

GI SPECIAL 3A2

**THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



Theresa Poulin leaves the funeral for her son, Maine Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Lynn Poulin, in Waterville, Maine December 30, 2004. Sergeant Poulin was killed December 21 in Mosul. REUTERS/Brian Snyder

“They Have Killed This American Family.”

From: Diana Dressler-Rumley Oigirltype4diana@yahoo.com

To: GI Special

Sent: Friday, December 31, 2004 6:09 AM

Subject: Please read what the Air Force has done to us.

You can use my full name and I do not care at all. **I am at war now with the Air Force and even though I may not win I will get the satisfaction of knowing I tried my best and told the truth.**

I have lost everything, furniture, my beautiful home and all my daughter's things are still in my home that will probably be auctioned off.

We have nothing left.

I am in Manchester, New Jersey now staying in a basement, and I am grateful for a roof over our heads. I am with my Mom now who lost her husband 5 months ago; my dad died of cancer.

My husband and I are separated due to financial and emotional reasons.

My husband feels really bad about what has happened and he is ashamed and has given up on life and I had to take my daughter out of that environment.

I still very deeply love my husband and he loves me. But in the court martial the prosecution said that in order for him to be retained in the Air Force he would have to leave me and separate.

They said I was his supplier of the drug.

So I gave them what they wanted.

We have sacrificed so many times for the Air Force.

My husband was on deployment most of the times our daughter had open-head surgery because duty came first and I understood that.

Now though, they can't see that they have killed this American family.

Here is my full name and also my husbands name too.

My husband made a mistake and I just cannot believe that one little pill could do so much damage.

Sincerely,
Diana Dressler-Rumley (Self)
Edward L. Rumley (Husband)
Pope AFB, North Carolina
Sarah Rumley (Daughter)

You can use my name and my husbands name and the yahoo address in your article. I really want all to know what the Air Force did to a disabled and now financially ruined family.

Please Read What The Air Force Has Done To Us.

I am not trying to say that my husband did nothing wrong, but I am saying that the punishment does not fit what he did. It was a mistake and a misjudgement on my part for that I will never forgive myself. But my husband has been through alot and I do not know now what the future will hold.

I do not want to live and I am just spent.

My husbands military career is over and so is his life.

He is 46 years old with a Court Martial conviction and debt over our head. He may never get a good job again. The Air Force split this family in pieces and they do not care.

From: Diana Dressler-Rumley Oigirltype4diana@yahoo.com

To: GI Special

I was reading your website and found it very interesting, but have to tell you that the military here in the US are having War with their own service members.

I have a story to tell you about what has happened to an American air force family of almost 19 years of service.

I, Diana Dressler-Rumley have been married to my husband for almost 11 years and when we first got married my husband was in the Air Force for about 8 years. I was pregnant right away and almost did not have her due to I have a disease called Osteogenesis Imperfecta, but due to my belief I did not terminate.

After I had my daughter Sarah my bone disorder became worse due to the trauma of having a baby; my femur bones became very weak and they bowed so bad and so did my tibia's and fibula's. I had my daughter in 1994.

In 1999, I under went leg surgery where they inserted a steel rod with 4, 4mm screws into my hip and knee area to hold the rod. I still need more surgery but I had to stop due to my daughter as well has medical problems now.

When she was 4 months old we found out that she has cranial frontal nasal displasia, and hypertalerism. During all this my husband was faithful to the military and I tried to never let these problems affect him or his duty.

During all this I was sent to many pain management doctors that were all Military treatment facilities. As I went to these military doctors they all put me on narcotic pain medications to help my pain. I am talking strong stuff. I started with medication in 1994 right after I had my daughter. So I am still on these medications because the civilian doctors I see now say I will be on them for the rest of my life.

You see I have no bone marrow.

Also my daughter Sarah has a condition that is totally opposite of my condition. Her bones fuse around her brain and it inhibits brain growth; she has undergone 15 head surgeries and she is 10 now and very happy and healthy.

My husband though has been faithful, supportive, and a great father and husband to us.

He was in security forces as a Technical Sergeant but then cross-trained to be closer to home and so he would not be deployed as much. He then was transferred to the Family Support Center where he worked on Pope AFB, NC. He was the readiness NCO and this was all before the war broke out; he started there in 2001.

He really enjoyed that job and he had a normal schedule and he and I enjoyed that.

But when the war broke out the deployments became very busy and what was once a 1 man job became a 3 man job. One week my husband worked almost 3 days straight due to briefing lines and other stuff going on with the war and when he was told by the director Faye Smith of the FSC if he needed any help to just ask so he did, the civilian workers which were all woman did not help him. All they did was criticize and judge and that is when it all went down hill.

He became very unhappy seeing all these civilian worker and GS whatevers getting paid all this money and not working. My husband did his job and then some other stuff on weekends while the civilian workers were getting everything. He didn't complain though but it did get stressful and very busy and he got feed up at the way he was treated so when he did say something to the director, Faye Smith, she asked him to leave that position so he did.

He was now working as a dorm manager and he really liked that it was not as hectic and he found that he worked with other guys just like him but then we got hit with a terrible Ice storm and had 45 pine trees fall on his mothers home.

