US military ordered to host massive immigrant concentration camps

By Courage to Resist. September 25, 2018

Actual concentration camps are in the process of development at military bases across the southern United States.

This isn’t the first time in US history that such camps are being constructed and used to imprison large numbers of a persecuted minority in a relatively small area with inadequate facilities (the definition of a concentration camp). Previous examples of this are now infamous, such as the so-called Japanese internment camps. We’re now on the brink of adding a new chapter to this dark history.

Military officials, in response to pressured deadlines from the White House, have stated that these camps can begin operations now. Estimates are that capacity for another 10,000 people can be added each month. The White House’s decrees

Army Capt. Brittany DeBarros under scrutiny for tweeting facts

By Courage to Resist. September 9, 2018

“This war economy is hurting all of us except those profiting.”

With that, and similar posts on social media, US Army Capt. Brittany DeBarros has gotten the attention of the Pentagon. The Army Times recently declared, “An Army Reserve psychological operations officer is on day seven of 14-day orders, according to her Twitter account, and she’s taking the opportunity to let the internet know she does not approve of the Defense Department.” All this attention for sharing basic facts about our country’s endless wars, and the impact those are having both abroad and at home.

Brittany first started posting a series of simple graphic messages on July 14. The first one read, “I’m on Army Orders for the next 14 Days and there’s not much I can do about that. WHAT I CAN DO is schedule daily posts in my absence with facts about the horror being carried out by our war machine for profit.” It was accompanied by a graphic with the text “At the current rate, the US drops a bomb every 12 minutes.”

A couple of days later, she declared, “For years the executive branch has run wild warmongering while congress

Shutting down recruiting center; Hoisting peace flag

This May 15th we successfully shutdown the Marine Recruiting Center in Berkeley in honor of International Conscientious Objectors’ Day and all of those courageous persons who refuse to fight empire’s wars. The Marines were not able to recruit more youth that day, but they were eager to get a picture with us and try our desserts.

While encouraging service continued on back (pg. 4)
stands by. Greed fueled violence. Racist, Islamophobic fueled SILENCE. It's on us to dismantle and our own liberation depends on it.”

After the Army announced that they were investigating her, she shared, “In case anyone is confused, these are my personal views and I don't speak in an official capacity for the DOD.”

Brittany addressed her motivations on social media, explaining, “Two headlines within the last week: ‘White House: US Can't Afford Veterans' Health Care Without Cuts.’ and ‘House Passes $717 Billion Defense Bill.’ So tell me again how it's against the Army Values for me to point out this charade? And how I'm hurting my soldiers by refusing to be quiet about the fact that we have endless dollars to send them to war but suddenly are broke when they need care? I call b.s.”

This is the second time in so many months that she has caught the Pentagon's attention. Brittany was also threatened with reprisal after giving a speech at the Poor People's Campaign rally in Washington DC in June. At that time, she responded: “In the Army, we are taught that our core values must be Loyalty. Duty. Respect. Selfless service. Honor. Integrity. Personal courage. So, you tell me... Am I LOYAL if I say nothing while a wealthy few pay our politicians to disregard the Constitution I swore to protect so they can make a killing off of killing? Am I a DUTIFUL leader if I stand by while the young soldiers for whose lives I'm responsible are sent to kill and die in illegal wars based on lies? Am I RESPECTFUL of this uniform we wear if I am silent about the atrocities it's being used to carry out? Am I SELFLESS in my SERVICE if I fall in line and stay quiet simply to avoid risk to myself and my career? Am I HONORABLE if I'm more concerned about what's popular or acceptable than about what's right?

Am I living with INTEGRITY if I say 'I'll do the right thing later when it won't cost me so much'? And where is my PERSONAL COURAGE if, in the face of repression and threats, I cower and back down, especially when so many before me have sacrificed so much for the very freedom I am exercising?

So if what I've been saying is somehow doing wrong by the military, the mistake they made was commissioning a leader that takes these values seriously. Leaders of conscience have a moral obligation to speak up #GIResistance #CourageToResist”

Brittany has continued to post new graphics: twitter.com/brittdebarros

Army Capt. DeBarros under scrutiny for dropping facts

San Francisco, October 13-14

On October 14, 1968, 27 prisoners in the Presidio Stockade staged a peaceful sit-down protest to call attention to the treatment of fellow prisoners and the conditions inside. Just days before, a guard had shot and killed a prisoner, and GIs had taken to the streets of San Francisco in massive demonstrations against the war in Vietnam.

