

# Venezuela Deserves Our Compassion...Not Our Regime Change Machine - Ep 38

2019, Fortress On A Hill Podcast (Chris Henrikson; Danny Sjursen, Bt Hampton)  
Season 2

## Transcript

[0:00] Music.

[0:31] I'm Henry.

[0:33] This is fortress on a hill thank you for joining us for those who do the podcast BT Danny and I are three left is combat veterans who take the military and Veteran stories of the day. And provide some much-needed historical context an examination.

[1:00] Oh good morning listeners we've got a a whole bunch of different stuff today for you guys so starting off with a few headlights.

A Navy veteran has settled a lawsuit with the VA for \$950,000.

The veteran receive surgery from a doctor Alan koslow for a blocked artery in his leg, I left him with long-term severe pain and leg weakness later the veteran found negative information regarding dr. koslows practice records from Des Moines Iowa, through a Google search which included the va's decision to hire him in South Carolina where the veteran receive surgery.

Quote the case is one of several nationally in which the VA hospitals have higher positions were disciplined in other states for example the Iowa City VA hospital acknowledges in 2017, but it'll probably hired neurosurgeon John Henry Snyder even though Schneider's Wyoming medical license has been revoked over malpractice allegation.

The council did not have a South Carolina medical license when the Columbia VA hired him but he also didn't need one.

Under Federal rules a doctor who has a valid license in any state and practice in VA hospitals Across the Nation.

VA hospitals are not supposed to hire Physicians who licenses have been suspended or revoked koslows Iowa license was on probation.

[2:23] So I plan to keep an eye on this subject it's something that has been a continual problem with the VA as to what standard they use for their doctors and who it is that gets to decide what standards are followed they definitely need to alter rules like this to prevent people from administering hair.

Shouldn't be giving veterans a really anyone care and add this to the pile of the many reasons veterans don't trust the care they receive at the VA.

[2:53] How is that even possible that is not required.

You know what I mean like I don't I don't understand how it's not required to be fully licensed to be so you know I I just did seem a logical to me, that any organization let alone the one that's charged with r, you know our veterans just one of the largest you know non direct military Appropriations in

the budget I mean how that would.

Be at a minimum requirement that these be the most know the top people in their field with all the qualifications they need to meet us just seems absolutely ludicrous it does it does in n.

Did absolutely terrifying to find out that the VA could have done something when it hired the asshole and simply didn't there was an end it's something that you here not just VA circles but with Medicare docs and stuff like that that is.

Find out later on that this guy operated on people for however many years and people knew he was shit but nobody got rid of him and.

So that the questions about how doctors are disciplined and whether or not doctors who have been suspended,

by their states Medical Association should even be hired I mean I don't think everything should be held against them but there needs to be a line to wear okay.

Person has enough Flags in their record there's no way they should be a doctor let alone a government hired one.

[4:17] Yeah I mean totally re keep an eye on this story I have a feeling it's not going to be the last and you're right.

That every time something like this comes to light all it does is further.

[4:32] You know Disturbed veterans and turn them sour against the VA and you know.

It's cool and it's funny to bash the VA you know it's it just becomes a part of life as a veteran. But really it's not okay I mean we should be the veteran should be very pleased with the care they receive

and it shouldn't become a joke it shouldn't become a common joke to talk about VA care and inconsiderate you know a contradiction in terms so yeah a lot less looks.

Let's watch this in and wait for the next one Jay-Z but we need to publicize it and raise our voices that I have is that the only way that's going to be changed.

I'm hoping they're there will be I'm hoping there really will be.

[5:20] So God I feel like every time I do headlines I've got at least something to say about either Yamin or.

[5:28] Afghanistan or Siri unlike his real getting tired of it but here we are in Afghanistan again and I have to

mention this piece of news from the headline you've heard me talk about you you're you've read some of my work about green on Blue attacks and how they destroy Trust,

the American Military mission in Afghanistan the way the Taliban use of these green on Blue attacks it is strategically

supposed extensible Afghan allies usually police or soldiers turn their guns or grenades, on their advisers or their trainers say on The Americans,

this has been a big problem in 2012-13 1450 and it was like the biggest problem and it's is papered off to some extent as the number of American soldiers has decreased but you know it's still have.

And a couple days ago okay is there was something unique which was a green on Blue on green attack what does that mean,

that means an attack of Afghan soldiers,

on American soldiers who then attacked back okay who fought back against the Green which is what happened is that.

[6:50] American Patrol or combined American and Afghan Special Forces Patrol significant small-arms fire from an Afghan Security Forces checkpoint basically a little.

Call Bass the fire did not decrease.

The Americans felt that even after having been identified themselves as Americans they were still being fired at so they they couldn't trust that the Afghan checkpoint was going to stop firing at them.

The level and intensity of that fire was such that they requested and it was approved okay, where to go in there so I can prove sometime it was they requested and got approved an air strike on said Afghan security forces strong point.

[7:38] You know when they are strike hits and a number significant number several Afghan security Force members were killed.

[7:48] On the surface this is just a ludicrous story right on the surface this, read like an exceptional story and in one sense it is this doesn't happen all the time okay doesn't always go from Green on blue to green on blue to green with this level of intensity but it did this time it's me and this is a microcosm, that's very indicative of the macrocosm of the absurdity of the American War.

[8:16] How did we get to this place we're in our 18th year of Perpetual War.

[8:25] We can't even trust that the people were supposed to be allied with won't shoot us and they can't even trust have you won't drop a bomb in your fucking head if necessary. It is off the rails crazy it is loony bin crazy that we're even attempting is Mission anymore.

[8:44] How many times have I told.

The listeners the readers anyone will listen that The Thao van is stronger today than it was 1918 years ago.

Or a strategy, basically out of soldiers.

You know there's no there's no political will anymore to put a hundred 50 200,000 soldiers in the ground try to fix things.

[9:10] It's mildly limited violence for a short temporary. That's all it did was a tactical pause at all it would ever be but the problem is when you do that about sums of Americans and billions. The bottom line is look.

When you read about this green on Blue on green strike please don't just shake your head and say for look Afghans please shake your head get angry and say foolish Americans.

For continuing this ill-advised unwinnable War.

