

## GI SPECIAL 2#48



# “Please Help A Desperate Serviceman” The Day-By-Day Story Of Smuggling War Resisters To Canada

Pentagon figures show as many as 1.5 million service members went absent without leave or deserted during the Vietnam War. *An estimated 90,000 went into exile in Canada.*

(3.28.04: A first hand report by Becky Oberg, NUVO Inc.)

The Letter:

To: Carl Rising-Moore

Subject: please help a desperate serviceman  
Date: Sun, 29 Feb 2004 01:38:13 -0800 (PST)  
From: Brandon none <usa\_soldier@- - -

I am a member of the U.S. military whose unit deploys to Iraq next week.

**I do not want to be a pawn in the government's war for oil**, and have told my superiors that I want out of the military. They are not willing to chapter me out and tell me that I have no choice but to pack my bags and get ready to go to Iraq. This has led me to feel hopeless and I have thought about suicide several times. However, just a few days ago I discovered some articles about you and Freedom Underground on the Internet, which gave me new hope.

I am desperate enough that I would gladly leave the country if that's what it meant to escape. I do not have much money, however, and would need a place to stay and help finding a job once I left the country.

I pray that you or someone you know can help me. I am in Texas, I won't tell you exactly where because I don't know who could be reading this but I am willing to pack my bags and start driving to anywhere you tell me to go. I pray that you get this letter as my unit deploys next week and I don't have much time. Please write back as soon as you can. God bless you and what you are doing.

Brandon

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### **The Run For The Canada:**

MARCH 2, 2004  
09:28

Ironic.

**I'm waiting to meet a deserting soldier near a Safeway grocery store. He'll be a passenger on the Freedom Underground, an underground network dedicated to sneaking deserters out of the country. According to Carl Rising-Moore, the conductor of this new underground railroad, he's not the first.**

This passenger, Brandon David Hughey, is a private in the Army, stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas. He found the Nuvo article 'A new underground railroad' on the anti-war site <http://www.duckdaotsu.org>, a Web site run by a Taoist hermit in the Rocky Mountains.

**Another irony--the headquarters of the U.S. Army Deserter Information Point (USADIP) is in Indianapolis. He's right under their noses, so close that he can't afford any mistakes. He's got to hide his vehicle and turn off his cell phone so he's harder to track. He's also got to get rid of his military ID and dogtags.**

A main reason Rising-Moore helped him is because he was suicidal. He prefers people "mess with the system from within" and use legal means to oppose the war. However, if one is suicidal, he recommends they leave immediately.

MARCH 2

14:20

I followed Rising-Moore and Brandon Hughey to the safe house in downtown Indianapolis.

Hughey hid his dogtags and military ID in the trunk of his gray Mustang, which he and Rising-Moore then hid in the garage of the safe house. Hughey is wearing a New York Knicks baseball cap to hide his military-style haircut. He has only his driver's license and high school diploma to identify himself--will that be enough to cross the border? Canada usually requires Americans to present a photo identification and proof of citizenship, such as a passport or a driver's license and birth certificate.

He's been in the Army since July, and known he could be deployed since December. He got his deployment orders a few days ago--his unit is leaving as he arrives at the safe house.

His story is familiar. "Growing up, I always thought it was a good thing to do, go into the military," he told the CBC at the end of our journey. "After high school, I figured it'd be a good way to get money to go to college."

Many of my Army buddies had the same feeling and reason for enlisting. He's seen soldiers in his company suffer nervous breakdowns -- just like I saw and experienced during my Army career.

He's survived this long -- why is he running now? He feels that suicide or desertion are his only options, especially with the time crunch. Some will consider him a hero -- he's risking jail time rather than supporting a war he believes is unjust. Some will consider him a coward and a traitor -- he is deserting during a time of war. There is no easy choice for this desperate young man from San Angelo, Texas.

**He enlisted for four years when he was 17. His father had to sign a form giving Hughey permission to enlist as Hughey was not yet a legal adult. Rising-Moore shakes his head. "He's not old enough to sign for himself, but he's old enough to die?"**

Hughey did not tell anyone else he was considering suicide. He's seen how the military humiliates suicidal soldiers--a guard with the soldier 24/7, a sergeant or officer screaming insults about the soldier's mental stability, confiscation of weapons and shoelaces. **I remember a sergeant telling me "They take the shoelaces to isolate the soldier, not to protect them. I don't think that's right."**

Rising-Moore knows that aiding this 18-year-old man is illegal, but he doesn't think it's wrong. He believes the war is unjust and civil disobedience is mandatory.

March 3

23:20

This fog is straight out of a bad mystery novel. It forces Rising-Moore to slow down at times. Then it suddenly dissipates, and we continue down the interstate at an average of 65 mph. We're somewhere in Ohio.

The original plan was to enter Canada through the Detroit-Windsor border; that's changed. Now the plan is to go to Buffalo and cross at Niagara Falls. I've got a video camera; I'm filming part of the journey for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).

Hughey, a tank driver, doesn't dare drive the borrowed non-descript vehicle. If pulled over, he would have to show ID--the last thing he wants to do. He's listening to music in the back seat. He seems calm, everything considered. Rising-Moore, Hughey, and I have talked about our various experiences in the Army and our views on the war.

