

US military suicides average one per day

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The Real Cost of Fighting Corporate Wars

The principal cause of military suicides is 'burnout,' a term used to cover a multitude of causes, not least among them is fighting illegal, dishonorable, Corporate wars for profit against innocent people. As the jarring contradiction between military indoctrination and the sordid reality on the ground hits home, troops resort more and more to booze, narcotics and amphetamines in futile attempts to avoid facing responsibility for murdering civilians and fighting gangster wars of Corporate appropriation. But as we all know avoidance tactics only delay the inevitable, overwhelming crisis.

It is important to place Pfc Bradley Manning in this context; this brave young soldier is not only doing his comrades a service by exposing Pentagon war crimes, he is FIGHTING overwhelming odds against an inherently corrupt criminal system that cares not for honor, justice and the moral right, but serves the interests of criminal Corporate elites -- isn't that right, Mr Dick 'KBR' Cheney?



The number of suicides among active duty U.S. troops has risen dramatically over the first five months of 2012 compared to the same period in years past, averaging just under one each day, according to an analysis by the Associated Press.

In the first 155 days of the year, there were 154 military suicides, the highest total in 10 years. That total represents an 18 percent increase over last year, when the military saw 130 suicides over the same period, and it's a 25 percent increase from 2010.

Those totals include only troops who were currently serving, and not veterans who had returned to their private lives.

The number of self-inflicted fatalities in 2012 also tops the total number of servicemen and women who've been killed in combat in Afghanistan this year by about 50 percent, according to data also obtained by the Associated Press.

The cause of the spike in suicides is not known, though studies have suggested a link between post-traumatic stress and multiple tours of duty to an increased likelihood of suicidal thoughts. Faced with mounting suicide totals and questions about the mental health of its soldiers, the Department of

Defense has sought to promote more robust counseling and prevention programs for troops.

“A key component of our commitment to maintaining this trust [in our troops] is our ongoing effort to reduce the stigma of seeking help when needed,” Brig. Gen. Barrye L. Price, a Defense Department spokesman, wrote in a press release announcing April’s suicide total. “By achieving a cultural change that encourages help-seeking behaviors, we will be postured to more effectively combat suicide within our ranks.”

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