[9:44] And I don't forgive this government for perpetuating the war because the Trump Administration has choices they have opportunities to pull out they've even indicated that they want to do are these the president has.

But they're still there troops are still there and you know what somebody somebody's son somebody's husband or wife.

Is going to be the last American Soldier to die in Afghanistan I don't know when that will be my guess is it'll be in the late 2020s.

Whenever that is someone is going to be the last to die for a mistake and man.

[10:24] I wouldn't want to be the officer who knocks them at door and tells them all more the wife or the husband.

That was their loved one was the last to die because I sure as shit couldn't explain to them

what the hell we're doing.

And this latest incident is only the most recent proof of the essential absurdity of never-ending counterinsurgency in the greater Middle East.

[10:44] And that's all I'll say about that.

[10:48] The first ambush I went through in a rock was began at anaraki police checkpoint.

[10:59] I only say that because it's important that people know that in these kind of wars that the enemy is far closer to the people than we have ever been.

[11:10] And so those those connections that get made you know if people become friendly with the United States or their friendly with the Ron and they hate the United States that. Sorry I lost my train of thought.

[11:25] What I mean is about loyalty is about combat level of loyalty in terms of people trying to fight for what they believe in.

[11:34] How do we tell people not to fight against this Danny how does how did the people that might still believe that those are worthy missions do that and then I already had the thought of my brain before you said it.

I am terrified of the idea what you mentioned about the last the last Soldier the last Marine to die in Afghanistan.

It's a very disturbing thought.

[11:59] Yeah I mean u.s. import question how do we get in the stop hating us are really two schools of thought on that right, there's the fucking dumb school of thought of a better work but now it's the neoconservative. Or any liberal Viewpoint which is that they hate us for our freedoms they hate us cuz we're Christian they hate us cuz they are Jihadi monsters.

Not because we invaded their home and killed their family members or anything like that it's dang dang dang that's the second school of thought,

and that is that the greatest motivator of violence against America is the presence of American Military troops in the Middle East.

So that's what motivated Bin Laden that's what continues to motivate fucking every single leader of every single organization writer Middle East North Africa.

[12:59] And it's going to continue to be the case until we realize that everything we've done. Six trillion dollars 7000 soldiers live 500,000 civilian lives 500,000 for in life 240,000 which at least we're civilians everything productive.

We live in a less safe world than we did on September 10th 2001 not.

Safer World more dangerous World year after year we just ignore them at all Carol cell.

[13:35] Look whatever happens in Afghanistan and it'll be ugly one, it will be ugly when we leave it is going to be a fucking mess okay I'm a realist the fatalist if anything.

[13:46] I promise you one thing whatever is going to happen when we leave will happen anyway,

what happened to matter when we leave 6000-8000 fourteen thousand fifteen thousand four hundred thousand Americans cannot,

in the long run change that outcome it's going to be it's going to be ugly and muddy just like the villagers I walked in.

Except it don't throw good money and good lives at that no don't do it.

How do you say don't do stupid shit all the while he was doing stupid shit but I actually like the phrase don't do stupid shit as a strategy I mean it sounds simplistic but fuck apply. To

everything we do and you know we would do less we do last,

that's the answer to all of this that's the fucking million-dollar answer to every question in the greater Middle East what should America do what Danny's answer less,

I don't care what it is less you last do less of that,

it's like that scene in Forgetting Sarah Marshall we're fucking Paul Rod is like he's trying to teach what's his name to,

did Surf and he's tell him he's just lying on the fucking for dancer sterical seriously America we better off

lying on the board watch Forgetting Sarah Marshall the last my foreign policy for the Middle East.

[15:02] No I I guess today I I think about you and I banging our heads back here and it's it's. It's hard to put those two thoughts together because they don't they don't have it all similar outcomes but.

[15:17] I'm just I'm just tired of loss of of Life everywhere especially for in life we we we buy into the violent violence but they don't.

[15:26] So I feel like Americans buy into the violence I don't know that they do.

[15:33] Right. I I think I think you're right will you know we'll see what happens.

In Afghanistan books but stay tuned folks it's late at their start incident will not be the last and that's a national tragedy.

[15:57] So we've been on our next headline here Republican senator Martha McSally recently admitted.

To being raped while she was on active duty in the Air Force she shared this during the hill hill peering on sexual assault.

[16:19] I was prey to pain and then raped by a superior officer that was Senator Martha McSally as NPR School Lawrence reports McSally is pushing military leaders to change a culture that has struggled with this problem for you.

Arizona Republican Martha McSally has been called an Air Force Legend first woman to fly in combat first woman to command a combat Squadron and then a voice in Congress promoting women in uniform

she stunned a panel of witnesses including rape survivors when she told her own story.

Like you I am also a military sexual assault Survivor but unlike so many Brave survivors I didn't report being sexually assaulted.

[16:59] Like so many women and men I didn't trust the system at the time.

[17:04] I blame myself I was ashamed and Confused I thought I was strong,

but felt powerless McSally refer to more than one assailant during her 26 years in the military when she did approach her command many years later she was re-traumatized,

horrified at how my attempt to share generally my experiences were handled I almost separated from the Air Force at 18 years,

over my despair like many victims I felt the system was raping me all over again study show the rate of sexual assault in the military especially for women hasn't significantly improved since McSally left the Air Force in 2010 some are pushing for a change in the military code of justice to take rape cases away from commanding officers but McSally says she wants commanders held responsible we must allow. We must demand that Commander stay at the center of the solution. And live up to the moral and legal responsibilities that come with being a commander that raises a question with her commanders will be any better now than when she was in the Air Force, former army colonel Allen Herring with the service women's Action Network had this exchange with McSally process sends the signal that there are some some crimes that are so severe the commanders have no place in deciding if win or how they are prosecuted.

[18:31] That's why I think that it's important to move commanders who I don't have the same confidence in their skills or abilities as as you have I guess I appreciate the perspective is everybody on this panel I respectfully disagree Democratic call the New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand has pushed for years to remove rape cases from the chain of command if you don't believe your commander is going to have your back because they're the assailant then you don't necessarily his boss or his boss is going to have your back because of that change soap from a Survivor perspective we've heard over and over again that the reason you take it out of the chain of command is because you want someone who is actually trying to make the decision a technical decision the military now has a special victims counsel who represents sexual assault victims interest in court something that is lacking in many civilian courts, but she says the change has to be in American culture respect and honor and dignity to include everyone men and women, not being assaulted not being retaliated against not being harassed and everything on the Continuum of harm before the idea that, sexual assault crimes in the military should be investigated by an outside agency or board shaking the chance for retaliation by the chain of command down considerably.

