

## **GI SPECIAL 2#B54**

**NO JOY HERE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers search for explosives on a road outside Baqubah, September 1, 2004. (US News photo)

# **Officer Condemns Iraq War: Says Government Lied About Reasons For Mission; Warns Of Growing Friction Between Active Duty And Reserves**

September 6, 2004 By the Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- The Iraq war was a mistake and as long as it continues to use up military resources the United States will be increasingly less safe, says a recently

retired colonel who commanded West Virginia's largest Army Reserve unit, which served in Iraq and Kuwait.

**"I feel we were not told the truth. I do not think we should be there," said Col. Lew G. Tyree of Charleston. "We tend to ignore that there are well over 1,000 dead and well over 7,000 injured. We use many of the soldiers time and time again. Where are the replacements going to come from? We're getting re-enlistments, but not recruits. Where is the strength for defending this country in another arena?"**

"What is bothersome to us is that we depend on our leadership not to use this resource lightly. We have all served honorably, but the judgment has not been good here."

Tyree's 38th Ordnance Group, based in Cross Lanes, includes units in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio. In Iraq and Kuwait the unit's job was to haul ammunition to the front lines.

**After the unit returned in the spring, Tyree retired and was appointed Army Reserve Ambassador for West Virginia, a job that entails making military speeches around the state.** Tyree, 53, also is staff attorney for the West Virginia Housing Development Fund and immediate past chairman of the state Human Rights Commission.

**Tyree told The Charleston Gazette that his troops in Iraq wondered "what we were doing there," and he was forced to change his answer repeatedly.**

An invasion must have a clear mission and an exit strategy, but "those things didn't exist" he said.

**At first, Tyree said he trusted Secretary of State Colin Powell's assertion that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. But that pretext soon faded, and the next reason for the war was "to liberate the Iraqis from tyranny."**

**Later, he heard that "we were there to gain a foothold in the region," but he couldn't tell that reason to his troops, so he "went back to the liberation mission."**

Tyree said he can't understand veterans who "continue to support a leader who would lead us in this direction with these kinds of miscalculations.

He postponed his planned retirement when his unit was sent overseas in January 2003.

**"There are relationship issues between Reserve officers and active-duty officers. The active-duty guys feel that they do this 365 days a year and Reserve and Guard officers only do it on weekends, so there's not a great deal of respect.**

**"We keep that a secret, but it's a real problem that needs to get fixed. The longer the war goes on, you are going to see lots of problems because people aren't working well together."**

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

# Saqlawiya Car Bomb Kills 7 Marines, Others Wounded



US soldiers at the site of a massive car bomb attack on the outskirts of Fallujah, Sept. 6, 2004. (AP Photo/Abdul Khader Sadi)

9.6.04 By JIM KRANE, Associated Press Writer & by Fares Dulaimi, (AFP) & BBC News

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A massive car bomb exploded on the outskirts of Fallujah on Monday, killing seven U.S. Marines and three Iraqi national guards, and wounding several other Marines, in the deadliest anti-coalition attack in months, a U.S. military official said.

The US Marines said a car bomb blew up by a joint US-Iraqi military convoy.

The attack took place at Saqlawiya, some 15 km (nine miles) north of Falluja.

"The explosion killed seven Marines who were assigned to First Marine Expeditionary Force and three Iraqi National Guard Soldiers," it said.

The strength of the blast sent the engine from the vehicle used in the bombing flying "a good distance" from the site, a military official said on condition of anonymity.

Wounded troops were being treated Monday afternoon, the official said.

Witnesses said the attack took place nine miles north of Fallujah and destroyed two Humvees.

Medical teams in helicopters swept into the dusty barren site to ferry away the injured. Troops sealed off the area surrounding the wreckage.

**The deaths from the bloodiest single attack against US troops in months came amid fresh efforts by the Iraqi government to crack down on insurgents that are gradually securing enclaves across the country.**



Site of a massive car bomb attack on the outskirts of Fallujah, Sept. 6, 2004. (AP Photo/Abdul Khader Sadi)

**THANKS TO MIKE HOFFMAN, IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR**  
**(<http://www.ivaw.net/>) FOR ID ON THE VEHICLES IN THE TWO PHOTOS. HE WRITES:**

“In the top picture it’s a humvee with tool chest on the back, and the armored vehicle is called an amtrack. **It’s an amphibious troop transport the marines use. Amphibious yeah hell of a lot of good that will do in the desert.**

As for the second picture well, it’s really blown to hell but I think it might have been a heavy hauler, kind of like a snub nosed tractor trailer rig.”

## **IED In Baghdad**

9.6.04 by Fares Dulaimi, (AFP)

**Three US troops were injured when a roadside bomb exploded in eastern Baghdad.**

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## **U.S. Convoy Ambushed In Mosul**

9.6.04 Pakistan Times Wire Service & AP

A fierce clash which broke out late Sunday after a US convoy was ambushed in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, police said.

**An U.S. armored vehicle was reportedly damaged in the blast.**

**Insurgents fired about a dozen anti-tank rockets at the convoy, witnesses said. US troops returned fire and the ensuing battle lasted almost half an hour.**

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## **Bulgarians Want To Get Out Of Town: U.S. Demands Their Unit Not Leave Karbala**

6 September 2004 Novinite Ltd

**The US commandment insists that Bulgaria's peacekeepers in Iraq stay in their current base "Kilo" located within Karbala, local Darik radio reported citing sources from the Bulgarian Defense Ministry.**

According to the report the US commandment pointed out military and strategic reasons for its demands. **(Like pretending the Occupation is still in control of Karbala.)**

**The Bulgarian unit in Karbala will move to a new base, outside the city, army officials announced in June. (Thereby greatly extending their life expectancy.)**

That will be the second relocation of the Bulgarian troops, after last December they were forced to abandon the India base and move to Kilo.