I say little about the war or my opinion of Bush -- I'm a journalist, just along to document the story. It's hard to remain impartial, though. Part of me wants to say "Snap out of it, soldier!" and encourage him to return to his unit; part of me is sympathetic to his situation.

Hughey, the son of staunch Texas Republicans, originally supported the war. Then the A and B-average high school graduate began watching the news, reading the newspaper. He read about international law and how it specifically forbids the invasion of a sovereign nation and pre-emptive war. As he learned there was no sign of the weapons of mass destruction -- the pretext of the whole war -- he decided the war was illegal under international law, his contract was null and void, and anything was better than supporting the war.

"My unit's in Kuwait right now," he says.

He's been gone for more than 24 hours, so he's officially absent without leave. His unit's been deployed, so he's missed movement by design -- another military offense. The maximum punishment for missing movement by design is a dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for two years. Ten days after his disappearance, his family will receive a letter asking them to urge him to "return to military control". In thirty days, he'll be dropped from his unit's rolls and administratively classified as a deserter.

Army spokesman Joe Burlas told Nuvo in a previous story that the penalty for desertion was "basically five years confinement if there's an intent to avoid hazardous duty." According to Natalie Granger of the Army Public Affairs Office, 3,800 soldiers deserted in 2002. Three thousand two hundred fifty-five were returned to military control. In 2001, 5,065 deserted and 4,966 were returned. This is a recapture rate of about 85 percent in 2002 and 98 percent in 2001.

March 5  
10:06

Hughey said the military has tried to keep returning personnel separate from deploying personnel. It's easy to understand why when he talks about what he's heard.

**"You have to worry more about the sand flies than the suicide bombers," he says. He's heard service members in Iraq are getting incurable skin diseases because of the sand flies. Both sides are suffering from the use of depleted uranium, the effects of which will last long after the war is over. There are rumors some soldiers have died from dehydration due to a tight water ration.**

Morale is abysmal and the suicide rate is higher than normal. **Some of the Humvees aren't properly armored--including the ones Hughey was supposed to drive. There is no exit strategy. Most damning -- no sign of the weapons of mass destruction.**

Hughey believes his orders are contrary to international law. "I thought what was going on over there was immoral," he later tells the CBC. "It wasn't right. I feel that since Bush broke international law, that every soldier has the responsibility to resist it." Others have contacted him for help; Rising-Moore considers that his job.

We're close to the border now. Rising-Moore starts to prepare a contingency plan and advises Hughey on what to do if arrested. It all depends on what happens at the border, if his driver's license is enough to get him into Canada.

**We're about a quarter of a mile from the border.** We're in a small park in Niagara, New York. I pull out the camera and start it. American and Canadian flags flank a replica of the Statue of Liberty; Rising-Moore and Hughey admire it. "What does liberty mean to you?" I ask.

Hughey starts to answer. Freedom. Not having to fight in a war he doesn't believe in. The freedom to say no.

We're on the Rainbow Bridge. The CBC is waiting for us. We slowly creep toward the border. A guard is walking along the bridge, checking cars for anything suspicious. He's approaching us. Suddenly, he turns around and goes back to talk to the CBC's camera crew, which is filming our crossing.

**We pull up to the Canadian guard station and surrender our IDs.** How do we know each other? Where are we going in Canada? We're going to watch the Knicks-Raptors game. How long will we be staying? Not long. Rising-Moore does the talking. The guard examines our IDs, then hands them back and lets us through. We're quiet until we get about fifty feet into Canada. Hughey sighs in relief. "Safe from Bush's henchmen for the time being," he says.

"For a long time to come," Rising-Moore replies.

Hughey nods. "I feel safe now," he says. "I'm glad to be in this country. I feel like a free man."

We meet up with the CBC and drive into St. Catherine's, Ontario. A group of the Society of Friends -- Quakers -- is waiting for us. "Welcome to Canada," says Don Alexander, smiling. He chuckles, and says, "Or should that be "Welcome to Canada, eh?" They offer us food and invite us to spend the night. They praise Hughey for his

courage, then turn to me to make sure I understand why they consider him a hero. They believe it takes great moral courage to refuse on conscience to fight a war.

**Many of them had helped deserters during the Vietnam War, and they believe history is repeating itself.**

The CBC asks one of the Friends, Rose Marie Cipryk, why they're helping. "Why would we say no?" Cipryk replies. "How could we? How could we not help him?"

We spend the night with the Friends. They present Hughey with a postcard-sized painting entitled "The Angel of Grace". He seems sad to see Rising-Moore and me leave, but Rising-Moore tries to encourage him. "You're a different kind of soldier now," says Rising-Moore. He's a soldier for peace, Rising-Moore says. Rising-Moore helps him contact Hinzman and a lawyer, Jeffery House, to help him gain legal status in Canada.

Hughey says leaving his family behind is the hardest part about deserting. I ask about his unit. "I hope they all make it back okay," he says. "It's just too bad they have to be over there in an illegal war." Any advice for service members in his situation? "If you're at that point, you're ready to take your own life, pack your bags and go."

