

Military Families Speak Out Newsletter

Nov 2019

Editorials from MFSO members:

Troops Home Now? How?

By Anna Berlinrut Connecticut

President Trump is sending 3,000 additional troops to Saudi Arabia as a deterrence to Iran. This is exactly how we got into Vietnam. A few “advisors” turned into hundreds of thousands of troops and a horrific war. It was so easy to send troops, but what happens if war does break out with Iran? Do we really want war with Iran? Journalist Jamal Khashoggi was murdered by order of Saudi Arabia’s crown prince. Women there are second class citizens without basic rights. Do we want to send our loved ones to defend this nation?

MFSO needs to rethink “Bring Them Home Now,” which has been a critical part of our mission statement since the inception of our organization, and emphasize staying out of future wars of choice. Bringing them home now is not that simple. We saw what happened in Syria when we abandoned the Kurds to be slaughtered by Turkish troops after they did much of the intelligence and ground work for our major operations, including finding and eliminating Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the head of ISIS. When we talk about “bringing them home now,” we need to ensure the safety of our allies in a withdrawal plan. When we abandon allies, our troops are endangered as well. Other nations feel that they cannot depend on us and may not support our troops in the future.

Isn't it better not to get involved in wars of choice? We can't just leave and think that will fix everything we have done to destabilize a nation. Have we not learned anything from our ventures into Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria? We can't put Humpty Dumpty back together again.

MFSO has always believed that our troops need to come home now. It is up to our elected leaders to bring them home safely for our allies as well. We must learn from our mistakes and not become involved in wars of choice.

Support Our Deported Veterans

By Robert Vivar Tijuana, Mexico

With Rep. Mark Takano’s recent legislation introducing HR 4890 to the US Congress, we see an opportunity that has not been seen before to correct the injustice of deporting our Veterans and bringing those Veterans that have already been deported home.

While the bill is not perfect, we see a great opportunity to improve on it. The opening wording of “A non-citizen [is one] who takes an oath of enlistment or oath for commissioned officers to join the United States Armed Forces—promising to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic—deserves facilitated access to naturalization”.

This very much goes in sync with the VFP/ Deported Veterans Advocacy Project to lobby for a proposed amendment and legal rational to 8U.S.C. 1101 (a) (22). Simply put, when a person recites the oath of allegiance, he/she is declaring full allegiance to the U.S.A and at this point is considered a National of the U.S., even though not a citizen. However, upon release from active duty, the non-citizen veteran is stripped of that nationality without a court hearing or judicial order. In other words they were considered nationals until the moment they were no longer in the military.

Our proposed amendment would serve to clarify and make national status retroactive, upon taking the oath of enlistment. So the person reciting the oath, in doing so, is proving their allegiance to the U.S and, as such, be repatriated to the U.S. Those in removal proceedings would then be immediately released back to their families. In both instances the person considered a national of the U.S would be removed from jurisdiction of DHS/ICE.

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Meanwhile, a different bill, HR 1078, introduced by Rep. Gonzalez of Texas has been given 5 days for recommendations, and HR 4089 has been introduced to the Judiciary Committee

If a person is good enough to serve in the US Military, they should be allowed to live in the land they were willing to die for, and many have!

Robert Vivar has a son who is active duty in the Air National Guard. He is the co-executive director of United US Deported Veterans, and is the chapter leader for MFSO in Tijuana, Mexico

Note: The opinions reflected above and in future editorials are not a reflection of any official stance approved by the MFSO board, which meets monthly and posts official positions decided by the board on our website. Your responses and opinions are welcome. If you would like to send your own half page editorial on any MFSO related issue, please send to mfsooc@earthlink.net

In the News:

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth Wright said the [Air Force](#) struggles with a sharp rise in suicides this year. "toxic" and uncaring leadership has emerged as a major factor in the well-being of airmen -- an issue the service needs to tackle head-on,
18 Sep 2019 [Military.com](#) | By [Patricia Kime](#)

New Syria mission "Keep the Oil"

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/26/us/politics/trump-syria-oil-fields.html>

French President Emmanuel Macron has warned European countries they could no longer rely on the United States to defend Nato allies. Nov 13 2019

<https://www.independent.ie/world-news/europe/nato-allies-cannot-rely-on-us-warns-macron-38672703.html>

Military suicide rate vs. civilian rate USA Today Nov 10 2019

Last year, 325 active-duty troops died by suicide, a rate of 24.8 per 100,000. The civilian suicide rate is 18 per 100,000. The trend bled through to the veteran population, where thousands take their own lives each year. The highest rate — 44.5 per 100,000 — is among veterans ages 18-34.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2019/11/10/veterans-day-war-military-losing-suicide-editorials-debates/2516400001/>



Long Beach CA Veterans Day Parade 2019



MFSO in New York Parade

4,575 American Troops killed in Iraq; 2,438 American Troops killed in Afghanistan