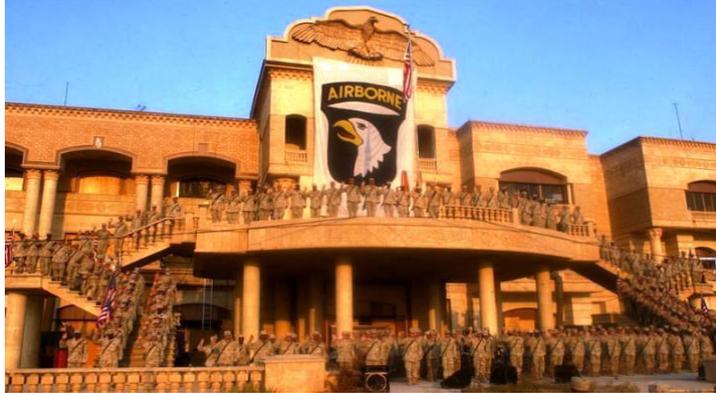




The Seductive Allure Of Wars We Are Not Winning

Monday, April 14, 2014 | Andrew J. Bacevich

For better or worse, ours is today a warlike nation that depends on volunteers to fill the ranks of its armed forces. Young men and women have a variety of motives for signing up. No doubt some do so for high-



minded, even idealistic reasons. For many, however, more pragmatic considerations figure: a job with salary and benefits, a chance to escape from a humdrum or dispiriting existence. In all likelihood, few volunteers know what they are getting into, particularly in wartime. Fully disclosing what service in a distant war zone might entail is not a high priority for recruiters trying to fill their monthly quota of warm and willing bodies.

Even so, the new Washington Post poll of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans

shows that, looking back, most of today's veterans find no cause to regret their decision to join. Nearly nine out of 10 would do so again. Indeed, a majority of those who participated in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars profess to "miss" something they experienced there.

What they miss is not the chance to kill jihadists, pursuant to spreading democracy and the American way of life, but comradeship experienced in the midst of trying circumstances. In that regard, of course, today's veterans do not differ greatly from prior generations. However mystifying to those who have never spent any appreciable time in uniform, the bonds formed between soldiers in the course of wartime service — and even on occasion in service other than in wartime — have an immediacy and intimacy seldom found in other walks of life.

For decades now, Hollywood has milked this band-of-brothers narrative for all of its considerable entertainment value. More recently, in a curious sort of implicit homage to military life, an endless succession of television series has depicted relationships formed in precinct houses, fire stations, hospitals and law firms as equivalent in intensity to those forged on the battlefield. These are, in effect, war movies without war, emblems of a culture in which relationships tend increasingly to be shallow and transitory, where not altogether virtual. Small wonder that veterans, immersed in that culture, will recall their wartime service as the moment when they experienced something inarguably authentic and, if viewed from a certain angle, perhaps purposeful.

These days, even Vietnam veterans seem susceptible to a sort of Nam nostalgia, although that may more accurately signify an effort to silence lingering demons. In surprisingly large numbers, those who departed Vietnam swearing never to return are today lining up to do just that. A decade or two hence, count on some intrepid travel operator to start organizing tourist excursions that will escort ex-GIs back to Anbar or Kandahar. Thus does war's seductive allure persist.

Indeed, apart from revealing a distinct if inexplicable preference for George W. Bush as commander in chief over Barack Obama, the new Washington Post poll contains few real surprises. That recent veterans view soldiers (and presumably themselves) as more moral and patriotic than their fellow citizens should not come as news. That, after all, forms one of the standard tropes of the age. To judge by press clippings and political speeches, those volunteering to serve are better than mere civilians. Veterans apparently take such claims seriously. By more than three to one, they "feel good" about public testimonials of support, ranging from yellow ribbons to beer commercials, that affirm the soldier's elevation to the status of national icon.

Reports of rampant sexual assault in military ranks have not dented this collective self-esteem. The same goes for Air Force officers cheating on proficiency exams. Ditto for the generals behaving with adolescent boorishness. No wonder vets believe that they should go to the front of the line when seeking employment. From their perspective, it's only fair for the virtuous to be rewarded.

Speaking for myself, I believe that the troops would do well to ratchet down the self-regard. And when it comes to interpreting yellow ribbons and other "thank you for your service" testimonials, they might want to exhibit a bit more skepticism. But there's another question on which I'd be interested in hearing from younger veterans. It's this: The world's best military establishment didn't win in Iraq, and it won't win in Afghanistan. Why is that?

Andrew J. Bacevich is a military historian at Boston University and the author of "Breach of Trust: How Americans Failed Their Soldiers and Their Country."

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards adapted from floridastandards.org. Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with state standards and annotated adjacent to the respective inquiry.

Copyright 2014. *The Daughtry Times*® Education through Integration™ All rights reserved. www.daughtrytimes.com
Contents of this document excluding the article itself, may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed in whole or part without the express written permission through a licensed agreement and is restricted to teacher-student use only.