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## **The Death Of A Salesman: A Million Roles Of Toilet Paper For The Military; “I’m Not In Danger” He Said**

September 06, 2004 By Steve Levin, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

John N. Mallery, a 1994 graduate of Mt. Lebanon Senior High School who had spent the past 18 months in Iraq working for private companies, was killed Saturday when militants attacked his vehicle with small arms fire.

Mr. Mallery, 28, died in Taji, about 30 miles north of Baghdad.

He was a project manager with MayDay Supply, which sells a wide variety of dining facility supplies to the U.S. military. **(The name should have provided a small clue that this was not a lucky job.)**

According to Brannon May, who worked with Mr. Mallery in Iraq, he was killed while returning from Camp Anaconda, a large U.S. base near Balad.

**For his protection, Mr. Mallery always wore native clothing over his flak jacket and a turban whenever he went out in Iraq.** He was driving the vehicle when the attack occurred Saturday, said one of his sisters, Jennifer Partin. Normally, one of his two bodyguards drove, she said, traveling at more than 100 mph to make the vehicle a more difficult target for militants.

One of Mr. Mallery's bodyguards was critically injured in the attack, Partin said. The second was unhurt.

Mr. Mallery had spoken with his mother, Cathleen, an hour before his death. **"He was all about going on an adventure,"** said Partin, of Mt. Lebanon, **"and this was a big adventure to him.**

**"John just thought it was great. He'd always tell us, 'I'm not in danger.' "**

Mr. Mallery worked with Selrico Services, a Texas-based food service company which contracts with U.S. military bases. He served two tours in Iraq with Selrico before joining MayDay Supply.

Partin said that when Mr. Mallery would come home for weeks-long visits between work in Iraq he regaled his family with stories. **One of his favorites was that he had helped construct the tent in which President George W. Bush greeted U.S. troops on his surprise Thanksgiving trip to Iraq in November.**

On his most recent tour with MayDay Supply, Partin said, her brother made some big sales.

**"He'd call home and tell us he'd sold a million rolls of toilet paper" to the military,** she said.

"Everybody like John," she said. **(Not quite "everybody" it would appear.)**

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## **Celebration Time In Fallujah Unmanned U.S. Spy Aircraft Crashes**

September 6, 2004 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FALLUJAH, Iraq -- An unmanned U.S. spy aircraft crashed Monday in Fallujah, spreading debris over the southern corner of the city, witnesses said.

Jubilant residents picked up pieces of the drone and danced in the streets, displaying pieces of the aircraft to reporters, witnesses said.

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## TROOP NEWS

### **Sometimes Dreams Come True**

**“Over by that door, Mr. President....some loonies calling themselves Iraq Veterans Against The War. They’d like a word with you, sir. Problem is, there’s about 5,000 of them and they look really pissed. And all the Secret Service personnel seem to have vanished.”** (President George W. Bush with presidential adviser Karen Hughes. Photo: Gary Hershorn/Reuter)



## **Veterans Condemn War: “Let These Rich Boys Go And Fight”**

August 31st, 2004 by Tom Robbins & Jennifer Gonnerman, Village Voice Media, Inc.,

**The impact of George W. Bush on America was even more striking in the presence of Michael Hoffman, 25, from the faded steel town of Allentown, Pennsylvania, marching in Sunday's heat in one of his old Marine jackets with a contingent of the one-month-old group Iraq Veterans Against the War (<http://www.ivaw.net>). Hoffman's story is fodder for the films of Michael Moore, who marched at the head of Sunday's procession. His father was one of the last workers at the now demolished Bethlehem Steel plant; his mother, a Teamster, is a janitor at a local school.**

"I bounced around for about a year and a half after high school doing odd jobs," he explained at one of many press conferences he attended last week. "The last one was as an assistant manager at a toy store. I made about \$15,000 a year, your basic poverty-level job. I had a good friend who was joining up, and he kind of talked me into it. **I thought that the military represented a lot of good things, was a good opportunity.** When I joined in February 1999, the war in the Balkans was a big deal. I thought we were doing the right thing there, and I wanted to be a part of that."

**His four-year hitch in the Marines was up when news came that the Pentagon had imposed "stop-loss orders" preventing all discharges. Instead of mustering out, he and his artillery unit were dispatched to Kuwait.** "We crossed over into Iraq and pushed north up to Baghdad. We were firing 155-millimeter howitzers." About a day south of the capital, he said, he drove past a town they had blasted. "It was just entirely in flames. The people were wandering around, like in a daze."

**Discharged a year ago, he found himself talking with other vets haunted by what they'd seen, along with families who had lost loved ones in the conflict. "I'm just opposed to what we are doing there; this [protesting the war] is all I'm doing now."**

**The president's invasion also turned around the life of 26-year-old Kelly Dougherty, of Colorado Springs, who spent a year in Iraq with the National Guard, part of the 220th Military Police Company.**

**For Sunday's march she wore an Iraq Veterans Against the War T-shirt and brown camouflage shorts, with a black armband that read, "Support Our Troops, Bring Them Home Now."** On Friday night, she had shyly addressed the audience at a fundraising event in a hot and crowded Soho loft.

Patrolling the broiling streets around Nasiriya after its capture, she said, she had seen local citizens turn from friend to foe. "When we first got there, the people would smile when they saw us, but as time went on, they started averting their eyes and scowling," she said. "I felt like we treated them like trespassers in their own country."

