

## GI SPECIAL 3A45:



Operation Truth Newsletter

# The Kevin Benderman Defense Committee

P.O. Box 2322, Hinesville, GA 31310  
February 12, 2005

[www.BendermanDefense.org](http://www.BendermanDefense.org)

First a note from Monica –

We are compelled to begin by thanking the countless people, military and civilian, here and abroad, for the overwhelming support we have received during the first

**few weeks of the difficult times we are now facing. We appreciate the warm thoughts and prayers from all who have cared enough to take the time to share their feelings with us. Thank you.**

### **Chronology of Events Beginning February 07, 2005**

As you know, combat veteran Army Sergeant Kevin Benderman was charged by his command at Fort Stewart on January 19<sup>th</sup> with: 1) Desertion with the intent to avoid hazardous duty and 2) Missing Movement by design. He faces 5 years in prison if found guilty on the first charge; and up to 2 years on the second charge.

Faced with the prospect of having to submit to the Army's equivalent of a pre-trial hearing (called an Article 32 investigation) less than 48 hours after the charges were read, SGT Benderman, through the military defense counsel provided to him, submitted a request for a reasonable delay of the hearing. A delay in the case was granted until February 7<sup>th</sup> by Lt Col. Linda Taylor, the investigating officer.

Meanwhile, the military attorney representing Kevin challenged the appointment of the Article 32 investigating officer, Lt.Col. Linda Taylor. They based their objection on the fact that Ms. Taylor served as the chief military prosecutor at Ft. Stewart, where Kevin is being tried. Reportedly, Lt.Col. Taylor served in that capacity for over six months in 2003 and actually provided legal advice on criminal matters to the current Convening Authority, Lt.Col. Kidd. The request for recusal was denied by the appointing authority prior to the Article 32, and again by Lt.Col. Taylor at the beginning of the hearing.

The Article 32 spanned about six hours. Telling testimony from various witnesses revealed the negative reception SGT Benderman endured by his command from the time he submitted his Conscientious Objector claim in December 2004.

Without even reviewing the governing regulation, his company commander at the time informed SGT Benderman that he intended to recommend disapproval of the application based on his belief that it could only be a ruse to avoid deployment. The first military chaplain SGT Benderman sought to meet with shunned him despite the fact that a chaplain's interview is a required step in the application process.

This chaplain later emailed SGT Benderman from Kuwait and told him he was ashamed of him. SGT Benderman's unit first sergeant called him a coward. Fortunately, SGT Benderman was able to meet with another Fort Stewart chaplain who understood the process, conducted a thorough interview with SGT Benderman, and concluded that SGT Benderman's beliefs are "sincere" and that "his lifestyle is congruent with his claim of conscientious objection."

**Article 32 testimony also confirmed that on January 6<sup>th</sup>, within days of SGT Benderman submitting his application, the company commander called SGT Benderman in for a separate counseling session based on allegations of Disrespect to a Commissioned Officer and Disloyal Statements to the United States.**

This counseling proved atypical. SGT Benderman was brought into a conference room where 15-20 others from the unit were present. The commander chastised SGT Benderman in front of the group citing various articles he had read from the internet and

which he assumed were directly attributable to SGT Benderman. **The commander informed SGT Benderman that he fully intended to prosecute him, that he considered him a security risk, that he intended to have SGT Benderman's security credentials pulled for the remainder of his career, and that SGT Benderman was to be excluded from all access to company and battalion operations centers. The counseling was reduced to writing.**

The Findings and Recommendations of the Article 32 Investigation are pending at this time. Less than 18 hours following completion of the Article 32, SGT Benderman had to report for his Conscientious Objector hearing. SGT Benderman had timely requested a brief delay the previous week, but the Investigating Officer denied the request.

**The hearing officer was clearly hostile and not the detached, neutral, and impartial officer required by the regulation. Over objections by representative counsel, the IO persisted in asking SGT Benderman potentially incriminating questions, including whether or not SGT Benderman had ever brought an unregistered weapon on Fort Stewart.**

Countless other questions pertained to articles alleged to have been written by SGT Benderman. These questions persisted despite the IO's assurances at the beginning that he did not intend to consider any articles. The hearing was not recorded, although we were informed the previous week that it would be. SGT Benderman's representative counsel, who is also his detailed defense attorney, immediately objected to the legitimacy of the entire proceeding and to the continued appointment of the IO. The numerous objections were reduced to writing and sent to the appointment authority on Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. To date, we have received no response.

As if the marathon events of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> were not enough for one week, other developments ensued. Following the CO Hearing on the 8<sup>th</sup>, SGT Benderman reported to his rear detachment commander for further guidance. The commander informed SGT Benderman that he intended to sit SGT Benderman down within a day or two to issue him a new order to deploy to Iraq. The commander stated that the decision was based on the guidance he received from the prosecution and that it would all be summarized in a counseling statement. SGT Benderman promptly informed his attorney, who promptly sought confirmation with the prosecutors. Our understanding is that while the prosecutors admitted to having a discussion with the command, they indicated that they would not likely follow through with such a course of action.

**Astoundingly, on the morning of February 10<sup>th</sup>, SGT Benderman was called and told to report to his commander at 0900 hours for counseling. SGT Benderman immediately called his defense counsel and asked him to be present. By the time SGT Benderman's attorney arrived, and despite the fact he is a represented accused, the commander and one of the military prosecutors called him in to communicate the order. SGT Benderman repeatedly requested that they await the arrival of his attorney.**

Finding errors in the written counseling form, the commander sent SGT Benderman out to correct the errors and await the arrival of SGT Benderman's attorney. Finally, the defense counsel arrived and the session resumed with the commander, a prosecutor, SGT Benderman's supervising sergeant, SGT Benderman, and his attorney present.

Defense counsel placed everyone on notice that he intended to record the discussion. The commander informed SGT Benderman that he considered SGT Benderman deployable and that he must prepare to deploy to Operation Iraqi Freedom III pending the outcome of the Article 32 hearing.