[19:48] I will I do feel the system needs to punish command for food. Don't act appropriately continue to include them in a process with her actions can cause more harm is a is a no-go for me.

[20:01] I just wrote about this in my article that some of you may have previewed and then. Then read this week on truthdig about my time and in patient treatment for PTSD depression anxiety alcohol whole bunch of things.

[20:19] When I served in Cav units my whole career until the very ends not gays weren't allowed in and of course women what were allowed so I actually served with her she went to the exception to that was when I West Point was she in about 25% of my students now or female cuz the academy start but the point is I didn't know a whole lot of women for me, the sexual assault epidemic was always an academic issue it was something I started and read about it was something I felt this early at West Point that changed to a certain extent when I had a couple of a victim of survivors in my classes, was very open with me about it just a green Gray.

[21:11] At least 30% of the veterans there where women and I can tell you with certainty because I was counting.

Okay because I'm an observer such things and I'm a writer 50% of them or more reported as a sexual assault not harassment assault of these women in treatment having sexually assaulted. Just about right because the testiclea it's one in for cording to recent studies on it for women report of sexual assault during sometime in the military career.

What's the crime rate in a major city the National Guard would be called out about that.

The worst cities in America have a murder rate okay murder and rape rates are usually pretty similar okay had a murder rate has Marie took like 20 or 30 400,000.

100001 + 4.

Stories I heard I can't repeat because they're horrifying and because they are private.

But I can tell you that these these women who served their country were were victimized and in many cases absolutely devastated and destroyed.

Buy body sexual assaults and so it's not surprising to me.

[22:36] That this woman came out and said she was sexually assaulted by a superior officer often as a superior.

Because I use power leverage in order to achieve their sexual trials.

But once I actually disagree with her about and and not in a bad way she said unlike most of the women I didn't report actually statistics say that she's actually in the majority that that more don't report it still then do.

Which is an indictment of the system isn't it if if women still don't feel comfortable going to their change Matt's talk half the time the Chantix man is involved in the sexual assault right in one way or the other Reaper in the cover-up or in the actual attacks.

[23:20] If they don't feel comfortable reporting then something still wrong with our culture something still wrong with the system.

[23:25] And that's why I said in my latest article that made me Kirsten gillibrand right running for president now maybe Kirsten gillibrand to write she's the one who put that bill Ford Fox 6 8 years ago saying we got to take sexual assault investigation into it outside

Observer okay some sort of some sort of Civilian review board

tell my tears the company commanders of the world which is the last major command I had the company commanders of the world guard their authority over the UCMJ like it's their fucking daughter's virginity,

okay so they hate gillibrand for what she said,

they are terrified of losing control over any investigation into anything that happens their soldiers because they want to handle at their level lowest level make believe that it contributes to the good discipline of a Unix but,

this is off the rail just got out of control it's beyond our ability to control it's too big too many of us are implicated okay not us as commanders necessarily although sometimes too much of the chain of command too much of the leadership has become,

implicated in these in these investigations and I'm just not certain that the status quo can hold, and that at least until these,

statistics drop at least until we see meaningful success in hire reporting rates and then in lower actual assault rates.

I don't think that the military can handle this I don't trust America's military.

[24:50] To investigate the sexual assault of you know my daughter if I had one in the military end and if I feel that way,

Then I then I think it is enough enough American taxpayers feel that way then it's that that's

just that it's going to be incumbent on the Congress to change the law.

[25:06] I think I think a certain part of it is about compartmentalization to there's a New York Times article I read a couple months ago about a

Female cultural support team that was attached to the Special Forces ATMs in Afghanistan and they're there to help with the female searches because

Islam Society men can't touch women and end to deal with some of those situations that.

The gender of male just doesn't deal with very well and so they mentioned in the first six months of their 12-month tour they were within a team everything went great,

biggity senior Sergeant in the unit make sure they had everything they needed if they had any complaints it was actually addressed and then six months they changed teams.

And the new team was entirely different that they were they were misogynistic and

controlling and more than anything they didn't let them do the mission the way that they felt they needed to do and they were the experts that's why they brought female soldiers to do this

job

but you know fur for guys like us and especially for like you Danny having served with men only that.

The guys in that Google call them to good SF team right now.

They didn't see this they didn't see this nastiness so they may not carry that over to the next thing if there's someone who is more likely to believe their comrades.

And not willing to look at the situation for the cruciatu As.

[26:32] They're just going to dismiss it I never saw that in the military I died that I didn't happen that didn't happen again like you said.

Most military veterans have served with just women I'm I feel fortunate that I was an MP and we had female Sai females with us in basic training and ended when I hear about the way that they're that,

those female soldiers are treated in non-integrated units.

Makes me want to murder somebody but I think that compartment departmentalization part of it is really important because,

soompi soldiers Macy's stuff and admitted some may see it and they not but there may be a lot of people saying I saw nothing like that,

and if lots of people believe those guys wear to victim stand.

[27:18] Great points Grapevine Center yeah I like you said about how a lot of guys especially if they didn't serve with a lot of women are sitting personally,

observe things are sexual assault will leave the military and then say look there's no problem I didn't see it so silly because,

the war the military through a straw 10,000 ft Wright we aren't you know we only see what we see and you know for example me who am I to talk about my personal space

when I serve with like.

[27:47] Yo a Baker's Dozen females my heart career and they're all on the staff Italian you don't even like so I don't know it would be foolish of me to say that my experience was somehow indicative of the female experience with sexual

you know that's that's one of the problems is that because we're veterans we we know from our own experience we know everything but really you cannot extrapolate conclusions on

Broad issues from your own experience

most of the time sometimes you can usually you can't that's why you got to read books

why you got to read reports that's why you got an interview people and and and look at a

broad range of experiences so this is an important and it's really great that she's speaking out

about it in a public forum,  
it is that's what we need oh that's what that's what female service members need you know  
seeing leaders up there at,  
the higher echelons being willing to put themselves out there that means far more than it did  
anything you were either going to do.