He didn't know applying for conscientious objector (CO) status was an option. That status is difficult to get. The United States military does not recognize conditional conscientious objectors--for example, someone who would fight in what he or she considers a "just war" but not an "unjust war". One woman was threatened with court-martial if she applied for CO status. It is not an offense to apply. Her superiors did it "to intimidate her".

**When Rising-Moore and I cross the border back into America, we are greeted with a Marine recruiting billboard. "Look at that garbage," he says, disgusted. "'The change is forever.' Yeah, if you're dead, that's pretty much forever."**

Rising-Moore tells me about a conversation he had with his wife before we left. "I'm scared," he told her. "I've got to do what I've got to do. I don't want to do this. I have to."

Although he will not escort someone across the border again, Rising-Moore plans to continue to assist deserters.

**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,

**IRAQ WAR REPORTS:**

# IED Kills U.S. Soldier

30 Mar 2004, BAGHDAD (AP) & 31mar04 Herald Sun correspondents near Baghdad

**One U.S. soldier was killed and another wounded in a roadside bombing today. The injured soldier was flown to a combat support hospital after the explosion near Ramadi, west of Baghdad.**

US Marines operate in the area, but the military did not say whether the casualties were Marines.

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## U.S. Soldier Killed Near Falluja

Mar 29, 2004 BAGHDAD (Reuters)

A U.S. soldier was killed on Monday when a bomb was detonated beside a military convoy near Falluja west of Baghdad, the U.S. army said.

A spokesman said the attack happened around 11 miles from Falluja, where much of the resistance to the U.S.-led occupation has been concentrated.

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## IED Kills One Soldier, Wounds Second Near Al-Habbaniya

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND

March 29, 2004 Release Number: 04-03-22C

Balad, Iraq - A 13th COSCOM soldier is dead and one is injured as the result of an improvised explosive device attack near Al-Habbaniya at approximately 10:30 a.m.

They were part of a convoy when their vehicle struck the IED.

The injured soldier was evacuated by air to the 31st Combat Support Hospital, Baghdad.

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## A Classic Of Complete Command Stupidity

### MARINE KILLED IN ACTION

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND

March 29, 2004 Release Number: 04-03-21C

CAMP MEK, Iraq - One Marine assigned to the 1st Marine Division was killed as a result of enemy action in the Al Anbar Province on March 26.

*I MEF force protection measures preclude the release of any information that could aid enemy personnel in assessing the effectiveness or lack thereof with regard to their tactics, techniques and procedures. The release of more details about the incident could place our Marines and sailors at greater risk.*

(Comment: This is a classic example of the blinding stupidity of command. The details of an Iraqi resistance attack are kept a closely guarded secret. From who? *The resistance.* DUH!

“Hey my brother, I’ve completely forgotten how we did that ambush in Al Anbar. You know, the one that fucked up the Marines, killed one, wounded half a dozen more? You know, our tactics, techniques and procedures? I’ve tried and I’ve tried, and, shit, I can’t remember any of it. How ‘bout you?”

“Why no. Every single member of our coordinated attack force has forgotten all of that completely, and---are you ready for the worst news of all---those clever Americans are keeping it all a big secret from us!”

“Oh shit, guess we might as well all go home and let the U.S. Empire run our country, no?”

What places “our Marines and sailors at greater risk” is having drooling fools making decisions and giving commands, first and foremost the command to invade Iraq at all.)

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## Kimmitt, The Idiot Clown, At It Again

30 Mar 2004, BAGHDAD (AP)

**Attacks against U.S.-led coalition forces have increased in the last week, said Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt.** He said there has been an average of 26 attacks daily, an increase of about six from recent weeks.

Despite the "slight uptick," Kimmitt said, the security situation in Iraq remained "stable." (How do you suppose the families of the weeks' dead and maimed soldiers feel about their loss being dismissed as a "slight uptick"? When the resistance finally nails this contemptible empty suit, do you suppose CENTCOM will call that a "slight uptick"?)

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## 1<sup>st</sup> ID Soldier Wounded In RPG Attack

30 Mar 2004, BAGHDAD (AP)



East of Baghdad in Diala province late Monday, a U.S. soldier from the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division was wounded when a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at an Army convoy, a U.S. official said on condition of anonymity. Four troops who were in the vehicle, which was set on fire, were seen being rushed away in another Humvee.

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## Northern Ireland Soldier Killed Working “Security”

29/03/2004u.tv/newsroom Press Association

A Northern Ireland man who was killed in Iraq when rebels attacked his vehicle was named today as an off-duty soldier who was about to leave the Army.

Colour Sergeant Christopher Charles McDonald, 39, was in Iraq but not on military duty when he was killed in the northern city of Mosul, the Ministry of Defence said.

Witnesses to yesterday's attack said he died, along with another man, when their four-wheel drive vehicle was ambushed by gunmen.