The commander went on to state that if the findings revealed that he had not committed any violations of the UCMJ, SGT Benderman may deploy as early as 17 February and as late as 17 March 2005. When defense counsel reminded the commander that the Article 32 did not determine guilt or innocence, the commander acknowledged that he understood that to be correct. He confirmed that if the Article 32 hearing officer recommended that the charges not go forward, he intended to deploy SGT Benderman. Meanwhile, the commander also confirmed that if the Article 32 recommendation was to go forward with the court-martial, he would consider SGT Benderman non-deployable. The conversation was terminated.

**This latest development is fundamentally suspect in a number of ways. The legal concepts of entrapment and malicious prosecution come to mind.**

Again, the Article 32 findings have not yet issued. We remain hopeful that the hearing officer was able to readily see that SGT Benderman never deserted his unit and that he was otherwise excused from movement with his unit on January 7<sup>th</sup> in order to complete the processing of his Conscientious Objector application.

The Kevin Benderman Defense Committee  
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### **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING SOLDIER**

**Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. 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:**

# Three U.S. Soldiers Killed In Balad Accident

2.13.05 By JAMIE TARABAY, Associated Press Writer

**Three U.S. soldiers were killed when their vehicle rolled into a canal Sunday, the military said.** The men from Task Force Danger were on a combat patrol near the town of Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad, the U.S. command said in a statement.

**Five soldiers attempting to rescue the men were evacuated for medical treatment, but were all expected to return to duty.**

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# One U.S. Soldier Killed, 1 Wounded In Samarra

2.13.05 By JAMIE TARABAY, Associated Press Writer

**A Task Force Danger soldier was killed and one was wounded in fighting near Samarra,** a flashpoint of the insurgency 60 miles north of Baghdad, the military said.

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# Las Vegas Marine Killed: Had Just 10 More Days Left In Iraq.

February 13, 2005 LAS VEGAS (AP)

**Lance Cpl. Richard Perez Jr. had just 10 more days left in Iraq.**

**The 19-year-old Marine reservist already had shipped his personal belongings back to Las Vegas, and he told his family on Super Bowl Sunday he couldn't wait to end his six-month stint overseas.**

**But the young Marine didn't make it.** He was killed last week when a truck accidentally rolled over him near Ramadi, his father said Saturday.

Perez had been in Iraq since mid-August, driving supply trucks. He enlisted with the Marine reserves shortly after he graduated from Coronado High School in 2003.

When Perez returned home, he had hoped to play baseball for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Perez played baseball at Foothill High School after the family moved to Las Vegas from Denver in 2000. He transferred to the newly opened Coronado in 2001.

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## Soldier Killed In Iskandariyah Wreck

February 13, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 155-05

The Department of Defense announced today the death of a soldier.

**Spc. Robert A. McNail, 30, of Meridian, Miss., died Feb. 11 in Iskandariyah, Iraq, when his HMMVW struck another military vehicle. McNail was assigned to the Army National Guard's 150<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion, 155<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team, Quitman, Miss.**

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## Staff Sgt. Dead In Taji

February 13, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 154-05

The Department of Defense announced today the death of a soldier.

**Staff Sgt. William T. Robbins, 31, of North Little Rock, Ark., died Feb. 10 in Taji, Iraq, of non-combat related injuries. Robbins was assigned to the Army National Guard's 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, Little Rock, Ark.**

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## “Kick The Door Open!” It’s “A Courtesy Search”

February 14, 2005 Army Times

At the first farm, soldiers knock politely on the door to an outbuilding, then walk away when no one answers.

“Kick the door open!” Shapton orders. Eventually, one of the Iraqi soldiers takes a short sprint toward the door and with one kick, knocks it down.

Shapton praises the soldier. They clear the building together and move on to another.

The scene repeats itself at a dozen more buildings over the course of the afternoon. The Iraqi soldiers move through with the U.S. soldiers close behind.

**“We’re doing what we call a courtesy search. If we find something, then we dig deeper,”** said Staff Sgt. Andrew Roper, 37, of Yonkers, N.Y. **“They’re laid back by nature. They’ll be the last ones to push hard because they know people in this area. That’s why some of them wear ski masks.** They do good, though. They do understand.”

The search produces *no weapons*, but is fruitful in other ways.

“We do this knowing that even if we don’t catch anybody, we’ll put them off balance,” Capt. Brendon Trevino said. “We put out a message to let people know we’re looking.” [“We’re looking.” Gee Captain, that will come as a huge, stunning surprise! And wow, will it ever knock the resistance off balance! They could never have imagined it. No doubt they’re reeling in confusion right now. Didn’t find shit though, did you? Not one weapon. Why do you suppose that could be?]

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## HAPPY CITIZENS OF MOSUL SAY “THANK YOU FOR LIBERATING US.”



Delighted Iraqi men watch U.S. Army 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment soldiers searching for insurgents in Mosul Feb. 13, 2005. They have come to express their thanks to George Bush for killing nine suspected insurgents in a running gun battle with U.S. forces in Mosul Saturday. “We’re sorry we didn’t bring some flowers to throw, but you know it’s winter now. But please kill a lot more suspected insurgents,” said Ahmed Rahman, seen here blowing kisses to the troops. (AP Photo/Jim MacMillan)

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## TROOP NEWS

# An Offer To American Military Families Of The Wounded Taken To England For Treatment

[Rose Gentle, who lives in Scotland, read in GI Special 3A44 of a wounded U.S. soldier sent to England for treatment, and how his family were having trouble finding out what was happening to him, let alone setting up a visit with him. Rose Gentle lost her son in Iraq, and leads a campaign to bring all the troops home from Iraq now.]

**From:** Rose Gentle  
**To:** GI Special  
**Sent:** February 13, 2005  
**Subject:** Re: GI Special 3A44:

hi its rose gentle,

if the parents of the troops in houspital in england can't get over

i would go to england and see them for you, its only a 3 hour travel.

and give them your love, i would love to do something for yours.  
i don't have my boy now. so let me help yours.

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## ***Heartbreaker:*** **“Over My Dead Body”**

"He'd say that we shouldn't be there. He always wanted to know why we were there."





