

Being all we SAY you can be

Playing soldier in the 50s meant you could don a helmet liner and shoulder a make-believe rifle, strap on an army surplus ammo belt and 'storm the beaches' of the Midwestern cornfields. Our role models were John Wayne, Audie Murphy and a host of other larger-than-life figures. Our fathers encouraged us to 'team up' and rely on each other as we challenged the enemy to firefights with water balloons that served as grenades.

We were fearless though oblivious of the horror and reality of actual war but that didn't deter us. The Marine Hymn and an Old Glory patch guided us towards victory as we regularly saved America every summer. Patriotism wasn't just a word for us post-WWII kids. We were reminded of the sacrifices made by our parents and their peers who paraded before us every Veterans' Day and on the 4th of July. I still get a lump in my throat when I remember the clackety-clack of combat boots on our town's cobblestone street and see the vets in their starched uniforms marching by us. That was then.

Over the years, I have come to realize that our military has been under attack - not just from without by people who didn't understand the real threats Communism and tyranny posed - but from within the military's very own perimeter. The assaults have ebbed and flowed over time since the end of WWII from what we used to call *fifth columnists*, but never have we seen such a brazen attack on our fighting force by those at the highest levels of its pyramid of power as we are seeing today. Fifty years ago, these generals would have been summarily demoted, transferred or publicly ridiculed for attempting to demoralize or demean their own men in uniform. Today, they're revered by the Leftist power structure and encouraged to become five-star poster boys for America's new and improved 'woke' *thinking man's army* that ponders the social repercussions of their actions before locking and loading.

The mass castration of our servicemen is underway and we can thank the generals and flag officers for wielding the scalpels, cheered on by the anti-military members of Congress and by the President and his administration. Instead of engaging in 21st century war games to strengthen our capabilities, our Joint Chiefs are now in full Blitzkrieg mode to decommission their men's fighting spirit and to replace it with the original sin of *White guilt* AND to root out what the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Mark Milley, calls *White rage*. He is joined in this crusade by our Defense Secretary, Lloyd Austin, who has issued orders to establish a 'Countering extremism working group' "that will examine how the services implement these immediate actions and also work toward intermediate and long-range goals." What actions you say?

One of them is directing DOD officials to review and update the definition of extremism. SecDef Austin is calling on the services to update transition instructions to warn those leaving the military of the dangers posed by extremist groups that he said are "actively trying to recruit military members who possess leadership abilities, planning expertise and knowledge of weapons." He also ordered the services to work together to learn best practices from each other to ensure that extremists do not get into the ranks. He also stressed the service will now work closely with law enforcement agencies to accomplish this. Finally, the Defense Department's spokesman said that one specific aspect of this new working group will be to look at determining how the department should facilitate better information collection to "help define the scope and extent of the problem."

The new U.S. military 'book-of-the-month club'

Forget Sun Tzu's 'Art of War' or West Point's recommended reading list. Service members in the Navy's Second Fleet are now reading "How to Be an Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi and "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo from its list of 74 books that it *recommends* to leaders. A Navy spokesman is quoted as saying that "belonging to the club is not mandatory." Sure, we get it, just as we get why the push is on to get all 2,000 plus members of our Navy Seal force to get vaccinated

with no exceptions. Refuse and you get a desk job in some dusty office stateside, next to the loading dock. Anchors aweigh is rapidly being replaced by "Aye aye sir; may I please have the jab."

If I hadn't outgrown my fatigues I would be tempted to wear them every day in support of my fellow Americans who are proudly serving this nation and who are the victims of a cruel 'realignment' of their sympathies by superiors who fell off the back of a deuce and a half long before it made it to the parade grounds where real patriots march.

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