As an MP, part of her job was to respond to accidents, and she had seen a grisly one in which a U.S. truck had inadvertently run down a seven-year-old boy who had been trying to cross a desert highway with his donkey. Under standing orders, the truck driver had kept right on going, reporting it later. "I couldn't blame the Iraqis for their hostility," she said.

**Marching alongside Hoffman and Dougherty was Michael McPhearson, who spent 11 years in the Army, long enough to serve in the 1991 Gulf War, and to later have severe doubts about U.S. actions in Iraq.** The son of a schoolteacher and a railroad worker, McPhearson, 40, grew up in Fayetteville, North Carolina, next door to Fort Bragg. He had a pair of uncles and a grandfather who were veterans of the world wars, and he joined the Army the first chance he got, at the age of 17.

He was in a mechanized infantry division that took part in the invasion of Iraq. His unit fired armor-piercing shells composed of depleted uranium. When he returned to Iraq last December as part of a peace delegation, he visited hospitals filled with children suffering from cancer. "They believe it is from those shells we fired," he said last week. **"That affected me very strongly. In Iraq, people asked me, "If American citizens**



were treated the way we are being treated, would they stand for it?' I had to say, 'No, they wouldn't stand for it.' "

As they marched on Sunday, Vietnam veteran George McAnanama led them in cadence:

***Bush and Cheney talk that talk  
But we know they're chicken hawks.  
If they think they're so damn right  
Let these rich boys go and fight.***



Iraq Veteran Against The War member William Hunt speaks at Union Square Vigil For The Fallen 9.2.04 ([http://www.anywhichway.net/gallery/Veterans\\_Vigil\\_for\\_the\\_Fallen](http://www.anywhichway.net/gallery/Veterans_Vigil_for_the_Fallen))

**Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly.** Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and in Iraq, and information about other social protest movements here in the USA. **Send requests to address up top.**

**Fighting To Bring Her Husband Home:  
Army Wife Tells Lt. "Bring It On"--  
"It's Lts. Like This That Get Our Troops Killed"**

(Brandie Lampin has given permission to publish her updates on her campaign to bring her husband home. He was sent to Iraq after having been found "medically unfit for duty" by the army itself! For details, see article "Now, The Bad News" at <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/8.04.mailbag.php> Vets and military families are respectfully requested to send her some letters of support.)

**From:** [BLampin4036@aol.com](mailto:BLampin4036@aol.com)  
**To:** GI Special  
**Sent:** Monday, August 30, 2004 8:20 AM  
**Subject:** Husband called from Iraq

I just wanted to update you on my husband Sgt. Tony Lampin, the medically unfit for service soldier who was sent back to Iraq.

**He called me Aug. 28th, letting me know that his Lt., Lt. Stovall, confronted him about the letter for help that I wrote that has been posted on the internet.**

**Tony told me that the Lt. said that I could do whatever I wanted and that it wouldn't matter because he was not going to have Tony sent back home.**

**I have taken this as a challenge, and in my opinion, the Lt. has challenged the government into making him have Tony sent back home.**

I asked Tony if he has been forced to do anything against his medical profile and he said, "Despite having to wear full protective gear which weights well over the 30lbs. limit that he is to carry, he has not been able to do anything." I asked him "Then why are you still there?" and Tony said that he asked the Lt. the same question.

The Lt. replied that because he needs him there.

I ask this, " If he is needed so bad, then why isn't Tony able to do his job?"

**I can tell you why, it's because now that the command knows about the letter that I wrote and my mission into getting him and other medically unfit soldiers sent back home, not forgetting that my husband has a medical profile to back him up along with new medical orders of not to do any squatting, climbing, or bending at the knees, they are scared of what might happen.**

**They are scared because they know they were in the wrong in sending him to Iraq.**

**It's Lts. like these, that think they are God, that get our troops killed.**

**I would just like to say this to Lt. Stovall.**

**"LT., BRING IT ON!!!"**

Brandie Lampin  
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**MORE:**

**From:** [BLampin4036@aol.com](mailto:BLampin4036@aol.com)  
**To:** GI Special  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2004 9:45 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Husband called from Iraq

I received a letter from my husband's Commander Colonel Short yesterday.

I guess he thinks that I am going to believe a word he says when he has lied to my husband himself.

I find it funny that he says that my husband is doing an outstanding job for them, and that his physical problems seem to be improving when my husband informs me himself how he is doing.

Besides this past week, his knee has been giving him problems, and the fact that he goes to sick call at least 2 to 3 times a week. Now does that sound like my husband is improving?

Col. Short said he is taking care of him like he promised. What do you think?

Brandie Lampin

**GET SOME TRUTH: CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

Telling the truth - about the occupation, the cuts to veterans' benefits, or the dangers of depleted uranium - is the first reason Traveling Soldier is necessary. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.  
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

## **Throwaway Heroes: Injured Soldiers Treated As An “Inconvenience”**

September 6th, 2004 NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPOKANE -- Lance Cpl. Ian Anderson of Spokane was a gung-ho Marine who was shot five times while serving his country in Iraq.

**Now he is an embittered 23-year-old coping with his wounds, angry at his medical care and unsure of what he will do with his life.**

One of more than 130 Washington residents who have been wounded so far in Iraq, Anderson personifies a hard truth about war: **Enthusiastic patriotism often gives way to shattered lives.**

The wounds range from life-threatening brain injuries that left Army Chaplain Tim Vakoc in a coma, to Anderson's disabling injuries, to a blast that redistributed body fat in Sgt. Richard Peters of Yakima.

Even when the wounds are relatively minor, like the shrapnel injuries of 2nd Lt. Bryan Suits of Seattle, they cause disorientation and psychological trauma. In an e-mail to friends, Suits described the moments after the mortar attack that left him wounded.