[28:49] So our team reported this last week that an American drone was taken control of by the  
Arabian military and that they tricked into landing in Iran.  
This is from the Iranian new service for s78 drones that work had cost of flights over Syria and  
Iraq were brought under our control.

[29:12] And they're there until was monitored by us and we gain their first head until so as I  
start a Google in the story and our team was the only one who reported it I found nobody else  
at anything on it.  
Start a Google me about the story I found a report from The Intercept from a few years ago  
detailing how American and British intelligence agencies secretly monitored monitored Israeli  
drone feeds quote under a classified program code name to anarchists,  
the UK's government Communications Headquarters or gchq work with the NSA  
systematically,  
targeting is really drones for a Mountaintop on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus gchq files  
provided by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden included a series of  
Erica snapshots thumbnail images from videos recorded by drone cameras in essence us and  
British agency stole the bird's eye view  
from the girls the article discusses more about how  
the USS monitor Israeli drum signals in the past possibly to dissuade use of Israeli weapons  
against innocent civilians in the Gaza Strip and I'm not holding my fucking breath I made it  
very clear that so many of the drones operated,  
as he's made it made it very clear that many of the drones operated by militaries around the  
world are vulnerable to having their data intercepted by adversaries.

[30:35] Did we cover drawers in the pasture looked at as a a less risky use of Firepower.  
How would it look to you that are high powered drones the world over could be possibly  
manipulated or controlled by our enemies.

[30:50] Yeah I've been waiting for this to a certain extent I've been talking about drones now for  
a decade which you know is too late I should have been on it even earlier but I only said that  
be careful.

I was just writing about the Cold War in my Nexus three piece and I just devastated I just the  
rate Harry Truman,  
because he's got the terrible precedent of not declaring war in Korea if not going to Congress  
right and every president has followed him so I would say the same applies to drone.  
I've been saying be careful what president you said America has ignored me of course ignore  
people in at the intercept and shut the following president.  
Which is this we can fly are drones anywhere.  
Anytime anyone Sovereign air space if we determine that it's in our security interest that's  
that's right that's,  
that's why I've been saying so how are we going to react with other countries get drones and  
try to do the same thing and what I showed it asking is hey even before we get to that level and  
we're almost there,  
what are we going to do when motherfukers in this cyber world of ours figure out how to  
manipulate our draw,

and you know sabotage operations or use them against us look we started this. You know what I mean like the minute we decided that because there's no pilot we have the right to go anywhere anytime and kill anyone.

[32:20] We've been asking for this if I was around of course I'd be trying to take over American drone.

You couldn't cuz I'm their mind we might fucking try regime change by decapitating the regime with the fucking drone.

[32:33] Why should they not assume that everything we've done has been aggressive with her on since 1979.

[32:40] I mean it just means we've been aggressive 53 when we overthrew there was democratically like they jump in Mo City.

What are we going to do about it while therefore still be an escalation of cyber threat reduction and then new threats and then new defenses and this will go on and on and on but what the world really,

is a Geneva conventions sort of Edition covers drones,

this is how it works any time there's a new weapon system whether it was you know the plane the tank,

getting gas and eventually nuclear weapons whenever there's a new addition to the battlefield the collective nations of the world have to come to some sort of agreement on what the proper uses what the left and right limits are in right now America has, for a long time had what we might call a drone Monopoly on the technology and so we've been just doing as we please willy-nilly with our drone.

[33:39] But that's no longer going to be tenable when the following two things happen one what you just mentioned in the headline that they start taking over our drones and manipulating them into they start developing their own drones that can into our air space of our allies, once that happens and it's already happening then then you know The Jig Is Up, right and it's time for some sort of International Convention that figures out what the acceptable rules for drone use are going to be just like we had to do when the airplane ride the pilot at airplane first became a factor in the you know midnight teens during the first World War.

[34:15] So keeping with the with the Drone thing for a minute,

I want to take a second to talk about recent airstrikes in Somalia the nation reports that africom the US military's unified Africa command.

Is the only actor in the region who was admitted to any airstrikes whatsoever.

But they follow the truck model of only declaring military actions when asked about them specifically a good example would be there right now neither Africa.

Nor the CIA nor the National Security Council will give any criteria any of those of of when they're going to strike and why.

Is a little bit from the nation in March last year 13 ngos including the ACLU,

and the human rights clinic at Columbia Law School released a statement criticizing the lack of information on the use of armed drones and other lethal Force by the Trump Administration.

We're deeply concerned with the report a new policy combined with his administration's reported dramatic increase in Lethal operations and Yemen is Somalia will lead to an increase in unlawful killings and civilian casualties.

[35:23] I'm worth 2017 the New York Times reported that quote President Trump has signed a

directive the designated parts of Somalia as areas of.  
Active hostilities for at least a hundred and eighty days this designation granted after, greater flexibility to launch strikes in those regions,  
during most of President Obama's time in office suspected members of al-shabaab could only be targeted if they were judged to be press the United States that do directive allowed African to kill anyone,

do you need to be a member of al-shabab and it requires less coordination between military and intelligence agencies before I strike to take place.

So just in 2019.

New Alice in Chains new America's reported they think it's at least 250 two people have been killed in approximately two dozen airstrikes in Somalia that means the President Trump, and in doing that he's already past President Obama's single your drone strike record in these first three months of 2019 and addition regulations,  
greater Ward for you and in addition there's believed to be approximately 500 US Special Operations forces in Somalia right now as well.

[36:37] Yeah but it's no big deal because Congress authorized that threw a new authorization for the use of military force right away that's it happen right away,  
call Don.

[36:53] Wait what did you want to say again here again is just fascinating how they they said they declare that for a short amount of time Smiley is what was the phrase and the area of active hostilities.

Okay I won't say I love American euphemism an area of active hostilities that raises some questions for me.

[37:14] Area Okay so the whole country then I guess that would be me by area so we got to break everywhere down of active active meaning ongoing I suppose as if I don't know what I'm supposed to do Mormons I don't know what that means and then hospital with whom, who's the enemy how does that enemy directly threaten the United States.