Lisset Greene her son Anthony Rivera, 6, and her daughter 19-month-old Laila Greene visit the grave of their husband and father Curtis Greene who committed suicide in December after returning from serving in Iraq. (Times photo: Kathleen Flynn)

February 13, 2005 By MARY SPICUZZA, St. Petersburg Times

**Sgt. Curtis Greene loved the military; the structure, the stability. But eight months in Iraq changed him. And the thought of returning led him to a stark proclamation.**

SPRING HILL - The words haunt Lisset Greene as she struggles to understand what happened to the man she loved. Home from fighting in Iraq, he had grown depressed and distant as he witnessed thousands of his fellow soldiers head off to war.

**Curtis Greene was angry about the war and frustrated with Lisset for not understanding what it had been like there.** They argued, so fiercely that twice the police had to break it up.

Gone was the man smiling with her and the kids in family photos. "He was not the person I knew when he came back from Iraq."

One night he disappeared from their home outside Fort Riley, Kan. Lisset and the kids went to stay at her father's house in Hernando County. When he called her to apologize for running out, he promised he would come home to Fort Riley.

**But he wasn't about to return to Iraq.**

**"Over my dead body are they going to make me go back."**

"I knew he was having dreams, nightmares," Lisset said. "He would wake up at night really sweaty."

**On Dec. 6, he showed up for work, his uniform pressed, his boots polished. He sang cadence.**

**That night, he was found hanging in his barracks. Sgt. Curtis Greene, 331st Signal Company, was 25.**

Steve Robinson, executive director of the National Gulf War Resource Center, said countless soldiers return from Iraq struggling with emotional scars. He questions whether the military is truly prepared to treat them.

"If we send soldiers off to war and they come back broken, we owe them the best the nation can muster to send them back into health, emotionally, spiritually, physically," Robinson said. "They're doing something, but I don't think it's enough."

**Lisset wonders: Is that my husband's story?**

**"All I know is that I don't have a husband anymore, and my children don't have a father."**



[Family photo]

Greene grew up in a military home. His stepfather, Donald Greene, served in the Navy from 1968 to 1976; he remembers little Curtis helping him spit shine his shoes.

"We never had a problem out of him," Mr. Greene said. "I never knew him to have an enemy."

He asked about joining the military right out of high school in Siler City, N.C. "I told him that if you want to sow a few oats and you want to see the world, my suggestion is to go into the service," Mr. Greene said.

**But Mr. Greene, who served in Vietnam, also warned that he still struggled with memories of the horrors of war.**

Sgt. Greene enlisted in the Army in the fall of 1997 and met Lisset Rivera the following year. Both were stationed in Germany, she working supply, he in communications.

Friends teased her about dating a younger man - she was five years older. But she said the other soldiers all liked him. "Everybody said he was the coolest white boy," Lisset, a Puerto Rican who grew up in New Jersey, said with a shy smile.

They were married in a small civil ceremony in Germany early in 2000. Back in the states, Sgt. Greene took to Anthony, Lisset's son from a previous relationship. It was long absences from Anthony, who lived with Lisset's parents when she was stationed abroad, that convinced her to leave the military.

Sgt. Greene stayed in. He told Lisset the Army provided him with structure and stability. "He loved the military," she said. "He would praise it."

The family moved to Fort Hood, Texas, where as a member of the 16th Signal Battalion, Sgt. Greene earned a reputation as a strict taskmaster.

Staff Sgt. Daniel Boggs remembers Sgt. Greene clashing with a new soldier over his attitude. "Curtis didn't like it," Boggs said. "It wasn't a big deal, but he made it a big deal."

Boggs and Sgt. Greene didn't get along at first, but by April 2003, when they were deployed to Iraq, they were close friends.

The details of what Sgt. Greene experienced during his eight months in Iraq are unclear.

Boggs said he was stationed in Fallujah and Ramadi, while Sgt. Greene built communications networks near the Jordanian border. They talked often, but Boggs said his friend never went into detail about what he witnessed, just that he hated it there.

Sgt. Greene told his stepfather that he had to kill a few people, and that the guilt was weighing on him. "Curtis seems to think that he was a murderer," his stepfather said. "Curtis was raised to respect life; in the military you're taught to take it. I think he struggled with that."

The Army does not provide detailed information about where specific soldiers were stationed or incidents they witnessed, said Rudd, the Army spokeswoman.

Lisset said her husband shared his worst experience: A soldier next to him was shot in the face and died instantly. He told her he screamed until he got to his destination, then watched as the man was placed in a body bag.

He felt guilty because they had switched seats in the car shortly before the shooting.

**"He said they treated the body like a bag of trash," she said. "He said that he was supposed to be in the passenger seat, and the bullet was for him."**

**Sgt. Greene's family said he never talked to them about depression while he was deployed. But one thing is certain: He wanted out of Iraq.**

He got out of his Texas-based battalion after about eight months by re-enlisting in the Army, Lisset said. He was able to return to the United States by signing up for another three years with the 331st Signal Company, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, stationed at Fort Riley, she said.

**He seemed "normal" when he returned from Iraq in December 2003, she said. He finally met his newborn daughter, Laila, and couldn't stop gushing about her.**

But after they moved to Fort Riley . . .

"He changed; he changed," Donald Greene said. "He was just in the ozone, so to speak. He was detached, in turmoil inwardly."

**Lisset said he had nightmares and couldn't sleep. He cried easily, but avoided talking about Iraq.**

**"He just said it was ugly, and that you don't know what it's like until you're there," she said. "He always said he wouldn't wish it on his worst enemy."**

**When the evening news reported deaths in Iraq, he would weep and ask her to turn off the TV.**

**"He really cried, like it was someone he knew," she said. "He'd say that we shouldn't be there. He always wanted to know why we were there."**

**He was terrified that his company would be deployed to Iraq. That company remains at Fort Riley.**

Sgt. Greene did reach out for help after he returned from Iraq. He began seeing a psychiatrist - though he hid it from his wife.

Lisset discovered prescription bottles of antidepressants and sleeping pills in their home. He told her he had started getting therapy and had been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

She said he wanted out of the Army, but finances were tight. They would argue, and Lisset said she saw a look in his eye that scared her. "He didn't punch or hit me, but he threatened to kill me," and she didn't know what he might do.