She is 83 years old and my husbands dad was in a nursing home; he is a WWII veteran and he is not well. He is at the VA hospital in Durham, NC.

My husband was under a lot of stress that he kept from me and I think he was depressed and even though he went to Life Skills on base **all they did was put him on medications.**

Well, back to the severe Ice storm that his mother had. He went to her house and she could not afford to have someone from the outside come in and remove the trees, so he did it himself during the weekends that he was off.

After the 4th weekend of working he came in and went to go lay down and I asked him what was wrong?

He said he was in terrible pain he had hurt his back picking up the limbs and that he just needed to lay there for a bit to see if it would go away so I went and gave him my pain medication that I take for my disease, not thinking anything of it.

I gave it to him and he took it. **Well that was a Sunday evening and then on that Monday when he went back to work they did a random drug urinalysis test, and he was not even remembering what I gave him the day prior, but he popped as they say on that test, so when he told his commander Susan Pollman (who had just gotten there to Pope 23 days prior from Korea) she did not let him explain.**

She just told him she was preferring charges and that he needed to be prepared, and on September, 10 2003, my husband was sent to confinement at Camp Lejeune, NC for 12 months and he was demoted of rank.

During his confinement time I went to see him at least 2 times a month or more but when he was in confinement he was not paid at all so we became almost homeless and we did not eat as good. **My daughter suffered the most of all; she was aware of it all. She was devastated. So was I and my husband.**

During his confinement time I had to fight with the Air Force to help us and it was terrible. I am disabled and have not worked for over 10 years. And during that time my daughter had a head surgery in Virginia and I was stranded there until I had money to come home on.

It has been the worst time of my life.

I almost committed suicide with my self and my daughter and when I called the chaplain on base where we attended Church he did not call me back and they asked me not to worship there no longer.

They also printed several news articles in the local paper on base with our names printed in it, and it was very humiliating for all of us since I tried to not share my personal details with anyone on base and I HAD several friends that I have not heard from since then.

I was at my wits end. I had no idea what to do. I was all alone for the first time in years and when I asked my husbands First Sergeant Maria Maldonado she told me I should just go on with my life and divorce my husband and move on. But all I could think about was the time my husband had to help me for a year because I could not walk due to my leg surgery.

He washed me and cleaned me and took care of me at my worst point and I could not turn my back on Him!

He was devastated and tried to take his own life as well. He did not succeed though. He got out of confinement early but not early enough, he was released 8 months later in April 2004. He went back to work but he was demoted from TSGT to Airman Basic.

He however wanted to stay in we had no fall back plan and I needed the health insurance and so did our daughter.

Now, just recently in October 2004 I had to leave our home of 5 years with my daughter and come and live with my mother due to we are losing everything we cannot afford our home anymore and all my daughters belongings are in that house including all my memories and everything I own. I cannot even afford to put it all in storage.

We also have been hit really hard by the military.

Just 5 days before Christmas they backed-doored my husband and discharged him on 12/20/04 at 7:30am, and that morning I had an appointment here in NJ on

Mc Guire to get my meds and doctors here set up, but they told me I could not come to the appointment; that everything stopped that day.

Everything was gone.

I am so devastated and confused and sick.

Please print this in your web page and I want America to know how Pope AFB, NC and Col. Frank Kisner the commander of that base has done to us and all who were involved.

The blood of our lives are on the United States Air Force.

If anything happens to me or to any of us it is due to all that we have been through.

I am not trying to say that my husband did nothing wrong, but I am saying that the punishment does not fit what he did. It was a mistake and a misjudgement on my part for that I will never forgive myself. But my husband has been through alot and I do not know now what the future will hold.

I do not want to live and I am just spent.

My husbands military career is over and so is his life.

He is 46 years old with a Court Martial conviction and debt over our head. He may never get a good job again. The Air Force split this family in pieces and they do not care.

We have sacrificed for the Air Force and now they turn their back on us after we gave our life to them and my husband has been to Kuwait and also all over for the past 18 years. He did his duty happily.

He made a mistake and that is all I can say.

I guess everyone else in the Air Force is perfect and have never make mistakes. I'd like to see all the people who were involved in my husband's conviction, their military record. Is it spotless?

Well that is all I have to say but I really hope that the Air Force really thinks long and hard at what they did to this American family.

Sincerely,
Diana Dressler-Rumley

NEED 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/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.net)

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

1 US Soldier Killed, 1 Wounded

01-01-05 Dow Jones & Company

BAGHDAD (AP)--A U.S. soldier belonging to the Task Force Baghdad was killed and another was wounded Saturday in a roadside explosion north of the capital, the military said. No other details were given.

Marine Killed in Al Anbar

12/31/04 cjt7 Release #050101c

Al Anbar Province, Iraq -- One Marine assigned to the I Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action Friday, Dec. 31.

Tank Damaged In Baghdad Area Fighting

01 January 2005 Aljazeera.Net & sabcnews

Fighting between US forces and armed groups has continued in and around the Iraqi capital, intensifying on the road leading to Baghdad airport.

Speaking to Aljazeera from Baghdad on Saturday, Iraqi journalist Ziyad al-Samarrai said a fierce gun battle broke out just before midnight and continued until early morning.

