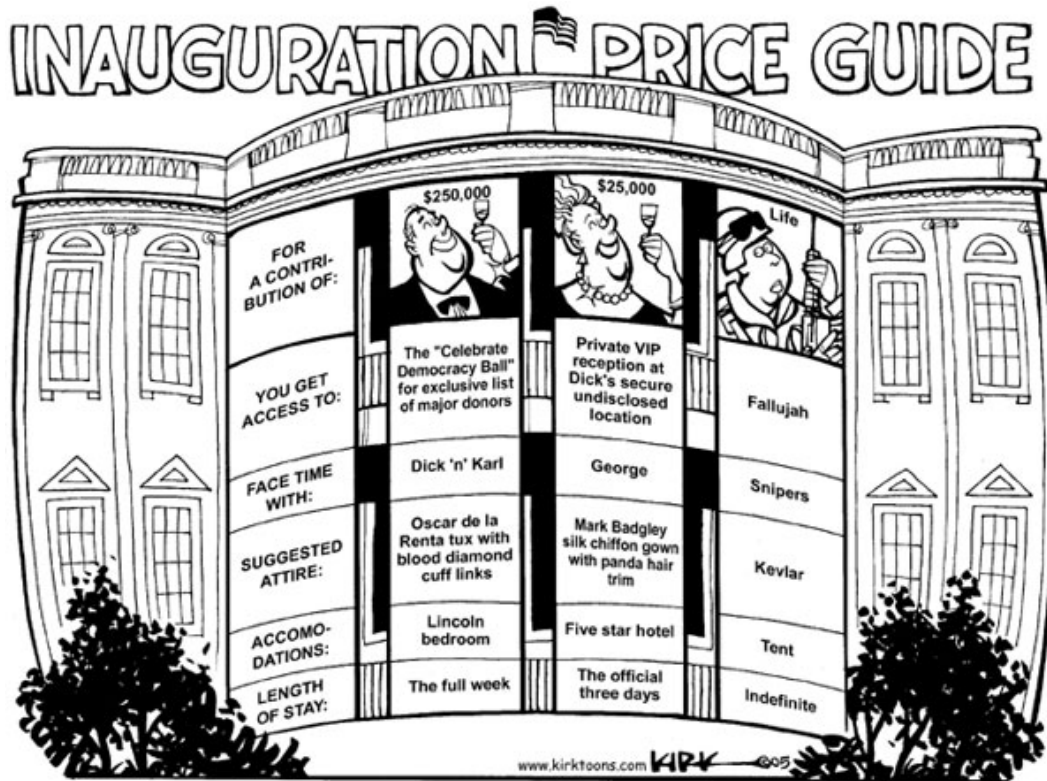


## GI SPECIAL 3A20:



Thanks to John Gingerich, who sent this in.

# U.S. ARMY SERGEANT KEVIN BENDERMAN CHARGED

## Articles 85 and 87 UCMJ, Desertion and Missing Movement

To: GI Special

Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2005 6:53 PM

**Exclusive/breaking. Please feel free to publish.**

Robert S. Finnegan, Managing Editor, Southeast Asia News, [seanews1@yahoo.com](mailto:seanews1@yahoo.com)

01/19/2005 1815 GMT, By Robert S. Finnegan.

**The Army today charged Sergeant Kevin Benderman with two counts of violating the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), for his refusal to re-deploy to Iraq in a case that has sparked a worldwide media feeding-frenzy and elicited condemnation of both the Bush administration and the U.S. Army.**

**Benderman, 40, charged with violating articles 85 and 87 after refusing to re-deploy to Iraq appeared before his commanding officer today who formally read the charges filed against him.**

Benderman has filed for Conscientious Objector status with the Army. His former commanding officer, now deployed, had recommended denial of his CO application even before it was acted upon according to military regulations. Benderman says his new commanding officer is following Army regulations to the letter and has been helpful in processing his request.

The specification under article 85 charged Benderman with desertion and intent to avoid hazardous duty in connection with Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the specification under Article 87 charged him with missing the unit's movement, or deployment to Kuwait (the staging area for military forces entering Iraq).

**While realizing that his moral stand could result in a jail sentence, Benderman described his feelings today as ambivalent.**

**"I am certainly not going to back down now, why would I do that? I am continuing to go forward with what I believe in and am going to demand a General Courts-Martial," he said.**

This is the right of any serviceman or woman who holds the rank of Non-Commissioned Officer or above when faced with charges of this severity. The possible penalties handed down by this court however are the maximum allowed under the UCMJ, whereas other levels provide for less severe punishment upon conviction.

**Benderman remains adamant about his views on war. "War is a worthless endeavor, why do we continue to pursue it? It is time for war to pass into the history books, just as human slavery and sacrifice did," he said.**

Now that the Army has defined his case, Benderman plans to go on leave in order to prepare his defense.

**Army Public Affairs Officer Lt. Colonel Robert Whetstone stated when contacted for comment that he was aware that Sgt. Benderman had been charged, but did not know what he was charged with.** Whetstone said he would be seeking that information from the Staff Judge Advocate.