**He took off in the middle of the night, leaving Lisset and the kids in Kansas. He drove to Virginia and told his family there that he had "gotten out of the military."**

**By the time he called Lisset, she had taken the kids to stay with her father in Spring Hill. She begged him to return to the base, worried he would be arrested for going AWOL.**

**He did go back, and told her his punishment would be working extra duty.**

**He called the next day, Dec. 6, and asked about their future together. Lisset said she loved him but thought he needed counseling. He agreed, but said he believed she would be better off without him.**

**He hung up. She tried repeatedly to call him back, but there was no answer.**

**Four hours later, fellow soldiers found him dead, hanging in his barracks.**

**With so many mental health programs available, Sgt. Greene's stepfather wonders why nobody in the Army noticed the warning signs.**

**"It seems to me like somebody somewhere would have spotted this," Mr. Greene said. "He was seeing a psychiatrist."**

**He fears the questions around his son's death will never be answered. "I'm just a grieving daddy who raised a boy and lost him."**

Lisset doesn't know what to believe. Did her husband have psychological problems before he was deployed? Did Iraq trigger something in him? Could the Army have done more to help him?

"I know it could have been prevented," she said.

She feels the Army has not provided her with any answers. She has not seen his suicide letter, which she was told is being held as evidence in an ongoing investigation.

**"You can't expect a soldier to go and be expected to take people's lives - women, children, anyone - then expect them to come back and be fine," she said.**

**Lisset and the kids are staying with her father in Spring Hill. She is trying to explain to Anthony what happened to his stepdad. Most days, Anthony insists that she help him put on the gold star pin "for Daddy" that the Army gave him.**

**Sgt. Curtis Greene is buried at Florida National Cemetery near Bushnell.**

"He was a good, honest person," Lisset said, looking out over the rows of tombstones. "He was willing to die for his country. But when he came home, I thought he'd be safe."



Nineteen month old Laila and her half brother Anthony Rivera, 6, hold the flag presented to their mother Lisset Greene after her husband Curtis Greene committed suicide in December. Lisset said she grieves for her children's loss more than anything. "He looks up in the sky and says my daddy's up in heaven and he's looking down on me," Lisset said of Anthony.

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## Germany Says No Troops To Iraq

2.13.05 By JAMIE TARABAY, Associated Press Writer

**U.S. hopes for a larger NATO role in Iraq suffered a setback when German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer on Sunday rejected calls for the alliance to protect U.N. operations there. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan also ruled out a U.N. security role.**

NATO's role in Iraq has been limited to a small training mission in Baghdad and logistics support to a Polish-led force serving with the U.S. coalition. Iraq war opponents led by

France and Germany have prevented the alliance developing a wider role, and have refused to send their own troops, even on the training mission.

Fischer, Germany's foreign minister, said his country would not veto a NATO decision to do more, if it was backed by the other 25 allies. But he insisted "we will not be sending soldiers to Iraq."

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## **War Affects Small State In A Big Way; Vermont Resistance To War Growing**

February 9, 2005 By Jonathan Finer, Washington Post Staff Writer

ESSEX JUNCTION, Vt. -- By now, the choreographed ceremonies are as painfully familiar as the arctic chill that crept across the Green Mountains late last month, when 400 more members of the Vermont National Guard were sent to war.

Boxes of tissues and Dunkin' Donuts greeted teary well-wishers packed inside the hangar-size pavilion at the Champlain Valley Exposition and Fairgrounds. Soldiers loaded Ryder trucks with olive-drab duffel bags before taking their places in formation.

**The state's three-member congressional delegation, which voted unanimously against invading Iraq, saluted the departing troops in speeches, but not the mission they are about to undertake.**

**Since early November, the scene has been repeated seven times in Vermont -- one of the nation's smallest states, but one that is absorbing some of the war's biggest impact.**

Vermont's National Guard and reserve units have the second-highest mobilization rate per capita, trailing only Hawaii's.

**And, with seven active-duty service members and four Guard members who have died in Iraq, it has lost more residents as a percentage of its population than any other state.**

While military service is a source of pride in local communities, the activation of 1,400 troops also has taken a heavy toll on hundreds of families and left small businesses and police barracks understaffed.

**But even as flags and yellow ribbons adorn homes here, antiwar activists are uniting. A recent petition drive succeeded in placing a resolution opposing the use of Vermont's Guard in Iraq on the agendas of about four dozen town meetings, which take place statewide on March 1.**

Vermont has a population smaller than the city of Baltimore, with about 619,000 residents, according to census estimates. The 400 soldiers from the 172nd Infantry Regiment (Mountain) and other units who deployed in January are bound for Iraq after a

training stop in Mississippi. About 200 National Guard soldiers who spent the past year in Iraq left this week for home. About 600 soldiers from the 2nd Battalion of the 172nd Armored Regiment are serving in Kuwait. Other Vermont units have been sent to Afghanistan or Saudi Arabia on tours that generally last 18 months, according to the Vermont National Guard.

**Currently just under 50 percent of Vermont's Guard force is mobilized. But to Paul Adamczak, manager of Blue Seal Feeds and Needs, a factory that blends raw materials into meals for pets and livestock, it sometimes seems as if half of the state is overseas.**

**There are nine yellow ribbons in the seventh-floor windows of his plant in Richford -- a town snug against the Canadian border with a population of about 2,300 -- one for every employee called up by the Guard in the past three months. An electric candle in the vestibule shines on a list of their names.**

**His son, Greg, who ran the plant's dairy feed operation, deployed last month. A receptionist, Stella Paquette, has seen two of her brothers, Serge and Mike, who also work at Blue Seal, called up.**

"We've been hit hard. Some of these are highly specialized jobs, so it is very hard to find people who can step in and replace them. And no one wants to come from another company when they know that these guys will come back in a year and a half," Adamczak said. "But we will do whatever it takes, because we appreciate what they are doing."

Air National Guard Lt. Col. Lloyd Goodrow of the Vermont Employers Support Group of the Guard and Reserve told departing soldiers in a recent pre-deployment briefing that "99.9 percent of the civilian employers in this state are supportive and recognize their obligations under federal law."

Despite Vermont's liberal reputation, the state's politics were long dominated by a conservative agrarian community, and the state had never elected a Democrat to the U.S. Senate until Patrick J. Leahy took office in 1974. But politics here have been inexorably altered by an influx in the 1960s and 1970s of more liberal residents from East Coast cities such as New York and Boston.