What role does the United States have a sickly or strategically right and what outcome are we expecting from.

American involvement in the hostilities what do we hope to achieve and is it achievable regular questions I just raised right those are like five questions that every Congressman should have already asked.

[37:53] And the fact they have it shame on you.

Shame on you I'm sitting on my motherfucking couch I ain't even read the article you're talking about I mean I read a lot of others but I didn't write I didn't read this article but the truth is I came up with those five questions and I don't think they haven't answered any of them.

I don't.

Do not think that they can show that al-shabaab at least the ground foot soldiers okay allow shabab which is really an internal local Insurgency.

[38:20] Late. They can't show that al-shabab is a direct reckon that's not to say that I was about to not have a wing okay cuz I have a wing that does to talk about attacking United States and is actually plotted for the taxes they have,

the question is how successful are they how existentialism the threat and is the, use of more American Force and more American ground troops either more or less likely to increase the tax I would argue is more likely to increase the attacks left well enough alone, al-shabab really wants to own you know Somalia,

they want to own Mogadishu now I don't particularly want them to control Mogadishu even though it's a shithole I feel bad for the people living under House Republicans fucking brutal organization but in the end it's going to be.

Decision right at the somalis are either going to choose to live under the regime Josh Bob where they're going to fight back right the provisional government is going to fight back. Doesn't mean you can't provide any interest United States.

Massive air strikes.

Massive drone strikes yeah those are never piss people off before I told him never created more terrorists than they kill you can't kill your way out of the fucking Somali Civil War you cannot you can't.

1:18 American soldiers were killed you know on October 3rd I believe 1993 in the Black Hawk Down incident between airstrikes and M4 rifle fire.

I mean estimates are that in the loaf 1000 Somali deaths.

Elgin change a goddamn thing on the ground it didn't change a goddamn thing.

[39:50] So killing a few hundred al-shabaab members and by the way their families and civilians do cuz let's not forget the drones are imprecise like any other weapon of War. Play any other indirect fire.

[40:01] The thought that this is somehow going to create an outcome that looks like Victory or looks like peas in Somalia is so much fantasy it's so much fantasy.

It's it's it's it's the musical singing that has got us into this mess into this mess Congress.

Ask some of the questions fuck ask better questions then I came up with on my couch do your fucking job like Bill Belichick says I'm sick of the Patriots but like you says do your job.

[40:32] So Danny have you ever heard what the somalis call the anniversary of the Mogadishu battle.

I haven't I can't wait to hear the day of the Rangers.

[40:46] Interesting so maybe just stay at the Ranger.

Either way yeah we we got a horrific battle name for us.

[41:01] Yeah I didn't change a thing not a thing you know that's the tragedy you know.

25 what is it 25 years later you know can the families of those killed in Somalia can they really explain what what was all for what is all worth you know.

Nnnn my heart sat with him for he know this isn't about seeing their sons did something wrong person it's just that they were on the wrong end of a model policy just like so many other veterans in this tragedy.

[41:35] The guys that I love doing the podcast being able to share our experiences in the military with allies and supporters means the world to us.

But we can't do it all we need you to share an episode of ours with somebody anyone who you might think could be affected by it young people looking to join the military or parents advocating for one.

Conscientious citizens who care about the violence that us wages in their name.

Advocates for women and people of color who understand the harsh environment the military crates for minorities and the violence inflicted by some of those same minorities around the globe.

[42:15] Did anyone else you think it might affect please share this with them but sharing her episodes is just one of the many ways you can support the podcast.

In addition does patreon we're blessed to have an array of wonderful supporters helping BT Danny and I pay for some of the podcast expenses.

Those who contribute \$10 a month or more we mentioned here as an honorary producer helping keep you are listener stocked with new episodes.

But you don't have to contribute \$10 a month to help us for as little as \$8 a month you can help keep us going paying for hosting and storage fees transcribing old and new episodes promoting expanding the podcast.

And more I'm sure I can't think of right now.

Let's bring out our honorary producers and they are Matthew Howe will Lorenz gauge counts became shirazi Henry Zmuda James Higgins James o'barr.

[43:15] Adam Bellows and Eric Phillips your contributions are so helpful to us thank you all so much,

however if patreon isn't your style you can contribute directly to us through PayPal at PayPal. Me for

fortress on a hill or please check out our store on Teespring the great Bill karpinski did an amazing job helping us design our first t-shirt which you can find at teespring.com for stores, Fortress fortress on a hill and if you use the promo code militarism you get free shipping, 22 bucks for an amazing t-shirt and you get to support the podcast and speaking of that let's get back to the podcast.

[44:11] So we haven't talked about Venezuela yet Danny ice I think we all we got to give the people what they want.

How long do we have to yeah I know they're so effing demanding their the not as demanding as you and I are Congress but they're demanding yes.

[44:29] So do us has a long history with regime change in Venezuela.

[44:34] Beginning in 1998 with economic sanctions and Then followed by a coup attempt against Hugo Chavez and 2002 neither of which were successful.

The country runs on a socialist economy having nationalized oil Reserves under yugos job Chavez for the benefit of Venezuela's citizens something American corporations loathed as they have much less chance to make money off of Venezuela's resources.

Call Chavez and the current president Nicolas Maduro were elected in free and fair elections in Venezuela the most recent election was actually even monitored by the Jimmy Carter Center and they came to the same result.

They declared it as one of the most open and free elections in all South America and indeed the world.

[45:21] Chavez and Maduro are deeply beloved by the Venezuelan people as they both believe the assets of the Venezuelan government should be for the benefit of the people of Venezuela and not have the accounts of American Oil executives,

so there's several different narratives the US wants us to believe in terms of regime things from Venezuela first the ongoing theme of a of a humanitarian disaster that the people of Venezuela need humanitarian Aid.

It has been one of the strongest among those being used for being used to call for regime change in the International Community humanitarian Aid let's get them Aid.

Now there are starvation in medicine problems in Venezuela right now.

[46:08] But they were produced by Venezuela Sweden economic sanctions from the US which led to hyperinflation throughout the Venezuelan economy.

Any economic crisis noted is one fueled by if not entirely caused by this notion of regime change.