*Southeast Asia News Managing Editor Robert S. Finnegan is an internationally published investigative reporter **and former Marine Corps Non-Commissioned Officer**. Working recently as a Senior Editor and lead investigator on the Bali Bombings for The Jakarta Post, he may be reached at [seanews1@yahoo.com](mailto:seanews1@yahoo.com). Copyright release granted for further publication at additional news outlets.*

## **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW 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](http://www.ivaw.net))**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS:**

# **U.S. Soldier Wounded, Many Occupation Cops Killed In Widespread Baghdad Fighting**

Jan 19, 2005 By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer & CJTF7 Release Number: 05-01-86 & By JOHN F. BURNS, NY Times & Aljazeera

A car bomb detonated near the Al Alahi Hospital in central Baghdad. Initial reports indicate that **18 people died in the blast, including five Iraqi police**. Another 15 Iraqis were reported wounded.

**Another car bombing struck at the main gate to an Iraqi military recruiting center near the southern checkpoint to the Muthana Airfield. Police said the driver told guards he was delivering potatoes and detonated his explosives at the gate, killing three Iraqi soldiers and wounding one American. The explosion targeted the biggest headquarters of the Iraqi National Guard in central Baghdad.**

**The U.S. military also said a car bomb detonated southwest of Baghdad International Airport, killing two Iraqi security guards and three others were injured.**

The fifth explosion took place about noon, when a car bomber blew himself up at a checkpoint outside a bank where Iraqi police officers were lined up to receive paychecks. **Witnesses said that at least seven people were wounded, including three police officers.**

**Also in the capital, insurgents in a car fired on an office of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, killing one of its members and wounding another, party officials said.**

**Elsewhere, an Iraqi police officer was killed Wednesday in another car bombing in the largely Shiite city of Hillah south of Baghdad, the Polish military said.**

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## **Cortez Soldier Killed In Iraq**

January 19, 2005 KOAT, CORTEZ, Colo.

A Cortez, Colo., soldier has been killed.

**Pfc. George Geer, with the 503rd Infantry Air Assault Unit, was on foot patrol Monday in Ramadi when he and a partner approached a suspicious-looking vehicle. The vehicle exploded, killing them both. [Lesson learned. If you see a "suspicious looking vehicle," go the opposite direction, swiftly.]**

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## **Insurgent Attack Sparks Ramadi Fighting, Humvee Destroyed**

January 19, 2005 (AEDT)

**Clashes have broken out in three areas of the western Iraqi city of Ramadi after insurgents fired rocket-propelled grenades at a US patrol.**

US forces backed by at least 10 armoured vehicles are reinforcing positions as helicopter gunships and warplanes fly over the eastern part of the city, an area that has witnessed frequent fighting.

**There is no immediate word on casualties but witnesses say the guerrillas have destroyed a US Humvee and civilians have been caught up in the fighting.**

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## **Attack On Australian Barracks Wounds 2 Soldiers;**

# Bomber Gets Away



An Iraqi policeman at the scene of a car bombing outside the Australian Embassy in Baghdad. Ghaith Abdul-Ahad — Getty Images

January 20, 2005 By LUKE McILVEEN and BRAD CLIFTON, The Daily Telegraph & Reuters

**TWO Australian soldiers were wounded when a massive truck bomb exploded outside their barracks across the road from the Australian Embassy in Baghdad yesterday.**

Shortly after 7am local time (3pm AEDT), guerillas rammed a truck packed with explosives against a sandbag wall outside the Australian army barracks.

**Two Australian soldiers suffered shrapnel wounds to the head and neck.**

A witness who lives across the road from the Australian Embassy said he was jolted awake by the force of the massive explosion.

"Shortly after 7am I was awoken by an enormous blast that blew in the windows above me in my bedroom of our house," he said.

**"At the very base of the embassy building ... a massive crater has been gouged. In it, lies the burning hulk of the truck. The street around the embassy is strewn with wreckage of the vehicle and other vehicles [caught] in the explosion."**

**In scenes reminiscent of the Australian Embassy bombing in Jakarta last September, windows were blown out as staff hit the floor and took cover under their desks.**

As in Jakarta, sandbags at the barracks and heavily fortified barriers outside the embassy took the brunt of the blast, almost certainly saving the lives of those inside.

Early reports suggested the attack was the work of a suicide bomber.

But, at least one witness said the bomber drove the truck into the wall and then fled in a waiting car seconds before the explosion.

**An Iraqi guard at the nearby Australian Ambassador's residence said a man drove a truck cab, without a trailer, to the concrete barriers in front of the embassy, before fleeing in a second vehicle.**

The Australian ambassador, Howard Brown, told Reuters that "It was quite a substantial explosion."

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## TROOP NEWS

# **“Why Are We Still There?” “... For God's Sake, Don't Listen To Rumsfeld.”**

Jan 19, 2005 By Saul Hudson and Arshad Mohammed, WASHINGTON (Reuters)

The committee's ranking Democrat, Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware, lambasted her [C. Rice] for citing administration figures that 120,000 Iraqi security forces have been trained as part of an exit strategy for eventually replacing the 150,000 American troops.