This split personality was on display last summer when a dispute arose over how to memorialize Army Pfc. Kyle C. Gilbert of Brattleboro, who was killed in Iraq in August 2003. Town officials rejected the initial design for a bridge over a local river, when some residents argued that the slogans picked to mark the structure -- such as "Freedom Isn't Free" -- were too jingoistic.

**As the fatalities have mounted, opposition has grown.**

**"Considering how unpopular the war is here, it is certainly ironic" that so many Vermonters are serving there, said Sister Miriam Ward, a Roman Catholic nun who is one of several local activists who have kept a nightly antiwar vigil on a shopping street in Burlington since Sept. 13, 2001. On the eve of the soldiers' send-off in January, her sign read "Bring Back Our Guard."**

Petitions circulated in recent weeks by a group called the Vermont Network on Iraq Resolutions are aimed at accomplishing that.

**"The Constitution says the Guard is meant to be used only to repel insurrection or invasion or defend the laws of the nation. This doesn't qualify," said Ellen Kaye, a grass-roots organizer. To get their resolution on the March 1 town-meeting agendas, the network said members collected signatures from at least 5 percent of voters in about four dozen Vermont towns.**

The resolution calls for the legislature to study the effect on Vermont of numerous deployments and asks Vermont's congressional delegation "to work to restore a proper balance between the powers of the states and that of the federal government over state National Guard units."

**It also asks the president and the Congress to withdraw the U.S. military from Iraq. Other New England towns, including Arlington, Mass., are mounting similar efforts aimed at trying to stop Guard deployments through town meetings.**

"I think that a lot of Americans, and that a lot of Vermonters in particular, don't support the war," said Nancy Brown, a teacher in Rochester, Vt., who helped circulate petitions in neighboring communities. Her son, Spec. Ryan Maloney of the Army National Guard, has been based in Iraq for a year.

"Town meeting is a great place to have some dialogue around what we can do about this," she said.

The debate about the war is one that Sandy Hill of Lyndonville said he had engaged in almost nightly with his son, Kristopher, who deployed with the Guard last month.

**"We have had some healthy discussions, that is for sure," the father said at the send-off here. "I feel like we don't have any business being over there, but he sees it as his duty."**

His wife, Kim, interrupted. "The truth is," she said, "at this point, we just want him to come back safe."

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## **“How Many Young Poor Kids Will Die For The Rich?”**

### **Iraq War Veteran Goes To Canada**

February 11, 2005 **Jack Dalton, Vietnam Veteran** - Axis of Logic

Twenty-two-year old Darrell Anderson is one such young man.

After enlisting in January 2003, mainly to have money for college (sound familiar?) and in fact, according to Darrell, "I was ready to die for my country."



After being sent to Iraq and seeing this war as a participant, he began to change. He began to see the utter futility of war and he began to see through the rhetoric of why he was there. Then in April, 2004, he was wounded by a roadside bomb.

When Darrell was notified about going back to Iraq, he said no and went to Canada.

“They call me a deserter, but it is not me that deserted; it’s my country that deserted its morals and been over taken by greed. When a country (like ours) makes all its decisions based on money it has no compassion for the people in which their heartless decisions affect.

“I was willing to die to defend my country, but they lied to me about what I was doing I was sent to kill innocent people and die myself just so the rich could protect their investments.

“How long will the world stand by and let this unjust war go on, how many young poor kids will die for the rich. Bush wants to set up a democracy in Iraq when we don't have one in the states; we have a plutocracy, a Government ruled by the rich.

“We as Americans have to open our eyes and question the country we have been raised to trust, and it’s time to stand up and say I will not be a tool of destruction any more.”

As Darrell told me over the phone, “**Why should I have to face time in jail just because I do not want to fight in a war? I’m not the one who has done anything wrong.**” He is now pegged as a criminal by the U.S. military, which is the real “criminal” in this mix.

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## **The Oil-For-Slush Scandal: U.S. Military Commanders Got Hundreds Of Millions In Cash; And Nobody Checking Up On Them**

February 08, 2005 Harkavy, Bushbeat@villagevoice

**While U.S. soldiers in Iraq are so plagued by shortages of equipment that their parents are shipping armored vests to them, their commanders are riding around the desert handing out hundreds of millions of dollars from a slush fund that appears to be totally unregulated.**

The slush fund scandal, revolving around something called the Commanders Emergency Response Program, is not exactly new, but more and more information is coming to light.

The program was designed to let military commanders on the ground launch local development projects and use cash to spread goodwill. Doug Struck of the *Washington Post* wrote about it last July, saying that "cash has become the U.S. military's first line of defense in some parts of Iraq." Struck's story noted:

***Even patrol leaders now carry envelopes of cash to spend in their areas. The money comes from brigade commanders, who get as much as \$50,000 to \$100,000 a month to distribute for local rehabilitation and emergency welfare projects through the Commanders Emergency Response Program.***

***There are few restrictions on the expenditures.***

**We're talking about huge amounts of money overall that Jerry Bremer's Coalition Provisional Authority (humorously acronymed "CPA") didn't account for.**

The Defense Department has authorized \$300 million for the program for this fiscal year.

***Who keeps track of all this cash? No one.***

***Local commanders have the go-ahead to dish out tens, hundreds and thousands of dollars with little more paperwork than a signed receipt.***

Meanwhile, while this haphazard cash is being strewn around, Iraqi children are dying for want of medical care, as Christopher Bollyn points out in an American Free Press article.

**Yeah, well, as I say, more and more of these shenanigans are coming to light as the probes go deeper.**

### **MORE:**

By Ariana Huffington (undated) TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC

**By even the most charitable standard, the effort to rebuild Iraq has been an unmitigated disaster. A cornucopia of waste, fraud, ineptitude, cronyism, secret no-bid contracts, and profiteering cloaked in patriotism.**

**There is the \$9 billion the U.S.-led occupation government can't account for; the over 70 investigations into potential criminal cases involving U.S.-funded projects; the ongoing billing disputes with Halliburton, which despite having repeatedly ripped off taxpayers, continues to receive billion-dollar contracts; the \$20 billion in Iraqi oil money kept track of by a single accountant; the study showing that up to 30 percent of reconstruction funds are being lost to fraud and corporate malfeasance.**

Whether you are passionately in favor of the war or passionately against it, don't you want to know exactly where our money is going and how we can stop the corruption?