**A spokeswoman for the MoD said Colour Sergeant McDonald, from Bangor, County Down, was attached to the Headquarters Northern Ireland Battalion at Thiepval Barracks in Lisburn.** ``It is not unusual for soldiers to seek alternative employment whilst they are on resettlement leave.``

**Colour Sergeant McDonald was believed to have been working as a civilian security guard protecting foreign engineers at a power station east of Mosul.**

**Reports yesterday claimed the dead Briton worked as security guard for a US conglomerate through London-based firm Olive Security, which has had up to 300 staff in Iraq.**

Witnesses saw two partly-burned bodies in blue clothing and flak jackets lying beside a burning four-wheel drive vehicle. One man was thought to have been shot in the head.

The confirmation of the off-duty soldier's death came as the funeral was held for 29-year-old Scott Mounce, from Hedon, East Yorkshire.

Mr Mounce, originally from Inverness, died in a terrorist attack on the five-storey Mount Lebanon Hotel in Baghdad on March 17.

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## Aberdeen Soldier Injured In Iraq

03/29/2004 Associated Press KELO TV

An Aberdeen soldier has been seriously injured in Iraq. According to the South Dakota National Guard's Web site, Sergeant Sean Lessin suffered a head injury while loading a military convoy. The injury was not related to combat.

He was taken to a military hospital in Baghdad for surgery and is listed in stable condition. Lessin is a member of the Second Battalion, 147th Field Artillery unit based in Aberdeen.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

# **Slain Serviceman's Mother Wants Troops Sent Home; “Rich Kids Don’t Join The Army”**

By LIZ SADLER, THE JOURNAL NEWS, March 19, 2004

MOUNT VERNON — Carmen Palmer's only son told her just over a year ago that he was going to fight in the war in Iraq.

But the 22-year-old never made it back from Iraq, and now all that is left of Gooden are fond memories and the medals he was awarded posthumously hanging in Palmer's living room.

**On the eve of the first anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, the only mother in Westchester County to lose a child said the United States should send its troops home. She said the Iraq war is "senseless" and wondered why so many young soldiers have to die.**

"There is still pain," said Palmer, who emigrated from Jamaica 14 years ago in search of a better life for her two children. "Let's put away the war. It's still painful."

Each day is a struggle for Palmer and her 22-year-old daughter, she said, and the news that there are no weapons of mass destruction especially stung.

"That was so hard because I believe they went there to find nothing, and all these young lives have been lost," she said. **Gooden wanted to be a lawyer and joined the military so that he could pay for his education. Palmer, who works in child care in Scarsdale, said the poor and minorities, in particular, have suffered because of the war.**

<p><b>"Rich kids don't join the Army," she said. "The minorities are the ones who are vulnerable to the situation, and that is so unfair."</b></p>
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Gooden was awarded U.S. citizenship after he died. "It doesn't mean nothing," Palmer said. "He's not here. He was only 22 years old."

As the first anniversary of Gooden's death draws near, Palmer is busy with plans for a memorial. She doesn't watch the news because the images of war are too painful, she said. In his last letter to his mother, Gooden wrote he was "proud to be a Marine, and he was confident that he'd be home soon because he told us that Iraq was a cakewalk," Palmer said in a previous interview.

**He was buried in his native country, Jamaica.**

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## **Imperial Dreams & Bloody Fantasies: Bush & Kerry Agree On U.S. Plans For Eternal Military Occupation Of Iraq**

3.29.04 By Christine Spolar, Chicago Tribune foreign correspondent

From the ashes of abandoned Iraqi army bases, U.S. military engineers are overseeing the building of an enhanced system of American bases designed to last for years.

Last year, as troops poured over the Kuwait border to invade Iraq, the U.S. military set up at least 120 forward operating bases. Then came hundreds of expeditionary and temporary bases that were to last between six months and a year for tactical operations while providing soldiers with such comforts as e-mail and Internet access.

**Now U.S. engineers are focusing on constructing 14 "enduring bases," long-term encampments for the thousands of American troops expected to serve in Iraq for at least two years. The bases also would be key outposts for Bush administration policy advisers.**

The number of U.S. military personnel in Iraq, between 105,000 and 110,000, is expected to remain unchanged through 2006, according to military planners.

**The U.S. plans to operate from former Iraqi bases in Baghdad, Mosul, Taji, Balad, Kirkuk and in areas near Nasiriyah, near Tikrit, near Fallujah and between Irbil and Kirkuk.**

There also are plans to renovate and enhance airfields in Baghdad and Mosul, and rebuild 70 miles of road on the main route for U.S. troops headed north.

**Dollar figures have not been released.**

**("Dollar figures?" How about dead soldier figures? How clever to plan such a comprehensive military disaster. The Iraqi resistance will keep right on**

slaughtering U.S. soldiers until their country is free of foreign military occupation. The two Imperial racist presidential candidates, Republican Bush and Democrat Kerry, are determined to go all the way with Vietnam II. Kerry says "we" must have a "secure" Iraq.

(If anybody has any doubts about the necessity of building a movement to bring our soldiers home now, and is deluded into thinking supporting either Kerry or Bush has anything to do with stopping soldiers' deaths for oil and empire, put this little gem in his or her hand, plus the one below quoting Kerry threatening Venezuela. See what they have to say to you then.)