**"You all don't do anything except parrot 'We've trained 120,000 forces,'" Biden said. "So I go home and people ask me ... 'Why are we still there? -- 120,000 trained Iraqis? -- Why are we still there?'"**

**"... For God's sake, don't listen to (Defense Secretary Donald) Rumsfeld. He doesn't know what in the hell he's talking about on this."**

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## **British Soldier Quits To Protest Iraq War**

**From:** Rose Gentle

**To:** GI Special

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2005 3:38 PM

[This is from Rose Gentle, whose son, Gordon, was killed in Iraq, and who has been waging a determined and courageous campaign to bring all the British troops home now. T.]

its rose here

the attachment is a bit out of todays paper about me meeting George  
the TA soldier  
that is refusing to go to Iraq

he said he would rather do a year in jail than go to Iraq

rose



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## Lunacy Of The Week: "The Army Is Angry, And We're Coming For You"

Jan. 13, 2005 by Nate Mook, BetaNews

**"The Army is angry, and we're coming for you," America's Army executive producer Phil DeLuca warned cheaters in a notice on the computer game's official forums.**

Seemingly enraged at some players taking advantage of problems in the game, DeLuca said that those not playing by the rules were "misusing Army property" and akin to the Japanese who bombed Pearl Harbor.

The announcement came as a shock to many America's Army players, and further enraged those who feel the free game is used as a recruiting tool for the United States Army. The forums posting has since been removed from the game's Web site, but not before news of its contents began to spread.

**DeLuca went so far as to say the Army has been tracking cheaters and "using them to collect more data, track down their friends, and their friends." He said those tampering with the game were not only breaking the EULA, but also committing a cyber crime by "misusing US Army computer programs and equipment."**

**"In the early 1940's, Japan learned an important lesson - "let the sleeping giant lie." We may not react swiftly, but when we do it's with unstoppable force," wrote DeLuca. "The Army has partners that deal with cyber crime as a matter of course. These include not just various Army IT departments, but also the Department of Justice, the Secret Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations."**

DeLuca ended his post with an ominous warning to anyone caught cheating: "Allow me to speak directly to the bad guys for a moment: When you get banned, know that we know and have records showing you were doing something that's a violation of terms of service, breaks your EULA, and also happens to be against the law. **We know who you are, and can track down where you play from.**"

**"We have incontrovertible proof you did something illegal. The Army is angry, and we're coming for you," he said.**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# **Baquaba Citizens Tell Collaborator Officials & U.S. Diplomats They Won't Betray Their Country**

19 January 2005 Aljazeera



**When dozens of suspected fighters showed up for a so-called peace conference in Baquba on Tuesday, they told the governor sponsoring it why they would not lay down their weapons ahead of elections.**

**Midnight raids by US and Iraqi forces that rudely awaken women and children in the conservative Arab country were unacceptable.**

**Arbitrary arrests and unemployment were driving more men, young and old, to the insurgency.**

When the suspected guerrillas and their sympathisers were handed an oath of non-violence, few asked "where do I sign"?

**Many of the men - from clerics and tribal leaders to ex-army officers and professionals - just wanted to know when US forces would leave.**

"I will not sign because if I sign I will have to stick to it," said Ahmad al-Obaidi, who said he was accused of being a fighter, and hinted that he actually was.

**"I would have signed it if it said no attacks on Iraqi forces, but no attacks on US forces when they are occupying the country?"**

**As they aired their grievances to the governor, police chief and a senior Iraqi National Guard officer, armed US troops lining the walls of the room looked on. American diplomats sat in the back and listened.**

Those at the conference were sceptical.

**"This pledge commits you to not even speak against the Americans. I cannot sign it," said cleric Fuad Attia, 40.**

**"If I call from my mosque for occupation forces to leave my country does that make me a terrorist? Is this the freedom and democracy they are bringing us?"**

"I was arrested by the Americans and spent five months in Abu Ghraib (prison) because they accused me of being a Wahhabi," said the 64-year-old former army officer, referring to radical groups blamed for many bombings and hostage beheadings.

"I may be a Baathist, but I am not a Wahabi. They have raided my house three times since then. I live across the road from a National Guard station. Every time someone attacks it they raid my house."

Some Iraqis say the Americans and the government should not assume all rebels are radicals determined to derail the elections. **But night-time raids, checkpoints and arbitrary arrests are merely creating more enemies.**

**"The raids happen around 3am," said shopkeeper Muhammad Kamil. "We open the door before then so they don't knock it down."**

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION**

**BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

## **Occupation Engineer Captured**

January 19, 2005 (AP)

**Guerrillas captured a Japanese engineer in a highway ambush** in central Iraq on Wednesday, police said.

**The engineer, who worked at a power station in the city of Beiji, was traveling with two Iraqi policemen when gunmen stopped their car, killed the two officers and abducted the Japanese,** said Iraqi police Lt. Shaalan Allawi.

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## **Two Mercenaries Killed Near Beiji**

January 19, 2005 (AP) & BBC

A British security worker and an Iraqi colleague were killed in an attack in the same area, the U.S. military said.