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## IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

### Allawi General Killed In Baghdad

2.13.05 By Jason Keyser, The Associated Press

**Sunday, guerrillas killed an Iraqi general and two companions in a Shiite neighborhood of Baghdad.** The attack occurred as Brig. Gen. Jadaan Farhan and his companions were traveling through Baghdad's Kazimiyah district, an Iraqi police officer said on condition of anonymity.

A claim of responsibility for the attack in the name of al-Qaida quickly surfaced on a Web site that often posts statements by Islamic militants. **The claim described the brigadier general as a senior commander in the Iraqi National Guard and the guard commander at Taji camp, an American facility about 15 miles north of Baghdad.**

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### 11 Security Guards & Allawi Troops Found Dead In Mosul

February 14, 2005 Central Chronicle

MOSUL: The bodies of 11 Iraqis have been found in and around Iraq's restive northern city of Mosul, medical and security sources said.

**Six of the dead were Kurds from the village of Kasr Rok, near Zakho in the northernmost tip of Iraq, who worked for a Baghdad-based security firm.**

"The six men were apparently caught in an ambush and shot dead as they were driving towards Baghdad," a local security source said.

**Five other bodies were found in Mosul's eastern Al-Intissar neighbourhood, said Doctor Ahmed Abdallah Rajab.**

**Messages found on the bodies accused the victims of being "atheist soldiers who participated in the assault against Fallujah," an AFP correspondent reported.**

|   |
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| <p><b>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE<br/>END THE OCCUPATION</b></p> |
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### Two Political Associates Of Allawi Killed

February 13, 2005 Baghdad/Cairo (dpa)

**Two political associates of Iraqi interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi were killed Sunday, al-Arabiya television reported.**

**The two politicians campaigned in Iraq's January 30 elections as members of Allawi's "Iraqi List".** Further details on the killings were not immediately available.

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## **Assorted Resistance Attacks**

February 13, 2005 By JAMIE TARABAY, Associated Press Writer & BBC

**Two Iraqi National Guard troops were killed while trying to diffuse a bomb on the road to Mosul's airport.**

**North of Baghdad, in the town of Baquba, gunmen shot dead a communist member of the local council.**

**In the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah, an Iraqi translator for Italian troops and his son were shot to death Sunday,** a spokesman for Italy's military said.

Hassan Khiwaet Ghali, 51, and his 20-year-old son, Salah, were killed near their home, said Lt. Col. Francesco Tirino, spokesman for the Italian contingent in Nasiriyah. **The elder Ghali had worked for the Italian contingent since the summer of 2003.**

**An Iraqi militant group claimed in an Internet statement that it captured an Iraqi Christian translator who worked at a U.S. military base.** The Ansar al-Sunnah Army claimed to have taken Abdul Messieh Jerjes Noaman, a translator working for a U.S. company on a military base west of Baghdad, Iraq.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

### **Vietnam: Mutiny**

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

**Opposition to the war among men in Vietnam commonly involved not political protest but the simple and direct expedient of avoiding combat.**

**Mutiny is a potent and evocative term, but it accurately describes what in fact took place frequently among American soldiers in Vietnam.**

On October 23, 1970, veteran Vietnam correspondent John Saar published an illuminating article in *Life* about a combat unit on patrol near the Cambodian border: “You Just Can’t Hand Out Orders” portrayed the successes of a young company commander who enjoyed the confidence of his men precisely because he accepted their loathing for the war and managed to avoid combat.

**The article popularized a new phrase, “working it out,” to describe the emergence of battlefield democracy: commanders frequently had to conform orders to the wishes of their men, usually by avoiding situations likely to produce casualties.**

The practice was unobtrusive and subtle, but by all accounts it was widespread, particularly during the latter stages of the war. Reporters for *Newsweek*, the *New York Times*, *Saturday Review*, and other publications filed dispatches of minor combat refusals and of infantry platoons purposely evading enemy engagements.

**There’s no way to determine the frequency of such low-key combat avoidance or its impact on U.S. offensive capabilities. These minor acts must have occurred often, though, for we have evidence of a substantial number of larger, more formal combat refusals —occasions on which the caldron of rank-and-file disaffection boiled over into mass insubordination. The latter stages of the Vietnam War produced no fewer than ten major incidents of mutiny.**

On August 26, 1969, the *New York Daily News* bannered the startling and historic headline “Sir, My Men Refuse to Go”—the first reported incident of mass mutiny in Vietnam.

**“A” Company of the 3rd Battalion/196th Infantry had been pushing through the Songchang Valley south of Da Nang for five grueling days and had suffered many casualties. On August 24, Captain Eugene Shurtz ordered the sixty men remaining in the company to move out again and proceed down the dangerous slope of Nuilon Mountain. The exhausted, disgruntled men simply refused to go, all sixty of them.**

The bewildered young captain radioed headquarters of his predicament, and within hours a senior commander and a senior NCO arrived on the scene to talk with the men. Captain Shurtz was relieved of his post, and the command’s representatives began the tense job of threatening and persuading the men to move out as ordered. After several more refusals, most of the sixty men grudgingly and halfheartedly followed the sergeant, who had started to advance by himself. **According to the military code, mutiny in time of war is the cardinal offense, punishable by death; yet none of the men who balked on that August day in the Songchang Valley received even a reprimand.**

**Later in the year, in November, another mutiny incident came to light at Cu Chi, near the Cambodian border.**

**Twenty-one men of the 1st Platoon, B Company, of the 2nd Battalion/27th Infantry refused to advance. All the men were hardened combat veterans and were nearing the end of their twelve-month tour of duty. When Captain Frank Smith ordered them into enemy-held territory, the GIs apparently felt the risks were no longer worth it and defied the command.**

The story was reported in the *Cleveland Press* by correspondent Tom Tiede, who termed the rebellion “not without precedent in these late days of the Vietnam war.”