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## **US Major Attacks Guantanamo Injustice; Lawyer Chosen By Pentagon Says Detainees Face Unfair Trial**

March 25 2004 Tania Branigan, The Guardian

A US military lawyer representing a detainee at Guantánamo Bay said yesterday that his client could not receive justice under the existing system of military commissions.

**"The system is not set up to provide even the appearance of a fair trial," said Major Michael Mori, who was appointed by the Pentagon to defend the Australian detainee David Hicks.**

**"If there's credible evidence, take him to an established justice system," he said at a press conference in London given by lawyers acting for the prisoners. "If it's not credible, that doesn't justify changing the rules."**

"The appointing authority, who approves the charges, is the same person who gets to rule on defence motions," he said.

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## **Eight Arrested At West Point**

**(News in 3.29: all charges in this case have been dropped.)**

By FRANZISKA CASTILLO, THE JOURNAL NEWS, March 2, 2004

Eight antiwar protesters were charged with disrupting a U.S. Military Academy basketball game on Saturday after they stood in the bleachers wearing T-shirts spelling out "U.S. OUT OF IRAQ."

Shortly after the 2 p.m. Army-Navy game started, the protesters pulled off their shirts and sweaters, revealing white T-shirts bearing hand-painted black letters. They stood in

the top row of bleachers on the Army side until military police escorted them from the gym, said the group's leader, Nick Mottern of Peekskill.

Military police charged the group with disorderly conduct and trespassing, both violations, said Lt. Col. James Whaley, spokesman for the academy.

Mottern said, "I think the trespassing charges are bogus, since we bought tickets and were admitted to the installation by Army officials."

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# **Thousands Protest Bremer Attack On Free Press; “It Is Like The Days Of The Baath” “I Guess This Is The Bush Edition Of Democracy”**

By BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press Writer, BAGHDAD, Iraq, 3.28.04 & Jeffrey Gettleman, New York Times

BAGHDAD, Iraq, March 28 - American soldiers shut down a popular Baghdad newspaper on Sunday and tightened chains across the doors after the occupation authorities accused it of printing lies that incited violence.

**Thousands of outraged Iraqis protested the closing as an act of American hypocrisy, laying bare the hostility many feel toward the United States a year after the invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein.**

**"No, no, America!" and "Where is democracy now?" screamed protesters who hoisted banners and shook clenched fists** in a hastily organized rally against the closing of the newspaper, Al Hawza, a radical Shiite weekly.

**The rally drew hundreds and then thousands by nightfall in central Baghdad, where masses of angry Shiite men squared off against a line of American soldiers who rushed to seal off the area.**

Many Iraqis said closing down a popular newspaper at such a crucial time would not curtail anti-occupation feelings but only inflame them.

**"When you repress the repressed, they only get stronger," said Hamid al-Bayati, a spokesman for the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, a prominent Shiite political party. "Punishing this newspaper will only increase the passion for those who speak out against the Americans."**

The American authorities said Al Hawza could reopen in 60 days. The paper's editors, however, said they had been put out of business.

**"We have been evicted from our offices, and we have no jobs," Saadoon Mohsen Thamad, a news editor, said as he stared at a large padlock hanging from the front gate. "How are we going to continue?"**

The spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said any violation of the closure could lead to the imprisonment of newspaper employees for up to one year and a fine of up to \$1,000.

Many newspapers and television stations have sprouted in Iraq since the fall of the Hussein government. But under a law passed by the occupying authorities in June, a news media organization must be licensed, and that license can be revoked if the organization publishes or broadcasts material that incites violence or civil disorder or "advocates alterations to Iraq's borders by violent means."

**But the letter outlining the reasons for taking action against Al Hawza did not cite any material that directly advocated violence. Several Iraqi journalists said that meant there was no basis to shut Al Hawza down.**

**"That paper might have been anti-American, but it should be free to express its opinion," said Kamal Abdul Karim, night editor of the daily Azzaman.**

Omar Jassem, a freelance reporter, said he thought that democracy meant many viewpoints and many newspapers. **"I guess this is the Bush edition of democracy," he said.**

Tom Rosenstiel, vice chairman of the Committee of Concerned Journalists, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, said there was a basic irony in Americans' practicing censorship in Iraq.

Many Iraqi journalists said they feared that closing Al Hawza would only increase the support for Mr. Sadr, the 31-year-old son of a revered Shiite cleric who was assassinated in 1999 by hit men working for Mr. Hussein. In the prelude to the June 30 transfer of power, Mr. Sadr has been increasingly abrasive, issuing statements denouncing Americans and any Iraqis who work with them.

The American authorities said that before they decided to close Mr. Sadr's newspaper, they weighed the risks of further provoking him.