**The British security worker and an Iraqi colleague were killed in an ambush near the Beiji power station complex,** which they were helping protect, said Major Neal O'Brien, a spokesman for U.S.-led Coalition forces based in the Iraqi town of Tikrit.

A third man, another foreign national, is still missing, O'Brien said, without specifying the nationality.

**The two men, who were not identified, worked for the London-based Janusian Security Risk Management.**

Janusian has operated in Iraq since 17 April, 2003 and provides protection for foreign workers and diplomats against "terrorism, political violence and serious crime", according to its website.

### **MORE:**

20 January 2005 By Graeme Strachan, D C Thomson & Co Ltd

A SECURITY worker from Dundee was killed yesterday in an ambush by Iraq insurgents.

Andrew Whyte, Thurso Crescent, died with an Iraqi colleague when their two-vehicle convoy was attacked near a power station complex they were protecting.

**The Stop The War Coalition said it had no idea if the murder was linked to publication of photographs showing alleged abuse of Iraqi prisoners by British**

soldiers but a spokes- man added, "We certainly believe the photographs will put the lives of British soldiers at greater risk and will lead to an increase in attacks on the military in and around Basra."

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## Collaborator Official Killed In Kirkuk

01/19/05 CJTF7 Release #050119f

Tikrit, Iraq – Meghad Police reported that the Chief of Human Rights and a relative were killed, and a third Iraqi civilian was wounded the morning of January 18 in Kirkuk. The remains of those killed were taken to the Azadi hospital. The wounded individual was taken to Kirkuk General Hospital.

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## One Occupation Cop Killed, Three Wounded In Mufrek Mortar Attack

01/19/05 CJTF7 Release #050118aa

**One Iraqi police officer was killed and three others were wounded when anti-Occupation forces attacked the Mufrek police station near Baqubah with mortars at about 11:14 a.m.** Seven mortar rounds exploded in the vicinity of the police station. The officers were evacuated to medical facilities for treatment.

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## Two Occupation Tech Workers Killed

January 20, 2005 The Daily Telegraph and News

**MILITANTS in Iraq posted today an internet video showing the killing of two Iraqis who were working for a US communications firm involved in the country's election.**

The footage from Army of Ansar al-Sunna showed the two men being shot dead from behind. The tape also included statements from the men, saying they had been involved in setting up an internet network to facilitate voting in the towns of Mosul and Arbil.

**"My name is Mohamed Abdullah, I am an engineer working for Proactiv. They sent us to set up the internet in Mosul and Arbil to facilitate elections," one man told the camera.**

The other man identified himself as Aly Khodeir and said he was an assistant engineer.

**The tape showed laptop computers, disks, cables and other electronic equipment the group said they had found with the men.**

Army of Ansar al-Sunna said in a statement the killings were meant "to be an example to others. **This is the end of all apostates who help the crusader forces in Iraq in their war against Islam**".

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## **“Relentless” Resistance Attacks Keep Pipeline Closed; Southern Exports Also Cut**

January 19, 2005 REUTERS

**BAGHDAD – A sabotage attack on Iraq's northern pipeline is expected to keep oil exports through Turkey at a standstill for another two-three weeks, an oil official said on Wednesday.**

**A bomb blew off a section of the Iraq-Turkey pipeline in the Fatha area near Baiji on Monday, soon after crews had finished repairing damage to the line in the same area from a previous blast, the official said.**

"We don't see hope of resuming northern exports for another 15-20 days," said the official, who is familiar with repairs to the line.

Iraqi oil officials were hoping to restart the line, which has been idle since a sabotage attack on Dec. 18, after the end of a main Muslim holiday next week.

**Senior oil official Dhiaa al-Bakkaa has said Iraq could export 250,000 barrels per day from the north if the attacks stopped, but sabotage has been relentless.**

**Iraq is exporting around 1.5 million bpd from its southern Basra terminal offshore in the Gulf. Power cuts have forced reductions in the southern flows.**

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### **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

## **A Question For Activists: Supporting Iraq's Right To Resist Occupation**

January 21, 2005 By Sharon Smith, Socialist Worker columnist, Socialist Worker.

THE IRAQI resistance to U.S. occupation is growing, as is its support among ordinary Iraqis. Iraq's interim government recently admitted that the insurgency involves at least 40,000 "hardcore fighters" and up to 200,000 active sympathizers--a far cry from the isolated 5,000 "Baathist remnants" and "foreign fighters" the Pentagon initially claimed to be fighting.

A USA Today/Gallup poll conducted in March concluded, "The insurgents...seem to be gaining broad acceptance, if not outright support. If the [pro-U.S.] Kurds, who make up about 13 percent of the poll, are taken out of the equation, more than half of Iraqis say killing U.S. troops can be justified in at least some cases."

That was shortly before the first siege on Falluja, in which U.S. forces killed over 600 civilians before the armed resistance drove them out. Support for the resistance can only have grown now that U.S. bombs have flattened Falluja, killing hundreds more civilians and driving 200,000 residents to live in the squalor of refugee camps--while dispersing the resistance fighters to other localities.