Next song great foreign policy writer and he's at the grey Zone project on the podcast moderate Rebels,

it's been a few weeks down in Venezuela producing videos showing was really going on down there,

went up to local residents in Caracas and asked them what they were waiting in line he visited local stores and malls to show what's available to buy.

[46:47] Bottom line on the humanitarian side.

America is Partners did this not Venezuela and not fucking socialism okay so our next our next.

1 Propaganda hair Danny democracy.

Sorry let me let me just jump in on each real quick so I don't forget your first thing is being a humanitarian Aid right okay.

It's that on Wrightsboro Prius. Some other things we know they're getting minutes hearing aid in India you know would help a lot more,

then getting like 20 million of American United Serenade in there would be unfreezing the billions of dollars,

that we have Frozen in our account simply because we don't like their socialist governments or ending embargo and sanctions against Venezuela which you know,

contribute exponentially more than a limited Military neighbor trying to get them look at when America gives humanitarian Aid when any country is monitoring a they're usually strings attached,

Russia and China to Salt Lake,

we're the only Eagle wants and Maduro knows cuz we've set it that we literally don't even agree that he's the president anymore don't like where it where are involved in an ongoing to.

[48:12] Call it a soft coup call it whatever you want it's like a slow-moving coup and.

Yeah so I would be skeptical of American Aid and I would say hey hey what you want freeze my assets I can use that to buy bread for my people,

and I'm sorry I thought I'd say about that continue please I think they said it was 20 million dollars in Aid up against 38 billion dollars in sanctions.

[48:38] I don't even have the words to divorce through that bulshit how are you how are you going to save an economy in a society,

38 billion down with 20 million in wheelchairs and strollers and other medical stuff there was no medicine in it either they didn't that the stuff they got burned on the bridge they didn't even put any medicine and it was all,

hard stuff so queso next democracy America wants to establish democracy in Venezuela, what's the big-ticket item on the USA Mark conveyor belt this idea of American Freedom given to those who can clearly need a better kind of government.

A diplomatic cable on us Venezuela policy from 2006 written by then US ambassador to Venezuela William Brownfield.

Discuss the use of nongovernmental organizations ngos to highlight the suffering of the Venezuelan people under Chavez and leader Maduro.

To destroy their bases within this abismo movement as many chavistas adamantly support Venezuela socialist government.

[49:39] For attempting to Rob Chavez and Maduro of their most valuable supportment supporters and here's a little quote that they had in this in this step Ematic cable under the title of Civic engagement, one effective civista mechanisms control Plies Democratic vocabulary to support revolutionary Bolivia Boulevard and ideology, oti has been working to counter this through a civic education program called democracy Among Us this interactive education program works through ngos in low-income communities to deliver five modules separation of powers rule of law, the role and responsibilities of citizens political tolerance, and the role of Souls of Civil Society separate Civic engagement programs in political tolerance participation and human rights have reached over 600,000 people. Hey the Democracy argument is interesting because like the Carter Center sad, the elections have generally been pretty positive in every time there's been a popular election in the last you know 20 or so years since the Chevys the revolution of like 98 right when he swings in power.

[50:55] Whenever the people are given a choice about two-thirds of them pick the Socialists why do why do they do that well first of all cuz it's their choice that you ever thought they want you don't get to judge as long as it's not hurting you America right and like Venezuela or expect away rights to would let them be socialism is a viable form of government some of our allies are essentially social about the European States.

[51:22] We only say it's that there are not Democratic mainly because they're socialists then we hate that word and then use it as like a bludgeon against our enemy psoriatic as a tool with which the blood in them. The second thing that we have to recognize as you don't Venezuela has it America also has we got so much in common a race problem, that's right a race problem Venezuela has been run since Independence almost exclusively by whiter more Spanish. You know pure Spanish European ancestry folks they tend to have the most money they own the business is right there's going to be a political leaders but they're only about a third of the population whereas, Maduro in the for him the more popular Chavez, I heart and the Beast from the darker skin mestizo mixed black mixed Indian mixed Spanish ancestry they make about two-thirds of the people show Google 1/3 which is led by.

[52:15] This song what's the name of the guy that says he's president now that the United States is backing. Yeah I'm right by no no he represents like the white people okay so this is a race thing as well as an economic and ideological thinking but the reality is they can't win re-election the can. The cactus is 98 - avista's and the Socialists essentially which is one in the same or going to keep winning for the most part so that's part of why the military has stayed local stayed loyal to Medora. Uncle Sam thinks and in this case it's Donald Trump but I don't know how much different it would have been under another Hillary Clinton probably just as bad Uncle Sam things. We have so much power or we should have so much power in Central and Latin America.

[53:04] And South America that if we say someone else is President it just happen. Did you know what I mean like America's like well know we agreed why does President you know it's like wild at that the illogical there's problems with that will at least say so we just

become so but it doesn't,  
we don't have that power we don't we think we do in the past we did you know how we got  
that power by dropping Marines that's how we used to overturn elections,  
okay used to literally invade countries or send the CIA to like train a gorilla or terrorist  
organizations to overthrow these regime unless we're willing to do that and it sounds like,  
military intervention look we don't do that we only have so much leverage in and not enough  
to overturn the popular will the people with people want is they want a more popular,  
more socialist government now they may not be as happy with the door I was they were with  
Chavez but a lot of that has to do with the fact that the economy has father it hasn't told her  
just because it's socialist it's faulty because oil prices of drop.

[54:05] Cakes under Chavez oil prices were high Venezuela's an oil economy okay and so when  
when oil prices are high stuck in Russia when natural gas and oil prices are high there their  
ass went right there their flush with money  
when when the Royal prices drop like they have then they send their hurting okay so that's  
why my throat was popular largely it's it's not necessary reflection of the system of  
governance,  
as it is clove oil prices which is a problem with having it on me that sort of single sector  
oriented diversification economy is important and something we should be pressing  
in Venezuela by helping them with rather than trying to overturn their preferred form of  
government.

[54:43] Absolutely absolutely when when Shabbos cut down the portion of Venezuelan oil  
profits that was given to,  
see National corporations after he was elected.  
U.S. regime change Contraption put a bullseye firmly on him and his government telling  
multinational corporations to fuck off is kind of like a regime change horse in the bed.  
Once a country or leader does it assuming that they're not one of the huge ones.

