

Dedicated to Abolishing War, Establishing Justice, and Fighting Climate Disaster
Published Quarterly by Veterans For Peace • Number 20 • August-September 2026

America's War on Iran Is Breaking Its Own Troops



The bodies of six U.S. soldiers killed in the Port Shuaiba, Kuwait, drone attack being transferred to the U.S. on March 7.
(The White House /Wikimedia Commons/Public Domain)

By Col. Ret. Ann Wright

Families describe overflowing toilets, spoiled food, missile attacks, mental-health emergencies and hundreds of wounded service members as deployments drag on.

Rotten food, overflowing toilets into bunking areas, no room in the incoming missile shelters, confiscated cellphones that are the notification devices for incoming missiles, infrequent mail, social media closed down: these were some of the issues that military families identified at the Aug. 6 national conference of Veterans For Peace.

Spouses and parents of Air Force, Army, Marine and Navy members and members of Military Families Speak Out told of plummeting morale, lack of basic supplies and attacks on U.S. military bases that are not reported in the U.S. media.

These frustrations echoed those of military families who met with senior military officials to describe conditions on U.S. military bases in the Middle East that are coming under attack from Iran in response to the brutal U.S.-Israeli five-month offensive.

On Aug. 6, the Navy's senior leadership held listening sessions with the families of aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln's sailors — one in-person session in San Diego, and a second online session later the same evening, according to The Maritime Executive. Family members leaked recordings of those sessions to MS NOW that described conditions aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln: showers plagued with stubborn mildew, flagging morale, heavy fatigue, shortages of supplies and food, contaminated water supplies and lost mail.

Since departing from Naval Base San Diego on Nov. 21, 2025, the USS Abraham Lincoln and its crew of 5,000 sailors and Marines has been deployed more than 250 days, with only a stop in Guam in December and a brief visit in Oman in June after 208 days at sea.

A second aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford had similar problems when it sailed from the Caribbean to the Middle East after being off Venezuela in the kidnapping of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his wife in January.

During that deployment, the ship's toi-

lets kept failing, with sewage often overflowing and spilling onto the floor. Additionally, a fire broke out in the laundry room, causing enough damage that the Ford went into a port on the Greek island of Crete for repairs.

More than 200 sailors on the Ford were treated for smoke inhalation, according to USNI News, "with one sailor medically evacuated from the carrier after being injured in the damage control effort. Two others were treated for lacerations. The smoke damage from the laundry-room fire extended to the berthing." More than 100 bunks and personal gear were destroyed in the fire.

Articles in Stars and Stripes and the Navy Times detail at least six attempts by crew members to jump overboard from the USS Abraham Lincoln, with interviews conducted with sailors and families of those on board who described the impacts of the lengthy deployment.

Jefferson Kelley, the father of a USS Abraham Lincoln sailor wrote to his U.S. senator, Bernie Moreno, asking Moreno to make an official inquiry to the U.S. Navy to see if he could do a "parent swap" with his son, Jackson, 20, due to the terrible conditions aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln.

Kelley said he had not been asked by his

continued on page x ...

Dockworkers Unions in Six Countries Announce Day of Strikes and Protests Against War and Genocide

Unions representing workers at 40 ports in Europe and the Mediterranean are calling for an international day of action on October 30.

By Sarah Lazare July 31, 2026

Dockworkers unions in France, Greece, Basque Country, Turkey, Morocco, and Italy are calling an international day of action "against war and militarization" on October 30. They are demanding an end to "the genocide of the Palestinian people" and the "US-Israeli wars of aggression in the Middle East and against Iran."

"Each union will decide the most appropriate form of mobilization according to its national circumstances, starting from strike action and from a shared commit-

ment to prevent the loading of death and destruction," reads a joint statement from the unions, which was sent to Workday Magazine and In These Times on July 31.

"It was a beautiful sight to see the dock workers surrounded by their city."

Together, the unions represent workers

continued on page x ...



Italian dockworkers and students block the Port of Livorno Sept. 22, 2025, in support of Palestine and an end to the genocide in Gaza. Photo: Laura Lezza