradicating the systemic causes of
poverty like war.

Peace on earth. Good will to all.

*Mary Beaudoin is the editor of the WAMM
newsletter.*

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Sales Force

- Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) sales reached \$7 billion in 2011. Estimates for 2020 range from about \$62 billion to \$94 billion.

—Star Tribune column by Jon Tevlin, Dec. 2, 2011

Silent But Deadly

- A miniature "kamikaze" drone, weighing less than 5 pounds designed to quietly hover in the sky before dive bombing, the Switchblade, transmits video in real time, allowing a soldier to identify an enemy before firing according to the manufacturer, AeroVironment. Human rights groups have raised concerns that the CIA use of drones would allow assassinations abroad without public scrutiny and little oversight by lawmakers in Congress.

—AFP International News Service, October 17, 2011

That's No Harvest Moon in the Sky, Honey

by Polly Mann

That's a predator drone.

Those objects in the sky are what you might be seeing if you're somewhere near the Canadian or Mexican borders. They're out scouting for illegal immigrants, drug runners or terrorists. They can remain airborne for 30 hours though missions typically run eight or nine hours. A Predator system—the plane, sensors, control consoles and antennas—costs \$18.5 million. The operation center is contained within the ground control trailer. A pilot and sensor operator sit side by side at consoles that include four screens each, a joystick, keyboard, several levers and rudder pedals. The pilot does the flying. The sensor operator works the equipment.

The aircraft are credited with apprehending more than 7,500 would-be immigrants since they were first deployed some six years ago. "It's like any other law enforcement platform," said Lothar Eckardt, director of the Office of Air and Marine's Predator operation at Corpus Christi, Texas. Predator drones patrol a 900-mile strip from the vicinity of Spokane, Washington to the Lake-of-the-Woods area of Minnesota. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection will add its sixth drone on the Southwest border when another

drone is placed in Arizona. Within the United States the Houston Police Department used one in conducting a drug bust northwest of Austin.

The 30-foot ground control trailer which holds the equipment is just that—a 30 foot trailer. But you would never mistake it for your "happy camper" trailer. In connection with it are a couple of sensors that appear to be about twenty feet in diameter.

Who knows but that within a few years every metropolitan police force of any size will be able to point to its individual drone with pride as they are used to apprehend speeders, growers of marijuana, and writers of graffiti?

Polly Mann is a co-founder of Women Against Military Madness and a regular contributor and columnist for the WAMM newsletter.

SPECIAL THANKS

to Sue Ann Martinson for organizing the fun-filled and inspiring Community Sing.



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