"In Baghdad's Haifa Street, a gun battle had erupted where about 40 US military vehicles and 200 soldiers were deployed, closing all roads," al-Samarrai said.

"The area near Baghdad's international airport also came under fire when explosions rocked the area on Saturday morning," he added.

In the Abu Ghraib district of the city, a US tank was damaged when it was hit by an explosive device, planted in an agricultural area. No further details were provided, Aljazeera said.

Guerrillas trying to drive out US-led forces and topple Iraq's American-backed government kept up sporadic mortar fire in and around the capital into New Year's Day, which may explain the explosion that occurred at mid-day.

U.S. Tikrit Base Mortared

01 January 2005 Aljazeera.Net

US helicopters bombed an area near a US military base north of Tikrit city, after the base had come under mortar fire.

Modesto Teen Killed In Iraq



Army Pfc. Oscar Sanchez (DEBBIE NODA)

January 1, 2005 Bee staff writer Inga Miller

A Modesto teenager serving in the Army was killed Wednesday when a series of suicide bombs exploded in Iraq.

Oscar Sanchez, a 19-year-old private first class, is the second Modestan to die during the war in Iraq.

The attack that killed Sanchez in Mosul came two days after the funeral for Modesto Marine Cpl. Michael Anderson Jr., 21.

Friday would have been Sanchez's first wedding anniversary.

"I was hoping he would call," 19-year-old Tiffany Sanchez said. "Last time I talked to him was on Sunday. I told him I loved him and missed him. He was going to come home in February."

Instead, she spent the day making funeral arrangements.

Other family members spent the day sorting through his childhood pictures. They said he joined the Army because he wanted to get a good job and provide for his family.

"His hopes and dreams were always to take care of his brothers and of getting his things together," said a cousin, 30-year-old Stella Padilla. "A home for his father. A home for his brother."

Tragedy first struck Sanchez at age 11, at a mobile home on Latimer Avenue where part of his family still lives.

His mother's boyfriend shot her to death in the carport in a murder-suicide, family members said. Sanchez was home at the time, said his brother's fiancée, Linda Garza, 20, who now lives there with him.

"His father raised him. He spoiled him. He tried to give him what he wanted. The shoes, the clothes, the skateboard," she said, but he wanted a better life. **"He wanted to get a good job. To go to college. That was one of the reasons he went (into the Army) I think.**

Before he left, we said at least come back with one leg.

"We were just joking around. Now it's like ... I don't know," her words trailing off.

Nearby, her 2-year-old son seemed quizzical about the silence. The young boy and Garza's 8-month-old daughter were favorites of Sanchez, Garza said.

They share the mobile home with two of Sanchez's brothers. The youngest, 12, has lived with Padilla and an aunt since the shooting.

Sanchez was always quiet, she said. But when it came to his brothers, he was always there — particularly for the youngest and oldest, who is 25 and has Down syndrome.

"He was so close. He was pretty much a father to both the boys, starting when he was only 14 or 15 years old," Padilla said.

Sanchez joined the military after graduating from the Stanislaus County alternative education program in August 2003.

The next month, he went to basic training and advanced individual training at Fort Benning, Ga. He was assigned in October 2003 to Fort Lewis.

Tiffany Sanchez said the couple had dated since shortly after they met at her neighbor's house when they were 13.

She returned to stay with her family in Salida when he was sent to Iraq.

"We were saving up to buy a house," Sanchez said. "When he came back, we wanted to buy a house, and last year we didn't have a honeymoon, so we were going to go on a cruise. We thought probably the Bahamas or Hawaii, somewhere beachy. It really didn't matter, as long as we had a good time and we were together."

He left in October as part of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team, a brigade of 3,700. The brigade uses high-tech, \$2.5 million vehicles designed for maneuverability over any terrain and rapid deployment.

Six brigade members were killed in a suicide attack Dec. 21 in a cafeteria in Mosul. After that, Sanchez called home to say he was safe.

"He just wanted to let us know he was OK," Garza said.

A service will be held Sunday in Iraq, Tiffany Sanchez said. His body is to be flown to Fort Lewis on Monday or Tuesday, and a service will be held there. Local services have not been set.



Jorge Sanchez holds Cynthia, his 8-month-old daughter, as he and his fiancée, Linda Garza, talk about the achievements of his brother. Army Pfc. Oscar Sanchez, a Modestan, was killed Wednesday in Iraq. (DEBBIE NODA)

TROOP NEWS

Belen Sniper Recovering From Pulverized Legs

12/31/2004 Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) - A Marine sniper from Belen is recovering after being shot in the legs in the U.S. assault on Fallujah, Iraq, on his second deployment.

Petty Officer Third Class James Pell has undergone four surgeries and walks with a cane, but is expected to fully recover by spring.

Five machine gun bullets pulverized his legs and four more bullets hit his armored vest.

AN OPEN LETTER TO GEORGE BUSH:

**“It has been seven months since
your ignorant and arrogant lack of
planning for the peace murdered my
oldest child.”**



**In Loving Memory Of
Army Specialist Casey A. Sheehan
May 29 1979-April 4 2004**

November 4, 2004

Dear George,

You don't mind if I call you George do you?

When you sent me a letter offering your condolences on the death of my son, Spc. Casey Austin Sheehan, in the illegal and unjust war on Iraq, you called me Cindy, so I naturally assume we are on a first name basis.

