

Veteran  
03-17-2015 by Harry Zirkelbach

Less than 4% of the Colorado Veterans eligible for government benefits, served in WW II.

Mike Harris and I being here defy that probability.

In the final months of the second George Bush term, the President sent an emissary to a small office in the Pentagon, requested, and had enacted, a bill extending even more free Health Benefits benefits to the retired military. It was called Tri-Care. As an aside, these benefits approximate those of the later enacted as Obama care. There is a proposal in Congress now, to marry Tri-Care into Obama Care.

Either way, it should not be necessary for any Retiree from the Military living in a metropolitan area to request assistance from the Veterans Administration.

The VA budget for 2016 will be \$168.8 billion, up 7.5% from 2015. Small potatoes in comparison with the proposed budget request of \$3.9 trillion.

Why is this significant? A distant change. Our enemies in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan have altered the war's military appearance forever. Our standing land military, especially Army and Marine forces, are readily identifiable. The enemy has redirected military preparedness forever. Identifying military by clothing has been made obsolete. That enemy wears no uniform, appears as ordinary civilians, indistinguishable from men and women on the streets, in their country, and worse, anywhere on the earth.

In the not too distant future a man driving a truck on your street, a woman carrying a baby into one of your market areas, the lady next to you on the street or at a restaurant, could turn out to be a terrorist, ready and willing to detonate explosives secreted on their person, taking them and you on that magic carpet ride to eternity. This may be closer than imagined.

How has the military prepared?

It has been said facetiously, yet truthfully, the military always prepares to fight the last war.

Can it be that we have fought the last Great War? Or more realistically, are we at constant conflict with this new enemy? Questions need to be asked, answers sought, for the Money spent on preparedness today, would seem only to feed the Military-Industrial-complex Eisenhower found so repugnant.

But times are changing. Where is the leader to suggest change in these United States to maintain domestic tranquility within the freedom now enjoyed? We owe that to our Veterans, to all children. We have had it pretty good. Who's obligation is it to pass on our freedom and benefits unsullied?

The Veteran has not been made obsolete. They answered the call to duty, maintaining peace and tranquility inside these United States, allowing friends to be carefree.

The veteran is still the hero, even standing alone. And, is there some small cadre in that giant Pentagon, awaiting a White House request for the Military of tomorrow. The possibility exists.

Why not ask?