"My bell is rung pretty hard. I don't know it yet, but I'll soon become easily distracted for 24 hours. A loud ringing is going to begin in about 20 minutes," he wrote.

Anderson was wounded near Baghdad on April 6, 2003, when his reconnaissance unit was ambushed. He was shot in both knees, a thigh and the right shoulder.

**After he was wounded, Anderson returned to Spokane to a hero's welcome, including a limousine ride to a free stay in the presidential suite of the Davenport Hotel.**

**But in a recent telephone interview, he was angry at the care he received at Bush Naval Hospital on the Marine base at Twentynine Palms, Calif. He feels wounded Marines are treated as an inconvenience by the military, which tries to limit the expense of caring for them.**

**Anderson contends he suffered needless pain as Navy doctors debated how to treat his wounds.**

**"Why did I suffer for 18 months?" Anderson wondered.**

**He recently found a private surgeon to perform arthroscopic surgery on his damaged knees. Scar tissue was removed, and Anderson is hoping he will soon walk normally.**

"I still run into walls," Anderson said.

**Before his wounds, Anderson often aced the Marine Corps' physical fitness exam by running three miles in less than 18 minutes, doing 20 pull-ups and completing 100 sit-ups.**

**"I don't have that anymore," he said.**

Anderson's left knee still locks up, and it's tough to walk up or down stairs. He also had to beat an addiction to pain killers.

Anderson is no longer considered fit for combat and left the Marines in August. He is back in Spokane with his wife and 2-year-old daughter, **living with his parents and looking for a job.** At heart he remains a Marine.

"I swear to God if I had the knees I'd be a lifer," Anderson said.

**It's not uncommon for wounded soldiers to replace battles in Iraq with battles against the military medical system.**

States with the greatest number of residents wounded in the war in Iraq, according to the Department of Defense (as of July 24):

1. Texas, 436
2. California, 432
3. Florida, 234
4. Ohio, 191
5. New York, 186
6. Pennsylvania, 155
7. Illinois, 140
8. Washington, 131
9. North Carolina, 130
10. Missouri, 109

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## **Oregon Guard Recruitment & Retention Collapsing: War, Long Deployments, Lousy Benefits Blamed**

9.5.04 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND, Ore. -- **Long deployments and benefits that are below those offered by many other states are making service in the Oregon National Guard a hard sell for recruiters, guard officials say.**

**The state guard expects to fall 14 percent below its yearly recruitment goal** when figures are tallied next month, far worse than the national average.

"These are challenging times," Sgt. Maj. Jay Heaton told The Oregonian newspaper. The 28-year Guard veteran has served the last two decades in recruiting.

**"I haven't seen any harder times," he said.**

**Nearly one-third of Oregon Guard soldiers have been mustered for duty in Iraq, sending them away from families and jobs for extended periods. Hundreds of soldiers had their tours of duty extended involuntarily. Meanwhile, Oregon's poor**

economy has afforded recruiters fewer perks -- such as free college tuition -- to offer potential enlistees than in many other states.

Part of the problem, Guard officials acknowledge, is that Oregon offers one of the stingiest perk packages of any U.S. state or territory.

The state offers no group insurance, no college reimbursement and no injury or death benefits besides Worker's Compensation to members of its National Guard. These key perks are given to Guard members in Texas, Massachusetts, Puerto Rico and many other states, according to the 2003 National Guard Almanac.

Before the Sept.11 attacks, the Oregon Guard offered recruits as much as 90 percent of their college tuition. But state lawmakers, faced with massive budget cuts, put an end to that perk.

The Oregon Guard has an additional problem of trying to keep the soldiers it already has in the ranks. About 80 percent of those soldiers have stuck with the Guard historically, but that number is expected to dip this year, said Col. Mike Caldwell, the Guard's deputy director for state affairs. Some units are struggling to keep 60 percent of their soldiers, he said.

Many who joined the Guard a few years before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq had no reason to expect an escalated deployment schedule. **Some, said Caldwell, have subsequently grown disillusioned by frequent musters for overseas duty and want out.**

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## **Capitalism Strikes Again: The “Just-In-Time” Army; How Soldiers Got Turned Into Armed Wall-Mart Workers**

(From the book “Homefront” by Catherine Lutz, Beacon Press, Boston, 2001)

### **The Neoliberal Military:**

The military reorganized more than its missions.

**Like contemporary business, it chopped the size of its workforce and engaged more heavily in outsourcing and privatization of some of its functions.**

Organizing these changes was *neo liberalism*—or the belief that unregulated markets provide the best way out of social problems and that government attempts to solve them are wasteful, bungling, and/or arrogant.

**In business, it called for downsizing and outsourcing operations, reducing workers categorized as redundant and using more temporary and part-time workers, consolidating functions, and trimming inventories through just-in-time deliveries of products.**

**Corporations increasingly relied on subcontractors to do their work, so as to more easily cast off productive capacity when needed as well as shed responsibility for pay levels and working conditions.**

**So, too, the army.**

**Although it kept its progressive wages and benefits, it dropped hundreds of thousands of employees and turned to rely more on part—time workers, which, for the military, are Reserves and National Guard.**

Training foreign forces with renewed enthusiasm, it both cut costs (foreign militaries get no retirement benefits) and outsourced its war function and responsibility.

For example, for years Fort Bragg sent Special Forces soldiers to train the Indonesian military, calling it both military foreign aid and military diplomacy. The United States has provided massive amounts of armaments, some used in Indonesia's invasion and slaughter of one-third of the population of East Timor in 1975. The killing and other human rights abuses committed by the Indonesian army and the paramilitaries it supported in rampages through Timor in 1999 were disavowable and disavowed.