In mid-December, for example, Knight Ridder reported on a 41-year-old Iraqi woman, Kifah Khudhair, injured in a car bombing in Baghdad--whose rage was directed not at the car bombers, but at the Americans. "What can we do?" her son said. "These things happen every day, like looting and murder. I am angry at the Americans because it is all their fault. This is all because of them."

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**IRAQIS SUPPORT the resistance against the U.S. occupation of their country for one simple reason: they want the Americans to get out--now.**

Yet many in the U.S. antiwar movement have had difficulty accepting this black-and-white reasoning, preferring to see the world in shades of gray. "(Iraqi) jihadis or America's terror-using hypocrites? If we are truly to stop the terrorists, the world must take sides against both," wrote New Left veteran Steve Weissman recently on Truthout.

This argument by Weissman is faulty on two counts.

First, Weissman equates the 500-pound bombs and high-tech weapons used by the world's biggest superpower occupying Iraq (at the cost of \$7.8 billion per month) to the rocket-propelled grenades and roadside bombs of those resisting that occupation. One side aims to control Iraq to fulfill its grand plan to dominate the Middle East and its oil. The other merely seeks the right for Iraqis to determine their own future.

Some 100,000 Iraqi civilians are now estimated dead because of the war and occupation. This followed the roughly 1 million Iraqis killed from the deprivation caused by more than a decade of economic sanctions. And this followed a death toll of up to 200,000 in the 1991 Gulf War. Choosing sides should not be so difficult.

**Without for a moment endorsing the tactic of targeting civilians, which is used by parts of the resistance, the sheer magnitude of the death and destruction inflicted**

**by the U.S. upon ordinary Iraqis should dispel any myth that the two sides in this war deserve equal condemnation.**

Moreover, Weissman accepts at face value the Bush administration's absurd characterization of the insurgency as dominated by "terrorists" and Islamic "extremists."

On December 15, the Boston Globe published a report by Molly Bingham, who lived from August 2003 until June 2004 in Baghdad researching the resistance. She observed, "The composition of the Iraqi resistance is not what the U.S. administration has been calling it, and the more it is oversimplified, the harder it is to explain its complexity. I met Shia and Sunnis fighting together, women and men, young and old. I met people from all economic, social and educational backgrounds."

**She continued: "The original impetus for almost all of the individuals I spoke to was a nationalistic one--the desire to defend their country from occupation, not to defend Saddam Hussein or his regime." Bingham's conclusion should help focus the aims of every antiwar activist in the U.S.: "The resistance will continue until American influence has disappeared from Iraq's political system."**

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SUPPORT FOR the right of Iraqis to resist occupation must extend beyond an abstract principle for the U.S. antiwar movement.

While recognizing "the right of the Iraqi people to resist as a point of principle," Phyllis Bennis of the Institute for Policy Studies--in widely circulated notes for a speech to the steering committee of United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) on December 18--argued, "We should not call for 'supporting the resistance' because we don't know who most of them are and what they really stand for, and because of those we do know, we mostly don't support their social program beyond opposition to the occupation."

To be meaningful, however, supporting the "right to resist" must include support for that resistance once it actually emerges.

**Award-winning Indian writer and global justice activist Arundhati Roy got to the heart of the issue in a San Francisco speech on August 16: "It is absurd to condemn the resistance to the U.S. occupation in Iraq, as being masterminded by terrorists," she said. "After all, if the United States were invaded and occupied, would everybody who fought to liberate it be a terrorist?"**

**If we are waiting for the "ideologically pure" movement--assuming the unlikely scenario that all those opposed to the war could agree on one--we could be waiting forever.**

As Roy explained, "Like most resistance movements, [the Iraqis] combine a motley range of assorted factions. Former Baathists, liberals, Islamists, fed-up collaborationists, communists, etc. Of course, it is riddled with opportunism, local rivalry, demagoguery and criminality. But if we were to only support pristine movements, then no resistance will be worthy of our purity.

“Before we prescribe how a pristine Iraqi resistance must conduct their secular, feminist, democratic, nonviolent battle, we should shore up our end of the resistance by forcing the U.S. and its allied governments to withdraw from Iraq.”

Focus on the Global South’s Walden Bello made a similar point in June. “What western progressives forget is that national liberation movements are not asking them mainly for ideological or political support,” he wrote. “What they really want from the outside is international pressure for the withdrawal of an illegitimate occupying power so that internal forces can have the space to forge a truly national government based on their unique processes. Until they give up this dream of having an ideal liberation movement tailored to their values and discourse, U.S. peace activists will, like the Democrats they often criticize, continue to be trapped within a paradigm of imposing terms for other people.”

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**THE U.S. antiwar movement should heed this advice and expend less energy in judging the character of the Iraqi resistance and more effort on building a visible resistance to the Iraq occupation from inside the U.S.**

**When the U.S. invaded Falluja and the Abu Ghraib torture scandal broke in the spring of 2004, the U.S. antiwar movement--already ensconced in its misguided effort to elect prowar John Kerry--declined to mount a visible response to these and other atrocities committed by the U.S. in Iraq, effectively sparing the Bush administration from the need to account for its war crimes.**

The main challenge for antiwar activists in the United States is to rebuild a visible, national antiwar movement. That means opposing the January 30 election--held under martial law, which will effectively exclude 50 percent of the population--and supporting the resistance that exposes its utter hypocrisy.