For staging this peaceful protest, the Army tried the 27 for mutiny, the most serious military offense. Join us for events this 50th anniversary weekend that explore this history that shocked the Army and the nation—all in the place where it happened, with the people who took part.

Presented by the Presidio Trust and Veterans For Peace San Francisco, Chapter 69, with the support of Courage to Resist.

The panel discussion will feature Keith Mather and other original participants, Courage to Resist's project director Jeff Paterson, rare film clips, and audience Q+A. Panel discussion registration is free: presidio.gov/events

PANEL DISCUSSION
Saturday, October 13, 7 to 9 pm
Presidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Ave, SF

ON SITE COMMEMORATION
Sunday, October 14, 1 to 3 pm
Fort Scott Stockade
1213 Ralston near Storey, SF

Walter Pawlowski, standing, reads a list of demands from the soldiers staging a sitdown strike to the commandant. Photo by US Army.
have local base commanders scrambling and caught unaware.

In addition to providing the land, military personnel will construct the camps while private agencies will manage the operations. While this simplified explanation of operations seeks to minimize the military’s role, it omits the endless capacities in which the armed forces will surely be facilitating the functioning of these camps such as water, electricity, sewage, and trash.

Additional operational problems include the difficulty of housing persons in restricted access bases who legally need access to immigration and civil-liberties lawyers, secure areas to discuss their cases, as well as access for advocates, relatives, news media and political activists. Another issue is the lack of state licensing requirements, such as health and building codes, which military locations enable the government to avoid.

As of July 10th, two weeks after the Pentagon confirmed that it was indeed working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to construct these camps, there was still no Memorandum of Understanding with either DHS or Health and Human Services (HHS). Nor could any timeline be stated for one. A memorandum would clearly delineate the roles and responsibilities of all parties. To move forward with construction plans without one, nor any clear legal guidance, certainly leads military personnel into dangerous waters for themselves.

The military is strictly prohibited from domestic policing, as stated in the constitution, yet military personnel are being drafted into doing just that with this rising domestic enforcement of immigration policy. Just because Trump/Sessions Co. declares a war on immigrants, doesn’t make it an actual war. Being quite clearly an illegal order, the question is who will refuse to aid and abet?

The Trump administration’s reckless leadership is currently putting military personnel in danger of running afoul of the law. While military personnel at all levels have a responsibility to refuse to participate in facilitating these camps, commanders in particular are at a particularly high risk in complying with these orders, due to the precedent of the Nuremberg prosecution of those who aided and abetted Nazi leadership.

Already the construction of one camp has been abandoned due to people’s refusal to look the other way. The proposed use of the Concord Naval Weapons Station experienced significant resistance and outcry from the community and local officials who opposed the plan once it was exposed via a leaked Navy memo. DHS, soon thereafter, announced they would no longer build a concentration camp at this location. To follow that up, on July 10th, the Contra Costa Sheriff’s Department announced it is cancelling its contract with ICE that facilitated the local county jails holding ICE-detained persons for a lucrative fee. These human rights victories have been happening in other communities as well, including Sacramento County recently.

Since the news coverage of the camp plans was broken, there has been heated debate within military communities as individuals seek to understand and define their reactions to this new era we find ourselves in. Meanwhile more than thirty lawmakers are pushing forward different amendments which would bar National Guard or other reserve components from enforcing immigration laws, and restrict the Pentagon from housing immigrants on military bases. Alabama Rep. Byrne recently stated “Housing anyone in tents on the Gulf Coast during the heat of summer and the heart of hurricane season would be inhumane and a major mistake. I am committed to working with our local officials to fight back against this misguided idea.”

There are discussions and calls right now for counties to cease partnering with ICE, and communities surrounding military bases to refuse to work on the bases which will hold tens of thousands of people for the “crime” of seeking refuge.

The administration appears to be postponing the opening of these military run camps by greatly increasing the size of the Tornillo detainment tent city in Texas. Nearly 4,000 children are expected to be held there by year’s end.