**The United States also privatized by using private companies to do military training on behalf of the United States, placing much of it outside congressional oversight.** Heavily staffed by high-ranking ex-military officers and defense officials, including especially Special Operations veterans from Fort Bragg and elsewhere, these companies have been contracted to train the Bosnian, Croatian, Saudi Arabian, Liberian, and Angolan armies, and in some cases police.

The Department of Defense merged and eliminated military bases. The army alone cut 112 in the United States and announced 664 closings overseas; however, the United States still maintains 1,324 major active—duty installations worldwide. With this it turned, as it had been doing through the 1980s, to more “flexible” forms of warfare, **offering just-in-time delivery of the army to a site of conflict rather than relying on large permanent overseas inventories of bases and soldiers.**

**The military has also been “civilianizing” war making, turning more to civilian communication systems and employees, of military contractors or the military itself, who are less expensive than soldiers.**

Some become quasi-soldiers. During the Gulf War, for example, civilian technicians sat alongside soldiers to help them identify targets with their company's latest technology; such individuals have been put into the category of “surrogate warriors” or “operators” in military journals and “vision statements.”

**Armed private security guards from Triple P Services, for example, trained to use deadly force, watch over Fort Bragg's ammunition supply point and other areas of**

the installation. And as they do, the line between “legal” and “illegal” war targets and combatants blurs.

The army was also under orders to put many of its functions out to bid, including utilities infrastructure, housing, and shopping outlets. As one local officer described it, “In privatization across the country, the Department of Defense is seeking an advantage that would accrue to the armed forces by getting them out of a business that is not a core competency of the armed forces, so they can be totally focused on providing for the national defense.”

This privatization was meant as a cost cutting measure as well, but, like other such efforts, its savings are often costs simply passed on to the general public via, for example, *lower wages for the workers involved*.

**MORE:**

## **No Capitalism Without Profits Of Course, So It's A Bankruptcy War For Military Families (While Bush-Buddy War-Profiteers Suck Up The Billions)**

August 31, 2004 By Patt Morrison, Dodge City Daily Globe

The price of war - the White House budget office figures that for the Iraq conflict it's \$175 billion and counting. But it's the little numbers right here in California that really get to Mike Ryan.

Ryan is a respiratory therapist who lives in West Los Angeles, and he didn't even own a cell phone until his son Rick went to Iraq in March as an Army combat medic. **Enter the phone bills: \$120, \$140 a month, a hundred or two more put on the plastic to "charge up" Rick's phone card. A single call just after Rick landed in Iraq ran \$130.**

Then there's the food and the cost of sending it. Rick's not keen on Army cooking (who is?). "We brought him up eating well," said his father. So twice a month, a package leaves the Ryan house for Iraq - Trader Joe's fruits and nuts, protein drinks, canned salmon. Sixty or 70 bucks' worth of food, times two, plus \$25 for postage, times two again. Almost \$200 a month more.

As the war warmed up, stories abounded about how much it was costing military families to keep reaching out to touch their loved ones. There were tales of disconnection notices because of unpaid bills. A Massachusetts soldier racked up a \$7,600 phone bill; his entire savings account paid just half.



**Arizona Sen. John McCain sponsored a bill that gives those in combat access to a free monthly calling card worth \$40. (And not one single fucking cent has been approved, despite the bill, repeat, not one cent. It's all a big piece of PR bullshit, and McCain hasn't opened his fucking mouth about it one time either. He got the publicity, fuck the troops. He's as full of shit as the rest of the politicians.)**

Which goes only so far, as Ryan can attest. Last October, in Colorado, a soldier's wife was applauded when she stood up at a town hall meeting and asked Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld about the ruinous cost of phone calls. "As enlisted soldiers," she said, "we can't afford this."

For a while, Ryan worked overtime to pay his overseas phone bills. Then, his cousin, an Army Reserve coordinator, put him on to a military Web site selling phone cards.

It's run by the same people who've been selling goods to the military for 109 years, through PXs and now Web sites. They buy phone cards wholesale from AT&T, which holds the contract, and sell them to soldiers with a "small margin to cover costs and overhead."

It works out to \$39 for 139 minutes, which has helped, said Ryan. But for families that don't know about the Web site and may be calling soldiers via other means (different companies' phone cards, for example), the phone bills are likely to be much bigger.

Not that the Mike Ryans of the world begrudge their kids the cost.

"I would have paid 10 bucks a minute," he said.

But those bills, those relentless bills - and for families living on a military paycheck of \$2,000 or \$3,000 a month. The soldiers weren't drafted, of course; they signed up by choice, and they and their families will make do.

**With his own hard bills to pay, Ryan can't help but think about that other figure, the one in the billions of dollars. It makes him wonder about the profits being made on phone cards or on feeding his son in Iraq.**

**It leaves him thinking it's soldiers' families that are paying to subsidize this war, a couple of hundred dollars and a care package at a time: "When you think of Halliburton and Bechtel and how they've pretty much opened (Iraq) up to free enterprise.... (Can) American companies come in there and profiteer off the soldiers?"**

The man who wrote the book on it is Stuart Brandes, author of the 1997 "**Warhogs: A History of War Profits in America.**"

**Today there's Halliburton, the uber-contractor in Iraq, in line to get paid a little more than \$18 billion to feed and house troops and to restore the Iraqi oil infrastructure.**

And there are accusations that can't help but hit home on the home front: such as reports that Halliburton may have billed \$186 million for troop meals that were never served. Or that it is paying \$7,500 a month to rent a truck that you or I could rent for \$2,000, and \$7.50 each for monogrammed bath towels. (Monogrammed with what? Dollar signs?)