George, it has been seven months today since your reckless and wanton foreign policies killed my son, my big boy, my hero, my best-friend: Casey. It has been seven months since your ignorant and arrogant lack of planning for the peace murdered my oldest child.

It has been two days since your dishonest campaign stole another election...but you all were way more subtle this time than in 2000, weren't you? You hardly had to get the Supreme Court of the United States involved at all this week.

You feel so proud of yourself for betraying the country again, don't you? You think you are very clever because you pulled the wool over the eyes of some of the people again. You think that you have some mandate from God...that you can "spend your political capital" any way that you want.

George you don't care or even realize that 56,000,000 plus citizens of this country voted against you and your agenda. Still, you are going to continue your ruthless work of being a divider and not a uniter. George, in 2000 when you stole that election and the Democrats gave up, I gave up too.

I had the most ironic thought of my life then: "Oh well, how much damage can he do in four years?" Well, now I know how much you have damaged my family, this country, and this world.

If you think I am going to allow you another four years to do even more damage, then you truly are mistaken. I will fight for a true vote count and if that fails, your impeachment. Also, the impeachment of your Vice President. **The only thing is, I'm not politically savvy, and I don't have a Karl Rove to plan my strategy, but I do have a big mouth and a righteous cause, which still mean something in this country, I hope.**

All of this lying, fooling, and betraying must be "hard work" George. You really think you know what hard work is?

George, let me tell you what "hard work" really is.

Hard work is seeing your oldest son, your brave and honorable man-child go off to a war that had, and still has, no basis in reality. Hard work is worrying yourself gray and not being able to sleep for 2 weeks because you don't know if your child is safe.

Hard work is seeing your son's murder on CNN one Sunday evening while you're enjoying the last supper you'll ever truly enjoy again.

Hard work is having three military officers come to your house a few hours later to confirm the aforementioned murder of your son...your first born...your kind and gentle sweet baby.

Hard work is burying your child 46 days before his 25th birthday. Hard work is holding your other three children as they lower the body of their big “baba” into the ground. Hard work is not jumping in the grave with him and having the earth cover you both.

But, Dear George, do you know what the hardest work of all is? Trying to digest the fact that the leader of the country that your family has fought for and died for, for generations, lied to you and betrayed your dear boy’s sense of honor and exploited his courage and exploited his loyalty to his buddies.

Hard work is having your country abandon you after they killed your son. Hard work is coming to the realization that your son had his future robbed from him and that you have had your son's future and future grand-children stolen from you. Hard work is knowing that there are so many people in this world that have prospered handsomely from your son's death.

George, I must confess that I and my family worked very HARD to re-defeat you this time, but you refuse to stay defeated. Well, we are watching you very carefully. We are going to do everything in our power to have you impeached for misleading the American people into a disastrous war and for mis-using and abusing your power as Commander-in-Chief.

We are going to scream until our last breath to bring the rest of our babies home from this quagmire of a war that you have gotten our country in to: before too many more families learn the true meaning of Hard Work. We know it is going to be an uphill battle, knowing how Republican Congress is, but thanks to you, we know the meaning of Hard Work and we’re not afraid of hard work at all.

The 56,000,000 plus citizens who voted against you and your agenda have given me a mandate to move forward with my agenda. Also, thanks to you and your careless domestic policies, I am unemployed, so this will be my full-time job. Being your political downfall will be the most noble accomplishment of my life and it will bring justice for my son and 1125 (so far) other brave Americans and tens of thousands of innocent Iraqis your lies have killed.

By the way, George, how many more innocent Iraqis are your policies going to kill before you convince them that you are better than Saddam?

How many more of their cities are you going to level before you consider that they are liberated? If you really had any moral values, or if you were an honorable man at all you would resign.

My son was a man who had high moral values and true courage.

Humanity lost a bright light on April 04, 2004.

I will live the rest of my life missing Casey desperately.

Thank you for that, George.

Have a nice day.

God Bless America!! We surely need it!

Cindy Sheehan

**Broken hearted mother of a True American Hero:
Spc Casey Austin Sheehan,
KIA 04/04/04 Sadr City, Baghdad**

"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. **There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seem invincible but in the end, they always fall - think of it, always.**" Gandhi

CORRECTION!

Dear Thomas

My son was a member of the US Army. I live in California.. I guess you thought I was British because I know Rose. Thank you for dedicating it to us, though.

This is my son's web site: [Casey's Peace Page](#)
Love and peace
Cindy

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 inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.

Reservist Takes Critical Look At Iraq; "We're Like A Dysfunctional Family Over There"

"We're like a dysfunctional family over there," he said. "It's like there's one crazy uncle who keeps doing bad, messing it up for the rest of us."

As a result, while most Iraqis expressed joy at seeing the end of the Saddam dictatorship, many now despise the American occupation, he said.

December 31, 2004 By PAUL FATTIG, Mail Tribune

Jack DeZell figures his patriotism is second to none.

The Army reservist wanted terrorists to be hit and hit hard after the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the United States. He stands squarely behind his military pledge to defend the U.S. Constitution. He still gets a lump in his throat when Old Glory waves overhead.

But the Rogue Valley native also believes patriots must have the courage to speak out.