**"But we basically concluded that we couldn't afford to wait for another issue to hit the streets," said Al Elsadr, the media liaison for the occupation government. "The false information in that paper was hurting stability. It was stirring up a lot of hate. It was making people think we were out to get them." (Imagine that, Iraqis thinking**

**the invasion and occupation of their country means somebody is out to get them. And they don't need a newspaper to figure that one out, so the paper wasn't "making" them do anything. The pig Al Elsadr is like any other collaborating traitor, eager to mouth the lies of his masters. The silly man has more to say:)**

**Mr. Elsadr said that incitement of violence could come in many forms and that it did not have to be direct to be considered a violation of the administrative law.**

**Mr. Elsadr said the occupation authorities had invited the paper's editors to discuss with them what had been printed, but it was unclear if the paper would be able to appeal the closing order.**

In July, the American authorities permanently closed down another newspaper for similar reasons, provoking similar demonstrations. An Arabic television network was suspended from broadcasting in Iraq for 30 days after coverage that was considered irresponsible.

**"This is what happens when an Iraqi journalist expresses his opinion," said sheik Abdel-Hadi Darraja.** Darraja is a representative of al-Sadr, who lives in the southern holy city of Najaf and has been an outspoken critic of the U.S.-led occupation, but has not called for armed attacks.

**"What is happening now is what used to happen during the days of Saddam. No freedom of opinion. It is like the days of the Baath,"** said Hussam Abdel-Kadhim, 25, a vendor who took part in the demonstration, referring to the Baath Party that ruled Iraq for 35 years until Saddam Hussein was ousted a year ago.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME <u>NOW!</u></b></p>
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## **Hillah Police Chiefs' House Bombed**

30 Mar 2004, BAGHDAD (AP)

A bombing outside the house of a police chief killed the attacker and wounded seven others today.

The bombing occurred in Hillah, about 60 miles south of Baghdad, near where another police chief was shot and killed a week ago and nine police recruits died when assailants sprayed their minibus with small arms fire.

Police Maj. Ali Jawad said guards outside the house of Brig. Gen. Qeis Hamza, Hillah's police chief, fired at the car when they saw it speeding toward them, but failed to stop the attacker.

Four of the wounded were guards and the three others were residents of nearby houses, Jawad said. Hamza and his family, who were home at the time, were unhurt. The explosion damaged the chief's house and those of his neighbors.

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## **Iraqi Cop Lieutenant Killed In Attack On Checkpoint**

30 Mar 2004, BAGHDAD (AP)

Gunmen fired at an Iraqi police checkpoint in east Baghdad Monday, killing a lieutenant, police Col. Ahmed Iz-Adin said Tuesday.

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### **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**From: DH**

Sent: Mar 29, 2004

To: GI Special

Subject:

### **The Bad Old Days Revisited?**

**It was late 1973. The treaty for Kissinger's "peace with honor" had been signed, but there were still US troops in Viet Nam. Nixon was still commander in chief, and had yet to figure out that Watergate was the end for him. A few EM were hanging out in the barracks smoking dope when a misguided son of a lifer came in. He announced "I'm going to re-up for a guaranteed assignment to CONUS as a recruiter." His announcement disturbed our high. There was a moment of stunned silence, finally broken by the question "How are you going to sleep at night, knowing that you lie to high school kids for a living?"**

**Fast forward to 2004. The recruiters and commander in chief are both still lying. Not much changed in that regard. Must be a tough assignment as a recruiter these days?**

The internet has their potential recruit pool better informed than newspapers did in 1973. Do you think they can look the high school kids in the eye when they play dumb and don't answer questions about depleted uranium exposure? How bad does a kid have to want education money to risk a tour in Iraq or Afghanistan for the chance of higher education? Maybe if they had a better understanding of physics they could have gotten a scholarship? Are first hand lessons in nuclear physics in the form of depleted uranium exposure appropriate consequences for not getting a scholarship? I can't help but think that DU exposure will be a worse global health hazard than Agent Orange is?



I don't know how I got on your email list but I'm glad it happened. I thought I was a badass in my day because I dared to carve FTA on the subdued Sp5 rank insignia on my collar tabs.

Thanks to the internet, you influence more people in a day than copper colored FTA showing through the black on my collar could in a year. Keep up the good work!

DH  
Ex-Army Medic  
<http://www.veteransforpeace.org>

**Comment:**

Yes and no.

The fact was, and is, that it takes more courage to carve FTA on anything worn by an active duty soldier than to sit at a computer putting out a newsletter.

And respectfully to disagree again, what you and others did is far more important. The rebellion in the Army was decisive in stopping the Vietnam War. Armed forces members in Vietnam, for example, who circulated *Vietnam GI*, and organized "search and evade" and other actions against the war, like the mutiny at Firebase Pace, were the real badass troops whose efforts destroyed the discipline and organization of the Imperial killing machine, and stopped the bloodiest Imperial War the U.S. ever launched.

Undying respect to you and every other real hero who did their part in that effort.

And it can and will happen again in Iraq.

T.

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to the E-mail address up top. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.**

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **British Troops Ordered To Attack "Anti-Coalition Activists"**

March 29, 2004 Dow Jones Newswires

A freelance photographer working for The Associated Press was wounded Monday when he was shot in a leg with a rubber bullet by British soldiers trying to evict some Iraqis from a house in the southern city of Basra, an AP reporter said.

Attempts to contact British forces in the region over the incident involving the photographer, Nabil al-Jourani, weren't immediately successful.