1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the fictional Hollywood perception of the military lifestyle with the realities of enlistment as articulated by military historian Andrew J. Bacevich. Address the rhetorical inquiry Bacevich poses upon conclusion of the passage, "*The world's best military establishment didn't win in Iraq, and it won't win in Afghanistan. Why is that?*" Thoroughly explain your reasoning and provide specific artifacts and evidence *not* limited solely to article above to support your response. Create and illustrate a Venn Diagram to effectively explore relationships and patterns and to make arguments about relationships between sets. **(LA.910.3.2.2; LA.910.1.6.2; MA.912.D.7.2; MA.912.A.10.1)**
2. Experimentalaircraft.info suggests "Taking off into the wind will generate part of the required lift as the aircraft lifts off sooner and this will result in a lower ground speed and therefore a shorter take-off run for the aircraft to become airborne. In contrast, take-offs with a tailwind will result in the use of much more runway to get enough lift for flight - it takes distance to nullify the tailwind before any headwind is obtained for lift." Baghdad, Iraq. April 2003. United States Army Private Earl Coffey of Sarasota, Florida states, "*You're walking through bodies that've been lying around for eight days in the heat, so swollen if you kick 'em it busts. And there's so much blood around you can taste it like there's a penny in your mouth. And all of a sudden, you come across \$850 million? Do you think you're not gonna try to get some of that home to your family? How is anything wrong with that? I need somebody to explain that to me.*" Provided the rather unique opportunity in obtaining instantaneous wealth, Coffey contemplates, the complexities of privately transporting these funds require discreetly acquiring a flight from Baghdad, Iraq to Sarasota, Florida. In moderate conditions, it takes approximately 16 hours 50 minutes to address the 6990 miles against a massive unforeseen headwind in a McDonnell-Douglas MD 88. Interestingly enough; however, the return flight is only 16 hours and 15 minutes provided the tailwind. Employ the necessary applications of system of linear equations to determine the average airspeed of the planes coupled with the average wind speed. www.9news.com/video/104485528001/1/Iraq-war-a-curse-for-Earl-Coffey **(MA.912.A.3.14; MA.912.A.3.15)**
3. Legendary battles of epic proportions consisting of a multitude of unsung American heroes have often occurred throughout Afghanistan and Iraq. However, said heroic actions will never see the desk of a Hollywood director for a plethora of reasons not limited to but include operational security confidentiality issues coupled with traumatized soldiers' unwillingness to share specific details in fear of reliving any given traumatic experience. Chris Kyle was a noteworthy marksman and described as the most lethal sniper in military history. During one excursion, the subject was 880 yards from Kyle at his farthest point, and 590 yards away at the time of the last shot. Design an illustration and provided Kyle's shooting distances, illustrate three unique images accurately triangulating the line of fire with the subject's vehicle along the applicable parade route. Employ the Pythagorean Theorem to determine if a right, acute or obtuse triangle exists. Assuming a right triangle is constructed, does a Pythagorean Triple exist? Identify the formulas as well as specifically what information one may derive from obtaining measurements via the following trigonometric ratios when applied to the sculpture: tangent, sine, and cosine. Explain your reasoning and determine whether the solution(s) is reasonable in the context of the original situation. **(MA.912.G.5.1; MA.912.G.5.4; MA.912.T.2.1)**
4. Using contextual clues only, determine the most complete and accurate definitions of following italicized terms: *idealistic, pragmatic, susceptible, nostalgia, humdrum, dispiriting, profess, comradeship, mystifying, immediacy, intimacy, milked, inexplicable, implicit, homage, depicted, precinct, forged, emblems, immersed, inarguably, authentic, lingering, transitory, intrepid, seductive, allure, tropes, rampant, boorishness, virtuous, ratchet, and skepticism* as obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. **(LA.910.1.6.3; LA.910.1.6.1)**
5. Identify and thoroughly support your reasoning regarding which of the following that best describes the author's attitude toward an all volunteer military charged with defending an entire nation during wartime: flippant disregard, mild frustration, passive resignation or an informed citizen. Explain the intended purpose of this article and identify any indicators or supporting evidence, which suggest the author may possess a bias for or against military service members. Provide inference veterans and aspiring service members may derive from this material. The point of view employed throughout the passage is best described as first person, second person, third person, or a combination of first and third person. What is meant by the author when he states, "*Thus does war's seductive allure persist.*" Explain specifically how the image above contributes to the validity of the aforementioned passage. **(RI.9-10.1 – 10.6)**
6. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Provided the fact that the passage is incomplete, create an updated concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above incorporating the italicized term: *Rhetoric* n. The art of using language effectively **(LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5)**

Viva la Daughtry Times. Questo è tutto | Due Monday, April 21, 2014

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards adapted from floridastandards.org. Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with state standards and annotated adjacent to the respective inquiry.

Copyright 2014. *The Daughtry Times*® Education through Integration™ All rights reserved. www.daughtrytimes.com
Contents of this document excluding the article itself, may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed in whole or part without the express written permission through a licensed agreement and is restricted to teacher-student use only.