Courage to Resist believes that all military personnel have a moral and legal obligation to refuse to comply with any order that involves collaboration with these immigrant concentration camps.

Potential locations identified by military or Pentagon personnel

- Tornillo Port of Entry, Texas – capacity 3,800 children CURRENTLY ACTIVE
- Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas – capacity 45,000
- Fort Bliss, Texas
- Dyess Air Force Base, Texas
- Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas – capacity 20,000
- Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Air Station, California – capacity 47,000
- Navy Outlying Field Wolf and Silverhill, Alabama – capacity 25,000
- Yuma Marine Corps Air Station, Arizona
- Concord Naval Weapons Station, California CANCELLED

Legacy giving

As you are making out your will, please consider a bequest to “Courage to Resist / Church of Conscious Objection.” For more information about bequest language in your estate plans, please give us a call: 510-488-3559.
Whistleblower Reality Winner accepts responsibility, sentenced to five years prison–“So unfair” says Trump

By Courage to Resist. September 17, 2018

After more than a year jailed without bail, NSA whistleblower Reality Winner has changed her plea to guilty. In a June 26th hearing she stated – “all of these actions I did willfully.” She has since been sentenced to five years in prison, as opposed to the ten years she faced under the Espionage Act.

Several months before Winner’s arrest, the FBI’s then-Director James Comey told President Trump that he was (in the words of a subsequent Comey memo) “eager to find leakers and would like to nail one to the door as a message.” Meanwhile, politically connected and high-level government officials continue to leak without consequence, or selectively declassify material to advance their own interests.

In a recent update, Jeff Paterson, Project Director of Courage to Resist, reiterated the importance of continuing to support Reality and her truth-telling motives. “We cannot forget this Trump Administration political prisoner. Reality needs us each to do what we can to resist.” Although Courage to Resist is no longer hosting Reality’s defense fund, online monetary support can be contributed to the Winner family directly at standwithreality.org. Reality’s inspiring artwork is also available for purchase.

“It’s so important to me, as her mom, to know just all the people that are writing her, who are touching her, who are reaching out to her giving her that strength and that support . . . Please don’t stop that,” said Billie Winner-Davis. “And we’ll always make sure that everybody knows where she’s at, where you can write to her, how you can help.”

During an interrogation in which she was not read her rights, Reality explained, “Why do I have this job if I’m just going to sit back and be helpless?”

Join Courage to Resist and a dozen other organizations in calling on President Trump, who has acknowledged Winner’s treatment as “so unfair,” to pardon Reality Winner or to commute her sentence to time served.

Shutting down recruiting center; Hoisting peace flag (cont. from front)

persons to desert is a crime outlined by the Espionage Act, we were nearly as bold by inviting Marines and the community to join us for mid-day dessert. Code Pink co-sponsored this event and brought their always vivacious and inspiring rabble rouser spirits.

“We are a part of gatherings around the world today, in places where conscientious objectors are going to prison much more than in the United States. We don’t know what President Trump is going to do under the leadership of Saudi Arabia and Israel tomorrow. We don’t know if we’re going to war with Korea or with Iran or with another undetermined country next week, but we are standing by to support the troops who resist,” said Jeff Paterson.

Earlier in the day we raised a flag of peace and justice at Berkeley City Hall. This event was in celebration of the 12th Annual City of Berkeley CO & War Resisters’ Day. And for the first time Berkeley’s Mayor, Jesse Arreguin, joined us. He gave a short speech in honor and recognition of the importance of war resisters and conscientious objectors.

A speech by Veterans For Peace, focused on the importance of also including on this day “women promoting peace, high school students opposing gun violence, Koreans for peace & unification, teachers fighting for both themselves and their students, nuclear weapons abolitionists, people opposing racism, whistleblowers, resisters in the military, climate justice activists, workers worldwide, peace veterans, fighters for a habitable planet, mediators of interpersonal violence and nurturers of young people.”

The peace flag raising event is sponsored every year by City of Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission and endorsed by War Resisters League-West and Courage to Resist.

Photo of Reality Winner, July 2018, layered on top of one of her recent artworks.

Recruiting station commander Capt. Kao Saeteurn takes a photo of his blockaded office.