"At the end of the day, people die — they had better be dying for a damned good reason," said the Iraq war veteran. "We need to be able to look critically at things."

Spec. DeZell, 27, visiting his parents, John and Joyce DeZell of Central Point, for the first time since returning from Iraq in October, expressed frustration over the direction of the Iraq war and anyone who would question his patriotism.

"People with political agendas try to demonize a person or say someone isn't patriotic because they question things," said the Burbank, Calif., resident.

"I mean, this is America," he added. "We are -----ing Americans. Christ almighty! We're the standard. If we're not doing that . . ."

He paused for a moment, apologizing for his salty language.

"We owe them," he said of the 1,325 Americans killed thus far and the thousands wounded.

"We started out helping (at the outset of war)," he added. "I think it was good then. But there has been a relapse."

That relapse has come in the form of prisoner abuse, unnecessary killing of locals and other insensitive acts by a minority of Americans, he said.

"We're like a dysfunctional family over there," he said. "It's like there's one crazy uncle who keeps doing bad, messing it up for the rest of us."

As a result, while most Iraqis expressed joy at seeing the end of the Saddam dictatorship, many now despise the American occupation, he said.

DeZell, who was largely home-schooled in the Rogue Valley, is a graduate of Loyola Marymount University, majoring in film production. After joining the Army Reserves in April 2003, he was activated the following December. He was deployed to Iraq in February and was stationed at Camp Red Sox, one of several bases near the Baghdad airport.

But DeZell began to have doubts about how the battle for peace was being waged.

Funds promised for civil improvements were late or never arrived at all; facilities that were built stood empty, he said.

DeZell often traveled the notorious Route Irish from the airport into Baghdad, along which attacks and roadside bombs were frequent.

Yet it took four months for his unit to receive "up armor" (extra protection) for its military vehicles.

"I was surprised when I first saw these hillbilly metal boxes on Humvees," he said of the scrap metal protection. "It was totally improvised."

The Iraq he experienced was surreal, somewhat like a video game, he said.

But it is a real war.

One American soldier was killed near where DeZell was stationed.

"They named a gate after him but that was it for him — it was over," he said. "You can't go back into the video game and say, 'I'm going to play that over again.' "

The prison abuse story broke when DeZell was on a 22-day leave to Europe.

"I had tried to buy the program before," he said, adding: "Coming back was really hard."

DeZell, who will be in the Army Reserves until 2011, has volunteered for a three-week mission to the Philippines in March as part of an Army civil affairs project.

"I don't think they hate us as much over there," he said.

Minnesota Soldier Wounded In Iraq Goes Home New Year's Eve; "I Never Wanted To Shoot Anybody"

Jan. 01, 2005 Associated Press

PIERZ, Minn. - The family of a Minnesota soldier seriously wounded in Iraq got a New Year's Eve present they probably won't forget when Sgt. James Vandenheuvel returned to his parent's farm here.

There was a good prognosis for his recovery from his injuries and his mood was high, but the memory of the roadside bomb that killed his buddy and nearly killed him was still fresh in Vandenheuvel's memory.

His head was split open and his legs were seriously hurt when one of his Humvee's 300-pound doors came smashing down on them. Since that February day, the 24-year-old has been in two hospitals in Iraq, two in Germany and two in the United States.

His most recent stay was at Woodwinds Hospital in Woodbury, where an international expert in limb-lengthening surgery, Dr. Mark Dahl, worked on Vandenheuvel's injury-shortened left leg.

Vandenheuvel said he would return to Iraq if he had to, but knows that won't happen. He's glad. He said he thinks about his buddy who died in the blast, a married man with two children.

"We've got people dying who shouldn't be dying," he said.

"I never wanted to shoot anybody," he added. "I'm glad I didn't have to pull the trigger on anybody."

And, he said, "I'm just glad I didn't die."

Rumsfeld Strikes Out, Sgt. Says: “The Answer He Gave Was No Answer At All.”

January 03, 2005

Letters To The Editor, Army Times

After reading the Dec. 20 edition of the Army Times, I found myself applauding Spc. Thomas Wilson's courage in standing up and asking a tough question of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld ["Reporter takes credit for question"]. It marks the beginnings of an outstanding noncommissioned officer. I applaud Spc. Wilson.

I also applaud Lee Pitts (the reporter embedded with Spc. Wilson's unit) for using ingenuity in getting a question asked and answered that would probably never have gotten asked.

In defense of Secretary Rumsfeld, he limited all questions to soldiers only. I believe that was to keep it in the spirit of the forum he had intended: A town meeting rather than a media event.

On the other hand, Mr. Rumsfeld's answer was not something you would expect from the second-in-command of the United States military forces. What hat did he pull that from?

Granted, his top priority is the prosecution of the war on terrorism, but his second priority should be the welfare of all the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines regardless of where they are stationed.

The question was posed to Secretary Rumsfeld and no one else. The answer he gave was no answer at all.

1st Sgt. Stephen Vaughn
Carrollton, Texas

Widow Is Left With Haunting Shadows On A Trusty Laptop



Chris & Lavinia Gelineau

[Thanks to CZ for sending this is.]