**Is this strategy too ambitious--too far to the left for “mainstream” America? That is unlikely, since a majority of Americans continue to oppose the war.**

**U.S. troops are also divided, and we need to actively support those troops who--at great personal risk--are resisting. The latest is U.S. Army Sgt. Kevin Benderman, who refused to redeploy to Iraq earlier this month after serving there from March to September 2003.**

**“The people that we are fighting now are for the most part people like you and me, people who are defending themselves against a superior military force and fighting to keep that which is rightfully theirs,” Benderman said. He added that the Iraqi people have the right to choose their own form of government, “just like we did in America after the revolution.”**

The antiwar movement must not lose sight of the fact that its main enemy is at home--and any resistance to that enemy deserves our unconditional support.

**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.**

# **The New Issue Of Traveling Soldier Is Out!**

**Iraq GI says: "This war is about money. The  
money is only making the rich man  
richer"**

This issue features:

**1. Iraq GI says: "This war is about money. The money is only making the rich man richer"**

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/1.05.money.php>

**2. "You are supporting us troops out here the best way possible - trying to get us back!"**

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/1.05.plummer.php>

**3. Rumsfeld Loses an Army**

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/1.05.rumsfeld.php>

**4. Ft. Stewart GI: "George W. Bush, the soldiers that have died for this sham [...] are so much more deserving than that. You are not worth the dust off of their boots"**

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/1.05.domestic.php>

**5. Winning or losing in Iraq? Behind the lies about "progress" and "free elections" on Jan 30th.**

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/1.05.winning.php>

**6. Why did Bush win the election?**

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/1.05.bushwin.php>

**7. An appeal to Traveling Soldier readers from the wife of a medically unfit soldier.**

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/1.05.archangel.php>

**8. Words from the front-lines - what soldiers are saying about the war in Iraq.**

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/1.05.words.php>

**9. Download the new Traveling Soldier to pass it out at your school, workplace, or nearby base.**



# Soldiers In Revolt: The Army Mutiny Of 1946

**Faced with a growing rebellion within the ranks and fearful of its increasing political sophistication, the War Department finally gave in.**

From: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975

**Apart from the efforts of non-whites, the largest and most important example of previous soldier dissent is what one historian has called “The Army Mutiny of 1946,” what was known at the time as the “Bring Em Home” movement.**

**After the long and bitter world war, American troops eagerly awaited a speedy return to the States. The War Department had other ideas, however, and not only delayed demobilization but transferred troops from Europe to the Pacific, ostensibly for occupation duty.**

**Many troops suspected that their real mission was to protect American interests in China and in other Asian countries, and they quickly became angry at this unwanted burden.**

The first hint of growing unrest came in a protest telegram sent to the White House on August 21 from 580 members of the 95th Division stationed at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. **In September, troops of the same division harassed and openly booed General Harry Lewis Twaddle when he attempted to explain why troops were needed overseas.**

Throughout the fall of 1945 the campaign gained momentum, as soldiers around the world deluged congressmen with letters and telegrams, and families of the servicemen formed over two hundred “bring back daddy” clubs.

**By December, resentment among troops began to reach explosive proportions. On Christmas Day 1945, the day by which many had expected to be home, four thousand troops marched to the 21st Replacement Depot headquarters in Manila carrying banners with the message “We Want Ships.”**

The movement suddenly burst into feverish activity when the War Department announced, on January 4, 1946, that Pacific demobilizations would be cut from eight hundred thousand to three hundred thousand per month.

Seldom has a military announcement created so much furor.

**On January 6, thousands of active-duty demonstrators in Manila attempted to storm the headquarters of Lieutenant General Styer. The next day, twenty-five**

hundred men continued the march and brought their complaints before the command's attention. **That evening, twelve thousand troops (some reports say as many as twenty thousand) jammed into the Philippine Hall of Congress to continue the protest, and listen to speeches denouncing American plans in East Asia.**

The upsurge quickly spread throughout the world.

On January 7, two thousand GIs rallied at Camp Foster, France. On January 8, more than five thousand soldiers sent telegrams from Saipan; thirty-five hundred men on Guam staged a hunger strike; fifteen hundred soldiers rallied in Reims, France; and one thousand men marched in a torchlight parade down the Champs Elysées in Paris.

**On January 9, eighteen thousand men took part in two giant protest meetings on Guam; five thousand soldiers demonstrated in Frankfurt; fifteen thousand protested in Honolulu; and five thousand staged a rally in Calcutta.**

**Protests also erupted within the United States, when one thousand soldiers and WACs at Camp Andrews, Maryland, booed their commanding officer as he attempted to explain the delay in discharges.**

**After this wave of initial outrage, the GIs established ongoing organizations to continue their campaign, frequently led by men with trade-union experience. On January 10, the Manila Soldiers Committee held its first meeting, with 156 elected delegates representing some 140,000 soldiers.**

As the struggle continued and became more organized, its political perspective broadened to include demands for enlisted men's rights. **On January 13, five hundred GIs in Paris met and adopted a set of demands that became known as the "Enlisted Man's Magna Carta." The program called for the abolition of all officer privilege, proposed that officers serve at least one year as enlisted men, and urged that court-martial boards be composed of enlisted men.**

**Faced with a growing rebellion within the ranks and fearful of its increasing political sophistication, the War Department finally gave in.**

Troop ships were quickly dispatched to Asia, and all plans for possible Asian intervention were dropped.