**The British troops had clashed with dozens of Iraqis in Basra when the soldiers tried to evict anti-coalition activists from a government-owned building.**

Associated Press Television News footage showed Iraqis throwing stones at the troops and their vehicles. At one stage, two soldiers struggled with an Iraqi man as he tried to grab one of their weapons. Three Iraqis were injured.

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## **Unemployed Shot By Spanish Soldiers And Iraqi Collaborator Cops**

30 Mar 2004, BAGHDAD (AP)

**Spanish soldiers and Iraqi police fired on a demonstration by the unemployed.**

In the southern city of Najaf, Iraqis demanding jobs threw stones at Spanish soldiers and Iraqi police today. Witnesses reported gunfire, and at least three police and two protesters were injured. Fifteen people were detained in the three-hour protest.

The demonstration began when 400 people gathered outside a government building to protest a delay in the processing of their job applications as police officers. They began throwing stones, smashing windows and burning a guardhouse, witnesses said.

Spanish troops, who are responsible for security in the area, arrived later.

**One witness, 22-year-old Falah Hadi, said he saw a stone strike a female Spanish soldier on the head. The soldier staggered, and then fired one round at the crowd, Hadi said.**

**Spanish radio station Cadena Ser reported that a female Spanish soldier and five Iraqis were injured.**

In Madrid, Spanish Defense Ministry officials denied that a Spanish soldier was injured. **(Another stupid liar.)**

Two civilians suffered gunshot wounds, said Zaman Karim, an official at al-Sadr Educational Hospital.

One policeman was hit by a rock, another suffered a gunshot wound and a third was hit in the arm by a club, according to police Lt. Bilal al-Ghazali.

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# The Bremer Follies Roll On; A “Peaceful” Day For U.S. Petty Dictator Ends With Incoming

By Yaroslav Trofimov, Wall St. Journal, 3.17.04

**(After a detailed discussion of how Mr. Robert Silverman, “the top U.S. Administrator Tikrit, has done such a marvelous job of winning hearts and minds, the reporter writes of the “peaceful” end of his long days’ labor bringing light to the Iraqi savages.)**

“Phew,” Mr. Silverman breathed out after the last ballot as cast. The council’s temporary chairman, All Ghanem, looked at Mr. Silverman and motioned him to approach the podium. “Mr. Bob, your fingerprints will be all over our history,” he said.

After the election, Gen. Abdullah al Jahara wouldn’t complain about how his clan had been treated, even though he thought that he would have beaten Mr. Nakib if the elections were held after the return of all council members from the *haji*. “What happened today—we have to accept democracy,” he said.

Gen. Sultan was also cheerful. Invested with new prominence as a viable candidate for senior office, the following day he would travel with Mr. Silverman to his tribe’s stronghold of Beiji, a flashpoint of recent attacks, to make a joint call for calm.

**Mr. Silverman, too, was optimistic after the council meeting. At dinnertime that night, he gathered his staff to celebrate in his headquarters: Saddam Hussein’s former palace on a cliff overlooking the Tigris. Pouring Turkish white wine into coffee mugs, Mr. Silverman beamed, saying, “This went quite well. We’ve kept on board those whom we wanted to keep, and it all turned out to be peaceful.”**

**A few minutes later, a thud sounded across the Tigris. Hearing an ominous whooshing sound a second later, one of the staff members screamed, “Incoming, incoming,” and everyone scrambled to the marble floor. As Mr. Silverman and his aides rushed to switch off all lights, the rocket exploded nearby in the huge palace compound.**

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# Imperial War Candidate Kerry Demands Pressure On Venezuela “While A Peaceful Resolution Can Still Be Achieved”

## COMMENT:

If you know anybody who still thinks Kerry isn't just as much of an Imperial soldier-killer as Bush, send this along. Yeah, it's from the arrogant assholes' very own website.

As for the lesser evil types who think it would be better for U.S. troops to die in the jungles of Venezuela than die in the desert sands of Iraq, we got news for you: Kerry has no problem with them dying both places. He wants a bigger Army and keeps putting out the bullshit about the importance of “a secure Iraq.”

Support for Kerry is nothing but support for more Imperial war, more dead American soldiers, and more Empire. Maybe you can live with that, but our troops will die with that.

No election ever stopped a war. Vietnam was stopped by movements on the ground and the rebellion in the Army, not wasting time campaigning for Imperial candidates like Bush and Kerry. Can you spell N-I-X-O-N? Could he have been President when the pressure from below stopped Vietnam? Did that really happen? Yes or no?)

March 19, 2004 [http://www.johnkerry.com/pressroom/releases/pr\\_2004\\_0319d.html](http://www.johnkerry.com/pressroom/releases/pr_2004_0319d.html)

With the future of the democratic process at a critical juncture in Venezuela, we should work to bring all possible international pressure to bear on President Chavez to allow the referendum to proceed. The Administration should demonstrate its true commitment to democracy in Latin America by showing determined leadership now, ***while a peaceful resolution can still be achieved.***

Throughout his time in office, President Chavez has repeatedly undermined democratic institutions by using extra-legal means, including politically motivated incarcerations, to consolidate power.