It costs a lot to go to war, but it surely would help the warriors and their families to know that the billions are being spent as carefully as their \$39 for a phone card.

Thirty-eight years ago this very month, a young congressman told his colleagues that something was seriously amiss about huge wartime contracts awarded to a company with a big friend in a high place.

"The potential for waste and profiteering under such a contract is substantial," he warned. It is "beyond me," he went on, why the contract "has not been and is not now being adequately audited."

The war was Vietnam. The company was Brown & Root, a subsidiary of Halliburton that is now known as KBR. The big friend in a high place was Democratic President Lyndon B. Johnson. And the impassioned young congressman was Donald Rumsfeld.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org). Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

## **The Red Bag Of Courage: "The General May Be Finer As A Dead Man"**

**Book Review** By Sgt. Martin Smith (USMC ret'd) (Footnotes at end of GI Special)

Stephen Crane's The Red Badge of Courage is a critical view of war and the youthful naivety of proving one's manhood through war-mongering.<sup>1</sup>

Set during the Civil War, Private Henry Fleming enlists in the Union Army against his mother's wishes to become a hero. "The newspapers, the gossip of the village, his own picturings, had aroused him to an uncheckable degree," and he longed to see the glory of decisive battles and "breathless deeds."<sup>2</sup> However, once in the Union Army, Henry's experience of soldiering changes him profoundly.

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<sup>1</sup> Stephen Crane, *The Red Badge of Courage* (New York: Harper & Brother, 1895).

<sup>2</sup> Crane, 6.

The first dramatic tension occurs when Henry's unit takes enemy fire. After experiencing the boredom of war, the sit around and wait that soldiers so often complain of, Henry's unit, the 304<sup>th</sup> Regiment, was charged by the Rebel Army. Yet rather than fight as a hero, Henry runs away out of fear and lacks the courage that he so desperately had wanted to prove his manhood. Later out of shame and self-doubt, he decides to turn back in search of his regiment, all the while fearing that he will be known as a coward.

While searching for his unit, Henry encounters two characters that challenge his fortitude. He witnesses the death of Jim Conklin, a tall soldier in his unit that had warned of the coming battle. Jim dies from a side wound in a harrowing scene in which he runs away from the other men to die alone in a quiet zone. Crane describes Jim's death in horrific and gruesome detail:

"He was invaded by a creeping strangeness that slowly enveloped him. For a moment the tremor of his legs caused him to dance a sort of hideous hornpipe. His arms beat wildly about his head in expression of implike enthusiasm...A swift muscular contortion made the left shoulder strike the ground first...[his] side looked as if it had been chewed by wolves."<sup>3</sup>

In many ways, Jim represents a Christ figure in that he dies alone and has brought wisdom and truth to the regiment, only to be sacrificed for their safety. After this initial brush with the face of the death, a tattered soldier that had stumbled upon Henry grows weary and faint, as if he might soon die too. Henry grows annoyed when the tattered soldier begins questioning him, and he decides to desert the soldier in his time of need. These two characters leave a lasting impression on Henry, and he carries a weight of guilt for lacking Jim's courage and for deserting the tattered soldier.

Soon after these encounters, Henry receives a head wound that provides him with a "red badge of courage" and a convenient alibi for his desertion. When he returns to the regiment, few notice that he has been gone and he lies, saying that he got lost towards the right flank in fierce combat. Apparently, many other troops were "lost" as well, as many return in the middle of the night. The wound gives Henry a source of pride that changes his attitude towards war.

Henry, now confident from the fact that no one has discovered his secrets, becomes a leader in battle and the colors' bearer. He has come full circle from fear and loathing to an aggressive war charging machine. Even the Lieutenant in the regiment notices the change in Henry's character: "By heavens, if I had ten thousand wild cats like you I could tear th' stomach outa this war in less'n a week!"<sup>4</sup> Now, Henry considers himself a hero and a knight, self-confident and wild for war.<sup>5</sup>

**Yet in the final battle scene, the regiment is sent on a suicide mission and the General expects that few of the men will survive and states to another officer, "I don't believe many of your mule drivers will get back."<sup>6</sup> Several soldiers overhear the conversation with shock, and Crane reports of Henry's realization of his**

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<sup>3</sup> Crane, 69.

<sup>4</sup> Crane, 115.

<sup>5</sup> Crane, 116.

<sup>6</sup> Crane, 120.

**predicament: “New eyes were given to him. And the most startling thing was to learn suddenly that he was very insignificant.”<sup>7</sup>**

Henry fights with a vigor and ferociousness as never before; however, his strength comes from revenge—anger at the General’s words and a new understanding that he shall never be the hero or knight he had envisioned. Once the battle is over and the regiment survives, Crane describes how Henry’s innocence and lust for war is forever changed:

“He found that he could look back upon the brass and bombast of his earlier gospels and see them truly. He was gleeful when he discovered that he now despised them...He had rid himself of the red sickness of battle....He turned now with a lover’s thirst to images of tranquil skies, fresh meadows, cool brooks—an existence of soft and eternal peace.”<sup>8</sup>

Crane’s work describes with lucid detail the horror and brutality of the nation’s bloodiest war, in which over one million soldiers died. The Red Badge of Courage is an anti-war novel that questions the naivety of youthful fantasies of heroism and chivalry gained in war. **Through the development of Henry’s character, we see the change in his consciousness from dreaming of battles and proving his manhood to the realization that he and his fellow soldiers serve no larger purpose than to play the part of the officers’ pawn in their larger game of competing prides.**