December 31, 2004 by Yvonne Abraham and Michael Levenson, Boston Globe

PORTLAND -- After his new wife, there was no companion more constant for Chris Gelineau than his laptop.

His silver Dell Inspiron went everywhere with him: to the University of Southern Maine, where Gelineau studied computer technology; to Cape Elizabeth, where Lavinia Gelineau soaked up sun while her husband tapped away on his keyboard under a tree; and to Iraq, where Gelineau, a member of the Maine Army National Guard, was sent in March.

"He and that laptop were inseparable," said Lavinia Gelineau.

In Iraq, he watched movies on it, played games, wrote in a journal, and instant-messaged his wife every morning at 7 a.m. her time.

On April 20, Lavinia Gelineau woke, went right to her computer, as always, and waited for her husband to appear online. Nothing. She said she had felt it coming, that she woke up twice during the night, panicked. Later that day, she received the confirmation

she had dreaded. Gelineau had been killed while traveling in a convoy near Mosul. "If I had been able to, I would have jumped out the window," she said. "I just wanted to die."

His things began arriving from Iraq. Unopened care packages she had sent him in the weeks before he died, his name crossed out with thick black marker. The stuffed animal she had given him for Valentine's Day.

And the laptop. It sits in a spare bedroom in Lavinia Gelineau's apartment now, surrounded by other mementos: his uniform, photographs from their wedding, a poem she wrote for him.

On its hard drive, the world is frozen at a moment several hours before Chris Gelineau left on the convoy. Lavinia Gelineau can see their adoring e-mails back and forth, his journal entries, his programming work, and a slide show of snapshots she sent to him, set to the theme from "Love Story."

There are short video clips of Gelineau in Kuwait and Iraq. One shows a grinning Chris Gelineau, looking younger than his 23 years, bowling in his fatigues in Kuwait. Another features him playing ping-pong with a fellow soldier, sunglasses perched atop his head.

His wife finds them hard to watch. "Seeing him so full of life is like a slap in the face," she said.

In another clip, he is giving a tour of his quarters, turning a shaky camera on his tiny room, trying to find something interesting to show her, but coming up short. "That's the window," goes his deep voice-over. He trains the camera on a makeshift curtain, "so the light doesn't shine in my face when I wake up in the mornings. That's my bed. That's my little electric heater to stay warm in the nights. . . . Here's my locker. I'll try to get it from top to bottom. . . . There's that roommate of mine I told you about. . . . I don't know what else to show you.

"So, for now," he finishes, "talk to you later, babe. Love ya. Bye."

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Falluja Demonstration Demands Occupation Get Out Of Town

01 January 2005 Aljazeera.Net

Iraqi journalist Fadil al-Badrani told Aljazeera that thousands of Falluja residents had begun to congregate to protest US policy in the ruined city.

In addition to the huge amount of destruction, al-Badrani said citizens were angry about difficulties entering the city.

"According to the protesters, dozens of houses were destroyed or burned by US forces after the citizens had returned to the city."

"A citizen said he found his house partially damaged when he returned to the city. However, US forces completely destroyed it, along with many other houses, during the last four days."

Many also complained of constantly having to face US forces pointing their weapons at them, he added.

Al-Badrani also said that many in the crowd were demanding that US forces withdraw immediately, allow media teams into the city to document the destruction compensate citizens for the loss of their homes and help in reconstruction of the city.

<p style="text-align: center;">OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME <u>NOW!</u></p>

More Collaborators Killed In Baghdad, Baquba, & Khalis

01 January 2005 Aljazeera.Net & Reuters January 2, 2005

In Baghdad's western al-Khadra district, police said they had discovered two beheaded corpses in a pair of white bags along with a note that said they were truck drivers killed because they were working with the US military.

An interior ministry official confirmed the find, and said one of the bodies was that of Muhammad Abd al-Mutallib.

Documents were left with his body that showed he worked for multi-national forces in Iraq.

"This is the punishment for all those working with the Americans," read the note left with the bodies, which were both inside bags and dumped on the street.

Meanwhile, in the Diyala province northeast of Baghdad, an unknown group assassinated a leading local Iraqi government official on Saturday, shooting him dead and wounding his brother near the town of Baquba, police said.

Nawfal Abd al-Hussain al-Shimari, head of the council governing Diyala province, was killed in a shop.

Ali Haddawi, a member of the same council, was shot dead in the nearby town of Khalis, they said.

Gunmen also killed an Iraqi police major outside his home in south-west Baghdad, where insurgents are particularly active, a police source said.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

More Anti-Iraqi Forces Blown Up

Jan 1 By BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press Writer

A roadside bomb explosion struck an Iraqi National Guards patrol south of Mahmoudiya, a town about 25 miles south of Baghdad. It left one guard dead and six wounded, an ING officer said Saturday.

In the town of Youssifiya, just south of Baghdad, another bomb exploded early Saturday, wounding two guardsmen who were on patrol, police said.

OH SHIT. CALL AAA.



Former police car in Basra. A road side bomb detonated in the city close to the new court house.(AFP/Essam al-Sudani)

Saboteurs Blow Up Key Oil Pipeline

01/01/2005 Thomas Crosbie Media

Saboteurs blew up an oil pipeline south of Baghdad today, causing a huge fire.

