

Will the Military Obey Unlawful Orders? (Continued from page 1)

brutally for brevity) that goes like this:

Military resistance is no safeguard against a future president — Trump or anyone else — who's determined to have his way.

Laws can be manipulated, and they can be changed, especially when a president wants them manipulated or changed. The U.S. military has a strong rule-of-law culture, but it also has a strong commitment to civilian control of the armed forces.

If history and social psychology have taught us anything, it's that most people, civilian and military alike, will go along with the instructions of those they perceive as authority figures...

...numerous lawyers in the armed forces have expressed private concerns about ...[it really doesn't matter what, although she has concrete examples –Ed.]. But here again, don't expect a mutiny or a coup.

Sal returns to the more general problem, and says (edited, for a third time, to the high points):

[T]here is nothing that our GOFO community have done in peace that would lead me to think that there would be any concerted effort to stand up and say, "No." in times of crisis.

Amen. He does cite some rare examples, such as then-General Rick Shinseki's resistance to the Iraq war (which was based, if you know Shinseki, on partisan politics, not integrity, but let's roll with it and give the General the benefit of the doubt), and after that, Vice-Admiral Thomas Connolly's falling on the proverbial sword over MacNamara's insane TFX and its F-111B Naval offshoot. Connolly's response to a Senatorial question about the thrust needed to get the porky jet off a carrier deck is legendary:

[Gerald E.] Miller [then a Connolly aide and later an Admiral himself] remembers vividly that Admiral Connolly swallowed hard, then declared, "There isn't enough thrust in Christendom to fix this plane."

Sal admitted he was out of examples, at that point; in the spirit of purple-suited jointness, we'd like to vector him to two famous examples from Army service.

Chief of Staff Matthew B. Ridgeway. A World War II hero and Korean War leader, Ridgeway resisted the Presidential and civilian national security establishment's attempt to all but eliminate the Army and go to an all-nuclear defense posture to enable massive defense cuts. Ridgeway was prepared to fall on his sword rather than withdraw the Army from Europe. Here's a somewhat partisan view of the thing (<http://vi.uh.edu/pages/buzzmat/vnarticles/bacevichikeandridgway.pdf>). by officer turned political analyst Andrew J. Bacevich (he wrote it to demean military criticism of his beloved Clinton Administration). Eisenhower pushed Ridgeway into retirement and replaced him with the model of the modern political GO/FO, Kennedy Family Made Guy Maxwell D. Taylor. (Taylor, too, would leave angry with Ike, but would receive new high offices from his Kennedy pals).

Major General John K. "Jack" Singlaub's 1977 resistance to Carter Administration policies which favored a US withdrawal from South Korea and Korean reunification under Kim Il Sung, which led to Singlaub being fired, forced to retire, and, in an act of the pettiness for which Carter and his defense suits from Harold K. Brown on down were known, denied disability benefits. We've covered that previously and linked to this paper (<http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a237770.pdf>) on the situation.



Ancient History? (Carthage, proof that war doesn't solve anything... oh, wait).

What brings this ancient history to the surface? And it is ancient history: Shinseki's resistance to his lords and betters took place 13 years ago, Singlaub's 39, Connolly's 54 or so, and Ridgeway's over sixty years in the past. The lesson, then, is not that officers do stand up to orders that they thought unlawful and immoral (Ridgeway's opposition to policies that targeted enemy civilian population centers; Connolly's to an aircraft that threw naval aviators' lives away; Singlaub's to Carter's encouragement of a second Korean war and the enslavement of South Koreans) or simply unwise (Shinseki's turned-out-correct insistence that higher force structure would be needed for a contested occupation).

One word: Martland. Charles Martland was not persecuted directly by soldier-hating suits like Acting Secretary of the Army Patrick Murphy (a career politician) or Secretary Designee Eric "Fabulous" Fanning. Martland's NCOER was deliberately crafted to harm him. It was prepared and

signed by officers and NCOs who knew they were uttering a false instrument, knew they were rejecting the Army Way of criticizing subordinates face to face and in private, knew they were taking up arms in a political battle, and doing it on the side of falsehood, and injuring a good man who had done a good thing, because the Army had drifted off into a foamy pink froth of values that were politically constructed and inconstant. What would those people do with an unlawful order?

People who saw in their commissions, their documents of appointment of rank, their assignment to positions, not as a place to bring their own morals and character to bear, but a place where they would stake all on unthinking obedience? And rationalize it afterward?

That way? Go that way if you will. Be ready to board the boxcars. Your turn will come.

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Evil Is Weak (Continued from page 1)

Genghis Kahn had to get his arrows, horses, and shields from somewhere, and he didn't produce them himself. Likewise for Mao and Stalin and Tamerlane and the rest. One way or another, they required basically decent people to produce for them. Regardless of whether these producers were tricked or intimidated, it was they who armed evil; evil didn't arm itself.

