

WHO WE ARE AND WHY WE HAVE ORGANIZED

The Tidewater Africans is an organization of Black active duty enlisted women and men, dependents of servicemen, veterans and civilian supporters. We see the U.S. military as an imperialistic, racist, sexist institution that has engaged Black and other Third World people, along with lower class White people, in the exploitation of the world's natural and human resources, to the almost sole benefit of the world's white, racist ruling class. To protect the interest of giant, racist, slave-driving U.S. corporations, the military ruling group (the senior officers, and their junior officer puppets and NCO/Petty Officer stooges) has involved the military rank-and-file domestically, as a suppression force against strikers and as scabs to work in place of striking workers, to suppress demonstrations against the U.S. military's inhuman wars, and as a brutal and murderous armed force to suppress legitimate mass uprisings (so-called riots); and internationally, as occupation armies for intimidation in enforcing unjust treaties, in carrying out selective and mass murders and other terrorists acts, and for promoting fullscale war against nations of people, particularly, Third World People.

How does the military ruling group channel the energies of its rank-and-file in such a reactionary manner? The U.S. military is one of the world's strictest class divided institutions; and by using racism, sexism, rank and by promoting selfish individualism and twisted patriotism (blind dedication to the U.S. corporate empire, controlled BY and FOR the super-rich, corporate elite), the military ruling class keeps Black and other Third World and White enlisted people divided so they will not act in their own best interest, as an oppressed and exploited majority.

But what we as a Black organization are most concerned about changing is the reality of Black people being the most oppressed, the most exploited and the most degraded people in the military and in the world, today. We have seen that when individual Blacks and loosely organized groups of Black GIs attempted to change the military, particularly its blatantly racist and arbitrary judicial system, they were either forced out of the military with bad discharges, imprisoned, or both.

So, having this thorough understanding of Black GIs struggles and other Black Liberation struggles, we conclude that, if we are to survive as a distinct group of Black people in the U.S. military, if we want to challenge the military's racism, sexism and its oppression and exploitation of Black people, if we want to gain the power to control our own destiny. WE MUST ORGANIZE EFFECTIVELY(!), and to organize effectively, we feel we must organize around the problems we face as Black GIs and around our national interest as Black people.

Principle Points Of Our Association

1. We have organized to struggle for the power of self-determination and Total Freedom for Black GIs and All Black people. We hold that self-determination (the ability to determine the direction and development of our lives) is the right of Black GIs (and all Black people!), free and independent from the shackles of the racist, war mongering "military rulers" and the greedy U.S. corporate elite whose interest the military serves.
2. We stand firmly against racism, sexism and selfish individualism. The racism of the U.S. military and Amerikan society is effectually genocidal, it threatens the very existense of Black GIs and all Black people. Racism, sexism and selfish individualism are hateful social attitudes which create and maintain disunity among the masses of people and prevent their harmonious struggle for freedom and peace for all.
3. We stand firmly against imperialism. We are opposed to any nation(s) setting up an empire and dominating the political systems of other nations, by direct military and economic control, or indirectly, by supporting puppet, minority regimes, and enslaving the people of these nations and stealing their natural resources, like the U.S. is doing in southern Africa.
4. We are opposed to the exploitation of one individual by another. We are for freedom for all people.

We are resolved to stand together as an organization of Black people, we will fight resolutely to protect each of our members and our organization and to uphold its principles, and assume major responsibilities, in the struggle of our people for Total Freedom.