**Throughout the work, the rank and file soldiers often question their officers and their decisions.**

Crane reveals the inherent tension located in the relationship between the officers who give the orders and commands and the men who must serve and obey. For example in one scene when it appears that the 304<sup>th</sup> is about to be defeated soundly by the Rebels, Henry “explode[s] in loud sentences. ‘B’jiminey, we’re generated by a lot ‘a lunkheads’” and another soldier replies, “More than one feller has said that t’-day.”<sup>9</sup>

### **Civil War Fragging?**

**In another scene, Crane shows how the troops’ anger at their officers often developed into tense situations, perhaps mutiny.** When the men were sent on an impossible mission and retreated from the turmoil of battle, Crane asserts, “from this consciousness that they had attempted to conquer an unconquerable thing there seemed to arise a feeling that they had been betrayed. They glowered with bent brows, but dangerously, upon some of the officers.”<sup>10</sup> **And Henry in rage suggests that the General who insulted them by calling them “mule-drivers” may “be finer as a dead man.”<sup>11</sup>** Thus, antagonism between the officer class and the conscripted men is a constantly waged battle, and Crane shows how both sides have separate interests.

Surprisingly, Crane does not mention slavery, states’ rights, or overt politics in the work. Perhaps by divorcing the Civil War from the present historical memory, as the war to end

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<sup>7</sup> Crane, 121.

<sup>8</sup> Crane, 159.

<sup>9</sup> Crane, 107.

<sup>10</sup> Crane, 131.

<sup>11</sup> Crane, 131-132.

slavery, he is able to achieve a different vantage into what working class troops of the period experienced. Perhaps, many fought neither to end slavery and keep the union intact nor for states' rights and to protect plantation life but rather to prove their manhood, test their courage, and show their responsibility to their peers and community. According to Crane, however, these same men, as in all wars, returned home with profoundly different conclusions.

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## Mom Says Wounded Marine Better

September 05, 2004 By MATT MURPHY, Sun Staff

**It's not the pain in his leg that bothers Marine Cpl. Matthew Boisvert the most, but rather the fact that he feels the pain in a limb he no longer has.**

Boisvert's right leg was amputated just below the knee over one week ago, but the injured Marine still feels sharp pain in his right foot.

"It's called phantom pain," said his mother. Brenda Newell, who has been at Boisvert's bedside since her son arrived back in the United States after being injured in Iraq. **"His foot hurts, but it drives him crazy because he knows there's no foot."**

Newell spoke to The Sun on Friday afternoon from her son's hospital room at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., where **Boisvert was fast asleep recovering from surgery, which he undergoes nearly every other day.**

"He's actually been doing better the past couple of days," Newell said. "It's been very nice to see him a little more comfortable and able to sleep. Usually, after surgery it gets ugly, but today was a good day."

Boisvert, 21, of Tyngsboro, was injured while on routine patrol in Fallujah, Iraq. The Humvee he was driving detonated an explosive hidden under the road. It shot through the bottom of the vehicle, severely injuring his right arm and nearly severing his right leg.

After being stabilized at Ramstein Air Force base in Germany, Boisvert was flown to Bethesda, where doctors were unable to save his leg, which had become infected.

**On Friday, Boisvert underwent a skin-grafting operation to repair the inside of his thigh, where the explosion blew away a large chunk of his leg.**

**Newell said the grafting went well, but the big test will come Wednesday, when, if Boisvert is well enough, doctors will place a pin in his thigh to help hold together his femur, which was also broken during the accident.**

"He's getting excited because next Wednesday if he gets the pin, he will be able to get out of bed for the first time," Newell said.

It will also mean that his mother might be able to relax.

Boisvert has been coping with the loss of his leg well, his mother said, trying to stay positive and even making a few jokes.

But his recovery has been a slow process. Just last week, Boisvert's temperature shot up to 106 degrees one day and 103 degrees the next. But as her son becomes more and more comfortable, so, too, does Newell feel that her son will pull through all right.

"I'm just hoping that everything stays the way it is. It's been long, but as long as he stays good, now I don't care. It's just very stressful watching him in pain," Newell said.

If all goes according to plan Wednesday with the surgery, Boisvert will likely be transferred to the Walter Reed Army Hospital within five days and begin the process of being fitted for a prosthetic leg.

He will also need a series of skin and nerve grafts to repair his damaged arm, and though he now only has limited movement in his fingers, **doctors are confident that he should be able to have a functioning right side again, Newell said.**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Pipeline Fire Put Out; Resistance Sets Fire To Pipeline Again Next Day + One More**



Southern Oil Company employees attempt to control fire on pipeline. The resistance set ablaze oil pipelines in both northern and southern Iraq. (AFP/File/Nawfal Hashim)

07sep04 AFP, From correspondents in Kirkuk

**SABOTEURS set ablaze a vital oil pipeline between the Iraqi city of Kirkuk and Turkey today, just a day after the fire that had halted all northern crude exports had been extinguished, an oil official told AFP.**

**"We had extinguished the fire Sunday at noon but unknown attackers reignited it Monday at 9.30am (local time) by setting fire to the oil that had leaked on both sides of the pipeline,"** Ahmed Ali, from the Northern Oil Co, said.

**"It will take us another 24 hours to put it out again," he said.**

Two days after the initial sabotage on Thursday, NOC security chief Ahmed Hassan Ghafif had said pumping to Turkey was halted until further notice and that the repairs would last a week.

**A pipeline supplying gas to a major electrical plant south of Kirkuk was also attacked today, a local police official told said.**

"This morning at 11.25, unknown attackers set fire to a gas pipeline in the Taza region" some 20km south of Kirkuk, police Colonel Ali Mustashar al-Obeidi said.