And this brings us to one of the great, simple truths of our times:

If goodness ever stops allowing evil to take advantage of it, evil is simply finished.

The good don't need the evil, but the evil are fully dependent on the good.

It is the good (or at least the basically productive) who permit evil to continue. These decent people are laboring under fears and flawed ideas of course, but without their acquiescence, evil could accomplish very little. And this is massively good news: Evil is vulnerable... deeply vulnerable.

Changing the Game

Right now, evil has tricked millions of productive people into doing its will. At this point, most think acquiescence is the right thing to do, or they simply don't realize any option exists. And being in that position, they accommodate themselves to it. This can be seen in the moral confusion that is currently endemic. How else could people believe that what is immoral for one person is somehow moral for another?

So, the very first step toward the defeat of evil is to clarify morality. And here we can get a quick start, because morality is simple. It boils down to this:

What is hateful to you, do not do to any man.

From there, we can move on to things like, "Do not encroach upon anyone or their property," or, "Keep your agreements," but those are just extensions of the first statement... and that's all we really need.

Yes, a professional philosopher can come up with strange exceptions, but those aren't serious concerns. Send the one-in-a-million scenario to a specialist and get on with the other 999,999.

Act with integrity and you're guaranteed to do the right thing 99.999% of the time. Do you think any of the complicated, academic systems of ethics will touch that percentage?

Furthermore, integrity is a simple concept that can be understood by any functional adult. This means that moral clarity is not only possible, but universally accessible.

Then What?

Once we're clear on morality, we simply start calling things by their true names... and we don't stop.

After that, evil openly displays its weakness every time it objects: It shows that it cannot abide – cannot survive – the persistence of simple truths.

You Say You Want a Devolution?

(Continued from page 1)

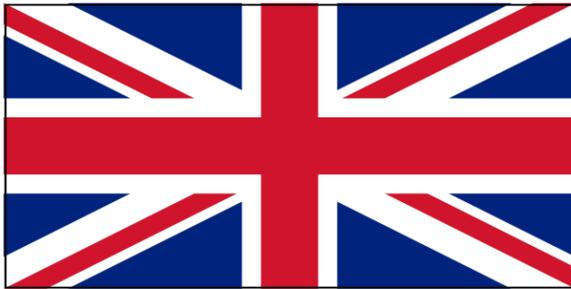
The Information Revolution drives decentralization. A smart phone puts vast computing and communication power in the hands of its owner. The Internet and search engines allow directed access to virtually unlimited news, opinion, video, photographs, and data. Historically, governments have used control of information to control their citizenries. No one will argue that modern governments do not try to influence or control the Internet in their jurisdictions, or that they do not have some success in doing so. However, success has been, at best, partial and information technologies are the beating heart of advanced economies. How do you separate their central role in innovation, production, and commerce from their central role in disseminating information, fomenting dissent, and coordinating communications and protests?

We have real time experiments in China, Turkey, and other authoritarian states, where governments try to retain the economically beneficial aspects of information technologies but not their “unacceptable” political drawbacks. This have your cake and eat it approach is doomed, and the governments trying to enforce the division will move decisively towards freedom or repression. The latter outcome is not a foregone conclusion, simply because repression is costly and technologically challenging, and will become more so as the world becomes more decentralized and power continues to devolve toward smaller units and individuals.

The most important election this year is the British referendum June 23 on EU membership. The EU has followed the US’s disastrous policies in the Middle East and Northern Africa and has been unable to deal with the refugee and terrorist blowback from those policies. It has no strategy for resolving the issues stemming from the debt of its de facto bankrupt members, other than have the ECB buy it. Growth has been smothered by taxes, regulations, cronyism, and monetary idiocy. European youth have the “opportunity” to pay some of the world’s highest tax rates to fund the world’s most generous welfare state benefits. Those looking for other opportunities—private sector jobs, leaving home, starting families, building wealth—must look elsewhere.

Why would Great Britain want to plight its troth with this gang of incompetents? Why would anyone think it can’t do better by going it alone? These are questions the political establishments in Europe, Great Britain, and the US would rather not have asked, much less have to answer. The animating impulse behind the Brexit movement is one no political power can acknowledge—the desire for more freedom from that political power. Does life become more or less free for the British if they subject themselves to cabbage regulations of 26,911 words? Individuals generally have more of a say in a smaller, closer governmental unit than a larger, more remote one. For anyone living in Great Britain, both literally and figuratively it’s a shorter trip to London than it is to Brussels.