[55:10] It's it's it's done it's just an end the whole Monroe Doctrine thing that Bill Maher  
mentioned recently talking about how he know that their Venezuela is still in our quotes  
sphere of influence,  
how fucking dumb is that Danny what right do we have to tell people that even next door don't  
have the right to live the way they want to.

[55:30] I love the phrase fear of influence because.  
It brings back my favorite like mental game it's called you ready for me to get fucking game  
show called  
would we say of Russia that that's right. And when we talk about Spears of influence we're like  
yeah Venezuela,  
more than a thousand miles away yeah in our hemisphere but when Russia like Metals in,  
elections or or or even tried to intervene in any way on countries that fucking touch it like  
their version of Canada and Mexico.  
We lose our ship like Ukraine was part of Russia for a long motherfucking time,  
like hundreds of years I'm not saying it should still be but when Russia gets involved in  
Ukraine we're like ready for nuclear war we're like it's a new Cold War guys,  
fucking no batter up the hatches get the Army ready get the nukes on alert it's time to go  
Putin's a monster is trying to take over the world it's like.

[56:32] Well when we do in the Caribbean in Venezuela and it's only at the sphere of influence it  
where a lot of fear the ones where the Russian what would we say if the Russians did it what

would you say if it was Russia,  
doing the same thing in a country of thousand or Venezuela.  
Is Russia start a fucking around in India,  
lose arm talking Minds we have lost a war in Vietnam because we wrongly thought the  
Russians were involved you barely were,  
okay they provided some weapons and such but they were less involved than we were there  
but troops on the ground because we.  
Russia might be more involved than they were it's crazy it's a total lack of one more thing  
about this  
I love this I was listening to democracy now right and walks Now podcast amazing amazing  
any good man she's the best okay I'm in love with her let's all listen Okay democracy of Mike  
Pompeo like yesterday,  
Secretary of State Mike Pompeo Jesus Christ,  
fucking Skokie Illinois like okay but he's a secular state right okay cool he says.

[57:47] Cuba is the real imperialist in Venezuela because like you know majoros people are  
saying that America's being imperialized.  
We are cuz we have a fucking 200-year history of military intervention to starting and  
imperialism in Latin America right so they rightfully or like how America is getting involved  
and it's a Neo Imperialism.

[58:12] Hails like I know you are but what am I Tom has like we're non-imperialist cubism.  
It was a little tiny Island 90 miles from United States has been under fucking International  
embargo from the United States and some of its allies like since the Communists took over  
since car show to go over Cuba who is the real of your,  
is Cuba trying to talk.

[58:34] It couldn't even come close to the level of Leverage that the United States military and  
then I'd like the Conneaut it's Ludacris.  
2% more humanitarian Aid tends more doctor's number one international export a few  
biscuits doctors,  
begin their social health care system is fucking phenomenal they send. Have more doctors  
trained then they need in Cuba so they send them all over the world especially White America  
but all over the world including Africa cities poorest countries,  
and they like increase health outcomes out there they're not doing this just out of the Connors  
their hearts they're trying to like you don't get some.  
Pro Cuban you know goals Madden and people to like Cuba maybe to trade with them there's  
always more to it than just met attorney but the reality is.

[59:20] Imperialism Cuban style is like sending doctors during the Cold War but it's usually just  
to you know,  
balance against the apartheid racism in South Africa that we were supporting so but the  
bottom line is.  
You're going to make Cuba the villain that's fucking insane,  
it's insane the mismatch between the United States and Cuba it look when you say Russia's  
Imperial at least we can like have an argument I'll maybe they are maybe they're not,  
Cuba give me a fucking break intellectual dishonesty in that statement is just baffling anyway.  
Sign up kids sign up to come on what would Russia do is give me a great give me a great game  
show with any big in Japan just just say.

[1:00:06] Yep yep,

it's been it's been interesting to watch the desperation of some in government trying to to make this Venezuela stuff go through the the one that I found really hilarious but also really disturbing was Marco Rubio tweeting a before and after picture set. Of Muammar Gaddafi one that showed get off of your good health. And with the other showing his face covered in blood his house after he was about to be lynched by after Hillary Hillary Clinton's humanitarian vacation to Libya. Butcher in pretending that America has been intentions of quote sending Aid the end and there are lots of them but, none of them are things that we should go bomb the country back to the Stone Age about.

[1:00:59] And inversely with the burning eight on the truck to pretend that America would get Emily wants to help there must be actual offers and possibility to help this isn't that. So I have a question here from Edward light and he mentioned about us of this humanitarian Aid that the US was trying to deliver to Venezuela who is driving the trucks how many trucks what's in them as anyone I do the drivers or interview the drivers or leaders for lack of a better term who are these people what group are they affiliated with soap to partly answer that question I have a little clip hear from MIT press news that breaks it down really succinctly.

[1:01:39] The u.s. use security concerns to justify invading Iraq in 2003 it used to manitari concerns to justify bombing Libya in 2011, an easy monetary concerns repeatedly to justify the ongoing bombing in occupation of Syria.

[1:01:55] Washington wants to replace the Socialist federal government with the right winger one why doe has publicly stated his intention to privatize Venezuela's vast resources. The us is going to use humanitarianism the same way it has in the past to make this change in fact Elliott Abrams the current US Envoy to Venezuela send weapons the anti-government Contra rebels in Nicaragua in age shipments where weapons were hidden among food and medical supplies, the unfolding Scandal became known as the Iran-Contra scandal, this is probably why Trump appointed Abrams to oversee the Venezuela coup he's got a lot of experience using humanitarian Aid as a trojan horse for regime change as far as this latest a package goes it's pretty clear that it's not about 8, qualitative going to get and I think ultimately the question is whether it gets through in a way that he's Cooperative with her in a way that he's not, this it is so good it actually has to be forced on people.

[1:02:52] We have to ask ourselves why the US is so desperate to get this relatively small 20 million dollar Aid package in a Venezuela when it's uploading a sanctions regime that is cost Venezuela upwards of 38 billion dollars, 38 billion - 20 million is 37980000000 in other words this Aid if it even is a. Insignificant compared to the damage the sanctions have caused the sanctions regime prevent countries and companies from doing business with and lending money to Venezuela which catalyze the massive devaluing of the Venezuelan currency to Bolivar, so the economic crisis in Venezuela is a direct consequence of the sanctions Venezuela wouldn't need Aid if the sanctions machine worth simply lifted.