**In fact, his close relationship with Fidel Castro has raised serious questions about his commitment to leading a truly democratic government.**

**Moreover, President Chavez's policies have been detrimental to our interests and those of his neighbors. He has compromised efforts to eradicate drug cultivation by allowing Venezuela to become a haven for narco-terrorists, and sowed instability in the region by supporting anti-government insurgents in Colombia.**

The referendum has given the people of Venezuela the opportunity to express their views on his presidency through constitutionally legitimate means. **The international community *cannot allow* President Chavez to subvert this process, as he has attempted to do thus far. He must be pressured to comply with the agreements he made...**

(For more on the history of the "Lesser Evil" trap, see the article "Who's Going To Be The Lesser Evil In '68?", reprinting Hal Draper's election classic, at [www.isreview.org](http://www.isreview.org).)

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## **DoD And Defense Contractors Team Up; Win Right To Continue Poisoning Fetuses**

By Peter Waldman, Wall St. Journal, 3.12.04

**In a decision that could save the Pentagon and some defense contractors billions of dollars in cleanup costs, California issued a tentative threshold for per-chlorate in drinking water that is six times as high as what the Environmental Protection Agency has said is safe for public consumption.**

California's so-called public-health goal, issued by the state's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, is meant to guide regulators in formulating an enforceable drinking-water standard.

**Applying lower uncertainty factors, the California scientists determined perchlorate is safe in drinking water in concentrations of as much as six parts per billion. In contrast, the EPA, in its 2002 draft risk assessment of perchlorate in drinking water, estimated that perchlorate poses health dangers, *particularly to fetuses and infants*, in concentrations of above one part per billion. (We'll see if the anti-abortion fanatics, who bleat endlessly about their love of the fetus, so much as peep about this scandal.)**

**After strident opposition from the Pentagon and many of its suppliers, who discharged perchlorate—a main ingredient of solid-rocket fuel—into drinking supplies nationwide throughout the Cold War era, the Bush administration has submitted the EPA's draft risk assessment to further review by the National Academy of Sciences.**

Billions of dollars in cleanup costs may hang in the balance, as the Colorado River alone, which supplies drinking water to some 15 million Californians, is polluted with perchlorate in amounts ranging from four to nine parts per billion.

**Until now, California's health department has required water suppliers to remove perchlorate to concentrations below four ppb, but it raised the action level yesterday, in accordance with the new public-health goal, to six ppb.** For now, the move, helps alleviate a potentially huge cleanup burden for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the main distributor of Colorado River water, **and thus reduces the potential liability of defense manufacturers who polluted the region's water sources.**

That may change, of course, if the EPA promulgates a stricter federal standard for perchlorate.

"I figured the public-health goal would come in around six, because anything less than that would devastate districts who depend on the Colorado River," said Anthony Araiza, general manager of West Valley Water District east of Los Angeles.

**"Raising the threshold to six ppb means millions more Californians will be exposed to perchlorate, potentially causing developmental problems in countless numbers of children," said Sujatha Jahagirdar of Environment California -**

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## **Received:**

### **Help Needed With For New Film to Shine Light On Vietnam GI Anti-War Movement**

Subject: Article on GI Movement film  
Date: Thu, 25 Mar 2004 12:13:50 -0800  
From: David Zeiger [displaced@mindspring.com](mailto:displaced@mindspring.com)

I am writing to appeal to members and supporters of VVAW to help in the production of a monumental new documentary film. We Gotta Get Out of this Place! is the story of how American GI's, in their thousands, created a widespread, unprecedented movement inside the military against the war in Vietnam. Through demonstrations, underground newspapers, combat refusals and more, GI's altered the course of the war and rocked the foundations of the U.S. military. Yet today, the memory of the GI Movement has been buried.

With hundreds of thousands of American soldiers once again spread across the globe and signs of opposition once again emerging among the troops, it's time for that memory to be resurrected.

While the veterans' movement and in particularly VVAW will be a significant part of the film, the main focus will be on the GI Movement itself. I am looking for people who:

- Produced and distributed underground newspapers;
- Led or were part of local and national organizations-Ft. Hood United Front, GI's United Against the War, Soldiers Liberation Front, etc;
- Were jailed for their political activities, such as the Presidio 27, Ft. Hood 43, and individuals court-martialed for refusing duty in Nam or fighting racism and harassment in the military;

- Participated in stockade rebellions around the world, including Long Binh Jail;
- Organized Armed Forces Day and other demonstrations and actions against the war;
- Participated in combat refusals and other acts of resistance in Nam.

Also, any photographs, film footage, and press clippings from those and other events will be very helpful.

I am not a veteran, but from '70-'72 I was on the civilian staff of the Oleo Strut coffeehouse at Ft. Hood, and worked some with VVAW in Los Angeles after that. As a filmmaker, this is a film that has been on my mind for quite some time, but never seemed possible to produce. Today it is not only possible, but quite necessary.

If you were part of the GI Movement, I would love to talk with you. I can be contacted at 323-906-9249 or [displaced@mindspring.com](mailto:displaced@mindspring.com). For information about my previous films, including the PBS series Senior Year, you can go to the Displaced Films web site, [www.displacedfilms.com](http://www.displacedfilms.com).

David Zeiger, Displaced Films

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