At least the British have a chance to decide this question by a peaceful political process. In the US, smaller political subdivisions have no way to opt out, and this type of restriction characterizes political arrangements in much of the rest of world, leaving violence as the only way to sunder them. In that respect, the non-secession stricture needs urgent reconsideration. Centralization is collapsing under its own weight, discouraging its many proponents not at all. A decentralizing reversal will not be sufficient to restore freedom, but it will be necessary. Almost certainly that reversal will be accompanied by chaotic violence, as current arrangements leave no other choice.



Today’s behemoth governments secure few advantages to their productive and honest citizens, and exact myriad and substantial costs. If the collapse of centralization is accompanied by balkanization and devolution, then among the many smaller political subdivisions, enclaves devoted to liberty, limited government, and individual rights become real possibilities, provided they can secure their territories. Such enclaves of freedom would be havens for the productive and honest, at the forefront of innovation, economic progress, quality of life, and political expression. Smaller can be far more beautiful, peaceful, and prosperous than the current blobocracy.

The Brexit vote is more important than the US presidential election because whoever wins in November will be chained to the failing US government, while the British have an opportunity to shed some of their chains. Regardless of who wins in the US, the government will not relinquish its resources, power, or corruption. Centralization has advanced so far and so destructively that every expression or potential expression of a revolutionary desire for devolution—the transfer of power to lower levels and smaller subdivisions—is to be welcomed, be it Brexit or other countries leaving the EU, various separatist movements within countries, or mass disobedience to the dictates of centralized governments. As the Brexit vote and electoral insurgencies in the US and Europe make clear, the underlying pressures continue to build. Something’s got to give, and when it does, decentralization and devolution will give those seeking liberty a rare opportunity to build the kind of society they’ve always envisioned.

**SHTF Intelligence – Waynesville, NC
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This SHTF Intelligence course is a two-day course that prepares students to gather intelligence information for post-SHTF community security. Each training day begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends approximately 5:00 p.m., with a mid-day lunch break. Over the course of two days, we cover the following topics:

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- HOW TO ANALYZE INCOMING INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION
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We begin the course by exploring and analyzing the threats we’re likely to face during a SHTF scenario, and discuss the threat environment and mission of community security. Then we get into how we should configure our intelligence section. This is the ‘brain’ of community security. We work on understanding our SHTF mission and we conduct some threat analysis to identify what we should be preparing for. Then we build our intelligence team around the mission.

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What we do over these two days is train students to become the ‘intelligence officer’ during any SHTF scenario. The student will have an understanding of his/her roles and responsibilities, be able to direct collection and then produce threat intelligence. That’s our number one goal, by the way, for any SHTF scenario — produce early warning and threat intelligence.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 14—Western Carolina Amateur Radio Group Brunch, Murphy, NC, 10:00 am. Group meets on the second Saturday of each month at Main Street USA restaurant located on Hiwassee Street in Murphy.

May 21—Cherokee NC ARES Social Brunch, Murphy, NC, 10 am. Our regularly scheduled meeting on the third Saturday of each month. This is an opportunity for a social gathering and it will not involve any formal presentations or training. All those interested in amateur radio or just a good meal and fellowship are invited to attend. XYLs welcome! Meeting at Main Street USA located on Hiwassee Street in Murphy.

May 21-22—High Risk Vehicle Gunfighting, Murphy, NC. Although normally reserved for those in the operator community, the average American spends 15+ hours a week in their vehicle. This class will teach you to become more dynamic in and around your vehicle - don’t be left helpless in this situation. \$350. Contact Rick Klopp, 706-781-4526.

May 28-29—Spring Arts and Crafts Festival, Blairsville, GA. The 2016 Blairsville Arts, Crafts, and Music Festival will take place around the Blairsville Historic Town Square. You will enjoy visiting 60+ arts & crafts vendors from around the region along with some delicious mountain fair food. This year featuring three days of bluegrass, gospel, and country music. The festivities will begin on Friday night with music inside the Historic Courthouse beginning at 6pm. On Saturday, the day begins with a Memorial Day Parade at 10am, and the festival goes into full swing.

June 7—The Well Armed Woman, Georgia Mountain Chapter, Hayesville, NC. 5:30 p.m. A women’s group dedicated to educating, equipping and empowering women gun owners. For more information please contact Carrie Brekke at practicalpistoltraining@gmail.com.

June 14—Cherokee NC ARES Formal Meeting, Murphy, NC, 7 pm. Our regularly scheduled second Tuesday meeting at the Robert Penland Senior Center, 69 Alpine Street (behind the courthouse) in Murphy.

June 9—The Well Armed Woman, Murphy Chapter, Murphy, NC, 6 p.m. A women’s group dedicated to educating, equipping & empowering women gun owners. Meeting at Christian Martial Arts Center, 56 Valley River Avenue, Murphy.

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