**Several months later, another mutiny took place, this time before CBS television cameras.** Newsman John Lawrence was accompanying Captain Al Rice and the men of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry on patrol in War Zone C during April 1970. The going was tough, with frequent enemy contact, and the inexperienced new commander seemed determined to prove himself under fire. When the captain ordered his men down the center of a dangerous jungle path presumed to be surrounded by NLF forces, however, the men balked. **The soldiers objected that a direct advance would almost certainly draw fire and produce casualties, and they argued instead for an alternate route. Incredibly, the viewing audience was treated to a live performance of “working it out” as the enlisted men informed the captain that his order was nonsense and they would not obey.**

**The Nixon administration’s invasion of Cambodia in May of 1970 sent thousands of American GIs rushing into yet another foreign country, and also led to two further incidents of insubordination. On May 7, sixteen soldiers stationed at Fire Base Washington refused to advance with their units into Cambodia.**

The men were from two companies of the 3rd Battalion/8th Infantry. Four days later, the action was repeated when a small group of GIs at 4th Infantry headquarters in An Khe refused to board helicopters. The rebellion involved men from the 3rd Battalion/8th Infantry.

**Another mutiny incident occurred in December of 1970, when not only low-ranking enlisted men but their superiors joined together to refuse an order sent from higher authority.**

On the evening of December 29, Lieutenant Fred Pitts and twenty-three men of C Company, 2nd Battalion/501st Infantry pulled into what they considered a secure night defense position. During the night, however, the unit received an order from the battalion commander to move on to another position.

**Pitts objected that such an advance was not only unnecessary but would endanger lives. After meeting with his men and talking over the situation, Pitts formally refused the order. The outraged colonel called the platoon sergeant to the radio, but he, too, rejected the command. The next morning, both men were removed from the unit for disobeying a direct order. Pitts later pleaded guilty and received only a suspended sentence—a remarkably lenient punishment, considering the offense.**

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## **“Do We Need 55,000 More Names?”**

2.13.05 By Ibrahim Ebeid, Al-Moharer.net

Vietnam will be repeated and triumph will be on the Iraqi side sooner than we expect. A Mural will be erected in the Washington Mall with a script "They Died In Vain And For Lies" and God knows how many will they be.

Mr. President do we need another wall in the Mall, Do we need 55,000 more names?

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

## Who Is Sistani?

February 13, 2005 By Kelebdooni, The Anti-Allawi Group

**The basic error is to think of Sistani as a statesman of some sort.**

**I think this is far from reality. The guy is GOD ONLY knows how many years over eighty. He is a pious recluse, a classic hermit, who hasn't left his same ROOM (not house - ROOM) for some 20 years, except when he was parceled away to London medically/conveniently during the Nejedf action.**

He reads the Koran, prays, and passes judgments on theological issues raised by the flock through a small circle of aides. He does not read the news; listen to radio, or God forbid watch TV.

He has a website?

Sure, but I very much doubt if he knows of any such thing. To think that he has heard of the internet, or to imagine him before a monitor, is extremely blasphemous in the Religion of Common Sense.

This is not a caricature, but it is the REAL man. I have seen and known the type. So what would he know of Chalabi and all other affairs except through the cronies?

**Very early on, the two imported Shiia parties latched on to the importance of utilizing this personality. Bremer sent them over possibly after recognizing his influence early in 2004. Chalabi joined later after fall from grace, because if the Americans don't protect him, then he has nowhere safe than to stick close to Sistani's group.**

**Under these circumstances, it couldn't be any easier to use his name. There are plenty of spokesmen for him, but he never speaks. I doubt if he really knows a fraction of what is said in his name, or even CARES.**

Sistani is not really a player. He is practically dead.

He can actually be dead without making any difference. The gang is playing in his name, putting words into his mouth, and generally abusing him for their own political goals.

**Therefore, regardless of what Sistani envisages for the future of Iraq, the main players of the gang are Hakeem, Jaafari, Chalabi, etc. They have no interest in calling for either Islamic law or Buddhism except in so far as they're told.**

**They rely for their existence on the presence of the US military.**

**So Bush still has every reason to grin.**

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **Pentagon Covers Up: "Disaster Is Too Polite A Word"**

13 February 2005 By Andrew Buncombe in Washington, Kim Sengupta in Basra, and Raymond Whitaker in London, The Independent (UK)

**Training of Iraq's security forces, crucial to any exit strategy for Britain and the US, is going so badly that the Pentagon has stopped giving figures for the number of combat-ready indigenous troops, The Independent on Sunday has learned.**

**Instead, only figures for troops "on hand" are issued.**

The small number of soldiers, national guardsmen and police capable of operating against the country's bloody insurgency is concealed in an overall total of Iraqis in uniform, which includes raw recruits and police who have gone on duty after as little as three weeks' training. In some cases they have no weapons, body armour or even documents to show they are in the police.

**The resulting confusion over numbers has allowed the US administration to claim that it is half-way to meeting the target of training almost 270,000 Iraqi forces, including around 52,000 troops and 135,000 Iraqi policemen. The reality, according to experts, is that there may be as few as 5,000 troops who could be considered combat ready.**

**The gap between troops "on hand" and the overall target for fully trained and equipped security forces has actually widened in recent months, according to John Pike of GlobalSecurity.org, a Washington-based think-tank. Between October and November last year, just before the Pentagon quietly stopped giving figures for fully**



trained troops, the shortfall more than doubled, from 69,400 to 159,000. At current levels, the targets would not be met until next year.

The sleight of hand over troop numbers provoked a sharp clash during Condoleezza Rice's Senate confirmation hearings to become Secretary of State. After she quoted Pentagon figures claiming 122,000 Iraqis had been trained, she was told by Democratic Senator Joseph Biden: "Time and again this administration has tried to leave the American people with the impression that Iraq has well over 100,000 fully trained, fully competent military police and personnel. And that is simply not true. We're months, probably years, away from reaching our target goal."

**David Isenberg, an analyst at the British and American Security Council, said "disaster is too polite a word" for efforts to train Iraqi forces. "We are not being honest about the numbers," he added. "We have no consensus about who has been trained, about who we are talking about."**

The insurgency, which has claimed the lives of 60 police, soldiers and would-be recruits since the election, has disrupted both sides of the equation. Not only has it forced the occupation authorities to drastically increase their estimate of the required number of Iraqi security forces, but training and recruitment have been disrupted by constant attacks, desertions, political suspicion and a catalogue of errors by the invaders, starting with disbanding the Iraqi army immediately after the war.