[1:03:37] Give us give us the the one minute break down on Elliot Abrams if you don't mind. All right one minute on a lead apron. Yeah the thesis is there lead Abrams is the worst possible choice to be us NY to Venezuela at why do I say that.

[1:03:58] He was pardoned by George HW Bush Administration I believe, for his role in the Iran-Contra scandal they so back when he was a middling public official in the Reagan Administration he helped you guessed it against, law against American and international law he helped sell weapons to Iran which was supposedly our enemy was involved in a war with our supposed allies Iraq and they took the money which was not on the books cuz it's all done secretly without informing Congress and took the money and then what he did with it was you know funnel that money, you are the Contra rebels in Nicaragua which is a right-wing really terroristic organization that committed war crimes just just staggering work on the number to the somewhere around a hundred thousand million in Nicaragua at the hands of the golf course he lies about it and gets perjury charges and yada yada yada he's one of the people along with Ollie North right and that of course pardoned by the vice president when he became president which is George HW Bush not the finest Hour okay of gentleman George that's okay he's been wrong, Legion on the wrong the wrong side of history on every major issue in Latin America he's been on the right wing.

[1:05:22] Start airing side of every issue and he was wrong about a rock and of course he played some role in the George W Bush Administration right about 90 seconds. Yeah I know is that that's that's exactly it in the I know they found I think one or two of the humanitarian Aid shipments to Venezuela have contained arms. Port AR-15s or something similar and that's was specifically his specialty back in the day was helping people helping usaid or another NGO that's very America friendly, hide weapons and other things that shouldn't be getting shipped in humanitarian Aid like ever.

[1:06:12] That old trick you know the old guns the old guns in the gravy trick you know the old hide the weapons in the rice trick you know I'm so glad Americas in that business you know. What a fucking nightmare Elliott Abrams Jesus Christ Jesus Christ really you couldn't find anybody else. It's like if you were trying right it is telling you I'm wrong if if if you were legitimately. Trying to trick the worst person the least appropriate person. Wouldn't it be led bad I don't know but he's so busy working at Fox News now right he's been totally exonerated the other fucking new show I think so or lease deals, common contributor so you know there's no consequence. There are no consequences for right-wing Republican neoconservatives there are no consequences like fucking. Paul wolfowitz in the enemy's lunatic still getting on TV like we still ask them we're like so you've been wrong about everything ever but can you tell us what to do when this next inch incident like that it's amazing staycation literally practice every question to Dick Cheney and Rumsfeld in wolfowitz and all these guys when they come on TV.

[1:07:23] The whole gang of fucking Looney Birds who brought us the greatest disaster of the 21st century which is a rocking base right and they're all veterans of the greatest disaster of the 1980s, it's like these people are recycled high again to just give us bad advice and we just take it one like a battered wife, we're like it's like we fell in neighbor's in charging fucks it all up and we're like well if we just

acted better he wouldn't hit us like how are you fucking insane when you use of monster.

In charge this is what happens

Yep this is what happened American people stop being a fucking batter girlfriend stop being a fucking enabler and fucking vote these people out of office and it and and demands that better people be put in charge of serious issues like Venezuela.

[1:08:11] Absolutely absolutely weed we don't we don't need recycled neelkanth are still plenty of new ones getting created.

It is no it's it's it's terrifyingly ignorant and N A nested one of the things that I don't get about so many other veterans especially.

War on terror veterans is that that they will watch this you know you can go and see what's happening in the war you just left on the news but yet, they still end up supporting the same bullshit at the end of the day still willing to say let's go to Venezuela and take all their fucking oil.

You know we lost last time right you know whole bunch of Americans and other people died and we got nothing got nothing out of it but you want to do it again.

[1:08:56] Is it isn't it it's beyond lunacy Danny yep well so right doing the same thing.

[1:09:06] That's why he's after you've already seen that it doesn't work is basically Insanity right at the sign said something to that effect and I'm I'm talking it out but you get the point crazy Topman Venezuela thing I'll tell you what on my final point on it you know is if we I don't think we will actually moderately.

Once I'm a little bit optimistic I think we probably won't intervene militarily I also wouldn't put it past us.

If we do if if if the shopping ministration without going to Congress to leave course Italy without going to Congress if the.

[1:09:47] If United States military intervene I I would actually go so far as to say that members of the military need to start putting in their conscience to check the package and those are no longer in the military,

have to get the streets and have to literally stopped traffic, because this would be some of the most overt American imperialism you know in in decades. And it has to stop it's not our choice the Venezuelans are not our enemy not there they're not and they are not.

[1:10:21] Yeah Brigadier General Anthony Tata I'm not sure if I'm pronouncing it right according to Fox Business News like sucking you know a couple weeks ago talked about how a military intervention in Venezuela babe again very soon.

He said I think in the next two weeks is like two weeks ago we are going to see this thing Bubble Up and foment,

call Trish Regan from Fox Business News you know it has to get in there and importantly President Trump has made this sort of a Line in the Sand while of lines in the sand so he needs to do something that will affect or he needs the conditions that affect the transition of one, shut the fuck up general property or a one-star general and you're going to fucking talk about tell the present what he's supposed to be doing right now like while you're serving General number on like,

we all have opinions but you're going to give an interview saying that US military intervention may happen soon shut the fuck up or we decide whether cleido or fucking.

You know Mazzaro's president that's actually Venezuelan people.

We have to stop with imperialism that shit was out of style in 1890 we're still walking around

with fucking shoulder pads and fucking you know blowout haircut for so fucking how to style like.

[1:11:32] Imperialism like that's just Evergreen for America we think it's like it's still cool it's like it's not fucking cool dude it's it's it's not it's like bell-bottoms in the seventies like just quit it man it's over, okay it is over but unfortunately it's not and and we're still playing the New York Jets game and it has to stop, and I will tell you you.

[1:11:56] Seriously we have to descend we have to refuse as a people if our government tries to take us to war and Venezuela.

[1:12:05] Music.