**In a very real sense, the "Bring Em Home" movement was a major restraint on American postwar foreign policy, undermining the capability to suppress revolutionary upheavals in China and Southeast Asia.**

**The movement also played a role, albeit less successfully, in subsequent efforts to reform enlisted life.**

In response to a flood of complaints over the abuses of officer privilege and the injustices of military law, the War Department appointed the Doolittle Board as a special commission to suggest new policies.

The Board recommended a number of far-reaching proposals to reduce the distinctions between officers and enlisted men and improve conditions within the ranks, but its advice was largely ignored. Instead, Congress in 1950 approved the UCMJ, authorizing some slight improvements in court-martial practice but leaving enlisted life basically unchanged.

**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.**

## OCCUPATION REPORT

# U.S. Corporations Grabbing Iraq Money

1.19.04 ARIANNA HUFFINGTON, TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

**The White House has to explain why taxpayers should cut it another \$100 billion check when the money we've already forked over has been so poorly spent, much of it by administration cronies.**

**According to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, just 27 cents of every dollar earmarked for the rebuilding of Iraq is reaching ordinary Iraqis, with the rest being pocketed by big U.S. corporations.**

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

# “The Perfectly Efficient Body Bag”

January 17, 2005 by Karen Kwiatkowski, Lt. Col. USAF (ret.), Military Week

Buying ball gowns --- spending lots of money on an expensive and gratuitous trifle, doing so with the help of the enthusiastic exaggeration of imaginative and pushy salespeople, emotion and desire trumping practicality and logic --- is something the Bush administration celebrators and donors have been doing for almost four years.

They are quite good at it. I'm sure the inaugural ball will be a smashing success.

**One wonders if George W. Bush and his crowd of ambitious retainers would, in a quiet moment, consider the Army and Marine fashions for the coming year --- body armor, backless hospital gowns, gauze and bandages, and of course, the perfectly efficient body bag.**

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# **CHENEY TO BECOME HUMAN BILLBOARD AT INAUGURAL: Corporations Rush To Buy Ad Space On Veep**

January 18, 2005 The Borowitz Report

To cover the escalating costs of this Thursday's inauguration of President George W. Bush, major corporations are lining up to buy ad space on the side of Vice President Dick Cheney, the White House announced today.

According to the administration, Mr. Cheney will become a "human billboard" to display the logos of several Fortune 500 companies underwriting the expensive event.

Using state-of-the-art blue-screen technology, Mr. Cheney's body will play host to ads for some of the Bush campaign's largest corporate contributors, as well as promos for upcoming Fox TV shows.

In addition to selling ad space on the vice president, the inauguration is taking advantage of several "unique opportunities for product placement," the White House confirmed.

First daughter Jenna Bush, for example, will wear a superhero costume identical to that worn by actress Jennifer Garner in the current release "Elektra."

And at the end of his oath of office, Mr. Bush will follow the phrase "so help me God" with "I'm going to Disneyland!"

The lavishness of the second Bush inaugural has come under fire in recent days, with critics alleging that the \$40 million price-tag for the event was rapidly approaching that of Star Jones' wedding.

**But Mr. Bush today defended the event's costly pomp, arguing that by mounting the lavish inauguration he was "sending a message of hope to the Iraqi people."**

**"It is important to show the Iraqis that one benefit of democratic elections is an over-the-top blow-out for the winners," Mr. Bush said.**

Elsewhere, at the U.S. Senate, Secretary of State nominee Condoleezza Rice began her second day of not answering questions.

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## CLASS WAR NEWS

# The Bankrupt Empire

1.18.05 Wall St. Journal

Just as an individual who spends more than he earns must borrow or sell some of his assets to pay his bills, the U.S. finances its current-account deficit by either borrowing or attracting foreign investment in its businesses and stock market.

Lately, it has borrowed heavily by selling Treasury bonds and other IOUs, often to foreign central banks.

**As a result, the U.S. has gone from having net foreign assets equal to 9% of GDP in 1978 to net liabilities equaling about 25% now. Mr. Eichengreen says there is no historical precedent for such a large economy being so heavily in debt to the rest of the world.**

Morgan Stanley's Stephen Roach: "Nor would I be too sanguine about prospects for the dollar in a more aggressive Fed tightening scenario.

"The recent trading rally in the greenback has given some investors hope that the currency-adjustment cycle has run its course -- offering the tantalizing prospect of reinvigorated foreign capital inflows triggering the ultimate virtuous circle for US financial assets.

"My advice: Don't count on it.