**The Iraqi police force is considered the biggest failure, being poorly equipped and trained. US officials also say that tens of thousands of Iraqis are claiming police salaries but are not working, and nearly half of the force has been sent for further training.**

**A police colonel told the IoS: "I keep on hearing that we have been trained and we have been given the arms necessary by the Americans. But I seem to have missed all that. We have had people sent here who I would not trust at all. I have discovered that the Americans have made no checks on these men. Do you wonder why police stations and army barracks get blown up?"**

**MORE:**

## **“It’s Scary To Think Just How Out Of Touch The Chain Of Command Is”**

February 14, 2005 By Vince Crawley, Army Times staff writer

**Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, read aloud an e-mail from a U.S. major attached to an Iraqi unit who wrote that “it’s scary to think just how out of touch the chain of command is” about the situation on the ground in Iraq.**

**The major wrote that Iraqi soldiers were quitting in droves but that their commanders are not reporting the absences because they’re receiving money from Baghdad based on reported troop strength.**

"They have no interest in learning the jobs because right now the Marines are doing all of them," Collins quoted the major as writing. **In one case, he wrote, 134 Iraqi troops were supposed to go on one-week leave, and just 37 returned on time.**

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

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

## **Anti-War Union Leader Under Attack**

Media Advisory FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. Contact: Dustin Langley 917-293-1138

PRESS CONFERENCE Monday, Feb. 14  
12 Noon On the steps of U.S. District Court  
500 Pearl St. NY City NY

On Monday, February 14, at 12 Noon, Brenda Stokely, Gloria Jackson, and Chuck Mohan will file suit in U.S. District Court against District Council 1707 and against Raglan George, Jr., Executive Director for violations of the Labor Management Reporting & Disclosure Act of 1959 and the constitution of DC 1707.

Jackson and Mohan were fired from their positions with the union just days before Christmas, while they were on vacation, and Stokely was removed from her position in January as president of DC 1707. They allege that they were removed because of their opposition to a flawed day care contract and because they have been outspoken against the occupation of Iraq.

**"Raglan George removed us in an attempt to silence rank and file voices in the union," said Brenda Stokely. "We were removed for opposing a concessionary day care contract. We have also been outspoken in our opposition to the war and occupation in Iraq. All three of us were organizers for the Million Worker March at a time when it was opposed by the AFL-CIO and AFSCME because they wanted to tie everyone to the failed tactics of devoting all of our resources to the Kerry campaign."**

Stokely opposed the firing of Mohan and Jackson, saying that they are widely respected by the members because they fight for justice in the workplace, support free speech and encourage participation by the rank-and-file.

Brenda Stokely, who was removed from her position as President of the 23,000-member DC 1707 on January 14, alleges that her ouster and the firing of Jackson and Mohan were politically motivated.

"Raglan George wants to silence us because we have been outspoken critics of the contract he is pushing that would give up 5 years of retroactive pay, while he requested a raise for himself from \$70,000 to \$150,000, retroactive for 3 years. Meanwhile, the average day care worker makes \$24,000 a year and home health aids make between \$6 and \$10 an hour.

Raglan George is pushing for a rush ratification of the day care contract at the Hilton on Tuesday. We are also being targeted because we have been vocal and active in our opposition to the war in Iraq. This is an attempt to silence dissent, squash free speech, and shut out participation by rank and file members."

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## **Received:**

# **Avoiding Boot Camp**

**From:** A (USMC ret'd)  
**To:** GI Special  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 13, 2005  
**Subject:** re: GI Special 3A44 (Winfield Marine hurt)

**Well, I'm glad to that they're talking to their youngest before he goes to boot camp. As far as I know he doesn't have to go to boot camp unless he's sworn in the 2nd time. Most kids are scared into thinking that once they sign the contract, that's it.**

**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.**

## **Received:**

# **Medical Crisis In Iraq**

**From:** JM  
**To:** GI Special  
**Sent:** February 08, 2005  
**Subject:** Medical Journals for Iraq

I got this from "Voices in the Wilderness" I edited some parts about Voices in the Wilderness being prosecuted for trying to send including medical supplies, to Iraq.

"Voices in the Wilderness" David Smith-Ferris. (He is a member of the group Voices in the Wilderness, a campaign to end the war on Iraq. He traveled to Iraq with Voices in the Wilderness delegations in July of 1999 and September/ October of 2002. He is just back from a vigil in Lawton, Okla., outside Ft. Sill, where U.S. soldier Camilo Mejia is being held in prison for refusing to fight in Iraq.)

**In a visit to Iraq in 2002, I met a doctor at a Basra hospital who talked about his facility's most current medical journals. They dated from the late-1980's, nearly fifteen years out of date. The reason is simple: the international economic embargo, established on August 6, 1990, prohibited the importation into Iraq of scientific journals and textbooks.**

**In the intervening years, in every academic discipline, libraries across Iraq fell miserably behind the times.**

**How many of the people working diligently to secure donations of medical textbooks for shipment to Iraq know that Iraq had the best system of a health care in the Middle East prior to sanctions?** Many Iraqi doctors had trained in the West. At that time, Iraqi health care boasted a system of primary and tertiary care units not unlike what we find today in the US.

The health crisis in Iraq brought on by economic sanctions isn't primarily a matter affecting libraries and classrooms. The absence of current scientific information is only one aspect of a crisis which extends all the way to the most basic medicines and supplies.

**At least tens of thousands – by some calculations, hundreds of thousands – of Iraqi children under five died during the 1990's from preventable, curable diseases: primarily water-borne bacteriological infections and acute respiratory infections. The Iraq of the 1980's had the medicine to treat these sicknesses. The Iraq of today does not.**

**The re-building of Iraq, from the bottom up, continues to be its most pressing need, but it cannot happen under US occupation.** The soldiers and civilians who are shipping donated medical journals to Iraq deserve praise and support. They in turn need to analyze the causes of Iraqi suffering, and transform their concern for Iraqi people into articulate and willful opposition to the US war and occupation. -----

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