

US Army Tweet Inadvertently Triggers Responses Revealing 'Real, Painful, and Horrifying Human Costs of War'



"This Memorial Day," said Win Without War, "let us remember the real, painful, and horrifying human costs of war." (Photo: [Robert Couse-Baker/flickr/cc](#))

By Andrea Germanos | [Common Dreams](#)

The U.S. Army may have gotten more than it bargained for when it recently [asked](#) on Twitter, "How has serving impacted you?"

The question, posed just before the nation officially marks Memorial Day, brought attention to "the real, painful, and horrifying human costs of war," said advocacy group Win Without War.

Trigger warning: This thread is a very painful read. But it is the stark truth. This Memorial Day, let us remember the real, painful, and horrifying human costs of war. #EndEndlessWar <https://t.co/TJ3NfMLrSD>

– Win Without War (@WinWithoutWar) [May 24, 2019](#)

Observers described the responses, which came from veterans, their loved ones, and people from countries where the U.S. has waged war, as “[brutal](#)” and “[heartbreaking](#).”

A sampling of the responses follows:

Your army destroyed my country. #Iraq <https://t.co/3Jl02iLWZ8>

– Ruba Ali Al-Hassani (@RubaAlHassani) [May 25, 2019](#)

My wife will never see her brother again. Thanks Iraqi Freedom pic.twitter.com/B1TEFws9ha

– Matt (@mvieke) [May 26, 2019](#)

The agent orange my grandfather was exposed to in Vietnam caused his cancer & death, and possibly caused the various diseases and disorders my mom, aunt, and me and my siblings have. The army and government knew the dangers of agent orange when they started using it.

– garbage boy stink man (@FLlewys) [May 26, 2019](#)

The “Combat Cocktail”: PTSD, severe depression, anxiety. Isolation. Suicide attempts. Never ending rage. It cost me my relationship with my eldest son and my grandson. It cost some of my men so much more.

How did serving impact me? Ask my family.

– Sean P. (@SeanP_75) [May 26, 2019](#)

*After 15 years in I was kicked out after showing obviously signs of PTSD and depression. Now I can't function in society because of my major depressive disorder.
So now what?*

– Cory Schabacker (@CorySchabacker) [May 26, 2019](#)

My uncle is still MIA in Laos. He was involved in a secret war, and the military lied to my family about his location. He was 20 years old, too young to vote at that time. The US has learned nothing and continues to manufacture war under false pretenses.

– Karen DuVall (👤) (@SingAtTheTable) [May 26, 2019](#)

I was forced to resign my commission while serving in Kuwait during the first Gulf War because I am gay. I received an other than honorable discharge despite excellent performance reviews. Not to mention I was exposed to low levels of exploded chemical weapons.

– Mark Landes (@usmagrad87) [May 26, 2019](#)

Veterans for Peace also drew attention to war's devastation

“Our message for Memorial Day is to remember all who have died in the war and to understand that no one wins,” [said](#) Michael McPhearson, the organization's executive director.

“There are people who profit from war, mainly those who invest in the defense industry or possibly the oil sector. But the veterans and civilians who survive war suffer for the rest of

their lives,” said McPhearson. “And the entire society is robbed of billions of tax dollars which could be spent on jobs, education, healthcare, infrastructure, and sustainable energy.”

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