

Wars Rob Our Humanity

Sources: "Distant Wars, Constant Ghosts" by Shannon P. Meehan, the New York Times, 2/23/10; "Army suicides linked to risky behavior, lax discipline" by Gregg Zoroya, USA TODAY, 7/29/10; "18 veterans commit suicide each day" by Rick Maze, Army Times, 4/24/10; "Thousands Strain Fort Hood's Mental Health System" by Gregg Zoroya, USA Today, 8/23/10.



A U.S. soldier in Iraq

Soldiers come home from distant wars, but **wars haunt them like constant ghosts.**

Army Lt. Shannon Meehan was tormented by the Iraqi civilian deaths he had caused three years ago. **"I still cannot remove from my mind the image of that family gathered together in the final moments of their lives."**

"For many soldiers, what follows a killing is a struggle of the mind. We become aware that what we've seen has changed us. We can't unlearn it, and we continue to think of those innocent children. It is not possible to forget."

War kills people, and continues to kill long afterwards.

There were **1,713 attempted suicides** in the Army last year. Among them, 306 soldiers died. In June 2010, **the Army averaged one suicide per day.**

As for all veterans, troubling new data show that **18 veterans commit suicide each day.** (Army Times, 4/24/10).

Far more soldiers suffer mental health issues than the Army anticipated. In Fort Hood, TX, **about every fourth soldier has been in mental health counseling** during the past year. Officials worry the problems may worsen - for the military and the country.

"War erodes one's regard for human life...After a while, you can begin to lose regard for your own life as well," wrote Lt. Meehan. "Those deaths are not tucked neatly away in a foreign land. They may seem distant, but they are not. Soldiers bring the ghosts home with them."

Wars inevitably rob us of our common humanity. Help end the wars NOW!



Rockland Coalition
for Peace & Justice

Join our 406th Peace Vigil to end the wars!
Every Saturday, 1-3pm, at Rte. 59 & N. Middletown Rd. in Nanuet, NY
For info: www.rocklandaction.org 8/28/10

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