The attack was near the Musabayb electricity station in the Bahbahan area some 46 miles south of Baghdad.

Explosives were used to destroy the pipeline linking the southern cities of Karbala and Hilla.

A huge blaze broke out after the blast sending up thick, black billowing smoke.

Workers Of Power Station In Nasiryiah Begin A Strike

22.12.2004 Federation of Workers' Councils and Unions in Iraq

Workers of many sectors of industry and social service in Iraq launch protests these days demanding improvement in their living conditions.

After the protests by workers of Soft Drinks, Textile and Electricity, the workers of power station in Nasiryiah, the largest power station in the country, started a strike demanding improvement in their living and working condition. They also ask to improve the performance of the station as the residents of this city suffer from sever shortage in electricity.

The protest of workers to improve their living and working conditions will continue and all oppressive resolutions in force can not put an end to it.

The working class has practically proved its capacity to challenge the resolutions, which deny workers the right to strike and hold gatherings and consider workers in public sector public servants. These resolutions were passed by the Baath regime and are today used by current administration whenever the daily struggle by working class intensifies.

By asking for their unpaid allowances the workers of electricity in Nasiryiah put the authority before its responsibilities and force it to meet their demands

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Reality Check: Know Your Enemy: Whining About “Fascism” Misleads And Discredits Our Movement

By John Bell, Socialist Worker (Canada) 6.2.04

Last issue I delved into some of the history of the 1950’s “McCarthyite” witchhunt; my argument was that many civil libertarians make the error of declaring that the post 9-11 attack on civil liberties is quantitatively and qualitatively worse than anything that has gone before.

As bad as the current assault on our rights is — and make no mistake, it is a serious attack, particularly targeted at our Arab and Muslim brothers and sisters — evidence shows that the great cold war “red scare” was worse.

Moreover, considered historically, the current witchhunt is the latest in a series of such events, occurring throughout the industrialized world but particularly in the US.

These events do not recur randomly. Their appearance is a response to upsurges in militancy — especially labor militancy — which begins to threaten the fundamental needs of the capitalist system.

In 1919, following the Russian Revolution, there was an international wave of workers’ militancy. Here in Canada this culminated in general strikes in cities like Vancouver, Toronto and Winnipeg.

There followed a “red scare” hysteria focused on recent immigrants from northern and eastern Europe, and on any sort of radical organization. Thousands were deported from North America as “anarchists” and “subversives”.

Socialist organization was made semi-illegal and driven underground. That people’s rights to speak and assemble were trampled was routine.

The next big upsurge of North American labor occurred in the mid- 1930’s, when a series of dramatic union victories — led or inspired by socialists — sparked a great wave of sit-down strikes. These won union rights for tens of thousands of North American workers in crucial mass production industries like auto and steel.

The response, significantly begun under the “liberal” Democratic president Franklin Roosevelt, was the creation of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC).

This had some success whipping up a witchhunt in the late 1930’s, again focusing on foreign-born Americans. Racism and anti-Semitism were dominant features. Radicals were usually depicted as Jews, and thugs used to break up picket lines and disrupt meetings were often recruited from the KKK.

“Red Squads” formed in most big city police forces, and they regularly broke up socialist meetings and beat anyone in attendance. The attacks were unconstitutional—being a member of the Communist Party or other organization was never illegal.

But this didn’t hold a candle to the great red scare of the McCarthy period, which I described in my previous column.

Suffice it to say, that witchhunt not only broke the back of labor militancy in the US (and to a lesser degree in Canada), it broke the connections between movements for social justice and the ideas of socialism.

This stigma continued long after the 50’s. Take the example of the environmental movement — the perpetrators of the 1950’s witchhunts were still around 20 years later, and largely successful in driving a wedge between environmentalists and workers.

John Mitchell, who was Richard Nixon’s Attorney General until he got sent to jail in 1974 for his Watergate crimes— and remember Richard Nixon rose to political fame as an inquisitor with HUAC--- made it clear. “The conservation movement is a breeding ground of Communists and other subversives,” Mitchell warned. “We intend to clean them out, even if it means rounding up every bird watcher in the country.”

No wonder then, when Steelworkers and Teamsters linked arms with environmentalists in Seattle, when voices around the globe rose up in opposition to corporate privatization and “structural readjustment,” that a new witchhunt wasn’t long in coming.

I’ve tried to place the current “war on terror” at home and abroad in historical context because I think this exposes a number of wrong conclusions made by some on our side, who oppose Bush and his war.

The first error is to assume that the current attack on rights and freedoms is unprecedented.

This leads to the, error of concluding that, since what Bush and his crew represent some new kind of evil, that they are fascists.

If Bush is a fascist, so were Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, Johnson, Carter and Clinton. All of them used lies as statecraft. All of them served the cause of US imperialism. All of them aided and abetted clampdowns on domestic dissent.

So if this is “creeping fascism”, it is creeping mighty slowly.

Connected to this is another error, to consider that what is taking place is a conspiracy, the work of a small cabal of evil geniuses.

Today we regularly hear that Bush is the tool of the “Israel lobby”, a modern twist on the old Jewish conspiracy theme, or that Bush planned the 9-11 attacks to further his evil ends.

While these errors live at the fringes of our movement, they can mislead and discredit us if unchallenged.