**"Back in 1994, when the Fed was last faced with a similar normalization challenge, the dollar fell like a stone even as the US authorities pushed the federal funds rate up by 300 bps.**

**In today's climate, with a US current account deficit that is nearly three times what it was back then, the downside for the dollar can hardly be minimized. There's far more to currency adjustments than swings in relative interest rates."**

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**Received:**

**Justice for Pablo Paredes!**

We the undersigned demand that you honor Petty Officer Third Class Pablo Paredes' request for discharge as Conscientious Objector. On 12/06/2004 Pablo Paredes refused to deploy with his ship headed towards the Persian Gulf with thousands of US Marines.

We support his courage to stand against all acts of aggression and to refuse to be part of this cruel, unjust and illegal war that has resulted in thousands of lost American and Iraqi lives.

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*Sponsored by:* Citizens for Pablo [www.swiftsmartveterans.com](http://www.swiftsmartveterans.com),  
Hunter College Campus Anti-War Network

**Return signed petitions to: V. Paredes, 256 Union Avenue Belleview, NJ 07109**

**Received:**

**Got That Right**

**From:** CB  
**To:** GI Special  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2005 10:24 AM  
**Subject:** help for you

It won't help your cause much to throw a lot of complicated, far-out theories around at everybody like the rest of your young veteran bro's on the Internet.

**Believe it or not even that whole fireworks show has simple reasoning when the pieces of the puzzle are together, but it's not like one of those jig-saw puzzles of tiny pieces that cover a whole dining room table but like one a tyke puts together, only five or seven pieces you dig?**

It's unclear to me if or not you are a veteran of the recent stand in the sand??  
**[Negative. Arrested 1960 by FBI at the induction center for refusing to take one step forward.]**

**I was an Infantryman in Vietnam with the 101st, there during the TET Offensive.**

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## Support For David Beals

**From:** CM  
**To:** GI Special  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2005 12:07 PM  
**Subject:** **response to Mr. Beals situation**

I am from the Midwest and our committee (Committee Against the Militarization of Youth) just had a big event where we had parents talk about how their sons died in Iraq.

They spoke of lies the government told about their son's deaths. One was told his son died of a gun shot to the head. The truth was that his 20 year old had stepped on a U.S. cluster bomb and was blown apart. His battalion was not informed that a previous operation had dropped thousands of cluster bombs in the Iraqi desert where he was sent out as a scout even though he was trained as a sniper.

The other parent was told that his son committed suicide. After further investigation he discovered that his son was murdered by his own leadership because he spoke out against the soldiers being given heroin and other drugs. This was in Afghanistan where we were told drug use is rampant.

One parent spoke about going to Iraq and what he saw there. He saw so many families suffering from bomb wounds, children dying from diarrhea, people angry at the American occupation etc..

What I would like to say on the eve of Mr. Bush's inauguration is that this entire war had been sold to the American people and the people bought it and reelected Mr. Bush. Those of us who are part of the 49% who did not vote for Mr. Bush have a responsibility to speak out as fervently as possible against this atrocious war sold to us through the

lies of Condoleeza Rice and Colin Powell, puppets of the real war mongers, the Saudi/American/British Oil companies and the U.S. military industrial complex.

**[Bush actually received the votes of about 27% of the adult population. Which means he did not receive the votes of 73% of the adult population. A lot of people didn't see the point in choosing between rich soldier-killer Bush and rich wannabe soldier-killer Kerry; two war-loving ruling-class pieces of shit, nothing but murderers for oil and Empire.**

**[And no election ever stopped a war. That's done by building movements, at home and in the armed forces. That's how we stopped Vietnam, not chasing after some pro-war political hack. The silly notion that Democrats like peace is crippling the anti-war movement. Who brought you Vietnam? And voted for Iraq? And don't regret it? And will vote the money for keeping the Iraq war going again in a few weeks? Let's get real. T]**

**I wholeheartedly support the position of Pablo Paredes, Camilo Mejia and now Mr. Beals.**

These men are men of conscience, men of courage men who still have a soul and a spirit that reminds them that killing is not part of human instinct.

The desire of humans to preserve life is much stronger than the command to kill. I commend all of the soldiers who have refused to kill other humans beings.

***In the long run I know that the truth prevails always and that the U.S. will not win this war, it cannot win this war because people of conscience will not allow it to continue.***

I'd like to end with a plea to all soldiers of conscience that they join a group like Military Families Speak Out for moral support; this is so important.

***Also do not be silent, let your message be heard.***

***We need our young people to hear your stories.***

**Right now all over this country the military is aggressively recruiting poor black, white & latino youth to go serve in Iraq. They lie everyday and promise a good future if they join. Your stories, your example can serve as a voice of reason a voice of conscience to the many youth considering signing up for boot camp.**

Sincerely,  
Concerned Citizen

**That's where every Bro'Vic in the whole friggin' country all at once picked up his rusty but trusty AK-47 and boogied through the shadows of night to a predetermined destination.**

**If that happens over in the hot sand I wouldn't want to be there at the time.**



### 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.gifightback.org) ;

<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/gi-special.htm>,

[www.williambowles.info/gispecial](http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial)

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