NOC official Sabah Shaku said the attack "had had serious consequences for the Bayji electrical plant which produces 400 megawatts per day and supplies the whole of northern Iraq."

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION  
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

## **Four Collaborator Cops Killed Attacking Latifiya**

September 06 2004 By Michael Georgy, Independent Online

Baghdad - Iraqi police officers from the heavily fortified Hurriya barracks had escaped guerrilla attacks that have killed hundreds of their comrades across the country.

**But their luck ran out when they ventured just south of Baghdad to hunt down insurgents in the town of Latifiya, an area they call the "death triangle".**

**Four police officers were killed** when guerrillas fired rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) and mortars at their 12-car convoy on Saturday. **The chief of the Hurriya police station and several others were also wounded.**

The trip to Latifiya, a guerrilla stronghold known for drive-by shootings of foreigners and Iraqi officials, was risky and ambitious.

Backed by US troops, about 80 experienced officers as well as some rookies pulled up in cars and pickups and began searching houses for guerrillas.

**Just as they realised many of the homes were empty, loud explosions shook the area and their vehicles burst into flames.**

"I was lucky. I had stepped away from the cars to get to a house and two mortars and RPGs landed," said Jassim Mehdi, who finished his police training course in Jordan one month ago.

Mortar shrapnel decapitated one of the men. His coffin was transported by heavily armed policemen to a graveyard on Monday for the last of four funerals.

**Police describe the insurgents as barbaric killers. The guerrillas say the police are corrupt US puppets. Ordinary Iraqis say fear has made the police a trigger-happy force.**

US Lieutenant Timothy Price, the head of training at several Iraqi police stations, said the forces were making progress given that they are not trained to fight insurgents.

**"It is really a great success. When I got here a year ago they would not even leave the police station," he said.**

**After Latifiya, some may want to stay put again, protected by their rooftop sandbag gun positions and barricades.**

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## **4 Occupation Guards Killed, 7 Wounded Near Baghdad Airport**

Baghdad, Sep. 6, SPA & Aljazeera-- **Four Iraqi National Guard soldiers were killed and seven others were wounded after gunmen had attacked their patrol on the road leading to Baghdad International Airport, west of the capital,** reported Al-Jazeera Television quoting medical sources in Baghdad.

The report said US troops cordoned off the area and US helicopters evacuated the dead and the wounded to a hospital in central Baghdad.

**Another member of the Iraqi national guardsmen was killed and four others were injured in an attack against an Iraqi checkpoint in al-Ghalibya area, west of Baquba.**

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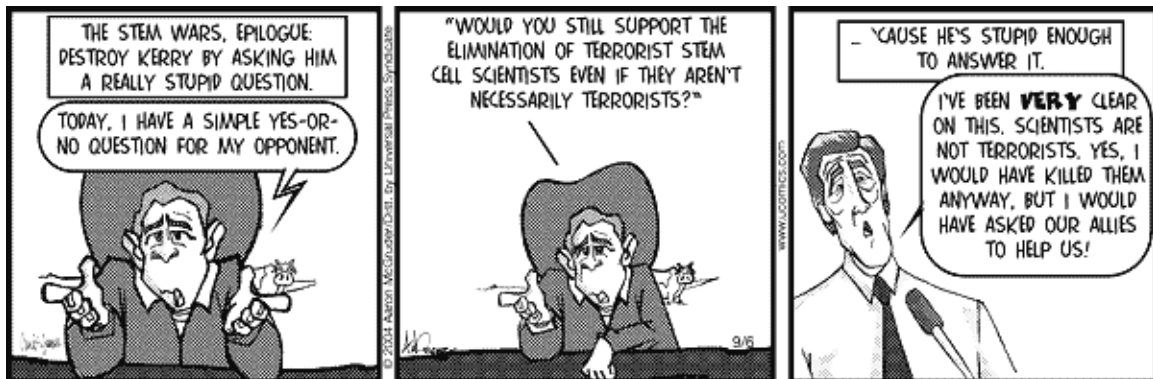
## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



The election is a distraction that should not affect the anti-war movement. Neither candidate nor party intends to change the current pro-war policies. (September 6, 2004 by Philip Greenspan, <http://www.swans.com/library/art10/pgreen49.html> )

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



## CLASS WAR NEWS

### Mass Strike Shakes Mexico

Sep. 02, 2004 BY SUSANA HAYWARD, Knight Ridder News Service

**MEXICO CITY On Wednesday, tens of thousands of demonstrators brought this capital of 20 million nearly to a halt.**

It was the largest protest aimed at a state of the union address in recent memory.

**Electrical and telephone union members, farming organizations, students and human rights groups began moving toward congress at noon, blocking major intersections and jamming traffic.**

**More than 7,000 police officers and presidential guards blocked the protesters from reaching congress.**

**Barricades stretched for three miles, closing off 300 city blocks.**

**Demonstrators threw garbage and eggs and set off firecrackers. They carried banners reading, "Liar" and "You fooled us!"**

Radio and television reports urged people to stay home. Several subway stations were closed.

The demonstrators were led by workers from the vast Mexican Social Security Institute, which provides government-paid healthcare, who were protesting a change in pension rules that require workers to pay into the pension system.

**Union leaders see the change as part of a larger plan to privatize pensions and renegotiate labor contracts at state-owned enterprises.**

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## **Received:**

### **Good Idea:**

RS WRITES: "I just wish Wolfowitz, the author of all this, could be put out on patrol in one of those obsolete flak jackets and an unarmored Humvee, the kind of conditions many of our troops alive and now dead have faced."

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