We need to state plainly that Bush's America is not fascist — this is what bourgeois democracy looks like, and has always looked like when the workers' movement is not going decisively forward.

And war, imperialism and domestic witchhunts are not exceptional products of conspiracies — they are tools of the trade for capitalists all over the globe.

So we oppose Bush because of the system he fronts. Will we be as resolute if John Kerry fronts it in six months?

We oppose American imperialism.

Will we be as resolute to face Canadian, French or Chinese imperialism?

The trick as always is to know your enemy.

The enemy is capitalism.

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

U.S. Command Opens New Drive To Recruit For Iraqi Resistance; Uses Hussein's Thugs To Terrorize Civilians; Mission: Double Number Of U.S. Troops Killed In 2005

January 1 HASWA, Iraq (Reuters)

In the numbing cold before dawn, Iraqi commandos backed by U.S. Marines stormed into a farmhouse, forcing four men onto the kitchen floor and isolating dazed women and children in adjacent rooms.

One by one, the sullen men were taken behind a curtain for interrogation by Marine intelligence officers, who checked their names against laminated lists of insurgents while troops scoured for weapons.

The search earlier this week looked like it was going to prove fruitless until a Marine dumped a box at the suspects' feet: "Look what we've got here," he said, showing off a pair of targeting sights for rocket-propelled grenades.

Though the men insisted the devices were harmless remnants from their days as army conscripts, the strike force from Iraq's new National Guard wasted no time in handcuffing them.

"Don't take my sons. They're innocent," an old woman clad in black from head to toe, wailed as she tried to break through a cordon of troops bundling them into a waiting truck.

An American officer tried to calm her but to no avail.

So began a night of house-by-house raids in the town of Haswa

The U.S. military sees it as taking the fight to the insurgents' hideouts. But for many Iraqis breaking down doors in the dark of night stirs memories of Saddam's police state

Some critics among Iraqis say the new recruits' methods are shoddy and they often hit the wrong targets.

Down the road from the Haswa farmhouse, Marine trainers watched impatiently as an Iraqi commando hurled himself against the door of another darkened house -- without budging it.

They were about to ram it down when it opened. A bleary-eyed man was dragged out and troops stormed in, finding two women and three pajama-clad children cowering in the living room.

A search turned up no suspects or arms except for a single AK-47 assault rifle, which each household is allowed to keep.

"The insurgent we targeted is either gone or was never here in the first place," a Marine sergeant said as the operation was aborted with a curt apology to the family.

Some Iraqis have accused the Americans of heavy-handed tactics that breed resentment and alienate ordinary people.

Now there are fears that Iraq's new security forces, made up mostly of members of the long-oppressed Shi'ite majority, will use even tougher measures against

Saddam's once-privileged Sunni brethren -- all with the blessing of the U.S. military.

In the meantime, recruitment of members of Saddam's former security apparatus has raised the specter of human rights abuses.

Very Unhappy New Year

01 January 2005 By Jackie Spinner, The Washington Post

In Baqubah, about 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, Uday Haider, 27, said his family had no plans for New Year's Eve. "Nothing new will happen," he said. "We will stay at home and watch TV."

Haider blamed the Americans for the violence.

"I hope that by the coming year, the occupiers will leave in order to stop the disasters and the explosions, and that harmony and peace will be in this country," he said.

Karim Wamidh, 54, an employee at the Ministry of Agriculture in Tikrit, about 90 miles north of Baghdad and the home town of deposed president Saddam Hussein, said he had high hopes for the country when 2004 began.

"We thought with the coming of the new year, we could have a new life, freedom, justice and security," he said. "But what happened during the year was very disappointing. A high level of unemployment, terrorism increased and poverty spread."

Wamidh said he would hope for better days in 2005.

"Maybe the situation will change after we get the elected government," he said, referring to elections scheduled for Jan. 30, "although I don't think anything would change with the existence of occupation in the country."

The Blind Occupation

December 30, 2004 Abbas Kadhim blog

U.S. soldiers attacked and trashed the apartment of Adnan Hamad, the Iraqi soccer coach, who was selected the best coach in Asia in 2004. You may remember that he was the coach that achieved with the Iraqi team the fourth place in the Olympics this year. He resigned last week because he could not go on training his guys in the street.

Adnan Hamad is more known than Iraq's appointed president Ghazi al-Yawar in Iraq, but somehow, these 'brilliant' guys didn't differentiate between him and the terrorists. I am glad they did not bomb the place as they often do.

Received:

The Party's Over

From: Richard M. Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: Saturday, January 01, 2005

My 2005 New Years' prediction: The U.S. Government will not withdraw troops from Iraq, until millions of Americans march in protest against this insane war.

If that does not happen, America will continue to implode, until our economy and morals are on a respirator.

When I saw American soldiers take their last breath in Vietnam, I was catapulted into the future. America does not have another Vietnam in its history.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic Vietnam 1970-71

Web Copies

For back issues see: GI Special web site at <http://www.militaryproject.org/>

The following that we know of have also posted issues:

<http://www.notinourname.net/gi-special/> ; www.gifightback.org ;

<http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/gi-special.htm>, www.williambowles.info/gispecial

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for purely educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. Go to: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml>. for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.